

A Solution not to be Swallowed Whole

READER Alan W. Sharp, a geologist, has made a suggestion somewhat similar to that put forward by Reading University (see Mr. Murdoch's article on Berkshire Craters), regarding the holes and craters which have attracted so much attention in recent years. Mr. Sharp states that areas like Wiltshire, the Isle of Wight, Flamborough Head and Dufton Fell are underlain by calcareous rocks in which *swallow holes* and *solution cavities* of various kinds cannot be regarded as being at all unusual.

This may hold good in some cases: indeed, it appears to be the answer in the Maidenhead district. The hole at Niton in the Isle of Wight, however, was found in an area at the southernmost part of the island, in the region of the St. Catherine's Down outcrop of sandstone. Furthermore, the complete disappearance of potatoes and barley at the Charlton crater in Wiltshire, and the symmetrical alignment of surface indentations

beyond the crater and central hole, just cannot be explained away like this. Again, in the Dufton Fell case, the "craters", shallow scoops of topsoil 60 feet wide, were of a different character altogether, and forty sheep which had been grazing in the area were lost without trace. As far as we know, the sheep were never recovered!

Testimony regarding observation of aerial phenomena, followed by the discovery of "craters" surrounded by flattened undergrowth (and flattened in a most peculiar way in one instance), uprooted trees, burned branches and posts, has come to us recently from St. Alexis de Montcalm, Montreal, (see World Round up, page 26), and Glassborough, New Jersey (see FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, January/February 1965. Off-hand we are unaware of the geological features at these places, but it is equally unlikely that the swallow hole theory may be applied to these mysterious craters.

The Flying Manhole Covers

HERE is the account of a sighting by an airman way back in 1920. It was taken from an address by FRANK EDWARDS to the Detroit Flying Saucer Club, and comes to us by way of the November 1964 bulletin of the *Vancouver Area Flying Saucer Club*:

"The first time I ever heard of anything which could possibly be referred to as a UFO was back in the 'twenties. I flew around with an old 'Flying Circus' in those days. Our aircraft were known as 'Jennies', old JM-4s and 5s with 90 h.p. engines. We had so many wires on the wings, you could raise canaries there and never lose a bird, and if you had a real good cow pasture and plenty of room, you could sometimes get into the air in half a mile!

"In those days one of the fellows I ran into was a fabled character named Bert Acosta. Bert was the fellow who said he could fly a barn door, if it had enough power on it, and I believe he could have done it. . . . He was one of the fabulous pioneers of the days of 'barn-storming' flying.

"One night I remember we were sitting around in a hangar at Denver, and Bert was telling us of an experience he had had a month or so before. He was flying somewhere in the south-west when he

suddenly noticed about half a dozen things flying way off his starboard wing. He said they seemed to be about two hundred yards away, and they looked just like *Manhole Covers*! He told us how they flew alongside him for five minutes or so, and had no trouble in keeping up with him. In fact they 'rabbled' along beside him, and finally turned, changed course, and flew away. Bert said he had never seen anything like it before, and he had no idea what the things were—but he had no doubts that they were *Very Real*!

EDITOR'S NOTE: *So, although it was unaware of it at the time, the South-West corner of the United States had its UFO flaps in the roaring 'twenties, with none of the sensations of subsequent flaps in the 'forties, 'fifties and mid-sixties! It would be interesting to know if any others among the old flying pioneers can recall sightings of inexplicable phenomena.*

Continued from page 30

scanners. Major Donald Keyhoe has told of such a story about an un-manned *Gemini* capsule, a story "leaked" to him by two NASA scientists. Surely, if there is any truth in this account, the space vehicles, which are operated by the experts themselves cannot be hallucinated, or drunk!