

in the British scientific publication NATURE (Volume 122, pages 681 and 878, 1928) which carried the reports of a team of eminent scientists, Carl Stormer and Balthus Van Der Pol. They had repeatedly received "echo" signals of their own transmissions, sometimes several seconds after the signals had gone out, at other times *minutes* after transmission. The time lag was so great in either case that the only answer was intelligent and purposeful interception—and subsequent re-broadcast.

Whatever it was, it was largely a forgotten matter when similar phenomena reappeared in modern form in the autumn of 1953.

In a three day period, beginning on September 14, 1953, and continuing until September 17, many television viewers in the British Isles were surprised to see on their television screens the identification card and call letters of station KLEE. The signal would come in so strongly that it would override the local stations to which they were tuned. After a few minutes (generally three or four) the image would fade and the local signal would again be visible.

KLEE was a station in Houston, Texas, and under certain freak conditions such long-range reception of commercial television does occur. Several of the viewers in the British Isles had the good sense to photograph this enigma when it appeared on their sets . . . but when they checked with KLEE for verification of their unusual experience they found themselves confronted with another mystery: KLEE had gone off the air and out of existence three years before!

When the British Broadcasting Corporation began its investigation of this remarkable case, it was informed by the successor to KLEE that no KLEE signal or identification card of any kind had been broadcast since that station had gone out of existence in 1950.

A spokesman for the British Broadcasting Corporation told newsmen that for anyone to have perpetrated such an incident as a hoax would have involved the expenditure of at least a hundred thousand dollars, plus knowledge that *transcended contemporary technology* as well as the use of towers and other equipment which could not have been concealed and which were in fact difficult to secure. American and British authorities alike ruled out any possibility of a hoax, and said so publicly.

The case attracted international attention and international concern. In 1959, long after the facts were dimmed in the public mind, an "explanation" was offered, not by the British investigators, but by our Project Ozma, which was up to its own electronic neck in strange signals from space in 1959.

The explanation? Faith and bejabbers it was that old standby of professional explainers, none other than a mysterious inventor perpetrating a hoax!

For reasons which are easy to understand, the alleged inventor was never otherwise identified. Neither was he ever charged or prosecuted for such a flagrant violation of the British broadcasting regulations. Nor was it ever explained how he managed to blanket the British Isles from one station, something no other television station has been able to do to this day.

It is my personal belief that we should take off our hats to the Hokum Department in our government for dreaming up an invention which is more remarkable than the one they purported to explain: They invented the Nonexistent Inventor, literally incredible.

At the conclusion of the original investigation by British authorities, a spokesman for the British Broadcasting Corporation told newsmen:

"We are confronted in this instance with a set of circumstances which are at variance with accepted knowledge of television transmission. It is unthinkable that these signals could have been circling the earth for the time since that station [KLEE] last broadcast them. It is physically impossible that they could have been reflected to us by chance from any celestial body at such a vast distance. That leaves us with but one possibility, however bizarre, that these signals were transmitted to us purposefully and intelligently, from a source and for a purpose presently unknown."

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