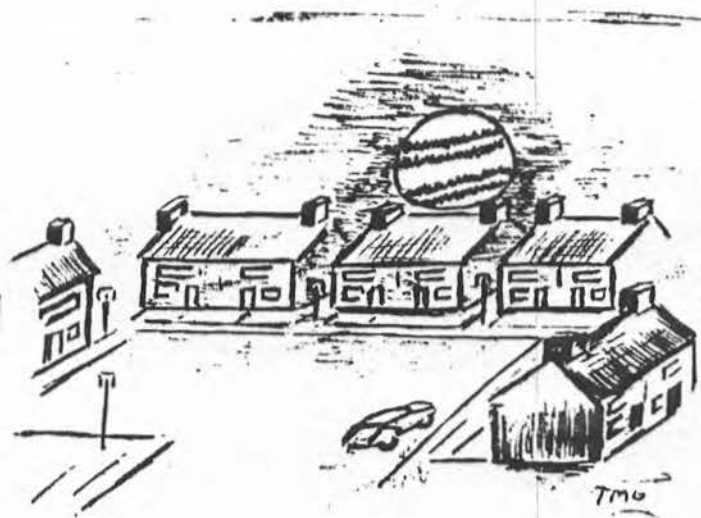


THE IRISH UFO NEWS

1980 EDITION: NO.8



Dungiven CE 1?

On Good Friday, of 1980, a family, driving home, past Altnagelvin Hospital, L'Derry, saw a large red/orange object float over from the hospital, towards their car. It passed over the road, to a housing estate. They pursued the object, which floated down behind the semi-detached houses, out of sight. Driving into a cul-de-sac, they were unable to find out if the object had landed. They did however see the intense "red rays" from the object through the spaces between the houses. It was described as an intense bonfire, so intense was the light. However not bright enough to hurt the eyes. As two of the women witnesses were now in a state of panic, the husband of one, drove the car out of the estate, back on to the main road. They then saw it again. Full details inside.

Shuttle GO!

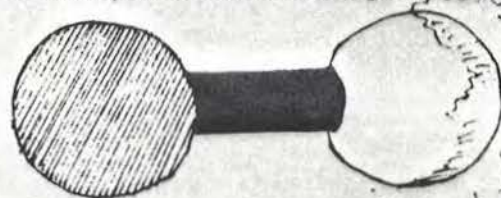
Yes it is in fact very possible that the NASA Space Shuttle will be launched, in the second week of April 1981. There are, however, some worries that the heat shield tiles, may not stay stuck, making life decidedly unstuck for the crew of two.

MOREMOREMOREMOREMORE...

John Hind explores in deep philosophical manner with his magi the wrong ways for the correct reasons, or....

Spectrum provide a welcome article for those into the psychic.

COACHMAN Report:- In April 1979, a security officer of the Coachman Inn, near Bangor Co. Down, observed a strange object. He reports that a bright light maneuvered near an electricity pylon. The object came much closer, when he was able to see that it looked like two globes, joined together by a bar in the middle.



BELFAST Radar Tracks 67 UFO

Uncovered by Danny Wilson, we have a unique report of a radar located object, over the Belfast Area. Ultimately the object was traced by TWO radar stations, and also spotted by an incoming aircraft. This report comes from the Queens University magazine Spectrum, by permission of its author, who has since joined the centre. He was also a member of the old BUFORA group. His report supplies the main meat of a series of Irish Ufo reports from this decade. Some of which were obtained by an unmentionable local astronomy lecturer.

THIS AND MORE!

Turn to page 2.

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The Editorial.

Miles Johnston.

Alas, our regular editor John Hind has been struck down by a mutually contagious disease, Finals! After an increasing struggle he has wisely let the horses go. This gives me the chance, after many issues, and my own particular dosage of the disease, to produce and complete, for the instruction and enlightenment of the beloved reader, the 1980 edition of the Irish UFO News.

At the outset, I must remember to state that in the reports published in this journal, the names of the witnesses have been changed, to protect their identities. Details are available for those interested, from the centre's address,
Irish UFO Research Centre,
19, Cairnshill Avenue,
Belfast, BT8-4NR.

Sadly we are without the talented hands (arms, legs, and feet, and whatever) of David Patterson and Ken Patterson. It was with their intensive efforts that the news became, for a couple of issues at least, a proper magazine, instead of typed news sheet, which it has now reverted. David supplies a report for this issue, but alas production terminated with the Summer/79 issue of this journal.

Of course the horrendous cost of printing, and the commercialisation of the news that was required, and the tremendous amount of time this entailed forced us to radically change our policy on the production of this journal. In fact for a period there was in fact going to be no more I.U.N.. Issues will therefore be published when the material, and the time warrants it. We had, we regretfully confess, to had lapsed into the cycle of producing something for its sake, and not for UFO research. So I suppose certain organisations aren't all that bad!

Recent years, 79, 80, have seen a definite drop in large scale UFO activity. There have been the odd case which has been gobbled up by the UFOIN investigator in the particular region concerned. This is a welcome sign.

However it has meant that the intensive efforts of the past, boom years, have like all things in this day and age, had to be cut back. Thus this one issue in eighteen months. I hope the change in style is not too dramatic, bearing in mind the basic format changes, but is an improvement on past work, as indeed we hope for in each successive project.

The Irish UFO Research Centre publishes case histories of all our investigations and copies of these may be obtained, at cost, from the above address. Back issues of the IUN, were still available, can be obtained on request, and correct money, or in exchange.

Miles Johnston.

T. Miles Johnston.

WHO GOES THERE ? By D.Wilson.

UFO'S IN IRELAND ?

Unfamiliar aerial objects and strange phenomena have been witnessed by many people over the years. Of course through lack of knowledge it is very easy to misinterpret, under unusual conditions, familiar objects and natural phenomena. They may be unidentifiable to some and yet may be easily explained by others, who, through experience in the field, have been able to examine the situation; therefore concluding that the witness or witnesses observed a conventional object or a natural phenomena. I think the key word here is experience.

Experienced UFO researchers usually approach a reported UFO sighting with a healthy scepticism, rightfully so, when we consider the many rational explanations which may be available. But, there are those sightings, well documented, that remain unanswered.

In Ireland, over the years, there have been many reports of strange objects and phenomena. Some have shown consistent characteristics similar to worldwide reports.

The following report summaries are examples of sightings that are compatible with each other, showing similar characteristics and behaviour.:-

1):- In September of 1980, in Londonderry a small silver disc had been seen hovering over a local factory by a few dozen people. It was described as silver in colour and about the size of a cart wheel. An observer who witnessed the sighting was Mr. Martin H, a mechanic for a local garage. He stated that " The disc revolved and sparkled in the sun about fifty feet above me." Three work mates joined him and they watched it for a few minutes before it moved off.

The Londonderry sighting is purely visual, without physical traces. With the result that it is of limited merit scientifically.

2)

The following sighting took place in Lisburn, Co. Antrim, over a year previous. Sunday May 13th 1979:- (investigated by myself)

Mrs. Jennifer D. and her husband witnessed a very unusual object from her bedroom window, descending from cloud formation. This is how Mrs D described the experience to me when I interviewed her.

They had just woken up at about 9.15am that morning when their attention was drawn to a strange humming sound coming from outside the house. They were still in their bedroom at the back of the house when they heard the sound. Gazing through the bedroom window they were amazed to see a strange perfectly round silver/metallic object lowering itself through a cloud. As they watched almost spellbound the object hovered over a marshy pond at a height, estimated to be anything from a hundred to one hundred and fifty feet. On this point, they were not too certain. As they watched the object waver to and fro it seemed to give off a humming sound which was constant. They also noticed that there seemed to be a kind of bleeping noise coming from the object.

A pony which occupied the adjacent field to the marsh became very disturbed by the presence of the object. This pony was normally very complacent by nature, even in the presence of low flying army helicopters, which frequent the area. The pony jumped frantically about, while the object remained hovering above the pond.

Approximately 10 minutes later the strange object took off at great speed in the direction of Cave Hill, disappearing into cloud. As the object took off, the witness had thought they noticed a light which seemed to rotate as if the object was spinning. They later thought this may have been due to the light reflecting on the surface of the object.

Roughly an hour had passed when the witnesses heard another sound but this time it was a helicopter passing over. The pony remained undisturbed.

Examination of the case:- Due to the location of the sighting I contacted the Long Kesh meteorological centre, and I discussed the sighting with Mr. Wright. We examined the data to see if the object may have been a balloon released earlier. We dismissed this as our calculations showed that the object seen did not fit within the location, as to were the balloon would have been at that time, 9.15 a.m.

I enquired at Short Brothers and Harland, the aircraft manufacturers, to see if tests are carried out in Northern Ireland, on aerial test vehicles that would fit the given description. I was informed that any tests carried out on projects on this nature, never left the hanger.

3)

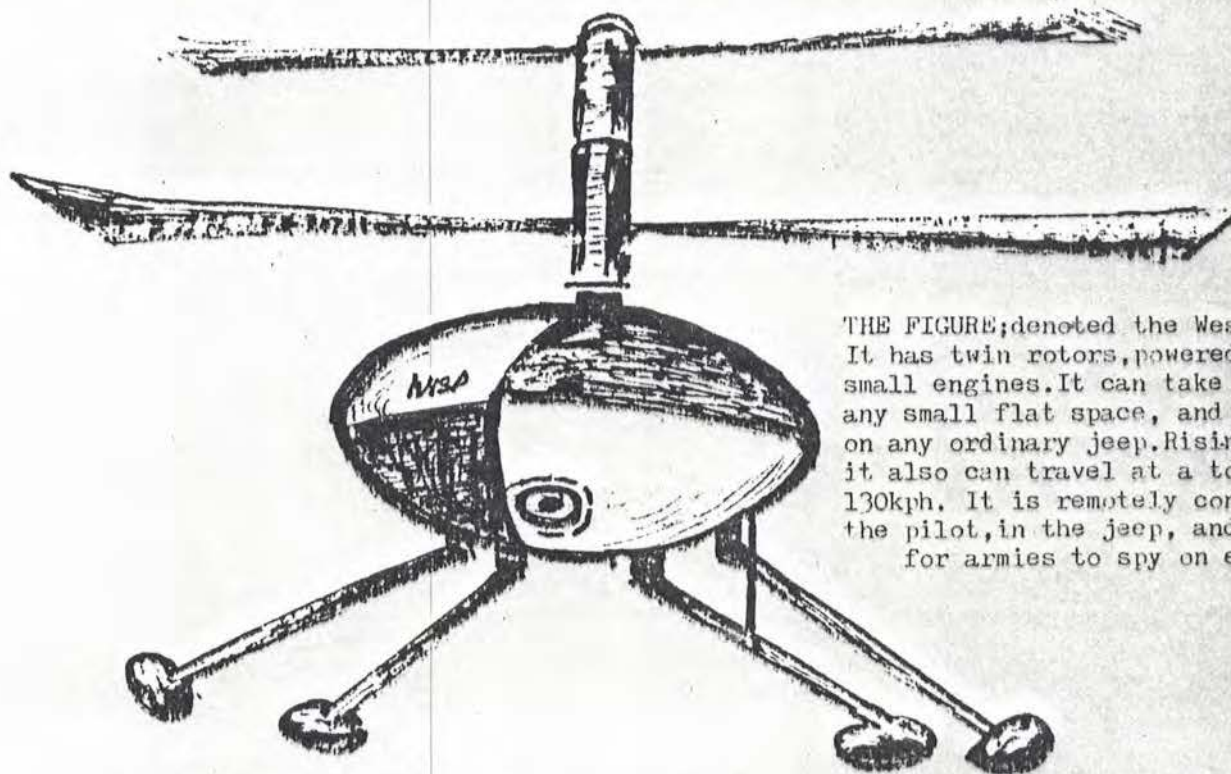
Looking back through the files I found a similar incident took place in Co. Kildare, Eire. (14-9-75). (I may mention witnesses names as these have previously been released with their consent:ED). Mr Michael Hennessy reported seeing a flying object near the village of Timolin. He claimed that the object was disc shaped and hovered in a field for some minutes, and then disappeared into a nearby valley.

It was Mr Hennessy's nephew Paul Moran, 16, who first saw it. Mr Hennessy told our investigators, John Hind and Tom Higgins, it was about 6' wide and was emitting a humming sound, and spinning very rapidly; Silvery chrome in colour it had hovered in the bottom end of the field for around two minutes.

According to the Belfast newspaper, The Sunday News (5th October / 80, reporter Maurice Neill), a leading astronomy lecturer claims that a secret spy weapon, a miniature flying camera, is beaming over the skies of Ulster, and that it has been used by the army in Northern Ireland for roughly the last ten years.

The company who are claimed to manufacture the device is the local firm of 'Shorts' of Belfast. According to Tom Goyer, a spokesman for Shorts, the device which is codenamed "SKYSPY", was shelved over ten years ago.

The military, according to their spokesman, states that they do have a device equipped with a camera which is used by some of its units, but only in the battlefield for surveillance.



THE FIGURE; denoted the Westland WISP. It has twin rotors, powered by two small engines. It can take off from any small flat space, and is portable on any ordinary jeep. Rising vertical it also can travel at a top speed of 130kph. It is remotely controlled by the pilot, in the jeep, and was made for armies to spy on enemy troops.

It resembles a child's model aircraft, and is not in use in Northern Ireland. The leading lecturer is convinced that a secret 'weapon' is in operation in Ulster, and yet the army denies it. The suggested manufacturers state it has nothing to do with them.

It is a delicate situation when we consider that the patterns and consistent characteristics of the strange artifices mentioned, are compatible with each other, both North and south of Ireland, and on a global basis as well. As far as the public at large is concerned these few examples of the unknown artifices have to remain unidentified, at the moment. Whatever intelligence is behind the manufacture of these devices, it is certain that they are not going to make public the capabilities of the devices.

Artifices of the human kind? Perhaps.

Danny Wilson.

SPECTRUM

VIEW

ON THE

PSYCHIC.

Owen McQuail.

Chambers 20th Century Dictionary defines 'psychic', as "spiritual, belonging to the psyche, soul or mind." It also defines phenomenon, as anything directly apprehended by the senses, or one of them. So, we have the phrase 'psychic phenomenon'. The very phrase itself conjures up pictures of strange and unusual occurrences. Of course all of this is literally true. What is also true, however, is that the actual why, when and how or mind or psyche, functions is a major phenomenon in itself. All the things that we take for granted, so much that we don't even give them any thought. They are in themselves psychic phenomena. The ability to perform several functions, whether simple or complex, at the same time makes the subject of mind and our indefinable mental qualities and abilities the first psychic phenomenon we should concern ourselves with. If we split the mind into three levels, :-conscious, sub-conscious and unconscious,; we know that science has a hitherto undefined insight into the conscious state. The last two states are the subject of our interest and speculation.

Let us look at the items which fall under the cloak of the paranormal.
DREAMS:- These are usually what is termed precognitive, i.e.:- they are the ability to see into the future, while in a sleep, or a trance. Sometimes it may be difficult for the percipient to actually relate the scenes or events experienced. But then again it can be quite a dramatic experience. Abraham Lincoln, it is said, had a dream, in which he saw his own death. He even awakened and went through the experience of hearing persons crying and when, asking what was wrong, were told that the president was dead. Three days later he was in fact shot. With many dreams of this nature there often exists the problem of identification, both the event and the place, but as pointed out, some are almost minutely perfect.

Automatic Writing:- A unique and a totally fascinating experience. It is one that can be mastered with patience, and can tap sources beyond belief, as anyone who practices this art, will be able to testify. In brief, as the name implies, it entails taking a pen and notebook, and through a "channel" receiving messages of varying kinds. Some say that these messages, usually of some philosophical nature, are the thoughts of the undying personality.

CRYING:- A term generally used to cover the field of seeking psychic information, from reflective objects and surfaces such as water, crystal balls, mirrors, glass, etc. It is a practice known to be as old as time recorded. There can be no doubt that sryers, or gazers have been and are able to see images of the past, present and future, when they use these psychic supports. Generally speaking the object used for srying should be in dimly lit room, away from direct light, hand held or on a dark velvet cloth. This all being done in a state of relaxation, and concentration.

Extra-Sensory-Perception(ESP):- This is something more common amongst the laity, in the form of telepathy, unspoken communication between two or more minds. Uri Geller brought this and other effects, like telekinesis, or the 'Geller Effect', in the mid 1970's. The Stanford Research Institute discovered that Geller had an effect on many scientific instruments, a Geiger Counter among others.

So, quite apart from Gellers metal bending effects, he has become a major or well known figure in the psychic phenomenon for this century.

GHOSTS:- This is possibly the most well known, and least understood, if anything in the psychic world is actually understood, of all the psychic phenomena. Ghosts have been well observed and catalogued for centuries all over the world, and even now have not lost their charisma and tourist appeal. As in all other things, there are those who do not wish to believe. Whether they do or not, the Ghost is the chief challenge to the ordinary, conscious, rational mind.

One famous incident is the Ghost of Goodwin Sands, where a schooner is seen periodically since its first appearance in February 1798. Also the subject of the Flying Dutchman, which goes back to 1641, when its captain M. van de Decken was bound from Batavia to Holland swore he would round the Cape if it took him until Doomsday. Sighting the Flying Dutchman is the harbinger of tragedy and bad luck.

So what may one ask, is a ghost? Are they the forms of previous beings who have inhabited the earth? Do they exist only on a psychic reality of the percipient?

Poltergeist activity is perhaps the most well researched area of the psychic phenomena (we reviewed a book in the last IUN on the Philip experiment, Ed.). It is mostly linked with disturbed adolescents who somehow release a tremendous psychic force which has not yet been explained.

In an article such as this I simply wanted it to be an introduction to the subject. I have just briefly touched the subjects at hand. It is not meant for the purist, but written in the hope that it will kindle a spark in the mind of the reader not already acquainted with the psychic world.

Owen McQuail, Spectrum.

As we celebrate the demise of the first year of a brand new decade, we thought it appropriate to take a dive into the past. We have found some very interesting material, collated and researched by members of the old BUFORA branch in the sixties, other reports originate from sources we cannot disclose, others come work done by a well known local astronomical lecturer also from the 1960's. We hope that you welcome this collation of Irish ufo reports from the decades past, put together in this medium for the first time. And so:-

Reports From The Archives: '60's

May 21st 1962:- Cpt. Gordon Pendleton, a 39 yr old Aer Lingus pilot saw a UFO while flying a Viscount airliner from Cork to Brussels. It was seen at a height of 17,000 feet, above Brecon in Wales.

March 1964:- In Belfast a mysterious object was seen by a group of workers at Shaw's Bridge. The men claimed that they saw a bright, circular object with a flashing light underneath it, drift and hover, due south, in the Co. Down sky. When it moved, it moved quickly, but it generally hovered over one spot.

Sighted at first by a Mr J Patterson, it was then seen by up to fifteen other employees on their lunch break.

October 1965:- A Mr. A.D. Holding of Belfast, who has an interest in astronomy, was looking for the Ikeyaseki Comet, when between 5.5am and 5.30am he claimed he saw a UFO. He described the object, later, to be a small dimly lit disc, encircled by a crescent-shaped area of light. It moved slowly across the sky, emitting streams of sparks, from time to time.

October 1965:- at 7.30 am on the same morning as the above sighting, an observer in Bangor, Co. Down, spotted an object which shot across the sky with a long tail. It resembled that of a speed boat, and traveled with a speed, greater than any aircraft, he claimed.

Saturday Nov 12th 1966:-Straban Weekly News

Strange Happenings at Letterbin:- Mrs Stevenson, No. 10 Forest Crescent, Letterbin, she writes as follows.

"Seeing a story in the Tyrone Constitution about the ghostly figure near Clady, I wish to let you know we had a similar ghost around Letterbin, which caused fear to children, when coming from or going to neighboring houses, to watch TV, around a fortnight ago. We also heard tapping on the windows, on a number of occasions,

After dark I was closing the fowl house when I heard stone throwing from the other direction of the wood behind the fowl house. I took no notice of it, as I thought it was probably my own children trying to frighten me. But when I returned to the kitchen, they were still there, all were sitting there, and none had gone out. On the second night the same thing happened.

On the third night I took one of my sons with me. Both of us heard the same sound of the stones being thrown. We both heard the stones, and sods being thrown from the direction of the wood. The stones and the sods fell near to us, but none of them hit us. We searched but we could find no one.

People in cars and bicycles on the Lurybeg road saw a tall figure which disappeared into the wood coming within a few yards of it.

These happenings continued for some three months, until a fortnight or so ago. Now we hear nothing.

February 19th 1967:- The 15 year old son of Mr and Mrs Brendan Landers, Colm, says he heard a noise, which he first thought was a car. Suddenly an object flew overhead. "It seemed about as large as a two storey house, and it went a hill towards the border.

On the same morning as the above, a Mr Peter McKenna, a farmer from Killyslavin, Emyv, stated that he saw a large object which had a strange whizzing noise and after it had passed, appeared to break into three parts. However there was no extra sound or explosion and it appeared to disappear out of view into the Durlas Wood on the Border.

October 25th 1967:- Mr S Mill, a 21 yr. old teacher from Lismoragh School, with two other witnesses observed a UFO from the knock road, Belfast. Mr Mill said he noticed this very bright golden light in the sky. I told Noele and Joy (the two witnesses), and we all saw the light change into two lights-a pale orange and a pale green. It appeared to travel at tremendous speed, 1,000 miles per hour, at a height of 500 feet. (accuracy unknown). The object seemed to be spinning, and crossed the sky from the North to the South. It finally disappeared in the North, and produced another set of lights. At this time it was at a height of around 300 feet.

October 26th 1967:- Police in Anderstown, Belfast, were bemused to receive the following report, from a Falls Road mechanic, that a flying saucer had LANDED in Falls Park. Mr Maguire said it appeared to be about 300 feet high, and surrounded by square lights with a bright light at the front, and a red one underneath. When Police went to investigate the report, they found, not surprisingly, a negative result.

September 1963:- A Mr Brian Hipwell of the Lwr Albert Road in Glenary, sighted a inexplicable orange light over Howth - Sutton. This was also witnessed by a Miss N. Moran, from the Dublin Road, Sutton.

April 1965:- Two witnesses, a Mr John Knowles and a Miss R. Ward claim to have seen a ball of light gyrating around in the sky over Howth Head, as they were traveling along the Clontarf Road, Dublin. Miss Ward noticed a blue star drifting. When they reached the St Fintan's Golf Club, on Howth Head, they both saw this ball of light floating along. The size of a football, it changed from blue to red, to blue again, and having remained for over 20 minutes, it zoomed away.

November 3rd 1967:- Co. Cork, near Cookestown two UFOs were seen at around 10.30 pm. They were stated to be circular in shape. One had a white glow around it, whilst the other had an orange glow about it. Witnesses say that the objects appeared to be stationary, for about three quarters of an hour, before they just disappeared.

Some reports from even earlier:- the 1950's,

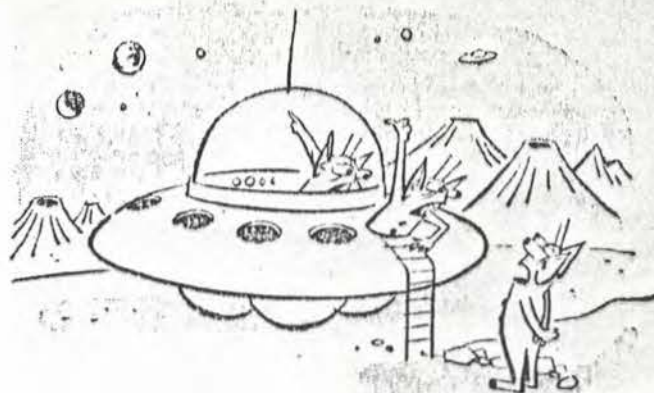
July 1950(late one evening at the end of that month):- A member of the Dublin Centre of the Irish Astronomical Society, told our investigator of the time(the late 60's), that he had seen a classic UFO. (Both are now very wary of their names being associated with UFOs.) He saw a large green oval shaped object, with yellow lights, resembling what he described as portholes, dotted along the side of the object. It hovered at an approximate height of 800 feet, with a diameter of 80 feet. He observed the object for some five minutes, before it descended to 500 feet, before it rose up again, and sped up, vertically, before it disappeared, in thirty seconds.

2 DAILY SKETCH. Thursday, July 21, 1968

MW

LINE-UP

Who knows, maybe they
have a sense of humour.



"You saw an earthman in a spacecraft taking photos?
You must be crazy!"

AUGUST 7th 1958:- Mr Hutcheson, a south Londonderry Farmer, tried to capture an egg shaped UFO which had landed on his farm. Mrs Hutchinson also witnessed the event. Her husband said that the red object just dropped out of the sky and landed on a piece of dry ground, in a swamp, about two hundred yards from his home. It disappeared from sight, and then he went to the R.U.C. police station, in 'Derry. They later searched the area, and commented, that ' this was the first time, anything like this had happened here'!

DECEMBER 29th 1958:- Joseph Bennett, a middle aged Portglenone farmer, (in Co. Antrim), saw one of the most unusual U.F.O's ever observed anywhere, let alone Northern Ireland! It was black in colour, and it actually cut a tree in two. Bennett, who farms at Bracknamuckly, was walking when his attention was drawn to a strange noise. From that point on his experience is best described in his own words:-

"The thing was about seven feet broad, and flashed towards me, some 20 feet up. It came from the south west, and travelled in a north westerly direction. Next thing I saw was its swift passage through a row of trees, dividing two farms, at Gartfadd. It cut one forty foot oak tree in half, and then vanished a few seconds later."

No trace of the object was ever found, but the oak tree was very certainly smashed.

The next report, of considerable detail, with major significance, is reprinted here, by permission of its author and researcher, who whilst having close links with the Irish UFO Research Centre, wishes to remain anonymous, due to his position and the area that he is employed. It originally was printed in the Queens University journal Spectrum (no connection whatsoever with the Dublin psychic group of the same name), which was published in the winter of 1968, the Q.U.B. Students Union. Source being that already outlined, and that of the old BUFORA branch in Belfast, as opposed to the new group, which formed the I.U.F.O.R.C., which publishes this journal:-ED.

Radar Tracks '67 UFO

BELFAST:-

"Northern Ireland has apparently received its quota of UFOs.

October 26th, 1967, in a small town on the outskirts of Belfast, two people watched for several minutes, a low flying round shaped object slowly crossing the sky. The object was described as very large and projecting a bright yellow beam.

By way of a coincidence at 5.30am that day, a Portadown man came across two strange objects maneuvering at low altitude over bog land. Viewed through binoculars, they were bright, cone shaped with yellow with white sparks coming from the rear. At front; intense yellow 'search lights' were sweeping across the sky.

The previous evening at 8.30pm, 3 Belfast people, 2 of them teachers, informed the Knock Lelice that they had witnessed two strange objects in the sky. Travelling at fantastic speed, one was triangle shaped, pale green and gradually turning a pale orange. The other which travelled in a different direction, intercepted the first at about 500 feet, where both disappeared.

During this time, according to an unconfirmed report, the radar at the local aerospace firm of Shorts, on Queen's Island, Belfast, was put out of action due to unknown local interference.

Possibly the oddest authentic local incident occurred on November 16-17th, (1967), and in the sequence of events outlined here, it will be obvious that this was a classic example of a golden opportunity that was LOST. - A rare opportunity for leisurely, scientific investigation of the normally elusive "flying saucer".

Thurs November 16th 1967, Belfast.

10.50pm Greencastle man, Trevor Lloyd, was driving home when he first noticed an unusually bright, flashing object in the sky, at a low altitude, over the Holywood Hills (a group of hills facing the south shore of Belfast Lough). He dismissed it as an aircraft, though it was stationary (it seemed).

11.05pm. After arriving home, he was surprised to see that it was still there. He and his family observed it with binoculars for some time. The object was a brilliant, flashing red pulsating disc, with white and green flickering lights, and shaped like a dinner plate.

11.40pm Of the other witnesses summoned, one an aviation enthusiast established it neither plane nor helicopter.

11.50pm:- They phoned Aldergrove Airport (in mid Co. Antrim, 20 miles away), and requested radar confirmation. After initial scepticism by Air Traffic Control they provisionally identified a strange radar 'paint' over the area of the object. At 11.30 the Long Kesh Radio-sonde Station confirmed that their device (balloon) had blown well south at this time. Also, subsequent wind data showed that it was impossible for this device to have been a balloon).

Midnight:-The airport staff contacted a second radar station, Ulster Radar at Bishopscourt, for further confirmation. This they received, and they were also able to establish the height to be 9,000 feet. For most of the time the object was motionless over the one spot in the hills. However the witnesses claimed, in their running commentary that it "It's started to move! It's stopped! Now it's beginning to climb!"

0.15 am (Friday). The RUC were informed, but ten minutes later the ATC admitted, that short of the oil refinery blowing out, there was little that the police could offer.

0.30am The pulsating life was still a brilliant sight over the eastern side of the Lough. But, it had now begun to move slowly south eastwards, and climb very slowly. The ATC's staff admitted after they had exhausted every possibility, that "Well, it beats me, we just don't know what the thing is."

1.40am:- Low cloud passed overhead, and obscured the object, and this was the last time the ground witnesses saw the object. However it was still tracked on radar.

12.55 am An inbound from London, Vanguard 'Echo Papa' with 74 passengers on board, was given a dramatic message from Aldergrove, as it crossed the Irish coast at Portaferry.:- "We have reports confirmed by police and our own radar, of a thing in the sky, 4 miles east of Sydenham (in the Belfast side of Belfast Lough) It is at 9,000 feet. Will you have a look, from 3,000 feet?"

1.00pm:- The aircraft broke cloud, and spotted the object at the bearing given. But the captain's comment over the radio and when the plane had landed was non-committal. The final word from one of the Vanguard's officer's was: "We still don't know what that thing was, but thank God it was four miles away".

2:00pm (approx) Having been tracked by the airport radar for a further hour, the blips just suddenly disappeared from the screens.

There were a series of isolated occurrences which also happened around this period, which may be of relevance. Two hours before the initial sighting, the 2050 outbound Viscount freighter from Manchester suffered temporary radio compass failure between Portaferry and the Isle of Man. It then just cleared itself. The next morning an inbound 0835 Trident from London also reported the same fault in the same area. Again it corrected itself. Also the Radio Sonde transmitter failed when it was launched at 11.30 the previous night. Another was gased up and launched, and worked normally. Then whilst monitoring the second weather balloon, the first's then began to transmit. The entire incident was without precedent at the Met Station, and remains inexplicable.

What happened after this event is perhaps more interesting. The next morning TV news and other media were rebuffed with evasive statements and irrelevances. So much for 'censorship'. But in fairness, the Board of Trade regulations clearly state that no information obtained whilst in the course of your duty may be disclosed to the public. So, the censor doesn't need to start. These rules even apply to the most mundane events. The Belfast incident was never investigated by anyone, it appears, other than the momentary buzz at the airport.

A further report of similar detail occurred in November 1963, and this too was treated with the same official apathy. RAF radar controllers at Aldergrove tracked a UFO travelling at 4,000 mph. Also:- Preston Civil Control announced that it picked up an unknown travelling at 5,000 mph towards Ulster, travelling due west from them.

There are more cases published only in scant detail in this article, these I reproduce below.

Ballymartin, July 15th 1967, where a landing was alleged to have taken place. The one witness being a 21 year old man, who is described as having favourable intelligence and sincerity. Also in this instance was the absence of the usual "contact" fantasies. He did not emerge with the obliquatory "message for mankind".

It was around dusk as he took a short cut home through a little wood on the hillside. He sighted an unusual looking object which froze him in his tracks. The dish like object hovered over a field, about 50' away. Duke blue grey in colour, it came within 8 feet of the ground and hung there, executing a easy, oscillatory motion.

Two hatches suddenly opened and a pair of 4½' tall figures made an exit-by stepping out slowly, floating down to the earth. They were dressed in luminous clothing. They had a complete absence of facial detail, except for a narrow tube coming from a region which would be the mouth, to the left breast. Ten minutes later they made a signal to their craft, and the doors opened, once again, and they hovered into the air, and entered the craft. Almost in silence the object climbed into the sky, and had disappeared in a few seconds.

A strange story indeed, and without any further corroboration from the time stated, that is what it must remain. Indeed, as simply a reprint of an article some 13 years ago, that is what this must all remain. Certainly it shows that the activity in this tiny region has not been without some well documented, though for most intents lost, excitement.

We extend our gratitude to the BUFORA member of old for his permission to reproduce it, and we look forward to his future contributions, hopefully not quite so anonymous.

END.

On Being Wrong For The Right Reasons

an article by JOHN HIND.

"I see you don't understand my matrices", the professor said exuberantly. I had been telling him about the American "Committee for Scientific Investigation of the Paranormal", when to my surprise, he had started rapidly pecking the keyboard of his computer. ("Interfacing" he called it.) "So you see", he said, "what they are trying to do is perfectly laudible, but the way they are going about it cannot work. In fact, it can only make the situation worse! The matrices show it all." At this he had gestured triumphantly in the direction of his computer's TV-like screen, which was filled with numbers and mathematical symbols. He had looked slightly disappointed at my obvious lack of understanding.

The Prof sat on the edge of his desk looking thoughtful for some time. Then he got up and sat down again in his arm chair, putting his feet up on the desk. I noticed that his shoes were quite obviously members of different pairs.

"I wanna tell you a sto-----ree", he said, delivering an abismal impersonation of a popular comic.

"There once were two countries, their names ar'nt important, but I'll call them America and Imperial China. They didn't exist at the same time, but for the purposes of my story I'll pretend that they did. Both were very large, rich and powerful and both had very clever 'magi'. In one of the countries these magi were called "astrologers", in the other they were called "scientists"."

"Physical Scientists", he added, eyes twinkling; the Prof was a sociologist.

"In one country the magi spent their time watching the people. When the people of such and such a province, reported seeing strange things in the sky, or talking of supernatural happenings, the magi would report to the Emperor that the gods were displeased with the way this province was being run. He would then, to appease the gods, lower the taxes in that area, or recall and replace the governor, or send an investigating team to find out if something was wrong. The gods would then be appeased, the people would stop seeing these things, the Emperor would be much pleased and the power of the magi would be much enhanced. Under this enlightened rule, the country prospered and eventually built up the largest and the strongest, and longest lasting of the civilisations the world has ever seen. The magi made careful records of all the strange things their countrymen reported, and made painstaking observations of their own. They observed and recorded, but they did not explain. These things were due to the activities of the gods, so what was there to explain? But they quickly learned that there was some order to these things, and from this they could sometimes predict events ahead of time. This led them to become very clever engineers, because they had to construct more and more accurate clocks and other instruments. They also became very proficient in the construction of engines of war. But all this time they continued to watch the people and took great care to advise the Emperor when the gods were displeased, and the Emperor heeded them.

The country prospered, and made great advances in the arts and in engineering, but nothing was known of the physical sciences."

"The second country was different. It's magi were just as clever, but they observed and explained. They were not interested in people, and had a great distrust of observations that they themselves could not repeat. But this country was large and sparsely populated, and so there was much room for expansion. Now, when expansion takes place serious social problems are rare. So the magi were able to devote all their energy to probing the mysteries of nature. They developed marvels undreamed of by the magi of the first country. When the expansion ceased, as all expansion into a finite area will, social problems began to appear, the magi would loudly proclaim that social problems were the concern of the politicians, not magi.

Unfortunatley to become a successful politician in this country one had to be ruthless ambitious and have a congenital inability to see beyond the next election. The magi were not really interested in the uses that their discoveries were being put, but, by a devious trick, the politicians managed to persuade the magi to construct more and more powerful weapons of war, until eventually they had a weapon so powerful that if it were used, it would destroy the world. The people of this country became very frightened, social problems became acute and people began to see strange things in the sky and to

believe in all manner of strange things. They began to lose faith in their politicians who turned to the magi for advice. The magi said they would convince the people that the strange things in the sky were irrational and nonsense. This they tried, but without success. The people continued to believe, and lost faith in the magi also. "

The Prof fell silent, waiting for some response. "There is a moral, of course?" I prompted "There's a moral in everything, if only you look hard enough", said the Prof, misquoting Lewis Carol. He then lifted the receiver of his telephone, which had been emitting bleats reminiscent of a drowning Do Do, about 2" from its rest, and dropped it back, silencing the Do Do. "In this case it is something like this," he continued.

"The magi of the first country were right but for the wrong reasons. They attributed sightings of strange objects in the sky and other paranormal phenomena, as indicators of the gods's displeasure. They corrected the problems they imagined the gods were displeased about, judging success by the disappearance of the symptoms. In actual fact the symptoms were caused by the displeasure of the people as well as their fears, their uncertainty for the future."

"A case of two wrongs making a right," I interjected.

"Not quite, in a sense they were absolutely right. Their method worked. Who is to judge whether their explanation or ours is right? For my part, I would say that both explanations are correct, but that the scientific one is more useful."

The magi of second country, on the other hand were wrong, but for the right reasons! They perceived that the people were beginning to believe irrational ideas, but instead of looking at the causes, they looked at the symptoms. They should have realised that this would only make the situation WORSE. To compound the error many of them descended into the same depths of emotionalism as the people they were criticising".

"Should they have behaved like the Chinese Magi?" I asked.

NO! The Chinese system worked; it was successful, but it was also brutal and stagnant. Besides, it wouldn't have worked in... in our second country. They should have behaved as scientists, set down to real investigation of phenomena, social and physical, involved. Their mistake they made was to assume that science has some inherent right to be the dominant philosophy. Like all philosophies, science must prove itself on a continuing basis, against human values. It must be adapted to cope with ALL phenomena. By admitting that science could not cope with the paranormal and implying that, due to this, the paranormal has no right to exist, these scientists immeasurably strengthened the hand of those who use the irrational for their own ends. Science needs to relearn phenomenalism, it's got over confident and has begun to think that theory, not observation is the ultimate arbiter of truth.

END.

A Familiar Story ?

Seamus McConnell.

Seamus sends his first article for the 'news', from the Northern UFO Reporting Service in Derry. This is also his first article as a member of UFOIN.

The whole idea of this is to try and analyse why I've let myself become entangled in the UFO enigma; you may see how relevant and typical it may be of your own experience. The subject of ufology can be a very up and down business, as anybody who is actively involved will probably tell you.

Some psychologists will tell you that the people who are attracted to the study of ufos do so in order to fill a gap in their lives. Especially a religious gap. If he has a gap in his spiritual self, either with his own religion or if he is an atheist, then he definitely needs something to fill that void. I would go along with this argument, but up to a point. However I do not think that this necessarily invalidates the existence of UFO's as an

objective reality. (Whatever that may be). I am a very firm proponent in the existence of intelligent life on other worlds, but I do not think that these Ufos and the E.T.I. Theory are necessarily connected.

The first book that I read was Flying Saucers by A. Shuttlewood, and I must admit that I favoured the idea of these 'aliens' were synonymous with these flying saucers. But, as time went on, I felt I had to abandon this romantic notion (as this is all it is) because the behaviour of the "ufonauts" and the objects they were supposed to travel in did not correspond with MY idea of how the advanced technologies should indeed act.

It has been my experience that there were times when I was convinced, that it was only a matter of time before I had a CE3, either objectively or subjectively. Then there were the other times when I have to admit, I thought I must be a raving lunatic to be associated with the thing at all! Especially after cringing with embarrassment, as I watched the antics of the Atherius Society on TV. I felt then that we the so called ufologists had now been justifiably relegated to the very bottom of the lunatic fringe. But I prided myself in the methods of logic and critical analysis. I reasoned that the "UFO scene", by its very nature was wide open to cranks and hoaxes, but that there was still something there for the scientific method to pursue.

My worst fears were borne out when up here in the "Maiden City" there had been a fair splattering of alleged ufo activity over the last few years. After a little investigation I was able to account for most of these, being mis-interpretation and natural phenomena. A couple where, what appeared to be, stupid hoaxes. Being on the receiving end of one of these does not exactly boost one's ego. In fairness to those concerned I was not able to prove that they were cranks, but the message is all the same anyway. The only crumb of comfort that I could find was that there were a few incidents that were strange and apparently genuine.

In conclusion I would like to say that fortunately I still have my little library of UFO books, and as a matter of fact I'm still the proud owner of an insatiable appetite for data on Ufos and CETI. To be honest I just don't have a clue as to what they might be. I only know that I have an intense interest in the subject, and who knows the answer may be found soon. Theories are rampant, but only time will tell which is correct.

END.

what are we doing, & where are we going?

Miles Johnston

After many years of documentation, debate, and counterdebate, it seems that we know as much now, as we did when this whole thing started. If, after such a period of time we have still to find even a main theme of thought, let alone a solution, then it may not be too harsh to conclude that maybe we have been doing something wrong—God forbid! Perhaps if those involved in the UFO enigma were to actually pool resources and lay steps for progress, we may actually get somewhere. I don't mean form ANOTHER "organisation", hold even bigger conferences and pat ourselves on the back for making things look what they are on TV. I am convinced that if we stopped expounding our pet theories, which change after we read another book or report, then we may actually be forced to look at what is actually there, in terms of hard data that one can hold in one's hand, so to speak, and find that we have nothing of any justifiable merit. We have no direction to pursue, as we have nothing to pursue it with.

I remain convinced that we must look at the UFO enigma from a much wider view point, perhaps in a social context, before we will be able to see any pattern, which suggests an analysable course to pursue. If we can precipitate from all the material we have, one foundation stone however small, for us to build on, then we shall be doing something.

Why should it be that it is only in thirty years that these strange events have been occurring in earnest. (Excepting the very recent past). Some would say that it was the mass media of TV, radio, newspaper. But, we have the latter two for the best part of the century, and newspapers for a vastly greater time. The prewar newsreel also played a major role in the dissemination of information, though this may have been more propaganda than actual data.

Could it be that the method of reporting, accounts for the public awareness of UFO's, and the mere generation of reports. Certainly there is a definite effect of press/reports. However some journalists would discount the fact that reporting over the years has changed - a good story is a good story, no matter what decade or century it comes from.

So we remain with our original question. One may look at the rate at which our society has evolved over the decades in question. More precisely we should look at the areas at which society has evolved, and not evolved so dramatically. Technology has radically changed how society has communicated, and the rate at which it cycles, whilst the way we live on a fundamental level has hardly changed at all. It is where the old and the new, and the very new, have interacted that society has found the greatest turbulence. This has always been the case, but in the recent past it has occurred at a very much greater density. John Hind's magi have affected greater change in our society than at any time before.

The traditional stabilizers in society, those of the various religions, have become of lesser relevance to a greater section of society. The UFO as such, has provided a vast and new outlet for people to clench on to after two world wars, and now the nuclear age. The areas of science and its half sister, technology, which created the industrial revolution in the last century, did produce a radiocline up turn in mystics, seances, etc, in the latter part of the 19th century. More important was the stagnation of science, and the subsequent institutionalisation of 'science', resulting in anything but.

The same thing has become apparent with science in the decades in question. The UFO HAS BEEN SIGHTED, a constant stream of reports, and strange occurrences have abounded. Alas, the only solution has been-ridiculous. This generates further loss of faith in the gurus of society, as these events go unexplained-satisfactorily. Possibly adding to the flame.

Believe it or not, the average person is an extremely intelligent individual. That is to say an average individual, on his own, can handle relatively complex operations and problems. However, en masse, the general public will behave according to the lowest common denominator, or by a highly motivated singular force.

In both cases the main motivator is fear, generated from whatever source. Fear being from the emotions, from the unknown. It can be shown that a society faced with an unknown situation, and thus growing from a state of mild anxiety about their future, to a more fearful state, will begin to turn to quack religions, see strange things, and believe in UFO's. This was apparent during the the mid 30s, after Germany dragged itself out of its social chaos. Witchcraft and other mystic sciences became rampant.

But if social disorder generates UFO's, which some have suggested, then why were large waves of UFO's not seen in late 1800's, and the prewar years. If we look through our files we can trace some UFO or "airship" activity (when there could not have been) in the US, and indeed Belfast.

So what we could be experiencing is a major social disturbance, due to the progression of technology. We have in the latter part of the second third of this century, seen a massive war, and a horrific effect of what this technology, of our society, can produce. This is of course the combination of the two technologies evolving A-Bombs and V rockets. We can utterly destroy ourselves. During the period of the 1950's our society has vastly expanded its ability to communicate, increasing the rate of our evolve. It was not until after the war that civil aviation really sprang to life, this and the new medium of television, have brought us all very much closer in mind, to each other.

This was expressly influential in the 1950's, when the foundations for the major social changes, were laid, for the 1960's. It was this period which also saw the explosion of UFO activity world wide. When a corresponding social explosion of the 60's occurred, UFO's moved from a newspaper fad, to a cult status, with it being the vogue to be in a UFO "organisation". It was this period that generated the BUFORA and Contact generation of UFO societies.

It was strange that when the dream of the sixties began to go sour at the beginning of the seventies, with the oil crisis, the Vietnam withdrawal, that we had another heavy round of UFOs. With the developed state of the world news media, and their approach to the now well established UFO problem, with Condon and Blue book, it took on a new dimension. It also brought a new flood of second generation ufo researchers.

The demise of the space programme, and the subsequent loss of the "Live From the Moon" pictures (and the Star Trek programme) on the TV screens world wide, and the combined effect of this, and the ufos produced a world wide yearning for the new, and different. This resulted in a massive sci-fi revival, the most reputed being our very CE3A, a most important milestone, crystallising the fantasies of millions in one strip of celluloid. Indeed this very act seems to have defused the general climate of ufo mania which was present around the world at the time. This film seems to have thus had precisely the opposite effect that many people would have thought.

We currently seem to have a ufo famine, the general level of activity seeming to drop to a level bubbling around zero. Could the effect of the depression have a draining effect on peoples' imagination? Of course external factors such as that described will only be relevant if a correlation exists between social discord and the ufo enigma.

Now, that we have technology massively developed, and a people becoming even more jealous and anxious with the upper strata in society, the rich; except now it is the ones who are rich in knowledge, (John Hinds magi), does this mean that we are due for a massive rash of ufo sightings in the not too distant future? Or has all the energy dissipated, leaving an apathetic fester, due for eruption.

Certainly, there is a correlation between social climate and UFO wave just as there is equally one with the number hens which lay brown eggs and the bust sizes of Page 3 models. (Alas I have found the

solution!) I answer to my question, assuming of course it has a basis of reality in the first place, I don't know. Perhaps I would be able to find it, if after 30 years we could distil the accumulation of reports and investigations into one sound series of facts, undisputable, so we could begin to prognosticate seriously for hypothesis.

Until we can apply the scientific method of factual repeatability, proving something to be so, leading to positive conjecture and testable theory, we shall simply be wandering around the ufo maze, with our heads looking at our shoe laces; falling over them. We buy to look up, and see what is there. When the 1990 edition of the Irish UFO News is published, I fear I need only reprint this, as no further progress will have been made. Confucious once said: "If you don't look at a sign post, then you won't be able to read it"

END.

Mr Adamski! Where on earth have you been?.....
.....PASS!



From left to right, Dennis Dahl, Wolfgang Poepperl and Captain Bob Millbank, members of a Canadian Pacific Airlines flight crew, discuss an artist's conception of a UFO which followed them part way on flight from Peru to Mexico

The above sketch drawn according to all the flight crew is the shape of an object which followed them part way to Mexico; it bears a close resemblance to the object seen at the Coachman's Inn in Bangor, Co. Down, N. Ireland.

See The Coachman's Inn Report in this issue.



Report Summary: The Coachman Report. Investigated by:- David Patterson.

This report was first brought our notice in 1979, and was finally concluded in Feb 1980. The Coachman's Inn is a popular night spot in the outer reaches of the sea side resort, and dormitory town of Bangor, a few miles from Belfast, Co. Down.

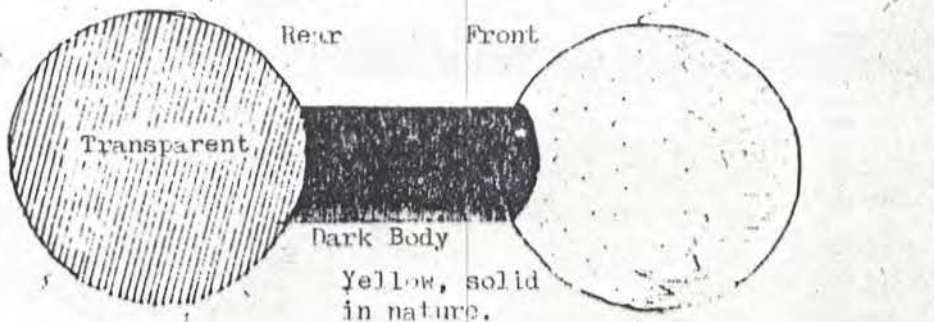
Two nights after the sighting was reported, I spoke to Mr McMurray on April 18th, 1979. He agreed to discuss the incident, though reticent after some experience of jibes and other comments from his fellow workers and friends. He works part time at the Coachmans Inn, but normally as a tradesman in the Harland and Wolfe shipyard, in Belfast. He gave his account to me as follows.

On Monday April 16th 1979, at approximately 8.00pm he was standing at the doorway to the Inn. He then spotted a bright light between the struts of an electricity pylon. He was looking north to Bangor at the time. Initially there was nothing peculiar about the light, other than it was extremely bright. At this stage of the night, it was not dark but at the same time it was well into dusk. He thought then that it was the light from a helicopter, (which often fly throughout northern Ireland, often with large powerful searchlights, and are thus well recognisable by members of the public, thus being different from other areas). He continued to watch the object as it moved in an easterly direction. He gained the impression that it was flying in a wide arc, and heading towards the north east region of Bangor.

I gained an impression that the object was quite some distance from the witness at this stage.

Mr McMurray continued. During the following minutes, the object appeared to get closer and then it turned quite sharply, moving in a westerly direction towards him. At this point he still believed he was watching the manoeuvres of a small helicopter. The object increased in size until it was about the size of a golfball held at arms length. Mr McMurray then called over one of his security colleagues. The object continued to approach his position. It then suddenly veered away, turning southward to travel parallel with dual carriageway. It was at this point that he made out the shape of the object.

Object seen at the Coachman Inn,
April 16th, 1979.



Taken from a sketch made by the witness.

(M.G.)

He formed the impression that it was like a dumbbell; similar to those in weight training: "2 globes joined by a bar in the middle".

When asked if the object he had been watching could have been a helicopter, his reply was, "Well, the ball shape at the front and rear could have been made from the cockpit and rear rotors, but the centre bit was most certainly solid". He added I don't recall hearing any sound. If it had been a helicopter I would have heard its rotor!

The front sphere glowed with a greenish tinge, edged with white, but Mr McMurray was adamant that it looked solid; not see through as in the round perspex dome of some helicopters. He definitely could not see through it. The rear was semi transparent, but it too glowed quite brightly.

At this point he ran down into the large car park at the front of the Inn, to get a closer look at the object. It veered south. It stopped moving at this point and from Mr McMurray's position it seemed to hover above the flagpole on the building on the otherside of the

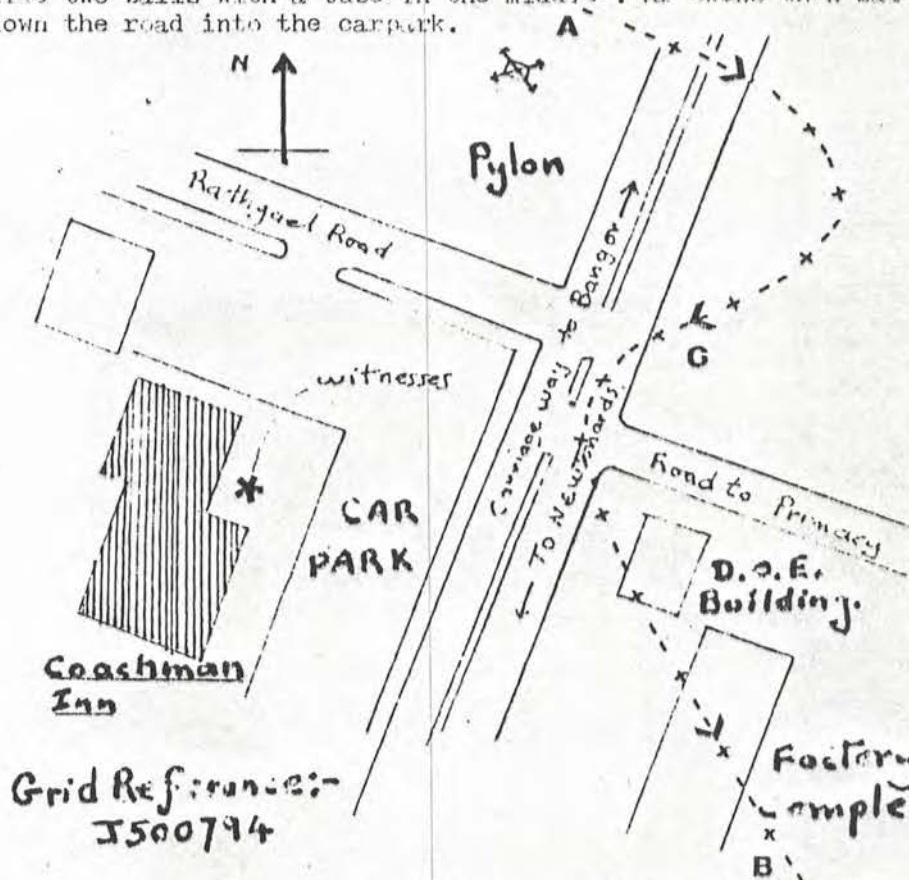
dual carriageway (see map diagram). The object remained motionless for several seconds before it finally moved off, disappearing behind the roof of a large factory complex.

At no time during the sighting was any sound heard coming from the object. The weather at the time was dry with scattered cloud at high altitude. No wind was noticeable.

The second witness, a Mr Owens was interviewed later that evening, after Mr McMurray. His account is as follows. (4-18-79). He was interviewed at his place of temporary work at the Inn entrance, and I was therefore unable to conduct the fullest interview I wished.

On the evening in question Mr Owens was standing inside the inn entrance, when at around 8.00 pm he heard Mr McMurray call him, from outside. He went outside, and after a moment saw the primary witness gesticulate in the direction of the Balloo Industrial Estate, to a bright "Ball of light" in the sky. The size of the object was roughly that of a small rubber ball.

The object then turned to its right and proceeded along this path (following the main dual carriageway) for several seconds. At this point the object seemed very close and "looked like two balls with a tube in the middle". Mr Owens then said that his colleague ran off down the road into the carpark.



The object then seemed to turn and move away, stopping and hovering over the large building on the other side of the road. After a moment the object moved off, and finally disappeared behind the roofline of a factory building.

Mr Owens stated that although the object resembled a helicopter, he was convinced it was no such thing.

The Map:-

The star marks where the witnesses were initially situated.

- A):- Object first seen by Mr. McMurray.
- B):- Point where object lost to view.
- C):- Point where Mr Owens saw the object at first.

Condensed Summary:- There are two possible conclusions which I draw for this case. 1) The witnesses were the perpetrators of a deliberate hoax, claiming either a sighting when they had seen nothing, as the sighting has not been corroborated, or they had seen a military Scout helicopter, claimed as a UFO sighting and left out the sound of the vehicle in an attempt to substantiate their story.

2) Witnesses did actually see an object which appeared as they described and acted as similarly described. In which case because their story has not been corroborated, the object was not physical in the real sense and only visible to them alone.

If we accept the first conclusion, then this investigation is terminated now, and for all time. If we accept the second conclusion, then we have two individuals who have had an experience bordering on the paranormal. This hypothesis is most difficult to accept as the investigator does not believe that either of the witnesses are of the "thinking-type" or the sort of individuals prone to psychic behaviour, both are very down to earth types.

Finally in the absence of further data to substantiate the sighting of the object reported, it is my opinion of the writer as of today's date that the two men in question may have seen something out of the ordinary, but this is not to say that they did.

The writer has been tempted to log this report as a deliberate hoax, perpetrated by two individuals, but after serious and protracted consideration, this hypothesis has been discarded. It would have been the easy way out.

This conclusion is based on the impressions given both in their attitudes to the phenomena and their hesitancy in coming to talk about the subject.

D. Patterson. (16th February 1980.)

Magazine Review,

By John Hind.

As has already been explained, the Irish UFO News will in the future be published sporadically, at best. We therefore thought that any new or old readers, might appreciate some well recommended alternative and supplemental publications on a similar vein.

Zetetic Scholar:- Twice yearly, @ 18 Dollars(US) per year.

This journal bills itself as an "independant scientific review of claims of anomalies and the paranormal" and serves as a kind of battle ground between proponants and sceptics. Its field of interest ranges widely over parascience and, fairly uniquely, meta - parascience, (scientific - usually sociological shades of parascience). There is a significant ufo content in most issues.

Zetetic makes extensive use of dialogue. That is one contributor's paper is published along with reactions from others working in the same field, in the next issue. The reactions of the original contributor are then published. This thus results in a very dynamic intercourse in each issue, with new ideas flowing freely.

The journal also publishes detailed reviews and comprehensive lists of books published, and detailed biographies and specific bibliographies. It is a quality specialist publication with high standards and little entertainment value, but, it is still an excellant way of keeping up with the field. In no way does one need a PhD to gain anything, it is aimed at the level of the intelligent layman.

18 Dollars (£8) is a bit much to fork out for two issues. However Zetetic is an average of 160 pages, closely typed, and is dispatched by airmail. Even with the strong pound it is still easier to obtain, and really a bargain. It is an important publishing venture worth supporting for its own sake.

Zetetic Scholar, Dept. of Sociology, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan, 48197, USA. (pay by bank draft in US Dollars).

Flying Saucer Review:- Bi-monthly. £5.70 or 14 Dollars(US).

FSR, as it is affectionately known, is probably the oldest publication in the field, and as far as the publication of case histories is concerned, one of the best. Its coverage is genuinely international in scope, and as a source it is "usually reliable".

However, it has to be said that the magazine has never had a whole hearted dedication to the scientific method, to its detriment. It has always been prepared to publish highly speculative articles, has sometimes been slow to publish retractions when it has been "Taken for a ride", and has sometimes relied on doubtful sources with little checking. The correspondence columns could charitably be called "folksey"- they are all too often the provence of well meaning, but exasperating idiots.

Having said all that, FSR is one of the better publications in the field- which is a sad, but not surprising reflection on the field.

Their address:- FFR Publications Ltd,
West Malling, Maidstone,
Kent England,ME19-6JZ. Payment in Sterling or US Dollars.

Magonia (Nee MUFQB):- Quarterly, £1.75 per year.

This delicious little magazine is perceptive, hard hitting, witty, intellectual and generally fun to have around-rather like this reviewer in fact! (Not allowing the reviewer to get away with this, "ED" gives permission for you to turn the page).
More seriously, it deals with the sociological orientated humanistic side of ufology, and is mainly theoretical. Though you do get an instalment of Peter Rogerson's monumental "Catalogue of type 1 UFO records" 'free' with each issue.
The magazine is primarily known for thoughtful, cheery, articles and hard-hitting book reviews.

Strongly recommended and a bargain at the price.

Their address:- Magonia,
64 Alric Avenue,
New Malden,
Surrey,
KT3-4JW,
England. Payment in Sterling or US Dollars.

Northern Ufology:- Published with the Northern UFO News, Monthly £3.60

The issue in question having a cover with two naked alien(?) page three types, on the "cover" is thus not a typical UFO magazine. Published by the Northern UFO Network, it is worth primarily as a communications and update medium, and consequently is vital for the ufologist wishing to maintain a link with others in the field.

A pleasant talking shop, not requiring Phd or MSc.

Their address:- Jenny Randles
8, Whitethorpe Walk,
Birchwood,
Cheshire,
WA3-6PQ.

CE 1 At **DUNGIVEN** Co. 'Derry.'? Investigation:- Miles Johnston, Danny Wilson.

As with all the reports published in this journal, the names of the witnesses have been changed to protect their identity, even where they have expressed their permission for us not to do so.

This report came to my attention the following week after the event. However I was unable to complete other than tentative steps in its investigation, due to a common disease of which our usual editor, John Hind, is presently afflicted, Finals! (MJ).
Therefore it was not until the early summer that Danny Wilson and myself, set out to investigate what has turned out to be a rather intriguing case.

The witnesses, designated Mrs B. Rose, a grandmother living in the small village of Gortnaghy, Dungiven near the city of Londonderry, was traveling home accompanied by her two daughters, Mary and Jo; and her son-in-law Mr. S. Harris, from Derry at 12.30 am on the night of April 4th 1980, Good Friday.

At the time stated the witnesses saw over the Altnagelvin Hospital, a red pear shaped object with two black bands, horizontally across it, a deep orange/red colour, move

across the sky, descend, and then descend again into a housing estate where it disappeared from view, other than intense rays, deep red, being emitted between the houses. They then lost the object for a few moments, when they anticipated they would drive into the object. Loosing it again, as they drove through the hilly terrain of the region, they spotted a similar object which had risen up into the sky, being different in colour, this they identified later, in the interviews, as the moon. It was this that they looked at for some 30 to 45 minutes, before finally going to bed at 2.00 am.

The witnesses now describe, with conflicting detail in certain cases, the events that took place. Beginning with Mrs B. Rose, her experience is as follows.
(A tape of all the interviews is available at John Hind's address detailed.)

Interviewed in her home, Mrs Rose stated that she noticed a huge red thing, flashing a sort of orange red glow, over the Derry side of Altnagelvin General Hospital. At first she thought it was some kind of red balloon, until it began to move over the hospital towards them. She described the object as being sort of pear shaped, though from the diagram in her letter, a more amorphous figure of eight shape would seem more appropriate. She also described a rough black band horizontally across the pear/rugby shaped object. It had no defined edge, which may account for the very rough shape of her initial drawing. She said on a number of occasions that there were "these red rays" that came from the object, indicating their intensity, or the impression they made on her. It is not entirely clear when these rays came from it, though it is supposed that she primarily refers to the time when the object seemed to land.

It then came across, from behind the hospital, towards them crossing over the road. The speed at which this occurred is likened to a balloon, moving across the sky, by the witness. It then just seemed to drop down, over some semi-detached houses on the other side of the road, from the hospital complex. It just dropped, or floated down, behind the houses, as it descended. She said it appeared to land, but stressed that they did not actually see it land.



Drawing by Mrs R
in her letter.

Her son-in-law, who was driving, turned the car into the estate, to follow it. However they got misled in the estate, and were unable to follow the object, which was now below the roof tops. All that could be seen were these red rays coming between the houses, and a red light, as if from an intense bonfire.

The witness, and her son-in-law, Mr Harris, were in favour of pursuing the matter further, despite the fact that they were in a cul-de-sac. They were both in an intrigued and interested state of mind, despite the hysterical screams of one her daughters, and the other, pregnant at the time, praying. They then drove out of the estate, and continued for about a half mile, on their way back home. Then the object reappeared, from the houses. Mr Harris at this time, didn't know what all the fuss was about, this "giant moon". They pulled into a lay by, as they were certain they would drive into the object, as it now spanned the width of the road. This however was not to be the case. They had thought they would do so, as they came round a corner, and anticipated, due to the course of the object that they would collide. Mrs Rose, rolled down her window, to observe the object more clearly. It seemed to be "on the road in front of us". It seemed to come for them, "thought it was meant for us to drive into it." They at this point, approximately near "Les's Nursery", on the main road from Derry to Dungiven. There was no sound, on this, a beautiful clear night.

Some confusion now enters the story. There were very few cars about at this time. However there were two which were on the road at this point. One overtook the witnesses, as they slowed in front of the object. It did not seem to notice the object at all. Another car turned very slowly in front of them. Mrs Rose made the suggestion jovially about some girl in the car at the time. Thus, perhaps not surprisingly, this car did not notice the object either.

She says, "I would like to have stopped, but we drove on". This was because of the hysterics of her two "really terrified" daughters, desperate to get out of this, to home. This they did. "There was talk of these things making people disappear". The investigators tried to compare the object with various types of moons, harvest, etc, but they did not compare.

The object was extremely bright, it's light shon and reflected from the car seats. It was so bright, it was difficult to look at, a sort of phosfluorescent and luminous, at this point, where as before it was red/orange. As they approached the Claudy cross roads they lost it due to the hills(foot hill of Serrin Mountains).

The next time they saw it , after they had left the first daughter home, was when it was seen to rise up, from the hill, high up in the sky. Here it appeared to stay all night. After leaving off the second daughter, Mrs Rose stayed up until 2.00 am looking at the object. "We then watched it, as it settled up in the sky, like the moon, and we left the rest off."

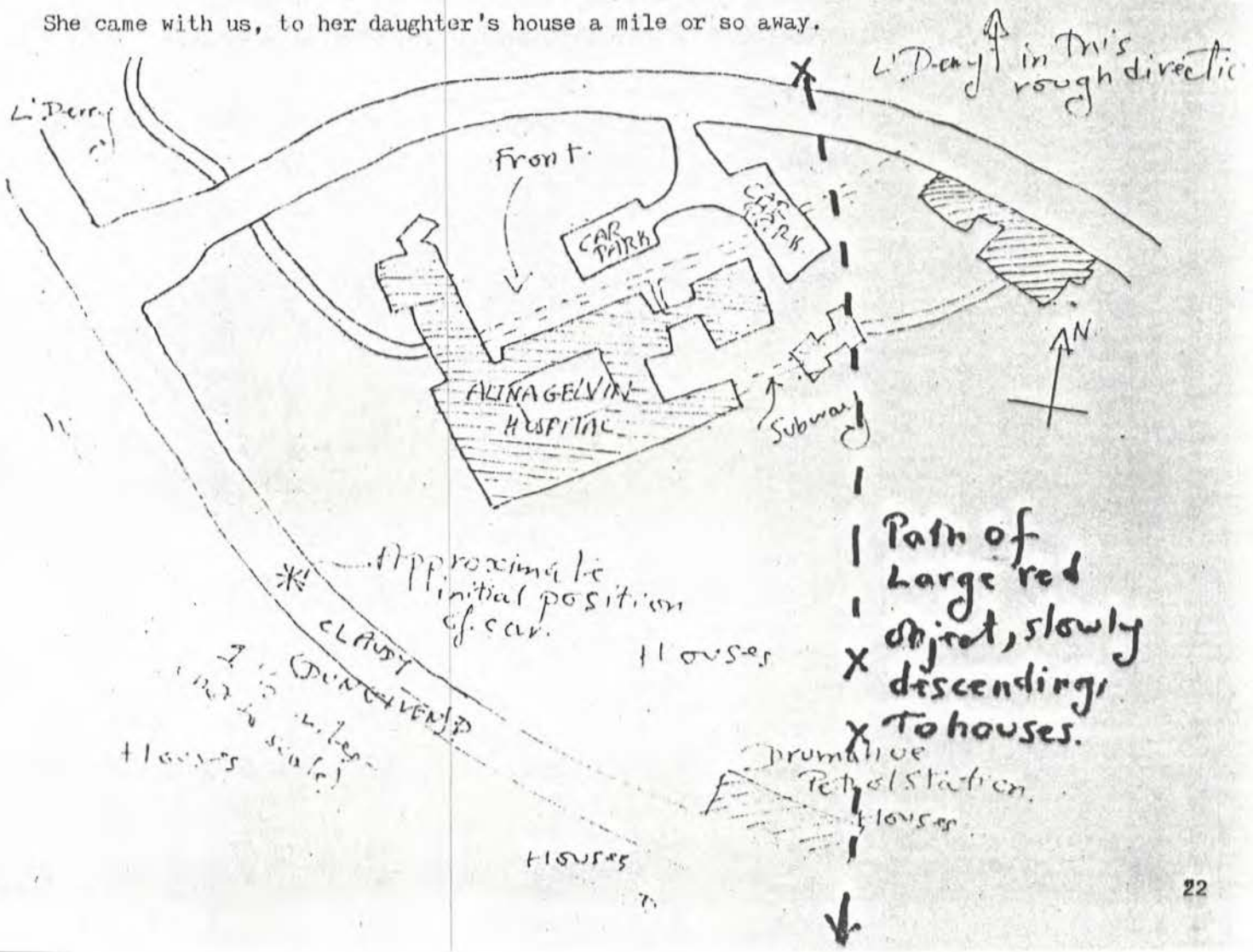
All of the witnesses drescribe the object at this time to be the moon. It is questionable that the object did 'rise up', as due to the hilly nature of the road, and the terrain, it most probable that it was a rising moon, which was 3/4 phase at the time, and which seemed to rise, due to the relative motion of the car.

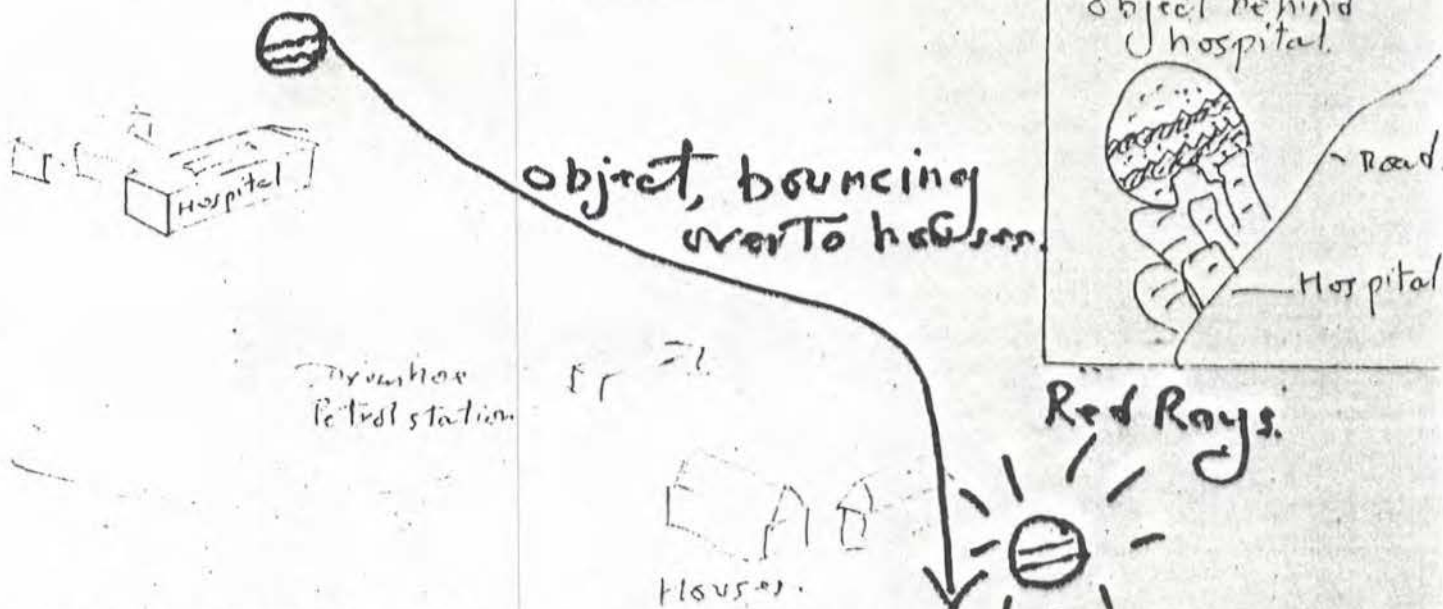
Certainly Mrs Rose supports this, and even said, when asked what her opinion of the object was, she said"Oh yes, the moon".

However, it is agreed that this was of a different colour and bandless, unlike the first red object. She says that this first object "I would say it was the full moon , 'but I can't understand how it could have moved around. I have never had any experience of this before, and I often have noticed the moon, on a nice night, like that one."

It must be said, that this opinion, that it was the moon, the first time, is inconsistant with what she described, and what she said it was, initially. It is felt that that this is in response to continual suggestions, by the investigators, that it was the moon, after about an hours interview. She had discounted on two occaisions, that it was some kind of moon, like an autmn moon, or a moon refracted low in the horizon.

She came with us, to her daughter's house a mile or so away.





The second witness:- Daughter 1, Mary is married with two children. She was the first to see it, and described it as being very orange. Her account is more direct, and less erratic.

It came up. At the time I was scared. Whenever we first saw it, we knew there was something funny about it. We all sensed it. It moved up, right over came across, and down. It just dropped down, in behind these houses. Mr Harris was also scared, but he still followed it into the estate, where we took a wrong turning and got into a cul-de-sac. I thought it was the end of the world. I was never going to get home. I have never prayed so hard, I was really afraid. There was something odd about it, something funny about it, like something from another world. It was no imagination, it was definitely there.

The main thing about it was when it moved down. Mr Harris seemed to be hypnotised, he just moved in round the houses, even though he had never been there before. It seemed to drop into someone's garden. So of course Jo, she panicked. Mr Harris then went out of the estate as his pregnant wife was panicking.

It had these rays, that was the start of it.

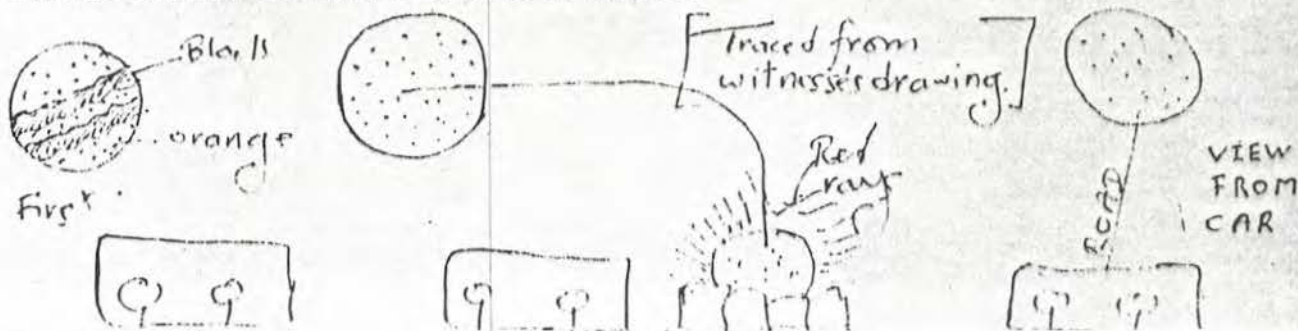
Less than two minutes, 1/2 mile later, a car passed us, as the object came back from the houses as we turned a corner. It was about 250 yards away. It was roughly the size of a normal full moon. It lost its shape at one time. It varied in size, when we thought we were going to drive into it, it expanded like an ellipse (ED). We thought it was going to swallow us up. It came that much further, you would have thought it would swallow you. A car passed us from behind us, to the direction of the object. We didn't understand how it did not see it; it just drove on.

When queried on the black line, she stated that it was not as if it was a cloud between us and it. It was as if it, the black line, was on it.

We lost it, and then as we came over a hill we saw it again. It then began to rise up. The black line was gone. It was now a very bright deep orange.

Summarising;

She went over the description of the object; at first it was so bright, shivering vibrating, flashing light, flickering (as she struggled for words to describe it). It was not a natural colour, she had never seen it before.



Mr Harris and his wife delivered the following, which supplied several details correcting misconceptions in the original accounts of the previous witnesses. Particularly that of the second time they saw the UFO. They had originally stated that they were going to drive straight into the object, giving the impression, it was sitting straight in front of them at the time. This was in fact an anticipated event, which they supposed would happen as they came around a bend in the road. Mrs Rose had stated that there was only one black band, Mr Harris corrected this and said there were two. He also supplied a map of the night events, tracings of which have been outlined.

It was bigger than the full moon, and appeared a lot closer than the moon, over Altnag-alvin hospital, at 12.30 am. (Mr Harris was the driver of the car). They were heading home, which is south.

Asked if it could have been a flare; he replied It could not have been, as it rose up in the sky, and stayed up for so long, it was far too big. We noticed it in the sky above the hospital, and passed the remark, that we thought it was the moon. We went a mile down the road, when it moved across, and came down, bouncing down, and go behind the houses.

It came down and up and down behind the houses, thought it had landed in the field, and we followed it into the cul-de-sac. We could see the glare between two houses. There was a very bright sheen off it, though not enough to hurt your eyes.

It was his wife who, though apparently panicking, was able to give detail on the object, as her husband was driving. She goes on to say that there were two black lines. When asked if the lines could have been cloud, she retorted by confirming that the lines were part of the object, and moved with it all the time. NO, being more precise.

The movement from the hospital to the houses took only about 20 seconds, if this much.

She was asked why she was so nervous, Jo said that she thought it was coming down to kill us. She was terrified because of the mutual fear expressed by her sister, Mary.

So; they halted the car in the housing estate, took a look around, but could not see it. It had definitely moved about a lot, and then eased itself down, behind the houses, but was no longer visible. It had not behaved like an aeroplane.

On being queried on whether he was "hypnotised", as Mary had suggested, he simply replied that he was just curious at what was going on.

They however saw the intense red/orange rays from the object, through the space between some houses. They then took a wrong turning, and lost it completely. (near Drumhoe Petrol station). They then went out of the estate continuing home.

When a half mile down the road, where they had turned, at the station, it came swizzing and we thought it was going to land on the road. His wife, Jo, started shouting "you're going to drive into it".

She said, "I thought it was going to kill us. I thought it was that close, it was going to clear this other car away".

This other car drove past us, and this showed that the UFO was still a few yards away, at least, as the object was still in front of the car, as it drove on towards it. They cannot explain how the other car could drive past, and not see it. (Or at least appear to notice). The only solution, he offered was that the object was in fact several miles away. He said "Though that it appeared to be so terribly near, though it could have been several miles away, you know."

It then disappeared as we drove on, and we never saw it at all, after that. Mr Harris then added, "But Oh, it came up again and was up in the sky, and was there all night. It was normal then." He said that they stayed up for another $\frac{1}{2}$ hour or so, observing it, but it didn't change, and they went to bed.

The object was first seen, at roughly 45 degrees, from the front of the car, as illustrated. At around 150° the object was said to be the size of a bungalow, of average size. It was big, but not too big.

His opinion of what it was, at first he thought it to be the full moon. What startled him was the way it began to move, and behave in the sky. "The moon wouldn't have two clear black rings."

Other data:- It was a clear frisky night. The moon had risen at the time, indeed would have been well up in the sky, and was 3/4 phase. Wind was slight, if at all, on ground level.

Conclusion.

It must be said, that we have not as yet pursued possible witnesses in the houses. This is presently being carried out by Seamus McConnell, a recent member of UFOIN, in Derry. It is not our credit, that it has taken some months to get secondary investigation under way. However the sheer distance and lack of time has precipitated much delay, which has been unavoidable.

All of the witnesses have stated, at some time or other, that they thought the object was the moon. How much this is influenced by the interviewers is unknown. The moon was there. The factors which discount the moon being the colour, motion, and the rings.

However, the third sighting would fit very much into the moon explanation, and is indeed taken as being the moon by all concerned. It the first and second sightings which are the most interesting, and indeed further data may reveal the actual identity, as if any witnesses can be found who saw it land, in the estate, then we truly have a case.

The main factor against the 'UFO' conclusion would be the inability of two cars to notice, apparently, the object, as surely an object so described would have stopped them both in amazement; as it indeed has apparently done with our reportees.

I am entirely satisfied with the integrity of all the witnesses, and consider their statements to be honest accounts of what they perceived. (Tape copies available on request).

With the first two sightings being the most intriguing, they also remain, for the meantime the most baffling. The case rests.

Report compilation, Miles Johnston. Investigation by same, and Danny Wilson.

NASA News

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Washington D.C. 20546
AG 09 755 8370

Assorted Data on space, from
the administration, compiled by
Miles Johnston.

VOYAGER:-

This dual craft mission has been highlighted during its lifetime, by the media, more so than Viking, or for that matter Pioneer. This not being too surprising as we all wait, & wait....., for the spectacular rebirth of western manned spaceflight.

Also with much of the data from the two voyagers, of both Jupiter and Saturn, the latter being the most recent, and briefest encounters, being in picture form, publication of such in this medium would not be possible.

The news on this project being that it has been directed to Uranus, Voyager 2 will get there in 1986, after its fly past of Saturn this summer. The actual encounter date being January 24th, of that year at a distance of 107,000 Km.

This encounter will provide the first close up at this very distant, and mythically aqueous ringed planet. In fact, as with Saturn, it may just aswell be water, as despite it's size, it is a very light planet, consisting mostly of gases and liquid gases.

Uranus being the system's seventh planet, and twice as far from the sun, as Saturn, thus the six year gap from now until encounter. This decision is merely a confirmation of plans tentatively laid down, when the grand tour mission (now effectively scraped), came under fire two years ago.

Voyager 1, launched after Voyager Two, in August 1977, the sister ship, accomplished all the Saturn/Titan objectives in the November encounter sequence. It was this that NASA was able to give the go ahead for Voyager 2. It will encounter Saturn in the middle of this summer, August 25th 1981.

This means that a subsequent encounter with Titan would not be required, thus enabling the flight to Uranus.

The Shuttle (STS)

(The Space Transportation System)

Well, what are we to do with it? It seems that as every launch date is announced for the Shuttle, or the STS as it is now officially known as, it runs into trouble.

The shuttle was originally planned for launch in November 1979, then it was postponed until March 1980. Then, due to an engine fire in December of 1979, it was postponed until late 1980, early 1981. Even then, the February launch date has had to be postponed until March. Here, an actual day was specified, March 16th. Now it is to be some time in the first week of April 1981.

What are they doing already?—Eh. What has happened to the countless checks and tests that were done for Apollo, especially after the 204 fire in 66, and Apollo 13? Well, the answer to this is, that they are doing them, they are doing them under the most stringent budgetary conditions ever. NASA is broke. The Shuttle has already been massively curtailed from the original design of a powered launch shuttle, manned, which would return for reuse after dropping off the piggyback shuttle, known as the orbiter.

After earlier cutbacks with Skylab, there was not much option to cut the programme down to what we have now, The Shuttle, referred to as the orbiter. It is also because of these cuts that the original turbofan (jets) that were going to be installed, giving powered atmospheric flight, after reentry, were dropped. The Shuttle will just have to DROP, or glide as the crew prefer, to the ground.

After initial whims about this, the first (though none space capable) Shuttle, 001, the USS Enterprise, successfully demonstrated this after a series of test flights in 1978. During 1979, the Enterprise was used to test all the launch systems used at the cape. The old Apollo/Skylab launch towers have been extensively modified to accommodate the shuttle, and it will be on Pad 39A, that manned spaceflight will take a dramatic leap forward in April.

More Problems. After Enterprise had been wheeled off to the museum (it is too heavy for launch, though it may yet be extensively modified for spaceflight in the late 80s), the second orbiter was wheeled out, and mounted on the 747 for flight to Canaveral. It was during this relatively mild flight (aerodynamically) that a large (ONE is too many) number of the special silicon tiles fell off. This serious failure of the tile to skin adhesive was the primary delay factor, for the April launch. NASA has never used a Shuttle, or any vehicle, with these tiles. With all other heat shields, they were tested, unmanned, extensively, until they had full confidence in them.

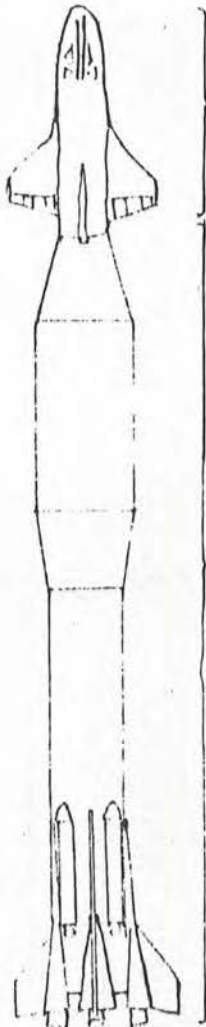
Obviously NASA has full confidence in the shield used for the Shuttle, at least in the analogues, but then it is always best to have the shield there, for it to work.



There is reasonable concern, under a thin ~~green~~ of confidence, that if one tile comes off on a leading edge, a domino effect will strip off a whole line of tiles. Precisely when this occurs will determine whether a major failure of the shuttle structure occurs.

There is a plan to supply spare tiles, and tile laying tools on SUBSEQUENT shuttles. What the astronauts are meant to do in April, is their guess. Thus it is with some concern that we await this new, albeit budget, step in spaceflight, in the first week of April(1981?)

ARIANE/Hermes:- This is the manned spacecraft currently being proposed by the ESA. It is much smaller than Shuttle, but will be able to carry five persons, and a small experimental package. It would seem that it will be a shuttle for shipping personnel to spacestations in the distant future.



After considerable delays and false countdowns The Ariane launch of the early part of 1980 provided a much needed boost (no pun intended) to the European space effort.

Being wholly dependant on the americans did provide some serious drawbacks, with satellites being postponed at the whim of the airforce, and even lost on occasions. The Ariane has provided Europe with a politically free (particularly for the french) launch capability. Even the americans anxious at the delay with the Shuttle are having serious second thoughts about using shuttle. In fact several payloads have already been switched to Ariane.

A long term proposal is to use the heavy launch capable 5H version to launch a 10 tonne 5 man shuttle of their own, Hermes. However this would require considerable investment by the member states of CNES, something which is just not around, so the possibility of Europe having its own manned launch facility remains a very distant prospect.

LURGAN LITS

Files Johnston,

Investigation:-John Hind.

There have been several light in the sky reports from this town, in the distant outskirts of Belfast, in the north of Co. Armagh, NI.

These reports have either too little detail, or the object being identified, due to the details supplied.

July 14th 1979:-A resident of Wellington St. reported seeing a large pear shaped object, at 45 degrees, moving to 60, W-NW.

The object was red/orange, and emitted flashes and flares. The weather was overcast, cold, breezy, wet but no rain.

The same witness reported seeing an object about 3-4 months previously, sitting stationary and then shot away.

On Friday Sept. 14th 1979:- a witness reported a very bright shooting star, from the Moira roundabout intersection with M1 motorway.

Good Friday, 1980. A lady witness reported seeing a large orange/red ball hover over the local rugby club. Subsequent investigation found no trace of an alleged landing, and no other witnesses, despite the other houses in the area. (The time being 3.00 am)

A Mr. S Grayson reported to UFOIN four LITS, one of which he photographed, on July 14th /80. Due to the detail he supplied, and with due investigation, it was discovered that the object he saw was most probably Venus. A rare case of positive identification. (Details all on File).