

Sonic Booms

I See by the Papers

and social revolutions over the past 500 years. His study shows that while first-borns may be leaders, they are not the ones who have made the most impact on the world. In fact, most of the world's political and intellectual rebels—and world-changers—were later-born children. Some of these include Karl Marx and V. I. Lenin, Ralph Nader, Marlon Brando, Anita Hill, Bill Gates, Igor Stravinsky, Charles Darwin, and Rachel Carson.

First-borns tend to support the status quo, Sulloway (a later-born) asserts. He cites Rush Limbaugh, John Adams, Calvin Coolidge, and Ayn Rand as examples. It's the later-borns, the people with older siblings, who rebel and who consequently create change.

His findings suggest that "in every revolution, birth order emerges from the statistical mist—it best explains how people responded to radical new ideas, dwarfing influences historians traditionally study, such as social class."

Sulloway attributes the birth-order effect to age-old factors: During our ancient ancestors' days, when resources were scarce, first-borns would be fed first, while later-borns might have to resort to ingenious or risky measures to survive. This led to not only competition among siblings, but to the eldest (the ones more certain of their value in the family) identifying with the parents (the status quo) and the later-borns (less assured of their value and their survival and, consequently, having less to lose) being rebellious risk-takers.

The one area Sulloway found exceptions to his conclusions was in the use of terror to bring about change. "Eldest sons are used to asserting power over younger siblings, and they tend to be obdurate defenders of turf," the *Journal* paraphrased. "These tough ways come into play most strikingly when extended revolutions lead to terror."

Sulloway points out that in the French Revolution, it was first-born sons who led the bloody executions, while later-borns counseled moderation. Robespierre, "one of the most

bloodthirsty first-borns, even executed fellow revolutionary Georges Jacques Danton, a later-born, for his opposition." Carlos the Jackal, the internationally infamous Venezuelan terrorist, is another first-born.

Mystery Blasts in Somaliland

T. F. Kasprzak of Tacoma sent a clipping about some mysterious explosions in Somaliland. The explosions seem to have come from unidentified flying objects seen over the Gulf of Aden state on December 5 and 7, 1995. Somaliland officials are asking for help in identifying the source and nature of the explosions because of their detrimental aftereffects: A few days after the event, people came down with mysterious ailments, including "coughing, diarrhea, breathing difficulties, and headaches"; several children died, and animals were seen "running wild and uncontrolled." The blasts shattered windows and tore trees, but left no debris.

Turtle Travelers

Is it possible that infant loggerhead turtles swim 7,000 miles to get a meal? *Science News* reports that 10,000 juvenile loggerheads "munch on the [Baja California] area's plentiful crabs and grow into adults." Yet, "there are no known loggerhead nesting sites on the eastern side of the Pacific. The nearest nesting sites lie in Japan and Australia."

Since fishermen "often catch juvenile loggerheads in the North Pacific," scientists are considering the possibility that three-inch-long hatchlings leave their Asian Pacific nests and make the arduous journey to the Baja California coast. What sounds at first like a ridiculous theory has gained support from DNA samples taken from 26 Baja turtles and 34 inadvertently captured by fishermen. Ninety-five per cent matched the genetic sequences in those babies at the Japanese nesting sites and the others matched those at Australian nesting sites.

Another puzzle is involved here, too: Since there are no known Baja nesting

sites, does that mean that the turtles swim back across the ocean to create their nests in Japan and Australia? Scientists say much study has yet to be done before they will know the answers to this mystery of nature.

January Psychic Predictions

A number of readers have sent us clippings that confirm or contradict predictions made by the psychics in our January 1996 article. Thank you—and keep them coming! We plan to summarize the psychics' predictions in the December 1996 or January 1997 issue. Any documentation will be gratefully received.

ETs Online

How would you like to download "extraterrestrial greetings in seven languages...[and] extraterrestrial signs that deflect negative energies"? Johan Gronwall sent us a note about a new Swedish online site (almost all texts are translated into English, he says), found at <http://www.algo.net.se/~new-age>. "If you are a person who is able to sense things that are outside of the ordinary spectrum of perception," he writes, "you are likely to experience something special!" Let us know if you do.

Reader Surveys

The winner of FATE's March survey was Marion Rolph of Flagler Beach, Florida. Thanks to all of you who shared your opinions about FATE. ■

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SONIC BOOM

Scoperte enormi esplosioni nell'atmosfera

Sul *Giornale dei Misteri* ci siamo occupati spesso, negli anni passati, del fenomeno dei misteriosi «boati aerei» associati in qualche occasione a possibili disintegrazioni meteoriche o al transito di aerei che infrangono la barriera del suono (vedi GdM 273 del luglio, 276 dell'ottobre e 278 del dicembre '94). Il 7 gennaio scorso, però, dai «Los Alamos National Laboratories» di fisica del Nuovo Messico è stata rivelata una scoperta che potrebbe contribuire a spiegare almeno parte dei fatti più misteriosi di questa categoria.

In media una volta al mese l'atmosfera terrestre è colpita da rocce provenienti dallo spazio, del diametro compreso tra due e trenta metri, che provocano all'impatto esplosioni paragonabili a quelle di un ordigno nucleare. Espondono come palle di fuoco, liberando enormi quantità di energia che si converte quasi esclusivamente in calore. Solo raramente si riuscirebbe a osservarle visivamente, al contrario dei comuni bolidi e meteore. A

Los Alamos, negli anni del confronto con L'Unione Sovietica si raccoglievano dati provenienti da satelliti militari e dai sensori terrestri destinati alla rilevazione dei lanci di missili balistici nemici oppure dei test nucleari. Ora che il segreto militare non è più necessario - ha spiegato il fisico professor Douglas O. ReVelle - si può riconoscere che per decenni sono state notate esplosioni ad alta quota dieci o dodici volte all'anno, della potenza valutata fra mezzo kiloton e 15 kiloton (cioè fino al valore dell'energia della bomba che distrusse Hiroshima). Secondo i dati pubblicati dal Pentagono, fra il 1975 e il 1992 sono state registrate almeno 136 di queste enormi esplosioni attorno alla Terra. Fra gli episodi più clamorosi: il 26 e il 27 settembre del 1962 due rocce di un diametro stimato fra gli 8 e i 12 metri penetrarono nell'atmosfera terrestre sopra il Medio Oriente provocando esplosioni della potenza fra i 20 e 30 kiloton e, addirittura, il 3 agosto 1963 sopra il cielo del Sudafrica si verificò uno scoppio da un megaton, cioè equivalente all'energia chimica liberata da un milione di tonnellate di tritolo.

Giuseppe Stilo

COMUNICATO AGLI UFOLOGI ITALIANI

Uno studioso siciliano di cui, per sua espressa richiesta, non possiamo fare il nome, ci ha richiesto di rendere noto quanto segue:

In riferimento alla notizia *Un extraterrestre chiedeva aiuto* così come è apparsa su *Panorama UFO* n. 4 del 1980 e trattandosi di un caso inedito, non catalogato nella casistica di nessun Centro ufologico, si offre l'opportunità a chi volesse seriamente interessarsi della vicenda, di poter avviare le prime indagini sul caso.

Chiunque (singolo ricercatore o Centro ufologico) decida di interessarsi del caso, deve scrivere a: PANORAMA UFO - Casella postale 99 - 98051 BARCELONA (ME)

Phantom Phenomenon:

On the night of April 24th,⁸⁰ around 12.20 P.M., several residents in the area of Kingston and the nearby community of Collins Bay reported having felt an earthquake. The ground was said to have shaken, windows rattled, and persons knocked over. Scores of people telephoned the CKWS (television and radio station) news room asking if others had felt it and relating their own experiences. One might expect to see notice of such an event in the newspapers, but no such report was given for the next few days. A visit to the Earth Physics Branch of Energy, Mines and Resources in Ottawa proved no more informative. This was their first inquiry received of such an event. The seismographs from Ottawa did not indicate any more than one earth tremor of local origin that night. With an epicentre at Longitude 73° West and Latitude 46° North, the location of this quake was to the northwest of Shawinigan, Quebec. (which had experienced an earlier shock in early March, Montreal La Presse, March 12, p.A3). Even the time of this quake was 12.43 A.M., April 25th, and clearly was distinct from whatever was felt in Kingston. On the Queen's University seismograph, in Kingston, no shock was noted. Neither the Ontario Provincial Police nor the Kingston Township Fire Chief's Office received any calls which might have helped pin down the exact time of this event, or non-seismic tremor. Two very distinct possibilities should be suggested as explanations. Firstly, as this was explained away, officials said it was not a quake but distant thunder people felt. It was on the same night that the first electrical storm of this year, but in Kingston, the first crescendo of thunder was not heard until after 1.00 A.M. A second possibility is a detonating meteor which may have exploded above the overcast skies and thus have been invisible to local residents, but the air blast might have transferred enough energy to produce a mild and very localized earth tremor.

SONIC Booms and Tremors:

"There were two short bangs and it would appear to have been a minor earth tremor. The walls and windows at our headquarters in Cwmbran shook slightly," said a Welsh police official with regards to the fifth shock to hit Britain in 17 days, (Montreal Gazette, January 14, p.4). Not one of these shocks was mentioned in the U.S. Geological Survey's Preliminary Determination of Epicenters lists thusfar. The last report listed from Britain was the one of December 26th which shook both Britain and Ireland with a body wave magnitude of 4.8. The Peekskill, New York, tremor of January 17th, (see RBB 55:3), was noted as occurring at a depth of 5 kilometers, but no mention of the booming noises is to be found therein nor in the New York Times article on the event, (January 18, p.B1). Even the rumbling sounds heard in Manhattan on January 7th, (see RBB 55:3 again), got only a brief notice, (New York Times, January 8, p.B3). To the north, in the east end of Hamilton, Ontario, on January 21st, residents were awakened by a rumbling sound. It took another 10 days for seismologists to announce that there had been an earth tremor on that day. The shock must have been very slight as it too cannot be found in the lists of the U.S. Geological Survey. REF. F-80

No reports of booming noises have been received for the opposition and close approach with Mars as was predicted in RBB 55:3, but it would appear to be too early to expect reports to filter in. No major detonations were carried by the leading Canadian newspapers; but the near conjunction of Mars and Jupiter, along with the passage of the nearly full Moon past them on the last night of the month, would seem to suggest a minor Jupiter effect and a period of Fortean booms.

those of the solar wind. Sonic booms are produced which can even be detected in the interplanetary medium. "We hope to hear many of the other (audible) phenomena that develop around Jupiter," said Frederick Scarf of TRW Systems, who is in charge of the experiment. Tapes of the noises were described as whistles, popping sounds, squealing tires, and "deep artillery-like booms", (ST. JOHN EVENING TIMES GLOBE, March 2).

MORE BOOMS ON EARTH: *Sonic Boom*

Several booms heard on February 28th in Rockland and Orange counties in New York and New Jersey, respectively, were successfully traced to the detonation of surplus Army explosives at West Point, in New York. Dr. William Donn said using instrument data, "the location was identified by triangulation and later confirmed by West Point officials". A northerly wind was to blame for propelling and accentuating the noise of the explosions. Yet, how successful this method of triangulation works for known events of known magnitude raises the question of why such triangulation cannot be as readily used to trace the booms being heard off the Nova Scotia coast. (NEW YORK TIMES, March 8, p. B2).

REF, MARCH-79

In the EMERGENCY PLANNING DIGEST of January-March 1979 (pages 25 in English and 27 in French) the study of the booming noises are said to be "the object of serious study. . . for the next nine months or so".

"It has been alleged that the 'booms' may be related to aircraft in supersonic flight near Nova Scotia. The rerouting of supersonic flights last year seemed to result in fewer booms being reported in southwestern Nova Scotia but they are still occurring."

Actualidad

SONIC BOOMS

Un retumbante sonido hizo temblar algunas casas de Oregon

Oregon se despertó con un estrepitoso sonido que hizo temblar muchas casas de la zona. Según algunos testigos, el ruido lo provocó un extraño objeto que sobrevoló el lugar.

T. J. 10-5-97

Un misterioso sonido retumbante sacudió las casas y granjas del sur de Oregon hacia las 6:15 horas del pasado 4 de febrero. El sonido pudo ser oído a varios centenares de kilómetros del lugar.

Al mismo tiempo, varias personas aseguraron haber visto un brillante objeto o me-

teorito cruzando a gran velocidad el cielo. El Departamento del Sheriff del condado recibió múltiples llamadas de gente que había percibido el fuerte estruendo y algunas que habían presenciado una observación OVNI. Según la explicación oficial, el ruido fue provocado por una avión militar que se encontraba haciendo maniobras en la zona y que rompió durante su vuelo la barrera del sonido. Esto no coincide con un testimonio que asegura que primero se vio la extraña nave cruzando el cielo y fue luego cuando dos aviones militares atravesaron el horizonte en la misma dirección.

La estación Mir está agonizando

Aunque ha logrado superar el hundimiento del bloque del este, la estación orbital Mir está cada día más enferma. A pesar de eso y de los continuos problemas y averías, Rusia asegura que a la Mir, la única estación permanente del espacio, le quedarán muchos años de vida, por lo menos hasta el 2000, año en el que se ha

previsto que empiece a funcionar la estación internacional Alfa. Los astronautas que están a bordo, dos rusos y un estadounidense, pasarán más tiempo dedicándose a las averías y mantenimiento de la nave. En caso de que sea necesaria la evacuación, hay una nave aparçada junto a la estación que traerá a los hombres de regreso.

SONIC BOOMS

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55:3

seven of Bernard Heuvelmans' On the Track of Unknown Animals, (London, 1962). When Blasford-Snell claims the name of the dragon to be a Salvadori lizard, and when Heuvelmans entitles his chapter: "The Surrealist Dinosaur of New Guinea", it may not be unexpected that Mark Hall may be very much correct in stating Blashe may find his only friends are Fortean, (F.Y.I., no.28, January 1980; Rochester Post-Bulletin, Minnesota, January 14, p.5; CR: M Hall; Middlesex News, Mass., January 11, p.7A; CR: L Coleman; Montreal Gazette, January 18; Hamilton Spectator, Toronto Star, p.A11, both January 12).

Aerial Detonations:

If one predicts future events by portents and visions, one is considered to be a prophet. If one predicts the future events by related phenomena and by past observations, one is making scientific forecasts. If one points out portents which attend phenomena in the past, there is no proper term, but "retrospector" might be appropriate. As a Fortean, I would risk criticism by looking heavenward and stating as Mars comes into opposition with the Earth on February 25th and its closest approach on the 26th there is a greater likelihood of aerial explosions being heard along the Atlantic coast of North America and around the world. As indicated in RBB 28:6, Fort found such detonations more prominent when Mars was at its closest and in opposition. It seems doubtful that any Martians are taking shots or signaling the Earth, but might some mechanism trigger such noises?

On January 7th, a low rumbling noise "cascaded across New York metropolitan area". "The series of strong, low-frequency sounds was heard in mid-town Manhattan in the late morning and into the afternoon." Dr. William Donn of the Lamont Doherty Geological Observatory stated that the sounds registered on instruments there, and he found it necessary to blame the noises upon supersonic aircraft flying off the New Jersey coast. Military and civil aviation authorities were unable to identify any such aircraft that may have been at fault, (Arkansas Gazette; CR: L Farish & UFO Newsclipping Service No. 126; Houston Chronicle; CR: M Hall; both January 8).

On January 17th, residents of Peekskill, New York, heard "three loud booms" about 5:15 AM. The cause of the booms appears to have been a mild earthquake that measured as 3.0 on the Richter scale along the Ramapo Fault, (San Diego Union, January 18, p.A21; CR: M Hall).

While checking for some other items, another old detonation over Toronto was found to have occurred at 12:45 AM on July 27th, 1968, (Toronto Star, July 27, 1968, p.1, "Midnight sonic boom jarshouses for 30 miles"). From Whitby to Oakville, hundreds of callers jammed the switchboards of police and newspapers with reports of a "sonic boom". One Ontario Provincial Police official in Whitby said, "I could feel the ground move, ..then there was a rush of noise like thunder as if a jet was levelling off." Air Traffic Control at Toronto International Airport said it could not be any civil aircraft as none was in the air at that time, thus they blamed the military which was supposedly conducting exercises that night. No one was able to identify it as Canadian or American military aircraft, and one might well wonder what pilot could manage to shake an entire waterfront over 30 miles after midnight without being identified by the authorities!

for the oral presentation of the submission before the Commission on January 24th (altho it publicly complained of a lack of public input during its second public hearings); and, a press release with a full copy of the submission was ignored by twenty-five daily newspapers in Canada. While some may complain of the 'conspiracy of silence', what is most frightening is the 'unwillingness to investigate fully' by intelligence services that may prove disastrous in the end.

Some Booming Noises Explained:

When asked about some newsclippings regarding the booming noises along the Nova Scotia coast, Neil M. Standen agreed that they were indeed about his work on the matter. However, the Chief of the Aeronautical Planning, Programming, and Development section of Transport Canada did not have any further material to add to the newsclippings stating that the noises had been explained. The material had all been sent along to the Emergency Measures Office in Halifax which is now the co-ordinator of the 'boom' study.

Well, have you seen this newsclipping, ("Mystery Blasts: 'Tremors' shake waterfront", Toronto Sun, November 15), he is asked. No, but it would appear the blasts, (described by a Ward's Island Fire Captain as a loud explosion and were also heard between 9:30 and 10:00 PM on November 14th from Toronto), were nothing other than lightning. Some residents did claim to see "a bright white light" zip across the sky at the same time as the blasts. (Don't they know of lightning?)

How about this one, he is asked. No, he hadn't seen anything about the blast which shook Montreal. Well, it is an old clipping, ("Mystery Blast Shakes Sections of Montreal", Halifax Herald, August 4, 1952, p.3; see also, "Mystery Blast over Middle Montreal Might Be Jet Topping Speed of Sound", Montreal Gazette, August 4, p.1, and, "Mystery Blast Shakes Montreal, No Damage Found", Toronto Globe and Mail, August 4, 1952, p.4). Gas accumulation in the sewers, diving jets, and other prospects were sought to explain the explosion which shattered windows and shook the city over a distance of at least five miles. No one tried to explain the "ball of fire" seen to fall from the sky by one woman, nor did the authorities try to explain how it was some people reported "terrific explosions" while others heard nothing. Standen explained that he had no time to spend digging up old reports of aerial detonations and was not even going to try considering older reports already supplied to him. Sometime, the date has repeatedly been delayed, Transport Canada will issue a report on the coastal booms heard and felt along the Nova Scotia coast, but it would appear that the explanation has already been decided upon and will completely ignore similar booms heard and felt where Concorde and other supersonic aircraft are not flying.

The signatures of the booms are similar to Concorde, and the booms heard year-round are allegedly coincident with the passage of the Concorde or other jet aircraft. In the EMO Bulletin (September 1979, p.2; CR: Nova Scotia Dept. of the Environment), we are advised that the "few measurements of the boom phenomenon taken near Barrington, Nova Scotia, during the summer of 1978" were either primary or secondary booms from aircraft "of Concorde size" and "corresponded to times of Concorde passage along the Nova Scotia coast". No mention is made of the booms heard over Cornwall, Burlington, Toronto, nor Montreal, well away from the coast of Nova Scotia and Concorde's flight path. Nor is there any mention of the booms heard over Truro in 1873, around St. John (New Brunswick) area in 1895, and over the Northumberland Strait between New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island long before the advent of heavier-than-air aviation in Canada. A Fortean might wonder when most of the same EMO Bulletin is comprised of an article entitled "Earthquakes of the Atlantic Region...Danger from the Sea" by R.J. Wetmiller, the same seismologist who investigated the booms heard over Cornwall in December of 1977 and blamed "ice cracking" as their cause, (see RBB 29:2)

Homing Instincts:

How do pigeons find their way home? The same way that Boy Scouts do according to Prof. Charles Walcott, a biologist at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. They use magnetism. Those sneaky pigeons have little compasses in their heads or at least the makings of a tiny compass. Somehow the concentrations of iron in some tissue does become magnetic. However, there is some question as to how the pigeons make use of the tissue in finding their way about. Even Prof. Walcott is honest enough to admit, "The main question, of course, and which we don't have any idea about, is whether this magnetic tissue has anything to do with the magnetic sensitivity the pigeons have," (Hamilton Spectator, August 13). If we are to believe that pigeons use a magnetic navigational system to find their way back to the nest, how are we to explain the homing instincts of other beasts?

Peppers, a 15-year-old beagle, was lost on September 8th in the area of the Mogollon Rim, 27 kilometers west of Heber, Arizona. On October 1st, Pepper came back to Scottsdale, Arizona, where her owners normally live. The beagle arrived with a full dragging and head bowed, and after having something to

Res Bureaux Bulletin

Bulletin No. 47

May 1979

ISSN 0383-6150

Conducted by Mr. X

Printed in Canada

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Address mail to: Box 1598, Kingston, Ontario K7L 5C8 CANADA

MICROBES AS MESSENGERS:

"The somewhat rare phenomenon of a fall of golden yellow snow occurred in the midst of a severe storm on the afternoon of the 27th of February at Peckeloh, in Germany. A specimen of the water melted from this snow, after being kept a few days, was microscopically examined by Weber, who describes it in Klein's WOCHENSCHRIFT; he found that it contained principally four different kinds of germs or organisms, shaped respectively like arrows, coffee beans, horns and dark flat discs." (MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW, U.S., May 1877. p. 11).

"They may have been symbols. They may have been objective hieroglyphics. . . ."

"Mere passing fancy. . . let it go. . . ."
(BOOK OF THE DAMNED, ch.3, p.25, Holt/Dover ed.)

"Scientists examine tiny viruses for messages from Outer Space." (NEW YORK TIMES, May 7, 1979, p.D13).

Sixty years ago Fort was searching for communications from other worlds which might fall from above in meteorites of an artificial origin. Today, Japanese scientists are seeking a message from an advanced civilization in a virus which may infect bacteria found in human intestines. The virus is known as PhiX-174. In 1977, British scientists succeeded in unraveling the DNA code of the virus into 5375 words, or amino acid combinations. What bothers the scientists is the message is overlapping and can be "read in three different ways, depending on where the reading began."

"It is quite difficult to explain the origin and evolution of overlapping genes in terms of molecular evolution," say the Japanese scientists, Hiromitsu Yokoo and Tairo Oshima. Thus they believe the code to be artificial in origin and an example of "Directed Panspermia". This messenger virus might be used to infect planets from afar, and if a suitable environment were found, "biological messages can be automatically copied and cover the entire planet." Dr. F.H.C. Crick, co-discoverer of the structure of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) suggested such a prospect back in 1973; but, this is the first time scientists seem to think they have a message from beyond.

"Unfortunately, no significant pattern was observed," they say after examining color coded displays of various sequences of PhiX-174's DNA code. Multiple prime numbers have been found. Arrays of 11 by 11 three-letter words and 7 by 13 letters have been examined already, and plans are underway to examine 13 by 41 letter arrays. Even if no message is found, the scientists consider "this exercise a prototype

for future such efforts." They failed to note Fort's earlier considerations of microbes as 'objective Hieroglyphics'.

EXTRAORDINARY METEORS:

On the morning of February 17th, a newspaper delivery boy sees a "falling star" crash into an automobile, knock over a mailbox on a post, and settle in its own smoke. From here on the story becomes strange. A car drives up and its driver tells the boy to delivery the rest of his papers. When he returns to the site, both the object and the smashed automobile have disappeared as has the strange man. The mailbox and the tire of the damaged automobile are mute witnesses. Certainly the dogs at the nearby house barked more than usual, but three counselors who patrolled the area for the newspaper's delivery also claim to have seen the "falling star". A university astronomer listens to the story and says it doesn't sound like it was a meteorite. The Air Force denies any knowledge of the object or the incident. And APRO simply says it sounds like a UFO case reported in the 1960s. No one doubts something fell from the sky, no one denies the mailbox and tire were there, no one connives to place the incident in the boy's imagination — but no one is willing to investigate or suggest what the object described as the size of a microwave oven was or who the strange driver who appears and disappears with the object might be, (ARIZONA DAILY STAR, February 21; CR: UFO Newsclipping Service, No. 116 & L Farish). Might I suggest it was a delivery of some other goods which was supposed to be inconspicuous but wasn't.

About midnight, between February 25th and 26th, another 'singular phenomenon' was experienced by a deaf janitor who saw some red lights explode in a bright orange flash and then heard the explosion. Police in Porterville, California, were rather mystified by the semi-coherent man who spoke to them of the flash no one else reported and then complained of the noises from typewriters and a heating unit down the hall. It was a while before it dawned upon them all that the janitor had recovered his hearing lost to spinal meningitis when he was three years old. However, no sooner were the medical experts at a loss to explain what, "meteor" or other, had restored his hearing than he had lost his hearing five days later and was again deaf, (DALLAS MORNING NEWS, February 28 & March 2; CR: T Adams; WASHINGTON STAR, February 28 & March 2; CR: R Manners; KINGSTON WHIG-STANDARD, February 28).

In the BULLETIN (39: 4), I cited the source of some of Greg's lethal meteorites as being ATHENAEUM of 1836.

and here following I would reproduce the paragraph from the issue of November 2, 1836, (p.803):

"Aerolites. — A short time since an attempt was made to prove that amongst all the different descents of aerolites, there was not a single example of any one being killed by them. Since then, M. Babinet, son-in-law to Professor Laugier, has sent a note on this subject to the French Academy of Sciences, with a fragment of an aerolite, belonging to the collection of M. Laugier, which fell near Roquefort, in America, and, making a hole five feet in size, crushed two men in a cottage, by the falling in of the roof. M. Eyries also states, that Olaus Ericson Willman, a Swedish sailor, in the service of the Dutch East Indies Company, in 1647, had declared, that whilst at sea, and the vessel under press of sail, a stone, weighing eight pounds, fell on deck, and killed two men. Mr. Warden has communicated to the Academy, that an event of the like nature took place in Georgia, in 1826, and occasioned the death of several persons; and, moreover, that in July, 1829, an Indian, named Alike, lost his life in the same manner."

After innumerable "flying saucer" reports and probably after being shaken by aerial detonations along the coast, the New Jersey State Marine Police were not very receptive to the story of a 15-year-old who claimed to have seen a "silvery object. . . as big as a truck" splash into Barnegat Bay. About 9:45 PM, on April 18th, Frank Forka was walking with his dog along the beach when the object came flying in low from the east. It was accompanied by a "low rumbling noise" until it hit the water whereupon it produced "a hissing sound as it went beneath the waves". Then other people started to phone in to report seeing a "burning object fall from the sky into the bay". Now, the police became interested, and the Coast Guard sent a crew to look for the object. Nothing was found. Then six days later, some other people looking for clams found a "rock" about the same place the "meteor" sank. A sergeant belonging to the State Marine Police dove and examined the 8 foot by 2 foot rock. "No algae were growing on it, an indication that the rock had not been in the water long." The rock also had a "pitted" appearance. The Coast Guard marked its location with buoys twice, but before a recovery attempt could be organized, the buoys and the "rock" were lost. Without the "rock" or a piece of it as proof, and chemical analysis, the Smithsonian Institute is not willing to consider the falling object to be a "meteorite". If it did not fall from the sky, the "rock" may have fallen off a barge hauling construction materials explain the authorities. It was not a native boulder. The sighting of a "silvery object. . . as big as a truck" was strictly coincidental in location where an unknown barge hauling construction material happened to drop an 8 foot by 2 foot pitted rock, and had done so quite recently as there was no algae upon it. The "flying saucer" suggestion is much more likely to be believable. Had G.T. Symons been on the scene, we might find a search to learn the identity of any barges bringing material to nearby construction sites and inquiries as to whether any pieces had been lost overboard. However, the Smithsonian prefers to "damn" the "rock" and the "silvery object". Dr. Roy S. Clarke "has been issuing periodic disclaimers noting that a meteorite that size would have provided a 'spectacular' display in the night sky, not the soft silvery glow Frank Forka reported," says Martin Waldron, writing for the NEW YORK TIMES, (May 5, p. 26; CR: T Dickinson & L Farish, UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE,

No. 118). "There would have been sonic booms and a bright fireball over a large area," says Dr. Clarke. No one seems to care to investigate by searching any further for the "rock" from a scientific standpoint, the local authorities will try to seek out the object when circumstances allow. It also doesn't seem to matter when "sonic booms" and "an intense globular-shaped light" are seen on December 20th, 1977, at Toms River, about 10 miles away from Lanoka Harbor where the search for the "rock" is based. Back in 1977, no meteoric debris was to be found, and the booming noises were eventually blamed on "acoustic phenomena" generated by distant supersonic aircraft. Of course, then they had to ignore the "fireball" and the triggering of battery powered smoke alarms in a half dozen homes, (see RBB 28: 2, 9 - 10; EDMONTON JOURNAL, January 7, 1978). For the number of "meteorites" which have been dug out of Indian burial mounds, turned up by a plow, or in the case of the Okechobee meteorite brought to light from a fishing net, and "accepted" as true meteoric material by the National Museum, one must wonder how lacking in curiosity and energy the mineralogists and meteoritists there must be to ignore the opportunity to search for the Barnegat Bay "rock". To issue disclaimers that the object cannot be a meteorite because it lacks sufficient attending phenomena when one has conducted one's entire investigation by long-distance telephone is ludicrous to say the least. When the now respectable study of meteors and meteorites is so shabbily treated by the U.S. National Museum, can one doubt the subject of "flying saucers" or UFOs, with their spurious reputation, have not enjoyed a proper examination by meteoritists, astronomers, and the scientific community as a whole?

NEWS FROM NASA:

Drs. Blair D. Savage and Klaas S. de Boer, of the University of Wisconsin, have succeeded with the use of the Earth-orbiting International Ultraviolet Explorer satellite in discovering a galactic corona or halo around the Milky Way Galaxy. The gaseous corona was predicted in 1956 by Dr. Lyman Spitzer Jr., of Princeton; and, now that one has been found around our galaxy, the "discovery lends support to the idea that such coronas are a common astronomical phenomena" and may help explain objects such as "strange quasars and quasi-stellar objects". The "gaseous galactic corona" surrounds the galaxy to a distance of 25,000 light-years and is said to be 100,000 degrees Centigrade; yet, its mass amounts to no more than one per cent of the galaxy, ruling out a new solution to the "missing mass", and thus measuring a density "a million times less than the best vacuums ever recorded on the Earth". Very tenuous indeed! Speculation now abounds as to whether or not the gases forming the corona are the outflowing of debris and gases from nova and supernova or the inflowing of the inter-galactic medium. Thusfar, observations of the corona are only possible above the ultraviolet-absorbing atmosphere and have been deduced from the spectra of hot stars in two neighboring galaxies and the Magellanic Clouds. How correct the size of the corona is and its interaction with the intergalactic medium are exciting prospects we can look forward to in future NASA missions with orbiting observatories, (NASA News Release No. 79-83).

STELLAR MYSTERIES:

Perhaps we don't understand the physics of neutron