

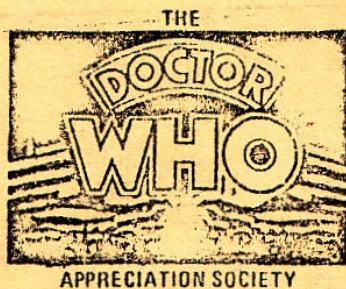
It was 'all change' for DWAS back in 1978. The membership fee (£1-50 per year) had just been introduced and CT, previously a free swaps and pen-pals newsletter, replaced TARDIS as the Society's monthly newsletter, funded by the membership fee, instead of being sold in its own right as TARDIS had been.

For the front page of each edition bar one that year, the Society's historian Jeremy Bentham, (and on one occasion CT editor Gordon Blows) produced a mock-up newspaper headline, inspired by the events of a particular Doctor Who story. At this point season 15 was the most recent.

The July edition was the exception—the cover was given over to news of the intention to show all four episodes of 'An Unearthly Child' at the forthcoming Pan-opticon convention (eventually only the first episode was acquired for that event).

Back then CT was produced from stencils and printed on a 'roneo' duplicator. The magazine was typically six sides and stapled in the left hand corner. It took until half way through 1979 for CT to be printed professionally (litho).

Re-produced here are the original front pages to each CT from 1978. You will also find an additional item from a later CT which heralded the return for the feature, to which many readers went on to contribute



THE DOCTOR WHO APPRECIATION SOCIETY:

Newsletter



Celestial Toyroom

1978 series ●

January Issue

● Number 1



Pen-Pals



Ian
Chesterton



Barbara
Wright

HAVE YOU SEEN THESE PEOPLE?



Susan
Foreman

Dateline:

Tuesday,
November 26th 1963.

● report by
J. JEREMY BENTHAM.

.....
telephone calls to the homes of the two adults, school teachers Ian Chesterton and Barbara Wright, failed to yield any information as to their whereabouts. Subsequent enquiries of friends and colleagues revealed the two had not been seen at their residences since the Friday.

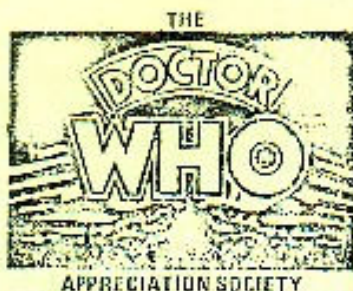
Further depths have been added to the mystery by the discovery of the car belonging to Ian Chesterton abandoned outside a junk yard in Totters Lane; South London. Forensic experts were called in and they agreed that the vehicle had been there since late Friday afternoon. As a further complication to what is already described as by one detective, "a baffling case of disappea-

POLICE are today searching the Southern Counties for three people, believed missing since last Friday evening. The two adults and a schoolgirl were reported missing by the Headmaster of Coal Hill Secondary School when all three failed to turn up for classes yesterday. Police Officers were called in as

rance," the junk yard address is registered with Coal Hill School for being the home of the 15 year old missing pupil, Susan Foreman. Attempts to trace the owner of the yard, a Mr. I. M. Foreman, supposedly the girl's grandfather, have so far met with negative results.

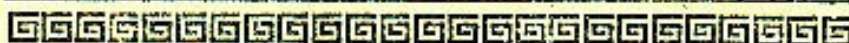
A spokesman for Scotland Yard, commenting on the case, said today, "This has all the elements of a first class mystery.

Our boys have found traces of footprints belonging to three, possibly four people, who must have entered the yard on Friday evening." He went on to remark, "The really strange thing is, 'though several people obviously entered the premises, none appear to have left. It's as though they suddenly and inexplicably, vanished off the face of the Earth"...



THE DOCTOR WHO APPRECIATION SOCIETY

Newsletter



Celestial Toyroom

1978 series

February Issue

Number 2



Brigadier Lethbridge
Stewart

INTRUDER FROM SPACE?

REMARKABLE STORY FROM EPPING FOREST

Dateline:

Wednesday
January 2nd 1975.

report by
J. Jeremy Bentham.

Early yesterday, heavy military vehicles rolled into the Essex countryside and proceeded to cordon off a large area of Epping Forest in what is believed to be a massive search for an object that fell from space in the earlier hours of that morning.

The nature of the object has not been disclosed as yet, but observers have speculated

it may be of extra terrestrial origin. Official sources have warned the public to stay clear of the forest but have refused to state if there is any cause for alarm.

However, our correspondent at Ashbridge Cottage Hospital in Epping reported that during the afternoon the body of a civilian, found unconscious in the forest, was brought in and, at present, his condition cannot be diagnosed by doctors.

Military guards have been placed around the body, but Brigadier Lethbridge Stewart, in charge of the investigative team, has refused to comment on the point that the man was in-

fectured by any form of dangerous radiation.

Brigadier Lethbridge Stewart later issued a statement denying the rumours of a crashed flying saucer, insisting that the device they are searching for is space hardware from the British Mars Probe programme.

Ashbridge itself is no stranger to falling stars. Six months ago a small shower of meteorites fell in a similar area, dangerously close to the

local factory of 'Auto Plastics Ltd.'. A small search was mounted, but no traces of the meteors were ever found.

The investigation continues...



inside!



THE DOCTOR WHO APPRECIATION SOCIETY:

Newsletter



Celestial Toyroom

1978 series ●

March Issue

●Number 3

MYSTERY DEATHS HORROR ON FANG ROCK

Dateline:

Thursday

August 5th 1909.

●report discovered
in the DEVONSHIRE
MERCURY by J. Jeremy
Bentham.

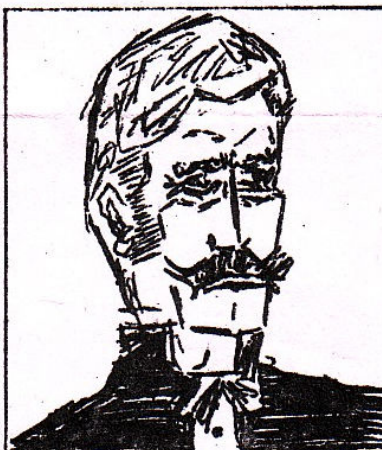
.....
boatmen from a nearby station had called on the island following indications of ship wreckage and damage to the lighthouse structure from coastal observers.

An initial inquest showed all deaths to have been due to shock arising from contact with electrical current. Though two of the bodies, including that of Lord Palmerdale, had also shown signs of physical mutilation. A constable stated that while the causes of death were now known, no clue has been found as yet for the circumstances.

The lighthouse had recently been installed with an electricity-generating device but it has been categorically stated that none of the dead had been found in the proximity of the machine.

SENIOR DETECTIVES of the Devon Constabulary have been directed by Parliament to begin a full investigation into the so far unexplained deaths of M.P. James Skinsale; member for Thurleigh, and City financier Lord Palmerdale, whose bodies were found, with those of four others, on FANG ROCK Lighthouse early last Tuesday.

News of the horrific discoveries on FANG ROCK was telegraphed to London after life-



James Skinsale M.P.

Medical evidence has given the mystery its most baffling slant so far. According to examining doctors, the body of one of the keepers had been subjected to an intense and thorough post mortem after death as well as prolonged immersion in the sea.

Furthermore, the corpse of James Skinsale was found lying in a pool of repellant green slime that has to date, remained

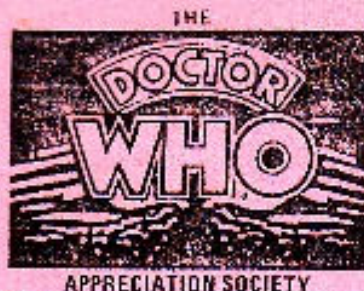
unidentifiable.

Police are now working of the assumption of murder caused by person's unknown who are believed to have absconded the island before the discovery of this hideous crime.

Doctor Who CONVENTION 1977 Report Special

FIRE BALL SEARCH ABANDONED

Mr. Tom Oliphant, local astronomer and Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, has announced he is calling off the search for the two fireballs that were seen falling towards the sea off the Devon coast last Sunday evening.



FOR DOCTOR WHO APPRECIATION SOCIETY

Newsletter

Celestial Toyroom

1978 series ●

April Issue

● Number 4

THE GHOST CITY...

Dateline:

Sunday

January 21st 1968.

report by

J. Jeremy Bentham.

LONDON KILLER MIST SPREADS

The evacuation of central London continues today amid growing fears for the safety of those still awaiting clearance within the environs of the capital.....

Civil and military authorities, who have been on full alert since the first appearance of the killer mist two weeks ago, are reported to be stretched to capacity in handling this mammoth operation of unparalleled magnitude. Schools, church halls, gymnasiums, in fact every sizeable building as far away as Hatfield and Redhill has been commandeered to house the millions of London people now being evacuated from the danger zone.

The actual source of the mist has yet to be tracked down, though a government spokesman from the committee which identified the fog as a chemical secret weapon from the last war, housed in London in case of invasion, commented all records were now being check-

ed to find the secret location of the leaking gas.

Colonel Pemberton, in charge of the military operations has given the latest scale of the area affected by the mist. It now roughly spans the underground railway's Circle Line circumference and observers are acutely concerned for London's 'outer ring' should wind speeds increase.

Since the abrupt closure of the Underground network last Thursday transportation of all those without cars is being carried out by army lorries and British Rail services outside the central zone.

A report in yesterday's evening papers, now being printed in Manchester, concerning a sighting of a large, fur covered

monster' has now been officially denied. The animal was apparently a bear escaped from London Zoo which has now been recaptured.

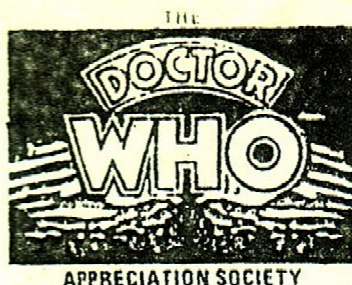
THIS ISSUE:



VOTE

for Doctor WHO!!





Celestial Toproom

1978 series ●

May Issue

● Number 5

ENQUIRY SENSATION



Dr. who?

PROFESSOR JOHN BRETT this afternoon walked away a free man from the three month enquiry called to investigate the "War Machines" incident. A packed court house listened in silence as a verdict of 'not guilty' was advised for the 49 year old Professor whose genius in the field of computers gave rise, four months ago, to the greatest civil emergency central London has known since the war. In their summing up, the enquiry judges handed out stiff verbal reprimands to Sir Charles Summer and his team of civil servants for failing to supervise adequately the operation of WOTAN - the Post Office Computer housed in the GPO Tower which led to the whole affair.

Dateline:

Friday,
October 7th 1966.
● report by
J. Jeremy Bentham.

During his appraisal. Mr. Justice Lloyd QC commented favourably upon Professor Brett's track record

as Britain's leading computer scientist, while, at the same time, handing out a warning to the industry as a whole.

"Over the next twenty years," he said, "computers will unquestionably assume dominant positions in commercial and military installations. It is up to their designers to ensure that from these devices, created for the betterment of mankind, 'Frankenstein-like monsters' of the kind this court has been debating never again emerge to threaten the lives of those they are supposed to serve."

Present on the final day of the case was Miss Dorothea Chaplet - one of the first of the many who were in-

fluenced by WOTAN's electronic signals which produced effects of hypnosis in the victims. Miss Chaplet accepted the thanks of the court on behalf of her, so far un-named employer, the Doctor of Electronics mentioned in the testimonies of Sir Charles Summer and Professor Brett as being the man responsible for the solution to the crisis.

At a conference with reporters later, Professor Brett expressed his gratitude at the court's decision and hoped that, by this verdict he would be able to resume his career in the computer design field. Questioned about his resignation from the Post Office, the Professor replied he felt it only right and proper to do so under the circumstances, but added more optimistically that he had already received several offers of jobs; proof of his forgiveness.

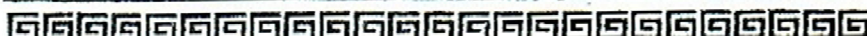
On an even lighter note the scientist stated that Londoners need no longer be concerned for their safety since his new employers, Global Chemicals, would shortly be moving him out to the 'wilds of South Wales'.



APPRECIATION SOCIETY

THE DOCTOR WHO APPRECIATION SOCIETY:

Newsletter



Celestial Toyroom

1978 series ●

JUNE Issue

● Number 6

B.B.C. switchboards were jammed last night as calls from irate viewers flooded in protesting at the handling of the broadcast from the archeological dig at Devil's End, Wiltshire.

Among the calls were several from the Royal Society who complained bitterly that what should have been a documentary record of the excoavation of the "Devil's Hump", became instead an excuse for mass media sensationalism heavily laden with suggestions of witchcraft and black magic.

Dateline:

Saturday May 1st 1976
● report by
J. Jeremy Bentham.

.....
All through the coverage of the excavation, supervised by Professor Gilbert Horner, emphasis had been laid upon the macabre history of the district and particularly upon the previous expeditions that had always, somehow, ended in failure for the organisers. The culmination to the latest attempt to unravel the mystery of the Hump was to have been last night; April 30; Beltane; greatest occult festival of the year

BBC

BLACKED — OUT

SATANIC FORCES AT WORK
IN WILTSHIRE VILLAGE?

save for Halloween. The stage had been carefully set by Professor Horner and Alistair Fergus, reporting for "Nation-wide" and "Tonight", to co-incide with the final opening of the burial mound with the chimes of midnight. Even during earlier bulletins it had been suggested that this dig was to be like none other. What interested viewers were totally unprepared for was the sudden appearance, dead on midnight, of a wild-eyed figure in a velvet cape followed by a sudden, and so far inexplicable blackout of televised transmission.

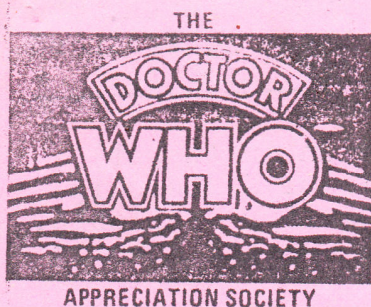
Barry Letts, executive Producer for the broadcast, denied this morning any attempt at a hoax on the part of the B.B.C. and attributed the

blame to technical failure caused by freak weather conditions in the area. Even in the early hours of this morning the Post Office announced that telephone links to Devil's End were still out of action pending further investigation by engineers.

A spokesman for the B.B.C. scoffed at the intimations of demonic intervention being responsible for the events at the dig and perported only that the television crew, on-site since the early days of the dig, had been recalled in one of the few phone calls to get through before the sudden, and total blackout of communication with the district.

Local Groups

notices inside



THE DOCTOR WHO APPRECIATION SOCIETY :

Newsletter



Celestial Toyroom

1978 series ●

JULY Issue ● Number 7

COME &
SEE THE
ORIGINAL
DR WHO
SERIAL
AT THE



ised, and our own displays will be enlarged. The slide show will appear again with new contents and we will be re-showing the BFI extract from 'Daleks Invasion Earth' plus the full-length film version. Our own Drama Dept. film 'Ocean in the Sky' will be shown in the amateur films section.

If you still haven't registered for PanoptiCon '78" then TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

DWAS CONVENTION

PANOPTICON 1978

Possibly the best news any DOCTOR WHO fan could hope to hear! This year at "PanoptiCon '78" the Doctor Who Appreciation Society will be screening, for the first time outside of BBC transmission, a Doctor Who series, and as if this were not enough, it will be the very first! This classic serial contains the unforgettable "Unearthly Child" with the three following instalments which trace the Doctor, Susan and their unwilling companions Ian and Barbara through the hazards of 'The Cave of Skulls', 'The Forest of Fear' and 'The Fire-maker'.

Surely PanoptiCon is now an event you cannot - must not - miss? For as well as this magnificent centrepiece we also offer a host of other attractions: Tom Baker, Mary Tamm, John Leeson, Terrance Dicks, Gerry Davis, Robert Holmes, Dick Mills, Mat Irvine, Antony Read, Frazer Hines, Carole Ann Ford, and the list is not complete yet!

Mat Irvine will be conducting a new lecture on Special Effects, and Dick Mills will be complementing him with a talk on Sound Effects. A longer and better Fanzine Sale is planned. More props from the BBC have been prom-

Only a few weeks to go and places are going fast so get those forms in quickly, we can no longer promise places for you!

All enquiries should be sent to me, Keith Barnfather at the Convention Office (49 Hillier Road, Battersea, London SW11 6AX), as soon as possible. If you have any problems with your booking at all then please let me know, I can hold places for you.

Note: A review of last year's convention is in the latest DWAS Yearbook Price 40p plus a large sae with 15p in postage on it also from the Convention Office.

1978 series ●

AUGUST Issue

●Number 8

Dateline:

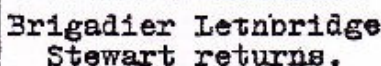
Monday
March 9th 1981.
report by
J. Jeremy Bentham.

FOLLOWING WEEKS OF pressure from public and Opposition bodies, the Home Secretary today gave the go-ahead for a full - scale enquiry into the operations of the British Division of UNIT. The enquiry will investigate the allegations of gross infringements under home and international law supposedly perpetrated by the scientific and military body in this country since its formation by United Nations treaty over ten years ago.

Since that date, the activities of UNIT - commanded in Britain by Brigadier Alistair Lethbridge-Stewart - have been hidden by a security blanket, though it is known that several M.P.s have complained in Parliament over the way in which the organisation has handled several of the incidents in which it has been involved.

A move to open an enquiry four years ago by the then Minister of Ecology, after the destruction of the Panorama Chemicals plant in South Wales was narrowly quashed in the interests of national security.

However, news this week has emerged of the poss-



ible murder of prominent City financier Harrison Chase in the air raid upon his country residence in Surrey, apparently commissioned by UNIT. This astonishing claim was made by several of Harrison Chase's business colleagues following the so far unexplained air attack last week, compounded with the disappearance of the reclusive millionaire.

Local bodies have substantiated the claim, giving eye-witness reports of the bombing which razed the 16th Century house to the ground. Further condemnations of UNIT's actions have stretched to accusing the troops of using flame throwers on the unique plant collection owned by Harrison Chase; believed by many to be the largest single collection in private hands....

Brigadier Lethbridge-Stewart, hurriedly recalled from Geneva last night, refused to comment on the matter to reporters, adding only that he would be expecting a full report

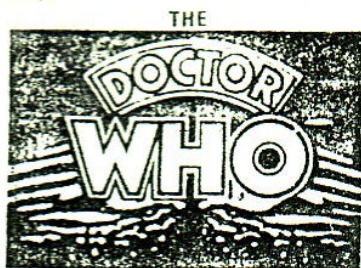
WHO'S BEHIND UNIT

on the operation from the officer in charge, Major Beresford.

The air raid on the home of Harrison Chase has brought sharply into question the powers granted to UNIT by international agreement whereby regular army, navy and air force equipment and personnel can be enlisted, without prior Parliamentary approval, for active use by UNIT. This, in effect means, that live shells and ammunition can be brought to bear on any locations and persons selected by the UNIT commanders, whose only responsibility is to the United Nations security body in Switzerland.

In a country now priding itself for its lead in peaceful disarmament, this state of affairs is clearly viewed with official trepidation and it is expected that the forthcoming public enquiry will lead to stringent curbs on UNIT's power in Britain.

The enquiry chairman
will be appointed
tomorrow.



APPRECIATION SOCIETY

THE DOCTOR WHO APPRECIATION SOCIETY:

Newsletter



Celestial Toyroom

1978 series ●

SEPTEMBER Issue

●Number 9

SABOTAGE AT GAS REFINERY

THREE HELD AS PRESSURES DROP AGAIN

THOUSANDS of homes in the North Eastern area were on reduced gas pressure last night as supplies again ran low following further trouble at the refinery on the Sunderland coastline.

The refinery was opened late last year to handle the rich supplies of natural gas being brought to the surface by the three rigs operating off-shore in the area.

.....
Dateline:

Monday
March 18th 1968.

●report by
J. Jeremy Bentham.

.....
A government decision made earlier this month, justified on the grounds of the predicted size of the gas field, made the plant the chief supplier of gas to the entire region as a pilot scheme. Results from this project will show the gas board the likely consequences when the entire country is converted to North

Sea Gas in the undertaking scheduled for completion in the early Seventies.

For several weeks now, reports have been coming in of gas leaks, unexplained pressure drops and of problems on the rigs themselves.

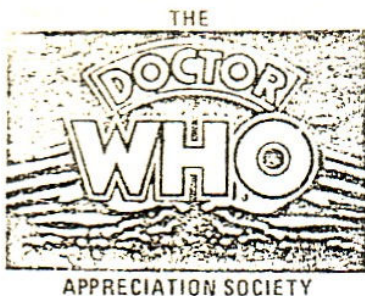
Commenting on the troubles, a spokesman for the gas refinery denied categorically all rumours of any industrial action being taken by the engineers aboard the rigs, and added that as soon as the reasons for the communications blackout are discovered, appropriate action will be taken.

Asked to explain last night's, and previous pressure drops, the spokesman went on to mention that three people had been arrested yester-

day afternoon when found tampering with the main sea pipeline. No news has yet been released but it is understood that the three - a woman and two men - are being detained and questioned under suspicion of sabotage. A further statement is expected this evening

a
special
invitation
for
you

see
page 2



APPRECIATION SOCIETY

THE DOCTOR WHO APPRECIATION SOCIETY :

Newsletter



Celestial Toyroom

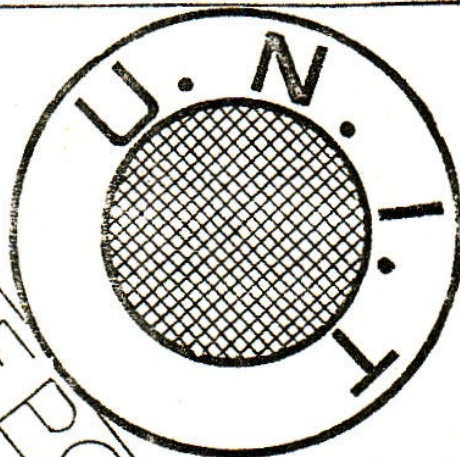
1978 series ●

OCTOBER Issue

●Number 10

NOW UNIT RAID THINKTANK

SPECIAL REPORT



Dateline:

Thursday
June 28 1979.

● report by
Gordon Blows.

FOLLOWING DAYS of agitation by UNIT Brigadier, Alistair Lethbridge Stewart to raid Thinktank - the Government sponsored home of British scientific inquiry, the military force have found the offices and laboratories deserted and abandoned.

In an official statement this morning, a spokesman for British UNIT has denied rumours of nuclear warfare threats from a small group of scientific elite, believed to have been working for Thinktank.

Cause for these rumours have been UNIT's interest in the recent murder of Junior Cabinet Minister Joseph Chambers, who, it is thought, was in possession of particular documents regarding nuclear disarmament. Connected to this occurrence was the sudden and brutal raid by the

UNIT troops upon the Scientific Reform Society - a group to which many leading scientists are members, and a society that is treated with respect in higher Government circles. Curiously, having found Thinktank deserted, the Brigadier's

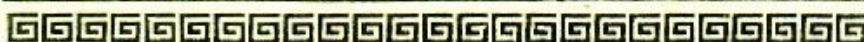
team remain in the grounds. As heavy artillery trundles in to the area, no further statements, apparently, are to be made. The whole affair has become very Top Secret. What, exactly, is this 'Secret Army' up to now?



APPRECIATION SOCIETY

THE DOCTOR WHO APPRECIATION SOCIETY

Newsletter



Celestial Toyroom

1978 series ●

NOVEMBER Issue

●Number 11

ENGLAND COLLAPSE

ELABORATE STUNT HERALDS AUSTRALIAN VICTORY -

from Sporting Correspondant J. Jeremy
Bentham.

STUDENTS from Surrey University are being blamed tonight for a spectacular hoax which disrupted play for several vital minutes, and cost England the Ashes, during the final day's play at The Oval this afternoon.

From a seemingly hopeless position at the start of their second innings, the English batsmen had fought back gamely during the morning, and scoring two half centuries before lunch. At the time of the incident, and with time itself a vital factor, England stood with four wickets in hand and seventy-eight runs to make.

Dateline:

Saturday
September 11th 1965.

Interviewed for BBC Television after the match, England Skipper Ted Dexter expressed bafflement

at the prank which led to his team's sudden collapse. He said:

"By mid-afternoon, our boys had got the pace of the Australian bowlers and I reckoned we stood a good chance of winning. I was about to take a ball from Benaud when I noticed Godfrey Evans staring at something over my shoulder. I just couldn't believe my eyes when I turned round and found myself gazing at a police telephone box that had somehow been brought onto the pitch. I'd just about got over the shock and was looking around for some ground staff to move it,

when the damned thing moved itself. I thought it had vanished! A large, blue police box there one minute, gone the next. The Aussies were clearly rattled but with so much to play for, in the end it was our concentration that was worst hit. I was out with the next ball..."

Godfrey Evans was out within a further three overs and the whole team was eventually dismissed for 324 runs.

Just how the vanishing trick, seen by a packed Oval crowd and heard by listeners to the Light Programme was affected remains a mystery.



Celestial Toyroom

1978 series *

DECEMBER Issue

* Number 12

WE ARE NOT ALONE

by
J. Jeremy
Bentham.

Dateline:
October 23rd, 1983.

A major speech by the home Secretary, admitting government evidence to support the existence of extra-terrestrial involvement on Earth was read out to a tense and silent House of Commons yesterday. Details of the speech were revealed through official communiques to all parts of the globe last night and now the whole world stands this morning agasp, trying desperately to come to terms with a concept thought previously to belong to the realms of science fiction.

M.P.s were awed by the momentous drama for the first time in the history of civilisation a government has announced proof that not only do "flying saucers" exist but they are deadly hostile.

The Home Secretary, plae, evidently greatly moved, advanced to the Bar of the House, announced, "Following weeks of consultation between

Her Majesty's Government and the Governments of other

Western and Eastern countries, and after several months of assimilating the findings of the Commission called to investigate the activities of UNIT - the United Nations Intelligence Taskforce - I have this evening the task of making an announcement of the gravest importance.

"Two years ago the Walker Commission was convened in this country to answer the allegations of gross mishandling of military power made by the British Division to the International body UNIT. Pressure from many sectors of Society had long called for an enquiry into the privacy surrounding UNIT's operations and as a secret army within a free country.

"Members of the House. That commission has now completed its investigations and has exhaonrated fully, UNIT's British Division and its commander-in-chief Brigadier Alastair Gordon Lethbridge

Stewart from any accusations of misconduct."

"The operations being carried out by UNIT, both in this country and Overseas, are of a nature outside the scope of conventional defense forces. Under the auspices of United Nations jurisdiction, UNIT is empowered and equipped for the investigation and combating of threats of the unusual kind, often deriving from sources it would be correct to term 'extra-terrestrial'.

"Such is the nature of these threats, very real threats indeed, that the participating government's in UNIT's formation considered it expedient to withhold the details of UNIT's functioning from the public interest until now."

"Gentlemen. The threat from Space is no mere writer's fantasy. It is a fact, a fact which we, as rational human beings, must come to grips with. For too long now we have been so consumed with making
/continued further on

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

ALL MEMBERS WITH MEMBERSHIP CODE'S BEGINNING "8 J R" PLEASE SEE 'RE-APPLICATION TO MEMBERSHIP' LETTER ENCLOSED, AS THIS IS YOUR FINAL EDITION OF C. T. OF YOUR PRESENT YEAR.



Shambles in San Francisco as multi-million \$\$ 'mean-time' project runs...

Out Of Time!

The much heralded start of 'San Francisco mean time' turned into a very expensive and embarrassing flop last night, when, before a national television audience, not to mention a gathering of some of America's most respected scientists and philanthropists, Professor Wagg's famous clock failed to start.

In recent years the project has been the source of some tension between the Educational Institute of San Francisco and the Royal Observatory in Greenwich over a perceived attempt by the Institute to snatch away Britain's widely respected position as the time-keeper of the world. The San Francisco clock is an atomic beryllium based device. Whilst most scientists recognise that it is probably the most accurate of its type in the world, it has always seemed unlikely that the installation near San Francisco Bay would be any more effective in practical terms than its older cousin on the Greenwich Peninsula. Indeed the beryllium clock would still have needed a signal from Greenwich to begin the era of 'San Francisco mean time' at



Professor Wagg last night

midnight on 1 January 2000 and the subsequent failure of the device to even start has made this argument academic.

The criticism of the project has come from both home and abroad. The sheer cost of what many people in the US saw as an un-necessary extravagance borne out of a desire to steal Greenwich's thunder rather than any attempt to bring greater time-keeping accuracy to the world, was further emphasised by a report published by The Royal Society in London late last year. This revealed that whilst the impressive looking clock took up over 65 square feet of space at the San Francisco

university, the actual device itself was little more than the size of a postage stamp! The glass and metal structure paraded before the world's media last night was only there



Glass and steel was just for show

for show.

As the inevitable enquiry into just what went wrong begins, the University has denied reports that an appalling lack of security on 31st December 1999 actually led to the theft of the tiny clock from its housing. Officials have already released details of the mammoth operation that was put in place to safeguard the project against a PR disaster. Safeguards that proved ineffective it seems. A spokesman for The Royal Society in London last night reacted angrily to press reports in some parts of the San Francisco media that it had secretly acted to wreck the clock to protect the position of Britain in world time-keeping. 'The Sun Bay Times' even went as far as naming the saboteur as a 'Dr Bowman' from London who allegedly tried to gain access to the workings of the clock just hours before the scheduled switch-on. The Institute itself has attempted to play this down stating that no such person was on the guest list last night and that without proper identification it would have been impossible to gain entry to the building.

Meanwhile it seems that Greenwich mean time will continue to resonate across the world.

paul.winter@dailychronicle.co.uk

London Millennial Fireworks 'Wall of Fire' Fails to Ignite..

Special report page 3