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**THE QUARTERLY
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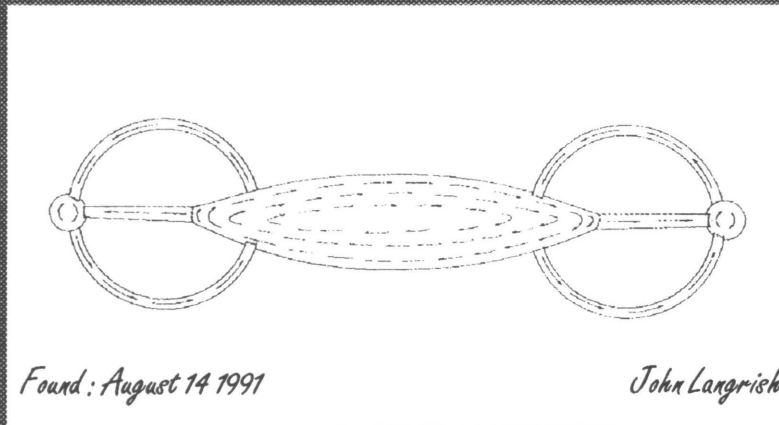
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CENTRE FOR CROP CIRCLE STUDIES



Inside : The Scientific Analysis



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The Quarterly Crop Circle Magazine

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INTRODUCTION

By
George Wingfield

It is certainly with mixed feelings that I have agreed to take over the editorship of *The Circular* from Bob Kingsley. We are all sad to see Bob relinquish control of the magazine which he began as a hobby in 1990 and which has been his inspiration and brainchild ever since. I am however delighted to say that Bob's connection with *The Circular* will be retained in that he will continue as Letters Editor and Editorial Adviser to the journal.

His reasons for quitting were described in last issue's Introduction and are perfectly understandable. The sheer volume of correspondence and the work involved in turning this round quite apart from all the administrative demands of running *The Circular* had become just too much. So in taking on the editorship I am only too well aware of the problems, and they are not ones from which I am immune either. Quite apart from *The Circular* I am kept extremely busy writing, lecturing and travelling besides my various duties for CCCS. So at this point I would like to offer an apology to all those who have written to me on matters circular - quite apart from correspondence intended for the journal - and have not yet received a reply. We do our best, but there are only 24 hours in the day!

Nevertheless the challenge of producing *The Circular* is something that I am most ready to take on, despite all these other commitments. A lot of help is going to be needed and I am pleased to say that I have already received many offers. Initially I intend to retain the present format of *The Circular* but it is hoped that we can shortly address the requirement of publishing better quality photographs in the journal and producing a rather glossier magazine. Crop circles are essentially a visual thing and I think we owe it to the circles to show the designs clearly. Richard Beaumont, Editor of *Kindred Spirit*, has kindly offered much advice and guidance regarding the steps which we hope to take in this direction. So bear with us a while, though I can't promise a magazine of the quality and attractiveness of *Kindred Spirit* in just a few easy moves!

The Circular is published by the CCCS and is the journal of that organisation. I would like to emphasise this link and to restate that it is primarily your journal as members of CCCS. We will do everything to present

a balanced point of view regarding the Circles phenomenon, whatever direction this may take. Since the Circles are highly unpredictable and could conceivably refuse to perform altogether in 1992, the prospect of editing a magazine entirely dedicated to the study of crop circles might seem as unwise a venture as building one's house on a quicksand.

Yet, despite the gathering of forces of those who are opposed to the circles, and those who would have you believe that it is all nothing but a massive hoax, I have no doubt at all that we are dealing with a genuine phenomenon. Of course there are hoaxes and these must be rooted out and identified. The winter of 1991/1992 has indeed been a time of doubt and despondency in circles circles which is hardly surprising in view of the triumphal braying in certain sections of the press whose eager acceptance of the Doug and Dave scam as a total solution to the circles was premature and unjustified. Whatever the nature of the physical phenomenon, there is undoubtedly a human phenomenon as well and the effects of the circles on people and the way their lives have been changed merits study in itself.

Naturally CCCS must carefully investigate all claims of hoax and reports of suspicious indications such as were put forward in Ken Brown's article in the previous issue. But we must not accept what very often prove to be facile and contrived solutions before they have been fully examined from every angle. Many of these claims dissipate like the morning mist when subjected to the strong light of day. But the circles are hoax-like in nature, in so far as no one can ever be certain of how an event occurred which went unwitnessed, and the impression is that a trick has been played on one. Then it seems, judging by the interminable unsuccessful surveillance operations which we undertake year after year, that perhaps one is not meant to see circles form.

The gloom and doom in some quarters will most likely give way to excitement and even elation when the new circles of 1992 start to appear. It is only human to doubt and all of us are beset with uncertainty at times. Even the Pope, one would imagine, is troubled with occasional doubts. And, remembering the unbounded enthusiasm and exhilaration of some circles meetings, such as the Conference in Glastonbury last September, one must acknowledge that it is not possible to experience the highs without the lows.

Having said that I believe that CCCS must concentrate hard on obtaining positive scientific evidence during 1992. Some of the results from the testing of crop and soil

samples in 1991 were of a most encouraging nature and gave strong indication of physical effects on the plants consistent with the action of some form of high-energy radiation. Whether this can be attributed to micro-waves or some other form of electromagnetic radiation is still in dispute. An article in this issue by Montague Keen, "The Scientific Analysis, Progress and Setbacks", reviews the scientific results so far. Monty will be in charge of the sample taking programme for CCCS for 1992 and details of this will be made known in *The Circular*. It is a sad reflection on the attitude of British universities and scientific institutions that the initial circles sample testing has all been carried out by our colleagues in the United States. I think that we can thank the uninformed and antagonistic attitude of certain sections of the British press for this state of affairs.

In this issue we are reprinting an important article by Michael Strainic on the crop circles which occurred near Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada, last summer. Especially interesting are the reactions and experiences of visitors to these circles and the attitudes of those involved. These parallel crop circle experiences in this country in many ways which we have become used to. Also interesting is the fact that dumb-bells and circle formations with connecting pathways have appeared in Canada in the same way that they started appearing in this country. It is ironical certain baseball-capped gentlemen claim to have invented the dumb-bell formations in this country in 1990!

Another fascinating article is supplied by Julie Varden and John Wakefield. This tells how the Mayans and the Hopi relate to many of the symbols which have been appearing in our cornfields and which they say are replicas of symbols sacred to their ancestors. Although some will doubt this sort of connection, there are growing indications that this is indeed the message of the circles and it is a link we would all be well advised to consider. My own visit with John Haddington to the Hopi in Arizona last year was all too brief and will have to be repeated.

So please keep sending us material for this journal of the CCCS. Although we can't promise to publish everything, we do want to hear your points of view, your experiences and your interpretations of the phenomenon. Few of us doubt that something of a remarkable nature and something of great importance is taking place, not just in this country but worldwide. It is the task of *The Circular* to chronicle these changes and inform our readers.

ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE WHEAT

By
Michael Strainic

This is about crop circles, as opposed to the more inclusive category of UGMs (1*) This includes all types of unidentified ground markings, burn marks, etc.) (unidentified ground markings). Canada's first full year of crop circle reports was 1990, in which we covered quite a bit of evolutionary ground. The first reports of 1990 were very simple, single-swirl crop circles. Before the season ended, we had braided double ringers with crossbars and pathways and other highly interesting configurations. Unfortunately, for all their complexity and rapid evolution, these reports got very little mention in the journals of the international cerealogical community. "Canada had some, too" was basically all that was said.

The 1991 season was another evolutionary jump of major importance. Circles reports *per se* were the exception rather than the rule; nearly all reports were of agriglyphs.

The first circle of the 1991 season was discovered over the Easter weekend in Fort Lawrence, Nova Scotia. Although this was most probably a leftover from the previous year which had lain under the snow undetected, this early discovery did cause Canadian ufologists and cerealogists to expect a very early and prolific crop circle season. We were as prepared as possible, and we had good information and reporting networks in place. However, when the circle onslaught did arrive, it was neither early, nor particularly prolific.

It was, however, remarkable.

OPENING CREDITS

This article is based for the most part on the on site investigations of UFO*BC's intrepid veteran cerealogist, Chad Deetken. Mr. Deetken spent nearly six days in the Lethbridge area, crawling through circle formations, interviewing witnesses, taking both aerial and ground-level photographs, and gathering soil and grain samples. In addition, he has arranged for many of the laboratory tests of the samples which are now being done. Although the main

purpose of this article is to bring this information to the ufological and cerealogical communities, hopefully it can also be considered a small tribute to Chad's dedication to the subject and his desire for the free exchange of information.

Special thanks are also due to Gordon Kijek of the Alberta UFO Study Group (AUFOSG), for additional information on the Lethbridge-TV event and others, and in particular, for data on the questionable Okotoks formation, which we were unable to investigate.

Also, a debt of gratitude is owed the farmers on whose property the various crop circle formations were discovered, the *Lethbridge Herald* and other media outlets, and the residents in and around Lethbridge, Alberta, for their willingness to help, their hospitality and their honesty.

MEDIA GROUPIES

The first stars of our Alberta mini-series were not exactly shy. In fact, they were discovered hanging out at the local television station....

At about 3.00 p.m. on August 21, 1991, farmer Hugh Laycock was swathing his wheat crop, when he saw a large flattened circle in the grain. He soon realized that there was quite a bit more to be seen: about 10.7 metres south of the circle was a formation of three more circles which were connected by corridors, a triple-dumbbell configuration. Mr. Laycock immediately shut down his combine, and went to contact the media. This was not exactly a difficult task, since the circle formation was only 50 metres from the front door of the Lethbridge television station CFCN-TV.

When people from the news department saw the formation, they immediately contacted several agencies, including Agriculture Canada, the Lethbridge Astronomical Society, the Lethbridge Police, and AUFOSG. The area was cordoned off pending the arrival of investigators, and then the story hit the airwaves.

As for the formation itself, the northern, free-standing, circle was flattened anti-clockwise, as were the two outermost circles of the formation. The large, centre circle of the dumbbell was flattened clockwise; the grain within the corridors was flattened outward towards the smaller satellite circles. The formation was definitely not symmetrical, nor were the circles perfectly round. The grain in the circles was extremely brittle, and broke easily when stepped on, yet there were no

broken stalks at all inside the formation. Soil samples were taken, and are being analyzed by Alberta Agriculture.

Several informal tests were conducted at this site, all with negative results. A compass was taken into each circle, and no effects were registered. Voice recordings were made, and no background noises were heard. And, finally, one of those controversial animal experiments was attempted: a dog was taken for a stroll through the circles. This elicited no reaction whatsoever (at least from the dog).

There were at least five reports of anomalous lights seen in the area during the week prior to the discovery of this formation. AUFOSG is awaiting the return of the report forms for further information.

This first reported formation, situated right outside the local television station, was actually within Lethbridge City Limits. As unusual as this may seem, it is not the first time this has happened. In 1990, a crop circle was reported in St. Francois Xavier, Manitoba, which is technically within Winnipeg City Limits. There is a very interesting point to be noted here. In both these instances where a circle was discovered within city limits, it was the very first event to be reported in what would ultimately be a continuing series of crop circle reports.

OKOTOKS HOAX?

At about 8:00 a.m. on August 27, 1991, a crop circle formation was discovered in a barley field in Okotoks, Alberta, just south of Calgary, but about 130 kilometres north-northwest of Lethbridge. By the time it was reported to the owner of the field, it was well-trampled by the curious. There are many aspects of this formation which raise doubts as to its legitimacy.

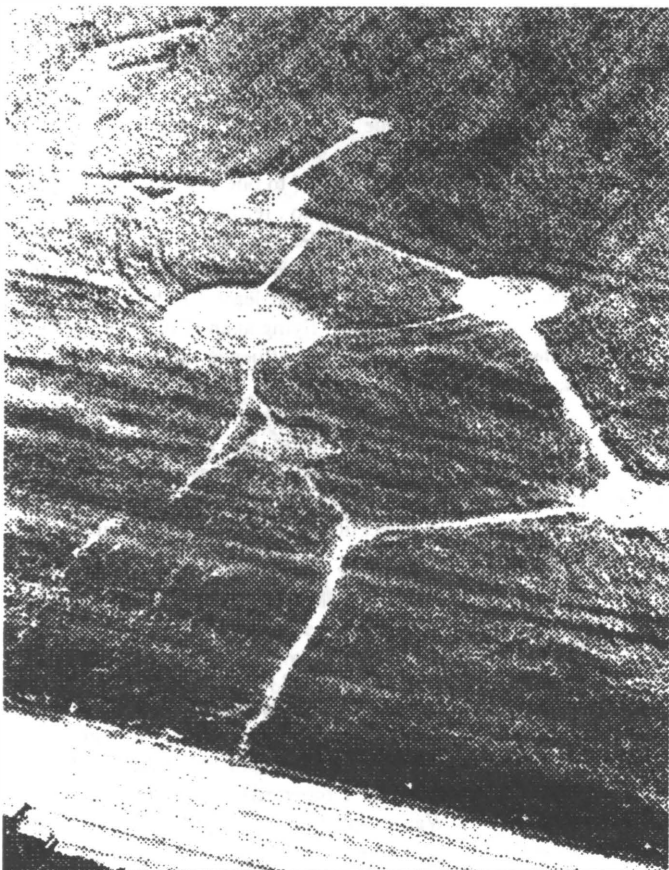
First of all, it was a near-duplicate of the Lethbridge/TV station triple-dumbbell formation of six days earlier. There was disturbed dirt near the centre of one of the satellite circles, and another had a dirt fracture running through the centre. The largest circle was not neatly formed, and one section of the circumference was perfectly straight, rather than curved, for a distance of 5.5 metres. As well, there was what appeared to be a partially-started circle about 20 metres from the main formation. In this circle, the barley was bent over at a height of about one foot (2*) Of course, this is certainly not conclusive proof that the formation was hoaxed, but does lend credence to that hypothesis.

There were no known UFO reports in the

area at the time, nor were there any of the alleged "paranormal" effects reported which were to become a regular feature of the Alberta crop circle events.

By September 1, circle reports were coming in from all over the Lethbridge area. It is impossible to say exactly when each of the formations were made, but in no case would it have been more than four days prior to discovery. In some cases, the owners of the farms exhibited extraordinary presence of mind in preserving the site until researchers could arrive. Unfortunately, this was not always the case, and some sites were swathed; even so, this did not hamper efforts to take accurate measurements and secure soil samples.

One of the formations to fall prey to the swath was on the Hubbard farm, across from the complex Watmough agriglyph, to be discussed later. The Hubbard formation was a simple "check mark" or "V" shape, consisting of three circles connected by two corridors, which meet at right angles. The two outer circles were swirled anticlockwise, and the centre one clockwise. Of particular interest here is the fact that one outer circle is not a circle at all. Although most crop circles are not perfect circles, here we have a true oval, with axial measurements of 9 feet by 12 feet 8 inches.



FRED WATMOUGH'S FORMATION - COALHURST

SEPTEMBER 1991 © KEVIN KOOY

Another configuration that was given an unwelcome haircut was the one on Jenny Skinner's farm. This was an extremely interesting triangular pattern of three circles; a "T" shape with a cross bar connected the circles, all of which were swirled anticlockwise. Unusual features here were a "kink" in one of the connecting corridors, and the fact that the grain in both of the crossbars was parted, and was flattened in opposing directions.

WARNER BROTHERS

Perhaps the most beautiful formation of all is the "Four Brother" quadruplet in Warner, outside of Lethbridge. In terms of complexity, it is the simplest of our mini-series. In terms of strangeness and of peripheral effects, it is by far the most complex.

This grouping is simply four classic circles in an unequal cross configuration, two circles swirled anticlockwise on one diagonal, and two swirled clockwise on the other. When they were discovered by farmer Roy Tetzlaff, he immediately combined all around the formation to preserve it, and by doing so, effectively isolated it from the rest of the field. Artistically, the result is arguably the most beautiful set of crop circles yet recorded in North America.

The field was thickly planted with wheat; it was a rich brown in colour, and ready for harvest. There were no tramlines or other landmarks to break up the seamless stretch of grain, and it was into this pristine tableau that, somehow, four perfectly etched circles were deposited.

There was not a single trace of any kind of ground activity anywhere around these circles. Once again, the flattened grain was so dry and brittle inside the circles that the lightest step would break it, yet there was absolutely no sign of any disturbance. The grain had been laid down in several layers: one layer would be set down at an angle to the previous one, and then

the effect would be repeated. Again, some single stalks were found standing, and some of these were bent over, halfway up their stalks, at right angles.

It was also within this formation that the "pop rocks" were noted. There were many rocks strewn about, both inside and outside the circles. In and of itself, this was not at all unusual to find. What was unusual, though, was the fact that many of these rocks seemed to have "popped" out of their previous locations, and had moved just slightly from their original positions. Many of these rocks were at a ground level considerably higher than the flattened grain, once again creating a real challenge for any alleged Directors of Board.

The Warner formation is not just notable for its haunting beauty, but for other haunting qualities as well, and these will be detailed later. But first, we should detour from the sublime to the downright bizarre.

The crop circle complex found on Fred Watmough's farm in Lethbridge is far and away the strangest formation yet discovered. If the British circles are being etched by Extra Terrestrial Eschers, this one was fabricated by a visually-impaired dyslexic.

Although it is a very elaborate pattern, certainly the most intricate yet reported in North America, it seems to be both random and precise. The overall imagery is vague, and one is left wondering just what it is supposed to be.

Gazing at crop circle configurations can be a lot like cloud watching. Whereas some formations resemble definite objects, or conjure up distinct images, others have interpretations which are far more subjective and personal. No matter what you consider agriglyphs to be - a new or obscure symbolic language, an artistic endeavour, or a cosmic Rorschach test - the Watmough agriglyph presents a real challenge.

In this formation we have an appendage shaped like the letter "F". There is a triangle, nearly isosceles, made of corridors, or lines, which serves no purpose at all except to be a triangle - it connects nothing to anything else. Some of the corridors connect at perfect right angles. One of the smaller circles is formed right on and around a large bare patch of ground, giving the distinct impression of an eye staring upwards. There is a precision here, yet the overall appearance is haphazard. In media interviews, I have described this formation as looking like coins tossed randomly on a tabletop, and then connected with lines -

hardly conjuring up the same image as some of the British circles have. Perhaps the best evaluation of the imagery came from our artist, Paul Anderson. After staring at various photos of this configuration, Paul Anderson looked up and said, "it looks like the Canadian search for an identity." I couldn't have said it better.

UP STANDING

There were many peculiar features in most of the Alberta formations. One of the most puzzling discoveries was the Single Stalk Syndrome. This was the appearance in every formation discovered of many *single stalks* of standing wheat randomly dispersed throughout the circles. In any given circle, anywhere from a dozen or so to scores of isolated single stalks remained standing, while all their neighbours were laid quite flat. This is particularly odd when one considers that a single wheat plant may sprout as many as 20 stalks of grain. Obviously, this effect would be extremely difficult to accomplish with a board, plank, or rope, no matter what you have hanging on your hat.

The "eddy" effect appeared in several circles, as well. Whereas most British circles with corridors appear as two separate but distinct artifices, in several of the Lethbridge cases, a corridor would enter the periphery of a circle, form the circumference, and then spiral towards the centre. Close up, this resembles an eddy in water, but the overall appearance from a distance is scarcely different from the usual. It does, however, indicate the sequences involved in their formation. All mechanical equipment, e.g., cameras, radio and recording equipment, and vehicles used by investigators and media at the different sites functioned normally, although some effects were reported by others. As have been done in Britain and elsewhere, several tests were carried out using recording equipment. When recording using a microphone, no abnormal sounds were detected. Metal rods were then inserted into the soil at circle sites, with leads hooked up to the microphone input; once again, nothing registered.

MY GRAIN HEADACHES

Unlike UFOs which tend to be transient events, crop circles are inclined to stay around for a while. They just sit there in their fields and stare back at those staring at them. Consequently, crop circle reports engender far more than their share of anecdotal evidence, which may eventually

take the form of a local mythos. When there are *bona fide* peripheral effects associated with the formations as well, the dividing line between effect and rumour may become hazy.

Since we do not know what is causing crop circles, all the data must be placed in the record. Any reported effect, no matter how strange, may eventually provide a clue to the true nature of the phenomenon. However, we should be cautious as to how much *weight* is given a particular effect. Although cerealogy is still a fledgeling science, the types and number of peripheral effects associated with crop circle events are growing. Perhaps it is time to initiate a variation of Hynek's Strangeness and Probability Index for crop circle reports.

One effect that would rate high on such a scale would be the widespread reports of headaches which were attributed to the circles. In nearly every instance in the Alberta series, people reported developing headaches, often quite severe ones, after having entered or even having been near a crop circle. There were also reports of dizziness, nausea, general *malaise*, or simply a feeling of uneasiness when in proximity of a circle. While some of these instances could be attributed to a variety of mundane causes, e.g., excitement, anxiety, and the like, this symptom was too pervasive to not have at least some basis in reality.

Another feature which was repeatedly mentioned was the strange behaviour of animals, and especially the excessive, unusual, or uncharacteristic barking of dogs prior to the discovery of a formation. This was not just common knowledge in the area, but was mentioned quite specifically by some.

For instance, Jenny Skinner's dog howled a great deal the night before her formation was discovered, as did most of the dogs in that area. Fred Watmough, owner of the most elaborate formation to be found, reported that his dog "went crazy all night long." Roy Tetzlaff, whose field gave birth to quadruplets, is the owner of two very quiet and very friendly Malamutes. Many Malamutes, depending on their genetic makeup, are practically incapable of barking, and this was certainly the case with Mr. Tetzlaff's dogs. Still, they became very agitated, noisy, and were yowling the day before the crop circles were found.

One particularly interesting animal effect which was noted might provide a good basis for further investigation, and perhaps yield a clue as to what type or types of energy are associated with crop circles.



Watmough Formation
© Chad Deetken

This effect was studied in detail by Chad Deetken while he was measuring the complex Watmough formation.

A large flock of Canada geese were feeding in a field approximately 1 km from the formation. On several occasions, various sized groups would leave the flock and head off for a destination in line with the crop circle formation. Every single time a group approached the site, they would detour - veer off to one side or the other - and then continue on their original course. Sometimes a group would split up, some geese flying off to one side and some to the other, only to reform the group after effectively clearing the formation. *Not once did any goose fly directly over the configuration.* At least 100 birds took part in this ritual, flying at an altitude of 30 to 50 feet. So as to influence the birds' flight as little as possible, Chad was extremely careful to crouch down and remain still long before any geese got near the formation. After the birds had passed the site, they flew over people and moving vehicles with no indication of fear or unusual caution.

GENERALLY ELECTRIC

Although there were no reports of mechanical failures associated with these reports, there were many instances of electrical failures and anomalies. Mostly, these were reported within three km of the Warner quadruplets, and the most common problems were related to microwave ovens. At least three microwave ovens were reported to have malfunctioned, and in a variety of ways. Roy Tetzlaff's microwave

blew out an internal fuse, and another oven, which had been turned off, allegedly somehow *turned itself on*. By the time this was discovered, a plastic plate on top of the oven had warped from the heat. In addition, automobile radar detectors in the area were said to have gone off when the units were not turned on and when the cars' engines were not running.

Perhaps the effect most familiar to ufologists is the radio-telephone incident reported by Roy Tetzlaf in Warner. After discovering the quadruplet formation, Mr Tetzlaf picked up the radiotelephone which he had in his harvester to phone the nearby grain elevator. He was curious to find out if they could see the formation from their vantage point. The line, so to speak, was completely dead; no noise, no static, nothing. He decided to return to the farmhouse and use the telephone there. When he arrived, on an impulse, he tried the radiotelephone once more, and...it worked. He immediately went back out to the circle site, and when he tried the 'phone again, it was once again doing its best impression of a doorknob. Nothing. Back to the house one more time, and, yes, it worked just fine.

All very strange incidents, to be sure, but there were things happening that were far stranger.

INTO THE MYSTIC

Effects were reported in crop circle areas which can only be described as paranormal or poltergeistic in nature. While one of these incidents could well be attributed to a sound associated with crop circle formation, the other is just plain spooky.

Jenny Skinner and her daughter-in-law-both reported hearing, the night before their circle formation was discovered, an extremely strange noise. This was heard around the time the neighbourhood dogs were making a commotion. The sound was quite loud and distinct, and seemed to be coming from above the house, at rooftop level. This sound was described as like "a huge, gigantic bird, flapping its wings." It was also described as "a loud, swishing" sound, so loud that it woke the daughter-in-law from a sound sleep. Both Ms. Skinner and her daughter-in-law believe that they heard the same sound, or a similar one, several nights earlier. Since it is not known exactly when the circles were made, it seems possible that this sound may actually have been the crop circle formation mechanism at work. An unusually bright light was seen on the horizon around this time, and a neighbour was so upset by all these events, she refused to discuss them

with anyone. (3*) (This is similar to the case of an elderly woman who, according to the local media, had seen a similar bright light in the sky at a reasonably close range, and was so terrified by it that she subsequently refused to speak with anyone about the incident).

While recreating an experiment conducted last year at a circle site in the Province of Saskatchewan, the strangest phenomenon of all was encountered. Late at night, sometime past midnight, Chad and two companions entered the Watmough configuration, and each laid down in a different section of the complex. It was a brisk but pleasant night, and stargazing and searching for the *aurora borealis* was a convenient excuse for doing this, but the actual purpose was to see what, if anything, might be seen, heard, or experienced that was out of the ordinary.

All three people reclining in the formation experienced something unusual at exactly the same time, only this was not known until some time later. After spending some time lying in the formation, Chad began experiencing a tension in his muscles which increased until breathing became difficult. This tension was so acute that he was forced to sit up, and on doing so, became quite dizzy. As he was sitting up, he noticed that one of his companions, quite a distance away, was shining a flashlight around the area, as if looking for something.

Later, Chad questioned the two separately as to what, if anything, they had experienced while in the formation. Both people told him, independently, that whenever they closed their eyes, they clearly and distinctly heard the sound of footsteps. It was the sound of someone walking on the dry flattened wheat stalks in the pathways, and it seemed to be very close. When asked why he had been shining the flashlight around, the one person said he was afraid someone - or something - was going to step on him.

The next day, on a return visit to the Warner formation, Chad casually asked Roy Tetzlaf if he had ever been out in the circles at night. Roy said that he had, and when pressed for details, he related a similar story of hearing the distinct sound of footsteps nearby. In total, there were three identical experiences, from two different locations, and each was reported independently of the others.

ZEITGEIST

Crop circles are strange. They are not quite like anything else. They appear suddenly and mysteriously, and are audacious enough

to stay right where they are. They are taunting and puzzling. People don't "believe in" crop circles; crop circles simply are. People are affected by them.

Since people are pretty much the same everywhere, and crop circles are now making appearance in more places, how did the inhabitants of this microcosm of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada react when they were suddenly assaulted by this phenomenon? What did they think, what did they feel? What was their explanation for the unknown?

The consensus of opinion was that the most likely culprit was UFOs, for obvious reasons. People had been seeing unexplained lights in the sky. The circles looked as though they had been created by something from above. Conventional explanations just didn't fit.

There were no vortex hunters in the area, so the idea of some wonderful new meteorological invention didn't occur to anyone - besides, the weather had been fairly typical for the season. It was harvest time and many farmers were working from daybreak till well after midnight, so people were probably just too exhausted to go out and destroy their own crops (and thus their livelihood), even though it would have been one heck of a good joke.

The whole community was alive, puzzling over the strange events in the fields. When investigators of various stripes arrived, they were as puzzled as everyone else, although some at least were familiar with the puzzle. People wanted a definite answer, and when none was forthcoming, they settled for what seemed the most reasonable and rational explanation under the circumstances: UFOs.

INADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE

Obviously, UFOs as an explanation for anything is not going to play well in Peoria, Lethbridge, or anywhere else if you're among a certain segment of the audience. Some folks just won't tolerate that possibility. There has to be a better answer, something more... convenient.

All of a sudden, there was such an answer. Those annoying circles really were hoaxes after all, even though thus far no one at all had come forward to claim responsibility for them. The Alberta Sceptics knew the circles were hoaxes, because they themselves had created the circles! Of course, this sceptical contingent was rather vague as to particulars, i.e., which ones,

when, etc., and their technique left a lot to be desired as well. But for some, it was sufficient.

There was one other explanation offered, which should be mentioned for its sociological interest. The working title for this article was "Fear and Swathing in Alberta", based on an incident which occurred in the area and caused a bit of unpleasantness.

Amid all the excitement, interest, and sense of wonder brought on by the appearance of the Lethbridge circles, and even though some people were somewhat frightened by what they had seen, no one really reacted in a negative way. However, at least one individual, with a certain vested interest, had to propose a somewhat more sinister, and perhaps even slightly subterranean, explanation.

A Fundamentalist preacher, new to the Lethbridge area, and who evidently felt that any silver lining must obviously have a cloud attached, claimed that the crop circles were the work of the Devil Himself. When this Revelation got a less-than-enthusiastic reception among the adult population, the preacher began terrorizing small children with his theory. Whether this person is still ministering to his flock there is unknown.

TESTING

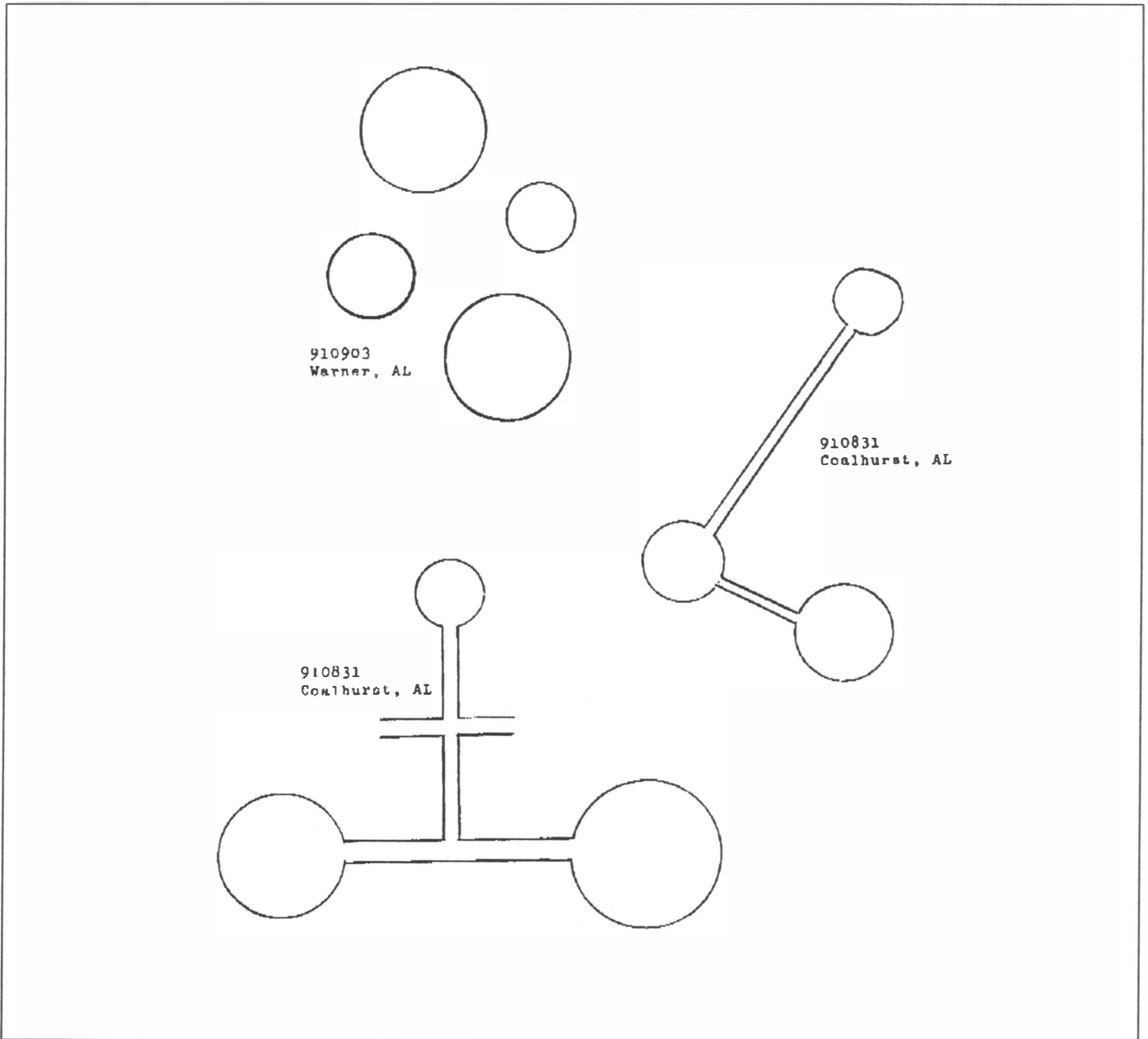
As always in crop circle cases, laboratory tests are *de rigueur*. Some have been completed, and others are still being done. Not surprisingly, results thus far are either inconclusive or negative.

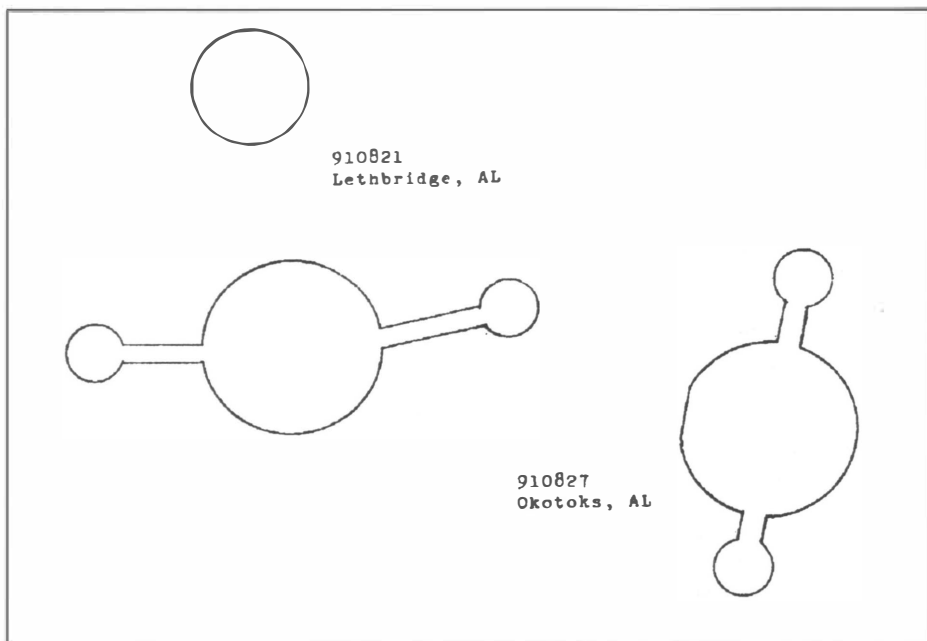
Some of the tests arranged by UFO*BC include the usual checks for fungi,

herbicides, and petrochemicals, etc., as well as a population count of our friends the nematodes. (4*) These basic tests have produced nothing of particular interest. However, a more sophisticated battery of tests, including various tests for radiation, is being done at a facility in eastern Canada, and we are awaiting those results. Samples have also been sent to Dr. Levensgood for his unique analysis.

Things are now quiet on our Western front. No new circles have been reported since that hectic week in September.

So, what did it all mean? There are a few observations we can make on this situation. Although England remains the Crop Circle Capital of the World, and will likely remain so, Canada is certainly holding its own in this area. The situation here has evolved far more rapidly than it did in England. For





years, while the world was watching the English countryside, we were receiving virtually no crop circle reports at all. Then suddenly, in a mere two years, however, we are only slightly behind in the complexity of our formations.

The UFO connection, in the form of lights in the sky (LITS), is becoming stronger. The peripheral effects reported, at least this year, appear to be becoming a standard feature. The Canadian configurations, although similar to others elsewhere, have a personality all their own.

Consider the crop circles worldwide. Are crop circle formations, and the Canadian ones in particular, reflective of not only the country's unique *agriculture* but of its unique *culture* as well?

Perhaps. Or perhaps not. Only time, or a breakthrough, will tell. The best thing to do would be to stay tuned next year. Same time, same country.

NOTES

MICHAEL J. STRAINIC is both the Provincial Director for British Columbia and Canadian National Director on the MUFON Board of Directors. This article was originally published in the December 1991 issue of the MUFON UFO Journal, which is edited by Dennis Stacy. The annual subscription is \$30 in US funds for those living outside the U.S.A. All enquiries and requests for subscription should be addressed to MUFON UFO Journal, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, TX 78155 - 4099, U.S.A. (Telephone: 0101 - 512 379 9216).

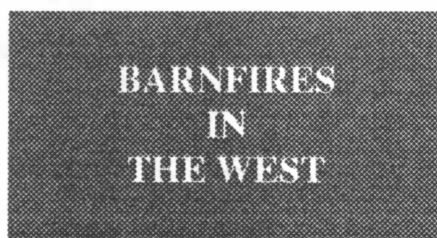
-ooOoo-

(1*) UGM, or Unidentified Ground Marking, is a naming convention devised by the North American Institute for Crop Circle Research (NAICCR). This includes all types of unidentified ground markings, bum marks, etc.

(2*) This feature figures prominently in one other report from the area. A circle was allegedly discovered near the Warner area, in a field of mustard, several weeks prior to these events. The mustard was said to be bent over at a height of two feet from the ground, and quickly righted itself.

(3*) This is similar to the case of an elderly woman who, according to the local media, had seen a similar bright light in the sky at a reasonably close range, and was so terrified by it that she subsequently refused to speak with anyone about the incident.

(4*) For those who tuned in late, nematodes are microscopic worms found in all soils.



A series of barn fires this winter has destroyed hundreds of tons of straw and hay in Wiltshire, Avon, Buckinghamshire, and the Thames Valley. Since September roughly thirty fires had been reported in these areas causing damage in excess of 1 million. The spate of outbreaks has baffled police and firemen alike. Although spontaneous combustion of straw can take place in some conditions, firemen did not believe this a viable explanation and talked in terms of mysterious gangs of arsonists.

But there was no indication whatever that arsonists had been at work.

Can this have any possible connection with the crop circles? No, probably not, and to suggest otherwise would be pure speculation ... but there are certain tenuous parallels which might make cereologists sit up and take interest. Last August the stubble imprint of the Ickleton Mandelbrot mysteriously caught fire and most of the stubble in the field burned before the fire brigade managed to contain the fire. Arson was suspected. Could the rising circles energies in some way lead to spontaneous combustion of straw? Several of the barn fires were reported from farming areas where there had been circles: Devizes, Clench Common, Bath, Aylesbury, etc.

A further parallel with the circles mystery is the unsupported assumption here that pyromaniacs or a band of arsonists must be responsible. In a similar way many insist that the 1991 Wiltshire pictograms must all be the work of unseen hoaxers. Perhaps hypothetical unseen firebugs (HUFs) will gain the same mythical status and notoriety as those ubiquitous "bogus social workers" (BSWs) of modern folklore. But, seriously, the barn fires most likely do have some perfectly ordinary explanation.

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THE SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS

By
Montague Keen

The absence of crop circles during an English winter should in no way suggest a time for hibernation on the part of the CCCS. On the crops effect front the chief aim is to ensure that arrangements to conduct orderly examination of both soil and crops, inside and outside (apparently genuine) formations are ready in time for the expected resumption of the circle-making force.

That's easier said than done. The first set-back in our efforts to ensure a sympathetic scientific environment in which to work this summer came before the print had dried on the last *Circular*. I had described the exciting and clearly important indications from English crop circle samples of a number of radioactive isotopes whose identity had been detected from a gamma spectroscopy analysis carried out in a US government laboratory for Marshall Dudley of Tennessee. But in mid-January, when he was at last allowed entry into the laboratory to examine the data for himself, it transpired that no reliance could be placed upon this identification because the radioactivity detectable was too low for the programmed sensitivity level of the computerised graphic peaks.

This was a chastening experience for Marshall, and his co-author Mike Chorost; and it also propelled me into reverse gear so that I could re-write some of the promised booklet on the 1991 scientific evidence for the crop circle phenomenon. After computer breakdowns at this end, causing further delay, the book was due out in early March.

The set-back has its brighter side, since it has enabled Marshall to arrange to have all the equipment for monitoring and assaying radioactivity in soils and crops under his control, thanks to the far-sighted interest of Oxford Instruments, which owns the specialist radioactivity instrumentation company (Tennelec) for which Marshall until recently was chief designer. This should be of enormous help in coping with soil analyses, since indications are that we shall be looking for short-lived isotopes,

and with pretty low levels of radioactivity, so speed could be of the essence.

The Dudley/Chorost findings have been attacked in a scathing review in Paul Fuller's *Crop Watcher*. A still more scathing rebuttal from Chorost ought to be appearing in the next issue, hopefully unbowdlerised. All good, healthy argument, better out in the open.

However qualified the radioactivity evidence may be, there is enough of it to justify the most thorough and careful replication trials this coming season, with improved sampling and analysis techniques. Valuable as the proposed Oxford facility will be, it is clearly important to have independent testing facilities; and some would argue that even at this stage provision should be made for blind testing - a well-recognised practice designed to eliminate human error, deliberate or otherwise.

Rather more complicated, and even more controversial, will be the arrangements for sampling and examining plants from formations.

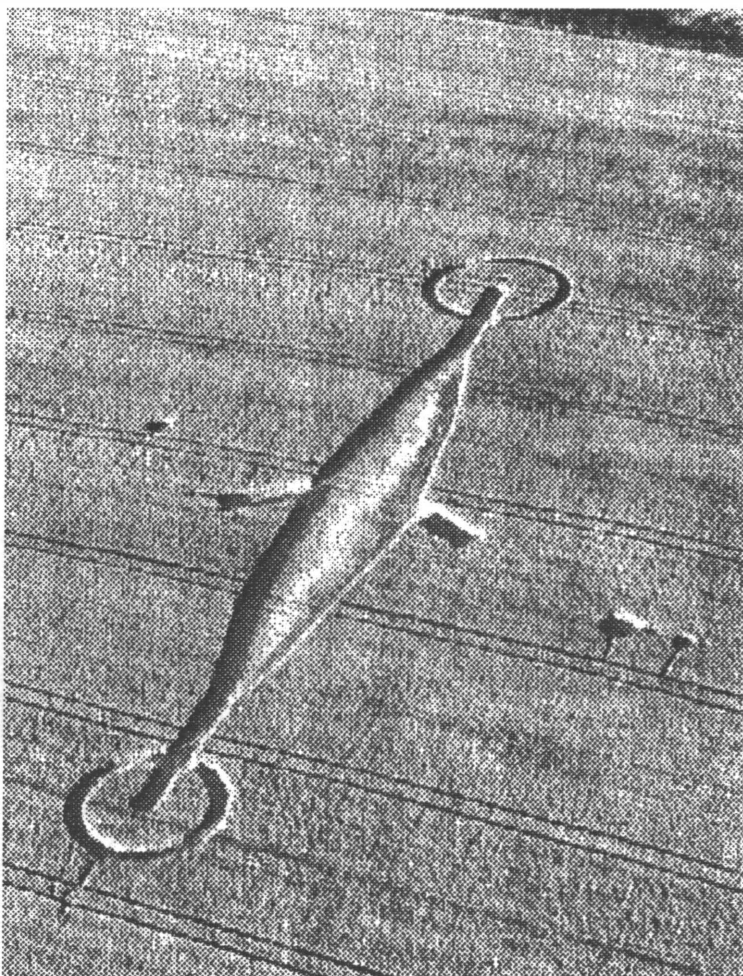
It is difficult to over-emphasise the importance of getting the maximum measure of agreement among scientists about the methods employed, and the closest measure of standardised procedure in all countries on such matters as the number of samples and controls required, the method of handling them, whether the plants should be dried off or as fresh as possible, whether steps should be taken to avoid sampling from suspect circles (and if so, what is a suspect circle: or better still, what circle

is not now suspect?).

These are just some of the issues which ought to be settled before the season starts. Others relate to type and size of containers, method of taking soil - a dug sample may well produce a different rate of emission compared with one scraped from the surface, for example; whether roots are or are not necessary.

It is neither simple nor quick to get reactions, let alone agreement on such matters, since several of the leading scientist involved have strongly differing views on some fairly fundamental issues. Was the sampling system on which Dr Levengood's findings were based so suspect or inadequate as to cast serious doubt on all his findings? (I don't think so; but others may); and were the expanded pit holes he detected in certain cells no more than a natural product of plant recovery through tropism (Dr Levengood doesn't think so, but others are less certain).

Such doubts should be resolved this summer, with improved testing, and now that we know what to look for; but their



THE SECOND 'DOLPHIN' FORMATION, AT FIRS FARM - AUGUST 2ND 1991.
IN SAMPLES FROM THIS FORMATION SHORT-LIVED
RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPES WERE FOUND BY CHOROST AND DUDLEY.

existence makes agreement on sampling methods more difficult. By the end of February, a draft procedure had been prepared by American researchers at my request and been circulated to a range of interested scientists of varying disciplines (and views) along with a commentary in which I posed a range of questions the answers to which should help towards a uniform sampling procedure.

A good deal will depend on whether we can get general agreement that plants can be cut and dried before lab investigation. This is what the USA researchers recommend. Indeed in their circumstances there is little alternative. It would make life infinitely simpler for us here; but it contradicts our own recommendations last season to get in early, take the samples without delay, and transport them to an appropriate laboratory pronto, for immediate examination. This may prove a counsel of perfection, however.

All very tiresome and prosaic stuff for the troops in the field looking for - and half promised - a litmus test to distinguish the spurious from the genuine, no doubt. It is still a lively possibility, but some bright hopes appear to have foundered temporarily, including a simple way to see whether DNA changes have taken place. What must be strongly emphasised, however, is the need to ensure that valuable research resources, much expert time and costly analysis producing possibly startling results are not undermined by scientific criticism that the sampling procedure was wrong.

Fertile and indefatigable as ever, Lefty Levengood, from his forest lab in mid-Michigan, has found another strange feature from seed heads garnered from three different crops in different formations last season - one in Canada, one in the USA and one from England. The seeds, whose viability and vigour one might reasonably have expected to have been adversely affected by flattening, all germinated and grew significantly faster than their controls. Obviously this will need further testing, but the results, graphically illustrated, show an unusual consistency, even though the seeds concerned were of wheat, barley and maize. Although, if this feature is confirmed, it could not be an immediate field test of genuineness, it might be a further clue to the nature and effect of the flattening force(s).

The cautious "(s)" above arises from a growing conviction that at least two different but inter-related forces are involved. One flattens; the other produces physiological changes in the plant's cellular structure. Not many seem to think that an

infusion of energy, whether radioactive or of a nature similar to a strong microwave dose, could alone be responsible for encouraging crops to fall down into the well-recognised patterns, if indeed they are prompted to fall down at all. Even the plasma vortex theory presupposes circular and a downward forces, both pneumatic, although it would unduly distend the length of this article to list the deficiencies of this plausible belief.

But away with more speculation and back to basics! The CCCS is planning to issue a field guide in as practical a form, and at as reasonable a cost, as possible, to cover everything from hoax detection, contact with farmers, equipment to take, photography, measuring and drawing, sampling plants, sampling soils and record sheets. Not all of this can be got ready at the same time: clearly for reasons given above the sampling advice won't be ready for several weeks yet, especially in view of the heavy transatlantic input. We aim to get out a shorter guide in March, chiefly for dissemination via branch chairmen or secretaries.

Many will be aware of tentative plans for a man-made pictogram competition, with substantial prizes for the person or team able to produce the most convincing

formation from a set-piece test drawing; but, alas, both CERES and CCCS have independently concluded that a combination of organisational problems, risks of encouraging more, and more sophisticated hoaxing, and the probability that what was intended to be a scientific exercise would turn into a media circus, and might further damage the image of crop circle investigation and investigators - all this reluctantly persuaded the top brass that it would be more prudent to try to get the same results by other, somewhat less public means.

One further point: the hoax problem has become all the more obsessive because of the absence of any agreed, visually apparent criterion guaranteed to distinguish the genuine from the man-made. That is one of the reasons for elaborate plans for sampling and testing, and our hopes for a simple litmus test. If and when the evidence becomes irresistible, the motive for all but the most pointlessly mischievous and irresponsible creation by man should vanish.

But one must not lose sight of the fact that the procedure is designed primarily to reveal more about the actual impact of the force on the crops. At this stage of the game we have indications, but not proof.

THE CENTRE FOR CROP CIRCLE STUDIES



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for the

CROP CIRCLE PHENOMENON

by Montague Keen

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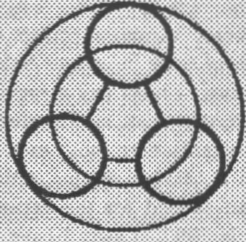
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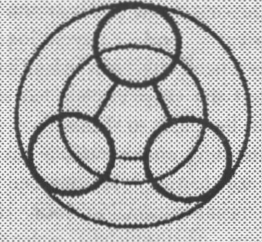
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CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH TO THE CCCS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 28TH MARCH 1992



Bishop Gore was once asked his opinion of cremation. He said that he could see nothing against it, except for the fact that all the wrong people supported it. The more unreflective sections of the community have always found this quite a useful rule of thumb in adopting attitudes to issues which lie beyond their comprehension, of which the phenomenon of crop circles is certainly one. Generally perceived as having been high-jacked by assorted corn flakes and New Agers (politely referred to in the Equinox programme last Autumn as parascientists), no subject has raised such scepticism, indeed hostility, right across the world in recent years. Indeed, this aspect of the phenomenon is a sociological study in its own right. As phenomenal facts in the landscape, however, the crop circle formations undoubtedly constitute one of the most interesting paranormal manifestations of the twentieth century, and perhaps of all time. Moreover, unlike most areas of parapsychology, they have the rare distinction of representing, effectively, permanent parapsychical events and thereby provide a rare opportunity for detailed scientific examination denied to other spontaneous phenomena such as ghosts or poltergeists.

At one level we are dealing with a physical phenomenon, and the CCCS was therefore rightly set up as a scientific research organisation, using the rational disciplines that such a description implies. However, it cannot be emphasized too strongly what an extraordinarily difficult subject this is for a conventional voluntary organisation such as ours to handle. How would the National Trust, say, care for the situation when they could never be sure from year to year where their historic houses would pop up (and if at all), contending with continual claims that they were really modern facsimiles and where the buildings were controlled by maverick custodians who usually refused access! The only guidance that we have from year to year for forward planning is the character of the phenomenon in the recent past and this indicator is becoming increasingly unreliable. In 1991 the Crop Circle Makers were still basically operating in their old hunting grounds of Wiltshire and Hampshire, but major formations

appeared in the Midlands, the West Country and elsewhere. Small formations have largely been replaced by large complex ones (50 in the Wiltshire area alone) which are far more difficult to study and record than was the case a year or two back. And what of the formations themselves, the Barbury Castle mandala, the Ickleton Mandelbrot, the Chilton Foliat serpent, the Cornish "dragons' footprints", or the Milk Hill inscription? Their significance in terms of scientific and metaphysical paradigms beggars belief.

As the phenomenon has become more complicated and the evidence for an intelligence behind it overwhelming, so have mechanistic scientific hypotheses become increasingly untenable. Faced with the unthinkable, the political and scientific establishments, the media and large sections of the public have been desperate for an easy explanation which will get rid of the subject once and for all. Hoax was the convenient, knee-jerk position for those unable to face a genuine mystery. It was all a gigantic global conspiracy by some unknown human agency to cover every continent with thousands of crop circle formations! The overwhelming psychological desire to believe that the whole phenomenon was bogus probably accounts for the alacrity with which the newspaper story of the two elderly pranksters, Doug and Dave, who claimed to have hoaxed everything, was taken up by the international press. When interrogated, Doug and Dave smartly dropped their claims to just a few formations in Hampshire, but predictably this was not reported by the press. There have of course been a small number of serious hoaxes by both British and foreign groups, but as a blanket explanation for the whole phenomenon, the idea is risible.

What had become evident, however, by the end of 1991 was that the, often somewhat subjective, assessment of the formations for genuineness was inadequate validation in an increasingly confused and hostile climate of public opinion. Too many experienced investigators had been caught out in 1990 and 1991. What was required was an objective, indeed scientific, method of

distinguishing "genuine" formations from human hoaxes. In 1991 an American biophysicist, Dr W C Levengood, examined crop samples from certain English formations, and his conclusions are confirmed by the work of a British biologist, Kay Larsen. The corn samples showed evidence of polyembryony and cellular changes in the nodes suggestive of the application of short-lived heat, like the effect of a microwave oven. Another American scientist, the physicist Marshall Dudley has tested soil samples from the formations at the prestigious Oak Ridge Laboratories in Tennessee. His findings are as yet at a preliminary stage but there appears to be a radioactive component present in the formations which does not appear in the control samples. The scientific testing of all major formations to establish authenticity has yet to be achieved, but is one of the primary targets of CCCS in the future.

In terms of topographical recording the CCCS achieved a major breakthrough in 1991. Prior to 1990 there was a great deal of secrecy about the location and character of formations as fieldworkers and groups jealously hugged information to themselves. The founding of the CCCS in 1990, as was intended, brought in a new spirit of openness. The emergence of various expert surveyors notable amongst whom are Peter Baillie, John Langrish and Stanley Morcom, has ensured that a wide range of formations have been expertly recorded and drawings widely distributed. Likewise the work of a number of new aerial photographers has become available which has taken the strain off such stalwarts as Busty Taylor, whose work has been such a feature of recent publications. I also believe that it is highly significant that two professional bodies have entered this field, namely the Air Photographic Unit of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, and the University of Cambridge Committee for Aerial Photography.

On the technical side there has been excellent progress on the part of all the convenors of our scientific panels. Dr Roger Taylor has been testing various types of equipment for detecting physical

anomalies in the formations. Diana Clift assisted by Lucy Pringle has been assessing the reports from 1991 of the extraordinary physical and psychological effects experienced by our members who have visited the crop circles. A special tribute must be paid to Montague Keen for his outstanding endeavours in the field of crop and soil testing. He has been representing the organisation in our dealings with various distinguished scientists in these areas, particularly in America. In this country CCCS is fortunate in having, as a member, the internationally renowned biologist Dr. Rupert Sheldrake.

Various metaphysical areas of research are being explored by certain members of council, notably Richard Andrews, Barbara Davies, Beth Davis, John Haddington, Ralph Noyes, Lucy Pringle, Leonie Starr (convenor of the panel for Non-Conventional Hypotheses) and your chairman. The membership has contributed a number of interesting theories and speculative ideas in this field, some of which will be pursued further.

One of the principal aims of the organisation from the outset has been the establishment of a suitable data-base, together with speedy publication of information which we are receiving. Both these fields have not been without their difficulties. In particular the radically different developing character of the phenomenon in recent seasons has involved a total restructuring of the data-base arrangements each year. George Wingfield has kindly accepted the important responsibility of data storage coordinator, working in collaboration with Robert Trevelyan, John Haddington, and with considerable help from Claire Appleby.

As regards our publication policy, there have had to be a number of major changes to ensure that information reaches the membership more quickly. Unfortunately our editor of *The Circular*, Bob Kingsley, has had to resign due to heavy personal commitments. We are most grateful for his dedication and hard work in producing the journal in difficult circumstances over the last year. George Wingfield has accepted the post of editor and will be restyling *The Circular* as part of a new editorial policy. In addition, Patrick Palgrave-Moore will be producing a bi-monthly newsletter during the summer based on reports from county branches. Special lines of research are being covered by separate monographs, of which the first two have already been published.

Crop Circle Classification by Patrick Palgrave-Moore examines the components

of the crop formations, and this has been followed by *1991 - Scientific Evidence for the Crop Circle Phenomenon* by Montague Keen, reporting the first crop and soil tests. A further booklet by Ralph Noyes will include a comprehensive UK Catalogue combined with an assessment of outstanding scientific problems. A guidebook for members involved in fieldwork is in preparation by Montague Keen, and a summary of some of the main topics has been produced as a leaflet under the title *Preliminary Guidance for Circle Investigators*. Further monographs on various topics are under preparation. Lastly it should be noted that the best illustrated guide to last year's formations was produced by our council member, Alick Bartholomew, *Crop Circles - Harbingers of World Change*, which has contributions by various members of the organisation.

Public relations has not been merely limited to publications. The CCCS took a major part in the Equinox television programme on crop circles produced by Juniper last autumn. There have been in addition other media interviews and a video produced by Circlevision. Most council members have taken part in a full lecture programme to local branches and other organisations during the year. Larger events at Farnham and Ely were organised by Lucy Pringle and Beth Davis respectively, to whom we owe a special debt of thanks. Such meetings, together with those held in London and organised by Sue and Stanley Morcom, have brought in welcome additional revenue. There have also been lecture programmes in the United States in which John Haddington, George Wingfield, Richard Andrews, Leonie Starr and Busty Taylor have taken part. This year we have a major international conference arranged to take place at Winchester during July. Papers will be presented providing a full range of the research which the organisation has undertaken, and outside speakers from all the major crop circle organisations have been invited both from this country and abroad.

All these activities have at times put intolerable pressures on the council and its officers, without whose dedicated work we should not have been able to continue as an organisation. For some the burden has been intolerable and I sadly have to announce the resignation of Robert Davison, Bob Kingsley and Ralph Noyes from the council. To Ralph we owe a very special vote of thanks for his industry, indeed sanity, in dealing with day to day matters which more than anything else has made the CCCS the premier national organisation on the subject. Happily he is to continue with us in the vital role of Research Advisor. I

am pleased to announce that our founding member, Barbara Davies, has kindly agreed to be our new Honorary Secretary. I have already complimented various members of council for their hard work in various fields of activity. However, I must pay a special tribute to Lucy Pringle who, as Treasurer, has kept the organisation not merely solvent, but with a healthy surplus which will be more than needed for the various research projects in 1992. Lastly I have to thank Dr Hugh Pincott whose management services have taken a great deal of the burden, particularly as regards membership and finances, off the shoulders of the officers of the CCCS.

Your council has learnt a lot of hard lessons over the last two years. As we see it research policy in the immediate future will have something of the nature of a 3-legged stool, whose parts are mutually dependent. Firstly we have to quickly find formations as soon as they occur, and for this regular aerial surveillance is by far the most effective means of detection. The second leg is as wide and thorough testing of crop and soil samples as manpower and means will permit. The third leg is the building up of regional and county groups so that they and we can be mutually supporting. A start in this process has been made by our Local Branches Secretary, Patrick Palgrave-Moore, to whom we owe a considerable debt of gratitude. Some groups already are excellent and demonstrate a degree of friendliness and collaboration which is mutually advantageous. One of the best is the CCCS Sussex branch which is producing a first rate magazine and a comprehensive catalogue of events in Sussex in 1991 prepared by Barry Reynolds. On a national level the comprehensive work of such groups, literally at grass roots level, will greatly enhance the effectiveness of the organisation as a whole.

The council has thus put in place, we hope, the basic mechanism for the factual analysis of the crop circle phenomenon. But these field of study address only half the problem, namely the physical effects. A data-base bulging with a plethora of miscellaneous facts will not in itself address what may be the crunch issues of cause and meaning let alone those factors that lie behind them of intelligence and communication. In other words to be exclusively locked into a reductionist, bottom up approach would to my mind be self-defeating for the future work of the organisation. For it is against a background of possible metaphysical paradigms that the CCCS has to approach the broader issues of corporate direction and emphasis. Here it is imperative that a top down approach is operative, a view of

the phenomenon as a complete system, for it may not operate, let alone continue exactly as we perceive it in its present form. We suspect that the Crop Circle Makers are highly interactive with the human mind, and have already in the last couple of years cleverly and systematically drawn genuine investigators into an ever deeper metaphysical position. Moreover, the initiative is largely theirs at the end of the day. What I perceive we have to do as an organisation is to be not merely reactive but responsive in the most positive way possible as the phenomenon develops, and this may involve operations in areas beyond the mechanics of mere physical recording. It may be significant therefore that the Hebrew scholar, Zippi Littleton, has interpreted the Milk Hill inscription of last year as saying, quite simply, "WAIT".

Michael Green
Chairman

The Role of the CCCS and The Circular

In addition to our plans for improving the format of *The Circular* and publishing a series of booklets on different aspects of the crop circles and the vigorous research into the phenomenon which is now going on, Pat Palgrave-Moore, Local Branches Secretary, will now be sending CCCS Branches short bulletins from time to time. These will contain the latest news we can give you about crop circle events in Britain (and also abroad as news reaches us); advice on field research in the light of the latest findings available to us, not only from our scientific consultants but also from active researchers in the field (which means You!); information about how best to look for and record other physical effects; any other news and views which might help us all in our joint endeavours.

Pat will be asking Branch Chairmen to re-circulate these bulletins to their members as quickly as they can and also to keep CCCS informed of local events and news so that this information can be got into later bulletins (or into *The Circular* as quickly as possible).

Two things are vital to this process, and both are equally important. First, it is up to CCCS centrally to organise and pay for in-depth research, to keep comprehensive records, and to disseminate this information. Secondly, it is up to members and their Branches to do the really hard work of field investigation and to keep the information flowing to the right points in CCCS. Here's what we hope you can do.

Join your local CCCS Branch. (There's a list of Branches elsewhere in this issue). If there isn't a local Branch, think about

getting one together and write to PAT PALGRAVE-MOORE.

Encourage your Branch to do all it can to pick up new crop circle events in its county area, to conduct good investigations of them and to pass case material to GEORGE WINGFIELD. Pat Palgrave-Moore's bulletins will try to give you the latest advice on useful techniques of research and the best way to record your field investigations. As soon as we can we'll be trying to get all this advice together in a single handbook.

If you have useful criticisms or comments to make about the details of field research which might be useful to other researchers, write (preferably through your Branch, but otherwise directly) to PAT PALGRAVE-MOORE.

If you have theoretical or scientific points to make, write to the CCCS specialists listed elsewhere in this issue. It will help us greatly (as a body of unpaid and overworked volunteers!) if you pick very carefully the CCCS specialist you want to write to. For example, if you have a point on dowsing, write to RICHARD ANDREWS, not to anyone else; if you have a point about the way the crop behaves, write to MONTY KEEN; etc, etc. We can assure you that all this information gets pooled from time to time so that CCCS, collectively, can put it all together.

If you want to "sound off" more generally, write to *The Circular* (accepting that the Editor can't print everything and that his decision has to be final!). And if you have a purely "administrative" point (eg. "When am I going to get my membership card?") write to Specialist Knowledge Services.

We hope you won't find this too complicated. It's meant to streamline our arrangements and to make everything work more smoothly and swiftly. All the necessary addresses are listed in the following section.

Centre for Crop Circle Studies WHO TO GET IN TOUCH WITH

Please send completed questionnaires and any fuller reports you can make on crop circle events - including as much original and/or duplicate material as you can spare from your county archives to:-

GEORGE WINGFIELD
Hearne House
North Wootton
Shepton Mallet
Somerset
BA4 4HW
Phone/Fax: 0749 89257

For information and enquiries about crop and soil sampling and crop and soil effects, please get in touch with :-

MONTAGUE KEEN
School Barn Farm
Pentlow
Sudbury
Suffolk
CO10 7JN
Phone: 0787 280215

For information and enquiries about human effects, physiological or psychological, please get in touch with :-

DIANA CLIFT
93 Peperharrow Road
Godalming
Surrey
GU7 2PN
Phone: 0483 417922

LUCY PRINGLE,
5 Town Lane
Sheet
Petersfield
Hampshire
GU32 2AF
Phone: 0730 263454

For information and enquiries on any effects, eg. reports of luminous or audible effects, photographic anomalies, anomalous radiation, etc. please get in touch with :-

DR ROGER TAYLOR
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Brook Lane
Albury
Guildford
Surrey GU9 5DH
Phone: 0486 412422

For information and enquiries about general CCCS Branch matters, or how to go about joining a branch please get in touch with :-

PAT PALGRAVE-MOORE
13 West Parade
Norwich
Norfolk
NR2 3DN
Phone: 0603 611336

The address for all general enquiries about CCCS and matters relating to subscription and membership is :-

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Hotline Telephone Numbers for the reporting of Crop Circle Events during the summer months are as follows :-

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Southern England
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Western England
0749 89257

Scotland & Northern England
057 381 292

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Retiring members of the Council are Ralph Noyes, Bob Kingsley and Robert Davison. Their places are taken by Montague Keen, Beth Davis and Diana Clift, whose names had been put forward and were accepted without a ballot, since there were no additional candidates standing for election.



CROP CIRCLE SURVEYS 1991 - A SELECTION OF 20 SURVEY DRAWINGS

By John Langrish

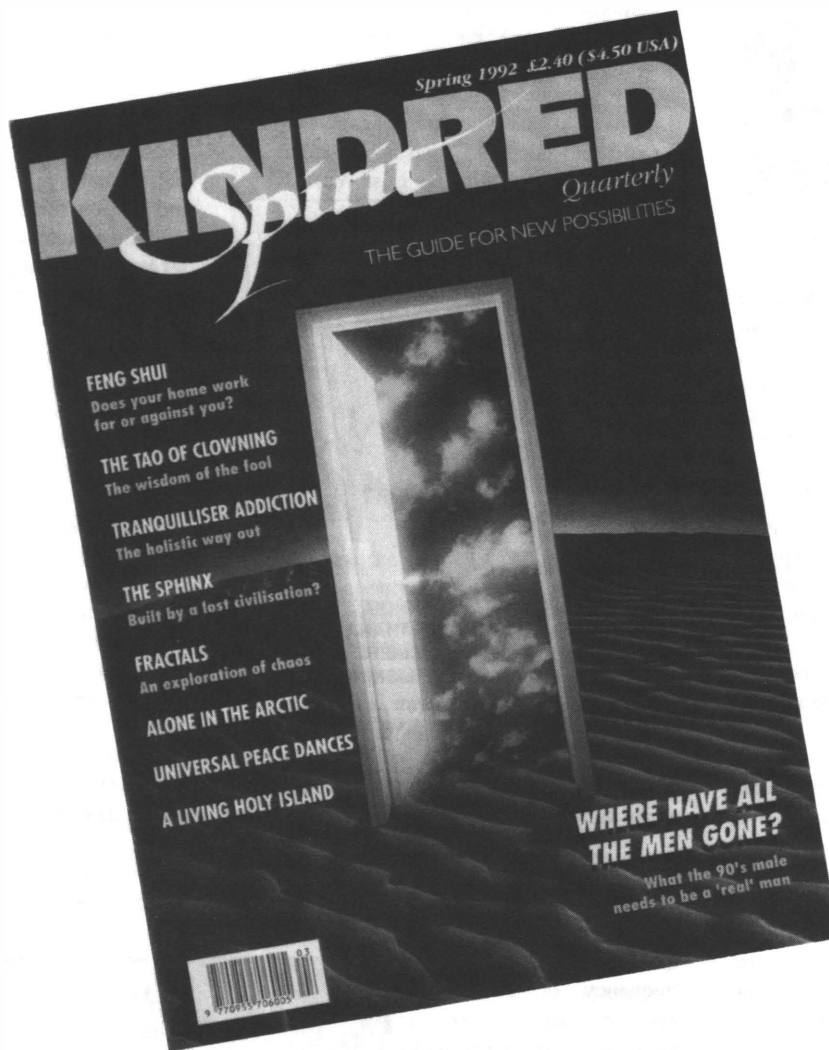
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**KOYAANISQATSI
(LIFE OUT
OF BALANCE)**

By
**Julie Varden
&
John Wakefield**

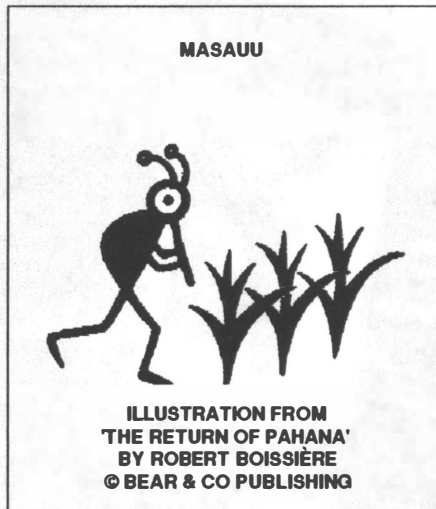
As readers of *Crop Circles - Harbingers of World Change* and *The Circular* will know, the Hopi Indians of Arizona have provided us with some important information by giving us their interpretation of the symbolism of crop formations. They state that we are entering into a new age which they call "the fifth world". Many other native Indians recognize this also, whether they see it as being a move into the fourth, fifth or sixth world, they all agree that we are on the verge of a new epoch. Native people are choosing to speak out in order to help us in the West, and, although revealing many of their ancient teachings and prophecies, they feel it is important that we understand what is happening so we can complete this transition successfully.

Maasau (the Great Spirit) allowed the ancestors of the present day Hopi to live with him on Earth providing they followed his instructions. He said that they should travel and leave footprints, ruins and "rockwritings" along the way, for in time many people would forget that they were "all one", and they would need physical reminders. At this time two twins separated, Pahana, (1*) (which also means white man) travelled eastward and since then the Hopi have always believed he will return at a time when he is most needed by humankind. Pahana's power will be required to restore balance on the earth at a time of great imbalance. That time they say is imminent but before "he" comes the human race will undergo a training to prepare for "his" coming. The Mayan Indians of Central America believe in a similar figure, namely Kukulcan, - and that we will have to undergo a similar learning. Hunbatz Men, a Mayan daykeeper and author of *Secrets of Mayan Science/Religion* states "the prophecies say that when the sacred symbols are newly understood, it will be a time of awakening for the human race."

Is it then just coincidence that the crop formations which we are currently witnessing in our fields are replicas of symbols that were sacred to our ancestors?

According to Hunbatz Men we began

entering the New Age in August 1987 at the time of a major event known as the Harmonic Convergence, when people of different nations joined together to reopen and reactivate the ancient sacred sites. Ceremonies have been held each year since and in 1989 a Mayan centre known as Chichen Itza was reactivated, the purpose being to alter human DNA so that we would learn to be at one with nature again. Within the spiral of our DNA (that is, the spiral of the double helix) wisdom is stored. John



Haddington has noted that the double-headed "snail" formation of 1991 found near Popham airfield (Hants) was symbolic of the double helix.

Hunbatz Men says that our DNA has unfortunately developed a major flaw which we need to alter. We can however eradicate this flaw by altering the frequency of our minds because all matter is vibration. It is interesting to note that the DNA of plants in crop formations appears in some cases which have been examined to have been genetically changed. According to Hunbatz Men sacred centres such as stone circles and tumuli were designed to cause different vibrations which could alter the frequency of our brain waves. They are also symbolic of the inter-relationship of the earth, humans, animals, plants, trees and minerals.

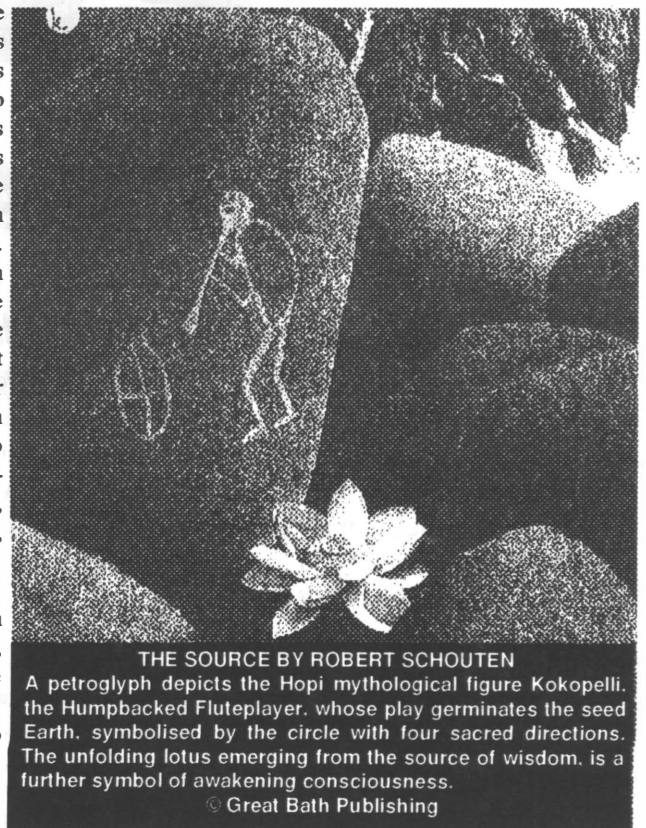
During the 'transition period' into the new age, energy frequencies will be increasing and it will be difficult for our bodies to cope. Is the trilling noise that is often heard in crop formations physical

evidence of this increase in energy frequencies? The ancient Mayans foretold that the sacred sites would have to be reconsecrated to help us strengthen our energy bodies.

In 1990 the reopening of Mayan sacred sites was completed; it was a time when crop circles in Britain drastically changed and we witnessed the first pictogram. According to Hunbatz Men it is vital that people make pilgrimages to sacred centres and reopen them. Conveniently the crop circles are clustered around our sacred sites. What we evidently do need is a worldwide harmonic convergence.

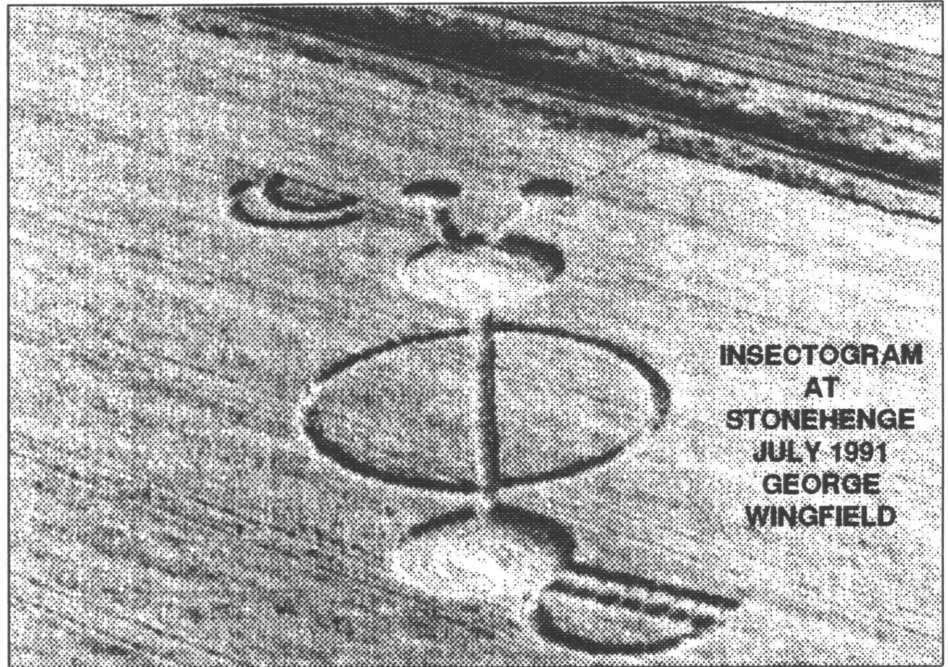
If we look at "the circle" and how native peoples interpret it then we can begin to understand part of "the training" we are undergoing at this moment. Nicholas Black Elk, a Sioux Holy Man who was born in 1863, and had great visions during his lifetime, said that everything we do is done in a circle. The circle is sacred for it symbolises oneness and represents the cosmic consciousness. The universe consists of many circles that fit into larger ones and each circle is connected. The power of the universe is contained within a circle.

In one of Black Elk's visions he saw many people dancing round the "Tree of Life" in a circle. The "Tree of Life" is a sacred symbol which represents the constant regeneration of the universe. Nicholas Black Elk saw that the "Tree of Life" would



bloom again in the future because it had withered. Wallace Black Elk, a contemporary shaman, says that there is also a "Tree of Knowledge", - the knowledge being shamanism, for it "springs from the oneness of the shamanic roots" and the ancient prophecies are its leaves. Again we have witnessed a replica of this symbolism in the form of the "tree" formation near Cheesefoot Head last year which Lucy Pringle later discovered remained visible in the new crop of turnips in that field in November. In 1991 there were many formations which remarkably resembled certain animals; in Wiltshire there were several fish/frog/dolphin type formations and the dolphin in American Indian symbolism represents salvation. The frog represents a transition of some kind; possibly that into this new age? The turtle, another of the 1991 formations which appeared near Hungerford, symbolises spiritual permanence, and the Indians themselves call America "Turtle Island". Interestingly, too, corn is symbolic of the life force.

So crop formations then are symbols that will raise our consciousness, which in turn will help to alter our brain waves, which in turn will assist us in our changeover into the new age. If we ignore these symbols, and ignore everything destructive that we are doing to our planet, and continue to feel superior over every living thing, then we are doomed. Many native people say that the New Age will also be a time of "great purification" - how drastic and intense this will be depends solely on us. This purification has already started with earthquakes, famine, changes in the seasons and new deadly viruses. The Hopi for centuries have awaited the return of their white brother Pahana who will be armed with the cross (which represents the female



**INSECTOGRAM
AT
STONEHENGE
JULY 1991
GEORGE
WINGFIELD**

energy) and the swastika (which represents the male energy and symbolises the four faces of nature in motion). In the summer of 1989 a symbolic ceremony was held on Hopi territory and in the summer of 1989 a swastikacircle was etched in a cropfield at Winterbourne Stoke near Amesbury.

Hunbatz Men says that the ancient Mayan prophecies predict that the changeover into the New Age will be complete by 2013. If at this time we see large white circles in the sky it will mean that we have failed to make a successful transition. So let us not ignore the profound message of the circles we now see in our fields, before it is too late !

1*. Pahana is a supernatural archetype which will not necessarily be one man but could be many different people or take on any form.



**THE TREE
FORMATION AT
CHELCOMB
NEAR
CHEESEFOOT
HEAD
JULY 1991
GEORGE
WINGFIELD**

**CCCS
BRANCH CONTACTS**

One of the complaints we had last year was a lack of information coming out of the Centre. To some extent I covered the problem in my letter which was published in the last *Circular*. However we do recognise the problem and so want to give our members every opportunity to take part in this development as it unfolds. I am asking Branch Contacts to keep me informed of events as they occur during 1992 and in return I shall compile a regular report covering the whole country for dispatch back to the Branches. A list of all current Branches and Branch Contacts is given below. This should enable all enthusiasts to take full part by working closely with their respective Branch. However, where information is sensitive, exact locations will not be disclosed.
Patrick Palgrave-Moore.

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OFFERS OF HELP

We are a voluntary organisation! If you wish to offer resources or expertise of any kind to CCCS during 1992 - 1993, they will be very welcome: please contact me. In particular, we urgently need a RECORD KEEPER, able and willing to provide and organise suitable housing for CCCS files and photographs, etc., and to make them accessible for research. The base needs to be easy to reach, particularly from Shepton Mallet and from London. (Expenses, etc., negotiable.) Contact Barbara Davies, Old Stables, Lescrow, Fowey PL23 1JS

CROP CIRCLE CLASSIFICATION

Patrick Palgrave-Moore's excellent booklet of this title is available on application to him for £2.95 (+40p p&p). A compendium of diagrams of all known formation types up until the end of 1991 is the basis of this classification method. Write to:- 13 West Parade, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 3DN.

ESSEX BRANCH MEETING

A public lecture at the University of Essex arranged by the Essex Branch of CCCS on 7th March drew just under 300 people. George Wingfield spoke on "The Evolution of the Crop Circles" and showed slides of many of the dramatic formations of 1991. He was joined on a panel by Montague Keen, Busty Taylor, Richard Andrews and Maria Ward who all answered questions from the audience. Particular interest was shown in the latest scientific evidence which is the subject of a recently published booklet by Montague Keen. Several members of staff and some students from the university attended the lecture.

NEW CIRCLES BOOK

A major new book on the crop circles, *Spuren im Korn* (Tracks in the Corn), was published by Zweitausendeins in Germany in March. It is edited by Jurgen Kronig and it is intended to publish an English edition later in the year. Contributors to this book, which contains a remarkable collection of circles photographs, are - besides Jurgen Kronig - John Michell, Montague Keen, George Wingfield, Michael Chorost, Simon Burton and David Tilt. There is a full tableau of drawings of the major formations to which John Langrish and Stanley Morcom have contributed. It is hoped to review this book in *The Circular* at an early date.

THE LOCKERIDGE WHALE FORMATION : THE UNDERLAYS

By Roland Pargeter

Roland is a leading crop circle investigator and during 1991 took a particular interest in the underlays of various formations. In contrast to Ken Brown, whose article in the last issue of *The Circular* concluded that the existence of underlying lines of crop gave the unmistakable indication of hoaxing,

Roland reaches entirely the opposite conclusion. Certainly all of us who have spent any time examining the lay of the crops in pictograms are aware of the underlying lines and the puzzle which they represent. However it is quite clear that complex formations are "traced out" in some kind of sequence by whatever agency lays the crop, since the flow frequently goes under or over crop that has presumably been laid seconds apart. Moreover it seems almost certain that more than one such crop-laying "element" is at work simultaneously, since the assumption of "single threading" leads to logical inconsistencies.

Therefore, if it were possible to watch a pictogram being laid, one might observe something similar to a multiple domino felling exercise, which one sees sometimes on TV, where several different lines of falling dominoes race around simultaneously.

If this is the case, it is hardly surprising that underlying lines of crop are found. It is also a fact that the underlying lines are found chiefly where complex pictograms lie a thwart the tramlines. Initially, in 1990, the pictograms almost always had

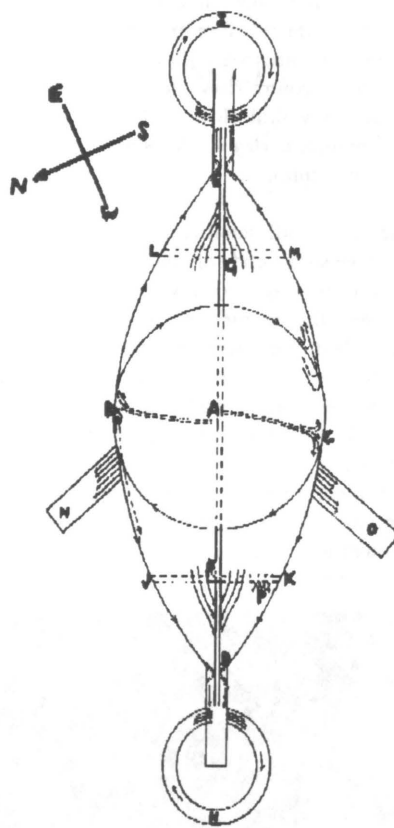
their axes along, or parallel to, a tramline which would be incorporated into the pattern. In 1991 the opposite was more frequently the case, and it looks as if the phenomenon (which seems to be learning and, perhaps, getting better at it!) often effectively made its own "tramline" with underlying tracks in order to centre its pattern. This interpretation is obviously not going to please those who are seeking a natural phenomenon; hence they will

The Lockeridge Whale formation demonstrated for me certain features which I believe would be well nigh impossible to hoax, and with the help of my diagram I will endeavour to explain this. If you follow my train of thought, I think that you will agree that this formation must have formed rapidly with various sequences starting simultaneously, or following in hot pursuit of each other. I do not claim to know the exact starting point or points (as this particular case implies) so I will pick an arbitrary one and assume that it was the centre of the central clockwise swirled circle.

Moving from this point A two single-direction underlays travelled in opposite directions (roughly north & south) to the perimeter of the formation. The northern lay joined in with a tight anticlockwise spiral at point B as well as part of the underlay which was split to be drawn uphill and eastward, joining with the flow of the overlaid clockwise circle. The small tight swirl of about 18 in. diameter laid down a broad 8 - 10 in. wide and

thick underlay which travelled westward downhill under the opposed clockwise overlaid circle, which held to the perimeter of the formation.

The force of this contrary downhill flow ensured that this quadrant turned to hold the anticlockwise wheat flow in the westerly direction, which travelled towards the central axis and pathway leading to the holding ring.



usually incline to construe such tracks as hoax. However, for those who have always maintained that the circles are intelligently directed, this development is not unexpected.

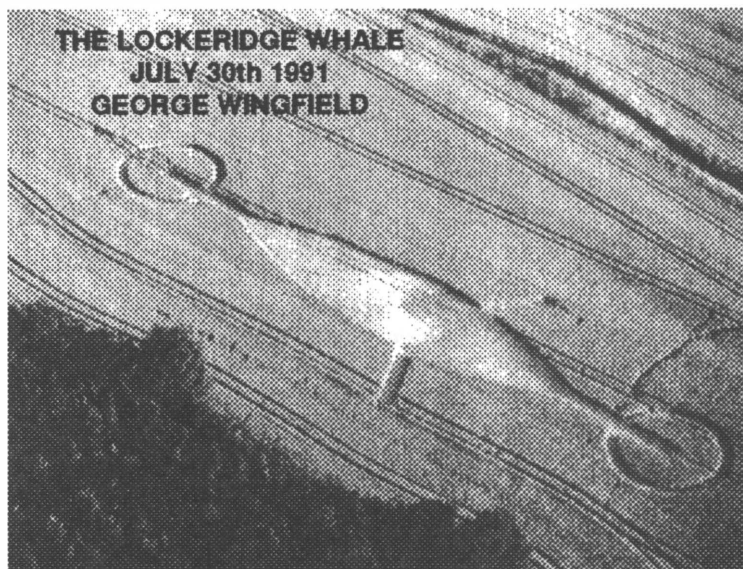
But now let Roland, who was one of the first to arrive at this, the first of the bizarre fish-shaped formations, near West Woods, Lockeridge, on July 30th, take up the story....

At point B the clockwise stalks were a little lifted and bunched up as they came over and close up to the swirl, which had a group of standing stalks remaining. The anticlockwise underlay or overlaid stalks, which flowed in this downhill western quadrant, were not drawn into the north westerly "fin" like box in any way. Past this point the underlay began to merge and/or diminish in width to emerge at point D just 2 - 3 stalks wide; this then "bounced" at right angles off the central axis underlay and on to the walls of the pathway, there to merge and join the pathway's westerly flow, which continued to the centre of the holding ring H. The ring was swept clockwise and the wheat flowed above and across the pathway from north to south.

Now let us return to point A where the second single-direction underlay acted similarly except that it travelled south to split at perimeter point C, there to flow east and west along the formation's perimeter. Here there was no swirl nor evidence of any particularly strong underlays. I sense that they did exist but to the naked eye the overlays and underlays merged. Note that the overlaid clockwise circle flowed against the underlay, which split to flow eastward and uphill from point C whereas the westerly and downhill flow joined with the direction of swirl in this quadrant. Uphill from point C an eddy was created where the stalks made sweeping U-turns gently and fluidly. The western and downhill flow joined the clockwise direction to pass the south-western "fin" unchanged, then to emerge at point D, 2-3 stalks wide and turning, in the same manner as its opposite number, at right angles and continuing on to the centre of the holding ring. At point E at the other end of the formation both underlays emerged in the same fashion.

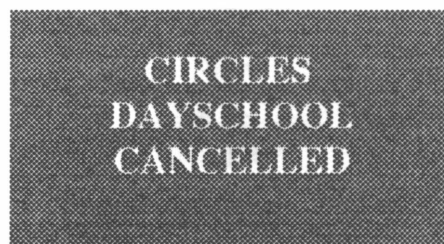
The central axis underlay (D...E) was thick and approximately 10 in. wide. It was made up of a merged contra-flow. One where the wheat stalks were equally merged across its whole width in this contra-flow pattern. There was no evidence of a "fight" or bunching up of the woven interlaced pattern. The line missed the centre point A and flowed slightly to the northern side in the clockwise direction. The over-flowing clockwise circle covered this axis parting completely, but in all four quadrants, the flows were drawn toward the central axis and didn't actually cover it. As was seen at points D and E, the heads of the wheat were lightly bounced off the axis line, rather than across it as one might have expected. Stalks in each quadrant were respectively drawn towards D or E.

Approximately halfway between the perimeter of the central circle and the tapering ends (D and E) of the long oval



"fish-body", two contra-flow underlays, J...K and L...M, each about 10 in. wide, crossed the central axis underlay at right angles. At one point, F, the underlay J...K crosses over the central axis underlay, whereas at G the underlay L...M crosses under it. At point P on underlay J...K stalks for several yards were pulled away from the underlay contra-flow to join with the surface downhill flow. This was not the case with underlay L...M where the surface flow was uphill.

The two small satellite circles beyond the north-western end of the formation (not shown in diagram) lay isolated halfway between the tractor tramlines. These were untouched and unentered upon my arrival. Sadly, before I departed, a young French researcher had already broken his way through to these circles, mutilating the formation. Not long after another prominent English scientist disfigured the formation further by making the broad track through to the formation seen at right in the photograph.



A dayschool to examine and debate the crop circle phenomenon was proposed as part of the University of Bristol Continuing Education Programme and was to have taken place on 18th January 1992 at the University of Bristol. This would have been open to the general public and the course description was as follows :-

Are Crop Circles the result of wind vortices, electromagnetic fields, or meteors, manifestations of non-human intelligence or

complete hoaxes? The dayschool will provide a rare opportunity to hear evidence presented by protagonists of these different explanations. The day will end with a panel lead open debate.

The protagonists, who would each have spoken for an hour with additional question time, were to have

been Dr Terence Meaden from CERES, George Wingfield from CCCS, and Dr Sue Blackmore, a parapsychologist at the University of Bristol and a member of CSICOP. Each of these speakers would have been seconded by another speaker of their choice in the final debate: a second speaker from CERES, Montague Keen from CCCS, and Ted Waring, a philosopher from the University of Bristol.

This dayschool, which had been proposed by Dr Sue Pringle and Professor Ted Thomas from the University in October 1991, was abruptly cancelled a month later because Dr Terence Meaden declined to take part. Dr Meaden apparently said that he was so busy with his research that he was unable to spare one day for the dayschool, and that he had no free time until September 1992.

George Wingfield for CCCS suggested to Dr Pringle that some other representative of CERES be invited to take Dr Meaden's place in the debate. Wingfield also offered to take part in the dayschool debate on any day in January, February or March that was convenient to the other protagonists.

Evidently neither of these suggestions was acceptable to CERES and the dayschool remained cancelled. Dr Meaden had also declined the invitation to speak on the circles at The Cerealogist's "Comference" in Glastonbury last September where CCCS speakers played a major part.

George Wingfield and Montague Keen wish it to be known that they are willing to take part in an open debate along these lines at any agreed time during 1992. They both feel that unwillingness to debate the subject by the other parties concerned can only contribute to the setting back by a further year of efforts by CCCS to get scientists and universities involved in this very important area of research.

Glastonbury Symposium 1992

Investigating Crop Circles



This weekend aims to provide a diverse and in depth view of the Crop Circles Phenomena. This will include:

- ❖ Workshops led by celebrated dowsers, scientists and researchers.
- ❖ An outing to crop formations with experienced field researchers Richard Andrews and Busty Taylor.
- ❖ A full programme of talks, debates and discussion featuring a wide spectrum of interesting speakers.
- ❖ Evening lectures with slides and associated data, preceded by light musical entertainment.
- ❖ Videos.

Participants will include: Colin Andrews, Beth Davis, Isabelle Kingston, George Wingfield, Richard Andrews, Busty Taylor, Michael Glickman, Jurgen Krönig, Ralph Noyes, Colin Bloy, George de Trafford, Diana Clift, Barbara Davies, Roger Taylor, Roy Dutton, Montague Keen, Tim & Polly Carson, Stanley Messenger, Emily BurrIDGE, Mark Robson, and Plainsong.

VENUE: ASSEMBLY ROOMS. GLASTONBURY

DATES: 24, 25, 26 July. TIME: 10am start

PRICE: £40/weekend, £20/day

**Advance bookings
recommended**

Some concessions available.

**CONTACT: Roland Pargeter
Pendragon**

The Glastonbury Experience, 2/4 High Street, Glastonbury. Somerset BA6 9DU
Tel/Fax: 0458 832533



VERSES BY AN ANONYMOUS AVIATOR.

Dedicated to Mrs Beth Davis.

*When I flew over Ickleton
I had a great surprise;
For down below me in the corn
- Could I believe my eyes?
I saw a shape symmetrical
Of quite enormous size.*

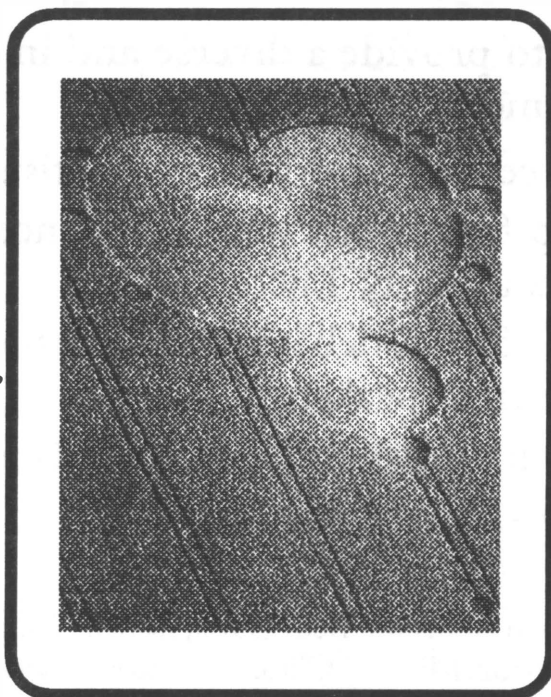
*I banked and turned and looked again;
Yes, there it was, 'twas true.
But what had manufactured it
I could not tell. Could you?
A creature from the Pleiades?
A thought-form from Peru?*

*Magnetic force from Outer Space?
A ley line breaking out?
A plasma vortex from the hills?
An errant waterspout?
Or Doug and Dave? Or Bill and Ben?
Or hedgehogs in a rout?*

*My mind whirled round with many
thoughts,
Yet none of them seemed right.
Whatever had created this,
Down there, in dead of night,
Must be of superhuman skill!
So I resumed my flight,*

*And meditated while I flew
On what this thing might mean,
Laid out so neatly in the corn.
Should I ask Michael Green?
Or would his theories more confuse
The clarity I'd seen?*

*As Cambridge spires came into view,
The runway I could spot,
And as I glided into land -
Oh, what a stupid clot
I was! At last I realised
I'd seen a Mandelbrot!*



*A Mandelbrot! A Mandelbrot!
So beautiful and rare!
A Mandelbrot! But wait a bit -
What was it doing there?
What message did it have for us?
What tidings did it bear?*

*I searched in books; I asked the dons
Of Trinity and Kings.
Yet no one had the slightest clue.
They all believed such things
Were made by motorbikes at night
Driving round in rings.*

*Then back to Ickleton I flew
To have another look,
The mystery, I thought, might make
Good matter for a book,
Bartholomew would publish it,
So photographs I took,*

*But while I focussed carefully,
I had a dreadful shock!
The shape below, the Mandelbrot -
The very word did mock
My pride, my sensitivities -
My heart sank like a rock!*

*There lay below me in the corn
(Of comfort not a crumb
Could I find in my sad distress -
I wept, and sucked my thumb)
The simulacrum, clear as day,
Of an enormous BUM!*

*How could I live amidst such
shame?*

*My face grew red and hot.
Then inspiration came to me
To get rid of the lot.
I lit a match, I threw it out,
And burnt the MANDELBROT!*

CLOSE
ENCOUNTERS
WITH
NETWORK
CONTRIBUTORS

Bob Kingsley

Here we are with another round-up of your letters and comments. I think there is some confusion about who is handling the various aspects of *Circular* production since the January issue; although I mentioned that I hoped to be editing the correspondence column, I haven't actually received that many letters! Still, there are a few stalwarts who have written to me over the past few months, so I've included some relevant points without necessarily using their full names, since they might have been writing to me privately and not with a view to being published.

Firstly, a fascinating piece of information passed on to George Wingfield by T. T. of Hampshire, concerning an item found in an issue of *Warminster UFO News* (No. 14/15):

**DOG FOUND DEAD -
ALL HAIR REMOVED**

Don Julius, an investigator for the Westmorland UFO Study Group turned up a report on July 18th, 1972, of a dead dog, found in strange circumstances.

The collie was found lying on its back and all the hairs on the dog's body had been removed except for a few. There was no evidence of any sort of "attack" and the body was found about 40 feet from a circular area where the grass was whipped in counterclockwise direction, although some grass lay in a clockwise direction. This circular area was 6 feet in diameter. Power lines are in the area, the nearest being about 400 feet from where the dog was found.

The dog had been seen alive on July 13th. At about the same time a neighbour reported their two cats had disappeared. It was noted that no scavengers had touched the dog's body which had been in the area five days. It is assumed the dog had been dead that long, as it had a friendly nature and the "Smiths" do not feel it would have stayed away from home, if alive. There had been rain during this period and the investigators could find no tracks near the body.

1970s Grapeshot

A letter I received from I. M. of Leyland, Lancashire, included a photograph from a book entitled *Archaeological Sites Of Britain*, published in 1976. The aerial picture shows the various types of Bronze Age round barrows in the Winterbourne Stoke area. I. M. has spotted what look to be grapeshot circles - about five of them - in the adjacent field. The photograph must have been taken before 1976, so this might be more evidence that the phenomenon existed prior to the 1980s. (Unfortunately, the quality of the photograph is not good enough to include here.)

Building Bridges

Dr. John Cole, who had a letter published in the January 1992 *Circular*, sent me an article for onward transmission to the new editor (George Wingfield). Alas, due to several upheavals and my total lack of administrative ability, I still have the article here on my cluttered desk, so I hope Dr. Cole will forgive me if I use it in this column!

He raises some serious points about "the polarization which has developed among those interested in the crop circle phenomenon into the two groups which have been labelled (by the *Equinox* programme) as 'scientists' and 'parascientists'." It's the "rational v. intuitive, masculine principle v. feminine principle, objective knowledge v. subjective knowledge" dichotomy which most crop circle researchers are, by now, familiar with. Dr. Cole reminds us of the ideas put forward by such scholars as Rupert Sheldrake and Fritjof Kapra. They highlight present-day science's essentially mechanistic approach to the universe and show how this discipline can be traced back to the likes of Newton. His immutable Laws described the physical world as inanimate and ultimately knowable; we have come to accept this view at the expense of previously held beliefs which allowed the subjectivity of the individual to have a say in how the universe was viewed.

Dr. Cole says more and more people are beginning to realise that Newton was probably a bit wide of the mark in some of his assumptions. Newton was, in the first place, working on the basis that there were certain "rules" in operation that were set in motion by God and which were beyond the ken of mortal man. Newton set himself the task of explaining the ineffable, of unpicking God's work, by the use of equally arcane mathematical formulae. Since there is no rational basis for the existence of God, Newton was, therefore, operating on a false premise. What he *did* put together was a

very good set of Laws that worked at the human scale.

When Quantum Physics arrived on the scene in the 1920s, it "exposed the mechanistic approach as clearly inadequate for the exploration of nature at the atomic and nuclear scale and earlier, at the turn of the century, the General Theory of Relativity had shown that the approach was inadequate at large cosmic scales. Mechanism views nature as inert and deterministic (i.e. predictable), matter is believed to consist of solid irreducible pieces (atoms), the understanding of which (only) would lead to an understanding of nature as a whole (reductionism). This matter is the only reality and consciousness a kind of by-product of it. Quantum Mechanics, however, showed clearly that:

(i) nature is not deterministic but probabilistic, that simple cause and effect relations do not hold in nature;

(ii) matter is neither the 'real' stuff it was assumed to be but a surface manifestation of more abstract, underlying 'fields' or 'wave functions', nor is it inert but becomes more and more active the deeper one looks into it;

(iii) objective 'reality' does not exist since the observer of nature is inextricably linked with his/her observation;

(iv) the holistic approach to natural phenomena is more appropriate than the reductionist approach at the atomic level. The wave-particle duality, for example, can be resolved by viewing the wave-function of a particle as describing the behaviour of a system of particles as a whole.

"The mechanistic approach, then," says Dr. Cole, "is at best a simplifying approximation to problems with a limited range of scales of nature, completely inappropriate as a way of viewing nature at either very large or very small scales. As the philosophical basis of science it is no longer adequate." However, Dr. Cole warns against discarding the rational approach to studying nature. He says: "The problem has been the underlying, mechanistic philosophy which has motivated scientific 'progress' over the past 300 years or more. The danger is that, by reacting to the perils and, at times, appalling injustice which this 'progress' has produced, we might immerse ourselves in an irrational, religion-dominated philosophy as the pendulum swings too far in the opposite direction."

Dr. Cole concludes by saying that he "would like to see the study of crop circle phenomena as a stage on which the two opposing world views of the past could be

used as complementary tools. We should not, as mechanistic scientists tend to do, reject out of hand the possibility that the phenomenon is due to any force we do not yet understand. Nor should we jump to irrational conclusions about the phenomenon which fit our latest metaphysical theories of the universe without seriously testing these conclusions. I would like to see an approach which is both rational and scientific but at the same time open-minded to many possible causes of the phenomenon. We need to understand that, as its narrow underlying philosophy of the past becomes less and less tenable, modern science is opening doors and not closing them."

Dr. Cole cites, for further reading, Fritjof Kapra's *The Tau of Physics*, E. Jantsch's *The Self-Organising Universe* and Rupert Sheldrake's *The Presence of the Past*, as well as P.C.W. & J. Brown's *Superstrings: A Theory of Everything?* (The book I'm most familiar with on this list is Kapra's, having read it a number of times. I heartily recommend it if you're ready for some mind-bending concepts, which link the modern-day descriptions of the universe as used in quantum physics with the mystical interpretations favoured by the cultures of the East, which have been established on our Earth for much longer than our Western civilization.)

Hopi Indians

L. G., from Sacramento, California, one of my regular U.S. correspondents, included these comments in his most recent letter to me: "The article on the Hopi and their connection to ancient circles was exactly right. (*Signs in our Time* by Diane Brooks, *Circular* vol. 2, No. 4, pp. 24-26.) I wonder if the Insectoids mentioned in it have anything to do with the gleaming golden insects of man-size seen during the psychedelic age by Timothy Leary. I wish very much that the article was much longer and more detailed. I keep insisting that there are religious groups and others like the Hopi who have quite complete records of how to relate to the circles and what to expect, yet the rather complete silence on the matter and the suppression of the circles as in Kansas show that someone has a lot to lose."

Diane Brooks' article was, in fact, the precursor to a book she is hoping to publish very soon. So L. G.'s wish for more detail about Hopi Indian lore will be fulfilled. And mention of Timothy Leary's visions is also very interesting.

Those Underlying Pathways

D. T., of Weston-Super-Mare, Avon, picks up on Ken Brown's hoaxing article (*Evidence of Hoaxing at Cheesefoot Head? - Circular*, Vol. 2, No. 4, January, pp. 4 - 8), saying: "I and many others had also noted these thin underlying crop lines in almost all of the formations in the Avebury area [in 1991]. Whether they prove that each formation in which they appear was executed by a human foot or piece of apparatus is open to conjecture. It does not necessarily follow that the existence of these lines implies human interference."

On the other hand, does it really matter whether crop formations are being made by people or not? Have we all become too serious about the whole phenomenon? Those thoughts aside, the shapes that have appeared over the last two years have been new and exciting. They are artistic, balanced and extremely thought-provoking. Even if it turns out that the majority have been made by humans, they are still tremendous works of art that have given some sort of meaning to many people's lives."

Deja Vu

J.H. Loudon, of Reading, Berkshire, has spotted a recent article in *Kindred Spirit* (Vol. 2, No. 6) which highlights a peculiar oddity: the recurrence of a summer 1991 formation at Cheesefoot Head, which originally appeared in barley and has now reasserted itself through the turnips growing in the field. Spotted by Lucy Pringle, the photograph shows quite clearly the secondary growth of barley amongst the turnips; the outline of the original formation (called by some the "Tree of Life") is uncannily detectable. The article also says that the turnips growing within the old formation's boundary are "noticeably stunted". The field was "ploughed twice to a depth of four inches maximum, thereby 'moving every part of the ground'. After 'discing', the field was rolled before drilling and sowing, and was finally rolled once more," says Lucy, quoting the farmer.

A few days after receiving this information, I was told by another researcher that there was really nothing unusual about this at all; that he, in turn, had been told by other investigators that these secondary growth formations had been found on a number of occasions in previous years, so much so that they now never bother to take photographs or report them. It is, he was told, simply the seeds of the original cereal crop germinating after having been knocked out

of the heads and submerged in the soil by hundreds of pairs of trampling feet.

I'm prepared to accept their explanations - but I don't understand how the seeds manage to stay in place so accurately when the soil has been so thoroughly turned over by the plough. And why are the turnips stunted only within the formation boundary?

Notwithstanding the prosaic explanation recounted above, Mr. Loudon goes on to say: "I see this as proof that the formations are coming from below the ground and not from above - I believe from the Earth herself."

I would like to think of crop circles as a 'rash' on the surface of the Earth. It is there to tell us that she is ill and needs to be healed. A formation denotes an area where an energy line has become blocked and may be turning negative."

Our ancestors, though primitive in technology, were more at one with the Earth and with all of creation. They knew what to do when similar formations appeared in their time. They marked chakra points on the Earth's surface by constructing buildings such as henges, pyramids and even cathedrals. In them, they would use the ancient knowledge and send positive thoughts-energies to the Mother Earth."

That is what we must do to save her. We need to enter a formation and walk around it in a clockwise fashion and think positive thoughts of love and forgiveness. If this is carried out correctly, then I predict that the formation will not reform there."

Mr. Loudon also discusses the Barbury Castle formation and its association with the New Jerusalem Plan, described by St. John in the *Book of Revelation* in the *Bible*. This plan has been analysed by various scholars; Mr. Loudon included a diagram showing how the Barbury Castle formation fitted perfectly within this ancient cosmological plan; he also mentioned that the perimeter of the New Jerusalem Plan is 31,680 units, while the crop formation had a dimension of 3,168 square feet. Finally, "Lord Jesus Christ has, by gematria, the number 3168," says Mr. Loudon.

Certainly, there is something very compelling about the Barbury Castle formation - there were so many features seen previously, as well as features yet to have been produced at that time, contained within it. Of particular note, I thought, was the way one of the circles at the corners had a straight line going to the centre, corresponding to the ends of some of the

Beckhampton "fish" or "dolphin" types that arrived later in the season; a second contained precisely half the curving lines that were found later in the completed "six-petal" formations, each line being one edge of a petal; and the third corner had attached to it that magnificent "ratchet" or "maze" construction which has been seen ... er, well, perhaps it'll turn up this year!

Hoaxing

I know many people feel the Barbury Castle formation must have been hoaxed, just as the Cambridge Mandelbrot Set must have been. One chap sent me a many-paged letter describing exactly how he thought Barbury was created. He posited a team working to a carefully arranged plan, with ropes of various lengths and other implements. I forget how long he thought it would take, but he'd taken all the known crop lays into account and deduced from these which bits were made first and which parts were laid later. Others have suggested methods which might have created the Mandelbrot Set in the same way.

Now, this is a fascinating intellectual exercise and the arguments are compelling, but to me it is a big jump from suggesting that humans *are capable* of flattening wheat in this way - at night and undetected, and ending up with only the minimum number of mistakes, if any, in the final product - to saying that humans *must have* done it. It's like saying that computers *are capable* of displaying our concept of "intelligence" (i.e. they interface with us; in certain of their programs, they ask questions that require specific answers that generate more questions, etc.), therefore they *must be* intelligent.

The hoax theory breaks down for me when people simply will not admit to their alleged antics. Take the Wessex Skeptics, for example. In an lengthy open letter written by Martin Hempstead and published in *The Crop Watcher* (No. 9, January/February 1992), which discusses what appears to be the group's almost obsessive preoccupation with destroying Meaden's credibility as well as his Plasma Vortex theory (along with any other speculation about crop circles - apart from hoaxing, of course!), the only reference to the group's actual groundwork in 1991 is this: "I make no comment on our hoaxing activity this year beyond assuring you that in every case the farmer was handsomely compensated for the damage to his or her crop."

Well, bully for you, Martin, but this response *just isn't good enough*. If the farmers were compensated, then the Wessex Skeptics cannot be withholding the

locations of their alleged hoaxes because they fear prosecution. Maybe they think hardly anybody would believe them anyway - but hardly anybody does now. If they were truly interested in setting the record straight instead of playing stupid games for the benefit of the media attention they might gain, then they should publish all the locations of their previous hoaxes as soon as possible so we can all look at their claims properly. Until they do, I think their claims should be taken with a large pinch of salt. The same goes for Doug 'n' Dave, who also hide behind this facade of coyness.

Look again at the Mandelbrot Set - a particularly good photograph of it is on page 33 of *Crop Circles - Harbingers of World Change*. The precise definition of this formation's outer edges is staggering. Where the cardioid forms the cleavage of the heart shape, the standing wheat comes down to just one single standing stem; single standing stems fringe the smaller circles' circumferences where they meet the cardioid. The whole formation is huge, and yet the floor pattern displays a precision that would surely be hard to emulate using the Doug 'n' Dave method of plinths and string (remember their TV appearance? How the ripe, lignified wheat heads simply refused to lie down as they tried to shove it flat with their wooden sticks?), or the Wessex Skeptics' garden roller (on their TV appearance on *Equinox*, they did at least seem to get the wheat to lie down, but it might have been younger, more pliable - the Mandelbrot was in lignified wheat). Quite how a person pushing a heavy garden roller around a bumpy field at night could find the dexterity to produce such delicate touches is hard to imagine. After all, one slip while creating the perimeter of such a thing and the mistake will stay there, because once the lignified wheat stem is bent beyond a certain point, it will collapse and will never stand up straight again.

This concludes *Close Encounters* for another issue. (Perhaps it should be re-named *Kingsley's Soapbox!*) But I hope that you'll write to me with your crop circle ruminations because that's what this column is all about - my address is:

**BOB KINGSLEY,
"CLOSE ENCOUNTERS"
58, KINGS ROAD,
WEST END,
WOKING, SURREY
GU24 9LW
(UK).**

Please mark all correspondence for publication "*Close Encounters*". I look forward to hearing from you.

A CROP CIRCLE CONSPIRACY

By
Armen Victorian

Researcher Armen Victorian has pieced together a fascinating account of some of the behind-the-scenes events which shook the world of circles research last September when TODAY newspaper launched its "Doug and Dave" story claiming that crop circles were no more than a gigantic hoax. It soon became clear that there were many questions to which TODAY was not prepared to give a straight answer and, if ever an issue was thrown back in the melting pot, it is this one.

Since that time Armen Victorian has been instrumental in bringing a complaint before the Press Complaints Commission about TODAY's conduct regarding the Doug & Dave story and the way in which Pat Delgado was deceived using a carefully planned trap. This complaint has elicited a reply from Assistant Editor of TODAY Lloyd Turner which we publish at the end of this article. This supposedly reveals at long last the identity of the mysterious "MBF Services" - quite different from what Turner had told Victorian earlier - and still leaving open many questions.

On 9th September 1991 TODAY newspaper published an article claiming that two "con men", Douglas Bower and Dave Chorley, had been the main perpetrators of over 200 hoax circles and pictograms which had appeared in England in the last 13 years. Unlike in 1990, the world's media had shown little interest in the crop circle phenomenon during 1991, but suddenly the TV cameras, representatives from newspapers and radio stations and the whole media circus focussed their attention on Doug and Dave, wasting no time in giving the story maximum exposure. Not once did any of them pause to think, or ask appropriate questions about the nature, truthfulness, or possible ulterior motives of the two "con men" or TODAY newspaper.

There is in fact a multitude of motives why TODAY embarked upon such a biased, and, I would argue, untruthful reporting of the matter, which overtook some of the more glamorous headlines that we sometimes see in the 'Sunday Sport'. If there is no interesting gossip to attract the public to buy newspapers, why not create

some, such as the Doug and Dave story ? There is evidence to support such a line of thought. In a private interview with one "hoaxer" (*not Doug or Dave - Ed.*) we were told that *TODAY* had told him to stand by and, upon their instructions, create further hoax circles in the summer of 1992 at a time and place designated by them.

This is to my mind a clear violation of the code of conduct which journalists are expected to observe; this is creating a story with a view to report on it rather than independent reporting.

After *TODAY* published their story entitled "**MEN WHO CONNED THE WORLD**" (and indeed they did con at least one researcher, Pat Delgado) several important questions were asked, none of which were satisfactorily answered by *TODAY*. The very fact that *TODAY* actually contributed to the manufacture of part of their story by commissioning the creation of a hoaxed circle, then covertly and intentionally took part in a deliberate deception of Pat Delgado, constitutes morally, at the very least, a breach in journalistic ethics. They clearly intended to take sides in a way that suited their requirements and would sell more newspapers rather than remain neutral and merely report the facts.

In the course of "reporting" their story, *TODAY* took safeguards to conceal and protect their dubious dealings and biased coverage of the matter. They did so by hiding behind a quasi-company, conveniently created for the occasion -- the shadowy entity known as "MBF Services". When I questioned Lloyd Turner (Assistant Editor of *TODAY*) about MBF, he told me that it was a freelance press agency who introduced Doug and Dave to *TODAY*. (See box for transcript of this recorded telephone conversation to Turner which was made on September 16th.)

When Doug and Dave were questioned about MBF Services, they categorically denied anything about them. In fact Doug went to the length of saying that he had never heard of them in his life and asked me if I could find out from *TODAY* who MBF were (tape recorded conversation). I had asked *TODAY* on September 9th if I could speak to the two "con men" and was given "the telephone number of the hotel where they were staying" (tape recorded conversation). The following day this telephone number was no longer operative and I discovered that the number did not belong to any such hotel. The important question is: Why would *TODAY* newspaper go to such lengths as to obtain a temporary line, and to tell people wishing to make

enquiries that this was a fictitious hotel ? Immediately after publication of the story, reporter Graham Brough was unavailable for comment for over three weeks. Afterwards he declined my invitation to interview him consistently. One would have thought that he would have been proud of "breaking" such an important story and would have been more than willing to participate in any debate that would have given it added credibility.

Our initial search to determine who or what MBF Services was, or is, led to no clear answers. There is room for wild speculation and because a degree of evidence does exist which could support such speculation, I will refer to it later in this article. Repeated enquiries to *TODAY* bore no fruit. Right up until Turner's letter dated 2nd March 1992 (q.v.) *TODAY* remained consistently and persistently evasive about giving any information on MBF.

The alternative option was to see whether a violation of copyright would be challenged by *TODAY* if any of their story was republished, since copyright of the original article (9/9/91) was ascribed to MBF Services. I contacted Lloyd Turner and asked him if I could repeat the story word-for-word in a different media. His answer was that there would be no problems. When I put it to him that the copyright belonged to MBF Services, he replied "Don't worry about it." (*This appears to be in direct contrast to what Turner says in his letter to Victorian. - Ed.*)

Turner then asked me to speak to Rex Features (recorded telephone conversation). When I did so, they had already been informed about my enquiry. There seemed to be no problem apart from a financial agreement; that meant that if I wished to duplicate the exact format of their article word-for-word, I should pay for using it. Once more it proved that a financial motive was more important than protection of copyrights.

When I asked Rex Features whether they knew who, or what, MBF Services were, or how I could contact them, I was told exactly what *TODAY* had told me. Rex Features did not seem to know who MBF Services were.

It was quite obvious from the outset that Doug and Dave had not been truthful. There were numerous flaws in their stories. It is possible that they managed to hoax a few circles or pictograms and each time tried to perfect this further. However, when detailed questions were put to them, they failed to answer.

We have been able to extract some background information about the two con men. One of them does indeed possess a "photographic memory". It is quite possible for such a person to study the books and photographs so far published by crop circle investigators in order to have full details of a particular formation and to be able to talk about it. And they have indeed visited principal circle sites many times in recent years. We know that Doug Bower has a naval background; he worked in the Merchant Navy at one time. He was in Australia from 1958 until 1966 when he returned to England, working for British Nylon Spinners. After that he has been engaged in a picture framing business known as the Winchester Gallery in Southampton. There is other personal information but it would be speculative to draw any conclusions without sufficient evidence to hand. The only relevant and significant point is that his hobby is recording bird-song. This pursuit entails getting out and about in the countryside. In doing so the pair have been able to accumulate a comprehensive picture of the crop circles and their investigators in Hampshire at any rate.

Naivety and suspicion are both elements that have found a fertile breeding ground in various amateur research circles, including the field of cereology. Many of the investigators in this subject jealously guard their patch and their information. Many seek maximum exploitation and media exposure in order to be the first to break the news of a new formation or any other "scoop". Few of the individuals or groups have published a peer review paper or anything of scientific merit. A vast amount of data sits in the files gathering dust. Few attempts at scientific co-operation have been successful.

There has been, and is, an enormous degree of financial competition between the investigators. There has been a mass of abstract commentary without the backbone of firm evidence to support it. There have been on-camera invitations by researchers to the scientific community to come forward and examine the evidence, but, although some have, many have found these invitations meant nothing. Numerous pre-conditions before making the data available were set. Much of the time scientists had to meet the investigators' strict and scientifically pointless terms before anything was made available for examination. These tall requests were discouraging and still are. Commercialism still appears to rule in this field. Divisions created as a result of these negative aspects have all contributed to the present unsatisfactory position. So in fact, after a

decade of circles, few are any further forward than when they first started.

Due to *TODAY's* reluctance to answer questions asked about MBF, suspicions of a government plot grew among many crop circle investigators. There are several factors which indicate that this might be the case but insufficient hard evidence. I questioned an ex-MI5 high-ranking officer, explaining to him the way the *TODAY* story was presented and the newspaper's reluctance to reply to my enquiries. He told me that if this is the case, it does have all the hallmarks of disinformation as it is usually planted by the government.

He went on to explain that in Northern Ireland they used to set up an imaginary news agency any time that they intended to spread disinformation on a particular issue, and that if we had failed to establish what MBF Services were, then it might well be one such agency for disinformation staged by government officials.

I was also made aware that in 1990 there had been a government meeting at ministerial level to discuss the crop circle phenomenon.

Furthermore my investigations through various channels revealed the following interesting details :-

(1) There is a branch of the Ministry of Agriculture in Loughborough which deals with the agricultural implications of the phenomenon through laboratory experiments on crop samples.

(2) I was aware that the Royal Family had shown much interest in the circles. In fact one particular member of the House of Lords was 'commissioned' to keep members of the Royal Household informed and up-to-date on matters. Much earlier I had sought to find out whether this interest extended to funding crop circle research. In answer to a query based on Prince Charles' interest I received a reply from Buckingham Palace to the effect that: "I can confirm that

"I apologise for the length of time that has been taken to reply to your letter of 3rd December, but as you may have gathered, the questions you raised in your letter to the former Prime Minister have passed through a number of departments before reaching mine early this year for reply. I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Ministry of Defence.

I can confirm that we have never received any direction from Number 10 to fund or perform research into Corn Circles. Each of the MoD research departments we consulted also stated categorically that they had never been - nor did they intend to be - involved in any research into Corn Circles. I think that we may safely leave such activities to outside scientists - such as your good self."

The last statement is a telling one. It has been known for sometime now that the MoD does use outside scientists for research through various contracts.

(4) I was made aware through a number of my sources that the CIA (U.S. Central Intelligence Agency) has been closely monitoring the progress and evolution of the crop circles. My

wife decided to follow up this particular line of enquiry through the CIA. On 2nd October 1991, in reply to a letter from my wife, the CIA wrote as follows :-

"We have determined that the information regarding crop circles that you seek from the Agency files would not contribute significantly to the public understanding of the operations or activities of the United States government."

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH LLOYD TURNER (Recorded 16th September 1991)

- A.V. Mr Turner, this MBF. That's created a little bit of a mystery in this what is it, is it a news agency?
- L.T. It's just an agency that handled the details for us, that's all.
- A.V. Is it an agency you've created or spirited up because I've dealt with some of these agencies ?
- L.T. This is just an ordinary press agency, that's all, a freelance agency.
- A.V. None of them are actually working for you I take it ?
- L.T. No, no, no !
- A.V. A freelance agency like any other agency, what if
- L.T. They put us in touch with these people so they own the copyright.
- A.V. Can I contact this MBF ?
- L.T. No, because all you have to do is contact Graham Brough who is a reporter who does the story, that's all.
- A.V. And he would be able to put me through to these people?
- L.T. No, you wouldn't need to talk with them. All they are is a handling agency. They are like British Rail delivering parcels up and down the railways....

His Royal Highness has made no contribution towards funding research work into this subject". (Letter dated 7th December 1990)

(3) I made an enquiry to former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher (at the time no longer PM). My enquiry was re-directed to the Ministry of Defence who replied, in the person of a Mrs N.B. Stone (Department ER3) on 21st January 1991 as follows:-

In the same correspondence, the CIA have asked for certain criteria to be met before making any final decision about the release of documents which they hold on crop circles. We have since met these conditions and are currently awaiting the outcome.

(Since writing, a CIA document relating to crop circles in Germany, Japan and England was released to Armen Victorian under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Apart from noting some of the German circles were hoaxes, this gave no indication as to the origin or significance of the circles - Ed.)

In the course of our research of the *TODAY* story we investigated a company called "MBF Consultancy" which was registered in Shepton Mallet. A husband and wife, Dr and Mrs Andrew Clifford, are the directors. This MBF stands for Maiden Beech Farm which is the farmhouse near Crewkerne where they live.

There were a number of factors about this company which on first sight might appear suspicious. The telephone is ex-directory

and the listed mailing address is through their accountants in Shepton Mallet.

In a meeting with Dr Clifford it became clear that his firm handles almost exclusively defence research contracts. He also told us that he has been doing some work for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). I noticed that his Ph.D. thesis was in metallurgy (aluminium in particular) yet his current contracts involve hi-tech electronics.

He categorically denied any involvement with crop circles, but he did mention that he had become aware through the media that there was an interesting phenomenon. He says that he has nothing to do with it.

Our investigation discovered that there had been a positive financial leap not so long ago in Dr Clifford's career. One can only assume that this financial gain has been through his lucrative defence contracts with the government.

We could not make any positive link between MBF Consultancy and MBF

Services. Records released to us by Companies House clearly show the firm is registered as MBF Consultancy Limited and not MBF Services; it has a sister company called AC Laboratories, and I failed to establish any link after investigating them too.

Based on the results of research into the *TODAY* story, I can safely say there is no clear answer as to why they published in the first place.

The strange disclaimer that "*TODAY* has paid no money" at the end of the first day's installment is also something which has raised many questions. Nor is there any definite answer as to whether there was any official involvement behind the story.

Firm conclusions would merely be speculation that would tar us with the same brush as those journalists who are not too fussy about the truth so long as they have a sensational story. Did *TODAY* concoct the story without any help from outside or was it used as a launching vehicle by unidentified interested parties?



**THE "CROP CIRCLE"
MADE BY DOUG AND DAVE
FOR PRESS AND TV AT CHILGROVE, SUSSEX
ON SEPTEMBER 9, 1991.
"A PATHETIC MESS"**

Today

1 Virginia Street, London E1 9BS. Telephone: 071-782 4800

2 March 1992

Dear Dr. Victorian,

I have now had time to consider your complaint to the Press Complaints Commission about TODAY Newspaper stories beginning September 9 1991, on corn circles.

I spoke to you on a number of occasions during that time. I believe I gave you frank and honest answers to all your questions. In your conversations with me you led me to believe that you supported the theory put forward by the two men quoted in the TODAY article. Therefore, it was with great surprise that I read your complaint to the Press Complaints Commission.

There was never any question of TODAY playing a hoax on anybody.

We took the two hoaxers to a wheat field in Kent. They carried out a corn circle design.

It was witnessed by the independent owner of the field and a highly respected local farmer.

We then asked Mr Delgado to come to the Kent field. We told Mr Delgado that these corn circles had appeared in the wheat field but that we considered that it was probably just another hoax. He inspected the corn field and declared, as reported in TODAY on September 9, 1991 that this was in fact a genuine corn circle.

All we did was report what the two hoaxers and Mr Delgado had to say. We also reported what the so-called experts had to say in reply. There is no doubt, after our investigation that the two hoaxers did fool many people over a long period of time. The danger is that as summer approaches they will start to do the same again, particularly as those who insist that there is some hidden meaning to the corn circles continually attack them.

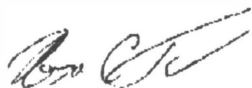
MBF Services was shown at the bottom of the article as the owners of the copyright of the stories. There is no hidden intrigue involved in MBF Services. MBF stands for Marchurst Barn Farm, a farm in Kent owned by me.

In accordance with common newspaper practice, we put a copyright insignia and identification at the bottom of the story to stop it being lifted by opposition titles. We told you and many of your colleagues on numerous occasions that MBF Services had nothing to do with the corn circles and should be regarded by you as nothing but a joke.

MBF Services was used as a copyright identity only because Marchurst Barn Farm Services were involved in setting up the corn circle exercise in a field. It was not, and could not, be involved with any hoax or sub-plot.

The newspaper and its journalists acted strictly within Press Complaints Commission guidelines and with the highest integrity.

Yours sincerely,



LLOYD TURNER
Assistant Editor

cc T Evans
Press Complaints Commission

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The explanation by Lloyd Turner of what MBF stands for is interesting but does little to dispel the impression that TODAY is still denying us the full truth about the origin of the Doug & Dave story. My investigations in Kent show that Lloyd and Jill Turner do indeed have a house called "Marchurst Barn" which is situated at TQ577514 just a mile and a half from the field where Delgado was tricked into pronouncing a hoaxed insectogram to be the genuine article. In a letter dated 10 3 92 Pat Delgado specifically disputes Turner's claim that TODAY ever told him they considered the corn circles at Ightham to be a hoax: "Never at any time did they tell me, or even hint they considered the circles in that Kent field were a hoax."

Lloyd Turner is a friend of Mr Patmore on whose farm Mote Farm, Ightham, the bogus crop formation was made. We have been told that "10 - 12 men" went into the field early on the day that the fake circle was made (Sept 5th) and spent most of the day there. Presumably these men included Brough, Turner, and Doug and Dave themselves. At least 3 were local and others may have been from TODAY, or from TVS who supplied the helicopter that was used when Delgado was in the field. He had been asked by TODAY to come and look at the circle and they paid for his taxi from Alresford in Hampshire which cost over 100. That alone should have caused him to smell a rat! Astonishingly no still or video film was made of the two con men making the formation or of it in a half-completed state. Although some have said this could have been because it was a genuine formation, I consider there is no possibility of that and anyway it displays a number of marked differences from the other insectograms. A more feasible explanation is that several people in addition to Doug and Dave helped make this insectogram (which should be contrasted with the appalling mess of a circle which D & D made, unaided, for the press and TV at Chilgrove on September 9th) and that these men did not wish this to be seen or their identity to be known.

As for "Marchurst Barn Farm", Turner's house is certainly not a farm within the normal meaning of the word. It is a house in one of two rows of tied houses associated with Marchurst Manor which have been converted into expensive private country residences in recent years. These houses are known as Marchurst Line and includes Marchurst House, Marchurst Lodge, Marchurst Cottage, Marchurst Barn, etc. The local postmaster did not recognise the appellation "Marchurst Barn Farm" as a current or previous name for "Marchurst Barn", whose address is Hildenborough Lane, Shipbourne. Perhaps readers of The Circular would like to suggest what the "F" of "MBF" really stands for, if it doesn't stand for 'farm'....? --Editor.

For general interest....

EARTH MYSTERIES LIST

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LIST EM/1 - Jan 1992

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PAUL DEVEREUX

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**THE
STRANGE
AFFAIR
OF THE
GOLDEN PLATES**

***Inscribed Discs
Allegedly Found in
Germany.***

The following items have been translated for us by Gordon Creighton from a German newspaper which I was sent. They add an intriguing and paradoxical new twist to the crop circle saga and readers will make of it what they will. Like so much else to do with the circles many will say: "Surely this has to be a hoax? The unknown man MUST have contrived all this in order to sell for a fortune the gold (or was it silver?) plates, which he MUST have forged for this purpose." Well, possibly, but that is for you to decide. Something was undoubtedly dug up and removed from three of the circles by this man who managed to remain incognito. Does this mean that the circles were faked? Was the Hildesheim formation an ancient alchemical design? Were the plates ancient in origin? These are questions which are not easily answered.

I have been told it is irresponsible to publish this since it may encourage people to excavate the circles in this country in a quest for gold. But since this story is already in the public domain, and you, dear reader, are not so foolish as that, I cannot see there is any harm. One would be better employed digging for gold where the rainbow ends... -- Editor.

**TRANSLATED ITEMS FROM LOWER
SAXONY (NIEDERSACHSEN)
NEWSPAPER NEUE PRESSE.**

EXTRACT NO 1. From NEUE PRESSE of Sunday, August 18, 1991.

**MYSTERY VISITOR AT CORNFIELD
CIRCLES VANISHES.....YOUNG MAN
WITH METAL DETECTOR
UNEARTH METALLIC DISCS.**

From our Reporter Claudia Brebach.
GRASDORF.

At 10.00 o'clock yesterday morning, along with other visitors, a man in painter's overalls turned up at the gigantic circles in a cornfield at Grasdorf, in Hildesheim District, and began to search the spot with a metal-detector. He dropped a paper

handkerchief in the centres of the three circles. Then, using a spade, he dug down to a depth of 40 cms. in the three circles and drew out from the holes some metallic discs about 30 cms. wide. Then he vanished.

Said Farmer Werner Harenberg, owner of the cornfield (PN report): "My plough doesn't go down so deep as 40 cms. I would never have found the metal discs."

Ever since the appearance of the mysterious cornfield circles ten days ago, there has been a constant stream of visitors with pendulums, dowsing rods, and detectors, all investigating the cornfield markings, so farmer Harenberg had given no further thought to the young man with the walrus moustache.

At any rate Cemal K... [almost certainly a Turkish immigrant worker --Ed.], one of Harenberg's workers, did have the presence of mind to take a photo of the visitor. Yesterday Cemal was complaining: "The maddening thing is that in other cases I always ask people their names and ask them what their view is about our cornfield circles. But this young chap was one of the very few people to whom I didn't speak much."

Cemal had held the discs in his hand. About 25 or 30 cms. or maybe a little more in diameter, he said: "They were as heavy as iron."

The mystery visitor had told him that he intended to go at once to see the farmer. But he didn't stay there long enough to do that, and vanished, leaving his spade and the three handkerchiefs behind in the cornfield.

Farmer Werner Harenberg now wants his employee Cemal K... himself to go on digging about in the field, to see whether he might perchance find any more discs.

On the days when there are few visitors, the farm staff now collect no entrance fee. Cemal, who won't give his own surname as he is afraid of having a flood of visitors pouring into his home, says: "Anyone who feels like it just puts something in the box." (The whole Harenberg clan are tight-lipped on the question of how much the takings have totalled).

There were a few curiosity seekers there again yesterday afternoon. One woman had a dog with her. She pulled the dog away sharply from one of the holes where a disc had been unearthed, and explained, hesitantly, "If he gets in there, he'll be gone!"

EXTRACT No. 2. From NEUE PRESSE. (Undated. Probably the following week, Sunday, August 25th).

**MYSTERY PHONE CALL TO PAPER
ABOUT GOLD OBJECTS DUG FROM
A CORNFIELD."**

**I AM KEEPING THE TREASURE,
AND AM WORRIED ABOUT THE
POLICE."**

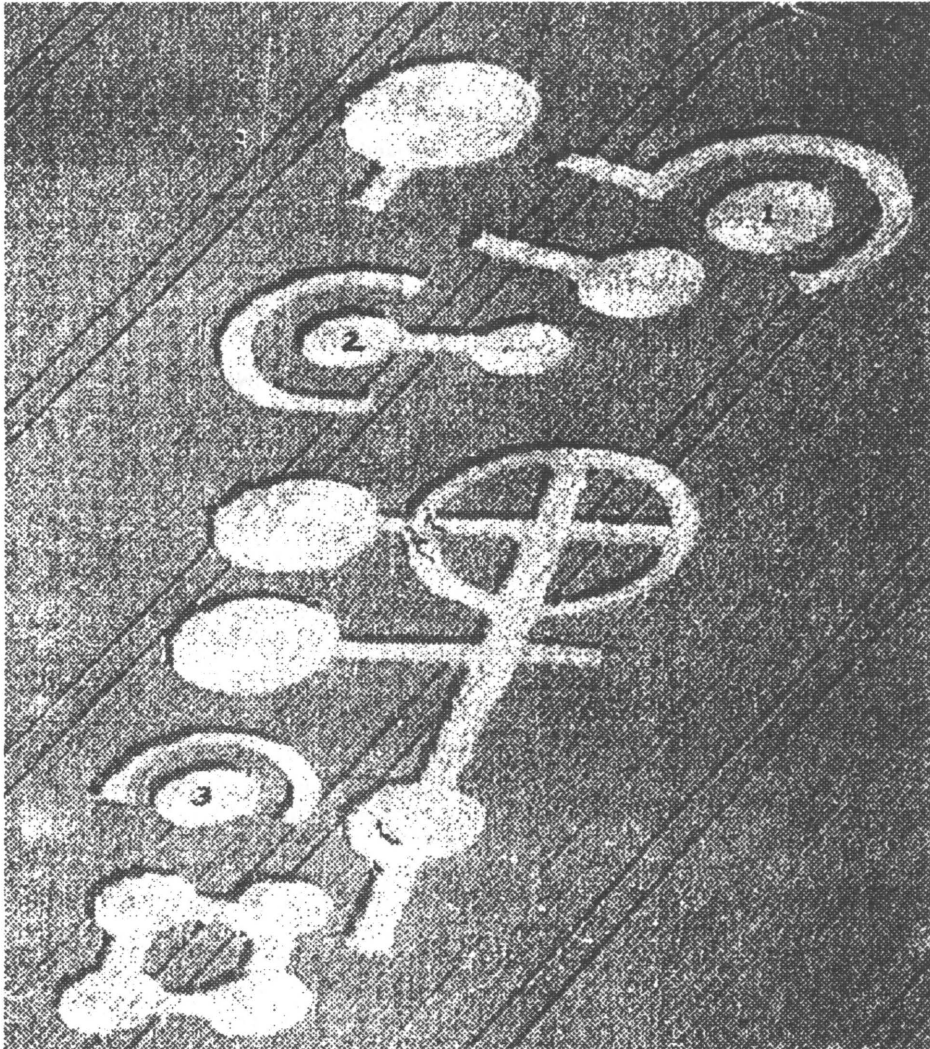
From our Reporter Claudia Brebach.

GRASDORF. At 11 o'clock yesterday morning, farmer Werner Harenberg, in whose wheatfield in Grasdorf some huge mysterious circles had turned up exactly two weeks before (NP report), received an anonymous 'phone call.

The excited caller said he had found a sensational treasure. After cleaning, the objects he had discovered turned out to be three golden discs with the same inscriptions as had appeared in the wheatfield.

Shortly after that, farmer Harenberg opened his post to find that it contained photos of the metallic discs just as the caller had stated. The farmer, angry, said: "I tried, on the 'phone, to make it clear to him that the finds belong to me, but he wouldn't let me talk, and absolutely refused to give either his name or his telephone number."





His reason - the man said - was that he was afraid lest the Police might intervene.

So, since yesterday there had been uproar in the Harenberg household over the "vanishing gold-digger."

Harenberg's assistant, Cemal, who actually photographed the unknown man, but failed to get the plates from him, is depressed, and says: "Now Harenberg is fed up with me".

Arne Eggebrecht, Director of the Roemer-Pelizaes Museum in Hildesheim says: I doubt whether this could be ancient treasure. There would have to be an investigation, to establish the truth of the matter".

The unknown caller had said on the telephone that he was going to carry out an analysis himself, and would report again on it.

Yesterday Cemal was consoling himself with a mysterious new discovery that he had made. He says: "On Sunday I saw a blue light moving through the sky". Then after a short pause, he went on: "But surely it was only a satellite anyway".

RIDDLE OF THE CORNFIELD SPELLS SUCCESS FOR GERMAN FARMER

*Philip Sherwell reporting in
the Daily Telegraph*

Germany is abuzz with the Rätsel Kornfeldkreise - the mystery of the corn circles.

This phenomenon, traditionally a British preserve has spread from the fields of Wiltshire to the north German plains.

The appearance in a cornfield of bizarre configurations, some bearing a resemblance to the hammer and sickle and tennis rackets, has captured the imagination of normally sceptical Germans.

As newspapers and television speculate about everything from UFO landings to student hoaxes, thousands of visitors have descended on the farm near Hildesheim, south of Hanover.

Herr Werner Harenberg, the farmer, suggests mystical forces have been at work, although he doubts men from outer space have set foot in his field. But there is also evidence of a more down-to-earth explanation. Tyre tracks running through the shapes and indentations at their centre point to possible human involvement.

Whatever the cause, the patterns have proved a god-send for Herr Harenberg who introduced a 99 pfenning (35p) entrance fee to the field, which he doubled as the crowds of visitors swelled.

JUPITER POWERWEAR



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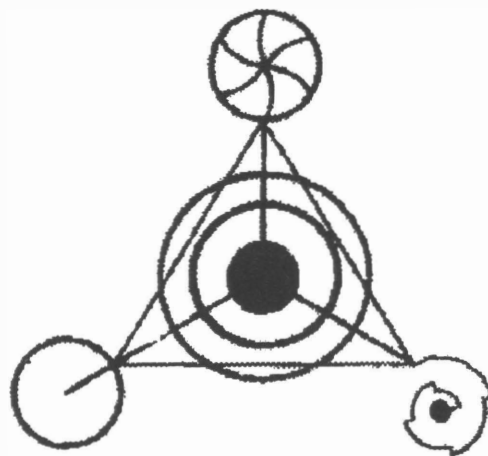
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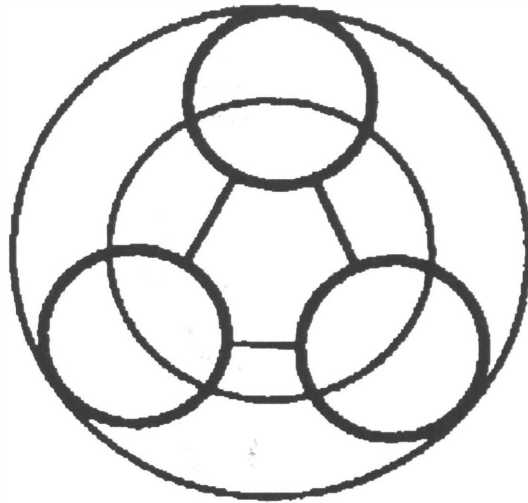
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