

# MAIL BAG

## Ball Lightning Project

Dear Sir,—‘Ball lightning’ is a short-lived, rare phenomenon often observed in connection with thunderstorms, but also seen under other atmospheric conditions. Its lifetime is of the order of seconds. It is often spherical, with a diameter of several centimetres. Because of its unfamiliar nature and rare occurrence, ball lightning may sometimes be reported in the context of unidentified flying objects, particularly since it can share many characteristics with those reported for UFOs, such as odours of sulphur or ozone, interference with electrical apparatus, burns, ground marks, etc.

A Project has been launched under the auspices of the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) to collect and evaluate reports of ball lightning. We should be very grateful to receive reports of any observations which may bear relevance to ball lightning or similar phenomena. It

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

is expected that a summary of the Project's work will be published in a scientific journal.

Please address all reports and communications to:

Mark Stenhoff, BSc(Hons)

FRAS AFBIS

BUFORA 'Ball Lightning' Project  
128 Lennard Road, Beckenham, Kent.  
August 1, 1977.

there are far superior ones available for study.

Best of luck for the future.

Yours sincerely,  
Ray Rimell,  
52 George V Avenue,  
Pinner, Middx.  
May 13, 1977.

## More "solid light"

Dear Mr. Bowen,—After reading the most interesting case history presented by Mr. Ernst Berger in FSR, Vol.23, No.1 (“‘Snail feeler’ enters room”) I have two remarks I would like to make: (1) The Vienna case is remarkably similar to the case reported by Mr. M. Monnerie in LDLN, No. 131 (“‘Un nouveau cas de ‘Lumière solide’ ”). (2) Mr. Berger's theory that non-illuminating light is a “direct” stimulus of the retina is untenable, because, quite apart from how such a “direct” stimulation would work, the resulting image wouldn't fit naturally

## View on documentary

Dear Mr. Bowen,—I saw the BBC documentary and noted with interest the press coverage of the Trident sightings last year. I did not personally favour the BBC production for putting on what I consider three slightly eccentric (albeit sincere to themselves) characters first; it must have given many people the idea that most UFO “enthusiasts” are like this. I know many people at work who turned over after the first ten minutes. The films were interesting, though I suspect

## Burringham encounter (Continued from page 24)

because it has been peculiarly apparent, during early 1977, that an unusual number of close encounters have occurred around the hours of 3 a.m. One can think of the Hainault landing case and the Nelson Vehicle stoppage affair (see FSR Vol. 23, No. 2).

Whilst it obviously remains possible that the military exercise was in some manner responsible for the experience, and was quite probably responsible for the noise, the events seem worthy of recording — just in case.

# UFO CANADA

## CANADA'S MONTHLY UFO JOURNAL

A monthly review of the UFO phenomenon in  
Canada and the World

16 pages \$6.00 yearly in Canada & USA  
\$10.00 yearly elsewhere

Write: **UFO CANADA**  
1424 VENDOME AVENUE  
CHOMEDEY, LAVAL, P.Q.,  
CANADA H7W 151

### UFOLOGY £3.60

James M. MacCampbell. *Illust.*  
Based on seven years' research of sighting reports, this book explores different types of Flying Objects; high frequency radiation emissions; temporary paralysis and shock in witnesses; etc.

### PRACTICAL TECHNIQUES OF ASTRAL PROJECTION £2.00

Dr. Douglas Baker. *Illust.*  
Describes five stages of astral projection (out-of-body travel) and how to accomplish each one. Includes author's own experiences while travelling on the astral plane!

### THE OPENING OF THE THIRD EYE £2.00

Dr. Douglas Baker. *Illust.*  
How to develop a vortex of psychic energy, extend awareness in new dimensions, with five safe techniques for arousing the Third Eye, an 'inner vision' organ!

### THE OCCULT SIGNIFICANCE OF UFOs £1.40

Dr. Douglas Baker. *Illust.*  
Contains a report on 12 UFO sightings in countries including Britain, America and Russia. Shows the occult implications once it is demonstrated that 'flying saucers' exist!

From your Bookseller or: **THORSONS PUBLISHERS LTD** Dept  
523, Denington Estate, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 2RQ

into the rest of the image seen by the eye. It would, for instance, be impossible to focus on such a "direct stimulation", etc.

There is nothing in the 30 odd non-illuminating (non-reflecting) light cases I have on file to indicate such a phenomenon.

Most sincerely,

**Jan Heering,**  
Hofgeest 241,  
1102 El Amsterdam-Zuidoost,  
Holland. July 18, 1977.

#### Time Travelling

Dear Mr. Bowen,—I would be grateful if you could allow me space in order to answer Reader S. Suddell's query on a point contained in my article on Time Travel (FSR Vol.21, No.6).

Mr. Suddell is concerned that our hypothetical Time Traveller from the year 2578 into our own time would be trapped in 1977 because, as I have suggested, the future, at any given time, is as yet unformed.

I think the best way to answer this is to remind Mr. Suddell that *our* future, up to year 2578, is actually part of the Time Traveller's *past*; in other words, the sequence of events (which we call time) up to 2578 has, for the T.T., already *happened*. To get back to his own time he has only to retrace his own past in his machine in the reverse direction.

J.W. Dunne in "The Serial Universe" put it in a similar way, while developing another argument, when he postulated that Observer

No.2, existing in an additional or fourth dimension (which may possibly be the Time dimension) would be able to observe the whole of Observer No. 1's life-span in ordinary three-dimensional space.

I am inclined to the view that, when considering the idea of Time Travel, our thinking is, consciously or subconsciously, influenced by that classic story of the Time Traveller by H.G. Wells.

Wells made his Traveller able to journey far into the future, even unto the dying years of Earth itself; but Wells, after all, was writing fiction, and he did say later on in life that he considered the idea of Time Travel as "all nonsense." Be that as it may, when one contemplates the immense stretches of time which still lie ahead for the human race who can doubt that a Time-Travelling machine will eventually be invented, thus laying open for exploration and inspection all antecedent ages — including our own?

I am, yours sincerely,  
S.E. Priest

136 Palatine Road, Goring-by-Sea,  
Worthing, West Sussex. July 17, 1977.

#### A matter of leys

Dear Sir: It's just a thought: I read an account a little while back in the daily papers that well known film star Julie Andrews had flown over from America to join in the search for her stepmother who had been missing for some days.

Her bicycle had gone with her, and

her handbag.

The police force of the entire area — at Ockley, not far from Crawley, on the Sussex and Surrey borders — were called in to search the area.

After three days she was found, dazed, with her bicycle, a short distance from her home.

She could not recall what had happened to her.

The entire matter vanished from the Press.

Reading this, I jumped up, for some reason, and drew a line from Ockley through as many places ending with LEY or LEIGH, etc. — it ran via OCKLEY, CRANLEIGH, THURLEY, SPREAKLEY, BRADLEY, TISBURY RING (I include that for obvious reasons) QUARLEY, BEACON HILL (again, do I need to explain?) and finished at CLEY HILL, WARMINSTER!

A perfectly straight line, remember, and it passed perilously near the WINCHESTER, HANTS, contactee spots.

I haven't, as yet, had the courage to write to the Press, or the police forces involved, or the family themselves... if you ask me why not, well, past experience have taught me caution.

But, is there anyone with a down to earth explanation?

Yours truly,

Ernie Shears,

(ex British Flying Saucer Bureau 1960),

12a Westridge Road, Portswood,  
Southampton. July 14, 1977.

#### Talks with Betty Hill (continued from page 14)

mothers of the neighbourhood got together at Janet's for coffee. They were sitting around the table when all of a sudden the storm door opened out, the house door opened in, the cat walked in, and the doors shut. Everyone just sat and looked without saying a word. Nobody mentioned it to Janet until two weeks later. They couldn't figure it out. Finally, somebody said, 'that was the strangest thing.' Janet said, 'Relax, it happens all the time.'

"The latest happening was on the 28th wedding anniversary of Janet and her husband. Since they were separating, Janet had to go out and get a job. Janet had been on the new job two days when all of a sudden the file racks were moving by themselves. Everybody (in the office) was saying, 'What's going on? Look at those racks, they never moved before.' When Janet got home that night, she said to Hannah: 'Let me tell you, you stay home, or you can go to Grandmother's or to Sheila's, but you're not going to where I work.' But since some things have happened when Janet has been working, she has to keep reminding Hannah. In the meantime Janet's husband moved out. I guess Hannah was too much for him. He refused to admit Hannah's existence for a long time, and would say, 'Don't talk about your imaginations and all.' One night Hannah really did a job on Janet's husband Donald. His big feather pillow some-

how got all torn apart, and when Donald went upstairs, he found the whole room strewn with feathers. Donald yelled, 'I'm going to get an exorcist! I'll get rid of you, you dirty (rascal).' Then the venetian blinds started shaking.

"Plants tip over, doors rattle, they open and shut." Recently (letter of March 28, 1976) Betty wrote, "My sister was with a psychic development teacher who taped the session ... It is a most unusual tale, which includes a child's voice calling 'Mommy,' several times. This happened when they were talking about Hannah. Also, during the taping the batteries (new ones) failed to function and difficulties still developed when it was plugged into the electrical outlet. The tape might be defective although a new one, but this would not explain the batteries. My sister told me that she always has trouble with batteries if she was upset or tense."

#### Note

6. Keel, John A.: "Mystery Aeroplanes of the 1930s, Part I," FSR (*Flying Saucer Review*) Vol.16 (No.3): 10-13, (May/June 1970); Part II, Vol.16 (No.4): 9-14 (July/Aug. 1970); Part III, Vol.17 (No.4): 17-19 (July/Aug. 1971); Part IV, Vol.17 (No.5): 20-22, 28 (Sept./Oct. 1971). See also, Druffel, Ann: "California Report: The Mystery Helicopters," *Skylook*, No. 99:8-9 (Feb. 1976).