

possible that physicists of a future generation will consider as "gullible", not those bold souls who have speculated about gravitational propulsion,

but the conformists who have timidly swallowed Newton's apple.

# CROSS-COUNTRY COG WHEELS

by Charles Bowen

WHEN my friend Jean Latappy wrote to me from Paris to tell me about the case of *La Roue Crantée* of Attignéville, he suggested that this unusual happening presented a possible explanation of a strange event which has puzzled many people for more than a century. While neither the historic event nor the more recent incident can with certainty be labelled as flying saucer stories, I have a strong hunch that the phenomena are connected somewhere along the line.

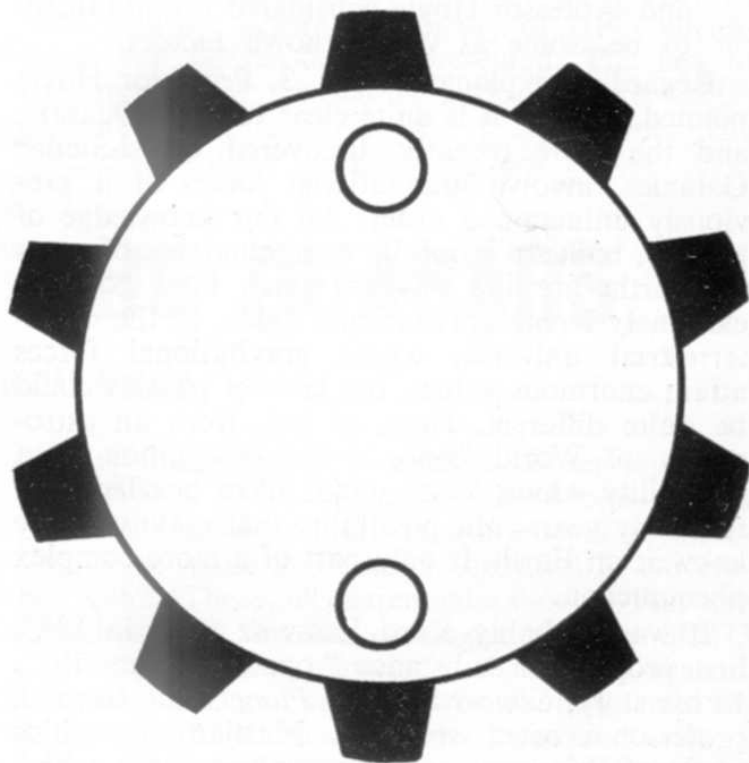
From the *France-Soir* of March 31, 1966, M. Latappy sent me a cutting which told of the strange happening in the Vosges on Saturday March 26. It ran...

"Here from another world, a sonde device designed to record the details of the relief of the Earth was possibly strolling around in the Vosges last week-end. This extraordinary hypothesis is offered by the investigators who led the job of explaining the presence of a mysterious "wheel" near the village of Tranqueville-Graux.

"The machine was seen by a shepherd, M. Jean Voilquin, aged 54, a serious, well-balanced man incapable of perpetrating a hoax, so say not only the gendarmes but also his employer, M. Mangeot.

"On Saturday at 13.30 hrs." said the shepherd, "I was watching the sheep at a place about two kilometres from the farm. Suddenly I saw a sort of vertical wheel coming towards me. It was 100 metres away when I first saw it. It approached rapidly at a speed of 25-30 km.p.h. When it passed level with where I was, it was fifteen metres from me. It measured about 80 cms. in thickness. Its circumference was red and had cogs. It followed the terrain perfectly: each time a cog touched the ground there was a slight sound. I tried to follow it, thinking it would stop. My two dogs set off after it, but its speed was absolutely constant and did not vary when it crossed a slight dip in the ground. It was about 600 metres from me when it disappeared."

"Last night the enquiries had still not been explored. The hypothesis of the 'sonde from another world' would perhaps explain the external cogged effect similar to a caterpillar tread and registering on a seismographic sheet all the changes in level



Artist's impression of the cogwheel

encountered, however tiny.<sup>1</sup> A similar sighting took place at Puy-Saint-Galmier (Puy de Dôme) on May 31, 1955."

M. Latappy points out that such objective reporting is not the usual style of *France-Soir* when dealing with such unusual phenomena, especially UFOs. In general, in such cases, the newspaper prefers a disdainful irony.

I had already discussed the implications of this incident with Gordon Creighton, when the June 1966 copy of *Phénomènes Spatiaux* came to hand.<sup>2</sup> As would be expected, the GEPA magazine contained an articles on the "wheel", and I am grateful to Mr. Creighton for saving me a lot of work by providing one of his 'instant translations'. From the report of the GEPA 'investigator we learn that in the Vosges, March 26 was a very windy day. Furthermore, as it approached M. Voilquin, the 'cog wheel' was seen to be "milky white in colour, not dazzling white", and it was rolling over a ploughed field. As it approached the sheep, the animals huddled in fear of it. It was "about the size of an 80 centimetre tyre, about 15-20 cms.

thick and it had a small bulge in its central part." We learn too that the cog teeth were vivid red, and that there were probably ten or twelve of them.

Once the object had passed him, M. Voilquin could see that it did not seem to be really running on the ground as a proper wheel would do, but was brushing the ground, or contouring it. Later when checking with his employer, the shepherd calculated that he had watched the wheel over a distance of at least 700 metres, and that in all that distance there was not the slightest wobble or deviation. It should be noted too that it was running towards the north, across the path of the gusty south westerly wind. Furthermore,—and this is important—along the whole of the object's course, the farmer and the shepherd were unable to find the slightest mark or indentation anywhere in the ground, which was wet and muddy. Neither were any marks found by a road and two ditches which the cog wheel must have crossed before entering the ploughed field, nor in the hedge at the end of the meadow beyond the field.

The object reported in the case at Puy-Saint-Galmier on May 31, 1955 was seen at 11 a.m. by a M. Collanges.<sup>3</sup> This gentleman was in a meadow when he saw a stationary disc, or wheel, some three metres distant from him poised at a height of about 30 cms. above the grass. This particular object was "very luminous white, but not dazzling" and its diameter was estimated at about 1 metre to 1 m. 20 cms. It was standing vertically like a wheel, and around its edge were a number of projections of varying length. The projections were white, or yellowish, or blue, and were in movement around the rim of the wheel. Those on the lower edge were touching the grass and causing it to flutter.

So much for the present day cases, and now, let us indulge in a little speculation. What if the ground at Tranqueville-Graux had been covered with snow on March 26? Is it conceivable that there might have been some marks left by the vivid red cog teeth? This is what Jean Latappy had in mind when he asked in his letter if this could be an explanation of the case of the "Beast of Devonshire".

On the morning of February 8, 1855, a large portion of the population of Devonshire were amazed when they awoke to find an incredible line of marks running for forty miles across the snow-clad countryside. This famous case which has never been explained, has come to be known as the "Devil's Footprints",<sup>4</sup> for the marks were shaped precisely like the hoof-prints of a small "one-legged donkey". There was an interval of precisely eight inches between the marks and they

were about two inches wide, and ran over hill and dale, across fields and gardens, across roofs and walls all the way from Teignmouth via Dawlish, Lymphstone and Exmouth to Topsham.

What a scratching of heads there was, and what theorising. Perhaps the strangest theory of all was reported in *The Times* of February 16, 1855, and from this we learn that a Devonshire parson, the Reverend Musgrave, dealt with the incident in a sermon. The worthy cleric delivered his considered opinion that the cause of the marks was probable a kangaroo! A kangaroo must have been rare enough in the England of 1855, but if there could have been a measure of truth in the parson's theory then this remarkable animal made its pilgrimage on only one hoof, and with prissy little hops of precisely eight inches. But wait, I forgot the one big hop, because the 'footprints' ran down to the bank of the estuary of the River Exe, and continued in exactly the same way on the other side—two miles away.

We make no staggering claims, but desire only to present a juxtaposition of interesting facts. As stated, the intervals between the footmarks of the one-legged mystery animal of 1855 are on record as being uniformly eight inches, and as Gordon Creighton points out, that equals 20 cms—as near as makes no odds—which was the shepherd's estimate of the space between the cog teeth of the wheel of Attignéville on March 26, 1966.

#### NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> For cases where flying saucers have seemed to be mapping the Earth, see pp. 7-9 of *The Great Flying Saucer Hoax* by Coral Lorenzen. (Obtainable from APRO, 3910 E. Kleindale Rd., Tucson, Arizona 85716, U.S.A.)
- <sup>2</sup> For: *Phénomènes Spatiaux*, with the full account by Robert Roussel, apply M. René Fouéré, 69 Rue de la Tombe Issoire, Paris 14e, France.
- <sup>3</sup> Michel Carrouges: *Les Apparitions de Martiens* (Paris, 1963) p. 242.
- <sup>4</sup> *The Books of Charles Fort*, pp. 305-310. (Henry Holt and Co., New York.)

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# MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

## Superconductivity and high purity metals

Sir,—I found Mr. Luis Schön-herr's article on Superconductivity and the UFO in the March/April 1966 issue very interesting.

I wonder if Mr. Schön-herr or any other readers have thought of another connection with superconductivity and the UFO, namely that of high purity metals. There have been several occurrences of pure and high purity metals in connection with UFO residue and/or accident.

Experiments in the "Josephson Effect", high magnetic build-ups, stress-corrosion factors, indicate that metals with a low impurity count and a structure relatively free of imperfections, are amply good for experiments in superconductivity and magnetic flux build-up. Many metallic elements are now being looked into, as well as semi-conductors.

There is also the stress-corrosion factor of those high purity metals which present much lower failure and breakdown in aircraft and missile structure. Something that we are just beginning to look into today—as well as we were first beginning to look into the question of the microscopic origin and nature of superconductivity, high purity metals, as late as 1957 in the studies of John Bardeen, Cooper, and Schrieffer of the University of Illinois.

1957 incidentally was the year of the finding of high purity magnesium fragments over the Sao Paulo, Ubatuba Beach, Brazil, South America, after the explosion of a disc-like UFO.

Anyone wishing to exchange data on this subject please contact me at given address. Thank you.—Steve Erdmann, 6418 Idaho Ave., Saint Louis, Missouri 63111, U.S.A.

## Radio Signals from UFO

Sir,—I am making a study of those sighting reports of unidentified flying objects that contain references to Radio emissions accompanying the object reported. I realise that there are very many reports of radio blackouts of various types, but very

few of these contain any reference to the frequencies of wavelengths that were effected. So far I have gathered three reports that refer to actual signals being picked up from possible UFO, but none of them give details of the important facts, i.e. frequency or wavelength, and the type of signal received.

I would be most grateful if any of your readers can assist me in this study by sending me details of any reports that they might have of this type of phenomenon. Further information on the three sightings already on record and referred to below would be particularly welcome.

—S. L. Smith, B.A., Hill House, Melton Road, Edwalton, Nottingham.

## The three reports :

- (1) During the period August 1952 to February, 1953 a Mr. Lyman Streeter, a radio operator for the Santa Fe Railroad, claims to have received messages from space. Unfortunately no further details known as yet.
- (2) On November 6, 1957, at 9 p.m. near Lake Baskatong, 100 miles North of Ottawa, Mr. J. Jacobsen and three witnesses observed a UFO and a simultaneous radio blackout on all frequencies but one. On this unnamed frequency one of the witnesses, a radio engineer, picked up a very strong, rapidly modulated signal, not very unlike Morse code. The report is referred to in *Anatomy of a Phenomenon* by J. Vallee (p.136) as being from the United States version of A. Michel's second book, in Mebane's addition.
- (3) On February 6, 1966, at 8 p.m. the radio receivers at Barajas Airport recorded unusual static on several particular frequencies registered at the control centre. Reference to case in *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, Vol. 12, No. 3, p.31.

## Beware over-enthusiasm

Sir,—I would refer to the article by Signor Roberto Pinotti published in your May/June issue.

One would hardly expect the pro-

geny of the "Watchers" (200 fallen angels) and the "Daughters of men" (Gen. VI. 4.) to have been good. The progeny may have ruled the earth, but this is a rather pointless remark when the next verse (Gen. VI. 5.) tells us that "God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth." So He sends the Deluge. This should be a warning that dealings with *spacemen* far from 'saving' us may land us into worse trouble.

The same article quotes "Josephus contra Apion, lib. 1, p.932.", where we are told that according to Josephus, Manetho says that "Horus was admitted to the sight of the Gods." I have been through Book 1 and there are not 932 pages, or even 932 versicles in it! The Greek is divided into 320 versicles, after the manner of the Bible. If one assumes that the 'nine' in 932 is a misprint, then there is a versicle 232 which may seem connected with Horus. It is the only one I could find. It says : "Thus after admitting that all those years had elapsed since our forefathers left Egypt, he now interpolates this fictitious Amenophis.

This king, he states, wishing to be granted, like Or<sup>1</sup>... a vision of the gods..."

Josephus has this to say (v. 105) "His (Manetho's) additional statements, which he derived not from the Egyptian records, but as he admits himself, from fables of unknown authorship, I shall refute in detail later on and show the improbability of these lying stories."

The reference to the *flying wheels*, Ezekiel 1 : 16, is misleading, for they are associated with angels, each having four faces and four wings. Their wings were joined one to another and each angle had the faces of a lion, an ox, an eagle and of a man. (It reminds me of Pnom Penh.) Now some queer *space-beings* have been reported, but none so extraordinary as these. Why should they need wings? It must be said however that Ezekiel specifically calls what he saw a vision.

Now examine the photo of the ancient statue of Horus at Edfu. It is claimed that the man in front was not a king because he has no serpent upon his brow. That a king is not