

Another sound, reliable, and respected UFO researcher stated in a private letter written some time earlier this year that "his [Adamski's] history indicates that he is little more than an opportunist . . . who has done nothing but earn his living with tall tales for the last 30 years—and he has told some whoppers."

Even the late Waveney Girvan, who published the Adamski/Leslie best-seller *Flying Saucers have Landed*, was somewhat disillusioned towards the end of his life. He complained, after a meeting in 1963, that Adamski could not give a straight answer to a straight question.

It is the stated policy of this REVIEW to examine without prejudice every aspect of the flying saucer mystery. In the March/April editorial it was suggested that the suspect philosophies could be explained by the contactees having been deceived by a facade deliberately erected by alien entities, whose objectives are in no way connected with our welfare. In other words, the contactees have been taken for a ride in more ways than one, to help confuse the issue, and to divert attention from the entities' true purpose. This view could certainly be applied to the Adamski case, as also could the view that he did have some kind of experience which he gradually embroidered, and in time grew to believe his embroidery. Waveney Girvan once suggested during a private conversation that this could be a possible explanation for Adamski's answering imprecisely, as one in a dream, when a direct question was fired at him.

Whatever we think of Adamski, however much we bristle whenever we hear the seemingly puerile philosophies, we must endeavour to be fair and not slam the door on him finally without pondering two or three points. The first of these is the purported photograph of a "scout" craft. In his *Flying Saucers and Common Sense*, Waveney Girvan told how an uncommitted expert had declared that the photograph was not one of a small model, or of any familiar household utensil. If, in view of this, we insist that the photograph was a fake, then we are crediting Adamski and his friends with having built a full-scale metallic model, which was then persuaded to fly so that the pictures could be taken.

In 1954, young Stephen Darbishire snapped an object with a box camera. The object had been observed by the boy, and a friend, hovering near Lake Coniston. The photograph depicts something which, although out of focus, bears a remarkable resemblance to the machine in the Adamski photograph. The Leonard G. Cramp orthographic projections of the Adamski and Darbishire photographs, accompanied by Waveney Girvan's comments, are reproduced elsewhere in these pages. Whilst acknowledging that this follows less than two years after their appearance in the September/October issue of 1963, we feel that the repetition is well worth while as that number is now out of print.

A second point is the charge so often levelled at Adamski that he was a "professional" contactee. It is not known whether he made a fortune out of his lectures and later books, but it is known that he declined to accept anything for his part of *Flying Saucers Have Landed* when publication was being planned. This information was disclosed to the present editor, and on another occasion to Gordon Creighton, by the man who published it—Waveney Girvan.

Finally, there is the evidence of the "fireflies". In *Inside the Space Ships*, published in 1955, Adamski wrote of ". . . billions upon billions of fireflies . . . flickering everywhere, moving in all directions . . ." which he claims were seen by him outside the space vehicle at an altitude of 50,000 miles. Seven years later, Colonel John Glenn, whilst on the first American orbital space flight, described a similar phenomenon every time he witnessed the rising of the sun. Of this someone is bound to say that Adamski possessed a fertile imagination, and by a lucky fluke hit the nail on the head. Be that as it may, there is no gainsaying the fact that throughout the years of ridicule he stuck to his story. The feeling begins to grow, somewhat uneasily, that if the evidence is found to be against him when man eventually lands on the Moon, it may not necessarily destroy the whole of his story. It may only remove some of the embroidery, and in that case George Adamski will remain what he has always been—an enigma within an enigma.

#### Dr. MENZEL

We were very sorry to hear that Dr. Donald E. Menzel was taken seriously ill in May. He had to undergo a major operation, but happily according to our latest information, he has now come through the worst of his experience. We are sure our readers will join with us in wishing him a quick and complete recovery.

# The Warminster Phenomenon

IN an article which appeared under the headline, **MENACING NOISE THAT CAN KILL A BIRD**, the *Southern Evening Echo* of January 13 posed the question: "What is the solution of the 'weird noise' that more and more folk are reporting? . . . a vibration which, it is claimed, can kill a bird in mid-flight." At that time the latest place to be puzzled, and troubled, by the noise, was Warminster in Wiltshire.

We learn that the "noise" is heralded by a violent "crackling", and is described in various ways, one of which is the sound of sacks of coal being tipped, and another the sound of tree branches being dragged over rough gravel. There are also persistent "whirrings", humming sounds, and vibrations of several degrees of intensity.

Since January, reports of the phenomenon have been frequent in the Warminster area. In April, an onset of the noise was witnessed over Five Ash Lane, between the villages of Crockerton and Sutton Veny, and a Mr. David Holton of Crockerton told how he was on the spot soon afterwards. Mr. Holton is an amateur geologist and naturalist who has studied the phenomenon for some months, and he tells how on this occasion a flock of pigeons was disturbed by the approaching sound wave. The birds became terrified and scattered, and the man who witnessed the scene said several fell lifeless. When Mr. Holton examined them soon afterwards, he found them still warm, yet displaying a remarkable degree of rigor mortis.

The phenomenon is by no means peculiar to the Warminster district. Many people have studied it, and its effects, and many incidents are on record. There was one in 1961 which even involved a fatality, when a cyclist rode into a "sound wave", and was swept from his machine by the impact, and died later from his injuries. That incident was in the Yorkshire Moors.

## A Theory

These strange happenings have been written off as a number of things, such as Earth tremors, the Aurora Borealis, static electricity in the atmosphere, meteors, water mains, electricity supply and motor cars. Mr. Holton, it seems, was not put off the scent by those who resorted to conventional explanations, and he pursued his research into records past and present. He came to some surprising, and very interesting, conclusions which he summarised in a letter which was published in the local weekly, the *Warminster Journal*, in the

issue of Friday, June 4, 1965. [At this point, it should be put on record that correspondence with Mr. Holton has revealed that he had never heard of the **FLYING SAUCER REVIEW**, or of Aimé Michel, and this has been confirmed by representatives of the **REVIEW** in the district.] In his letter, Mr. Holton stated that he had discovered that recorded instances of the phenomenon were occurring at places which when linked, formed "straight lines" on the map, and that **three of these lines passed through Warminster itself**. He also told how a number of witnesses to whom he had spoken about the noise had also had fleeting glimpses of a luminous object overhead.

So what have we? Nothing more or less, we suggest, than a nodal, or junction point, as discovered by Aimé Michel with relation to the 1954 wave over France, and described in his book *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery*. Readers will recall that according to Michel, witnesses at these "hub" points invariably saw not merely flying saucers, but great "cloud cigars", or mother ships. These were tipped up to the vertical, or near-vertical, and hung stationary whilst discharging or receiving disc-shaped objects, or saucers. (Jacques Vallée's important new book *Anatomy of a Phenomenon* has a chapter on this.)

Concluding his letter, Mr. Holton suggested, tentatively, that "the now extensive historical and present-day accounts leave one with the conclusion that here is a series of happenings which is unique and which cannot be adequately explained by natural or human agency with which we are acquainted. The possibility of interference from outside our planet is thus opened up and must be seriously considered," and Mr. Holton suggested that before long something very interesting might be seen over Warminster.

Startling stuff for a little local journal, but not so startling as an event which was happening at the very time that Mr. Holton's letter was being "put to bed" with the rest of the newspaper. This new incident was reported in the *Daily Mirror* of June 5, and the *News of the World* of June 6, and other newspapers.

## A Sighting

On the evening of Thursday, June 3, a "fiery cigar-shaped object" was seen hovering in a vertical position by scores of Warminster residents. It was reported to be hanging motionless in the sky from

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