

no means cheap at \$10.00<sup>1</sup> can certainly be improved upon. Our Australian friend, UFO researcher Colin McCarthy, is an expert in all these technical matters, and produced what may have been the first model of such a detector a good many years ago. He went with me to inspect the Forbes' Swiss detector, and since then he and my son have been working on a greatly improved model.

Colin McCarthy lives in N.W. London, at a point which, we estimate, is no more than fifteen miles, as the crow flies, from the charming rural scenery of Chipperfield and he tells us that he thinks his model has at least this range, so that any further objects appearing over that village might very well be detected by it.

Indeed, it is possible that he has already had his first success. At 1.55 p.m. on Saturday, July 30, I was taking my dog for a run in the park at Rickmansworth. Rickmansworth is about seventeen miles north-west of London, and is roughly mid-way on the road to the Chilterns. I was sitting in the park, looking idly at the sky towards the N.E. when, in a break between two large areas of cumulus cloud, I saw, for about one minute, a black stationary object obviously at a very considerable distance, its apparant size being no greater than a match-head held at arm's length. The object then vanished behind cloud but appeared again a few seconds later and seemed to have

moved. Its shape was oval, so that it could well be linked to a tiny black "plum" standing upright in the sky. It must have been quite low and over an area to the north of London and I only record it here because Colin McCarthy told me, when he visited me the next day, that his own detector had registered something, very briefly indeed, just about the time in question, namely 2.00 p.m. on Saturday, July 30.

From the foregoing it will be seen that a UFO detector seems to be a very useful piece of apparatus, and it is hoped that other people will be encouraged to buy or build one.

#### NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> See, *inter alia*, Harold T. Wilkins. *Flying Saucers Uncensored* (1955), P. 155.
- <sup>2</sup> For a few recent cases, see (a) FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, November/December 1964, *World Round-up*; bright blue object over Dunstable area on night of July 27, 1964. (b) FSR January/February 1965, *World Round-up*; "red diamond" over Rickmansworth, April 27, 1964; interruption of lights in a Watford-St Albans train when bright red object passed overhead; reports of interruption in TV and radio reception, etc. (c) FSR March/April 1966, *World Round-up*. Large pale blue object with elongating arms or antennae seen over Abbots Langley, near Chipperfield, on October 22, 1965.
- <sup>3</sup> In an article (*UFO Probe Pushed*) about Dr. J. Allen Hynek's testimony before the Armed Services Committee in April last, the *Christian Science Monitor* of May 3, 1966, (London edition) mentioned that American weather balloons rise up to 100,000 ft, often at night, and "are covered with running lights". I accordingly wrote to the British Meteorological Office and enquired whether they had weather balloons with running lights, and they wrote back recently to say that they had not. They stated that they likewise have no balloons that affect the compass.
- <sup>4</sup> [In fairness to the manufacturer it must be realised that the indications were that only a limited number of detectors would be required. "Tooling-up" is an expensive business, and this probably explains the price—EDITOR].

## A Recent UFO Report from Finland

Taken from a letter of May 13, 1966, from Joel Rehnström to Gordon Creighton

THE following case occurred in Finland last winter, and was reported in various Finnish newspapers.

A farmer's wife was having a cup of tea late one evening, and sitting by a window in her home in Central Finland, when suddenly she observed a great light coming down from the sky and illuminating the whole area around for several hundred metres. The light seemed to be elliptical in form, like a leaf, but did not seem to be of any material substance. It hovered for a while above the farmer's cowshed, which was visible from the window where the wife was sitting. Then, glowing and changing colour (a whole series of changes) it shot away at an angle into the sky.

The other members of the family were all asleep, so she did not call them. (She had indeed seen a UFO fly over two years before and had been laughed at when she told the family about it).

She did not tell her husband, therefore, until next morning, when, coming back from the yard, he told her, with great astonishment, that whereas the snow was still thick on the ground, it had totally disappeared during the night from the roof of the cowshed. (There had been at least half a metre of snow on the roof, tightly packed).

The farmer then telephoned to the Police and asked them to send somebody over to view this remarkable sight. It would have been remarkable enough during any winter in Finland, and especially so this past winter, for the amount of snow has been quite unusually heavy.

The policeman who came over in due course to the farm was able to see for himself that whereas there was a thick layer of snow everywhere, there was none on the roof of the cowshed. Mr. Rehnström later spoke to this policeman and received his confirmation of the matter.

Meanwhile, the farmer's wife recalled that, on awakening that morning, she had had a terrible headache—a most uncommon thing for her to experience.

And then she and her husband noticed another very strange thing. There was a dog which (it being winter) used to visit the farm daily for food. The animal turned up this day, as usual, but would not venture near the farm. Instead, it kept patrolling round the premises, but always at a distance.

Nor was that the end of the strange affair. For

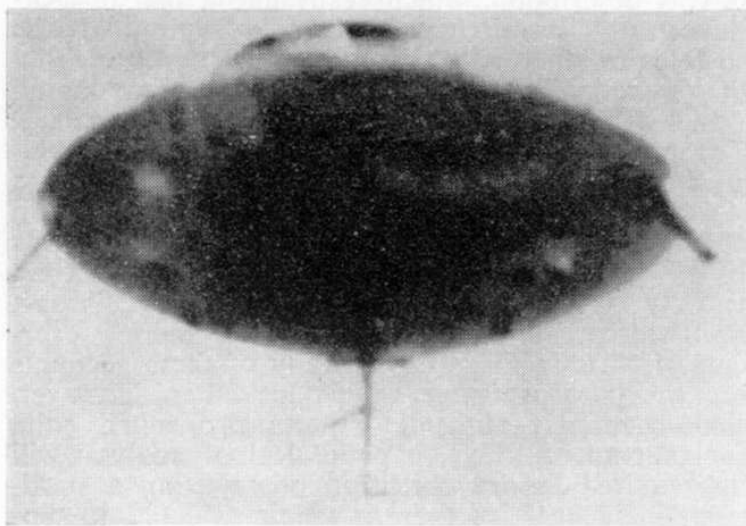
when the farmer had taken his sauna bath that night, he walked back to the house in his bare feet, this being a common practice in Finland, and as he did so he felt a prickling sensation on the soles of his feet. Back in the farmhouse, he examined his feet shortly after this, and found strange blisters and wounds on the soles.

Mr. Rehnström heard about the case next day (the second day after the occurrence) and investigated it. He tried to have the farm premises checked for radioactivity, but was unable to get anybody to the spot until some time had elapsed.

## A HOAX EXPOSED

**I**N the January/February 1959 edition of the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* (pages 6 and 7) there appeared a photograph of an alleged UFO which, so it now transpires, fooled a lot of people for more than seven years.

Readers were told how Radio Officer T. Fogl of the *SS Ramsay*, sailing from Vancouver to Port Elizabeth by way of the Panama Canal, was called by the first officer to see a strange disc. It was early in December 1957 and the ship was off the Californian coast. Fogl claimed to have taken two photographs of the object.



The photograph was later discussed by Dr. Bernard Finch in his article *The Under-Carriage* in the *REVIEW* for March/April 1961.

A print of this photograph was loaned to *Illustrated London News*, and was used in support of an article about the Cappelquin sighting in their issue of February 5, 1966.

At about this time we heard a rumour that some committee members of BUFORA suspected that the photograph was a fake. It was decided that at

the first opportunity we would try to establish whether or not there was any truth in the rumour, but before anything more could be done about it the photograph made yet another appearance, this time in *Life* magazine of April 1 (April 18, International edition).

NICAP of Washington D.C. had also accepted the photograph as genuine (see *The UFO Evidence* pages 87 and 90), with reservations. NICAP evaluation was: "Print reviewed, complete analysis not possible because of lack of data or lack of reference points or details in photographs." The *REVIEW*'s account was quoted, with the rider: "NICAP's adviser in England was unable to contact Mr. Fogl, and nothing is known of his character."

We had just taken steps to locate Mr. Fogl, when we were approached by the United States Air Force for the loan of the negative for scientific evaluation. Presumably the U.S. Air Force had been informed that the negative was our property.

This step was an outcome of the Hearing on UFOs by the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives (reported in the July/August issue of the *REVIEW*).

As the negative has never been in our possession, our efforts to get in touch with Mr. Fogl were redoubled. After protracted discussions, the outcome was a letter to Mr. Creighton, signed by the former radio officer, in which he disclosed:

"The faked UFO was made at sea. I used two plastic cones for model aeroplanes 4 inches diameter, and stuck them together. A few alterations and a good high gloss silver paint did the rest. I used a yellow filter and a F. 3.4 lens. Thus—no sign of a fine white twine."

We are determined to search for the truth in our studies of the UFO phenomenon. It is a pity a blow was not struck for that cause when the first doubts arose.