

caveat emptor

A New Age Journal

No. 21 Spring 1990 \$4.00

**First Interview:
"Mr. Ed" Walters**

**Special Report:
MJ-12: Evidence
of Deception?**

**Bigfoot:
The East Coast View**

**The Vain Search for
Alien Logic**

Food Follies

**A "Confession"
in the Soviet UFO Case
& More!**



THE WORD IS OUT!

Dear Friend,

Some 15 years ago, I was the editor of **Caveat Emptor**, a controversial, trailblazing UFO and New Age magazine. Like other publications of the period, it finally published its last issue and disappeared from the scene.

Then, in July, 1988, I had a crazy idea. I decided the time was at last right to bring back **Caveat Emptor**.

While the decision to revive the magazine came a lot of uncertainty. **Caveat Emptor** occupied a distinct and special place in the minds and hearts of our readers. I remember how some of them (perhaps you, if you were one of our original subscribers) would tell me how the magazine would transport them away from the hum-drum daily routine and into a marvelous world of excitement and wonder.

I didn't know if I could re-create that kind of feeling on the part of my readers. I didn't know if I could feel it myself anymore.

A few months later and the hard work of putting out that first issue was over. I had to await the reaction from my readers.

I wasn't long in coming. I was truly amazed that anyone remembered us at all. The avalanche of letters from my new, loyal readers just knocked me out!

Here are a few of them:

"Welcome back into the UFO world. I believe I have copies of all previous **Caveat Emptors** in my files. You were sorely missed."

G.F.

Lincolnton, NC

"I was particularly impressed with the *quality* of the writing. I would like to see your magazine succeed. There is a need for a... magazine that does not accept every story that comes down the pike."

M.D.

Federal Way, WA

"You have a great magazine! Please keep it going."

J.M.

Oak Park, MI

"Welcome back! Delighted to see **CE** once again. It's needed more than ever!"

J.R.

London, England

"Thank god there are people like you putting sanity into UFO magazines."

L.V.

Ivyland, PA

These letters speak for themselves. I would just like to take this opportunity to add that many of our original writers have returned with new perspectives, and with bold, new findings about the strange and unknown. The UFO field is indeed changing, and **Caveat Emptor** is the magazine that will help pave the way for that change.

Are you ready to go where no one has gone before? Then subscribe to **Caveat Emptor** right now. Order a single copy—or subscribe now at a special introductory rate.

And thanks for reading my letter.

Peace,

Gene Steinberg

Caveat Emptor, Dept. 21
8 Gate House Lane
Edison, NJ 08820

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caveat emptor

Spring 1990

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"We are kept ignorant not by the things we don't know, but by the things we know that ain't so."

—Author Unknown

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Editorial:

Down a Blind Alley

By Gene Steinberg

What if the legend of a crashed UFO was itself a cover story to hide something else that the government didn't want to reveal at that time?

DO I REALLY MEAN IT?

Readers who have been with us from the very beginning know that my views on UFOs and related subjects aren't always conventional. When many of you felt strongly that the strange objects in our skies represented some sort of visitation by beings from another planet, I was one who said that we should look at some other possibilities too.

When many of you suggested that the governments of Earth knew the truth about the enigma and were keeping it a deep dark secret from we citizens, I also questioned that assumption. I suggested that it is the nature of government to classify not only its state secrets, but what it doesn't understand as well. We can't have the powers-that-be confessing to we mortals that there is something that they don't know, now can we?

My natural iconoclasm might sometimes seem just a pose to get reaction from you readers and our writers, and to keep the fires burning. After all, I am a magazine editor and it's the purpose of this particular magazine to keep up a lively dialogue between writers and readers. So it may seem that I have ulterior motives in making a controversial remark.

It is very true that I will sometimes make a statement purely to get someone's reaction, but when I make the statement, I try to make it very clear whether or not I believe it's really possible or not. Frequently I'll suggest a possibility to smoke out some information. Unlike some editors in this and other fields, I don't feel I know everything and I don't have unlimited research resources either. The time it takes to actually put this magazine together frequently prevents me from going out and checking things out first-hand, as I did when I was a broadcast journalist back in the 1970s. That means I must rely upon you readers to supply me with

information that I cannot otherwise get.

I know too that if I am way off base, there's someone out there who will set me straight—and if I don't have the entire story, well someone is bound to be able to fit a few more pieces in the puzzle.

Sometimes all it takes is an offhand suggestion to get the ball rolling.

OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD

It was less than a year ago when I was read the paperback reprint of Charles Berlitz' and William Moore's work, *The Roswell Incident*. The controversy over the MJ-12 documents was at a peak, and I thought a review of the book would be ideal, just to see where it all began.

I was busily composing the review on a computer terminal when a thought occurred to me. What if the legend of a crashed UFO was itself a cover story to hide something else that the government didn't want to reveal at that time?

There is no great mystery about how the idea occurred to me. I tend to write rather informally from a set of mental notes. I may think about something for quite a bit of time, even do a lot of research when necessary. But I like to keep my words as conversational as possible, and the editorial and articles from me that you read never get major changes after the first draft. This off-the-cuff approach again dates back to my radio career, and I had to think of something on the spur of the moment, and it was necessary to get it right the first time, as much as possible.

With the suggestion that there was something to hide, I had to decide what that something might be, and I recalled the theories voiced back in the 1950s that UFOs were really secret weapons from our own Earth governments. A former government scientist, Dr. Leon Davidson—who actually is a regular reader of *CAVEAT EMPTOR*—was one of the major proponents of the "Earth theory," as it was then called.

UFO prankster Jim Moseley was another. As I suggested in my book review, perhaps Jim was just developing a contrary viewpoint to keep up the excitement in his silly feud with his friend Gray Barker. That isn't out of the question...

But there was the very real possibility that Jim

really hit the mark in some respects.

I was reminded of all this as I wrote the review of the Berlitz/Moore book. So I casually threw in the suggestion, just to see how the idea would fly. I didn't expect a serious reaction—I expected no reaction at all.

SOME UNEXPECTED FEEDBACK

A lengthy letter from Stanton Friedman—someone who bore a heavy load in researching the book for which he got very little credit—was predictable. Friedman is devoted to the theory that flying saucers are spaceships, and doesn't cotton to suggestions that the answers he seeks are much closer to home.

During this time, I had begun a renewed acquaintanceship with Peter Kor, whom I interviewed in the last two issues. I never knew Kor well, though I had met him on a couple of occasions and had at times corresponded with him. What he has had to say during the years has made a lot of sense, even if I didn't always agree with his viewpoints. He had an excellent grasp of logic, and when the writings of some Ufologists fell short in that department, Kor knew how to carefully and completely rip apart their arguments.

Some things Kor said to me in the course of that interview—the longest conversation we've ever had by the way—hit home.

Yes, that idea about a crashed secret weapon precipitating some of the crashed saucer legends is something that just won't go away. As unlikely as it might seem to some of you who are wedded to the ET hypothesis, it is a possibility that surely is a lot less far-fetched than some of the others that have arisen since then.

It is a certainty that the U.S.A. was testing some captured German aircraft in the southwestern part of the country in the years after World War II. The Cold War was just beginning, and the Americans were busily engaged at playing one-upsmanship with the Russians. My earliest childhood memories of newspaper headlines details the troubles we had with the Iron Curtain countries in those days.

Russian spies seemed afoot everywhere, and the McCarthy trauma in the 1950s is just one symptom of the attitudes of the period.

It is clear that there was a lot of paranoia in those days. And surely if we had been testing, say, some kind of disc-shaped aircraft in and around New Mexico in the 1940s, the last people we'd want to know about were the Russians. So if a crash were to have occurred—and the story somehow leaked into the newspapers—a concerted effort by the fledgling CIA and other security agencies to shore up any leaks of information would be predictable.

Flying saucer mania hit its first peak in 1947, in the days following the legendary encounter of Kenneth Arnold on June 24th. It doesn't matter that history has shown that there may have indeed been a conventional explanation for Arnold's sighting—and Arnold

himself at first thought the craft he saw were ours. Visions of spaceships in the skies had gripped the world. It shaped our popular culture in many ways.

So if the military authorities wanted a story to cover up what really happened in New Mexico in July of 1947, they didn't have to look far. Those who didn't believe in flying saucers would accept the explanation that what actually crashed was just a research balloon.

And to lead folks astray even further, it is not beyond the realm of possibility that another even more devious cover story was provided—that the object that crashed was a ship from another world.

Kor suggested in the interview that some of the UFO contactees of the period may have themselves been part and parcel of a pro-saucer conspiracy, to create a belief in landed extraterrestrials for some unknown purpose. Perhaps to test human reaction to the possibility that spaceships might actually come to this planet. Perhaps to misdirect attention that might otherwise focus on secret weapons testing.

Kor chose not to name some of the people he felt might have been the unfortunate victims of that conspiracy. He didn't want to betray confidences and friendships, and one has to admire his loyalty.

But one can still make some informed speculation about the identity of some of those contactees.

In the 1960s, I was working at my first full-time job in New York City—managing editor of Jim Moseley's *Saucer News*. While Jim wasn't above playing pranks and engaging in fake feuds through the years, a lot of very good and solid information made its way to the pages of the magazine.

I'd like to say that I had something to do with it, but the truth is that Jim has always had a latent serious interest in the subject, and a great deal of the contents of the magazine catered to that serious interest.

AN ODD LUNCHEON MEETING

One of the most famous issues of *Saucer News* was its "Adamski Expose Issue," dating back to the late 1950s, in which the claims of the grand-daddy of all UFO contactees were thoroughly dissected and found to be wanting. The issue—long out of print—is still circulated at high cost among collectors of UFO literature.

One of the more unusual figures to come to public attention during the period was Howard Menger, a sign painter from High Bridge, New Jersey who came to be known as the "Jersey Adamski."

Menger got the same sort of skeptical treatment from so-called "serious" UFO researchers, who eagerly tore his ongoing contact claims to shreds at every opportunity.

Nightly listeners to the late "Long John" Nebel's radio show got an earful of the latest and greatest UFO contactees, and Menger was right at the top of the list.

Then there was that strange appearance on Long

John's short-lived TV show.

A nervous Menger—who had always seemed relatively composed on previous interviews and public lectures—began to express strong doubts about his frequent contact experiences.

Presaging Kor's remarks a couple of decades later, Menger suggested that he had actually participated in some kind of government experiment to test our reaction to the possibility that we might someday meet visitors from another world.

Not long after, Menger rung up Jim Moseley and agreed to meet him for lunch at a coffee shop just across the street from *Saucer News'* New York City office. I accompanied Jim for the get-together.

Menger was a friendly low-key personality who amplified slightly the suspicions he had voiced earlier on the Long John program. He felt that, despite their differences, Moseley had treated him fairly through the years. Perhaps an hour or so later, the meeting ended with handshakes all around.

Menger soon fell into obscurity. He later moved on to Florida, where he claimed to be developing a model for a disc-shaped aircraft of some kind, but reports of these experiments soon faded out.

JUST ONE OF MANY

More recently, a document circulated privately among UFO researchers suggests that the UFO abduction scenario is itself another government experiment of some kind, perhaps this time to recruit possible agents. By hypnosis, the victim's memories would be clouded with recollections of supposed contact with space beings and subsequent physical examinations.

The unwary victims—if anyone believed them at all—would look to the skies for the source of their distress, not to some scientist at some unknown government laboratory doing research into techniques of mind control.

The very idea became more and more plausible with the publication in the 1970s of a book entitled, *The Control of Candy Jones*, detailing the experiences of the famous model and radio personality (recently deceased) as a supposed government agent. Ms. Jones, who was married to Long John in his final years, was supposedly some sort of courier who performed unknown duties for her Pentagon-based superiors while in a sort of trance. In effect she led a double life.

As Peter Kor suggested in our last issue, who would believe that the government would be conducting such experiments on its own people?

THE WHEAT FROM THE CHAFF

Does this all mean that all UFOs are simply government related in some way?

Not at all. If we look to the whole UFO experience, it is clear that it predates such mind-control capabilities by perhaps centuries.

Through recorded history, humankind has reported encounters with strange beings and strange craft from the skies. These encounters form legends throughout the world. These are certainly not shenanigans of the American CIA, British intelligence or the KGB.

No sir! UFOs have been a part and parcel of the experience for as long as there has been a history to record. They have had a perverse influence on our legends and culture through eons.

As I have said before, I tend to doubt those who think they have the final answer. It is not something that can be proven by anybody. Whether you believe flying saucers are spaceships, "earth lights," secret weapons or visions of our unconscious minds—or something altogether different—doesn't matter.

Thousands of UFO sightings still remain unknown and so far unknowable.

Maybe it is meant to be thus.

And while some of you might wish to take comfort in the thought that the possibility of Earthly testing might explain a goodly number of these cases, many more aren't so comfortable in that knowledge.

When all of the possible indications of government-generated reports are removed from the picture, the great puzzle is not yet solved. There are still many pieces that are missing.

But if a few pieces have been added in the meantime, then we are content to leave it at that and move on...

PERSONAL NOTES...

I had planned to deal with this subject in a sort of roundabout way, but that wouldn't be leveling with you readers, would it?

Inflation is beginning to rear its ugly head once again. The rise of oil prices is just one symptom—and while we all hope it doesn't get as bad as it did in the early 1980s, rising prices are a fact of life.

I've also had requests for a larger magazine, and I have been trying to find a way in which to satisfy those requests and also deal with the higher printing and production costs.

The cover of this issue tells the story—the price is now \$4.00 per copy. Effective with the Summer, 1990 issue—which will be published in May—we'll begin to enlarge the magazine. Annual subscriptions will be \$15.00; \$27.50 (U.S.) for a two-year subscription. Foreign subscriptions (Canada included) are \$4.00 per year additional.

For that extra three bucks per year, you'll get a bigger and better magazine, and you'll help insure our survival through the decade of the 90s.

For just of you who want to take advantage of our present subscription rate—\$12.00 per year, \$22.50 for two years (\$4.00 per year additional for foreign orders)—please use the coupon elsewhere in this issue. This offer absolutely expires May 15, 1990.

—Gene Steinberg

Readers' Forum

GROUND RULES: Please keep your letters short and to the point. We will not edit your letters except for spelling and grammatical errors. Deletions will be indicated by ellipsis. We ask that you be considerate of the libel laws and the use of appropriate language. Otherwise, we put no restrictions on content. We will try to acknowledge all letters by mail, but unlike the days when we were young and foolish, your editor can no longer engage in a lengthy and protracted correspondence with anyone. If we have a response, you'll see it here.

WHERE AM I COMING FROM?

Dear Gene,

Regarding Peter Kor's comments about me in your last [Winter] issue, I can solve his problem very simply: I do take UFOs very seriously, but *not* Ufologists—most of whom (including myself) have made fools of themselves in endless ways!

Hoaxes, such as the Straith Letter, were not "fake leads" but simply ways of keeping up public interest during lean times.

Kor has a total misunderstanding of where I am "coming from," because he obviously does not read my writings any more carefully than I read his. But perhaps he and I could agree on one thing: UFOs, if they are anything more than misidentifications, etc., are a *most* serious matter, because they relate to the crucial unsolved mysteries of life itself: Where did we come from; Why are we here; and where (if anywhere) are we going next, after our demise.

I'm used to an eight-page format (as in *Saucer Smear*), so, unlike Kor, I know how to be concise.

Jim Moseley
Key West, FL

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OFF THE HOOK

Dear Editor:

A brief note to inform your readers that all criminal charges against me in Washington State have been dropped. I am now free to press forgery and perjury charges against the man and his co-conspirators who set me up falsely back in June [1989] in order to prevent me from attending the ISC Symposium there.

My thanks to Gene, Don Keating, John Green, Mark Opsasnick, Mark Chorvinsky and many others for their

support during this trying time.

Erik Beckjord
Malibu, CA

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A MANAGEABLE SIZE?

Dear Editor:

I would like to respond briefly to some of the comments about my article describing some of the people who search for Bigfoot [CAVEAT EMPTOR, Fall and Winter, 1989]. At no time was it my intention to make the "Bigfoot community" look ridiculous. Certainly there are individuals within the group that are out of the ordinary.

My principal point was that among Sasquatch enthusiasts a great deal of quarreling goes on, something that also occurs among the UFO proponents. I had been close enough to a number of these people in order, I felt, to write an interesting article about them.

I am aware that there are some "Eastern" Bigfoot proponents. I have talked with a few of them and I am sure they are sincere people. But the idea of Bigfoot in Ohio, Maryland and 14 other eastern states is not generally accepted. Then, too, I had to keep the topic to a manageable size.

In writing the article I found it difficult to capture so many people in one article. In this regard I would like to clarify a couple of statements regarding Bob Titmus. I wrote that Titmus "was similarly unimpressed" by the ISC. This did not mean that he is in any way hostile to or against the ISC. In another sentence I wrote that Titmus "lost" a lot of money in search of Bigfoot. Although it is correct that the search for Sasquatch has cost Titmus a great deal, he describes it as money "spent," a significantly different meaning than the word "lost" which I used.

Although I personally find the evi-

dence for Sasquatch unconvincing, this has not prevented me from becoming friends with a few of the Bigfoot researchers. Nor do I hold any ill feelings for any individuals within the Sasquatch field.

Michael R. Dennett
Federal Way, WA

Thanks, Michael, for clarifying some of the matters in your article. See also Mark Opsasnick's piece elsewhere in this issue, which I think not only amplifies some of the points you raised, but gives a fine run-down on the East Coast perspective as well.—GS

• • •

WHOOOPS!

Dear Mr. Steinberg,

A correspondent happened to send me excerpts from your Fall '89 CAVEAT EMPTOR, which mentioned my forthcoming book and publisher (page 21, by Geneva Hagen). Unfortunately, there were three mistakes made there that make it impossible for anyone to inquire further about it, especially the publisher's P.O. Box number. The correct book's title and publisher's address are: *Celestial Teachings: The Emergence of the True Testament of Immanuel (Jesus)*, Wildflower Press (this is a new imprint of Blue Water), P.O. Box 230893, Tigard, OR 97224.

Perhaps you will place about the same note, revised, in your next issue? If so, please revise "available later this year" to "available some time in 1990." You know how that goes. It's going slowly; my publisher and assistant are going over each one of the 180 criticisms of Matthew's gospel by NT scholar Francis Beare that the Talmud Immanuel does not suffer from, that I had in my book draft, and weeding out some that they feel would be of lesser

interest. However, it's necessary to have an in-depth critique of any document that comes out claiming to state the true teachings of Jesus. I've studied four or five others including the Urania Book, which, however, are channelings, and they're all pablum in comparison to the TJ.

With the TJ to study, who needs to look at Meier's 500 color UFO photographs or read his Notes from the 130 contact sessions? It's that interesting and fabulous, I say. But in my *Wildfire* article I gave the reasons why NT scholars in general can't be interested. If, however, you should know of one who is critical of conventional scholarly consensus as well as open minded to the idea that important new information could arise out of a UFO case, please put me in contact with him/her.

Jim Dearthoff
Research Professor Emeritus
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR

Sorry we couldn't get this letter in last issue. It arrived right after our deadline, an occupational hazard for quarterly publications.—GS

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THE BILL AND TIM SHOW...

Dear Gene:

...The story of how [Stanton] Friedman and I got interested in the Roswell case has been in print for years. Perhaps both you and your supposed "in the know" informant should read the literature on the subject before making unfounded statements in print [in the Winter, 1989-90 issue]. (See, for example, "The Roswell Incident: Beginning of the Cosmic Watergate," by Friedman & Moore; *MUFON Proceedings*, 1981 [our publication #1203].) Essentially it all began at a meeting between myself and Friedman in 1978 whereat we were comparing notes on a number of things. It turned out that we both seemed to have separate parts of what appeared to be the same story of a crash in New Mexico. Our investigation ensued from that point. Neither Beckley, nor any book obtained from him (or anyone else) had anything to do with it.

I would appreciate your correcting this for your readers. I would also appreciate the professional courtesy of

first checking with me to verify anything else that comes your way about me before going to press with it.

William L. Moore
Burbank, CA

Testy, aren't we? Now if I thought the question of whether or not you have purchased any books from Tim Beckley was as important as you think it is, I would have checked with you first. But since I'd prefer to avoid getting involved in any disagreements you might having with Beckley, I'll give him his say instead:

Gene:

I find it amusing that Bill Moore would accuse me of being an opportunist, when you take into consideration the fact that for \$13.95 I am selling a 208 page book which has been professionally typeset and has a four-color cover. He, on the other hand, advertises xeroxed pamphlets of a few pages that are stapled together and are typewritten. Not that I have any objection to selling booklets of any length and size; after all, it's really information and content we're looking for, not necessarily "polished" looking books. But then again, I manage to give my readers both and that's what probably ticks Mr. Moore off the most.

After all, *MJ-12 and the Riddle of Hangar 18* will be a major mass-market paperback release later this year, and has sold out two editions, and is one of the biggest mail order "hits" of the season, with ads running in the weekly tabloids, etc.

But I've always noticed that about Mr. Moore. If anyone tries to "invade" his territory, he suddenly becomes "bitchy," and condescending. I've always wondered about his motives with the Billy Meier case. Sure, the pictures are somewhat "shady," to say the least, but why harp on something so negatively and repeatedly, when there is so much real work to do?

If you don't believe in something, why not save your breath? You certainly can't accuse Wendell Stevens of being in this field just for the money. What kind of dough can you make out of selling a few thousand books? Ask Bill. He says he's been making pennies on this for years. Well, I guess some of us are good at business and others aren't.

If *MJ-12* is the real McCoy, it doesn't belong to any one individual. As for crashed saucers, we were printing arti-

cles about this in the 1960s, when I used to edit the *The Interplanetary News Service Report*, and Bill Moore wasn't even a twinkle in Stanton Friedman's eyes.

Indeed, I remember Bill sitting in my office while I interviewed him for my paper, the *UFO Review*. He was anxious to promote his recently released tome on Roswell and he didn't call me an "opportunist" then, when it suited his purpose. After all, he called me for an interview. I didn't run after him. Not only that, but he admitted that he had gotten a few good leads by reading an earlier edition of *The Riddle of Hangar 18*.

Actually, all of this fuss doesn't matter much and is basically pointless. Bill has managed in a matter of months to slide the lid on his own coffin by compromising his own credibility.

I suggest the next time someone grants him an interview, that they check him out for a hidden wire. After all, we hardly know what to believe anymore, thanks to the likes of Moore, who has managed to confuse the subject of crashed saucers with so much "dis" and "mis" information that it would make even a CIA agent's head spin.

Besides, if he had anything important to say, he'd put it down on paper for *UFO Universe* and bring all the facts out into the open re Condor, Falcon. How does the saying go? "Birds of a Feather Flock Together."

Timothy Green Beckley
Inner Light Publications
New Brunswick, NJ

• • •

AND HOW IS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Dear Gene:

...I have some important questions:

1. Page 14: Is Moseley related to Mr. Fred Rogers? "It's a beautiful day in the galaxy."

2. Page 30: Do Brad and Sherry Steiger have coat hangers in their mouths? Nobody smiles that much. Is it because Brad's bank account is so big?

John C. Richards
Manchester, TN

Moseley related to whom? You really made my day!

Yes, believe it or not, Brad and Sherry Steiger are exactly as you see them. They are not rich by any means. They are simply doing work they believe in.—GS

The Caveat Emptor Interview:

"Mr. Ed" Walters

by Gene Steinberg

Well, you see, what happened in that event was so mind-boggling that there is no way to go in and tell them you had just been lifted off the ground with a blue beam, you just had all kinds of strange sounds and telepathy.

To those of us who grew up in the 1960s, the name "Mr. Ed" brings to mind a talking horse in a silly TV sitcom, well maybe not so silly, since reruns of the show are still being carried on a cable TV network.

But there is another "Mr. Ed," Edward Walters that is, a fellow whose life was turned upside down on the evening of November 11, 1987.

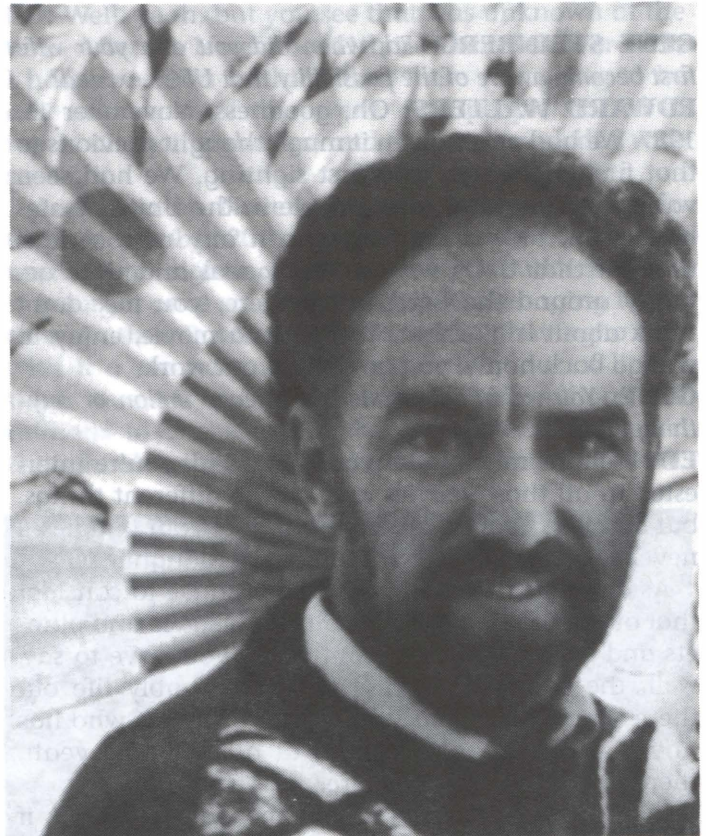
Until that date, Ed was a well-to-do builder in the sleepy bedroom town of Gulf Breeze, Florida. On that night, however, Ed was seated in his home office, probably catching up on some routine paperwork. He was alone. Quoting Jim Moseley in the Spring, 1989 issue of CAVEAT EMPTOR, "Looking out a window, his attention was drawn to a glow of some sort beyond a tree. He grabbed his Polaroid camera and went out the front door of the house.

"The object he saw was described as between 150 and 200 feet away, and was traveling in a northeast direction...."

What started out as perhaps just another UFO case soon became something else altogether. "During the sighting, a beam or a glow of some sort, blue in color, shot out from beneath the UFO. There was a white underglow to the craft....With the arrival of the beam came a psychic communication of some sort for Mr. Ed not to be afraid. At this point, the strangest part of the encounter took place. Mr. Ed claimed that he was lifted or levitated a few feet from the ground for several seconds. It struck him as a half-hearted attempt to abduct him.

"He admitted that this portion of his experience seemed so weird to him that he at first thought it was better to leave it out—only later did he decide to reveal the full story."

In the months that followed, Ed repeatedly saw UFOs and took dozens of photographs of UFOs. And he wasn't alone. Scores of Gulf Breeze residents said they saw the



mysterious objects too. Some even took pictures, though Ed's work is by far the best, with some relatively clear photos of strange lights amidst the night sky.

Representatives of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) showed up quickly to find out just what was going on—and it was a whole lot more complex than anyone ever dreamed. Questioning Ed revealed indications of so-called "missing time," and a Florida psychologist subjected Ed to hypnotic regression. During those sessions, Ed recalled a series of alleged abductions by alien creatures.

The whole scenario generated a considerable amount of controversy, both within MUFON and elsewhere. A Florida researcher, Dr. Willy Smith, claimed the whole affair was a hoax on Ed's part, though motives were not readily apparent. Skeptics dug into Ed's background and, while his credentials as a local citizen were impeccable, there was one black mark on his record back in his youth, when he served a prison term for passing a bad check. They

pounced on this incident of over 20 years ago as proof that Ed wasn't someone to be trusted.

Ed readily admitted to his youthful indiscretion, but he said—with some justification, as it turned out—that some of his skeptics were being less than forthright in their attempts to tear down the story.

In March, Ed's own account will appear in print, under the title *The Gulf Breeze Sightings—The Most Astounding Multiple Sightings in U.S. History, to be published by William Morrow & Company. In advance of the publication of that book, Ed told me his feelings about all the furor generated by his strange experiences.*

GENE STEINBERG: *Ed, when did you and your wife first become aware of the possibility that UFOs existed?*

EDWARD WALTERS: Oh, goodness, November 11, 1987. We had never given it much thought previous to that first encounter, that first sighting. We had seen various movies that most people in the United States have seen, but as far as giving it any real, serious thought that UFOs were actually real and were actually around the Earth somewhere, you just don't think about it like that. You go to a movie, enjoy it, you go back home, you go about your work.

GENE: *You weren't interested in science fiction or anything like that?*

ED: Well, as much as anyone; as a kid, you're interested in all those movies and all the different things, but no more so or no less so than all of your buddies. I never really did give it a whole lot of thought.

As a normal thinking person, you have to consider that out of the tremendous volume of space and planets and stars and all that out there, you have to say, well, the chances are that there's probably life out there somewhere. And I think that anybody who has any kind of thought process at all will say, yeah, there's probably life out there.

I was in that mainstream of America, well, yeah, if you think about it there's probably something there, but it's always something that might happen in the future and for an encounter to happen like it did to me on November 11th—all of a sudden the future has arrived!

GENE: *So, the future arrived for you on November 11th—and this is a story you've probably told to many people many times over the past couple of years. I'm going to ask you to just touch on it very briefly, and let's spend more time on the progression of it than the individual cases. It was November 11th, on an early evening, I gathered, something happened that maybe took you out of mainstream America.*

ED: Just in a nutshell, just a normal, average day, nothing spectacular going on, normal work, came home, had my office in the front of my house, and taking care of last-minute details on drawings and plans and things. And I noticed a glow, which would have been to the west, that I could see through the window. But it was blocked by the shades a little bit

and also blocked by these pine trees that were out in front. But it was still just strange enough to catch my attention, because it was just not something I had ever seen before.

So, curious, I got up from my chair and went to the front door, and opened the door up, and I could see a little bit better and saw that this was something strange and, curious enough, kind of stood there a moment longer, and said, "Oh my goodness!" as I could kind of see it through the limbs of the trees.

And so I started to run back in and call the police and said, "Oh no, better grab my camera." So I grabbed the camera and stepped back out the door, had to force myself to cover my eyes with the camera because it was so fascinating to actually look at it with your eyeballs. When you put the camera over your face, you know it has that kind of a blockage there and all of a sudden everything looks farther away.

So anyway, I took those photographs, and you know the rest of the story.

GENE: *At the beginning you wouldn't reveal who you were, and in fact you presented the photos as taken by someone else, a friend. Is that correct?*

ED: Uh huh. Well, it was an agonizing decision. After that complete event, because of the trauma involved with the event, and realizing that it was beyond credibility—and I live and survive off my reputation, my sound, solid reputation as a builder—and to get involved with something as bizarre as what I experienced...it's a bad thing for a builder to have his reputation touched upon in any way. So it was an agonizing decision between my wife and I to decide what to do, and I felt in my gut that I had to tell somebody, somehow what had happened.

So, if I called Jerry Brown our police chief, what's he going to do? He's going to listen to me and say, "Yeah, Ed, okay, that's fine."

Really, I needed to tell my neighbors that there was something in the sky over our town. At the time, of course, I didn't realize there was any kind of interaction going on. I thought it was just a random thing, it could have been anybody walking down the street or my children or my neighbor's children, and that was what was on my mind. If all of a sudden our children were out there, and something happened...you just have to tell something like that as if there's burglar in the neighborhood.

Well, it's almost the same thing, "Oh my gosh, watch out, there's a UFO in the neighborhood!" And I was not thinking about telling the world. All I was concerned about was my immediate family and my neighbors around me in this little small town here. The thought then came along, well, we'll tell Duane Cook, our local newspaper editor. He can tell everybody in the community to keep an eye out.

And that was basically what happened. But in order to do that without saying it was me, I just made up a

story saying that it was a friend of mine. You know, the old friend of mine story. And when they said who is this guy, I said, well, he doesn't want to be known, he's prominent in the community and he doesn't want anybody to know who he is. We'll just call him, "Mr. Ed," ala the story of "Mr. X," which I lived with for about a month or so.

Most of the people pretty well figured out right away that the old "Mr. X" was really "Mr. Ed." I wasn't really fooling anybody. It made me feel good thinking, oh, well, I'm safe here, it's OK, it's OK, nobody will know it's me.

GENE: *Do you think you were protecting the community or were you protecting Ed from what happened that day?*

ED: Well, you see, what happened in that event was so mind-boggling that there is no way to go in and tell them you had just been lifted off the ground with a blue beam, you just had all kinds of strange sounds and telepathy. It's one thing to tell them you saw a UFO, but it's another thing to tell all this other stuff. And I wasn't even comfortable telling them that I had seen a UFO. And so how do you go about warning your neighbors without putting your reputation on the line?

Well, you make up a story, you say, "It wasn't me, it was a friend of mine. I know the guy, but you know, he doesn't want to be known." So that's the little story I used.

But it became very obvious after a while that, in order to allow the investigators to try to figure out what had happened, how it happened and what was going on, that it was just impossible not to confide in Don Ware's [MUFON] investigating team and tell him. So, on January 7th, I sat down with him for about a four or five-hour taped interview and described in detail everything that I could remember.

GENE: *And this is where it all started for you. Now we go back to that first encounter, where you received some kind of telepathic message...*

ED: Well, as for receiving messages, "message" means that it had a content or something. It really wasn't messages as in content, it was messages as in "step forward," "be calm," more of a commanding type of telepathy, not "hello, how are you [Laughs]," you know.

GENE: *Now at this point, did other people in Gulf Breeze begin to see things after this or before this?*

ED: Well, you see, what had happened is on that November 11th, I think it was a day or two before, an engineer who works at Monsanto had seen it over on Bayou Boulevard, and he hadn't taken any pictures of course. And he logged it in his mind and he and his wife said, "My goodness that's strange," and went on about their business.

Several people saw it before I saw it that evening. Charles Sommerby [retired publisher of the local newspaper] saw it, Jeff Thompson saw it, the Zammits saw it. And Charlie saw it heading over the bay towards

Gulf Breeze, which would be to the west. And that was maybe 4:45 p.m. or something like that, and he saw it heading in our direction, and, of course, my sighting was at about 4:55, about ten minutes after.

GENE: *So there was this straight progression of people seeing things before you saw it?*

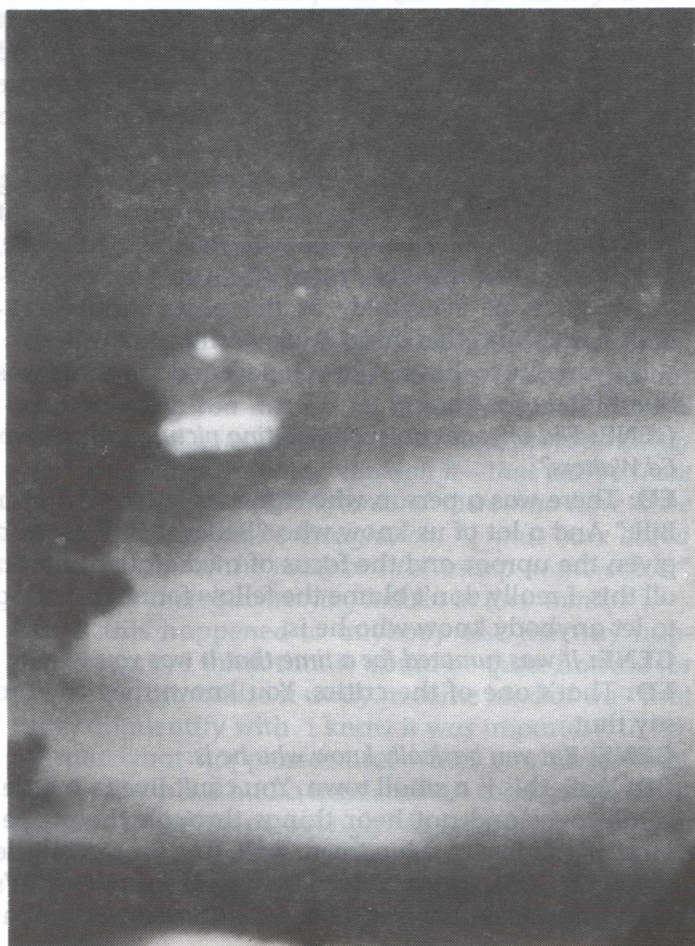
ED: Right. It started out the day before, six hours later, then more or less a little while later, and a little while later, until finally it worked its way all the way to me. And of course it kept right on after me.

GENE: *It picked you out and then kept pursuing you in some way?*

ED: Well, yeah, but you see that was unknown at the time. After the November 11th incident was over with, I had no reason to think that there was going to be any recurrence of this event. And people started to report all their sightings, and the town exploded with seeing it.

And then on November 20th, I saw it again. So that—November 20th—actually was one of the most troublesome sightings because, all of a sudden...

Seeing it once was one thing, and managing to get through that. But then, all of a sudden, having to deal with it a second time, it was just way out of line. I think the odds are, at least in my mind, millions and millions to one to see it the first time, if you even thought about seeing it once, let alone seeing it twice.



GENE: And then how many sightings in all did you have?

ED: Well, it was kind of broken down into different ways. There were 18 or so photographic sightings, but then there were several other events that did not involve any cameras.

GENE: Did other people in Gulf Breeze take pictures of these UFOs?

ED: Yeah, there's been quite a few other people taking pictures of it. It's an interesting story, all about the photographs that were taken of it. There was a man and a woman driving down right near where I'm talking to you, out here on Fairpoint. And it went over their car and they grabbed their 35mm and started taking pictures of it as it was going on over them.

And they had an automatic flash on the camera, I believe, but they came running into the *Sentinel* a day or so later and started yelling, "We got it, we got it!" And they ran down to get it developed, and of course, what had happened is they had used that camera to try to take pictures through the windshield and the flash would bounce off the windshield. Well, they just pretty well wiped out the film. They were two feet from the windshield trying to take a picture of the thing going down the road in front of them, and the flash pretty much obliterated it.

You could see little strange lights out in front of them, but you can't really tell what it is [Laughs].

Then there was story of a pharmacist here in town. He and his girlfriend were out in front of a "7/11." It [the UFO] came over. He grabbed his camera and started taking pictures of it, and came dashing into the media, saying "I've got it! I've got it." He went down to have it developed and all the pictures were blank!

Then there was another time where there was a big party, and it flew over the condominium, went out over the water and turned the water orange, they say, as it went down into the water. And this guy was taking pictures of everybody at the party. And everybody's watching this thing go down into the water.

He runs in to have it developed and the film was blank! [Laughs again.]

GENE: Did anyone succeed in getting pictures other than Ed Walters?

ED: There was a person who signed a letter, "Believer Bill." And a lot of us know who "Believer Bill" is. And given the uproar and the focus of media attention on all this, I really don't blame the fellow for not wanting to let anybody know who he is.

GENE: It was rumored for a time that it was you.

ED: That's one of the critics. You know, they tried to say that.

GENE: But you basically know who he is.

ED: Well, this is a small town. You can't live in a little, small town and not hear things through the grapevine. If you live in a big town, well, fine, but in a little town like this, everybody pretty well knows what's going on. And this guy is a well known person in-

involved in hospital-type work.

If you live and survive on your reputation—in other words you don't work for a big corporation where you have a union that keeps you from getting fired—if you actually live and breathe off people coming to you, because you are known to provide a service, and you're solid, then you don't want that reputation tarnished. And this fellow obviously has the same kind of feeling, he doesn't want his reputation tarnished.

And then there was woman named—we called her "Alice" for a long time. But she said her name was "Jane." Of course, that's not a real name either [Laughs]. And she took photographs of it. And she is very well known around town, but again, because of the nature of who she is, she doesn't want anybody to know who she is, she doesn't want to be included in the melee, you know.

GENE: There were also sightings after your last one which we'll get into in a moment. Other people continue to have sightings there.

ED: The last big sighting [up until the time this interview was taped] was September 12th.

GENE: Just after my birthday...

ED: Yeah, okay. And that was with a bunch of people all out in a parking lot looking at it.

There's no doubt, we're beyond trying to figure out if there is something in the air. I mean most everybody around here knows that there is something there. Some people would like to believe that it's a military craft or something. Well, that's okay, if they'd like to believe that, and I don't deny that it's easy to rationalize it away and say it's military craft.

If it's easier for someone to believe, and easier for them to get through the day believing it's a military craft, then by god that's what they should believe!

But, by and large, most people around here realize that it's not a military craft.

GENE: Now it's turned out—of course—that you are what is considered in this field an "abductee."

ED: Yeah, that's a very tough word for me to even think about.

GENE: It's become a generic phrase. You underwent hypnotic regression and you recalled certain things that happened that you did not know at the time they occurred. And how many instances do you recall under this hypnotic regression?

ED: Let me be kind of evasive on this. To me it's very personal, very delicate and very sensitive. And for me to speculate on it without really fully having the time needed and the educational background needed to make intelligent speculation, you know it's tough, a real tough call.

GENE: Well, what do you remember that you can talk about?

ED: Well, that's the thing. In other words, there's like ten hours worth of videotaped regressions that [the late] Dr. Overlade—the person the news media picked

out—had recorded. And they wanted somebody really neutral, somebody who had never been involved with UFOs, doesn't know anything about them, somebody who could delve into my subconscious without the slightest possibility of leading questions or anything.

And that's why he insisted—and rightly so—that all the regressions be videotaped, so that later, the absolute words could be heard and that nobody could ever say he was leading me.

I'm not prepared to get into speculation as to what all these different things that I remember mean. Later, one day, when I am more able to sit and really make all this speculation and think it through, and try to figure it all out—it's just not clear enough to me yet to be able to make intelligent comments on it.

GENE: *But there are instances here where you recalled being taken aboard a UFO.*

ED: Well yes. Dr. Overlade managed to uncover, if you will, four different suspicious times in my life when these odd things happened and those odd things led to what has to be described as events on board...I don't know that. I don't know that it was on board anything. It could have been in a building someplace. I don't know that it was on board a flying craft. I had no sensation of flying, I had no sensation of looking out a window and seeing anything below me.

So when people say, "Well, were you on a UFO?" well, maybe I was on a UFO, maybe I wasn't.

GENE: *But all these instances that you recall appear to have happened after November 11, 1987, right, or did some happen before?*

ED: These were going back as far as when I was 11 years old.

GENE: *I don't know if you've ever read the literature, but this appears not to be unusual, that instances were uncovered back in childhood.*

ED: Well, actually, no, I'm kind of staggered, it's a very disturbing thing to think back and have the possibility there that since I was 11 years old, or maybe even younger, I may have had some kind of interaction going on with some unknown force.

GENE: *But at the time you were 11 years old you didn't recall anything strange, or any "missing time" or anything like that? But in this regression process this came forth. Were you then taken aboard something or taken to some place?*

ED: Someplace or something, yeah.

GENE: *Were you given an examination or what?*

ED: Well, you know that's getting into all that sensitive stuff. Right now it's difficult for me.

GENE: *Is this something that will be in the book?*

ED: No, no. For some reason or another, this question comes up often and I continually try to say that I will think about it further, if need be go through some more regressions to try to come up with some responsible answers to what happened to me personally. Whether my answers solve anything for anybody else,

I have no idea. But if I can rationalize through and become more comfortable with how it has affected me than at least I will sleep a little bit better on it.

But right now I really can't.

GENE: *OK, we'll keep it general. The second time was when?*

ED: When I was 17.

GENE: *And again you had no conscious awareness, there was no UFO sighting, no strange lights or anything like that?*

ED: Now in this particular instance, when I was 17, I think it's just normal to try to rationalize away. One of the events I would rationalize away as a bad dream. And then another event, when I was 25, I would rationalize away as being because it was late and I was driving home and I had been working overtime. I was exhausted and maybe pulled over and ended up with a tremendous length of time missing. To me, I just said, "Oh well, I was so exhausted I don't remember, but I pulled over here and went to sleep." You rationalize it through.

Another event, when I was 33, I rationalized as being, well gosh how did this happen, and then, well, it was a funny day, it was hot. "I must have had a heat stroke. My head is hurting, I feel bad. Gee wiz, I had a heat stroke."

You see you don't—at least I didn't—say, "Oh goodness, I just have been involved with a UFO."

GENE: *In other words, if what had happened to you over the last couple of years hadn't happened, you might never have had this regression, you might never have gone back to those experiences?*

ED: I had worked it out through my brain. It never entered my mind. I had rationalized it away as a heat stroke, rationalized it away as sleep exhaustion, rationalized it away as dreams. You know, I was very comfortable with all those normal excuses and for me to think it had anything to do with UFOs was just not even in my brain.

GENE: *Now all this stuff has been screened out pretty much as far as your conscious memory is concerned. It's not something you dwelled on later. Do you feel at this point, having gone through this—and maybe having heard that other people go through it—that maybe there are a lot of people walking around there who have done the same thing, maybe thought, oh, "I must have dozed off on the side of the road, or I fell asleep at the office," and maybe there's something hidden in their minds?*

ED: If this happened to anybody else the way happened to me, I think that it would be quite normal for people to rationalize it away in some kind of way that they can identify with. I know it was important to figure out what happened, and when you finally say, "Oh I must have had a heat stroke," then at least that answers it rightly or wrongly. At least that gives you an answer and you go on about your life.

GENE: *Now it seems you have been singled out amongst all of the cases that have occurred—and quite a few of*

course have occurred through the years—but “Mr. Ed” Walters has been singled out by some people for special criticism. Do you have any feeling about this?

ED: Well I defend people who don't believe what had happened here in Gulf Breeze. That's absolutely their right, and I don't have any quarrel with anybody who doesn't believe what's going on here in Gulf Breeze. That's not for me to say. If they want to say, “Oh no, no, that can't be,” well that's their own business.

On the other hand, if they want to say, “Oh, no, no, Ed is a liar!” well then I take that personal. That's out of line on their part, and when and if somebody says that kind of thing, then I will respond and hopefully in a way that will make them understand that, no, this has nothing to do with telling a lie. This is something to do with telling what happened, and if you choose not to believe it, fine.

GENE: But there are certain specific criticisms that I'll just ask you about, one of which is the photographs themselves. And the criticism is that in some cases the lights seen in certain pictures are not symmetrical, they're varying distances, which would seem strange if they were structures, because if they were structures, one would think that the portholes would be equidistant. There are certain irregularities that people point to and say, “Aha, these are fakes because of that.”

ED: I don't know. It's interesting to me that those questions are even taken with the slightest grain of consideration, because, in the first place, that assumes that whoever is making the statement knows that it's a porthole, or knows that it's a window...I don't know that, and I'm the one that looked at it, and I photographed it.

They could look at the photograph and say, “Oh, that's a porthole, therefore it must be in this location.” That assumes that they know a whole lot more about the design of UFOs than what I know [Laughs], you know. I think that those are very, very subjective criticisms that really should be understood as personal opinion.

GENE: What about the other allegation about alleged “ghost pictures” taken at a private party some years back that are then said to prove that Ed fakes photos because of this?

ED: That's the kind of thing that I take very personal, because there's been a pretty motivated campaign by a couple of critics to portray me as some kind of a weirdo, and I guess a good way to portray somebody as a weirdo is to make out that they take pictures of demons and pictures of ghosts and all that.

That started many, many months ago with someone saying, “Oh Ed has conjured up the devil and taken pictures of the devil.” Of course, they later changed it: “Oh, no, it's not really the devil. There's a bunch of mirrors in his house and he took reflections off the mirrors.” And then they changed it: “Oh, no, he didn't do that, he took a double exposure...”

All trying to somehow or other wave their arms in the air enough to distract the attention from what's going on in Gulf Breeze, to try to ridicule the principal witnesses, and that includes a lot of others. It's just a bunch of rumor-mongering on the part of the critics.

GENE: What's the focus of your new book?

ED: I think it's important that, once and for all, that first person details are written down for any and all to read, mainly because it was so distorted—not intentionally, but just because of the nature of the story. It was distorted by a lot of the media. And it's been intentionally or otherwise distorted by some few critics. They will take and twist around two or three of the sightings and group them together and do this and the other with the details and come up with an event that didn't even happen. And then, using what they now described in their own non-event, then they criticize it, which is completely silly on their part.

They must know that eventually this book will come out and that all the precise details will be there for everybody to read, and they're going to look very foolish, having tried to rewrite it, so to speak, so that they can criticize it.

GENE: With the arrival of the book, are you going to go on the talk show circuit to promote it, and the lecture trail?

ED: That's one of the main things that held me up from signing up and letting the log and the diary be converted into the manuscript. It was my uncertainty as to whether or not to allow that type of invasion of my personal life. And, anyway you cut it, if you're going to have a book out there, the publisher's going to want you to be out there on the talk circuit.

And so I finally agreed thanks to one of our mutual friends, Jim Moseley. He finally made it clear to me that there's only way one to deal with the disinformation or misinformation of a few of these critics, and that is to allow the book to come out in the first place, and then go right out there and let people see and hear exactly who Ed Walters is.

GENE: The various financial figures have been bandied out; number one, the advance on the book and, number two, the advance against a possible television mini-series, what is your opinion of that? Certainly the criticisms will cover the possible lecture fees also?

ED: Well, I don't have any comment on that. I don't think it's a sin to be paid for something that you do. One of the critics—whom all of us know very well—he gets paid for writing anti-UFO books. If receiving money for your work is in some way discrediting, then I would suggest the critics are also in the same boat.

GENE: Then maybe also the people who work for The New York Times and Time magazine should be suspect because they receive a paycheck, and certainly Dan Rather and Tom Brokaw and Peter Jennings—who receive figures in the millions of dollars per year—should be suspect too.

ED: Exactly right, a very good analogy.

MJ-12: Evidence of Deception?

By Curt Sutherly

For a time my apartment looked suspiciously like someone's top secret hall of records.

During a late night telephone conversation I first heard the phrase, MJ-12. The conversation was with veteran ufologist Floyd Murray, who at the time was providing me with one of his regular "briefings" on all that had transpired in the UFO community during my decade-long absence.

Since my return to the realm of UFO/Fortean occurrence more than a year ago, Floyd has been a constant guide and companion. It was he who initially insisted that I come out of "retirement." I mentioned this in my biographical sketch several issues ago.

At any rate, Floyd and I were involved in one of our long-winded, long distance (and very expensive) discussions when he mentioned MJ-12. He continued making his point until I interrupted: "Whoa! Backup! What the hell," I asked, "is MJ-12?"

"You mean," Floyd replied, sounding genuinely bewildered, "you've never heard of MJ-12?"

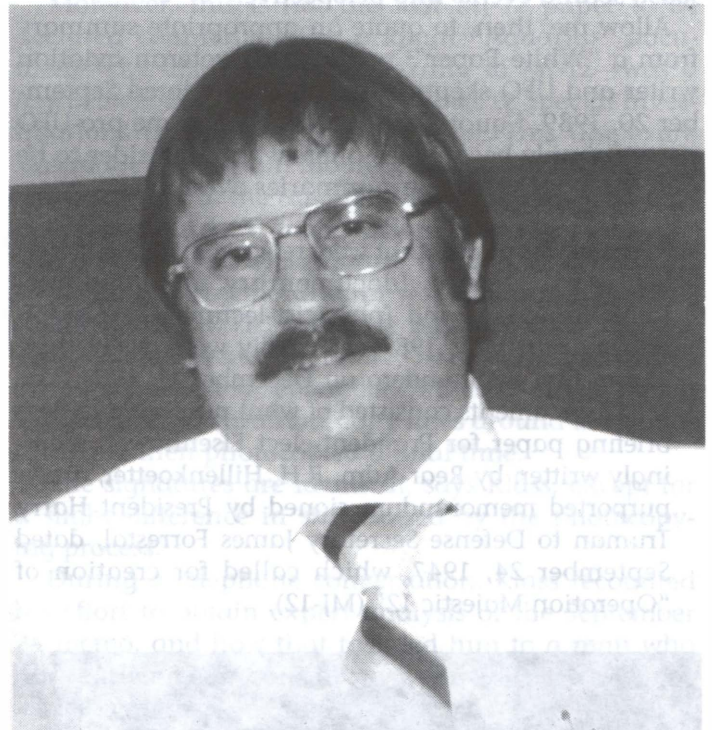
"Hey, it's been a while. I haven't the faintest idea of what it's supposed to be." Floyd, of course, proceeded to enlighten me on both MJ-12 and the latest on the Roswell, New Mexico, alleged crash-retrieval incident.

Not long after, I happened to see the televised *UFO Cover-up?—Live!* program, hosted by Mike Farrell. Oddly enough, I found myself both interested and turned off by what I saw and heard.

My strongest inclination, after seeing the television program, was to leave well enough alone; MJ-12 was an obvious can of worms, and already the focus of far too much attention by members of the UFO community.

Then it occurred to me that maybe someone, somewhere, was highly pleased by all the confused attention. Nonetheless, I quashed the thought and got back to the real world.

But Murray and several other people—one of whom happened to be the publisher of this magazine—wouldn't leave well enough alone. First, Floyd



William Moore, at the core of the MJ-12 uproar.

began sending me material: a photocopy of the MJ-12 "document," plus related articles and assorted correspondence.

Then, just as I had finished reading all of that, I received a box from Gene Steinberg containing several pounds of material. I had barely begun wading through this mess when still more information arrived from other sources.

I stacked books and documents in corners. On shelves. On the kitchen table. On the bathroom floor. I tripped over the clutter when I awoke in the morning.

For a time my apartment looked suspiciously like someone's top secret hall of records.

Meanwhile, Steinberg kept asking for an article on "my view" of the MJ-12 controversy. "I don't have a view," I repeatedly replied.

"Make something up," Gene quipped at one point. Great. I thought. Make something up.

Fortunately (or not, depending on one's point of view), I didn't have to create fiction. As far as I'm con-

cerned, the MJ-12 briefing document is a fairy tale—although the issue that's central to these papers may contain more than a germ of truth.

DETAILS, DETAILS

Many who are now reading this are already thoroughly acquainted with the details of MJ-12. But there are those who are not—just as I was not, a year ago. I therefore beg the indulgence of all who have been down this road time and again; I hope to put a somewhat different light on the subject while, at the very least, setting events into perspective.

Allow me, then, to quote an appropriate summary from a "White Paper"² prepared by veteran aviation writer and UFO skeptic Philip J. Klass, dated September 20, 1989. I quote Klass rather than some pro-UFO person simply because he offers what I consider to be one of the most concise summaries available.

The MJ-12 papers that were released by [researcher] William L. Moore, [documentary film producer] Jaime Shandera and [physicist-lecturer] Stanton T. Friedman in May, 1987, reportedly were received on 35mm film by Shandera on December 11, 1984. The MJ-12 documents consisted of what purported to be a briefing paper for President-elect Eisenhower, seemingly written by Rear-Adm. R.H. Hillenkoetter, and a purported memorandum signed by President Harry Truman to Defense Secretary James Forrestal, dated September 24, 1947, which called for creation of "Operation Majestic 12" (MJ-12).



Friendly adversaries in the MJ-12 controversy: nuclear physicist Stanton T. Friedman...

Operation Majestic 12, according to page two of the briefing document, is "a Top Secret Research and Development/Intelligence operation responsible only to the President of the United States." This alleged operation is carried out at the direction of 12 highly placed individuals having a combined military/civilian background—hence the code name, Majestic Twelve.

Interestingly enough, the MJ-12 group was established, according to the document, three months to the day following aviator Kenneth Arnold's June 24, 1947 sighting of gleaming aerial objects—an event most cited as ushering in the era of modern Ufology.

Indeed, there is a reference to Arnold's sighting on page three of the MJ-12 papers, which number eight total. These consist of a cover page, a page listing the members of MJ-12, three pages of background, a sixth page listing attachments A through H, a seventh page labeled "Attachment A," and the reverse side of that attachment—the purported Truman memorandum to Defense Secretary Forrestal.

The document is dated "18 November, 1952." With the exception of the Truman memo, which is stamped "TOP SECRET, EYES ONLY," on White House stationery, the pages are each stamped "TOP SECRET/MAJIC, EYES ONLY."

In the text of the document, reference is made to a crashed object in "a remote region of New Mexico located approximately seventy-five miles northwest of Roswell Army Air Base [now Walker Field].

"On 07 July, 1947," the document continues, "a secret operation was begun to assure the recovery of the wreckage of this object for scientific study." It goes on to state that "four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded." The bodies were found some "two miles east of the wreckage site. All four were dead and *badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements during the approximately one week time period which had elapsed before their discovery* [emphasis added]."

I have spoken with naturalists having a working knowledge of animal decomposition, with a veterinarian, and with a coroner of many years experience. All have rendered essentially the same opinion: a body—human or animal—would not "badly decompose" in a hot, dry region. Instead, the arid desert environment would dehydrate the carcass, resulting in a kind of mummification.

Of course, one might suppose the biological make-up of the bodies was so different as to result in rapid decomposition even in the desert. Page four of the MJ-12 document contains a statement referring to the alleged alien biology. It reads: "Although these creatures are human-like in appearance, the biological and evolutionary processes responsible for their development has [sic] apparently been quite different from those observed or postulated in homo-sapiens."

If so, then it is doubtful that wild scavengers or predators would have found the meat of the carcasses at all interesting. Indeed, within Earth's own community of creatures there is precedent to uphold this view: the opossum—the only North American marsupial—is, for example, almost never bothered by natural predators simply because it is possessed of a somewhat disagreeable odor.³

Furthermore, the coroner with whom I spoke noted that if predators or scavengers had attacked the carcasses, they would, after a week, have reduced the bodies to bones.

In short, there is a great deal to suspect about this part of the MJ-12 document. What, then, of the rest of the document?

GRAND DEBATE

Since the MJ-12 papers first came to light, two researchers in particular have been at odds over whether or not the document is genuine. One of these two is Philip J. Klass, mentioned earlier. The other is Stanton T. Friedman.

Neither man is exactly what one might call a dunderhead.

Klass, of Washington, D.C., is an aviation expert and a contributing editor for a leading aviation magazine. He is Ufology's best known (and for some, most despised) skeptical investigator, and is convinced the MJ-12 papers are a hoax.

Friedman, on the other hand, has been quite vocal in his defense of the purported document. His background is that of nuclear physicist and UFO lecturer. He has worked on numerous classified government projects, including programs to develop nuclear-powered aircraft and nuclear-thrust rockets.⁴ He currently lives in New Brunswick, Canada.

The debate between these two men has been more or less tit for tat—that is, fairly well balanced, without one gaining much of an advantage over the other. These two seem almost perfect foils for one another, though sharing, perhaps, an unspoken mutual respect—something I suspect neither man would be quick to admit.

Correspondence has also flown between Klass and William Moore, although a somewhat different tone is evident here. Through all of this, Jaime Shandera has remained curiously in the background.

Now, however, Klass may finally have the upper hand in his effort to disprove the MJ-12 document.

In a White Paper dated October 12, 1989,⁵ Klass says the MJ-12 Truman memo of September 24, 1947, is a counterfeit "because it was typed using a Smith-Corona machine that was not introduced until around 1963..." This declaration is based, not on personal findings by Klass, but on those of a professional document examiner.

In a letter dated October 16, William Moore re-

sponded to Klass' assertion. He admitted that a document analyst (identified by both men only as PT) "did confirm" the paper was bogus. However, "his [PT's] opinion to us [Moore, Friedman and Shandera] also included the statement that 'although the document itself may be a fabrication, the information in it could very well be real.'"

Nonetheless, and here I agree with Klass, one must certainly question the content of a paper that has been retyped and falsified with what would have to be a forged, or overlaid, signature.

Moreover, this is not the first MJ-12 paper to be declared counterfeit. The original "Aquarius" document—the first to surface referring to MJ-12—was a re-typed version of an Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) teletype message. This disclosure was made by William Moore, during his controversial two-hour talk at the July, 1989 MUFON symposium in Las Vegas. But we'll come back to this.

Klass believes the signature on the September 24, 1947, Truman memorandum was taken from an authentic memo to Dr. Vannevar Bush, dated October 1, 1947. The authentic signature, he says, was re-copied onto the purported September 24 memo, after which it was brushed to eliminate copy lines around the signature, and then photocopied a final time.

The signatures are identical, says Klass, except for a slight difference in size caused by the photocopying process.

During a telephone conversation, Klass recounted his effort to obtain expert analysis of the September 24 memo, and how that task led him to a man who had earlier been consulting with Moore, Friedman and Shandera.



...and perennial UFO skeptic Philip Klass.

YELLOW PAGES

Klass' initial effort took him to Joe Nickell, of Lexington, Kentucky, whose hobby is the authenticity of documents. Nickell, however, is a member of the executive council of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP)—an organization to which Klass also belongs and which remains at odds with nearly all elements of the UFO community.

Realizing that an opinion by Nickel would be held in great suspicion by the pro UFO faction, Klass asked for a referral. Nickell suggested the Yellow Pages.

Checking the Washington directory, Klass came across the name of David Crown, a handwriting expert and former director of the CIA's document authentication division. "I called Crown [now retired] and he told me the MJ-12 papers had been exposed as a hoax," Klass said.

Crown, a self-described "high-priced talent," referred Klass to a New York document analyst [PT] having a known interest in the MJ-12 papers. Klass did not know at the time that PT had earlier consulted with Moore, Friedman and Shandera. He also did not know that PT had already informed Moore the Truman memo was probably bogus—information Moore was not yet ready to disclose.⁶

Klass telephoned PT, and learned the analyst had a strong interest in seeing a copy of the authentic October 1, 1947, Truman letter. This he mailed via overnight express. There was no mention at the time of PT's involvement with Moore, Friedman and Shandera.

PT made a transparency of the Truman letter for easy enlargement and carried that, Klass said, along with a transparency of the MJ-12 memo (already in PT's possession) to a document examiner's conference in San Francisco.

"A week later [October 12, 1989], PT called me," Klass recalled. The essence of the conversation was that the MJ-12 document, or at least the Truman memo, was certainly counterfeit.

PT's conclusion—undisputed by other analysts at the West Coast conference—was based, in part, on a comparison of enlarged copies of the two signatures—but there is more.

Klass also learned that PT had been in touch with a Los Angeles document examiner—another man consulting with Moore, Friedman and Shandera. Months earlier, this analyst had been permitted to reproduce from the original MJ-12 35mm film.

The availability of first-generation copies, enlarged for comparison and study, enabled PT to firmly conclude that the MJ-12 Truman memo was typed with a Smith Corona *cartridge* machine introduced no earlier than 1963.

Clues to determining the typewriter year and model were the capital letters "A" and "W," both of which, Klass said, tended to tear the old style carbon ribbon.

This defect was corrected by Smith Corona in the model introduced in 1963.

THAT MAN DOTY

While talking with Klass, I asked for his view of former AFOSI Special Agent Richard C. Doty.

Retired from the U.S. Air Force since October, 1988, Doty has attracted widespread attention in the UFO community. So notorious is he that he nearly ranks in name recognition with the late Messrs. Kenneth Arnold or J. Allen Hynek—though for very different reasons.

Doty's UFO involvement is tied, initially, to an AFOSI Complaint Form he typed and signed relating to sightings near Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, in 1980. Doty may also have been the source of a hoax letter mailed to the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization in 1981, though this he denies.⁷ The anonymous letter detailed a July 16, 1980 sighting near Pecos, New Mexico, by one Craig Weitzel. However, Weitzel says the letter grossly exaggerated his experiences—which he had reported to OSI agent Richard C. Doty.

Doty is generally regarded as being the mysterious "Falcon," an alleged government source who appeared on the *UFO Cover-up?—Live* program, though this too remains uncertain.

Researcher Robert Hastings, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, reported his conviction that Doty is "Falcon" in a June, 1989 article in the *MUFON UFO Journal*. His belief is based largely on two pieces of information: a meeting between Doty and documentary filmmaker Linda Moulton Howe in 1983 at Kirtland Air Force Base, at which time Doty identified himself as "Falcon"; and confirmation by a member of the *UFO Cover-up?—Live* production team that Doty appeared on the program as "Falcon."

In a White Paper dated April 14, 1989, Philip Klass reported that two of Doty's former AFOSI associates viewed a videotape of the TV program, and afterward "agreed that 'the inflections, the mannerisms, the way he spoke' prompted them to conclude that Doty is 'Falcon.'"

However, William Moore has since said that Doty is not "Falcon," but merely a liaison for the real mystery informant. Moore made this disclosure during his July talk in Las Vegas, at which time he admitted his role in a disinformation scheme designed to discredit UFO researcher Paul Bennewitz—a professional physicist who was privately investigating UFO and cattle mutilation phenomena.

Moore's admission of involvement with the intelligence community has stirred much understandable debate. But again, we'll come back to this. As for Richard Doty...

Klass reported in April, 1989 that "service records obtained by [researcher] Larry W. Bryant via FOIA [Freedom of Information Act] show that, during the

early 1970s, Doty was based in West Germany where he served as a 'patrolman gate-guard.' Later, at Ellsworth Air Force Base, he was a law enforcement instructor. Portions of Doty's service record were censored."

In early 1985, Doty was reassigned to Lindsey Air Station, West Germany. This occurred after the sergeant's well-known meeting with Linda Howe at Kirtland.

While stationed at Lindsey, Klass further reported, "Doty was charged with falsifying official documents and telling falsehoods to his commanding officer. A formal investigation confirmed these charges and Doty was 'decertified' as a special agent [with] Air Force Office of Special Investigations and returned to Kirtland AFB in late 1986. Doty spent his last two years before retirement in food services [mess hall] management."

On a more personal note, Klass said that when Doty's name first surfaced, he believed the sergeant was innocent of allegations that he was a hoaxer or a disinformation agent. However, after a one-hour conversation with the man, Klass changed his mind: "I'd have to say he [Doty] loves to spin tall tales...."

In a July 4, 1989, White Paper, Klass challenged Doty on various points, including Doty's denial that he wrote the anonymous Weitzel hoax letter; his meeting with Howe; and contradictions in statements made by Doty and those made by William Moore before the July MUFON assembly.

As of December 15, 1989, Doty had not responded to this challenge.

LINDA HOWE'S EXPERIENCE

Following my phone conversation with Phil Klass, I telephoned Linda Howe.

As already noted, Howe's meeting with Richard Doty took place in 1983, at which time she was gathering background for a proposed HBO documentary on UFOs. Much has already been written about this episode, by Linda herself, and by other persons. However, it bears repeating if for no other reason than to clarify her current and past views on the issue.

The meeting was conducted, Howe said, in an on-base building with peeling exterior paint and a sign that declared it to be the district AFOSI office. Inside, Howe was taken to a room containing a wooden desk and chairs. Doty sat at the desk and Linda sat in one of the chairs.

"I was under the impression that we were there to discuss a UFO sighting at Ellsworth AFB," Howe recalled. Instead, Doty confronted her with cryptic comments about her effort to gather background for the proposed UFO documentary—observations that led Howe to believe she had been very carefully monitored.

"You have upset a lot of people," Howe said Doty remarked at the start. He also made such comments as: "We know a lot about you. You came too close



Documentary producer Linda Moulton Howe also got entangled in the complex MJ-12 scenario.

to the truth in that film...."

The reference here was to Howe's acclaimed 1980 documentary, *Strange Harvest*, which focuses on the continuing cattle mutilation mystery. The film suggests a UFO connection.

Seated behind his desk, Doty opened a drawer and removed a plain brown envelope. "My superiors asked me to show this to you," Howe recalls him saying.

The document in the envelope was titled, "Briefing Paper for the President of the United States of America about Unidentified Aerial Vehicles," or very similar words. "It was double-spaced...and there were paragraph indents," Howe said. "I remember the indents because [when writing] I don't use them." (There are no paragraph indents in the MJ-12 briefing document.)

Described in this "briefing paper" were reports of crashed discs in Aztec, New Mexico (a report widely believed to be a hoax); in Kingman, Arizona; another in Mexico, south of the U.S. border, and two in Roswell.

The document referred to two different species of non-terrestrial said to be interacting with highly placed U.S. Government representatives. One of these was a gray-skinned, short-in-stature race. These creatures were evidently poor pilots or poor technicians during the 1940s, because their ships kept crashing, spilling their crew members—some dead, some alive—all over the Southwest landscape. The other race was not described in the paper, though current impression is that they are tall, blonde and very nearly human. (There are also reports of a very tall race with cat-like eyes and no hair.)

Howe said the document also described how extraterrestrials were supposedly responsible for the appearance of a messiah figure meant to influence the course of human social and religious behavior. She remembers looking up at Doty, who watched her carefully, and remarking: "We're talking about Jesus Christ here, aren't we?" In response, she said he nodded.

Although she was permitted to read the document, Howe said she was instructed by Doty not to take notes or record any of the information.

Since her encounter with Doty, the former Air Force sergeant has denied ever showing her any such document.⁸ Howe's response is succinct: "Doty has lied."

Looking back, Howe said that in 1983 she was confused and greatly uncertain as to how much was true about the government's involvement in the UFO mystery. But as time passed and she continued to pursue both UFO and animal mutilation activity, her confusion moved toward a greater clarity—a belief that the government has been withholding knowledge of extraterrestrial visitors.

Further, Howe believes that writers or investigators attempting to rationalize away the more extreme contact reports—including the early crashed disc accounts—are but unwitting partners in a continuing government disinformation scheme.

MUFON DISCLOSURE

All of which, at last, brings us to Bill Moore.

During his MUFON talk, Moore revealed that he became aware Richard Doty and others were "playing an elaborate disinformation game against a prominent UFO researcher who...had close connections with a major film company..." Though Moore never identified Howe by name, it is evident the reference is to her.

This disinformation "game," Moore said, was all part of the ploy to discredit Paul Bennewitz, who, in the course of his UFO research, and using sophisticated electronic equipment, intercepted unusual low frequency radio signals coming from the Kirtland AFB/Sandia National Labs complex. Moore claims "several government agencies" were part of the scenario designed to "defuse" and discredit Bennewitz by feeding him bizarre disinformation. As a result of this disinformation, Bennewitz came to believe that malevolent aliens were hatching a plan to control the Earth.

Moore said his own involvement began in September, 1980, when he was approached by an individual "well-placed" in the intelligence community. This man—the mysterious "Falcon"—was supposedly connected to a government UFO project.

Richard Doty, who according to Moore acted as "Falcon's" liaison, later asked Moore to provide AFOSI with regular information on Bennewitz. Moore said he decided to play along in order to try and discover more about the government's knowledge of UFOs.

In any event, Moore said that "when the filmmaker [Howe] appeared on the scene, and it looked as if Paul's story might become part of the script, the counterintelligence people simply extended their disinformation activities accordingly."

But if, as he implies, the "briefing paper" shown to Howe was bogus, then what does this say for the MJ-12 document?

Although the papers described by Linda are similar to the MJ-12 briefing, there are sufficient differences (including title, reference to Aztec, New Mexico, the details about the Messiah, and the absence of paragraph indents) to attest to the fact that they are not one and the same. And yet, in view of the preceding information, not the least of which concerns Richard Doty, it seems evident the MJ-12 papers are merely a refined version of the document shown to Howe. In effect, refined disinformation.

Almost certainly the "Aquarius" document, referred to earlier, is included in all of this.

Speaking before MUFON, Moore admitted that the "Aquarius" paper is a "retyped version" of a "real AFOSI message."⁹ He said the document was "handed" to him in February, 1981, at which time he was expected to give it to Bennewitz. It was assumed that Bennewitz would take the document to the media as proof of alien invaders—at which point the paper would be exposed as bogus, and Bennewitz would be further discredited.

Taken as a whole, all of this seems to clearly demonstrate that very little about MJ-12 is credible. But there is another detail which needs to be included here—information laid bare, through exhaustive research, by physicist Stanton Friedman.

THAT MAN MENZEL

When MJ-12 first came to light, the UFO community found a surprising name included on the list of alleged "Majestic" members. That name was Dr. Donald H. Menzel.

The reason most found this surprising was because Menzel, a professor of astronomy at Harvard University, waged a life-long campaign to debunk UFOs. He published three books dealing with his public view that "flying saucers" were a myth. Menzel died on December 14, 1976, and in the course of his career he never once swerved from an anti-UFO path.

But notice that I said this was his *public* view. Thanks to Friedman's research, there is reason to ask whether Donald Menzel actually had a very different private view of the UFO phenomenon.

Menzel was, in fact, a genius. An astrophysicist, he received his Ph.D. at the age of 23. But this alone hardly qualified him to be part of the alleged MJ-12 membership. Indeed, of all the group, he was the only one not known to possess a high-level security clearance.

But Menzel did have high-level clearance—an UL-

tra Top Secret Navy clearance.

Friedman tumbled to this information after following a long trail of documents and correspondence that led the late Dr. Menzel past such notables as John F. Kennedy, Dr. Vannevar Bush, and Dr. Detlev Bronk.

(Bush, during World War II, was head of the Office of Scientific Research and Development. Later he headed the Joint Research and Development Board. Detlev was an aviation physiologist and head of the National Academy of Sciences and National Research Council. Both are included on the MJ-12 list.)

Friedman discovered the connection between Menzel and Bush soon after he learned of the MJ-12 brief from Moore and Shandera. He reported this in his highly-detailed paper, "The Secret Life of Donald H. Menzel," in the January/February, 1988 *International UFO Reporter*.

"In checking my files on Vannevar Bush...I found a letter to Bush from Robert Proctor, a lawyer for the old and established Boston legal firm of Choate, Hall and Stewart," Friedman wrote. The letter referred to, of all things, loyalty charges brought against Menzel by the U.S. Air Force.

"Suddenly," Friedman continued, "this letter raised a whole host of questions about Menzel."

The loyalty hearings, as Friedman discovered, were convened for a full week in May, 1950, with Vannevar Bush firmly in Menzel's camp. Menzel was exonerated of the charges, but the many questions about his past remained. The research trail led Friedman to Mrs. Menzel and to the Harvard Archives in April, 1986.

"...My findings took me completely by surprise," Friedman wrote. "It is clear that Donald Menzel led two lives."

The physicist/researcher goes on to list nine separate reasons why Menzel could have been part of the MJ-12 membership. But the salient facts are these:

Menzel had a long association with the NSA (National Security Agency)—a fact revealed in letters he wrote to John F. Kennedy in 1960.

NSA is known to have a UFO connection, and has in fact refused to release 160 documents "or even an unexpurgated version of a 21-page Top Secret affidavit to a federal judge justifying the withholding of the 160 documents."

Menzel and Vannevar Bush had a long-standing association, "dating back to at least 1934."

Menzel's ties to the National Security Agency are documented in at least three separate letters to Kennedy.¹⁰

In a letter dated August 13, 1960, he refers to one Oswald Jacoby, noting that he and Jacoby "served in the Navy together, in what is now the National Security Agency. I have been associated with this activity for almost 30 years and probably have the longest continuous record of association in the country."

Menzel further referred to the NSA in an unpublished

autobiography,¹¹ noting that he had been a consultant to the agency, "with Top Secret Ultra clearance...."

Clearly, Friedman is not dreaming. Menzel did indeed have both the background and the above-top-secret clearance necessary for membership into MJ-12—provided the project ever existed.

But many individuals, within and without the UFO community, remain unconvinced about this possibility.¹² Notable among them is Jerome Clark, who reviewed Friedman's findings in an August, 1989 *Fate* column.

Clark summarized his view by saying that had Menzel "known something, he would have behaved differently. I doubt that he would have made the public spectacle of himself that he did over 2½ decades."

He further says: "It is easier to believe he [Menzel] would have used his influence far less visibly to keep colleagues and others away from UFO study. He would have quietly told fellow scientists that his research had convinced him UFOs aren't worth anybody's time...."

I disagree.

In the scientific community, just as in the UFO community, there is entirely too much divisiveness. Let one scientist tell another something isn't worth his or her time, and chances are the recipient will set out to prove the other guy wrong.

For Menzel, adopting the role of public "fool" would have been an excellent ploy—a role that cast doubt and disrespect, not so much on himself as on the issue. Certainly, his denigrating attitude toward the UFO subject caused a mirrored response among other scientists. This sort of peer pressure is nothing new; it is evident today in the UFO community.

But in pointing this out, I also confess to playing devil's advocate. If MJ-12 is a fake, as it seems to be, then Dr. Menzel could not have been part of this "project."

My suspicion is that the document was manufactured by someone fully aware of Menzel's high-level clearance, and who intentionally included his name. And without doing a ton of research, as Stan Friedman did, only someone with ready access to secure files would have been able to ferret out that particular detail.

ROSWELL

Which brings us to Roswell, New Mexico.

Consider: The MJ-12 document surfaced at a time when Roswell was a hot topic. Moore and Friedman had already compiled extensive evidence of a 40-year-old occurrence near the community. It is apparent the Army Air Corps was involved; that media reports were issued, then altered. There is every indication of a major cover-up.

But of what? A crashed disc? Or of something else?

Consider: The late Kenneth Arnold never reported seeing "flying saucers" over the Cascade Mountains

two weeks prior to the alleged Roswell crash. His original description was more like that of flying wings. A news reporter coined the expression "flying saucer."

Consider also: In 1947 Northrop Corporation had been testing prototype flying wings for at least a year. (The XB-35 and the YB-49 flew in 1946 and 1947). Northrop has never released any of the early production-test flying wings for permanent public display. (The two prototypes both crashed, but a number of other flying wings were built.) It is likely the test models were kept secure because Northrop continued to work with, and improve upon, the basic design during the past 40 years—leading, ultimately, to the development of the B-2 Stealth bomber.

Despite all this, I am not saying (nor do I really believe) that an early flying wing crashed in New Mexico in 1947.¹³ I use the wing as an example of how little we really know about military research and development during this era. What I am suggesting is that the government had something tremendously advanced in the works—something that may have failed miserably on a hot, stormy night in July more than 40 years ago.

Flying discs were in vogue, so a complex two-part disinformation scheme was put into operation. The first part consisted of a crashed disc story, which the media quickly jumped on. The second phase was the "cover-up." This involved quashing the "genuine" disc report and replacing it with a clumsy account about a fallen weather balloon.

But this still leaves us with the witnesses—people who claim they saw hieroglyphic-like writing and handled fragments of a superior metal. Possibly their recollection is a "screen," a false memory arranged by the deceivers. We'll probably never know. The point here is that tales of the event are not enough, and hard evidence is lacking.

So how, exactly, does this fit with MJ-12?

Presuming, of course, that any of the above ever occurred, we must then also consider that someone, at some level, would have grown uncomfortable with Moore and Friedman's persistent investigation. Continued probing by these two (or anyone else) could have unearthed the double cover. At the very least this would have been an embarrassment (if the project under wraps was no longer viable).

To prevent or delay any such occurrence, a red herring was unleashed that went far beyond anything reported (and probably even guessed at) by Moore—far beyond merely discrediting Paul Bennewitz. This was the MJ-12 document, which for the past several years has created such a storm it has actually drawn attention away from Roswell.

The beauty of this little game, if it exists, is that Roswell is the very core of the MJ-12 document. Indeed, Roswell, with all its previous hype, was the one vital ingredient—otherwise the MJ-12 papers might

have been handily dismissed.

Granted, this all sounds outlandish, but then so does the idea of a crashed disc. Still, I'm not certain I even believe it—which makes the scenario so very pleasing from the point of view of the intelligence community: let the truth be known and it only causes further confusion.

Adding chaos to confusion, consider this alternative: someone faked the MJ-12 document simply because he (or she) gets a kick out of jerking the collective chain of the UFO community. This is a plausible notion, especially when one recognizes the knee-jerk reaction of the community whenever something new or suspect is dropped in its midst. And this hoaxer might simply have been lucky in including the name of Dr. Menzel.

Of course, I could be all wet about all of this. If so, then maybe the only recourse is to accept that some 40 years ago, a flying disc exploded in New Mexico.

—Curt Sutherly

1. *UFO Cover-up?*—Live was broadcast October 14, 1988.

2. Many of the "White Papers" disseminated by Phil Klass are photocopied letters addressed to those he has challenged. Moore, Friedman and Doty have all been recipients of such letters.

3. Leonard Lee Rue III, *Complete Guide to Game Animals* (Outdoor Life Books, second revised edition, 1981), page 15.

4. Curt Sutherly, "An Interview with Stanton Friedman," *Official UFO*, May, 1977.

5. A letter to William Moore.

6. Information about the apparently bogus Truman memo was not released by MF&S, according to Moore, because the trio had pursued "several opinions" to lend credibility to their findings. However, these opinions were "mixed." (Letter from Moore to Klass dated October 16, 1989.)

7. Letter to Robert Hastings, dated March 20, 1989.

8. *Just Cause*, June, 1988. (Letter to Barry Greenwood, dated March 3, 1988.)

9. Moore allegedly admitted to researcher Richard Hall that he personally did a "cut and paste job" on the Aquarius paper. (Robert Hastings, "The MJ-12 Affair: Facts, Questions, Comments," *MUFON UFO Journal*, No 251, June, 1989, page 8.)

10. The Kennedy letters were located by Stanton Friedman among various Menzel papers at the Harvard Library Archives. Friedman received permission to review the papers from the head of the Astronomy Department and the Director of the Smithsonian Observatory.

11. Friedman reviewed Dr. Menzel's autobiography in April 1986, after receiving permission from the widow, Florence Menzel.

12. Mrs. Menzel has dismissed Friedman's theory about a possible MJ-12 association. (Letter from Mrs. Menzel to James Moseley, *Saucer Smear*, February 5, 1989, Vol. 36, No. 2.)

13. Prototype and experimental aircraft were tested at Muroc Field (Edwards AFB) in 1947, and at China Lake, California. There was no known testing of aircraft in New Mexico. As an aside, Chuck Yeager reached Mach 1 for the first time on October 14, 1947, flying the Bell X-1 rocketplane out of Muroc.

The Ego Corner:

Food Follies

By Geneva Hagen

"Nobody is qualified to be a statesman who is entirely ignorant of the problem of wheat." (Socrates)

Unless we have a weight problem—which usually means we are overfed—food doesn't play a very big role in the lives of most of us. Eating may be an occasion for enjoyment or sociability, or a necessary task to be finished as efficiently as possible, but we seldom pause to reflect that eating is a matter of life and death.

In the ancient days, fertility of the Earth went hand in hand with the fertility of human beings, and neither could be taken for granted. Primitive rituals tended to center either around hunting or around agriculture, and even today, most faiths retain some sort of communion ceremony wherein we symbolically partake of the flesh and blood of our Deity, the Life of this Earth, which is none other than our own.

O Wonderful! O wonderful! O wonderful!

I am food! I am food! I am food!

I eat food! I eat food! I eat food!

I, who am food, eat the Eater of Food!

I have overcome this world.

The one who understands this mystery shall shine like the Sun.

—Upanishads



Sacrifice played a major role in many religions. Sometimes the sacrifice was gold or grain, sometimes an animal, and sometimes even a human being. This idea is horrifying to us today, but we must remember that in ancient times humans and animals were not regarded as fundamentally different creatures. If we took the lives of so many of the Earth's other creatures to sustain ourselves, well—it probably seemed fitting that we should occasionally offer one of our own kind in recompense.

In modern times we sacrifice far more human lives than the ancients ever did, but our deity goes by different names now. Today it is known as The Flag, The Economy, and Our Standard of Living. But, hey, I raved on about that last issue, and now it's time for something completely different.

It's 1990. Do you know where *your* next meal is coming from?

Yeah, yeah, there's money in your pocket, and a supermarket just around the corner. However, this convenient arrangement does not necessarily reflect the Natural Order! For the rest of this article, I'm going to ramble on and present various facts and viewpoints about food. Some of them will, I hope, be familiar to most of you already, but I also hope that during the course of this article I may draw your attention to some angles you haven't yet considered. If I fail to do this, write and slap my wrist!

Anthropologists believe the human race has existed on this planet for over a million years. (This boundary line keeps getting pushed back.) For most of this time, our numbers were so few that, had we not been scattered so widely about the globe, we might have been an endangered species. People lived by hunting and gathering. In the far North, where vegetation is scarce, hunting and fishing provided the bulk of the diet; in warmer climes, gathering provided most of the food, with hunting a supplemental source of tasty delicacies. Women could not hunt while carrying an infant, so they became responsible for the vegetable part of the diet. Despite the glamor of the hunt, 80% of the food in hunting and gathering societies is provided by the women! In Africa, even today, up to 85% of the food is produced by women—in their "spare time"!

Hunting and gathering peoples lacked most of the comforts we find so essential today, but they made up for it by having lots of leisure time. This was true even in the desert and the far North. As they moved from place to place to avoid depleting their habitat, they didn't like to have a lot to carry, so their creativity went into making songs and jewelry, and decorating their personal belongings and themselves. They tended to be thin and not terribly fertile, and probably didn't live very long—a life in the wild is associated with a high accident rate. However, the years they did have were strong and healthy and, quite likely, joyful ones. Women and men had separate duties, but roughly equal status, and tribal structure tended to be anarchistic. The most capable person became leader, and if s/he became too overbearing, a replacement would be found in a short order. (These suppositions are based on what we know of the very few hunting and gathering peoples still left. However, we must keep in mind that these modern tribes have millennia of tradition behind them and are not truly primitive.)

About 10,000 years ago, this idyllic existence came to a screeching halt. Historians usually present the turning point as “the discovery of agriculture.” This explanation is puzzling, as hunters and gatherers almost always prefer their own lifestyle to farming, but ecological collapse could have forced them into it. I can think of three possible causes: (a) climate change; (b) herd animals stripped down the natural vegetation cover; (c) the Nile Valley, where agriculture began, was so ridiculously fertile that farming actually was easier there, for a period, than hunting and gathering.

We should note here that there are legends among the Dogon tribe of Africa that amphibious visitors from Sirius first introduced the practice of farming. The legends of Sumeria (ancient Babylon) and Japan also speak of visitors from the sky bringing down cereal grains. I'm not sure about the legends of the Americas in this regard unless we count the “space pancakes” of UFO and faery lore. It is interesting to note that corn, native to these continents, even in its earlier strains, is strictly a domestic crop that cannot propagate by itself in the wild?

Many social changes followed farming. Once people weren't moving from place to place, they started accumulating possessions and conceived the idea of “owning” the land they lived on. Their population increased rapidly, and their numbers began to overburden the land. Territorial fighting began on a large scale. Walls were built around cities for protection. There was no going back to the old ways. The gates of Eden had closed and food must now be wrested from the Earth by the “sweat of the brow.” Some progress!

Just staying alive was so problematic for a long time that most of the population of any given area would be involved in agriculture. However, the governing

class would live in urban areas, and would exact a tax from the surrounding farmers. Angry urban dwellers nearby could create a great deal more disturbance than angry farmers scattered far and wide, so it became the custom to pacify the cities at the expense of outlying areas.

About the only “public service” provided in those days was the maintenance of armies to protect the populace from foreign invaders, but in many cases the depredations of the ruling classes were just about as bad. It probably hasn't been emphasized strongly enough that food shortages were the underlying cause of the French Revolution.

By the time Columbus sailed, Europe was in pitiful shape. Its tree cover was stripped, its soil was eroded, and its people had had to turn to coal for fuel, which everyone agreed was inferior to wood. Europe was hard-put to find goods to trade with the thriving dynasties of Africa, India and China. Now, around this time the typical European was severely malnourished and a grown man stood less than five feet high. Although Columbus probably *did* think he had reached India, his diary records that he was so impressed with the physical stature of the inhabitants of the New World that he called them *In Dios*: “in God's image”!

South America had some flourishing cultures, with wealthy urban areas supported by outlying agriculture. Some of their old techniques of terraced highland agriculture and floating gardens are finally being reclaimed by farmers today. If Spanish explorers had arrived at any other time in history, the world might be quite different now, but it happened that they came at exactly the right time to fulfill the Aztec prophecy of the return of the god, Quetzlcoatl. Knowing that Quetzlcoatl would disapprove of the massive human sacrifices he had been practicing, the ruler Montezuma hastened to propitiate the new Gods with the gifts of gold.

Gold was fairly plentiful in those parts at that time, and was not particularly valued by the Indians except for its decorative value in artwork. However, Europeans immediately recognized that this gold could buy them the wherewithal to conquer the world! Almost before you could re-draw the boundary lines, most of the world was in thrall to the nations of Europe.

Now, nations suddenly had to stop growing the crops they needed to feed themselves, and to start growing what the Europeans wanted! To ensure that even independent landholders would comply, a property tax was levied that was payable only in the foreign currency obtained by selling to the Europeans whatever it was they wanted. (I might note that the same system is still in place today, only now it is Third World governments in need of foreign currency who levy the tax on their own peoples.)

In many cases, this bureaucratic approach was side-stepped and outright slave labor was employed.

The kind of crops grown by this method varied, but they tended to be the same "greed" products we still desire today: cotton, tobacco, sugar cane, coffee, chocolate, and spices. In fact, this rash of new colonies was responsible for bringing a large-scale slave trade into existence to work these plantations. Up to that point, having a slave had been regarded as a rather eccentric luxury.

In its turn, then, the slave trade led to racism. During the Renaissance, Black Africans and White Europeans mixed as social equals. But a justification had to be found for the outrageous cruelty of the slave trade: "Surely you don't think these are *people like us*? Nah...they're more like animals!" Indeed, after having been kidnapped, beaten, starved, and packed like sardines in a dark hold for a six-month voyage, most slaves probably looked the part!

This all might seem a little far afield, were it not that a similar system is still in place today. The "slaves" are not transported by ship and bought and sold outright, however. Today they are called "migrant laborers"; they are hired for seasonal work that may only last a few weeks. There will be no more work for them when that has ended, and their meager wages will not tide them over until the next period of employment. There is no welfare or unemployment for them, no schooling, and they work under back-breaking, hazardous conditions, in fields sprayed with pesticides. Their women are middle-aged before they turn 30. An attempt to unionize will result in beatings, or even death. Modern employers find this new system a great step forward over slave-owning. After all, slaves represent a financial investment, so they must be kept in good health and fed the year round! But migrant laborers are a dime a dozen.

Now that we're back in present time, let's take a look at the present state of affairs. First, the good news:

Food production has been increasing faster than population in most parts of the world. The Earth presently produces more than enough to feed all its people; in fact, enough is presently produced to meet the needs of the projected population in the year 2000 (six billion). Several nations have effectively ended hunger (as defined by an infant mortality rate of 50/1,000 or below) since 1960, and with the advent of food security, the population growth rate in these nations started to fall off. A decade ago, a rash of Official Studies all arrived at the same conclusion: World hunger could be ended by the turn of the century, if the political will existed.

At this point, you can probably guess some of the bad news: So far, that political will has not manifested itself. Forty thousand children continue to die each day of conditions associated with poverty and hunger; that's 15 million each year, equivalent to the number

who perished in the Holocaust. In fact, with the economic recession and the "structural adjustment measures" imposed on Third World Nations by the IMF branch of the World Bank, an *extra* half-million kids now die each year. Meanwhile, the infant mortality rate and population growth rate has started to creep up around the world, and food production has started to level off. Last year, for the first time ever, the U.S. was a net food *importer*. Right now, much of the world depends on North American grain. This dependency is artificially-created, unnecessary, and unwise, but nonetheless, there it stands. Lester Brown of the Worldwatch Institute says that one more bad crop year would force America to keep its grain for its own uses (or else—*gasp!*—cut back its meat consumption!), creating shortages abroad. As things stand now, the world as a whole has food reserves of only two months. As one month of that represents food in transit from one place to the other, that actually amounts to only one month's worth in storage.

So, crops fail, but not altogether, and the price of grain goes up. What does that mean to us? In the short term, probably not a lot. Last summer, when I heard of the Canadian wheat crop failure, I anticipated a rise in the price of bread, and went out and bought 50 pounds of wheat flour. But here we are, a year later, and bread hasn't increased much more than anything else. Why is that, I wondered? Well, come to find out, in our land of the packaged commercial product, the cost of wheat only represents 5¢ out of the price of a \$1.00 loaf of bread! So, if the price of wheat doubles, that means bread goes up from \$1.00 a loaf to \$1.05. It's hardly even noticeable.

It's a bit different in the Third World, where people bake their own bread from scratch, don't have a great deal else to eat, and even so, end up paying over 70% of their meager income for food. If the price of bread doubles for *them*, they starve.

FARMING TODAY

Most of us still tend to think of farms in the old-fashioned way, where you have a husband and wife tending a plot with several different crops and a variety of animals such as cows, pigs, and chicken, which wander around loose in the barnyard until time of slaughter.

We'll I'm sorry to say that that family farm has either gone out of business, or else both members of the couple hold jobs in town to help cut their losses. No, it isn't necessarily that they were bad farmers. However, the economic slight-of-hand that brought about this state of affairs is too complicated for the scope of this article. I do want to talk about what has replaced the family farm, however. Agribusiness and factory farming! In agribusiness, most of the work is done by machines, with heavy use of chemicals. Mono-crops are planted, all genetically identical and

vulnerable to the same diseases and often requiring special nutrients or growing conditions to produce at all. (The Irish potato famine was caused by monocropping). Hardy traditional plant varieties are rapidly becoming extinct.

Most of the vegetable produce sold in the U.S. (and even parts of Canada) is shipped from California, even though most states are perfectly capable of growing their own. In order to grow this much food, California, basically an arid, semi-desert area, relies heavily on irrigation. Water for this purpose has been diverted from other Western areas, leaving parts of Arizona and other states with inadequate water supply. Now California is turning a thirsty eye toward Canada.

Now, it's hard to believe that the factory farming system wasn't something thought up in Nazi Germany! You have basically as many creatures as can be crammed into a small enclosed area, often packed so tightly they can't even turn around. They live these totally artificial, sardine-like lives from birth to death. Naturally, they tend to be unhealthy, so massive amounts of antibiotics are put in their feed (and passed on to the consumer, who may then fail to respond when antibiotic treatment becomes necessary for medical reasons). Hormones and various other chemical agents are also added. As animals such as chickens tend to injure one another when kept so close together, their beaks and toe-ends are cut off. Many of them develop tumors, which are cut out before the meat is sent to the grocer's.

You'd think these poor creatures would be miserable enough to satisfy anybody, but it gets worse. The genetic engineers are at it again! Let's acknowledge that selective breeding has long been used by human beings; that's how the noble wolf got bred down into a bundle of nerves like the hairless Chihuahua. But these days the pace is accelerating. Not so long ago, a featherless chicken was designed; it was supposed to save money on feed! However, it shivered so much that it ended up using as much energy as a feathered chicken. Back to the drawing board!

A few years ago, some friends of ours bought a few baby chicks and decided to feed them on whole grains and other healthy stuff rather than commercial chicken feed. To their horror, these health-food chickens grew up misshapen and crippled. Too late, our friends learned that the particular variety of chicks they had bought were genetically tailored for fast growth and required a special brand-name feed to develop properly! Now, I hear that researchers are hard at work to produce a *four-legged* chicken, so consumers can enjoy more drumsticks.

But look at the bright side: Chicken is fairly energy efficient, producing one pound meat protein for each 5 pounds vegetable protein consumed. Beef has a much worse conversion ratio of about 1:15—and much of the food fed to beef cattle is grain and soybeans suitable for

human consumption. This practice began as an ingenious solution to agricultural surpluses.

Feedlot farming accounts for a huge amount of our water pollution problems. But in the wild west, where cattle run free, there's another problem: Ranchers receive government water subsidies in arid states; without this help, hamburger would sell for \$35.00 a pound! However, this practice has been depleting precious stores of irreplaceable "fossil water."

Oh, and let's not forget that much of the imported beef we eat was grown on land acquired by cutting down the Amazon rain forest. Burger King used to get its meat from these sources, till boycotts convinced them otherwise.

By the way, do you remember those four basic food groups you learned about in school? Who do you suppose supplies that teaching material to the classrooms? Why, none other than the meat and dairy industry! That could explain why meat and dairy products are counted as two of the four food groups, even though millions of vegetarians lead healthy lives without consuming food from either of these categories. In fact, we are now learning that animal fat contributes to heart and circulatory problems, and even cancer.

But let's face it, there isn't much point in advertising fresh fruits and vegetables, where only the farmer and the supermarket stand to profit. Once food has been tampered with and chemicalized and devitalized and put in a fancy package—now, *there's* a product an advertiser can sink his teeth into!

BUYER BEWARE

We all know how costly it is to get rid of radioactive waste. How much nicer to convince food processors that irradiation is a useful preservative! The most obvious fear, that the treated food becomes radioactive, is not correct. However, the food does undergo almost two dozen *other* undesirable changes, including loss of nutrients, and formation of toxic by-products. If you see a cute little sunburst sticker on your fruit and vegetable products, you have been forewarned!

In Decatur, Georgia, a batch of milk cartons was accidentally contaminated in an irradiation plant. Despite the dangers, many of these cartons were sold to an unsuspecting public.

But I'm out of space and time now, and I haven't even scratched the surface of this complex subject. But I do hope I've started a few wheels turning in your head. You'll be hearing more from me on this theme later. Meanwhile, may I recommend the following reading matter:

Diet for a Small Planet and *Food First*, by Frances Moore Lappé.

Diet for a New America, by John Robbins.

Agricide, by Michael Fox.

—Geneva Hagen

An East Coast Look at Bigfoot

By Mark Opsasnick

The most important common bond that the East and West coast researchers share is the fact that to date there is still no hard concrete evidence to conclusively prove that Bigfoot exists.

Mention the term "Bigfoot" in any conversation and mental images of a huge, hulking, ape-man lumbering through the forests of the Pacific Northwest will no doubt emerge. To this day, the association of Bigfoot to the West Coast is so strong that many individuals find it hard to believe that the legendary creature could exist outside of the California—Oregon—Washington domain. The fact of the matter is, a comprehensive survey of Bigfoot literature by Strange Research and Investigations (SRI) reveals that Bigfoot has been reported almost twice as frequently east of the Mississippi River (approximately 2,650 for the East, 1,750 for the West). Researchers of unexplained phenomena react with great surprise at these findings, particularly the West Coast personalities, who become quite hostile when presented with evidence suggesting the Bigfoot world doesn't solely revolve around their corner of the country.

While retroactive file research shows that there have been newspaper articles detailing alleged encounters with hairy humanoid monsters dating back to the 1800s, the term "Bigfoot" was created in late August, 1958, when the *Humboldt Times* in Eureka, California ran a cover story on the huge footprint found at a construction site 20 miles north of Klamath, not far from Bluff Creek. A bulldozer operator named Jerry Crew claimed to have found hundreds of prints in the immediate vicinity and called in a taxidermist friend named Bob Titmus to pour plaster casts of the tracks. The resulting story was carried across the country via AP news wires, and the American Bigfoot sensation was born.

Immediately, the ultimate hunt was on. The romantic notion of stalking this giant monster was publicized through newspaper coverage and men's magazines (like *True* and *Argosy*) and attracted a small group of Bigfoot hunters, banded together by a strong will to believe and the inevitable thoughts of financial prosperity.

By 1959, Texas millionaire oilman Tom Slick financed the Pacific Northwest Expedition. [See *Culture Corner*, elsewhere in this issue, for Curt Sutherly's review of Loren Coleman's biography of this colorful Bigfoot researcher.] Participants included Bob Titmus, Ivan Marx, René Dahinden, and John Green (a group of men still prominent in the field today) who were commissioned to capture the beast. Because of the obvious pressures, including funding from Slick and typical macho peer group expectations, there was a great need to produce some type of tangible evidence. Titmus, the taxidermist, uncovered dozens of the mysterious five-toed footprints, but the group as a whole did little else but argue and eventually disbanded.

The will to believe was, and still is, so strong among these West Coast devotees that several important issues which seriously taint the entire Bigfoot picture have been overlooked or completely ignored. Few have taken the time to consider that Jerry Crew was a bulldozer operator for the Wallace Construction Company, owned by one Ray Wallace (today 70 years old) and at the time subcontracted through Block and Company for the National Park Service to clear roads near the borders of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. From 1959 until the late 1970s, Wallace claims to have seen Bigfoot himself hundreds of times and claims to have filmed the creatures on dozens of occasions. Many allege that the films show a man in a fur suit, though Wallace maintains their authenticity.

Recently, Rant Mullens, a resident of Wallace's hometown of Toledo, Washington, announced that he carved several pairs of huge fake wooden footprints, prints which Wallace used to prepare casts for display. This debacle casts doubt on Bigfoot's California debut. (See *CAVEAT EMPTOR*, Fall, 1989.)

Consider also that Ivan Marx, an original Pacific

NW Expedition member, has also produced controversial films, including the famed 1969 Bossburg, Washington footage of an alleged crippled Sasquatch (bogus "cripple" prints were also "found" in Bossburg at the time by Marx). This film, which John Green had declared authentic and led René Dahinden and company on a laughable game of hide and seek, was somewhat debunked by big-game hunter Peter Byrne, who, until the late 1970s operated the Bigfoot Information Center in The Dalles, Oregon. Byrne located the film site on the property of Bossburg rancher Don Byington and conclusively proved the entity in the film was only six feet tall, not the purported nine feet as Marx had claimed. Ivan Marx still produces controversial films and videos of his Bigfoot creatures, and has full-length feature movies like *The Legend of Bigfoot* and *In the Shadow of Bigfoot* under his belt.

In Bluff Creek, California on the afternoon of October 20, 1967, a rodeo rider named Roger Patterson and his partner Bob Gimlin allegedly captured a Bigfoot on film. The event has been hailed by West Coast true-believers (as well as many others) as the single most important event in Bigfoot history and has been trumpeted as one of the pillars of evidence for the creature's existence.

Noteworthy, though, is that Patterson's Bigfoot odyssey began back in 1964. He, too, had found numerous sets of alleged Bigfoot footprints in the Bluff Creek area and had even published a 1966 book, *Do Abominable Snowmen of America Really Exist?* While to date the jury is still out on the film, John Green notes on page 129 of *Sasquatch: The Apes Among Us* that rumors persisted of several individuals admitting to helping Patterson make the suit, with one man even claiming to be the man in it. Green casually states that these stories have come to nothing, and leaves it at that. There are many unanswered questions about the Patterson film, ones which will be addressed in a future SRI investigation.

In studying the origin of the West Coast Bigfoot picture, it is interesting to note that little has changed since Bigfoot's birth. The West Coast contingency is still largely characterized by true-believers—men who identify strongly with their peer groups and are pressured by money, status and prestige to produce evidence such as tracks and films. All of this includes little or no research. These individuals care little for the historical and cultural implications of Bigfoot, as they are generally infatuated with roaming the woods and hunting the creature. Extreme gullibility, seasoned with the will to believe, creates a very fertile situation for those with deceptive tendencies. Hoaxes have played a greater part in the West Coast Bigfoot saga than anyone has been willing to admit to thus far.

Perhaps because of this lack of research and limited view of the various dynamics of the Bigfoot phenomenon, particularly with respect to its role in popu-

lar culture, the West Coast Investigators display a great deal of territoriality and feel threatened when other researcher/investigators join the search.

Beginning in the early 1970s, the eastern half of the United States was gripped by a tidal wave of Bigfoot sightings. Florida's Skunk Ape was reported throughout all regions of the state, particularly the central Gulf Coast area around Brooklynite, while virtually hundreds of sightings came to public notice from Western Pennsylvania and northern and central Maryland, making these areas hot spots of activity.

By the end of the decade, Bigfoot (or something like it) had been reported in every state east of the Mississippi River except Rhode Island. This 1970s influx, not surprisingly, created a belief that breeding pools could propagate undetected and that huge hairy bipeds could conveniently weave in and around (and under) the mass of concrete and steel highways that criss-cross the Eastern Seaboard, with nary a carcass claimed by man or nature. An important dimension of this situation, one often ignored by the true-believers, is that during the early 1970s, a number of documentary films and TV specials proliferated on the movie screen, creating a new monster consciousness in America (particularly in the eastern half of the country where "Bigfoot" was a new reality to the dealt with).

In 1972, *The Legend of Boggy Creek*, a film about the Bigfoot monster so often reported in and around Fouke, Arkansas, was released to an Eastern audience hungry for monster identification, and the youthful audience turned out in droves to learn more of the creature living much closer to their own back yard than the Pacific Northwest Bigfoot. Other documentaries and docu-dramas followed to carry the torch.

Finally grossing over \$4,800,000 in U.S. film rentals alone, *Legend of Boggy Creek* firmly created a belief system among eastern residents that the monsters were here, and Bigfoot was consequently seen almost everywhere. Public consciousness was in fact severely affected by this unconventional Bogeyman/Bigfoot concept. Or, was Bigfoot fulfilling a cultural role that has always existed? In any event, this stimulation could be the trigger behind flagrant Bigfoot hoaxes, as well as the honest case of misperception of prosaic animals as monsters.

It can be speculated that Bigfoot, or something of its ilk, has always inhabited every area of the United States. There have always been a small number of newspaper accounts describing eyewitness encounters with Bigfoot-type creatures from every geographic zone of this country, although Fortean scholars such as Mark Chorvinsky and Michael T. Shoemaker are now putting these historical cases under the microscope and are finding many problems with them, the greatest of which seems to be that the creatures de-

scribed do not seem to match the common descriptions of Bigfoot, as much as they do hairy humans. (See Chorvinsky and Shoemaker's respective articles in *Strange Magazine Special Edition #1: Monsters and Mystery Animals*).

One of the most significant events in the East, prior to *Legend of Boggy Creek*, was an extended 1964–67 Bigfoot “flap” in the west central coast area of Florida which produced the first three-toed track finds. In what must be considered a landmark Eastern Bigfoot case, the late Joan Whritenhour was called to investigate a Bigfoot encounter on a ranch in Port Richey, Florida in May of 1967 and found two separate sets of three-toed tracks leading away from the ranch and into a sand pit. Three-toed tracks were later discovered in 1971 in a bean field in Fouke, Arkansas during the famed “Fouke Monster” flap and were featured in the movie *Legend of Boggy Creek* a year later.

Similar three-toed tracks soon showed up from Mississippi, to North Carolina to New Jersey and even up as far as Maine, prompting several researchers such as Maryland's Bob Chance to theorize that a separate, three-toed species had developed in the Florida Everglades and ventured northwards. Chance's beliefs were echoed by the late Dr. Warren Cook, formerly history professor at Castleton State (Vermont) College and leading New England Bigfoot expert. After sorting through over 200 Bigfoot reports he had collected from New York to Maine, Cook stated to us that, “In my considered opinion the North American Sasquatch is a swamp-adapted cold-weather enduring Australopithecine. The skull of a fossil *Australopithecus boisei* from East Africa would fit very nicely inside the pelt of the North American Bigfoot creatures.”

As co-director of SRI, I have studied the entire Bigfoot picture long and hard and in an effort to bring some semblance of order and objectivity to a controversial and chaotic field of research. There are similarities between Eastern and Western United States Bigfoot reports. Physical descriptions often overlap, with creatures reported anywhere up to 10 feet in height and up to 800 pounds in weight, usually hair-covered and displaying, at times, different colored glowing eyes, with three or five toes in its footprints. Both regions also offer reports of “paranormal” Bigfoot creatures, with ardent followers insisting the creatures are dropped from UFOs, and both regions have numerous Bigfoot “investigative groups” consisting of amateur buffs following the subject matter with religious fervor.

The most important common bond that the two regions share, however, is the fact that to date there is still no hard concrete evidence to conclusively prove that Bigfoot exists. Science won't accept the hairy hominid's existence until a physical specimen is found or captured. That Bigfoot, in spite of a decreasing possible habitat, has not yet surfaced, leaves

grave doubts about its authenticity, whether true believers like it or not.

It must be stressed, then, that since Bigfoot does not technically exist, we are not actually studying Bigfoot, but, rather, reports of Bigfoot and future research should be approached predicated on this notion, until a Bigfoot is found. The entire field, then, becomes multi-disciplinary in nature, calling for a complete analysis of the dynamics of the situation including socio-psychological profiles of the witnesses involved in the alleged encounters, as well as a comprehensive survey of the cultural roles played by monsters such as Bigfoot, and the folkloric over- and undertones created in the region which generated the monster reports.

In Maryland alone, our SRI unit has systematically cataloged over 350 alleged humanoid monster reports, including dozens of seemingly valid “Bigfoot” sightings which we have investigated first-hand. In the process, much of our research and investigative fieldwork results has been published in various journals and magazines, in an effort to stress the importance of comprehensive data collection and analysis. The West Coast's tendency to strictly hit the bush and hunt Bigfoot has offered next to nothing in terms of physical evidence and has contributed nothing to developing an understanding of this creature's cultural role.

Having found more monsters in library files than in the dark, foreboding Maryland forests, we encourage the West Coast “gunslingers” to take time off to consider the East Coast approach, to combine their treks through the mountains and countryside with treks through their local historical societies and archival collections in order to gain a better perspective on the Bigfoot phenomenon. Bigfoot-related phenomena are much more complex than the issue of whether there is a wild man-ape in the forests of the Pacific Northwest.

Lastly, all researchers should learn to collect, record, organize, and analyze this monster data and present their findings in an orderly fashion, with a minimum of false arrests and assaults.

Should Bigfoot be found someday, researchers of unexplained phenomena will be brushed aside, while the data they have developed through the years will be exploited by the natural scientists who constantly scoff at the idea of cryptozoology. Until that day, East and West Coast Bigfoot enthusiasts can work on preserving Bigfoot's cultural role, the end result of a great hunt, a hunt which penetrates not only America's forests, but America's psyche as well.

Special thanks goes to *Strange Magazine* editor and SRI co-director Mark Chorvinsky for his invaluable contributions to, and for his editing of, this article.

CAVEAT EMPTOR heartily recommends *Strange Magazine* to all serious Fortean. Write to them at P.O. Box 2246, Rockville, MD 20852 for subscription information.

The Vain Search for Alien Logic

By Victoria Lacas

Where is the information that an abductee was ever asked his/her name and address by the Aliens for the government's list?

Something is creeping into our evaluations of UFO abductions—the possibility that abductions may not be physical after all, but an extra-dimensional or a non-reality episode. However, abductions have and continue to be presented as real, physical events. They are accepted and reported with any strangeness delegated to an unknown and unknowable factor—an extraterrestrial civilization with highly advanced minds and methods.

We need to take a closer, keener look at this phenomenon and question it. Why has the scientific community dismissed the phenomenon? Why do they refuse to examine these highly strange happenings, which thousands of Americans claim to have participated in? A government cover-up, media ridicule, a field without grants?

An intelligent, careful look at a typical abduction is full of logical inconsistencies. Even dismissing the highly technological nature of an abduction as the work of a vastly superior intelligence, we are still left with nagging bits of nonsense. What's happened to common sense? While hundreds of abduction cases are published, lectures given, books written, the simplest questions continue to remain unanswered.

THE IMMACULATE ABDUCTION

The Immaculate Conception involved a young girl and an angel. By the very nature of "angel" we understand and permit the strangeness of the experience. We allow the angel to do supernatural things. In abductions there's no such intellectual escape route. The Beings are three-dimensional, living, breathing humanoids, not spirits. But let's allow them the qualities of spirits (though reported autopsies on dead aliens definitely do not suggest spirit-like qualities—to go through walls, etc.). We are still left with major



problems of logic: Abductions and genetic experiments carried out by a superior extraterrestrial dying race have spawned alien bases, U.S. Government/alien alliances and an UNKNOWN PLAN.

Until we, the UFO community, demand a sharper look at this phenomenon by our researchers and investigators, we will continue to be considered by society at-large as a bunch of kooks and losers with nothing more to do with our free time. (See *The New York Times* reports on Tass's Soviet UFO landings of October 10, 11, 12, 1989 for an example of satirical editorializing.) Let us now look at some simple questions that beg for answers.

HIGHWAY TO HELL

Has a highway abductee ever had his/her car stolen while spending two hours on a spaceship? (It's an isolated road, but not that isolated, if our all-American citizens not on a midnight prowling of a UFO are on it!) Is an abductee's car left locked or unlocked? Do the Aliens lock up the car? Do women abductees leave their purses in the car?

ALIEN JUNK FOOD?

The Greys are said to use humans as a food supply. In *The Secret Government*, Bill Cooper writes that on February 13, 1948 and March 24, 1948, two alien craft were found in New Mexico and a total of 17 alien bodies were recovered. "Of even greater significance was the discovery of a large number of human body parts stored within both of these vehicles."

Forty-two years of alien activity plus jointly-occupied underground U.S.-alien facilities (Cooper says there are 75 deep underground bases, *The Dulce Papers* says there are five) brings up a very upsetting question: Just how many humans does it take to feed an alien for one week? Have the aliens been out there scrounging the U.S. countryside for food for 42 years? Am I just being a lone hysteric?

If the aliens are allowed free run of our country, and most abductions are said to be opportunistic (as Whitley Strieber feels many are, including his own), isn't our government taking a risk letting them randomly select their food supply from our population? Or are certain areas off-limits to them (a geographical conspiracy)? I would hope my country, in its agreement with these aliens, would have steered them clear of hard-working taxpayers and given them a map to Iran or Libya by now. Or am I nitpicking? When our government was setting up the agreement, didn't they bother to ask about the human body parts? And wouldn't the number of filed missing persons reports correspond to high UFO sighting areas?

WHERE'S THE LIST?

Bill Cooper continues: "...[T]he Alien Nation would furnish MJ-12 with a list of all human contacts and abductees on a regularly scheduled basis." Similarly, in the statement released by John Lear, December, 1987 (page 7), "The U.S. Government...they merely insisted that a current list of abductees be submitted on a periodic basis to MJ-12 and the National Security Council." Where is the information that an abductee was ever asked his/her name and address by the aliens for the government's list? (See "Comparative Analysis of UFO Abduction Reports," by Dr. Thomas E. Bullard, 1988). Or do the Aliens just jot down license plate numbers?

BOGUS ALIENS?

Bill Cooper writes on page three, "The live alien

that had been taken from the 1949 Roswell crash was named EBE." On page five he says, "In 1953 Astronomers discovered large objects in space which were moving toward the Earth....Project Sigma, and a new project, Plato, through radio communications using the computer binary language, was able to arrange a landing that resulted in face to face contact with alien beings from another planet." Doesn't the live alien EBE from the 1949 crash qualify as a face-to-face contact with an alien being? Or am I missing something?

ALIEN HOODLUMS?

Angels spoke and counseled the men and women in the Old Testament who were unfortunate victims of demonic possession. Today, we consider this religious mythology since we rarely encounter angels or devils. Or do we? Are the Greys our technological devils? Our "Greys" are efficient, Nazi-like experimenters, coming into people's homes, taking them against their will—just like the Gestapo! Extraterrestrial Nazis!

As abductions increase, the perimeters of randomness grow smaller and the possibility of physical evidence should substantially increase. But after 42 years of unrestricted movement—truly above-the-law activity—the aliens hold the superior position, and yet not one piece of physical evidence has emerged—except rumors of crashes.

MUFON researcher John L. Spencer points out that the aliens can easily switch-off certain people while they abduct others (and have the ability to go through walls in people's homes, stop moving cars) yet they are unable to recover their craft and bodies of lost comrades. Once again, this is a perfect example of simple, clean logic that makes us all wonder.

JAPANESE/ALIEN COLLUSION

The story goes that our government agreed to give the aliens free reign over our citizens in exchange for technology. This technology is an even bigger secret than the UNKNOWN PLAN! Except for the Moon landing (which was supposedly the hard work of captured German scientists) what has this exchange of technology produced? The Japanese have whipped us into the year 2000, so we didn't get any neat ray guns or mini-paralyzers and we're still using conventional weaponry against our enemies, so it's safe to assume we weren't given any sophisticated weaponry either. And finally, since all the original MJ-12 members are dead, the alien's genetic experiments leave a great deal to be desired. (You'd think if they created us they'd know how to keep a few collaborators alive.)

I humbly submit that if we are, in fact, being eaten by the aliens, we're being screwed by them as well.

Victoria Lacas lives 45 minutes away, in every direction, from a UFO sighting.

Culture Corner:

A slick view of Yeti, lake monsters and the Jungian approach to UFOs

TOM SLICK AND THE SEARCH FOR THE YETI

By Loren Coleman

Faber & Faber, December, 1989, trade
paperback, 250 pages/20 b&w
photographs, \$11.95.

The title alone is enough to turn heads: Tom Slick? Who the blazes is Tom Slick?

More correctly, who was Tom Slick?

"Texas' forgotten millionaire," says author Loren Coleman in the book's introduction. He was also "one of the earliest cryptozoologists—those who search for hidden animals that have not yet been acknowledged by science."

An oilman, scientist and adventurer, Slick invested enormously of his own resources in a search for the yeti, the so-called abominable snowman of the high Himalayas. He died October 6, 1962, in a plane crash of still undetermined origin, thus ending the only long-term, genuinely serious effort to capture or identify the yeti.

Coleman recounts the life of this man—whose death at 46 was a loss felt throughout the globe. The narrative is both telling and insightful, and spans nearly three decades of research.

Reading the uncorrected advance proof that arrived one rainy day, wrapped in plastic and hanging from my rural mailbox, I encountered plenty to appreciate within these pages—including passages that triggered my own memories.

For instance, at the beginning of Chapter Ten, "Rhinos and Orang Pendek," Coleman mentions a discussion with Belgian zoologist Bernard Heuvelmans, who referred to his "late friend, Peter Ryhiner." That name seemed familiar, and suddenly I remembered a day in 1972:

I was making my first trip to Ivan Sanderson's New Jersey farm, which also served as headquarters for the Society

for the Investigation of the Unexplained. The last mile or so leading to the farm was along an unmarked, unpaved country road with many diverging paths. I'd been forewarned during a phone conversation that I'd never find the place without an escort, and was told that someone from the society would meet me at a particular location. I arrived a bit early but soon a station wagon drove up bearing SITU markings.

A huge man got out of the car. He approached, grinned, and stuck out his hand: "My name is Ryhiner," he said. "Pete Ryhiner. If you have trouble recalling that, just think of rhinoceros."

Until reading Coleman's account, I didn't know that Ryhiner was dead.

A life-long collector of wild animals (hence his association, and friendship, with Sanderson), Ryhiner became involved with one Harry K. Gillmore, a key figure in the search for the Sumatran rhino during the late 1950s. This is recalled at some length in Chapter Ten.

In other chapters, Coleman includes the voices of other men—all tied, in some fashion, to Slick's own life. Step by step, he carries the reader through the years: from the early days of oil discovery by Slick's father to the kidnapping of young Tom's stepfather by the notorious Machine Gun Kelly (three years after his natural father's death) to Tom's growing sense of adventure and ultimate involvement in the world of cryptozoology.

Indeed, the book is far more than a Fortean experience; it is an enthralling biographical adventure.

The foundation is laid in the first two chapters, after which Coleman turns his attention, in chapter three, to the legendary snowman—a long passage excerpted from Heuvelmans *On The Track of Unknown Animals*. But even this is mere staging for subsequent chapters.

Coleman has drawn his information from a broad field of sources, includ-

ing Slick's family, friends, and former associates. (The book is dedicated to Heuvelmans and the Slick family.) There are, in fact, so many threads in this book, all tied to the central figure, to Slick himself, that it is somewhat amazing Coleman was able to create a coherent biography. And yet he has done so, and deserves applause.

Furthermore, the author brings a bold recognition of cryptozoology as a serious, though infant, science before a largely mainstream audience (clearly where the book is targeted).

As Coleman himself says: "What Slick did back in the late 1950s and early 1960s was to assist in propelling the search for hidden animals out of the shadows of legends and into the light of legitimate scientific inquiry. If Slick were alive today, establishment zoologists would view the new science of cryptozoology more supportively (Page 134)."

Three appendices are an example of Coleman's evident wish to broaden mainstream (and scientific) minds. These are: Appendix A, "Yeti and the Cinema"—a lengthy, laudable documentation by Fortean Mark Chorvinsky; Appendix B, "What is Cryptozoology All About," and Appendix C, a listing of Tom Slick's confidential yeti consultants. The first two especially add to the lay reader's knowledge and understanding of a heretofore somewhat obscure area of science and natural history.

It should also be noted that, along with this book, two of Coleman's previous efforts are being reprinted: *Mysterious America* (which at last I have a copy of) and *Curious Encounters*, both published by Faber & Faber. They are well worth adding to any collection of pleasure or reference literature.

Furthermore, the reprinting of these books has entered Loren Coleman into the rank and file of best-selling

authors—a tribute to years of hard work, conducted quietly and with little fanfare.

As for *Tom Slick and the Search for the Yeti*: If you don't read this one, may you be forever consigned to a deep, dark cave—guarded by a yeti.

—Curt Sutherly

• • •

MORE THAN A MYTH— THE SEARCH FOR THE MONSTER OF MUSKRAT LAKE

By Michael Bradley

Hounslow Press, Anthony R. Hawke Ltd.,
124 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale,
Ontario M2N 3Y5, Canada, 1989,
230 pages, \$14.95.

When I compare the amount of material that was available to serious Fortean researchers in the late '50s/early 60's, with what is coming out today, I can truthfully say we are living in the Golden Age of the Strange. A book like this would have had great difficulty in finding a publisher even 20 years ago, as it would have been considered too obscure and of limited interest.

Any suggestion that a lake monster mystery had any connection with UFOs would have been rejected out of hand. Michael Bradley has written at least 10 other books—a varied mixture of fiction and non-fiction and several of these encompass archaeological riddles (*Holy Grail Across the Atlantic* and *The Secret History of Canadian Discovery and Exploration*).

Everyone has heard of the Loch Ness Monster and Ogopogo in British Columbia. What we have not heard much about are the literally hundreds of other lake monsters that exist worldwide. Recently, I wrote an article on the six or seven that are supposed to exist in the province of Alberta.

It has been estimated that as many as 92 exist in Canada alone. And this is the story of one of them—the creature that hides in Muskrat Lake, 75 miles northwest of Ottawa. Oddly, the lake much resembles the Loch Ness in terms of shape, length and depth. Perhaps there is a standard for the accommodation of lake monsters. As a prelude to his own expedition, the author has a chapter on "Nessie" which delves into all the more famous photographs and sightings since "her" first modern appearance in 1933.

Among the photos are the famous 1960 Dinsdale movie and the 1972 Rines "flipper" taken by sonar-triggered cameras. Mr. Bradley goes over the conventional theory that "Nessie" and her relations are surviving pleiosaurs and notes the flipper in the 1972 photo exactly matches the flipper of one of these seemingly extinct prehistoric monsters.

So, that should be it. Identity Confirmed. Case Closed. Let us now move along to the Bigfoot exhibit.

However, Mr. Bradley, like all true Fortean, is disposed to doubt and rightly points out that there are shape-changing discrepancies of the humps. The Spicer account and the Gray photograph indicate something weirder is involved. He is inclined to favor the theory put forth by the writer F.W. Holliday—namely the monster is a form of giant worm—the Tully Monster.

This creature is very bizarre in appearance—insect-like eyes on stalks, a long elephant-like trunk with sharp claws and a tail that resembles that of a crustacean. The only problem with *Tullimonstrum gregarium* is that no fossil has been found more than 16 inches in length! If the monsters are Tullys, it may be a misnomer to call them worms. They seem to need a Phylum of their own.

Mr. Bradley presents some cogent observations on the problems and pitfalls (not to mention expense) of mounting an expedition to locate something most people regard as being a legend. He is still very angry at the local media for making a circus out of a subject he regards very seriously. In fact, he has a chapter where he looks into ancient legends that equate the fiery breath of the "dragon" with possible acidic skin secretions of the Tully.

What really puts this book a cut above the average is the concluding section—a section the author freely admits he would rather ignore, but feels he must include if only for the sake of honesty and integrity of reporting.

This is the UFO connection.

He was told by plenty of witnesses they had never seen the monster, but they had observed UFOs many times. Strange semi-transparent apparitions have been observed in broad daylight, and UFOs have landed on the shore of Muskrat Lake, leaving burned circles behind.

Mr. Bradley admits he was cha-

grined by such reports, even though he was well aware of the fact that two or more mystery phenomena often go together. On the surface, UFOs and lake monsters would seem to have very little to do with each other, even though Holiday noted the relationship of *The Dragon and the Disc* in the mid-1960s.

This leads to the very odd notion that the creatures emerging from UFOs may be aquatic in nature. Bradley supports this idea with the Sumerian legend of Oannes—wherein an unusual capsule of some sort splashed down in the Persian Gulf thousands of years ago, and an aquatic creature emerged from it to give intelligent direction to the Sumerian culture.

He also cites the Dogan tribe in West Africa as having a similar legend where a "horrible-looking aquatic creature" emerged from a spacecraft that crashed in a swamp. In short, lake monsters could be the intelligence behind UFOs! All of this bears an uncomfortable resemblance to the horror stories of H.P. Lovecraft (could he have been tapping into some sort of real racial memories for his plots?).

It is hard to take seriously, but it is speculated that an aquatic intelligence might be so powerful that it could project humanoid forms much as a 3D hologram in order to make us feel comfortable. Sometimes "it" goofs because its perceptions are so alien to us and creates bug-eyed monsters often seen in UFO encounters.

I have to admit the author creates a convincing case for an idea that rivals the most peculiar of science fiction novels. At the end, even he backs off somewhat and goes back to the Tully Monster as being more likely.

You have to commend an author for coming up with a theory that no one else has had the audacity to suggest. This is a carefully documented account of a phenomena everyone will enjoy reading about and a welcome addition to the lake/ monster UFO library of the dedicated Fortean.

—W. Ritchie Benedict

• • •

CYBERBIOLOGICAL STUDIES OF THE IMAGINAL COMPONENT OF THE UFO CONTACT EXPERIENCE

Edited by Dennis Stillings

Archaeus Project, St. Paul, Minnesota,
trade paperback, 176 pages, \$8.00.

Now that's a title with sex appeal isn't it?

I can just see it climbing up the best-seller lists, can't you?

If your approach to UFO literature is closer to Donald Keyhoe than Carl Jung, you are going to be disappointed with this book.

If you want something you can breeze through in a couple of short hours, once again this is a book that won't interest you.

If your viewpoint about the UFO mystery embraces hardware and aliens, you should look elsewhere.

Archaeus Project director Dennis Stillings has assembled a worthy coterie of academicians, such as Hilary Evans, Michael Grosso, Martin S. Kottmeyer, Alvin M. Lawson, Tony Nugent, Michael A. Persinger, Carl Raschke and Peter M. Rojewicz, to express psycho-sociological views of the presence of UFOs in our skies, and aliens in our bedrooms.

This is not the stuff of science fiction. It's more the stuff of things that go bump in the night.

These worthy gentlemen for the most part harbor quite unpopular views in the UFO field. Lawson, for example, equates the abduction experience with subconscious remembrances of the birth trauma. It's an idea that has caused heated debate on both sides of the issue. In his favor, Lawson points to present-day research showing a much greater awareness on the part of the growing fetus than heretofore suspected.

Then there is a plethora of birth symbolism present in many elements of the typical abduction scenario.

The focus of this entire work is the twilight of human consciousness, the core of our racial memories and archetypes that might trigger all sorts of visions in our dream and waking states.

One possibility voiced in the book is not dissimilar to that suggested in these pages at times through the years. That perhaps Mother Nature herself is sending warning signals of severe distress, which we perceive at our deepest levels of consciousness. These warnings may explain all those UFO contacts and channelings which feature messages that humankind has lost its way, and best stop despoiling this planet before we are all cast asunder and replaced by another species in dominating the Earth.

This is not a book you can read through in one sitting. Best read an article at a time, and think about it all carefully. You may not agree with everything that is said in *Cyberbiological Studies*. I dare say most of you will find the contents often unsettling, because they are clearly questioning your most cherished beliefs about the strange and unknown.

And while all these notions about the answers to the advent of the flying saucers resting in our own intellects may be true, at least in part, it doesn't preclude the presence of some outside force helping things along. Whether Mother Nature or some visiting aliens we may never know.

If Ufology as a study is to have any validity at all, we must have a thorough understanding of the human psyche, and how it interprets phenomena both internally and externally. Only then can we make a true beginning towards an understanding of what the presence of flying saucers is all about.

—Gene Steinberg

RARE BACK ISSUES?

WINTER 1988/89: Back at the old stand after 14 years! Featured articles include: A sizzling interview with controversial UFO writer James W. Moseley, and appraisal of the state of the art of UFO research, an update on UFOs and the New Age, and much, much more!

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FALL 1989: 1st interview, controversial UFO researcher Peter Kor, those quarreling Sasquatch hunters, Stealth Aircraft and UFOs, Magic in Our Time, Jim Moseley visits the MUFON symposium—many letters, reviews!

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Newswatch:

An unlikely confession, a circular argument and convention roundup

CONFESSION IS GOOD FOR THE...

We're publishing the following information mostly without comment. Many UFO-oriented magazines have already devoted large amounts of space to reports of landed space aliens inside Russia. The Winter issue of CAVEAT EMP-
TOR carried a short item from Geneva Hagen about the stories of giant, three-eyed, pin-headed creatures.

Now along comes the claim of America's most famous hoaxer—outside of Jim Moseley of course—none other than Alan Abel. The professional trickster says it was none other than he who faked reports of a flying saucer landing in Voronezh, Russia, with the aid of Soviet confederates.

Some of our readers will remember Abel's more infamous hoaxes, which have persisted over a 30 year period. New York's Spencer Productions claims Abel's antics were "financed by anonymous backers in Texas, Florida, California and Sydney, Australia. Several million dollars have been spent for such capers as:

"1. S.I.N.A., the society to clothe all naked animals for the sake of decency that captured headlines around the world.

"2. The fake marriage of Idi Amin to a WASP in New York's Plaza Hotel before several hundred reporters.

"3. Introducing Watergate's 'Deep Throat' to startled news journalists in New York, Washington and London.

"4. Tricking *The New York Times* into publishing Alan Abel's obituary, followed by a retraction a week later.

"5. Creating "Omar's School for Beggars" that was accepted as real by *The Wall Street Journal* and *New York* magazine.

"6. Presenting a group of women to the press who supposedly provided sex to male inmates behind bars as FEMALES FOR FELONS.

"7. Infiltrating Phil Donahue's audience with guests who fainted during a discussion on gay senior citizens.

"8. Pretending to stage a SEX OLYMPICS CONTEST that produced a banner headline in *News of the World*."

It might be, of course, that the confession of faking the Soviet UFO sightings is, itself, a hoax, which would be the biggest hoax of all!

...

WILL IT GO ROUND IN CIRCLES?

"In one instance you have an erect line of stalks, and in the next stems are lying flat to the ground in a precise and regular manner." That is how Pat Delgado, an English engineer, described the borders of the mysterious circles appearing in grain fields. Three circles were first noticed in England in 1981; by 1987, Delgado's count had grown to 62 circles at 15 different sites.

By the end of 1989, the patterns of the circles are changing and the numbers are continuing to grow almost exponentially. In 1988, a total of 98 circles were reported, and before the end of 1989, a total of 241 had been discovered in England alone.

"Up until this year," Delgado said, "if we had a circle with a ring around the outside of it, if the circle was clockwise, the ring would always be in the opposite direction...until this year... It almost has a mischievous element about it."

Delgado said numerous attempts had been made to hoax a circle by different means, but the crops had always been damaged in the process, whereas the grain is never broken in the natural circles. It continues to grow horizontally, and has lasted as long as three months in that condition.

Dr. Terrence Meadon (?), a consultant physicist and meteorologist, thinks

he may have an explanation. (Sorry, folks, as this information was taken from a radio show, I'm not sure of the spelling here!)

He says the energy comes from the wind, which meets an obstacle to the airflow in the form of a hill. On the downwind side of the hill, a trailing vortex system develops. A vortex is a spinning column of air. Where the vortex touches the ground, it can create a circle. The vortex is also highly electrified. This phenomenon could account for the circles' sharp edges, and why the outer rings alternate in direction.

Eyewitnesses have reported seeing circles being formed in broad daylight, and have heard a humming sound like that of an electrical power line. At nighttime, a luminous ball is seen during circle formation. The ball seems to sink into the field and disappear.

Dr. Meadon believes that the increase in circle reports is because more people are looking for them. He says two-thirds of the circles reported this year would never have been found if people hadn't gone flying over the fields in search of them. He also says a lot of circles happened on May 9, 1989, when a cold front crossed Britain and produced 80-90 circles.

"I've been studying this problem longer than Pat Delgado," Meadon states. "He is not a scientist at all; he is an amateur....If you are not equipped with the physics and meteorology, [you cannot] understand this."

But Delgado says that farmers don't believe public awareness could account for the increase in circles. They claim they had never seen such a thing before during their past 40 years of farming the same land. Delgado said, in a recent interview for the CBC radio science show, *Quirks & Quarks*, that the complexity of the circles suggest strongly that they are "created by an unexplained energy, possibly manipulated

by an unexplained intelligence."
—Geneva Hagen

• • •

IN MEMORY OF CANDY JONES

By Timothy Green Beckley

For several years following the death of radio talk show pioneer "Long John" Nebel, his widow Candy Jones carried on his program over New York radio station WMCA. In the 1950s and 1960s, Long John's show became a major forum for discussions about UFOs and psychic phenomena. Practically anybody who was anybody in the field in those years could be heard on Long John's program. The shows ran the gamut from such "serious" UFO buffs as Major Donald Keyhoe to contactees George Adamski and Howard Menger. Even Jim Moseley and Gray Barker were frequent guests on the show. Long John joins radio talk show host Barry Gray as pioneers in establishing the talk show format that remains so popular today.

Candy Jones, a famous cover girl and model, was Long John's co-host in his final years, as failing health made his trips to the microphones more and more infrequent. Jones continued to broadcast an assortment of "offbeat" topics and theories on a regular basis.

Her broadcasts had ended a year or so ago, apparently after new owners had changed WMCA's format. In January, Candy Jones died of cancer at a New York hospital. She was 64.

This writer was frequently in front of Long John's microphones in the wee hours of the morning, involved in heated discussions with so-called experts on a wide range of subjects in the field of the strange and unknown.

Candy Jones did not profess to have any UFO or psychic experiences while on the air, but privately she did relate two such incidents that she felt were striking to her. She felt these incidents would not be appropriate to relate to her vast audience.

According to Candy, one day she was going through a pile of unmarked tapes of programs she had done with Long John, and which had not been marked as to guests or content. Once a week, Candy would air a "best of" show consisting of a previously aired program. In order to select the best segments, she would listen to hour

upon hour of tape. In the middle of one of those reels, she distinctly heard the voice of her deceased mother calling her by her favorite "pet" name that no one else had ever used.

"I knew it was my mother," Candy recalled to me. "I don't see how her voice could have gotten onto any of those old tapes as she had never been in the studio with either John or I."

On another occasion, shortly after Long John's death, Candy had a dream one night in which her late husband appeared to her.

"John hated this particular flower vase that was in our apartment on a pedestal. He was always asking me to sell it, but I wouldn't because I thought it went well with the decor and it was very valuable. In the dream, John appeared to me and repeated his request that I get rid of the vase.

"Suddenly, there was a loud crash in the apartment and I awoke, only to find the vase smashed in a million pieces on the floor. It had fallen from the pedestal. I could find no explanation, as we had no cat in the house. There was no wind, nor any other 'visible' means by which the vase could have fallen."

One thing Candy Jones did have in common with some saucerers is the fact that she had her share of run-ins with the CIA. Without her knowledge and consent, she was brainwashed and hypnotized and programmed to become a courier for the agency, delivering information to sources in Europe. Her dealings with the CIA were the subject of a popular 1970's book, *The Control of Candy Jones*.

Candy Jones was a very beautiful and talented woman who in her life managed to have several very successful careers. She will be missed by her many fans of several generations, but especially by her late-night audience of millions of listeners—such as myself—who enjoyed her stories of flying saucers, sea monsters, weird phenomena and a host of other unusual topics.

—Timothy Green Beckley

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NOT NECESSARILY CONVENTIONAL

With the arrival of the spring season, there are a growing number of

UFO and New Age conventions slated around the country. We don't have space to list them all, so we'll just cover the highlights, and give you the names and addresses of the folks involved so you can write them directly for more information.

March 23–25: New Age/UFO/Star-people Convention, Gramercy Park Hotel, 21st Street, New York City. Contact: Inner Light Publications, P.O. Box 753, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903.

March 30–April 1: The First Great UFO/ET/Humanoid/Visitors/Aliens & Abductions Congress, Holiday Inn, Bordentown, New Jersey. Contact: Pat Marcattilio, 138 Redfern Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08610.

April 6–8: Ozark UFO Conference, Inn of the Ozarks, Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Contact: Lucius Farish, Route 1—Box 220, Plumerville, Arkansas 72127.

May 11–13: 27th Annual National UFO Conference, Holiday Inn, Ocean-side, Miami Beach, Florida. Contact: Jim Moseley, P.O. Box 1709, Key West, Florida 33041.

July 6–8: MUFON 1990 International UFO Symposium, Pensacola Hilton, Pensacola, Florida. Contact: MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, Texas 78155-4099, USA, Earth.

If we missed anyone, sorry 'bout that. We're just reporting the ones we've heard about. So save your pennies, folks, because you're going to have to travel quite a ways to get to all of these events. Have fun!

• • •

GETTING THE BIRD

A bird with an unusually large wingspan startled a mother and her seven-year-old son in mid-July, 1989, when it flew slowly over their car in a remote section of Lebanon County, Pennsylvania.

Donna M. Boltz, wife of Timothy Boltz, Behney Drive, Lebanon County, recently recalled the incident, which occurred in the heavily timbered region surrounding the communities of Colebrook and Mount Gretna.

An amateur artist and working mother, her recollection of the nighttime incident was prompted while completing a life-drawing of a California condor.

First to see the bird, as it passed over

the Boltz car, was young Jeremy. "He said, 'Look, mom, a pterodactyl!'" Donna recalled. "I looked up and was really surprised—it almost did look like a pterodactyl."

The incident occurred at about 9:30 p.m., on the 26th or 27th of July (she was unable to recall the exact day).

Halting on the deserted stretch of road, Donna said she got out of the car to have a closer look. The bird was flying at, or just below, the level of the utility lines paralleling the road. It moved in a kind of "leisurely" glide, seemingly unconcerned about the presence of the vehicle and its passengers.

Because the sighting occurred just after dark, Donna was unable to offer a detailed description of the bird. Had she been able to, there might never have been a mystery.

She said the bird had a wingspan of at least six feet and cast a dark silhouette against the moonlit sky. It appeared "cumbersome" of body—as though oddly designed. Both Donna and her son thought the bird had a long tail, and Jeremy added that the end of the tail seemed to thicken into a kind of "ball."

She said the neck of the bird appeared short, and the head seemed to have a slight crest or gently rounded protrusion on top.

As she watched, Donna said she sensed, more than saw, that the bird was watching her. And as she watched, it began a slow, measured wing-beat while angling away from the road.

At this point she said she glanced away to look for approaching traffic. When she looked back, the bird was gone from view.

"I was really impressed with it," Donna explained. "It didn't seem frightened of us—just seemed as though it had decided it was time to move off."

On the surface, this sighting has

many of the earmarks of a Fortean event. However, close examination reveals a plausible, conventional explanation: the bird was probably a great blue heron.

Because of the six-foot wingspan, both the heron and turkey vulture were initially suspected (both species can—and frequently do—approach a six-foot span). However, vultures are not generally airborne at night (though there is a large roosting site for these birds not far from where this sighting occurred).

Also, the fact that both witnesses described a long tail tends to rule out the vulture, with its comparatively short tail.

The heron, however, is another story.

A great blue has long, thin legs. In flight, it extends them straight back (they serve as a kind of rudder). In a darkened sky, the legs might appear to be an extension of the tail, and the closed claws a kind of knot or "ball."

The heron does, however, have a long, thin neck—which would seem to rule out the possibility that this was the mystery bird (the witnesses described a short neck). But the great blue usually tucks its neck back on its shoulder while flying. In poor light the neck could appear to be quite short.

In the absence of greater detail or information, we are forced to assume that this bird was a great blue heron.

—Curt Sutherly

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE:

Due to a lack of space, we have postponed the Jenny Randles interview until our next issue.

Our bigger and better Summer, 1990 issue of CAVEAT EMPTOR will also include a look at humor in UFO research, and lots of other surprises. Don't miss it!!

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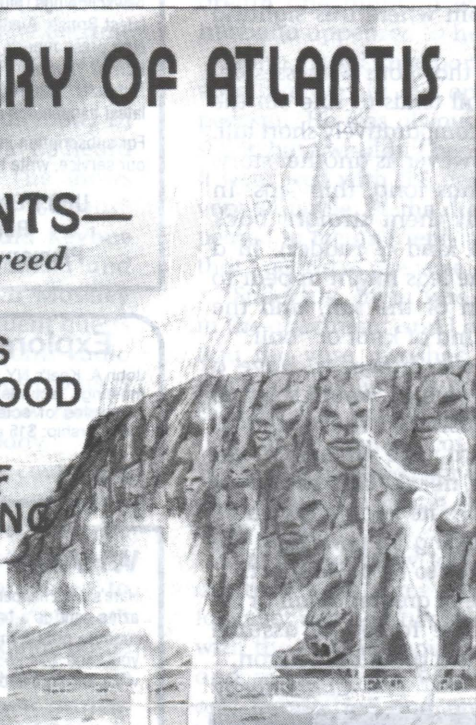
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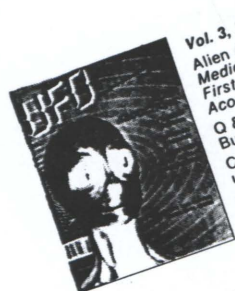
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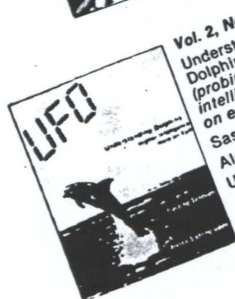
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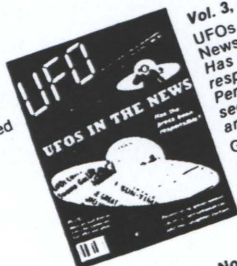
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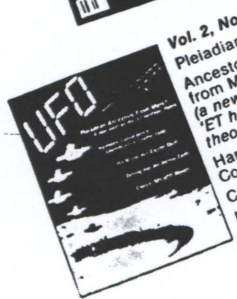
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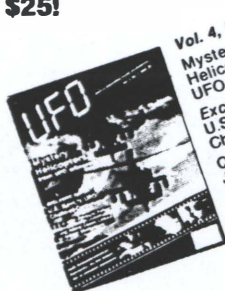
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Ed & Frances Walters

Date: May 11–13, 1990

Place: Holiday Inn Oceanside (2201 Collins Ave.)
Miami Beach, Florida

Tentative Schedule (Subject to change)

Friday Evening

7–9 PM—Welcoming social and no-host bar in the *La Playa East* room. This is your opportunity to say hello to the many internationally-known UFOlogists.

9:30 PM—Come join Ed & Frances Walters and the rest of our group in a sky watch on the beach. Numerous times, Ed has "drawn" UFOs to him in the company of others. Perhaps we will all be "lucky" this evening.

Saturday and Sunday sessions at 9 AM—2 PM—7:30 PM

Featured Speakers & Topics (times to be announced later)

Ed & Frances Walters—THE CLOSE ENCOUNTERS THAT CHANGED THEIR LIVES

Ed and his wife will discuss the varied effects the sightings have had on their lives and how they have coped with their experiences. Ed's story will be told in detail in the book *The Gulf Breeze Sightings—The Most Astonishing Multiple Sightings in U.S. History*, to be published in March by Morrow. A TV mini series is also scheduled to be shown in 1991 on ABC.

Bruce Maccabee—THE PHOTOS AS EVIDENCE

Optics expert Maccabee has studied dozens of photos Ed has produced and declared them the best UFO pictures ever. He will reveal how fakery has been ruled out.

Bob Reid—THE OTHER WITNESSES

MUFON investigator Bob Reid will talk on the UFO flap in the Gulf Breeze area right up to the present moment.

William Nash—MY AERIAL ENCOUNTER WITH UFOS

The retired Pan Am pilot made history when in July, 1952, over Virginia, he witnessed a formation of 5 objects that appeared to change direction instantly.

Antonio Huneeus—UFOS IN RUSSIA & EASTERN EUROPE

A globe-trotting UFOlogist who divides his time between New York and South America, Huneeus will give two slide presentations. His photo collection is unsurpassed.

Prof. Bill Trantham—UFOS & LIFE BEYOND EARTH

A Florida Keys Community College professor, Trantham will offer his theory regarding life in the universe in a unique slide presentation.

Bonnie Tynes—FLYING SAUCERS IN THE NEW AGE

The highly respected moderator of the TV talk show *Psychic Vibrations*, Bonnie will disclose how Atlantis, crystals and the Space Brotherhood tie in with the recent wave of reports from all over the country, and where the New Age is leading us.

Virgillio Sanchez-Ocejo—REPORT FROM SOUTH AMERICA

The Author of *UFOS: Contact Under the Sea* has just returned from Argentina where he learned about a new series of abductions and low-level sightings.

Gypse Graves—PSYCHIC ARCHAEOLOGY

President of the Brower County Archaeological Society will talk about the latest findings in this intriguing field which is becoming more commonly used (if Gypse is unable to speak, another representative of the Fort Lauderdale group will be present).

POSSIBLE SPECIAL GUEST—MR. CHARLES BERLITZ

The author of the best-selling Bermuda Triangle and Atlantis books is actively promoting his latest work, *The Devil's Triangle*, and is hopeful that his schedule will place him in the area for the conference.

OTHER INVITED SPEAKERS

Noted UFO contactee Howard Menger and eminent psychiatrist and paranormal expert Dr. Berthold Eric Schwarz.

TICKET & LODGING INFORMATION

Tickets are available at the special rate of \$40.00 in advance for the entire conference. Individual session tickets will be sold at the door. For those wishing to stay at the Holiday Inn, Oceanside, please call them direct at (305) 534-1511 to reserve a room at the special rate of \$68.00 per double.

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