

ganese. Its commercial designation is Hadfield Manganese Steel. This type of material is used where a non-magnetic and wear-resistant steel would be required — for example, in screens, wear plates, rails, dipper teeth, and journal box liners. In many cases this type of steel is formed by casting to the required shape. The samples provided for examination probably represent scrap pieces from a large casting. No extra-terrestrial aspects are involved in their origin.

Another ufologist we heard from was Arthur Matthews of Lac Beauport, Quebec, who knew Wilbert Smith and studied the methods of the late Nikola Tesla, regarded by many as the true genius of modern science. In his letter Matthews said he was recently asked by a person he did not name to make an analysis of the metal, which reportedly now lies abandoned on a private lawn in Ottawa. To conduct his analysis, Matthews explained, he built what he described as "a model of the Tesla Bridge." His letter continued:

It required many hours of careful study to complete this bridge but only 12 minutes to test the block, by means of Tesla's instructions. This test was recorded by transfer on to a magnetic tape, and my study of this on return to Quebec proves without any doubt it is a man-made form of iron, and is without any doubt composed of earth-found ores. This piece of metal was never in space.

Quickly in the wake of these two letters came another from our consulting editor in Winnipeg, Brian Cannon, who said he had just heard more on the subject from Dr. Peter M. Millman, head of upper atmosphere research for the National Research Council. Cannon wrote:

Dr. Millman stated that the physical metallurgy division of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources believes there is nothing unusual about the stuff at all. It is manganese steel and is apparently ladle residue from the Sorel Foundry in Quebec. Dr. Millman stated that the Foundry inserts a pipe into the hole where waste molten metal is poured, and after solidification the pipe is used to lift the lump with a crane. This hole is clearly evident in the sample.

In the face of opinions like these it might seem the better part of wisdom just to drop the subject. But the story does not end there by any means. Another of our readers who has kept a close eye on the subject is C.W. Fitch, like Earl Neff a resident of Cleveland, and he had this to say:

"Whatever you do, don't abandon your investigation at this point!"

This advice commands attention for it was Fitch, in company with George Popovitch of Akron, who had the first reported interview

with Wilbert Smith about the mysterious metal. This interview was carried in Frank Edward's book *Flying Saucers — Serious Business* and reprinted in our issue no. 1.

In a later letter to us, Fitch added:

I will quote from a letter which I received from Smith dated Oct. 23, 1961 —

Referring to the 3,000-pound chunk of metal of unknown origin, of which Smith had enclosed a tiny chunk, he commented: "It is unproven as of extra-terrestrial origin but is probably the wreckage of a large craft which came to grief in our solar system some years ago. The enclosed sample is such a piece of metal. Yours sincerely, W.B. Smith."

In the tape-recorded interview, reported in part in Edward's book, Smith commented to me that his group speculated that if this was wreckage from a spaceship which might have crashed on the moon, for instance, then the two chunks might have been transported to earth and dropped where they could be readily found by interested parties.

In a side-note Fitch told of an incident which, if true, indicated Smith's activities were under special UFO observation.

Smith related to me how one time after the group to which he belonged concluded its meeting in one member's home and emerged from the house on to the porch, they saw a small shining disc, perhaps 18-24 inches in diameter, rise up out of the ditch in front of the house and quickly disappear in the sky, as though it had been there perhaps monitoring their conversation, even at a distance from them and they being inside the house.

The case favoring a mysterious origin for the Chunk was given more impetus when we received a letter from another ufologist, Ronald W.G. Anstee of Montreal, who has also been closely associated with events concerning the metal. In our issue no. 3 we explained his association this way:

*Topside* (published by Mrs. Carol Halford-Watkins at Ottawa) reported in 1968 that Ronald Anstee, chairman of the Montreal UFO Society, had samples of the metal analyzed by a professional metallurgist who was told nothing beforehand of its history. The gist of this expert's report was that he had never before seen a metal just like it. In particular he said there were indications that "the material went through heavy impact"; that "this composition does not correspond to any known commercial manganese steel" (italics ours); and that "it is possible there may be an element here that we know nothing about." Coming from a man who knew nothing of the metal's strange discovery, the puzzled tone of his remarks was significant.

Now Anstee has written us of a test he and some colleagues personally carried out on the metal, this time by the often effective means of brute force. His letter follows in part: