

# A remarkable "child woman"

N. M. H. Turner

HERE is another item from an early edition of *Scientific American*, the issue for May 22, 1886, page 321:

"The recent death of Miss Caroline Terboss has attracted renewed interest in her remarkable case. She was a member of an otherwise normally developed family, and up to her twelfth year she was apparently like other girls. But at that age she suddenly stopped growing, and though she lived to the advanced age of seventy-seven, development, once interrupted, was never resumed. At the time of her death, she was in form, stature, and organization a child. For many years she was a familiar figure on Fifth Avenue in the neighbourhood of the reservoir. Her age was a mystery, for her hair remained unchanged in colour, and her face, though noticeably mature for so young a figure, was but slightly wrinkled. Beyond an extreme sensitiveness of the skin, she enjoyed apparently good health until within a short time of her death. Her height is given at but four feet and four inches. She is stated to have been remarkably quick intellectually. As no physician had been in attendance within twenty-four hours of death, it was necessary to summon the coroner. The autopsy revealed the perfectly formed body of an apparent girl of eleven. Beyond certain organic peculiarities, the anatomy was normal. The spine was straight, and there was no outward deformity. No examination was made of the brain.

"The case attracts much interest among physicians, because, though similar instances have been recorded, they are very rare, and never has the subject lived to so advanced an age. Death has usually occurred before twenty-one. Twenty-five years of age is believed to have been the extreme limit."

The case of Caroline Terboss may or may not be relevant to the study of flying saucers, although who can say what is relevant? In view of the fact that there are many legends of people who were abducted by the "little people" or "fairy folk", and on their return were found to have aged but little or not at all, this story becomes more interesting. Notice that she suddenly "stopped growing" and for the remaining 66 years of her life her body remained in a state of what could be called "living suspended animation". Notice also that she was stated to have been "remarkably quick intellectually" (showing that her brain had not deteriorated) and that when she died her body was found to have "certain organic peculiarities."

*Flying Saucer Review* has, in recent years, carried an increasing number of reports of people who have had seemingly miraculous returns to perfect health after many years of illness or disability. These "cures" have often involved flying saucers, curious lights, operators or a combination of all three. They show that some entities, at least, have the knowledge necessary for the repair of the human organism. From here it is quite logical to assume that they would also have the "know-how" to keep a body in a state of "living suspended animation". This is not important; the problem is *why*.

There is nothing in the report to suggest that Miss Terboss went through anything unusual at the age of eleven; however, there are sufficient points of interest to make this story worthy of further investigation. Since Jacques Vallée is taking an interest in stories of people who don't age, I am glad to be able to bring this one to his attention. I would like to make further inquiries into this case myself, but my own research and a university course make this impossible.

## Grand Rapids Spherical UFO

by Jerome S. Gardeski

ON Saturday, September 10, 1970, two Kent County Sheriff's Reserve Officers were patrolling in the southern outskirts of Grand Rapids, Michigan. That evening the sky was slightly overcast, with no stars visible, although moon glow could be recognised high in the sky to the east.

At 10.20 p.m., Officer Michael Kooistra noticed a large, spherical object, yellowish in colour, progressing at very slow speed on a course heading N.N.E. from S.S.W. Sergeant John Hawley spotted the object almost immediately and both men had time to eliminate the possibility that the object was a conventional aircraft, particularly as they both have considerable experience in this field.

Kooistra estimated the size of the object when first noticed as approximating that of a pencil eraser held at arm's length. He judged it to be about five miles distant. Hawley felt that it must have been about 50ft. in diameter and only about one mile away. Both men agreed that it was quite close to the ground, at an altitude of about 1,000ft.

The men's curiosity was heightened when the object stopped and began to spout bursts of sparks and flaming material which they felt would strike the ground and give rise to reports from the inhabitants of that area. This display of pyrotechnics issued from an indeterminate area at the bottom of the object without any change being

observed in its shape or colour; it lasted for some 10 to 15 seconds. The object then vanished instantly, without appearing to move from the spot. The total time elapse during this sighting was two to three minutes.

Each officer was interviewed without the other's knowledge and their reports showed a marked degree of corroboration. These men could be considered as high-calibre witnesses, and neither of them had any special interest in UFOs, apart from "what was published in the papers."

There was no publicity, and no report of this sighting, or of the shower of sparks, filed with any other authority.

# Immense UFO over Maura Lake

by Regina Graystone

A significant sighting made in Canada in 1951 remained unreported until recently when our contributor chanced to hear of it during a conversation. The following account was compiled from details filled in on sighting report forms issued by the Canadian Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (completed by the two witnesses in June 1969) and from comments Mrs. Graystone set on paper following her several conversations with the witnesses.

**M**AURA LAKE is situated in the county of Hastings in the Huntingdon district. Two persons witnessed a UFO hovering over the lake in the summer of 1951; one of the witnesses, Mr. J. Allan Smith, happens to work with the Air Cadet movement, where I was introduced to him by my husband. He was commanding officer of one of the Trenton Squadrons until he was recently forced to retire from that position due to business pressures. He still works weekly with the Cadets in a civilian instructor status. At the time of making his report he was a municipal assessment commissioner. Since then he has been given an exceptionally choice promotion in his line of work, and I might add that this promotion involved quite an extensive security check. He is an upstanding citizen, well-liked by everyone, and of high integrity.

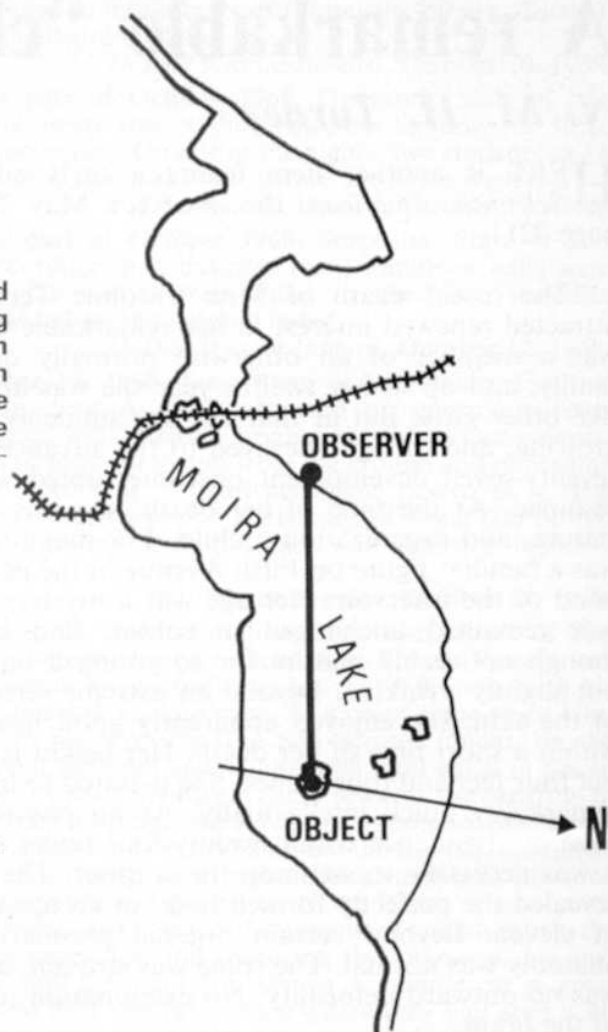
Mr. Smith is certainly not seeking publicity. This information was only given to me because he learned of my interest in the subject during a conversation with my husband. He has never mentioned this sighting to anyone other than very close friends. I would say he would be inclined to underestimate rather than exaggerate and was most meticulous in his endeavour to recall the facts of the sighting correctly.

## Description of the sighting

The incident occurred in July, 1951. Mr. Smith and his wife went to Maura Lake to spend a fishing holiday weekend with their friends, Mr. and Mrs. G. Leighton Thompson and another couple.

According to Mr. Smith's account, early in the morning, at about 6.00 a.m., he and Mr. Thompson had gone to get the boat ready to go fishing. There was just a slight mist on the lake at that time. Suddenly, they noticed an immense object, shaped

Maura Lake: reproduced from an old map of "Huntington Township" on which the place-name was spelt "Moira"



like a flattened top, hovering over an island on the lake at a maximum distance of  $1 \frac{7}{11}$  miles away from their camp. It was so huge that from the observation point it seemed to cover the whole end of the lake. It appeared to be solid, with a well-defined shape, and had a dull lead-like finish. The apparent size of the object at arm's length was estimated as that of a half-dollar; the angle of elevation from the horizon was stated to be  $5^\circ$ .

The object did not suddenly appear, and apparently it had already been hovering over the island before it was seen. During the sighting, which lasted some two minutes, the object made no movement from its position, nor did it revolve. After the initial shock of sighting the object, Mr. Smith ran back to the cottage to waken the other male member of the party, but by the time the other man had thrown on some outer clothing it had disappeared.

Mr. Smith stated that he could not remember seeing the object rise and speed away—it seemed to him it just disappeared—but he admitted his back could have been turned at the moment of departure.

## Corroboration by second witness

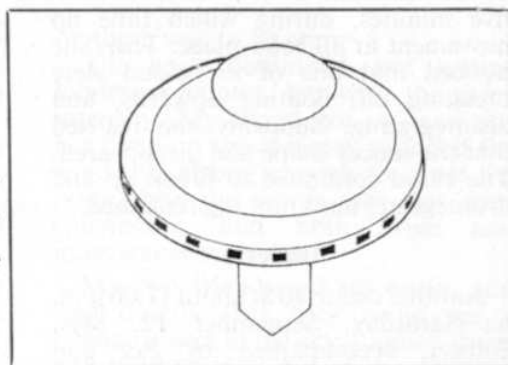
Mr. G. L. Thompson's report was made out separately, without any consultation with Mr. Smith, so that we should have an exact version of what each man saw. His report was consistent with Mr. Smith's in most details. As he remembers it, the object appeared to be bright, like silver, flat to disc-shaped, and making no movement except upon take-off, when it travelled faster than a jet plane. He estimated the apparent size as that of a silver dollar held at arm's length; the distance was thought to be  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 mile away, over the water.

I do not know Mr. Thompson personally, but I have been able to gather that he too is a well-liked, upstanding citizen of high integrity. Like Mr. Smith, his powers of observation seem to be well practised and although he did not add this to his report, I found out when talking to him that part of his service in the army was in the artillery, during which he received the usual training. He spent a long time making out his report and said this was because he had to sharpen his memory

as he had given no thought to the sighting for several years. Considering this, I felt the two reports showed more consistencies than inconsistencies.

I visited the lake myself on June 22, 1969, and realised it would have been a very large object indeed to blot out the end of the lake, for although it is not a particularly large lake, the widest section is at the approximate area where the object was estimated to have been seen.

**The object: based on sketch by the witness. Rim clearly visible, with dark markings. Upper part coloured like lead. Shape of lower part none too clear as it merged with the island.**



## Readers' Reports

### Effects of a UFO in a fog?

Dear Sir,—I am particularly intrigued with the Imjärvi case in FSR. With regard to the dangerous unknown rays emitted by some UFOs, I once felt something like these dropping all around me when standing beneath what I believed was a UFO hidden by fog. The month was November and the year was, I believe, 1967.

As I was walking in Hill Top Road one Sunday afternoon there was a roar like wind coming up behind me from the west. It grew louder and I thought it was a hurricane, and didn't look round for fear of seeing tiles and chimney pots falling. As it grew nearer, and louder, I detected a mechanical noise, so I thought it was probably an aircraft making a crash landing.

Thinking I might save my life if I spotted it, I was obliged to turn round. The craft was then nearly overhead, and I noticed that it was now hovering. It suddenly occurred to me that this might be a flying saucer. (I had read only a few weeks previously a newspaper report stating that a boy of 13 years had been terrified by a saucer hovering above him.)

I stood perfectly still, and peered into the fog, but unfortunately it obliterated the "machine". All round me I could feel something dropping; it was a bit like vibration. There was, by the way, no traffic about, and the road was deserted.

After a minute or more the sound melted away. I did not notice the craft's noise departing in any particular direction. In less than a quarter of a minute the sound was gone, whereas it had been a full minute in advancing.

Apart from being a little shaken, I was not distressed by the incident. But a few weeks later I began to have some strange symptoms: a sickly feeling which lasted about a fortnight, an intense thirst late at night which

lasted nearly two years, and a very keen appetite. I lost quite a lot of weight, and neighbours remarked how thin I had become. I was surprised by my eating capacity and fed up with my nightly ritual of drinking two glasses of cold water after my usual supper of a beaker of cocoa and biscuits.

I think my mental processes were quite normal. I could concentrate on reading and writing, but was apathetic about practical matters. My nerves were bad and I grew discontented and grumbled and criticised. However, it is almost exactly three years since my strange experience and I am now getting back to normal; have put on a little weight and have less tendency to physical exhaustion. (Also my appetite is normal.)

Miss Olga Atherton, Crab Lane, Harrogate, Yorks.

### A "conventional saucer" seen in India

[The following letter was addressed to Mr. Robert Chapman, who very kindly forwarded it to FSR. The author of the letter was prompted to write after reading Mr. Chapman's book "Unidentified Flying Objects."]

Dear Sir,—I would like to tell you about a sighting I experienced in 1958, when in a little village in India.

It was a clear quiet evening in December, at about 5.00 p.m., and I was out walking with a friend. We were facing roughly north, and I happened to glance to my left when a sudden flash in the sky attracted my attention. This was caused by a reflection on the polished aluminium-like underside of a "craft" as it passed between the setting sun and myself. It was slowing down and, as I watched, it stopped and just hung there, no smoke, sound or lights.

It was "conventional": one saucer

inverted over the other shape, and though the sun was not bright enough to dazzle me, I could not discern any portholes, antennae or any protuberances. It remained thus, clearly visible (and unchanging) for about half a minute, and then suddenly appeared to shrink very fast till it disappeared. For a split second I was very confused until I realised that it was moving away from me at a tremendous speed, still no smoke, noise or anything. Just disappearing.

While stationary it would have been about a mile (perhaps less) away, and about one thousand feet up, if that. In size it appeared somewhat smaller than a DC6 airliner. Of course I am aware that size and distance are misleading in the air, and it could have been a large craft further away, or a small one much closer.

My aged friend had never heard of UFOs, but, witnessing the entire incident, agreed it looked like no aircraft he had ever seen.

My reaction was not of amazement but surprised pleasure, because I have been reading about this subject, on and off, from about 1950, and I was thrilled to have been one of the comparatively few lucky enough to be granted a positive sighting.

John W. Dunn, Worcester Park, Surrey.

### Boscombe UFO

Sir,—In the latter part of August, 1970, Mrs. Gilbert was working in her kitchen at about 8.00 p.m. The sun was setting, and the sky was mostly clear. She happened to glance through the window, which faces approximately N.E., and her attention was immediately caught by an odd-looking cloud. It was quite still, and in its midst Mrs. Gilbert saw a black mass, exactly the shape of the classic "Scout type" saucer. Fascinated, Mrs. Gilbert watched the phenomenon for about