

# POLTERGEISTS

## THE SEARCH GOES ON

By George Parry

Poltergeist effects may be as much the result of electromagnetic anomalies as the workings of mischievous disembodied spirits, as inventor John Harrison has been able to demonstrate in his laboratory....

As for myself, I have been an investigator of anomalies for almost 16 years and have certainly found a rich source of fascinating material, and recently, an inventor who has helped me make sense of one of the prime mysteries of our time...poltergeists.

It is the amazing discoveries of this man, one John Harrison, from British Columbia, Canada, that I would like to share with you here.

### POLTERGEIST ACTIVITY

The general public has been treated to big-budget, special-effects movies on poltergeist activity and has been led to regard it as consisting of spectacular phenomena involving spirits from other dimensions who enter our domestic world and wreak havoc.

I suspect that few filmgoers realise that there is a reality behind this movie mythology, where furniture does move, objects do levitate and sail round the room, fires do start behind locked doors and in impossibly enclosed places. water does mysteriously vanish, objects do appear to arrive from nowhere and seem to vanish just as strangely, iron bars are found twisted and broken, and mirrors shattered.

Probably most bemusing, however, are the effects on electronic devices and electrical equipment, causing them to perform strange feats.

Television sets switch themselves on and off, repeated telephone connections are made which engineers consider 'impossible', and computers show programmes that have not been installed by anyone or information that is inaccessible through normal use.

What causes these weird and unnerving effects, and what do they have to do with an inventor in Canada?

### AN INVESTIGATION

Cases come my way through contact with people who know of my interest in anomalies and each case brings its own surprises.

I was certainly not ready for the situation I met when I arrived at the 'haunted' home of a middle-aged couple in Welyn Garden City in Hertfordshire, UK.

I use a small tape recorder for interviews, and as we settled down in their comfortable lounge I was startled by the noise of a loud crack which seemed to come from the wall opposite me.

Neither Jane nor David, as I shall call them, reacted with any degree of surprise. "That happens all the time," they told me casually.

Somewhat distracted, I fiddled with

my tape recorder, setting it down on the low table before me, beside a cup of coffee.

Apparently, unexplained noises were commonplace in this household, including some heavy, plodding footsteps along an upper passage during the small hours of the morning.

Jane and David then regaled me with accounts of...light bulbs which constantly popped...a video recorder which refused to work on some days...vases of flowers that sailed into the air before dashing themselves on the carpet...matches which caught fire spontaneously inside their box inside a drawer...water taps which turned themselves on and off...the doorbell which chimed as they stood at the open door with nobody pressing the button...dressing-table mirrors which cracked almost every night...a stone statue on the patio which caught fire and explosively lost its arms, legs and head (all of which were found several yards away down the garden)...and most disturbing, considering the amounts of energy involved, a large heavy hardwood table which overturned itself overnight on a regular basis every week.

Barely taking all this in, but knowing that I had it all on tape, I reached for the coffee in front of me on the table - but it was swirling around in the cup like a mini-whirlpool.

I looked at Jane and David who just shrugged in unison. The whirlpool effect stopped suddenly, but I had lost interest in drinking my coffee.

I am no longer puzzled as to the causes of such phenomena, as I feel sure, after 16 years, that I know what they are.

One of the instruments that I always take on any investigation is a field meter which measures the levels of electromagnetic pollution at a location.

Jane and David allowed me to wander around their home with the meter, and it soon became clear to me as I went from room to room that the place was subject to sudden and powerful power surges.

I had foreseen this, even without the electromagnetic pollution detector, as there was a 40-foot-tall radio mast, for transmitting line-of-sight microwave signals, erected just five feet away from the outside wall.

Apparently, as the planning and safety authorities do not regard siting power lines over residential properties as hazardous to health, a microwave tower is thought of as nothing to be concerned about.

Jane and David's health problems were typical of people who have spent a prolonged period close to a source of electromagnetic fields.

Their problems included masked food allergies, chemical sensitivities, electrical hypersensitivity and photophobia, (hypersensitivity to light) which forced both of them to wear tinted spectacles.

Their condition was not helped by their having been radio hams for several years; this only added to their exposure levels.

The readings in several rooms were extremely high. None of the fields was constant, but they would suddenly surge

through the house.

Even before I had taken any readings, I was aware of the typical signs and symptoms that I feel when exposed to a strong field source.

I felt a tingling sensation on the backs of my hands, the hairs on my arms stood out, and throughout my visit I battled with a thunderous headache which came on seconds after entering the house and lifted 10 minutes or so after leaving it.

I have not found one case of 'poltergeist' activity which did not happen in an electromagnetic hot-spot.

### IS THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE?

It was a deep-in-thought investigator who took the train home to London, and I could not resist listening to the recording I had made.

However, not really to my surprise, the tape was blank as normal.

So instead, I thought of the implications of these weird electronic effects.

To anyone with even a layman's knowledge of elect-magnetic fields they must appear as an extremely unlikely energy source to produce the movement of objects and materials that did not have ferrous (iron) content ...ceramics, water, stone, concrete and wood for example.

Anyone who has experimented with magnets soon finds out that only iron is affected.

It was little wonder that psychokinesis or PK was thought to be involved, but I regarded this as a distinctly different process from apparent poltergeist activity.

From a purely scientific point of view, how could all of the strange effects reported by Jane and David be explained? It can't!

As we work our way down the list of 'poltergeist' phenomena, it becomes clear that there is a point where the laws of physics cannot help us and we venture into the realms of the unknown, the unclassified and the purely experimental.

How do objects, some of them quite heavy, levitate when they are not made of iron or have any iron content? (The heavy table must have moved for it to have overturned.)

How does stone and/or concrete shatter and/or catch fire? How does mirror-glass crack? And how did electromagnetic fields make my coffee turn into a mini-whirlpool before my eyes?

I had a problem. I knew that poltergeist activity took place in electromagnetic hot-spots, but what were the physical mechanisms involved in generating these effects?

*Maybe in the future, what we now think of as the paranormal will be commonplace, and not only understood but actually used in our everyday lives; for example, to dematerialise objects in one location and rematerialise them in another."*

*But this "future" has to begin somewhere, and it would appear that the application of electromagnetics to poltergeist activity is in fact this early beginning.*