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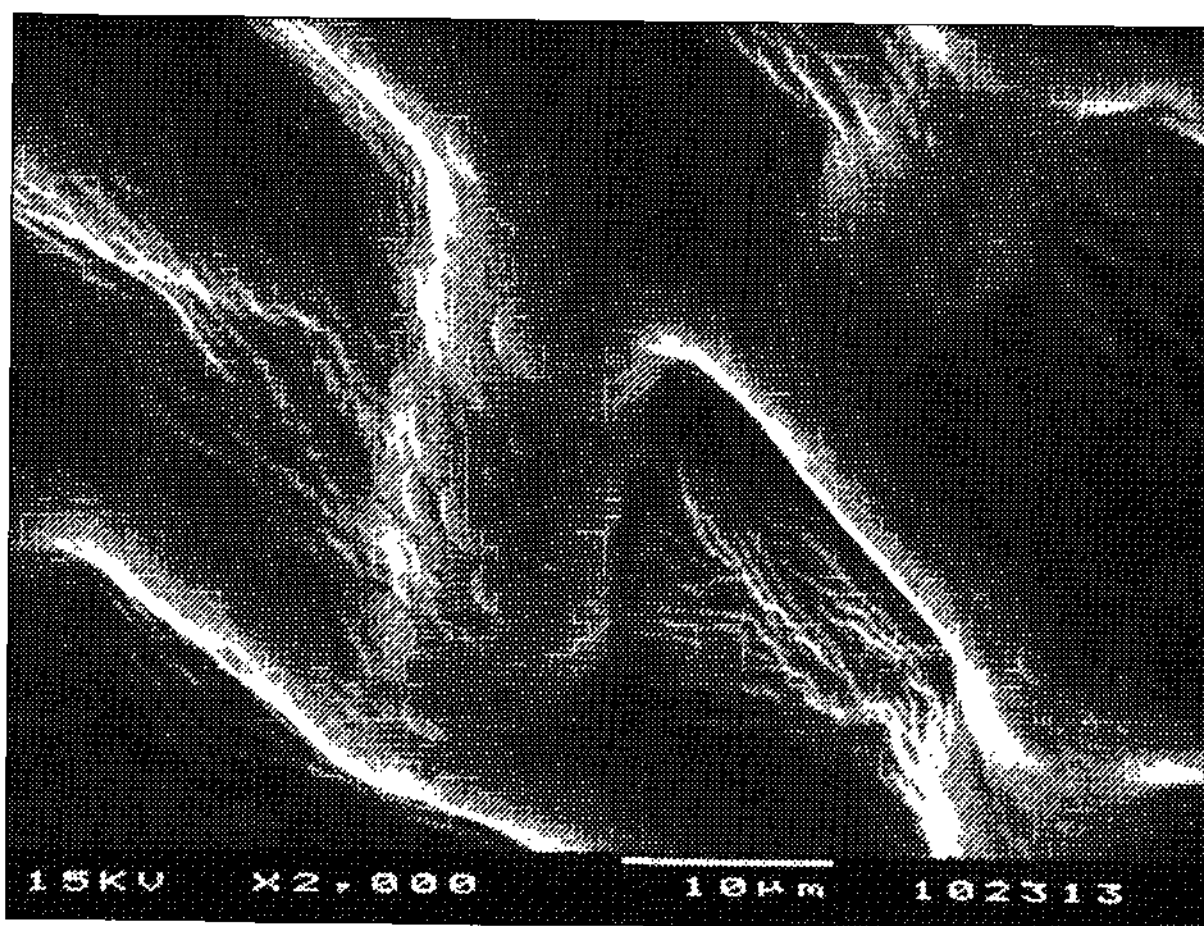
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MUTUAL UFO NETWORK

UFO JOURNAL

AUGUST 1993

NUMBER 304 \$3



PROJECT ARGUS REPORT

MUFON UFO JOURNAL

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUTUAL UFO NETWORK SINCE 1967

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AUGUST 1993

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MUFON UFO JOURNAL

(USPS 002-970)
(ISSN 0270-6822)
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The MUFON UFO Journal is published monthly by the Mutual UFO Network, Inc., Seguin, Texas. Membership/Subscription rates: \$25 per year in the U.S.A.; \$30 foreign in U.S. funds. Second class postage paid at Seguin, TX.

POSTMASTER: Send form 3579 to advise change of address to: MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, TX 78155-4099.

Crop Circles continue to confuse and confound, although students of the subject now seem sharply divided into two diametrically opposed camps. In the first are those who believe the phenomenon is a human one, in other words, that virtually all of the circles, but especially those plaguing southern England in recent years, are the product of human hoaxers. There is still some support in this camp for Terence Meaden's "plasma-vortex hypothesis," but it seems to be slowly slipping. The second camp holds no clearly formulated theory of its own, it merely violently rejects the hoax and whirlwind explanation of events.

CROP CIRCLES: SUSPECT OR MERELY CIRCUMSPECT?

Indeed, the latter's own "explanations" are often couched in such vague terms as to be essentially meaningless. Here is a recent typical example, taken from a slick brochure advertising a forthcoming conference and guided tour of the circles: "In spite of the controversy, one thing cannot be denied—when confronted with these overwhelmingly large symbols, one feels a sense of awe, and the knowledge that 'we are not alone.' There is some extraordinary mystery behind the crop circles, and whenever the source is truly recognized, it will be something of earth-shaking consequence... You will be able to walk into the fields and step into these circles, to experience the thrilling vortex of energy that created them. This energy is particularly strong in the newly created 'Crop Circles.'"

Needless to say, the "thrilling vortex" the organizers have in mind is not the same one Meaden and his band of merry meteorologists—or the hoaxers-only theorists—have in theirs. Cereology as such is not wholly to blame for the current confusion, but certainly it has to shoulder its share of the blame. For the most part—which is the better part of a decade—it has been long on speculation and short on science. And much of its "science" has been suspect to say the least, the most glaring example being been the "crystallized energy patterns" turned up by an English homeopathic laboratory and summarily publicized in *Crop Circles: The Latest Evidence*, by Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews, the follow-up to their international bestseller, *Circular Evidence*.

The best the second camp can do is to say that the Circles are so fundamentally strange and unique that a "higher intelligence" of some sort *must of necessity* be involved, though the nature of that intelligence remains studiously undefined. Suffice it to say, again, that the paranormalists aren't talking *human* intelligence here. The mere *assumption* of intelligent behavior, however, sets off its own inevitable chain of speculation. If the Circles are intelligently created, then the shapes thus

formed must be an attempt at communication, i.e., the symbols themselves must represent some sort of language. Consequently, the Circlemakers must be trying to tell us *something*, but what?

And here agreement breaks down. As it turns out, one person's guess is as good, better or worse than another's. The Circles have been interpreted as both signs of doom and prophecies of promise, as the earth goddess Gaia crying her heart out, as warnings against pollution and other human evils, as both harbingers of coming cosmic changes and as heralds of the end of the world. They've been dowsed, plumbed, channeled and psychedelized, not to mention associated with everything from ancient ley lines and stone henges/circles, to UFOs, Wilhelm Reich's orgone energy, poltergeists and mysterious animal mutilations. Depending on who you talk to, their residual "energy" can either heal the sick or make lame the healthy. Even Star Wars and the hapless Hopi Indians have been hauled into the Crop Circle debate at one time or another.

From my own now slightly jaundiced viewpoint, I can only say this with any approximation of certainty: *Everyone* can't possibly be right. What we need is less speculation, not more. To that end we are reprinting several excerpts from the just released *Report on the Results of Project Argus*, edited by Michael Chorost. Partly funded by MUFON, Argus represents one of the most ambitious scientific undertakings yet in terms of overall Crop Circle phenomenology.

Its findings — some of which are only provisional at best — will be strenuously debated in the months and years to come. The key concept to keep in mind, however, is this: *Argus found no obvious "smoking gun" that would definitively separate the wheat from the chaff.* It did turn up an interesting avenue or two deserving of future research. We hope these will be pursued. We also hope, in the meantime, that they won't be blown out of all proportion by the paranormal camp.

— Dennis Stacy

PROJECT ARGUS REPORT

No smoking gun yet, but hints of microscopic & magnetic anomalies keep the crop circle wheel turning

By Michael Chorost

In the summer of 1992, Project Argus investigated one of the most remarkable mysteries of the century, the sudden and baffling appearance of hundreds of huge, magnificent shapes — dubbed “crop circles” — in the fields of England each summer. Made of grain flattened methodically to the ground in intricate patterns, they were a form of landscape art which quickly attracted worldwide attention. But the “artist” was unknown. Where did they come from? What agent or force routinely generated them overnight? Could they be products of something other than human activity? It seemed appropriate to seek to answer such questions with the instruments and methods of science.

Project Argus was preceded by at least three attempts to study the phenomenon with scientific instruments. There were the “White Crow” and “Blackbird” surveillance watches organized by Colin Andrews and Pat Delgado in 1989 and 1990, which used night-vision video cameras and human observers in an effort to capture the formation of a crop circle on film. And there was Project “Blue Hill,” mounted by Terence Meaden in 1991 in conjunction with Japanese universities to detect evidence of “plasma vortices” (Meaden’s proposed naturally occurring causative mechanism) by radar. The goal of all three was to record a crop circle event at the moment of formation. None succeeded as their organizers had hoped, although all came up with a small amount of equivocal data which could be interpreted as “hints” that a non-hoaxed phenomenon had been observed.

Project Argus had the different objective of making a minute and extensive study of the soil and crops *after* an event had occurred. Without requiring prior assumptions about the agent which might be at work, it made a sustained and well-instrumented investigation of a large number of events, undeterred by the probability that some would be hoaxes (and, indeed, sampling from known and suspected hoaxes for comparison). It drew together a number of physicists, biologists, and engineers, several of whom were prepared to accept that we might merely be witnessing the traces of human activity and/or “blind” natural forces, but whom were ready to lend their expertise for no more than the cost of travel and accommodation.

Briefly stated, the project’s goal was to learn if some crop circles exhibited physical effects which would be difficult, if not impossible, to generate by casual human activity. Indications that there might be such effects in the form of short-lived radioactive residues in the soil and significant changes to the crops had turned up late in

1991, thanks largely to the dedicated work of Marshall Dudley and Dr. W.C. Levengood. Slenderly based though these indications were, it was a scientific imperative to follow them up on as large a scale as could be managed, using better equipment and a more exhaustive methodology.

Project Argus was a joint effort initiated mainly by two organizations, the North American Circle (NAC) and the Centre for Crop Circle Studies (CCCS.) The CCCS was established in 1990 in England with the aim of encouraging orderly scientific investigation. The NAC was established a year later in the United States, with the same goal. By the end of 1991, it was becoming clear that the two organizations had, between them, accumulated enough scientific expertise to design and carry out a joint research project. The CCCS gave the project £2,000 as seed money and committed itself to logistical support, and a fundraising drive by the NAC brought the total funding to over \$34,000 by May 1992. Significant contributions were made in particular by the Robert Bigelow Holding Corporation, the Fund for UFO Research and MUFON. Logistical needs such as housing and ground transportation were quickly arranged, and the project formally began its fieldwork in England on July 9th, 1992.

Project Argus’s array of experimental instruments and methods was as follows:

- Electron microscopy to examine plant cell walls for evidence of unusual physical stresses or heat-related damage.
- Gamma spectroscopy to examine soil for short-lived radioactive isotopes.
- Gel electrophoresis to examine plant DNA for evidence of denaturation.
- Fluxgate magnetometry to assess magnetic variations in soil.
- Studies of plant cell tissue to assess the effects of the flattening force on the plants.
- Seed germination trials to test growth rates of seeds harvested within crop formations.
- A scintillation counter and geiger counter to detect abnormally high levels of ambient radiation.
- Various electromagnetic field detectors.
- Visual analysis of “crop lays” for comparison of crop circles in different nations.
- Recording of daily rainfall to correlate formation dates with weather conditions.

No smoking gun that would absolutely rule out human involvement was found, but irregularities were discovered that are definitely worth pursuing.

- Recordkeeping of reports of unidentified luminous aerial phenomena.
- Support of surveillance and surveying operations.
- Recordkeeping of dates and locations of formations.

The first six of these objectives were accomplished with instruments situated in laboratories in the U.S. and U.K., using samples collected and processed by the Project Argus team. The rest were performed on-site by team members using the appropriate equipment.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Project Argus has not, at this writing, found the "smoking gun" clearly showing that some crop circles are not the product of human activity. But it has ruled out several previously held hypotheses and, potentially more importantly, discovered some apparent regularities which seem well worth following up. What it has found are the following (each is discussed in greater detail in the 115-page *Report on the Results of Project Argus: An Instrumented Study of the Physical Materials of Crop Circles*, edited by Michael Chorost, and available from North American Circle (NAC):

A. A greater incidence of microscopic "blisters" on plants inside crop circles than in controls outside them. It is not yet clear whether this is due to the fact that the plants inside the formation experienced a different regime of temperature and humidity than the controls, or to some more exotic cause (e.g. a "genuine" phenomenon). A number of unusual molds and types of cellular damage were also detected.

B. No evidence of anomalous radioactive traces in any of the tested formations.

C. No evidence of anomalous DNA degradation in any of the tested formations.

D. Results indicating that further testing with fluxgate magnetometers may be productive, with due attention given to potential sources of methodological error. Experiments appeared to show that soil within many of the formations tested had a higher degree of magnetic flux intensity than the soil outside them. Notably, the one known hoax we were able to test did *not* show this effect.

E. The possibility that there are significant anomalies in plant cell tissues and seed germination rates relative to

controls. Due to the complexity of living plant systems, and the methodological difficulties imposed by collecting samples under highly variable conditions, this research has progressed especially slowly.

F. Hints that testing with electromagnetic detectors may be productive. The *ad hoc* nature of the testing in 1992 makes it necessary to undertake better testing in future seasons.

G. The continuing presence of complex crop lays in formations in England and Canada. Formations in both countries exhibited features such as standing stalks, underlying lays, off-axis centers, and plant braiding.

H. Rainfall data suggesting that some of the formations in the immediate vicinity of Alton Barnes may have been made during or immediately after wet weather, which complicates the hoax theory.

I. Several accounts of unidentified luminous events in the low atmosphere resembling those which have been described (occasionally with photographic collateral) in Dr. Terence Meaden's *Journal of Meteorology* and John Macnish's video *Crop Circle Communique*.

J. No success in photographic surveillance. A formation which was made within the theoretical range of the camera went undetected, probably due to low light and an unfavorable camera-to-ground angle.

K. The continuing existence of the phenomenon itself, in considerable numbers. George Wingfield's database lists 197 formations for Great Britain for the summer of 1992 (published in *Report* as Appendix 11).

We thus have some potentially very interesting and significant data from our magnetic flux scans and electron microscopy, and it is our hope that outside scientists competent in these areas will review our data and make comments.

The absence of positive data in the other test regimes does *not* mean that the phenomenon must be a hoax. As the old adage goes, absence of evidence does not mean evidence of absence. It is entirely possible that we were, in those cases, looking for a real phenomenon in the wrong places. There were thousands of tests we could have run, but we could only select a few out of that huge set. When facing the unknown, one must essentially start anywhere, since no prior research exists to indicate the most productive paths. In (probably) ruling out radioactivity and several other effects, the project did essential work which will save its successors considerable time and expense.

"LUMINOSITY" REPORTS

By Ralph Noyes

Project Argus received a number of reports of unidentified luminous aerial phenomena:

1. This story was told to us by one of the barmaids at the Barge Inn, a pub at the south end of Alton Barnes. She related seeing an oddly moving, low-level red light to the south of the pub late one evening about the weekend of July 11/12. It seemed to have been accosted by a helicopter (thought to be military) and "shot off" at great speed. On the following day police, visibly (and unusually) carrying arrest gear (truncheons, handcuffs) called at the pub and were said to have "been active" in the neighbourhood.

2. A "structured craft" was reported seen hovering over a field to the west of Woodborough Hill, not far from Honey Street. This was told to us by Stephen Greer and two women who were with him. The "craft" was said to have responded to flashed beams of light. The time and date told us by Greer was 0030 on the morning of Monday, July 27th. This event has been reported in detail by Chris Mansell in *The Circular*, vol. 3, no. 3 (October 1992), pp. 79. The Argus team subsequently investigated a crop circle discovered in the immediate vicinity on July 30th (referred to in the lab notes as the "Woodborough Hill" or "Carson Farm Canal" formation.) Samples were collected for gamma spectroscopy (to be performed at Harwell), DNA analysis, magnetic susceptibility tests, seed germination tests, and tissue studies, etc. The DNA analysis and magnetic susceptibility tests were negative; the other test results have not yet come in.

3. Stephen Greer also said that about an hour later there was another sighting of an (unstructured) "orange globe" to the south. When I suggested that this might have been an army flare (it was certainly seen above the skyline), the witness Sandra claimed that it "responded" to light signals when they flashed at it.

4. We have a third-hand story that on the evening of July 22nd, round about dusk, people standing on Woodborough Hill on what seems to have been the first night of Greer's watch, saw a small, white object below the skyline in the direction of Milk Hill, roughly where the "God's Telephone" event was reported the following day on David Read's farm. In addition, the team leader (Michael Chorost) spoke to two policemen from the nearby town of Pewsey, who related having seen odd flashing lights immediately above the field, though they were not sure of the exact date of their sighting. They felt sure that it could not have been flashlights; one

suggested, tentatively, that the lights seemed to have been rotating.

5. By far the best account of a luminosity is that given by John and Julie Wakefield (no relation to Grant Wakefield.) The two were members of the "Dreadlock" team who were controlling entry to the "Snail" formation in East Field on the Carson farm. On the evening of Tuesday, July 28, they had driven their van toward Pewsey and parked a little way round the corner at about Ordnance Survey reference 130 623. They had done so in order to find a quiet moment away from the other Dreadlocks to make a tape-recorded letter to some friends. The time was about 10:15 p.m. Rising from a patch of woodland towards the south (probably Wilcot Withy Bed), they saw an orange globe, apparently self-luminous and well below the skyline. After a short while this object ejected another, much smaller globe of orange light, which moved to the west and performed a gyration before returning to the "parent" globe. No sound was heard. The "parent" globe then winked out. Some minutes later, the same globe (or, conceivably, another one) was seen rising from Tawsmead Copse, further west and nearer to the road where John and Julie were parked. This, too, sent out a smaller orange object. Three helicopters (presumed to be military) rapidly appeared from the south and converged on the object(s), which abruptly disappeared. This final event happened around 10:40 p.m.

There are some associated events:

A. On the following day, July 29th, the Argus team was told of the presence of two crop circle events on West Stowell Farm, about 2 miles north of the previous night's sighting. It seems quite likely that they were formed during the night of July 28/29th. The Argus team collected soil samples on July 30th for radiation testing and magnetic variance. The radiation tests were negative. The magnetic variance tests' results are not yet in. (The formation is referred to as the "Draycot Fitz Payne I" formation in the lab notes.) Plant samples were collected by John and Julie Wakefield on the 29th and sent to labs for electron microscope examination of the tissues and DNA analysis. These revealed nothing out of the ordinary.

B. Making enquires in the neighborhood of West Stowell Farm during July 29th, John and Julie were told that there had been some disturbance among animals at about the time of their sighting the previous evening. They were also given the unusual story that, at about the time of the apparent intervention by the helicopters, a closed-circuit intercom system (a "granny alarm") in use at Draycot Manor Cottage (which lies between the site of their sighting and the site of the crop circle events) was heard by Mr. Kenneth Bryant — the

"granny watcher" that evening — to utter the words, "Caution, police" or something similar.

C. I made enquires myself in the neighborhood by a door-to-door canvass on July 30th. I had three independent reports of a dog howling at Draycot Cottages at about 11 p.m. on the evening of July 28th (but no reports of other animal disturbance.) Mr. Kenneth Bryant's story was given to me again by his wife, though she had not been present at the event herself.

6. On another occasion, the night of July 22/23, John and Julie saw an orange globe low in the sky towards the west. This was also seen by two other observers, Kevin and Kate, using a night sight (image intensifier). The sighting lasted for about 5 minutes while the object moved slowly from south to north. Kevin and Kate report that it was, on occasion, below the skyline. Through the night sight a pulsating center, not visible to the naked eye, could be detected within the much larger, hazy, orange "envelope." High in the sky at about the same time Kevin and Kate also saw two small red lights moving in a manner which suggested they were not aircraft.

7. Two members of the Project Argus team, Simon Lyons and Michael Chorost, saw an aerial object which, if an airplane, was an unusual one. The following is Chorost's description of it:

We saw it on the night of August 17th-18th, at around 1 a.m. on a calm, cool, cloudy night. The object traveled at about the same speed and appeared to be about the same size as one would expect of a low-flying airplane. However, it made no sound. Visually, the object looked like a collection of brightly and irregularly flashing lights. I can perhaps best describe it by saying it looked like an airplane with too many running lights which were flashing too fast, and furthermore jumping around the "body" of the object between sets of flashes. Each "set" of flashes (and there were several sets of flashes going on simultaneously) appeared to start with one or two bright flashes, and then settle down into a steady stream of dimmer flashes before stopping. The fact that several sets of flashes were always going on at one time made the object appear to have a "syncopated" rhythm of flashing lights. There was no discernible pattern, though I would have said that there was a fast rhythm. I would guess that there were three or four sets of flashes going on at any given time. The flashes were white and yellow, which made it seem less likely that they were ordinary running lights. We both examined the object through low-power binoculars, but could not gain any extra information on the object's shape. I had the fleeting impression that the lights could have been dimly illuminating some part of the object's surface at its apparent "bottom."

Through the night sight a pulsating center, not visible to the naked eye, could be detected within the much larger, hazy, orange "envelope."

The object traveled in a straight line through the sky from west to east. Toward the east, it disappeared in a bank of clouds before it reached the horizon. It was visible for about two minutes.

Several members of the Argus team, including myself, had seen a similar object several weeks earlier, during a nightwatch from the top of Woodborough Hill. It had taken the same trajectory and moved at the same speed. It, too, made no sound. Busty Taylor, an experienced pilot, had been unable to identify the object.

Both Simon and I had seen many airplanes, helicopters, and satellites during our summer at Alton Barnes. What we saw did not appear to be any of those things.

Ralph Noyes is the Honourable Secretary of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies and was the Centre's liaison with Project Argus. He is also a past contributor to these pages.

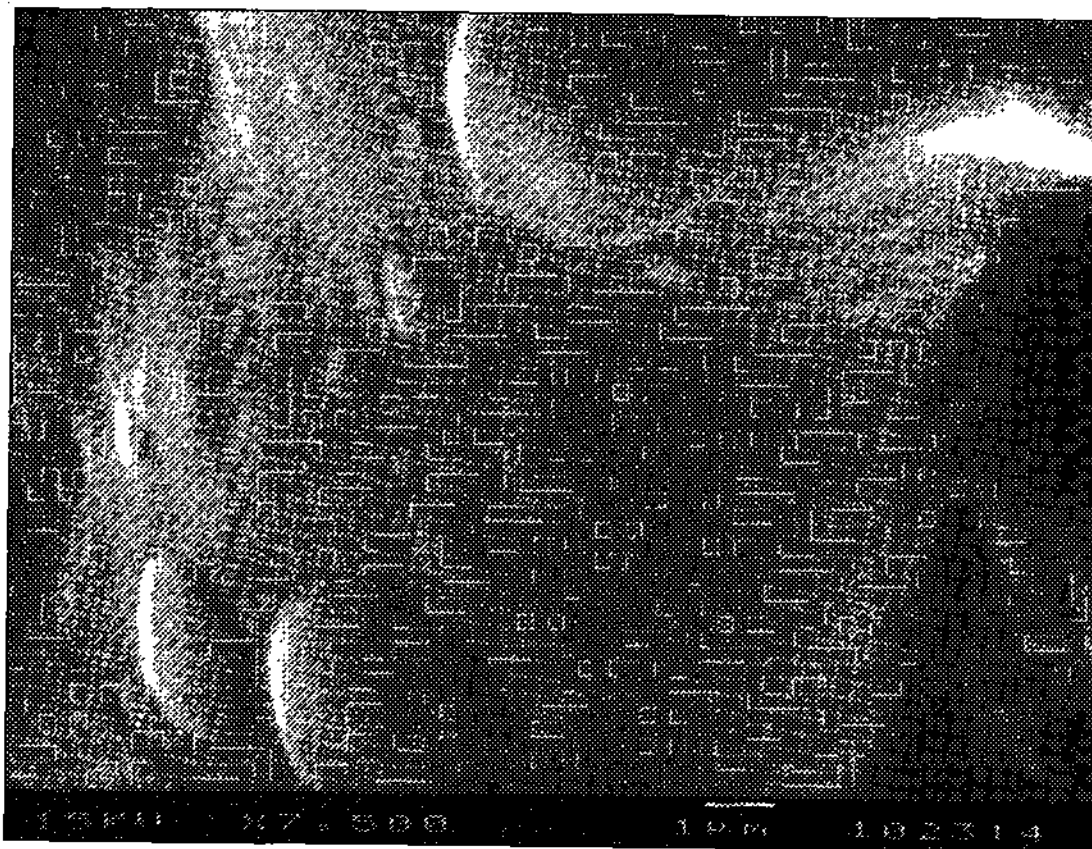
UPDATE

The articles by Chorost, Noyes, McDonough and Deetken which appear in this issue have been reprinted from the *Report on the Results of Project Argus: An Instrumented Study of the Physical Materials of Crop Circles*, edited by Michael Chorost, of which they represent but a small portion. Ordering information for the complete 115-page report, partially funded by MUFON, can be found on page 13.

While reports are sketchy as we go to press, it's clear that crop circles continue to appear in England this summer, although seemingly less concentrated in the Alton Barnes/Wiltshire area than they were last year.

In other developments, Lord John Haddington, patron of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies, and George Wingfield, formerly the Centre's director of field investigations and the editor of *The Circular*, have reportedly purchased *The Cerealogist*, previously edited by John Michell. Presumably, Wingfield will take over as editor, beginning with the #10 (Harvest) issue.

How many of the celebrated English circles are the product of human hoaxing remains a matter of some controversy, sure to be exacerbated by the publication of Jim Schabel's *Round in Circles* (London, Hamish Hamilton), to be reviewed in a future issue of this journal. The latter is part history, part confessional, as Schnabel admits to having hoaxed several circle formations on his own.



Blow-up of cover photograph

Discussion of Anomalies: Blisters

The most dramatic of the structural effects is the formation of the blisters, the cause of which may be due to several conditions: 1) some unforeseen and unreported weathering effect that is common to wheat, 2) a systemic reaction by the plant tissues to being in a lodged position, 3) the result of microbial action, or 4) a physical reaction to whatever forces formed the circle. The origin and/or cause of this force is unknown, and cannot be discerned from the data at hand. The fact that the blisters appear on some of the control samples does not preclude the possibility that the forces which created the circle formation also created the blisters; the controls were generally taken 30 paces in all directions away from the formation, and thus could have been exposed to the force in a collateral manner, resulting in partial modification of the plant. By the same token, however, the presence of blisters on the controls forces the consideration that the blisters are a normal structural characteristic of wheat that has been heretofore undocumented in the literature. Each possibility carries equal weight.

The possibility that the blisters are produced by heat or electromagnetic radiation cannot be overlooked, but neither can it be proven. There was no physical evidence of starch granule damage found in any of the samples and no carbonization present to indicate extremely hot temperatures in the environment. With no evidence to back it up, the heat theory is just another possibility.

It must be noted that, in some cases, storage carbohydrates in the form of starch granules are located inside the hypoderm cells, and at times these granules can press out against the cell walls, creating the distinct impression of a rounded body in the pericarp. Although in the pictures displayed here, this situation is not an explanation for what is seen, the protrusion of starch granules from the pericarp is common and should be considered when interpreting data of this kind.

— Cassandra McDonough

COMPARISON OF BRITISH & CANADIAN CROP CIRCLE LAYS

As it turns out, crop circles aren't the same world round in terms of complexity, numbers and other traits.

By Chad Deetken

In addition to the test conducted in the fields and labs, a comprehensive physical description of the formations was needed. Unusual and complex features may provide insight into the nature of the creative energy. Because I had three years of experience investigating Canadian crop circles, I was chosen to undertake these observations and compare features from both countries whenever relevant.

Making my findings public gives rise to a dilemma. Positive results from electronic surveillance or lab-analysis would be difficult if not impossible for humans to duplicate. However, by giving details of physical anomalies, there was a chance that hoaxers could master some of these features and use them to confuse or discredit researchers. In the end though, we decided to make available all evidence which we believe to be significant.

In assessing the following information, it should be noted that my observations in both England and Canada were made late in the season when plant growth had virtually ceased. This fact is important because, after a certain point in their growth stage, crops progressively lose the capacity to recover (e.g. straighten up again) after having been flattened. Early in the growing season the plants are green, supple and still active, while late in the season they have become dry, brittle, and unable to recover after being physically damaged.

I have not found visual appearance to be a determining factor of authenticity. However, I am inclined to believe that the more features a formation displays, the higher the likelihood of it being genuine.

GENERAL FEATURES

Pattern of Lay

From the perspective of overall appearance, there are two types of crop formations. The first is one in which stalks are pressed so neatly and evenly to the ground they look as though they have been groomed into place. This formation glistens and glimmers in the sunlight, dramatically emphasizing the pattern of lay. Others display an unruly or untidy look. Stalks have partially sprung up again or never properly went down in the first place. They do not flow perfectly parallel to each other nor do they lie at the same height which allows soil to show through.

Some factors that may account for this appearance are the type and density of the crop, humidity at the time of the event and quality of soil. Uneven, insufficient or excessive application of the energy involved in the circle

making process may also dramatically affect appearance.

A possible example of excessive energy occurred at Alvena, Saskatchewan in 1990. This 11 foot circle with a "doughnut" of standing crop in the center had characteristics which suggested chaos. The application of energy seemed to have been so excessive that the stalks were pressed abnormally flat to the ground, "accordioned" into lightning-bolt configurations, and woven into one another so that no direction of swirl was discernible (diagram 1).^{*} The circle was distinctly darker than the surrounding field. Unfortunately, no lab facilities were available at the time to determine if the darkening was due to charring or fungal growth.

Sequence of Construction

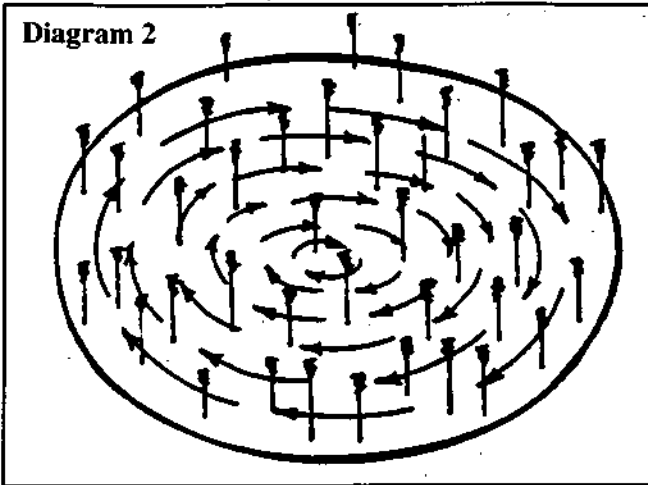
It would seem logical that the steps of construction, particularly in a large formation, should follow a rational sequence. Sequence can be determined by noting which stalks are on top of others at the points where paths, rings and circles intersect. For instance, in a formation involving numerous circles joined by paths, the process should begin at one end and finish at the other, or perhaps, start in the middle and work toward the ends. Frequently, this is not the case.

One is more likely to find the process starting at a random point, skipping back and forth, adding a circle here, a path there, a ring over there. Imagine an artist painting a picture. Rather than executing the work in one continuing stroke, the artist will lift the brush numerous times, adding details here and there until the painting is completed. The order of construction may vary from formation to formation but the implications are of a sequence, unlike one a person working on the ground would choose to follow.

Last year's findings by Chorost and Stanley Morcom that "construction lines" under the lay do not follow a rational sequence, support the above observations. Although I saw no signs of complex construction lines this year in England, I did find many cases of paths or narrow bands running under the circle lay. Some ended at the center of the circles while others stopped part way, often narrowing to a point. Construction lines in Canada are nonexistent because formations tend to be fairly simple.

^{*} Due to space considerations, not all of the original accompanying diagrams or photographs have been reproduced here.

Diagram 2



Standing Stalks

This is a fairly common feature both in England and Canada but was especially prevalent in Albertan circles in 1991. Instead of all stalks being pressed down, varying numbers of single stems are somehow unaffected by the circle making process and left standing. The number of standing stalks can range from just a few to many hundreds. They are not set in any sort of a pattern such as a spiral, or in certain areas of the circle but are randomly dispersed throughout the formation.

In a set of four 17 to 38 foot diameter circles at Warner, Alberta in 1991, many hundreds of standing stalks were found in each (diagram 2). Obviously, the greater the number of individual standing stalks, the less distance between them. Anyone attempting to create this effect using an implement would have to use a very narrow one indeed since the stems in some formations stand just inches apart.

There is little chance that stalks knocked down this late in the season could have stood up again. A stalk at harvest time is dry and brittle, its head heavy with seed. Once it goes down, the severity of the kink at the point of bend in addition to the weight of its seeds, eliminates any possibility that it could stand again, by whatever means.

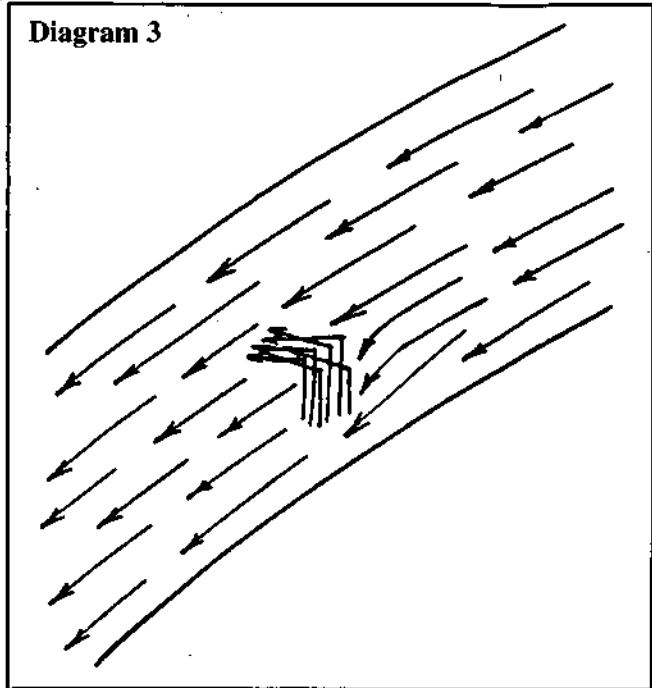
Stalks Bent Above Ground Level

Clusters of stems or individual stalks are sometimes left standing but are bent at heights ranging from several inches to as much as a foot or more above ground. Often the bent portions point in a direction other than that of the swirl (diagram 3). This feature is commonly found in circles both in Canada and England.

Humps

Occasionally one discovers an area where the lay appears to flow over an object such as a rock or a clump of soil. However, on lifting or parting the stalks, nothing but a pocket of air is found. More commonly found in England and more noticeable when the lay is thick.

Diagram 3



Standing Rows at Tram Lines

Where tram lines intersect crop formations, one often sees a single row of standing stems along the edge of the tire tracks (diagram 5). It is not a factor in Canada since there are no tram lines.

Ovoid and Off-Axis Formations

Most circles and rings are imperfect. That is, they appear as though they were drawn freehand, slightly out of round or off center. Sometimes the imperfection is extreme.

In Lethbridge, Alberta in 1991, one of three circles in an L-shaped formation was found to be extremely elliptical. Although the circle was otherwise well formed, it measured 13 feet in length but only 9 feet across.

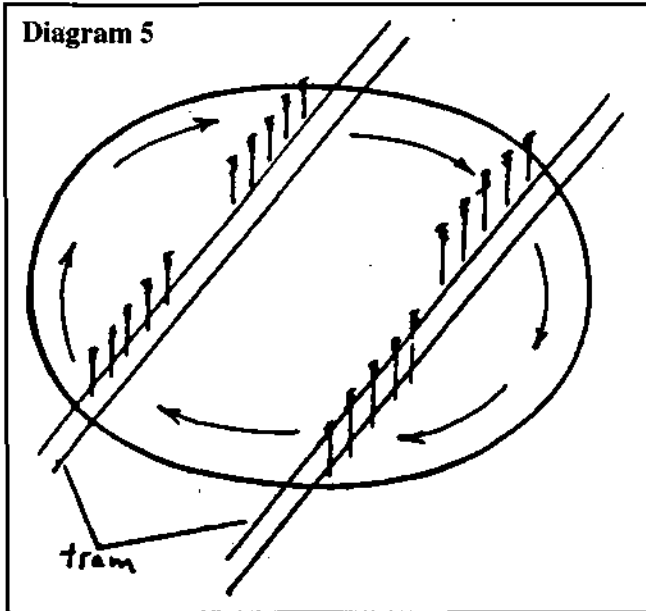
In Albertville, Saskatchewan in 1992, a ringed circle measuring 36 feet in diameter was only 2 inches out of round. However, its axis was completely off center. From the swirl center to the outer perimeter of the ring measured 21 feet, while the distance from the same center in the opposite direction was only 15 feet. Another peculiarity was that the width of the ring was 27 inches at the "heavy" side of the formation, but only 15 inches at the "light" side. It was as if a round fluid object spinning on its axis had become unbalanced, causing the bulk of the contents to go to one side (diagram 6).

Gap Seeking

When formations are intersected by trams or bordered by areas of wind damage, the flattened stalks from the formation will tend to enter the gap area. This phenomenon was first noted by Delgado and Andrews in the mid 1980s.

One could imagine that the creating energy is like a sphere of compressed air that moves in a straight line to make a path or rotates to create a circle. As it passes over

Diagram 5



a gap in the standing stalks, such as a tram, the compressed air has a tendency to escape into this avenue of lesser pressure, pulling some of the stems with it. This feature is commonly seen in English crop circles whereas in Canada it is limited to the occasional exceptionally wide drill row.

Bands

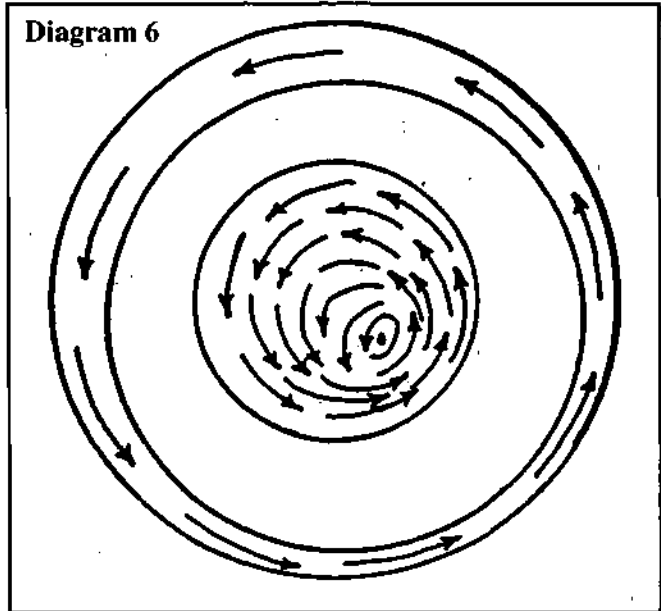
Many circles display a band of stalks around their perimeters distinct from the rest of the lay. The width of the band can be from a few inches to several feet and may swirl in the same direction as the rest of the circle or contrary to it. Bands appear almost like a wreath around the outside of a circle. While circle patterns may range from radial to tight swirls, the stalks in a band lie parallel to the circle perimeter. I have seen some bands on top of the circle lay while others are found underneath. (See photo next page.)

The most recent formation in Albertville, Saskatchewan was a classic example of a band laying on top. The circle was swirled counterclockwise with a 6" wide band in the same direction laid on top like a wreath. At Draycot Fitz Payne II, the band ran in the opposite direction. There was no overlapping of lay, though there were areas of turmoil like that of opposing water currents occasionally swirling into each other.

Bare Tram Lines

Normally, when tractor trams intersect a formation, they are covered by the fallen stalks of crop. However, I have seen a number of cases in which tram lines intersecting a formation are not covered over by fallen stalks. Two good examples were at the Tawsmead Copse "Venus" formation and the Ogbourne St. George formation. To achieve this effect, the stems nearest the edge of the tramline, which normally would be laying across, instead have gone down parallel to it. Stalks

Diagram 6



progressively further away from the tram lie at increasing angles until they are again consistent with the rest of the lay.

Multiple Layering

Multiple layering is a common phenomenon and varies in complexity from two to five or more layers. Simple examples are when a path flows over or under another feature, creating two-layers. Sometimes when lifting the surface layer of stalks, one finds another layer running in a different direction underneath.

In more complex examples such as at Ogbourne St. George, I found as many as five different layers. These were not like sheets, one on top of the other, but rather individual bunches of stems lying in different directions, intertwined or interwoven with each other. The best way to describe this is to say it is much like the weaving of cloth. It is difficult to understand how this effect could be achieved as a random natural act. A previously mentioned example of individual stems, not bunches, woven in this manner was found at Alvena, Saskatchewan.

Areas of "Turbulence"

Another significant feature is the occasional discovery of areas of varying sizes which show varying amounts of "turbulence." In one such area at the Tawsmead Copse "Venus" formation it seemed as if something physical had interfered with the general flow of the wheat, much like a rock would alter the flow of a stream. The disturbance appeared in a large area adjacent to a section of wind damage and where the lay crossed a tram line. In the center of this area of turbulence was a thick pile of wheat heads created by stems all falling toward one point so that the heads lay in a heap.



Band found at Albertville, Saskatchewan.

CAUSES FOR SUSPICION

A priority when arriving at a new formation is to ascertain whether one is the first to enter. Sometimes evidence is found which casts doubt on the authenticity of a formation. While suspicious evidence does not rule out authenticity, it reduces the inclination to invest a large amount of time and energy on sampling and analysis.

A case in point is the Draycot Fitz Payne II formation at West Stowell Farm. Upon arriving, we noticed a narrow path through ten feet of standing crop between a roadway and a tram which one had to reach in order to access the field. Entering the formation, we noted the features were not impressive. The lay was not flat to the ground, giving it a messy appearance. In the center of the circle was a bare spot looking as though it had been thoroughly walked on, although there were no discernible footprints. Also, a thin ring of standing stalks several feet in from the edge of the circle looked as though an implement had rolled around the perimeter, accidentally leaving this strip standing.

Most suspicious of all were splotches of mud on the surface of the flattened plants in the key and around a portion of the circle. The soil was quite soft the night the event occurred because of a steady rain. The splotches

were spaced at regular intervals and indicative of left foot, right foot placement. It is conceivable these marks were made by an animal. More likely though, they were left by a person who either created the formation or walked into it in the early morning. In any case, the combination of these signs ruled out spending much more time here.

FORMATIONS WITH SINGULAR PECULIARITIES

The "Phantom Tractor"

One day we received a report of strange tractor turns in the middle of a field near Milk Hill. After flying over it with Busty Taylor, we decided it warranted closer examination. What farmer, after all, would needlessly make turns in the middle of his field, thereby causing unnecessary damage to his crop?

Upon entering the field it became evident that these were not tractor turns at all but the circle makers imitating a tractor. The lay was perfect, the stems were not crushed and we found no impressions of any kind in the soil. Had a tractor been involved, tire imprints would have been quite prominent in the soft soil. Also, the curvature of the turns did not quite match those made by real tractors at the end of fields. Here, when a tractor makes too wide a turn, the stalks are severely crushed and not pushed down in a neat pattern. Tire imprints are easily noticed. This formation, which was only yards away from an earlier formation, was also closely examined by Montague Keen and Ralph Noyes, among others. From his own farming experience, Keen strongly endorses these comments, and could see no way in which the markings could be reconciled either with rational farming procedure or the physical limitations and functions of turning tractors.

A Cleared "Black Line" at a Formation at Whitchurch

In a Celtic Cross formation at Whitchurch, I found a thin dark line just a few inches wide beginning at the edge of the formation and meandering across the entire length of the field. Closer examination showed that along this line, most of the stalks had been severed at a 45 degree angle.

What made the line so visible is that the cut edges, the severed portions and some stems left standing had turned black. Nearby stalks broken by animals or other causes however, had not blackened. Electron microscopy indicated the blackening was due to fungal growth, and that the cuts were probably from animal teeth.

The "Flattened Porcupine" Formation

At the end of August, 1992 near the village of Milestone, Saskatchewan, farmer Joseph Rennick discovered an irregular rectangular formation 22 by 63 feet in his wheat field. It looked as though a round object about 22 feet in diameter had come down at an angle and skipped like a flat stone on water, leaving three

rough impressions. He had never seen a crop circle before and suspected the cause to be wind damage. He became more intrigued when he noticed the affected area had a counterclockwise swirl. Then, something even stranger caught his eye.

There, in the middle of the formation, lay a very flat and very dead porcupine. It bore no signs of wounds or physical damage but had obviously been pressed down by a weight or powerful force. He estimated the animal had lain there for at least 7 days but showed no sign of decomposition and did not smell.

A mature porcupine weighs about 25 lb. and stands at least 12 inches tall. This one had been pressed three inches thick, its legs extending out like an "x". Furthermore, a skid mark in the soil embedded with broken quills showed the creature had been dragged by force from the perimeter of the formation into the center. Its quills were oriented in the same direction as the swirled wheat.

At the time of this discovery, the soil in the field was soft and muddy but in the formation, it was so hard that it was difficult to dig into the soil with a trowel. It appeared that it had been dried out. The imprint of each stem was clearly visible in the hard ground. Furthermore, the crops in the field were still slightly green and the seeds very full, yet in the formation the stalks were dry and brittle and the seeds shriveled like raisins.

Unfortunately, by the time Mr. Rennick notified me or thought of having an autopsy done on the porcupine, it had decomposed too much to be of any value. However, plant, quill and soil samples are presently being analyzed in laboratories.

One may wonder why after 10 years of not finding dead animals in crop formations, suddenly there are several cases (an incident in 1989 involving a dead but not flattened porcupine in a crop circle, not far from the current case, has just come to light). The answer may lie in the fact that the unfortunate victims are porcupines. Most animals, given the slightest warning of impending danger, will fly or scurry away. The porcupine, however, stays put, relying on its sharp quills for defense.

The Severed Circle

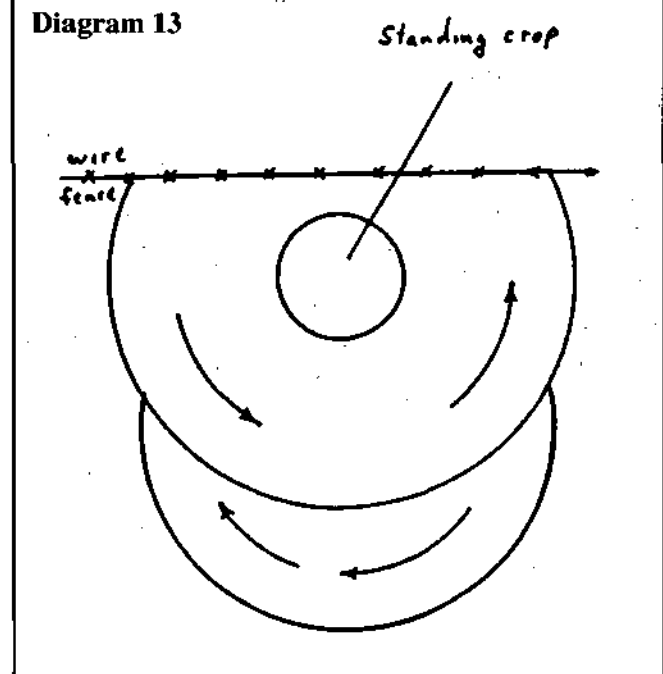
At the time of this writing (Nov. 18, 1992), a new addition to the original formation was discovered. This was a horseshoe shape about 15 feet by 30 feet, and less than 7 days old, placed adjacent to the original formation.

In early November 1990 farmer Mike Shawaga of Alvena, Saskatchewan reported to me that he had just discovered another circle near his house (diagram 13). I had been there two months before studying 5 eleven foot circles, each with a "donut" of standing crop in the center.

This one had a new twist.

It was the same size as the others, but instead of the "donut" center, it had standing crop which came to a

Diagram 13



point like a cone. Also, instead of a chaotic woven lay, it was neatly swirled.

The odd thing about this circle was that it had "come down" on a barbed wire fence which divided it into 1/3 and 2/3 portions. The 1/3 section which should have been on the other side of the fence, had instead been severed and reattached to the opposite side of the 2/3 portion. In addition, it must have "flipped over" because its swirl was clockwise, compared to the counterclockwise direction of the larger portion.

Mr. Deetken's article has been reprinted with the kind permission of Michael Chorost, editor of the "Report on the Results of Project Argus: An Instrumented Study of the Physical Materials of Crop Circles." The complete 115-page, illustrated, indexed report is available from Chorost by writing North American Circle, P. O. Box 61144, Durham, NC, 27715-1144. The price in dollars for both the U.S. and Canada is \$11; add \$2 for overseas surface postage or \$5 for airmail. Make checks payable in U.S. dollars to "North American Circle."

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80 meters — 3.978 MHz — Saturday, 8 p.m.
 40 meters — 7.237 MHz — Saturday, 8 a.m.
 20 meters — 14.264 MHz — Thursday, 10 p.m.
 10 meters — 28.470 MHz — Sunday, 3 p.m.
 Alternate if 10 meters is dead.
 20 meters — 14.264 MHz — Sunday, 3:15 p.m.
 All times Eastern Standard or Daylight

AREA 51 ENCOUNTER

Two UFO researchers in search of "Old Faithful" find more than they bargained for!

By William F. Hamilton

They call it the Ranch, Watertown, or Dreamland. It is part of a vast military reserve in central Nevada, where the country's most advanced aircraft, including the U-2 and SR-71 spy planes, have been flight-tested, using the long runway at Groom Lake. Since 1989 and the release of Robert Lazar's story of back-engineered alien spacecraft at Area S-4, a few miles south of Groom Lake at the base of the Papoose Mountains, hundreds of visitors have come to the Little Ale'Inn in Rachel, Nevada, and what is called the Mailbox Road to look for the glowing lights of UFOs that appear beyond the Jumbled Hills. Indeed, many witnesses claim to have seen classic UFOs and dozens of photos and videos support their claims.

PRELUDE TO MISSING TIME

I met Pamela in 1991. She had several encounters with alien life forms at her house near Rosamond, California, at the base of the Tehachapi Mountains. She remembers having an encounter in June 1990 with a small cardboard-colored entity resembling a Gray. This entity was wearing a form-fitting one-piece black suit. She was standing on the stairs of her summer deck arguing with this entity in the early hours of the morning. It was neither her first or last encounter. I have detailed some of her experiences in the January 1992 issue of this *Journal*.

I have had one or two encounters of my own. The most distinctive took place on May 8, 1981 in Arizona. I remember three little white-skinned beings appearing at the foot of my bed while I was in a hypnogogic state. When they departed suddenly, a pungent odor of ozone permeated the air of the bedroom.

I have been investigating abductions since 1976 and am familiar with many types of experience with various entities. However, never did I dream that Pamela and I would experience missing time together!

I am well aware that abduction reports have generated a backlash from the public sector from authorities like Carl Sagan and Dr. Robert Baker. They would like to dismiss these encounters as hypnopompic hallucinations or some other almost reasonable psychological category in order to avoid dealing with the possibility of physical events which carry much more profound implications. I am also aware of the fact that witness exposure to UFO material tends to "contaminate" the individual's recounting of events and lessens the value of witness testimony. In that case, one may

consider that my testimony is super-contaminated by a background of 40 years researching this subject. On the other hand one might also consider that I have had 40 years to observe, reflect on, and evaluate UFO experiences. Bearing this in mind, then, here is our story.

BRIGHT LIGHTS OVER THE DESERT

Pamela and I headed for Rachel, Nevada on Tuesday, March 16, 1993. After stopping in Las Vegas to pick up Ektar 1000 high-speed film for my camera from the Camera Center on Eastern, we headed north on highway 93, also known as the Great Basin Highway. I estimated our arrival at the Little Ale'Inn at around 6 p.m. We actually arrived at around 5:45 p.m.

While traveling on highway 93 we decided to snap pictures of some of the scenery to use up the slow speed film in my Chinon ZoomCam. Some of the higher mountains around the Parahnagat Valley were capped with white blankets of snow. Yellow flowers were Spring-blooming along the roadside. We were in a good mood.

We stopped at Mailbox Road near mile marker 29 on highway 375 to snap additional pictures. The surrounding mountains had already hidden the sun for the day. A little further up the road just before mile marker 26 I noticed a large dirt pull-out. I was determined to return to this pull-out later in the evening.

We arrived at the Little Ale'Inn and greeted Pat and Joe Travis. Pat recognized me instantly, and both of them were happy to see us since our last visit. Copies of my book, *Cosmic Top Secret*, were stacked on the shelf and offered for sale. I picked up a new book, "Area 51" *Viewer's Guide*, written by Glenn Campbell, an itinerant computer programmer who has settled in Rachel to study the strange stories of this region and map out the area. Later, we were introduced to Glenn, an affable young man. We were eager to swap information, but food was also a priority. We ordered dinner and talked. I also booked a room in a trailer for the night so we could take an early morning trip out to the viewing site and would not have to drive far to get some additional rest.

We placed our suitcases in the trailer and left Rachel sometime after 7:45 that evening and headed east on 375. I decided to travel no faster than 50 mph as this was open range and cows still wandered onto the road in the early evening. When we got to mile marker 17 up on Coyote Summit at about 8:13, we spotted a security vehicle, a large green Bronco,

parked off the other side of the road facing Rachel. Its amber front lights were on. We continued slowly until we reached mile marker 26. Passing this, I started to look for the dirt pull-out on the right and when I spotted it, pulled off the highway about fifteen to twenty feet with my truck facing the skyglow of Las Vegas due south.

I switched off the lights of my pickup truck and as soon as my eyes adjusted to the darkness that enveloped the Tikaboo Valley, I got out to look at the stars. Though it was partly cloudy, I could clearly make out the Big Dipper, Orion, Sirius, the Pleiades, and Arcturus. I could also see the craggy outlines of the Jumbled Hills and the Groom Mountains against the faint skyglow. It wasn't as cold as I expected and I only wore a pull-over sweater. As soon as I saw the lights of a vehicle coming down Coyote Summit, I got back in the truck. The first object I spotted in the sky was an aircraft with its positional lights and strobe blinking as it moved away from Groom Lake toward the southeast. Nothing exciting there. Pamela commented that the vehicle from the west was getting closer and she wanted to see if it was the security vehicle we had seen earlier at mile marker 17. We had first spotted its lights coming down from the summit at about 8:21.

When the vehicle passed us at 8:30, we were certain it was the same one we had seen on the summit. It was now heading east on 375. I was looking at my watch at 8:31 and asked Pamela how long she wanted to stay and skywatch since we wanted to return in the early morning hours to see "Old Faithful." Glenn had told us that he thought that "Old Faithful" was just a 737 from Las Vegas's McCarran airport that ferried in workers to Groom at the same time each morning, but we wanted to come out and see for ourselves if that was the case or whether it was something else.

We talked for about five minutes when we spotted a light about ten or fifteen degrees to the left of our heading. We both had 10x50 Bushnell binoculars. I looked at the light through my binoculars and saw a small, round white light above a small round amber light. At this time, I speculated that we might be looking at a security vehicle that was anywhere from 3 to 6 miles from our position, but I could not think of a road that was located where this light was emanating from. We talked for additional minutes. Pamela was relating this story about a healer who had come from Sedona, Arizona to find a man named "Jim" in Rachel. Jim was Pat Travis's grandson and he had been in an accident. We talked for another five or six minutes when we spotted another ground light to our right. I looked at it through binoculars and it seemed to be on or near the Groom Road and casting a beam on the ground. We decided that I should keep an eye on the light on the right while Pamela kept an eye on the original light which now appeared to be below our line of sight

When I looked back and raised my camera to snap a picture of this oncoming object, it had again transformed into two or three bright orbs and was quickly closing distance. I remember saying they were coming to get us.

and was casting a fan-shaped glow into the air. We talked another three to five minutes when Pamela said, "Something is happening. Look back at the first light."

Events started happening fast. The first light appeared to be an object the size of a bus with square light panels lifting off from the ground! The panels appeared to glow amber and blue-white. The object was tilting to the right. Then the lights rapidly resolved into two glowing orbs or discs of brilliant blue-white light that steadily increased in brilliance. These lights became so bright they hurt my eyes and were still getting more brilliant with time. I had to put down my binoculars, but Pamela kept hers trained on these baby suns as they started to move toward us. My heart started to palpitate and my adrenaline was rushing as this lighted object appeared to be on a collision course for my truck. These bright orbs were clearly flying over the desert. The lights did not bounce over the mounds of sand and sagebrush. I reached for my camera behind the seat and felt it snag, so I diverted my eyes to free it. Pamela said that at this point the orbs transformed again into a ring of multicolored lights that moved in a "digital" counter-clockwise revolution around what now appeared to be a disc. When I looked back and raised my camera to snap a picture of this oncoming object, it had again transformed into two or three bright orbs and was quickly closing distance.

I remember saying that they were coming to get us and Pamela asking why I was so scared. I had to snap a picture fast, so I snapped it before exiting the truck. The automatic flash went off with light bouncing against the windows, but I felt that the object's brightness could not fail to register on my Kodak Ektar 1000 film.

Then confusion reigned. As I finished snapping the picture and exiting the truck at the same time as Pamela, I had not removed my eyes from the orbs which now appeared east of us as automobile headlights traveling west on 375. That was clearly impossible! I had not seen these lights move from a south bearing to an east bearing and neither had Pamela. This car made a gentle whooshing sound as it passed by us, but made no motor sounds or tire sounds on the pavement. We watched its tail lights change in intensity as it whisked away toward Coyote Summit. This was no ordinary car. Pamela saw gold-speckled paint and white-walls on an older, long American car. I

glanced at my watch. It was 9:15. No way! It should have only been about 8:50 at the latest. What happened?

I was angry. I told Pamela that the vehicle we saw could not possibly be driving across the desert to our south, then appear abruptly as if coming from the east. And a ring of lights does not transform itself into a car in normal reality. We discussed this all the way back to the Little Ale'Inn. We went into the bar for a drink, talked with Pat for a few moments, then went to our trailer.

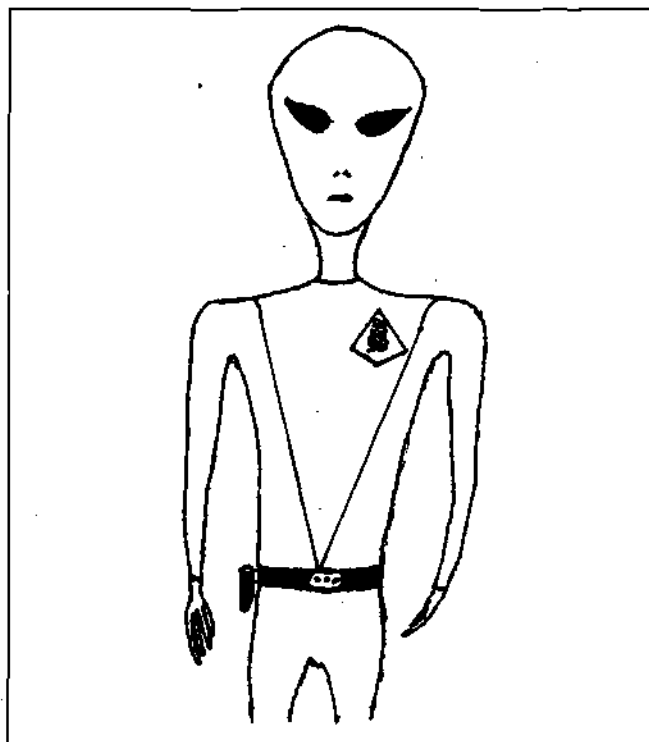
I tried to get to sleep around 11:30 that night. At 1:46 the next morning I awoke with a yelp. I had dreamed that a dark human-like form was examining me and had hold of my left ankle. Pamela had already awakened, asking how long we would be gone. She sometimes talks in her sleep, but this time it also had awakened her. I wanted to go back to the site even though it was a little too early for "Old Faithful." We eventually went back to mile marker 26, arriving by 3:30 the morning of March 17th (St. Patrick's Day). We slept for awhile, then my watch alarm awoke me at 4:30 to start looking at the southern sky for "Old Faithful." At precisely 4:50, we spotted it. It was a glowing amber-gold light without strobes, rotating beacons or other conventional aircraft lighting. It was in view for about five minutes and seemed to descend on Groom Lake. It did not appear to be a 737 or other conventional aircraft, but it did not execute any extraordinary aerodynamic maneuvers.

REGRESSION SESSIONS

After more rest back at the trailer, we left Rachel around 12:30 in the afternoon and returned to Las Vegas to find a room. We checked in at a Super 8 Motel on Koval Lane, and after dinner I called John Lear. He seemed insistent that we come up to see him for awhile so we did. When we got there, we told him our story. He asked if he could regress me under hypnosis as he thought I looked a little stressed-out from the previous night's adventure.

John was only attempting to hypnotize me for thirty minutes or so to help relax me and decided not to tape record the session. The session lasted one hour and thirty-five minutes and Pamela ended up taking twenty-four pages of notes. I recalled the period of disorientation we had in the incident, and as it unfolded I saw the craft stop above us, brightly illuminating the ground, the truck, and us in its glare. Then I seemed to have ascended through the bottom of this craft and was met by a being walking out of the bright interior light. Actually, he had just stepped through a brilliantly lighted interior wall of the craft.

This being was gray in color and about six feet tall. His eyes had what appeared to be black plastic shields slanting in insect fashion around his egg-shaped head. He had on a two-tone gray suit, with a lighter gray V



Quaylar as drawn by Bill Hamilton.

in the front, and a black belt with a black tube on his right side. There was a triangular symbol (actually giving the impression of a tetrahedron) enclosing a helical coil on the left breast of the suit. His long arms ended in four long fingers. His face was a mask of non-expression, yet he communicated with me in blunt, concise phrases. I was concerned about Pamela, but he showed me her frozen form on the ground. Off to her left side was a small gray creature as if posted on station. I was confused. She was the abductee, so why was he taking me inside this craft? He indicated it was my turn and I needed an adjustment and I would learn some things.

He took one arm and escorted me gently inside a dome-like room that was evenly and brightly illuminated in all directions. In the center of this room was a tilting metal table which he placed me against. It tilted back about thirty degrees from the vertical. In front of me, projecting out from the curving wall, were what appeared to be a row of small computer screens. I knew that this table was a sophisticated sensor and was registering my thoughts, emotions and physiology which were displayed on these screens. This being identified himself as Quaylar. Quaylar had replaced my leg at the ankle back onto the tilt table's surface at one point. This process lasted about five minutes. The telepathic or mind-sharing process allowed me access to a great deal of information that wasn't simply communicated. Quaylar returned me to the exit and I jump-floated to the ground about fifteen or twenty feet below. When I resynched, I saw the phantom car

Inside the van, two men dressed entirely in black with black baseball caps on their heads, subjected her to intrusive procedures. She remembered seeing electronic instruments inside the van as well as automatic rifles.

lights. Was this a signal to my subconscious that something odd intervened in the missing-time period?

Another idea that impressed me strongly under hypnosis was that the missing-time or missing-memory state was caused by a phase shift in time. The time frequency in the field of this object was not in synch with our normal earth time frequency, giving us a conscious gap in memory.

I did not wait to follow scientific procedures and have Pamela and I hypnotized separately on different occasions, though we did do this later. We tried to document all that we could. I took a daytime photo of the pull-out from the same truck angle as the night shot of the object to show the view from our angle of bearing and the desert scrub the object was traveling over.

When I hypnotized Pamela Thursday night, March 18, more details emerged. Pamela remembered being frozen outside of the craft and the little Gray standing at her side. She also reports a painful buzzing in her left ear. Up to this point of separation, our description of events agrees completely except for the brief period of time when I went to snatch my camera from behind the seat. She then recalls a narrow, pencil-thin beam of blue-white light coming out of the bottom of the craft and striking her right eye just to the right of the pupil. And indeed, there is a spot on the right side of the iris at the 9 o'clock position where the beam struck. She also remembers seeing two men observing her from a van on the highway. She actually states that the little Gray walked her away from the direction of the van to the other side of the truck to hide her from view. She also recalls details about the phantom car that we saw after the gap in time.

On Thursday, April 1, Pamela was regressed again by hypnotherapist Yvonne Smith. This time Pamela remembered being taken aboard the white van she saw on the highway. The van had an antenna on the roof. Inside the van, two men, dressed entirely in black with black baseball caps on their heads, subjected her to intrusive procedures. They administered some drops in her right eye and placed an odd instrument into her left ear canal. She remembered seeing electronic instruments inside the van as well as automatic rifles. She also recalls that these men admonished her not to speak about her experiences. She did not see the little Gray during this period, nor does she remember exactly how she was placed back in position by our truck.

We had additional regression sessions with Leslie Freeman, a psychologist and hypnotherapist who

works with our local MUFON group in Los Angeles. Details of what came out of these sessions are too numerous to recount here.

I have had others report missing-time experiences in the Tikaboo Valley. My impression is that this has nothing to do with test flying discs from Area S-4. Something alien resides in this section of Nevada and has found an interest in visitors who come to watch the skies around Area 51.

The author is the Director of Investigations for MUFON, Los Angeles.

MUFON FORUM

Letters to *Mufon UFO Journal*

COMPLICATION FACTOR

Has the community of ufological researchers and analysts finally become so factionalized that no effective progress is possible in the effort to clearly delineate the central issues in the field? Are more resources wasted on vocal and public recrimination and metalogically fallacious argument than are devoted to objective research, measurement and scientific debate?

The answers would both appear to be affirmative, in the view of this outside observer. Although the Journal does not presume to be the sole voice of the research community at large it would appear to be the most widely circulated. My expectation is that many who are not involved directly in ufological research but who do follow its published literature have gotten the same impression from articles, letters, and editorials printed in the Journal over the past several months. A survey of the contents of the Journal published between March of 1992 and March of 1993 (a period chosen simply because I had access to these issues) tends to support the impression that researchers are foundering in a sea of contention and tangential issues. While constructive disagreement, based upon rules of scientific debate, can be healthy, it seems that the field of ufology is especially stricken and adversely impacted by its negative effects.

Premise: People see extraordinary things which appear to have external reality, and some aspects of these sightings defy simple explanation. It's difficult to argue over a statement like this. However, it, or something very like it, is probably the only inarguable statement one can make about the study of the UFO phenomenon. (If it were not for the fact that this premise is reinforced every day, around the world, by continued sightings, I and presumably many others would turn away from this field of inquiry.) Ufology's loss of focus occurs when one attempts to proceed from this major premise.

Continued on Page 23

ABDUCTION NOTES

John Carpenter

EXPLANATIONS (PART ONE):

"Healthy Skepticism vs. Psychological Denial"

As researchers of the abduction phenomenon we constantly find ourselves inching our way through what feels like an endless labyrinth of mirrors — never quite certain of what reality truly is. Reality is typically defined from all that we have previously learned through years of exploration and study, and we have done fairly well researching that which we can see and touch. But we are in our infancy in regard to comprehending all that we *cannot see or touch*.

The entire field of UFO research is basically forced to deal with a mystery that is not normally in our grasp or within our ability to study under a microscope or in a laboratory setting. The bizarre data from reliable people regarding abductions by UFO entities pushes our notions of reality even further over the edge. The mere suggestion of people passing whole through walls, being lifted by light beams, and never seen by neighbors while others are placed in "suspended animation" is enough to cause anyone to want to turn and run back to nice, safe, secure, and predictable forms of reality such as late night reruns of "I Love Lucy!" It is human nature to avoid any unknown which could cause a threat or disruption to our secure manner of thinking or living. We humans like to have matters *under control* and *in order*.

Science has proceeded cautiously to gather knowledge in an orderly fashion so that we can put life into predictable patterns — and thus more under control. Challenges to these accepted "norms" can be scary; any change in thinking involves risks. Resistance to change is demonstrated in the psychological process of denial — the refusal to look at, study, or be willing to accept a potentially unsettling alteration to one's existence. The tendency then is to minimize, discredit, dismiss, or ignore such challenges to our comfortable way of organizing our world.

There is a clear difference between denial and skepticism. I welcome the challenging ideas that some skeptics thoughtfully offer because they force me to reexamine more closely my own research. This is healthy and productive in order to study all aspects and possibilities of this phenomenon. But there are others who call themselves "skeptics" whose minds have already decided what they *need* to believe. They are best known for their (1) criticism without productive feedback, (2) character assassinations, (3) broad and often vague generalizations, (4) lack of first-hand investigation or experience, and (5) offering of weak "explanations" that sound plausible to the public but rather amusing to serious researchers. This is not skepticism, this is blatant

avoidance or denial. Science is supposed to study the unknown carefully — not be afraid to look at it or discuss it — even if it does have unsettling or monumental implications for mankind. Those who *need to disbelieve* have a right to do so for their own peace of mind.

Perhaps the "skeptics" who are publicly quoted ought to be those who are actually involved *on the front lines* of abduction research. I would like to see those commonly-quoted persons such as astronomer Carl Sagan or aviation writer Philip Klass actually sit through the private sessions and emotional processes of one hundred abductees before they publicly dismiss them as "hallucinatory" or "attention-seeking". When did either Sagan or Klass obtain psychology degrees in order to have the right to explain to the public the psychological sources of abduction accounts? Do I therefore have a similar right to express my uninformed opinions about the nature of comets for publication in the *New York Times*?

In the June 27th edition of the *USA Today Weekend Magazine*, the cover story on UFO abductions managed to quote Robert Baker, a University of Kentucky professor emeritus, saying that "it's very easy for two people to have the same kind of hallucinatory experience at the same time, then reinforce each other." This is an incredible statement when I review my own fourteen years of direct clinical practice with thousands of hospitalized psychiatric patients. Hallucinations are a private and internally-generated set of distortions representative of the individual's dynamics and personal issues. They are *not easily shared*. There is a rare delusional disorder (called Folie a Deux) in which two persons in a symbiotic relationship may develop similar delusional beliefs. This is hardly the case with Skye Ambrose (central figure of this same feature article) and her casual acquaintance, "Jennifer," who were happily returning from a professional conference in beautiful Aspen, Colorado. They did not have any need for a disruptive experience. They were amazed at what they witnessed and described to each other objectively. They both claimed they never removed their seat belts or ever got out of the car. They were irritable after their two hours of "missing time" and did not want to talk about it with each other. Robert Baker's public remarks make no clinical sense overall or in the examination of the case outlined in the article.

It is my understanding that Robert Baker has not worked with any "abductees" firsthand. In fact he is an *academic* or classroom psychology professor rather than a clinical or direct practice psychologist. This distinction is important because the general public just hears the word "psychologist." You would not let your gynecologist perform open-heart surgery for your cardiac surgeon just because they are both medical doctors, would you? In general the media is not as careful as to whom they will quote in order to balance an article's viewpoints. We

Isn't it Interesting how many different cultures speak of some kind of small and mysterious entity which magically intrudes into the lives of humans?

must look carefully at the experience and credentials of those being quoted before assuming they truly speak in an informed manner for the actual research being done. Let the abduction researchers speak for the research. Armchair theorists and other outsiders can propose theories, hypotheses, and research ideas but should not be *stating conclusions* publicly, having not performed any research! (Of course they will, and the media will *still* quote them as well.)

"Skeptics" like Baker and Sagan often point to folklore as an explanation for modern abduction scenarios. Baker says, "Abduction delusions abound in folklore. Since the Middle Ages, people have been abducted by dragons, ogres, leprechauns, and faeries. They're not crazy; they're the victims of 'waking dreams' (falling asleep or coming awake in altered states of mind)..." In the same case example of Skye Ambrose and "Jennifer" neither one had any need for a faerie, leprechaun, or alien to disturb their trip home from the conference in Aspen. They were *not* falling asleep; their hearts were pounding and adrenalin flowing as they watched the ball of light and light beams come near their car. Neither one made any claims of being abducted by *anything* that night. And could they have actually shared the same hypnogogic (falling asleep) delusions when neither was falling asleep or reporting any such imagery?

Carl Sagan feels he also is scoring points with the folklore notion in his March 7, 1993 *Parade* Magazine article, "Are They Coming For Us?" He suggests that the following account from 1645 strengthens the folklore explanation. "A Cornish teenager, Anne Jeffries, was found groggy and crumpled on the floor. Much later she recalled being attacked by little men, carried paralyzed to a castle in the air, seduced and returned home. She called the little men *faeries*. The next year she was arrested for witchcraft." It would have been unlikely that she would have used the term "alien" or thought about "space visitors" in 1645. In the cultural context of her time in history these words may have been her best effort to describe her experience. There is enough evidence to indicate that there is some kind of a reality to the abduction phenomenon. There is a strong suggestion that it has been around to some degree at least since Biblical times. It would make more sense that this inconceivable, misinterpreted, and confusing type of UFO experience would have been viewed and described in a wide variety of ways over time. It would have stimulated many legendary tales and magical stories across the world as people would try to comprehend their unusual experiences and attempt to ascribe some kind of

meaning which could provide some form of explanation more acceptable to the general public.

Original tales of faeries and leprechauns told of naughty little entities that abducted children and adults for hours. Over time the public image of a leprechaun has been embellished with more loveable clothes, a pipe, and an impish, more likeable manner of behavior. Isn't it interesting how many different cultures speak of some kind of small and mysterious entity which intrudes magically into the lives of humans? Did folklore develop similar themes and imagery by coincidence, or was there a set of unexplained human experiences providing the foundation for the tales over time?

What stimulates the creation of particular myths and legends brings my thoughts to the charming tale of Peter Pan. Here we have a small, thin, boyish figure — who *never grows larger or older* — floating in the bedroom window of the children's nursery night after night. He is accompanied by a small *bouncing ball of light* affectionately named Tinkerbell. He gains their trust, has them think "happy thoughts," and entices them to *float out the window with him* to go visit a wondrous place. There, in Never-Never Land, adolescent Wendy is introduced as a "mother" to a group of odd-looking children who have never known what it is like to *feel a mother's emotions*. Upon their return home, Wendy's father catches a glimpse of the golden ship as it disappears in the sky and is stunned. He makes the intriguing remark, "*You know, I have the strangest feeling that I've seen that ship before, a long time ago ... somewhere in my youth.*"

(Next: "Explanations, Part Two: Connections with Sexual Trauma, False Memories, etc.")

Mr. Carpenter is MUFON's Director of Abduction Research. He can be contacted in writing at 4033 S. Belvedere Ct., Springfield, MO 65807.

UNITED NATIONS VIDEO

On October 2, 1992, a UFO presentation was made at the United Nations in an effort to reopen Decision GA 33/426. The two-hour VHS video tape includes Mohammad A. Ramadan, Stanton T. Friedman, John F. Schuessler and Robert H. Bletchman. Tapes of this monumental UN presentation may be purchased by Postal Money Order, personal check made payable through a U.S. bank or U.S. cash for \$19.95 plus \$2 for p.&h. to MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd. Seguin, TX 78155-4099, U.S.A.

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NEWS & VIEWS

FUND QUARTERLY REPORT

Efforts to investigate the Roswell UFO crash case continued during the first quarter of 1993. The Fund for UFO Research received and eventually approved a proposal by Karl Pflock, a former deputy assistant secretary of defense and currently a full-time researcher/writer, to conduct further research into the case. The grant will support general investigation costs and a field investigation trip to New Mexico to interview additional witnesses and to obtain documentary evidence.

During this period, the Fund also approved a proposal to support the research expenses of Leonard Stringfield into reported UFO crash/retrieval cases. The amount of support will be up to \$1,200 in 1993.

On February 6, the Fund sponsored the first of what may be a series of conferences on the UFO abduction phenomenon. Fifty-five persons attended the invitation-only suburban Washington, DC, conference, including abduction researcher Budd Hopkins and 20 "experiencers" — a dozen of whom participated in a lengthy panel discussion on the phenomenon. The conference was coordinated by board member Richard Hall, who has been conducting a local abduction investigation effort. (Hall's report on the five-year investigation, *Testing Reality. A Research Guide for the UFO Abduction Experience*, is now available from the Fund. Write for details.)

Also during this period, the Executive Committee approved a proposal submitted by John Kasher, Ph.D., professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, to analyze a videotape shot on board the space shuttle Discovery in October 1991, which he believes shows truly anomalous objects instead of ice particles (as maintained by NASA). Dr. Kasher proposes to use two graduate students and a \$17,000 work station to conduct the analysis. The committee agreed that the proposal was a worthwhile project and voted unanimously in favor of providing Dr. Kasher with up to \$400.

A panel consisting of board members Don Berliner (an aviation and science writer), Richard Hall (abstractor/editor), and Fred Whiting (former broadcast journalist) selected winners of the 1992 Donald Keyhoe Journalism Award competition, which is sponsored by the Fund. The winners were:

■ **First Place:** Christopher Evans of the Cleveland *Plain Dealer* for his article describing a U.S. Coast Guard investigation into the March 4, 1988, landing of an unidentified flying object on a frozen Lake Erie, near Fairport, OH. Evans received a \$500 cash prize.

■ **Second Place:** Annette Gillespie, staff writer of the Bradenton, FL, *Herald*, who wrote about the UFO abduction phenomenon, with four articles featuring local abduction witnesses who described their experiences. Gillespie received a \$250 award for her entry.

■ **Third Place:** Dawn Shurmaitis, a reporter for *The Times Leader* of Wilkes-Barre, PA, for a detailed examination of UFO activity and interest in the subject throughout the state. Shurmaitis received a \$100 prize.

■ **Honorable Mention:** Robin Hart, Living Section Editor of the *Foothill Leader* in Glendale, CA, for an article about a UFO "abductees" support group; and Laura Lee Janssen, reporter for the Williamsport, PA *Sun-Gazette*, for an article on a local UFO sighting report.

Fund for UFO Research

Box 277

Mount Rainier, MD 20712

TRIAD FOUNDATION

UFO researchers and enthusiasts now have an organization dedicated to providing forums for the professional presentation of information and ideas about UFOs and related subjects. The Triad Research Conference Foundation, in partnership with the Bigelow Foundation, has begun organizing conferences across the United States in an effort to bring researchers, professionals, and the general public together for educational exchanges regarding the UFO phenomenon. "The emphasis is on quality," says Denise Carpenter, a Triad founding member. "This is a serious subject that deserves a serious and professional setting for discussion," she adds.

Susan Bedell, another founding member of Triad, agrees. "We're not interested in presenting an off-the-wall circus. You can look at the credentials of our speakers and see that."

"Triad can bring it all to the area in which you live. Conference information is available by calling (417) 882-6847 or by writing to:

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September 17-19: MIDWEST CONFERENCE ON UFO RESEARCH will be held at the Quality Inn north of Springfield, Missouri at I-44 & Glenstone. Speakers include Budd Hopkins, George Knapp, Dr. Jesse Marcel, Jr., Linda Howe, Michael Lindemann, Dr. Jack Kasher, Colin Andrews, Rev. Barry Downing & panel of abduction participants including Debbie Jordan (Kathie Davis of Intruders). Call (417) 882-6847 for more info or write MIDWEST, 4033 S. Belvedere, Springfield, MO 65807.

"THE UFO EXPERIENCE" annual conference speakers recorded live on audio & video. Betty Hill, Whitley Streiber, Budd Hopkins, Stanton Friedman, Linda Howe, William Moore, Betty Andreasson & dozens of other researchers, contactees & abductees reporting their findings & experiences. Omega Communications, Box 2051, Cheshire, CT 06410, USA.

The Houston UFO Network Inc. meets the first Friday of every month, 7:30 pm, Holiday Inn, I-10 & Silber. This dynamic organization has 130 members and numerous areas of active research, including an abductee support group & electronic bulletin board & speakers like Bill Hamilton on September 3rd. (713) 850-1352.

JENNA ORION'S ET EXPERIENCES with 4 different alien species, 201 spaceships, beaming up—story by telephone. Dr. John Mack of Harvard has investigated Jenna's encounters. 17 topics numbered 1010 to 1025, 3-4 mins. each, \$1.49/min., 18 or older. (900) 678-3647, or call STAR LINE for free list. (800) 966-9668.

HUMAN REACTIONS STUDY: George D. Fawcett's unique four-year study of "Human Reactions to UFOs Worldwide" (1940-83) covers 31 distinct human reactions to UFOs in over 24 countries. Available for \$7.90 (includes p&h) from Arcturus Books, 1443 S. E. Port St. Lucie Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34952.

GULF BREEZE UFO CONFERENCE Oct 22-24, Pensacola Beach, FL. Speakers: Dr. John Mack (Conference Advisor), Dr. Michael Zimmerman, Dr. Judith Miller, Dr. Susan Fox, Budd Hopkins, Stanton Friedman, Robert Dean, John Carpenter, Leah Haley. Info: Box 730, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562 or call Vicki Lyons at (904) 432-8888.

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UFO EXTRAVAGANZA! The 3rd Annual International UFO Congress, Film Festival & "EBE Awards" will convene from November 29 to December 5 in the Las Vegas Showboat Hotel. Don't Miss! For details write Robert Brown, 4266 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94611 or call (510) 428-0202. FAX: (510) 654-7802.

UFOLOGIST & TELEVISION HOST (deceased) has collection of varied UFO books by various authors. Also, varied magazine collection, space & UFO only. All used, but in excellent condition. (Magazines 1975-1993). For availability & price list, write: E.T. Monitor, Box 310, Windsor, PA 17366. Enclose SASE.

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The NIGHT SKY

Walter N. Webb

September 1993

Bright Planets (Evening Sky):

Jupiter (magnitude -1.7) and Mars (1.6) pair up in Virgo on the 6th, the latter less than a degree below its much more conspicuous companion. (Jupiter is 21 times brighter.) Both are very low in the W in the early evening twilight and set about an hour after the Sun (midmonth). The lunar crescent joins the pair on the 17th 5° above Jupiter.

Saturn (0.5), retrograding in Capricornus, lies low in the ESE at dusk. It moves across the southern sky during the night.

Bright Planets (Morning Sky):

Venus (-4.0) rises in the E about 4 AM in mid-September. The resplendent planet is only 0.4° above the star Regulus on the 21st.

Saturn sets in the W about 4 AM in midmonth.

Vesta and the Helix:

The 335-mile-diameter asteroid Vesta was opposite the Sun on August 28 and remains bright enough (at 6th magnitude) in Aquarius to be visible in binoculars. It passes only half a degree above the Helix Nebula on September 11 and 12. At least a small telescope is required in order to view the Helix as a dim circular patch. Called a planetary nebula, it is the largest and nearest of this class of gaseous objects (half the apparent diameter of the full moon) and is located at R.A. 22h 30m, Dec. 20° 48' (not far from the 5th-magnitude star Upsilon Aquarii and some 10° SE of Saturn).

Moon Phases:

Last quarter—September 9



New moon—September 15*



First quarter—September 22



Full moon—September 30



*Extra high tides for several days after Harvest Moon

The Stars:

Even though autumn arrives officially September 22, the Summer Triangle maintains its lofty position high in the S during mid-evening hours. The upsidedown Flying Horse Pegasus, which includes the Great Square, rises higher in the SE, while Scorpius disappears in the SW. In the N the Big Dipper descends toward the horizon.

The hazy band of the Milky Way now passes overhead at midnorthern latitudes for its finest evening viewing of the year.

CALENDAR

UFO CONFERENCES FOR 1993

September 11 & 12 — Third Annual New Hampshire MUFON Conference, Yokens Convention Center, Route 1, Portsmouth, NH. For information write to NH-MUFON P.O. Box 453, Rye, NH 03870 or call (603) 436-9283 or (603) 673-3829.

September 17-19 — Midwest Conference on UFO Research, Quality Inn, just north of I-44 and Glenstone, Springfield, MO. For information call (417) 882-6847 or write to Midwest UFO Conference, 4033 So. Belvedere Ct, Springfield, MO 65807.

September 24-27 — 5th Annual National New Age Conference, Holiday Inn, Phoenix, Arizona. For information call (602) 230-5381.

October 9-10 — The UFO Experience, Holiday Inn, North Haven, Connecticut. For information contact John White, Omega Communications, P. O. Box 2051, Cheshire, CT 06410.

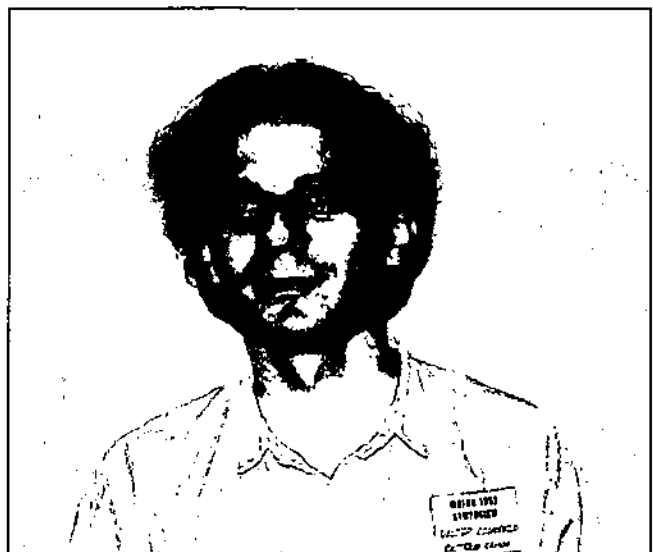
October 15, 16 & 17 — National UFO Conference, Days Inn in Bordentown, New Jersey, just off Exit #7 of the New Jersey Turnpike. For further information write to Pat Marcatillo at 138 Redfern St., Trenton, NJ 08610.

October 16-17 — Houston UFO Research Conference at the Wyndam Warwick Hotel. Call (417) 882-6847 for information.

October 22-24 — Gulf Breeze UFO Conference "The Search for Answers," Clarion Suites Convention Center, Pensacola Beach, Florida. INFO: Call Vicki Lyons at (904) 432-8888 or write P. O. Box 730, Gulf Breeze, Florida 32562.

November 13 — The Second Delaware UFO Symposium: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Copeland Lecture Hall, Winterthur Museum and Gardens, suburb of Wilmington, DE. For reservations call (302) 328-3804 or (302) 737-6127.

November 28 - December 5 — Third International UFO Congress, Film Festival and "EBE Awards," Las Vegas Showboat Hotel Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada. For further information write to Robert Brown, 4266 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94611 or call (510) 428-0202.



Victor Lourenco

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE - Continued from Page 24

to submit their name to either their respective state director or **Walt Andrus** in Seguin as a candidate for this vacancy by September 15, 1993, so an election may be conducted by mail. This prestigious position is only one of the four MUFON Board of Directors elected by the membership they represent.

Eastern Region State Directors should discontinue sending their UFO sighting reports to Mr. Ware, but instead mail them to **Jerold "Ron" Johnson**, MUFON Deputy Director of Investigations, 12700 Silver Creek, Austin, TX 78727, until such time as a new Eastern Regional Director is elected.

BOARD APPROVES ABDUCTION TRANSCRIPTION PROJECT

On July 4, 1993, the MUFON Board of Directors voted to financially approve and support the MUFON Abduction Transcription Project managed by **Dan R. Wright**, Project Coordinator, not to exceed \$4,000. This will be a joint project with the Fund for UFO Research (FUFOR), chaired by **Richard H. Hall**, and the Mutual UFO Network. Since this is a MUFON project, MUFON has pledged 51% and FUFOR 49%. If the program is discontinued for any reason by Mr. Wright, ownership of the computer equipment purchased will revert to MUFON. Mr. Hall has prepared a formal written approval for this transaction. MUFON recently purchased a laser printer for Mr. Wright to reproduce the transcription reports. Dan Wright is to be commended for his insight into helping leading hypnotherapists transcribe their hundreds of hours of audio tapes of abduction cases. Of course, the roses are owed to the team of women who have been actually doing the painstaking transcribing. We thank you generous ladies for your much appreciated work.

MUFON 1997 SYMPOSIUM

Michigan State Director **Shirley Coyne** has submitted a bid to host the MUFON 1997 International UFO Symposium in Ann Arbor, MI. If approved, this would be the third meeting in Michigan, having hosted the 1976 and 1986 affairs. Bids are being invited from the Eastern Region for 1996 and the Western Region for 1998. The MUFON 1994 International UFO Symposium will be hosted by Texas MUFON at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Town Lake in Austin, TX on July 8, 9 and 10. Special plans and speakers are being planned to recognize MUFON's 25th anniversary (silver) and symposia. **Ellen R. Stuart**, State Director, will be the host chairperson.

LETTERS - Continued from Page 17

For instance: This premise does not lead logically to the conclusion that (a) sightings are caused by machines operated by extraterrestrials, nor does it even infer that (b) human beings are being physically (or psychically) abducted against their will for whatever nefarious purposes. What tortuous inferential trail takes us from seeing strange objects to being, as Charles Fort postulated, someone's property? It's as if the ufologists were deliberately attempting to complicate the issue. The literature is replete with heated debate over precisely how many angels (aliens?) can dance on the head of a pin, when the simple fact of the existence of angels has not been formally established. This "Complication Factor" has a frustrating effect on anyone who attempts to understand the current state of ufological inquiry and results.

I would challenge the editors and contributors to the Journal to consider the following actions:

1. Analyze the sightings database(s) and publish a report on the number, and detailed characteristics, of sightings which were later found to have conventional causes.
2. Publicly regard the verity of data obtained via hypnosis as suspect.
3. Refuse to publish articles and letters consisting solely of ad hominem argument.

Why these questions? Because acting on them would address a criticism that objective students of the subject have (or should have), and it is the fact that science advances not only by successive stages of proof, but also by stages of disproof. Regarding item 1, if there are half a million sightings in the databases, and all but one can be proved to have a conventional cause, then researchers are finally getting close to some definitive answers. This is a key concept: If only one case survives analysis, then that is the case to which you should assign all your resources in the struggle to understand why it survived the hypothesis-test process! Item 2 is important because many feel that this investigative method is not only capable of giving flawed results, but that uncontrolled use will eventually cost many witnesses and researchers their credibility. With respect to item 3: Only logical forms of debate should be allowed in a journal of ostensibly scientific inquiry. When one point of view is so strong and well presented, and its supporting data are unassailable, it all too frequently causes the weaker side to mount an attack on the person representing the stronger point of argument. Such debate proves nothing and advances our understanding not a whit.

In conclusion let me say that the Journal is clearly fulfilling its mission to provide a forum for the creation and exchange of ideas; my observations are provided in that spirit of intellectual exchange.

—Jeff Rawlings
Yellville, AR

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Walter Andrus

NEWS FROM AROUND THE NETWORK**MUFON ANNUAL AWARD**

Each year MUFON honors a person in Ufology who their colleagues select for having made the most outstanding contribution to the advancement of the UFO phenomenon during the past five years. The distinguished recipient will be presented with an engraved plaque and monetary award from MUFON. Candidates may live anywhere in the world and do not have to be members of the Mutual UFO Network to be nominated for this prestigious award.

The logistics of nominating and voting for candidates worldwide requires adequate time for the *Journal* to arrive at the far corners of our planet, thus a revised time schedule has been adopted. Please submit the name of your candidate with a paragraph elaborating upon his/her accomplishments to warrant receiving this recognition. All nominations must be received in Seguin, Texas, by September 1, 1993. It is recommended that members in foreign countries use airmail for their nominations. This is your opportunity to express your appreciation and a personal thank-you to the person you so highly regard for their Ufological accomplishments. Please submit your nominations promptly so that a list of candidates may be published in the September 1993 issue of the *Journal*. A postcard or letter election will ensue with the winner being announced in the December 1993 issue. Please mail your nomination now while it is fresh in your mind.

MUFON 1993 SYMPOSIUM

The 24th Annual MUFON International UFO Symposium in Richmond, Virginia, exceeded all previous attendance records. For those of you who were unable to attend, the MUFON 1993 International UFO Symposium Proceedings (304 pages) are available from MUFON in Seguin, Texas, for \$20 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling. The proceedings include the papers of all speakers except Jorge Martin, whose extensive paper arrived too late to be published prior to the symposium.

Due to the exorbitant cost proposal by an independent contractor to videotape the symposium speakers, the contract was cancelled just prior to the meeting for obvious financial considerations with no possibility of securing a more reasonable bid for the services from another contractor. Sales of videotapes of past symposiums have been done at a financial loss, therefore it was a management decision to decline the bid of the con-

tractor who obviously wanted to take advantage of an opportunity. Various attendees made audio tapes at their own discretion.

NEW OFFICERS

Victor Lourenco (Mississauga, ON), Provincial Director for Ontario, Canada, has promoted **Tom Theofanous** (Toronto, ON) to be his Assistant Provincial Director and selected **Drew A. Williamson** (Toronto) to become the Provincial Section Director for the greater Toronto area. **Charles D. Flannigan** (Pensacola, FL), Florida State Director, appointed **James M. Bosworth**, M.S. (Gainesville, FL) as State Section Director for Alachua County and a Research Specialist in Entomology and Bio-Chemistry.

After developing a fine team of investigators in southern California, **John S. Weigle** (Ventura, CA) has relinquished his position as State Section Director for Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. In an election conducted by Mr. Weigle on June 25, 1993, the members present at their regular meeting unanimously elected **Michael J. Evans** (Simi Valley, CA) as their new State Section Director. The new State Section Director for New Castle County in Delaware is **Jay J. Winslow**.

CONSULTANTS AND RESEARCH SPECIALISTS

New consultants in Clinical Psychology volunteering their expertise were **Delbert G. "Del" Dobyns**, Ph.D. (Taipei, Taiwan) and **Rex P. Haire**, Ph.D. (Martin, TN). **Ivan A. White**, D.D. (Waterloo, NY) has rejoined MUFON as a Consultant in Theology and Field Investigator.

Three new Research Specialists joined MUFON this past month. They were **Richard Saucier**, M.S. (Bel Air, MD) in Physics; **Carolyn M. Schinzel**, M.L.S. (Deltona, FL) in Library Science; and **George Van Dam**, M.S. (San Angelo, TX) in Geology.

EASTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR ELECTION

In an unprecedented election, **Donald M. Ware** was voted to be removed from the MUFON Board of Directors effective June 1, 1993. This has created a vacancy on the Board for the position of Eastern Regional Director. Candidates are being solicited immediately for a full four-year term. This is an opportunity for present state directors, assistant state directors, and other leaders in the Eastern Region to accept greater responsibilities within the Mutual UFO Network. The Eastern Region is composed of the following states: ME, VT, NH, MA, CT, RI, NY, PA, NJ, DE, MD, WV, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, PR and VI. The Regional Director is elected by the members within the above states. Any interested and qualified person is invited and encouraged

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