

ten seconds of arc. Like any measuring instrument, the eye has a definite amount of noise (in the sense of random spontaneous signals) over which the genuine signal must be perceived. Visual noise is the subject of much current research, but we know too little yet to put down in print anything authoritative. However, it bears thinking about: how often does the eye/brain system generate a really splendid spurious signal? Could some of the UFO reports that one would like to explain as hallucinations, be perfectly honest reports of what the witness did actually "see"? For a demonstration of one kind of visual noise, try focusing your eyes on infinity and looking at a featureless blue sky: you should be able to see fine white points of light flashing about continually like minuscule shooting stars. This is caused by blood

corpuscles moving about in the blood vessels of the retina. Distinct from these are the Floaters—bigger, slower, soap-bubble-like ghosts that drift lazily across your view of the sky. These are bits of cellular debris floating about in the fluid in front of your retina. It is difficult to imagine them giving rise to UFO reports though. Actual disorders of the eye, such as a Detached Retina, could quite likely remain undetected except for occasional flashes of light across the sky, or hovering balls of light, or (as in the case CUGI-UFO recently investigated) blue-white tear-drops shooting around. This last report illustrates what we are getting at: the witness has seen these tear drops on at least 50 occasions and claimed he could make them move by "thought projection", very much suggesting a subjective origin for these objects.

CRAWLING LIGHTS—A New Development

by Dan Lloyd

The Editor is indebted to reader John Fuhrmann for sending him cuttings from the Oregon Journal of last October dealing with the strange case of the "crawling lights" and "walking stumps", which he mentioned in his talk last March to a London gathering of B.U.F.O.R.A. after seeing the case reported in Coral and Jim Lorenzen's APRO Bulletin. The following is a summary of the known facts:

FOLLOWING a rash of UFO reports in the Newport area, the *Oregon Journal* sent a three-man news team to interview witnesses. The team talked to 32 people, 25 of whom had seen strange objects varying from two types of spaceship-like craft to doughnut-shaped pulsating lights that 'crawled' along the walls of a house. Five people insisted they had seen moving, stump-like creatures east of Toledo.

The story of the 'crawling lights' began in March, 1966, when 15-year-old Kathy Reeves was walking up Pioneer Road, near Toledo, with a girl friend. The two girls saw a ruddy glow in the distance behind some trees which they believed to be a neighbour's field on fire. As they approached, they could make out a dome shaped object that appeared to be burning. According to Kathy: "It was like smoke boiling all round, making a dome shape as high as a room." There was no fire in the field.

Perplexed, the girls decided to carry on home, but suddenly they saw what appeared to be a flashlight with a cover over the end so that there was no beam.

"I thought it was somebody playing a trick, so I threw a rock at the light," Kathy said. "A lot of big ones went on all around it and we ran home."

Thereafter, according to Kathy and her mother, Mrs. Evelyn Reeves, their home on Pioneer Mountain was increasingly visited by pulsating 'wall doughnuts' and they heard strange noises, including a high-pitched whine.

At one time, a member of the family went for a gun after he saw something outside a living room window. When he pointed the gun, however, the 'thing' appeared to back away—and then the in-

side of the house suddenly sparkled with a multitude of crawling lights.

According to Mrs. Reeves: "One morning about 2 o'clock, I woke up and my whole bedroom was a rosy glow so bright you could read a newspaper by it. I was scared to make a noise . . . I happened to turn toward the door leading into the living room and I saw this red thing—like a cloud—just hanging there. It was water-melon coloured and you could see through it. It was just a kind of hazy mass there for a couple of seconds, and then it disappeared, like that!"

The lights were seen by other visitors to the Reeves house, including Delbert Mapes, the present owner and occupier who bought the house when the Reeves family moved out.

Said to range in size from an inch to 30 inches across, the lights became so troublesome that sheets were tacked over the windows in a vain attempt to keep them out.

A further development in this strange story occurred when the deputy sheriff of Lincoln County, Thomas W. Price, was awakened by a telephone call on March 30. On the other end of the telephone was a friend of the Reeves family, a chemist called Max W. Taylor, who said that he had agreed to camp on the front lawn of the Reeves' house to see if he could find an explanation for the mysterious lights. According to Taylor, at that very moment there were two pulsating spots of bluish light on the Reeves house. One spot, said Taylor, was on the living room end of the house. The other spot was at the opposite end—almost as if a beam of light had penetrated the house

and was showing at each extreme. Only there was no apparent source for the light and no beam in between!

The deputy sheriff arrived on the scene at 1.20 a.m. to find half a dozen perturbed witnesses in the Reeves' yard.

"I just happened to look up," said the deputy, "and I saw this orange object I couldn't identify. It wasn't a plane or a meteor or anything like that. It was manoeuvring. We didn't know what it was."

After some 90 seconds, Price said, there was an eerie, high-pitched whine "like a giant spinning top" and the object disappeared. The object's colour was unlike any aircraft the deputy had seen at night. Its size and colour were unlike the satellites that occasionally can be seen and it did not move with the usual speed of meteors. Also it changed direction in flight, unlike a slow moving fireball, the deputy said.

When he made his official report, the deputy listed the object as an unidentified flying object.

Subsequently, an attempt to explain the 'crawling lights' as poltergeist manifestations came from Duke University's parapsychology department. Dr. J. B. Rhine, head of the department, said the Toledo case bears some similarities to a number of well-documented poltergeist cases in Europe.

Dr. Rhine said that so called 'spirit lights' were more commonly reported in European cases than the American-style poltergeist phenomena of self-propelled crockery or furniture.

"But I can't think of a case involving spirit lights in this country in recent times," he added. He also added that he knew of no case in which poltergeist phenomena were associated with reports of UFO landings.

No further information is given about the 'walking stumps', which appear to have been dismissed as

not worth considering.

Other UFO sightings in the Toledo area were made by a 38-year-old secretary who related the following incidents on the understanding that her name would not be used, as she was afraid of being called a 'crackpot':

"Recently I was driving near South Yaquina Bay Road with my daughter and a friend when a ball of light appeared just above us and to the rear of the car. It was as big as a house. I thought it was going to hit the car and I was frightened and put on the brakes. It went on ahead of us, very fast. It was bluish-white, like a welder's arc."

On another occasion she was leaving a residence in Toledo when she and others happened to look up and see what appeared to be a revolving string of Christmas tree lights which moved slowly and noiselessly across the sky. A paper mill worker confirmed this sighting.

Six youngsters, ranging in age from 13 to 18, had a story to tell of an oval-shaped object topped by a dome that blinked red, blue and green lights, which they could see through their binoculars.

"It was like there was a searchlight inside and you'd see first a red light, and then a blue one and then a green one, and then it would start over again," said 17-year-old Barbara Corliss, a Siletz High School senior, one of those making the report. Prior to this, Barbara and Douglas Whitlow (another witness of the former sighting) said they had seen, while driving on the Toledo-Siletz Road, a large 'zig-zag' white UFO whizzing above the treetops.

The descriptions which witnesses in the Lincoln County area have furnished agreed in many cases with alleged UFO sightings in other parts of the country.

BOOK REVIEW

Flying Saucers—The startling evidence of the invasion from outer space. Under that alarming title, Mrs. Coral Lorenzen's well-known 1962 book, *The Great Flying Saucer Hoax* has made a successful re-appearance, revised and augmented, in paperback form (Signet: 278 pages. 75c.).

Mrs. Lorenzen and her husband are, of course, the guiding lights behind the vigorous Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation.

Many of the additional cases in this book are well known to our readers: A.V.B., Valensole, the Barney Hill story, the Cisco Grove case (which the author told for the first time in our special edition, *The Humanoids*), and some new ones from the files of Dr. Olavo Fontes in Brazil. One of these latter cases (still only partially investigated) is the story of a Brazilian who claims he was captured early in 1965 by entities from a saucer and taken to another planet.

He did not know where he was, but he was certain it was not the Moon, although the atmosphere was thin, and the surface was cratered. His captors lived in specially conditioned quarters, and they put him through rigorous physical tests. He claims he saw thousands of craft like the one in which he travelled. Mrs. Lorenzen adds an ominous note about the Mariner IV photographs.

This story takes its place in the author's carefully developed theme that the invaders of our air space may well have hostile intentions. She suggests, for example, that the vast UFO interest in reservoirs and rivers could mean that a takeover bid would be preceded by an attempt to drug us into submission through our water supplies. Grim? Certainly. So much so that I, in my misguided way, prefer to hope that the UFOs just need water.

C.B.