

Farmer sees UFO Split Irish Oak

“Sound like rushing wind”

IRISHMEN HAVE been hotly debating the extraordinary occurrence at Portglenone, Co. Antrim. On Sunday afternoon, December 28, 1958, Mr. Joseph Bennett, a local farmer, was walking in the fields when he heard a strange noise. It made a sound like rushing wind. He looked up and saw a round, dark object about 7 ft. in diameter flying through the air towards him at a height of about 20 ft.

“It came from the south and was travelling north-west,” he said. “It went rapidly through a row of trees dividing two farms near my own. Then it sliced through the 2-ft. thick trunk of a 40-ft. high oak tree about 8 ft. from the base. It had vanished by the time the tree crashed to the ground.”

In Portglenone, nobody would believe Mr. Bennett's story at first. “All right,” he said. “Come and see my tree.” They did and saw that it had been cut in two.

Mr. Terence Nonweiler, lecturer in the aeronautical engineering department of Queen's University, and a former member of the Council of the British Interplanetary Society, interviewed Farmer Bennett and examined the tree.

After examining the tree, Nonweiler stated that in his opinion lightning could be ruled out, as he could find no signs of scorching.

However, he found that there were signs of rotting at the point where it had broken off, and there were also four marks on the bark, three on the trunk and one on a large branch, all in a direct line.

He said “I think that the rotten state of the trunk explains why it broke at that particular point, and the four cuts in the bark may have some significance.”

Mr. Nonweiler was not prepared to state definitely that the tree had been brought down by a flying object. However, he was considerably impressed by Mr. Bennett's account, and added that this was the first time that an alleged UFO had left behind some tangible evidence of its visit, which was in this case the broken tree.

Later, Forestry experts from the Ministry of Agriculture's Forestry Division in Belfast examined samples of the broken tree under a microscope and found it to be diseased. Their verdict was that it was caused by a whirlwind.

“The tree snapped just below a dead branch,” said a Ministry spokesman. “It was very heavily branched at the top and the strain over the years had damaged the cells. A sudden gust of wind was all it needed.” Just one thing puzzled the experts—the *cleanness of the break*.

“It could be that the fungus developed in a regular pattern, but it is unusual,” the official commented. “There was certainly no evidence of impact damage on the outside of the tree, or on trees nearby.”

Dr. E. M. Lindsay, director of Armagh Observatory put forward a rival theory that the tree had been brought

down by a waterspout. He said that as the black object was said to have come from the direction of Lough Neagh, and that there were many examples of waterspouts near the lough on file at the Observatory, he supported that hypothesis.

Mr. Bennett commenting on some of these theories said: “The object was not rotating, nor did it give me the impression that it was a whirlwind as, apart from the stricken oak tree, it disturbed nothing else.”

MOTHER SHIP AND DISCS SEEN IN 1932

Newly appointed International UFO Observer Corps Area Investigator for Co. Dublin, Eire, Mr. Eric Millar has sent this interesting sighting account to the REVIEW. It happened back in 1932. Isolde Cazelet, of Grosvenor Road, Rathmines, Dublin, was in a garden at Sandymount, at 7.30 a.m. It was daylight. Suddenly, an orange ball approximately the size of a full moon rushed at terrific speed across the sky. She just had time to shout out to her sister who was in bed, before the object disappeared.

“It sounded like a fire when water has been thrown on to it, and had six or so very much smaller satellites,” she said.

The large one was quite round but the satellites glistened with points as stars when seen with the naked eye.

(The phrase “it sounded like a fire when water has been thrown on it” is an identical description to that given by Mrs. Rostenberg of the sound made by the saucer seen by her and her children at Renton, England, in 1956. She stated, too, that two men looked down at her and the children through a window in the craft, as it hovered over the house.—Ed.)

GLOWING LIKE FIRE

Mr. P. Brady was walking with eight other people along a road towards the Atlantic Ocean at Glenbeigh, Co. Kerry, Eire, at 9 p.m. one evening in August, 1949. Suddenly, a flying saucer came in very fast from the sea, flashed over the fields and over the mountains.