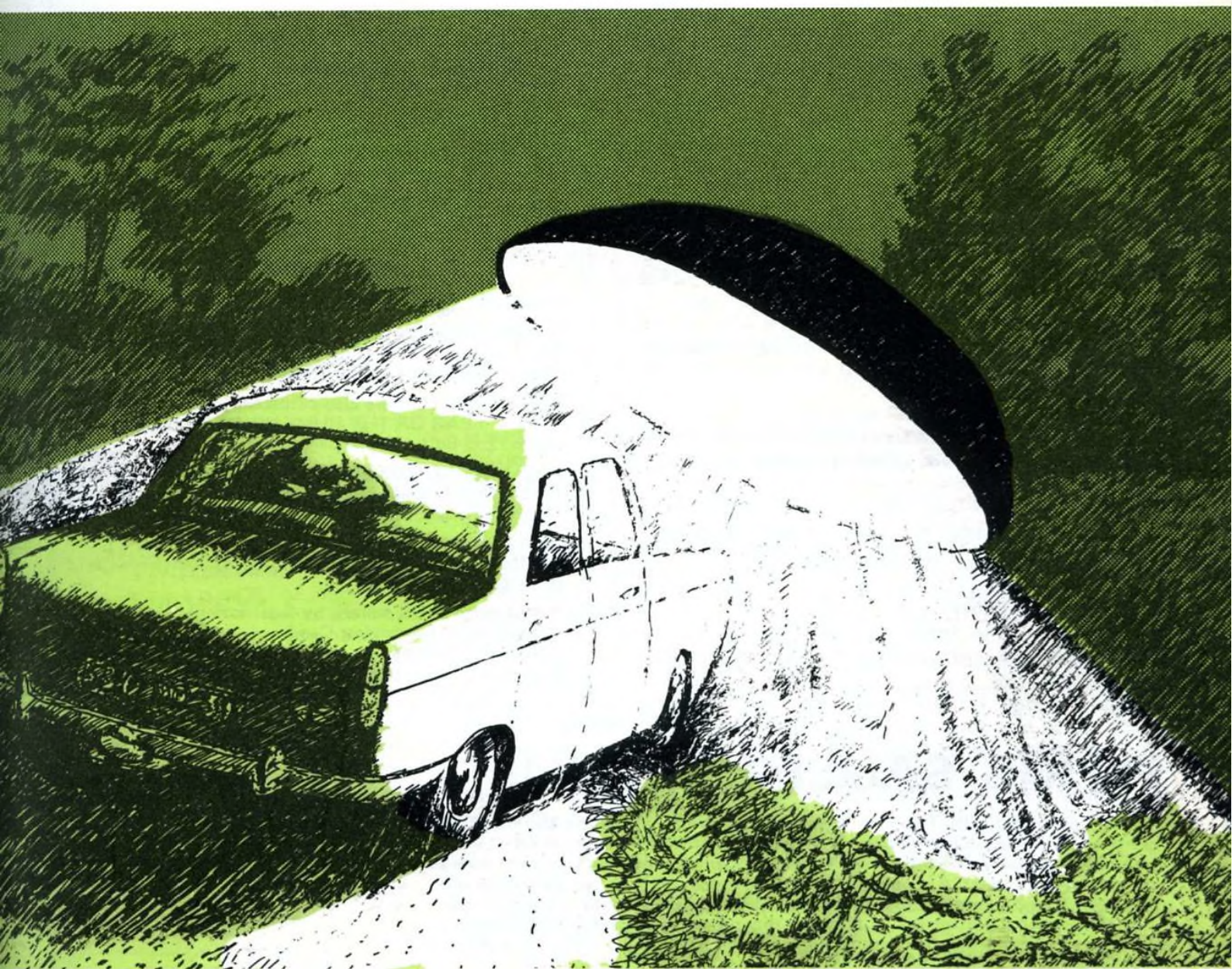


FLYING
SAUCER
REVIEW

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Volume 22, No. 2 1976

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THE NIGHTMARE EXPERIENCE OF MONSIEUR CYRUS

see page 7

Editor CHARLES BOWEN

Consultants

GORDON CREIGHTON, MA, FRAI, FRGS, FRAS
C. MAXWELL CADE, AInstP, FRAS, AFRAeS, CEng, FIEE, FIERE
BERNARD E. FINCH, MRCS, LRCP, DCh, FBIS
CHARLES H. GIBBS-SMITH, MA, FMA, Hon Companion RAeS, FRSA
R. H. B. WINDER, BSc, CEng, FIMech E PERCY HENNEL, FIBP
I. GRATTAN-GUINNESS, MA, MSc, PhD

Overseas J. ALLEN HYNEK, PhD

AIME MICHEL BERTHOLD E. SCHWARZ, MD

Assistant Editor EILEEN BUCKLE

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WE'RE ALL AMATEURS

OUR valued contributor Mrs. Ann Druffel has taken exception to "...Scientists prominent in the field of ufology" who take it for granted that "scientists" and not "amateurs" have the innate ability to seek the truth [and presumably to recognise it when they find it]. The implication, therefore, being that that is bad luck for the subject because it is the "amateurs" who have handled most UFO research during the past three decades [irreverently we cannot forbear the comment that perhaps we should thank God for those amateurs when we consider the mess the U.S. Air Force professionals and some of their hired university professionals made of it]. Indeed Mrs. Druffel — a busy Californian housewife who has somehow found time to raise a family and carry on research in the UFO field, and many of whose excellent reports have already appeared in our pages — feels so strongly about this that we have found space in this issue for her to let off steam.

There may be some who will think Mrs. Druffel a little over-sensitive. Your Editor, however, feels a degree of sympathy for his charming contributor, for quite recently he too has been called "over-sensitive" — admittedly in the nicest possible way — a fault which could well have been nurtured during the last twelve years by those other far less pleasant things he has been called. And all too often those brickbats have been aimed at him by "professionals" and others who know the answer to the UFO mystery without even having studied the problem. In view of this we know just how frustrated she must feel when, after all her sterling efforts, she is prompted to "have a go" at the insensitive ones.

So, well said, Mrs. Druffel! We, — and that includes those among us who are professionals although, be it noted, in other fields, — are *all* amateurs in the realm of the study of UFO reports. However, as has been printed in our pages, and as has been said at the recent Chicago meeting of the Center for UFO Studies, we clearly need the skills and talents of the dedicated, high-powered band of devotees who are Scientists in other fields. It is they who can help us the easier to check on the validity of many of the claims which are made by witnesses or, for example, to help us study everything that makes the witness "tick," and why he or she "ticked" in that particular manner at the time of the incident.

Nevertheless, the Scientists among us should resist any temptation to set themselves aside from the others, from the "amateurs," the historians, archaeologists, theologians, anthropologists and linguists. We all have a part to play in this fascinating study, and the subject under study might well be bigger and more complex than anyone considered likely only a few years ago.

All in all we feel that that study requires not only the application of the cold logical approach of scientific reason, but also the understanding that comes of long acquaintance with the humanities.

THE BAKER SIGHTING: A RETROSPECTIVE INVESTIGATION

Richard Bonenfant

THE following case is new to the literature. It is based upon the investigation of a sighting that occurred over nine years ago. A newspaper article briefly describing the event was published in May, 1966¹, but apparently news of the sighting was never sufficiently publicised to alert regional UFO investigators. Since the sighting had not been previously documented, an investigation was conducted by the author in May, 1975.

This report pertains to the landing of a UFO in the proximity of a six-year-old girl, and to the observation of an occupant within the craft. According to Hynek's classification², it may be characterized as a type III close encounter. Though unusual, similar cases have been frequently reported in the past decade³. The remarkable aspect of the following account is that the event was successfully documented nine years after it had taken place.

A conscious attempt was made to solicit information from the witness in a manner that would not force her memory. Undoubtedly many details have been lost through the attrition of time, but the main features of the girl's experience were still recalled during the investigation. Additional information was obtained from secondary witnesses who participated in events after the sighting. The following reconstruction is based upon signed statements contributed by these individuals.

A Review of Events

On a warm, overcast, Saturday afternoon in the spring of 1966, a six-year-old girl experienced an unusual event.

It was April 23 in the small, rural town of Bingham, Maine, U.S.A. Kimberly Baker and her

Bingham Girl Says She Observed UFO

BINGHAM — She's just six years old but states she saw a UFO on the afternoon of April 23 and nobody has been able to "shake" her story.

Of course, Kimberly Baker doesn't call it a UFO or flying saucer. To her it looked like a "big ball" or a "bubble."

Kim, with her blonde hair, blue eyes and restless energy, told her mother, Mrs. Wesley (Joyce) Baker, she saw the object in a field at the southerly end of this town, back of Kennebec Mill. As near as can be determined, this occurred between 1 and 3:30 p.m.

The UFO had red lights near the bottom, a single green light on top that blinked off and on.

Kim said she walked right up to it although she was afraid because she feared someone might come out of the door.

Questioned as to the appearance of the door, she stated it was "sort of a door." The girl added; "It started to spin around and then went right up and over the house" (later determined to be that of Mrs. Paul Matheson).

Kimberly observed that the object had a window, "half of a window." The outside was shiny in color.

Her mother asked her Thursday: "Did you see anything?"

"Yes, it looked like a bubble."

"What else did you see?"

"I saw a man in it with something on or over his head. He took it off and smiled at me. He said something for I saw his lips move."

Later on Kim added that the man wore a white suit with buttons down the front.

"A dog saw the bubble and barked at it." (Mrs. Ann Matheson has a chow and it was heard to bark at about that time on the afternoon in question.)

Kim has three sisters and two brothers. Her mother said the girl "never has been the imaginative type."

On the afternoon of April 23 she went to the outskirts of Bingham to find and pick pussy-willows.

The little girl took her mother and two members of the press to the field where she said she saw the ball or bubble. While there were no signs of burns on the grass, the area appeared as if some object might have landed on it for grass and close-to-the-ground greenery was flattened.

Original cutting from the
Morning Sentinel Waterville,
Maine Friday, May 6, 1966
Vol.63, No.56, page 20.

two cousins, Wendy and Bruce Higgins, were attempting to pick pussy willows in a large field south of the Higgin's household.

They soon discovered that the willow stems were too elastic and tough to be broken off by hand, so Wendy and Bruce went

to their house to get a pair of scissors. While waiting for her cousins to return, Kim noted a large, shiny object descend toward her from the direction of the Kennebec Mill. Startled and frightened, she froze as the object silently landed several yards from where she stood. Kim quietly faced the object for over a minute before it departed over the roof of a neighbour's house.

When Kim returned home later that afternoon she crossed the main highway which divides Bingham and separates the Baker's house from their hardware store diagonally across the street. Kim was not in the habit of crossing the highway alone, and the irregularity of this liberty later struck Mrs. Baker as being unusual. Kim went directly to her mother, tugged on her skirt, and said repeatedly, "Mommy, mommy, I saw something!" However, that same day Mrs. Baker had just received news of the death of an old school friend so she did not give her daughter's excited comment much attention. Later, Mrs. Baker remembered that Kim had kept unusually close to her that day, as if wanting the security of her mother's presence.

Two days later, on Monday, April 25th, Mrs. Baker recalled her daughter's comment about having seen something remarkable on the previous Saturday. When Mrs. Baker queried her daughter about the observation, the following conversation ensued⁴:

Mrs. Baker: "What did you see?"
Kim: "A big bubble."

Mrs. Baker: "How big was it?"
Kim: "Like daddy's car but higher." (After looking about until she spotted her father's station wagon.)

Mrs. Baker: "What colour was the bubble?"

Kim: "Shiny." Kim looked around the house until she located the family toaster; then pointed to it and said, "like that!"

Further questioning revealed that the object had a "sort" of door, and a window. The window was later determined to be rectangular in shape and approximately eight inches high. Three distinct lights were observed. On either end of the craft were steady red lights which seemed



Mr. Allie King, Kimberley Baker and Mrs. Joyce Baker. This photograph, taken by Mr. Richard Plummer at the witness's home on May 4, 1966 accompanies the newspaper article describing her sighting.

to emanate from the body of the vehicle. A flashing green light was stationed just above the centre of the object. This light appeared to come from a source slightly elevated from the main body. After answering her mother's questions about the craft, Kim proceeded to make some crude drawings of the "bubble" (see original drawings).

Mrs. Joyce Baker was unnerved by her daughter's account of this strange encounter. Almost for assurance, Mrs. Baker notified a family acquaintance, Mr. Allie King, of the sighting. Mr. King was a representative of the Gannett Publishing Company and made weekly visits to Bingham in order to make collections for the *Morning Sentinel*⁵. On Wednesday, April 27, he visited the Baker family and reviewed Kim's account first hand. That afternoon Mr. King repeatedly tried to shake Kim's story by deliberately confusing details. These attempts were invariably corrected by Kim so that no inconsistencies could be detected. It was at this time, however, that another aspect of Kim's experience came to light.

During the flurry of questions that ensued that afternoon, Mrs. Baker chanced to ask her daughter

if she had been afraid. Kim immediately replied, "At first I was, but not after the man smiled at me." Stunned by this new revelation, Mrs. Baker pressed for details:

Mrs. Baker: "What did the man look like, Kim?"

Kim: "Like daddy or Renee." (Renee was a friend of Mr. Baker.)

Mrs. Baker: "What did he do?"

Kim: "He winked at me, and smiled."

Mrs. Baker: "Anything else?"

Kim: "He said something to me."

Mrs. Baker: "What did he say?"

Kim: "I don't know, I only saw his lips move."

Mrs. Baker: "What was he wearing?"

Kim: "He had a bubble on his head, but he took it off before he spoke to me."

Mrs. Baker: "Could you see what else he was wearing?"

Kim: "When he stood up I could see that he had lots of black buttons on his chest."

Mrs. Baker: "How do you know he stood up?"

Kim: "Because his head moved up, above the window."

Mrs. Baker: "What was the colour of his clothes?"

Kim: "Shiny-white."

The introduction of a "man" into Kim's narration only in-

creased her mother's anxiety over the event. Seeking an explanation, Mrs. Baker and Mr. King asked to be taken to the landing site.

Kim led her family and Mr. King to the spot where the object had landed. When they arrived at the site, physical traces were still evident exactly where Kim had seen the object land. A circular area of compressed greenery about 15 feet in diameter stood out from the rest of the field. Where irregular patches of pussy willows usually grew to a height of one or two feet, the stems within the circular area were broken off a few inches from the ground. A thorough examination of the surrounding area revealed no tracks that would account for the circle. Mrs. Baker noted that the broken branches within the circle were dark in colour rather than the usual whitish-yellow.

By this time even Mr. King had begun to entertain some sympathy for Kim's experience. He in turn contacted Mr. Richard Plummer, a newspaper reporter for the Skowhegan branch of the *Morning Sentinel*. The following Wednesday, May 4th, Mr. Plummer, Mr. King, and Mrs. Baker once again reviewed the account of Kim's sighting. No flaws in the account could be

detected but an additional fact came to light. When asked by her mother if anyone else had seen the "bubble," Kim answered "yes." Mrs. Baker excitedly asked her daughter who it was. Kim answered seriously, "A dog saw the bubble and barked at it." Mrs. Baker was later able to identify a mongrel husky as the dog named by Kim. A neighbour verified that the dog had been barking the Saturday afternoon of Kim's encounter but that no attention had been paid to the commotion.

The story of Kim's experience was eventually published in a newspaper article by Richard Plummer on Friday, May 6, 1966 in the *Morning Sentinel*, but no further investigation of the incident was undertaken until the author's, nine years later.

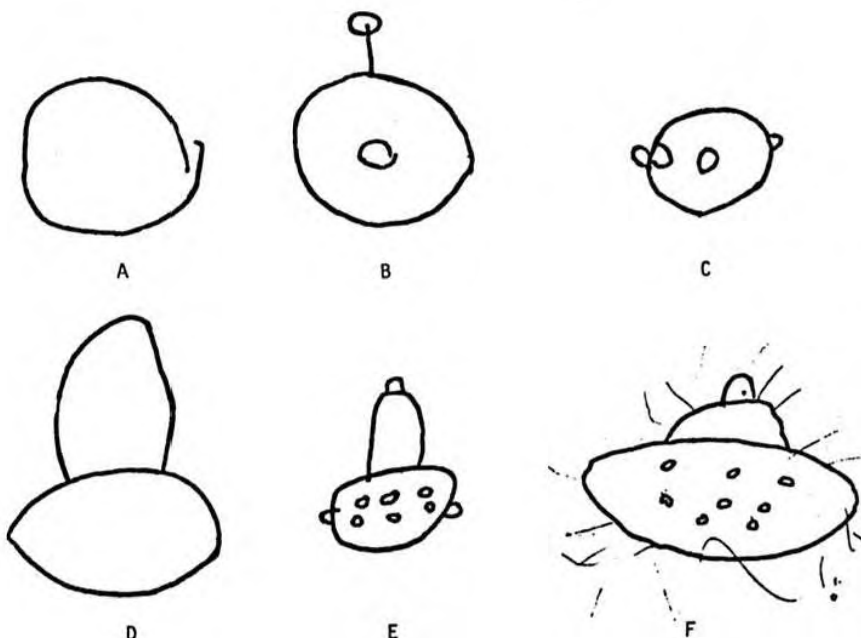
A Question of Reliability

The crux of this report lies in the witness' reliability. Can the testimony of a six-year-old girl be accepted at face value, especially when it concerns such an unusual event? Two legitimate objections may be raised against acceptance: first, that there were no other witnesses present during the encounter, and secondly, that the girl's age at the time suggests

either exaggeration or misinterpretation. These are valid considerations which must be weighed in evaluating the case. However, there are also several factors which tend to support the witness' description of her experience.

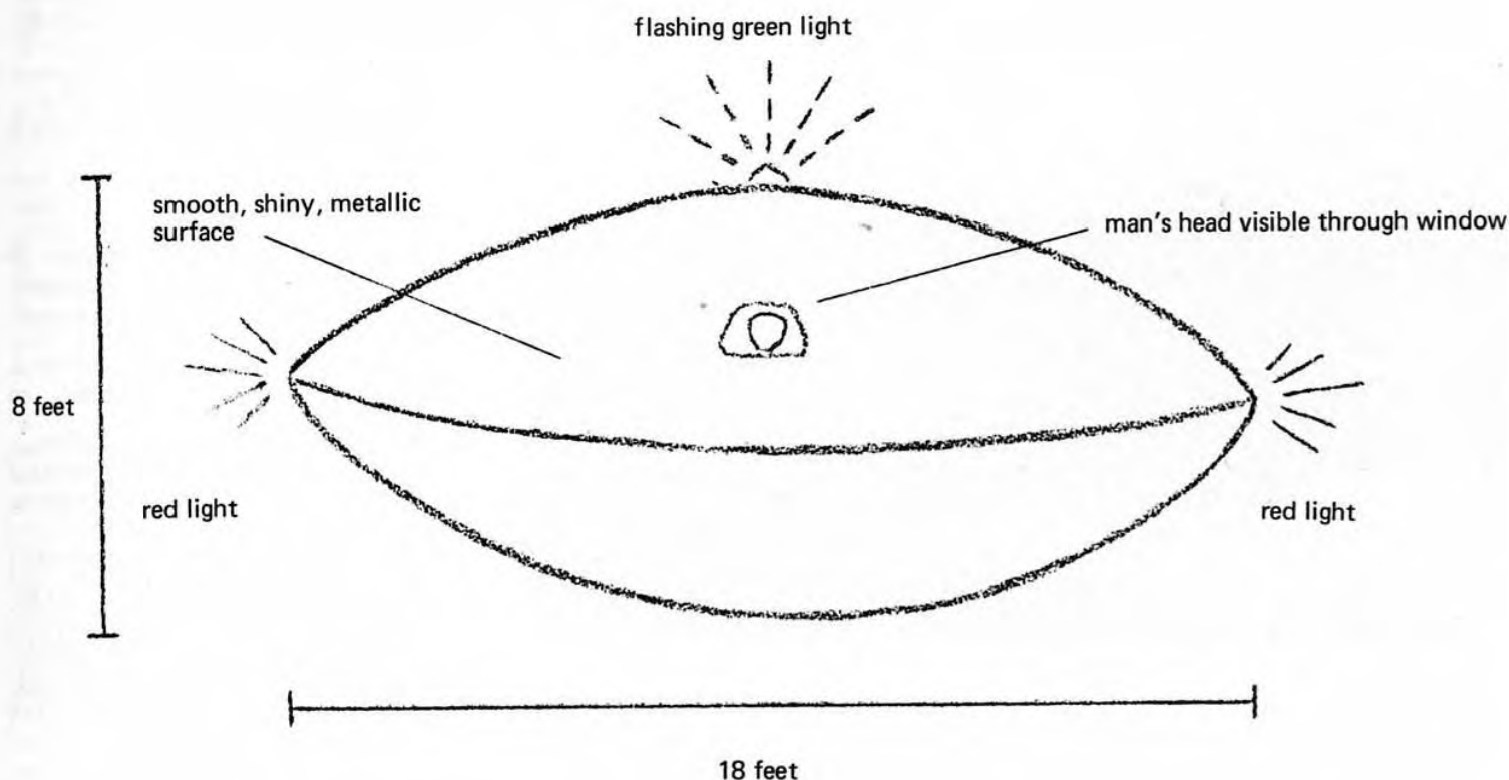
One of these factors is her own history of reliability. The witness' mother impressed upon the author that her daughter was not "the imaginative type" and had never entertained the habit of exaggeration. This trait was additionally acknowledged by non-related witnesses who were acquainted with the girl. During the author's questioning, the witness presented the appearance of being modest, conservative and quite sincere about the event she had experienced. Therefore, the question of exaggeration would have been strikingly out of character. The witness had also consented to being placed under hypnosis in order to verify her account.

The probability of misinterpretation also seems quite remote. A helicopter is the only vehicle which even vaguely resembles the witness's description of the craft. However, a helicopter does not operate silently or leave ground traces of the size and shape described above. In addition, the



Drawings A-E were efforts by the witness to represent the object and lights she had observed.

Drawing F was made by Mr. Allie King in an attempt to consolidate the girl's impression.



Reconstructed drawing of UFO

landing of such a vehicle in the proximity of an individual would certainly have produced a remarkable propeller blast. The witness has also denied the possibility of having confused a helicopter for the object in the sighting.

If we approach the question of validity by accepting the reality of the witness's experience, then the naive description provided in her account certainly falls into the category of a UFO phenomenon. The size, shape, colour, light positions, and motion of the craft described here are characteristic of a certain class of UFOs. The presence of human-like beings in or near these unknown objects had also been previously noted⁶. Ground traces of similar shape and size are well recognized by researchers. Even animal disturbances with dogs, cats, horses and other domesticated animals have been noted in other sightings. In fact, every detail that has been reported here is in harmony with the attributes associated with the UFO phenomenon. While this does not explain what the witness actually saw, it does place the

event within a recognizable framework.

The points which favour acceptance of the witness's testimony are thus:

(a) the description of both object and occupant correspond extremely well with similar reports from around the world, (b) independent testimony verified the existence of unusual ground traces at the exact spot where the witness claims to have seen the object land, and (c) that the witness has agreed to undergo testing which would ascertain the reality of the event she claims to have experienced.

While the witness's credibility could not be definitely established, there is surely ample evidence to warrant further consideration of the case. Perhaps we should remember that in Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale *The Emperor's New Clothes*, it was a child's observation which eventually corrected society's view of reality.

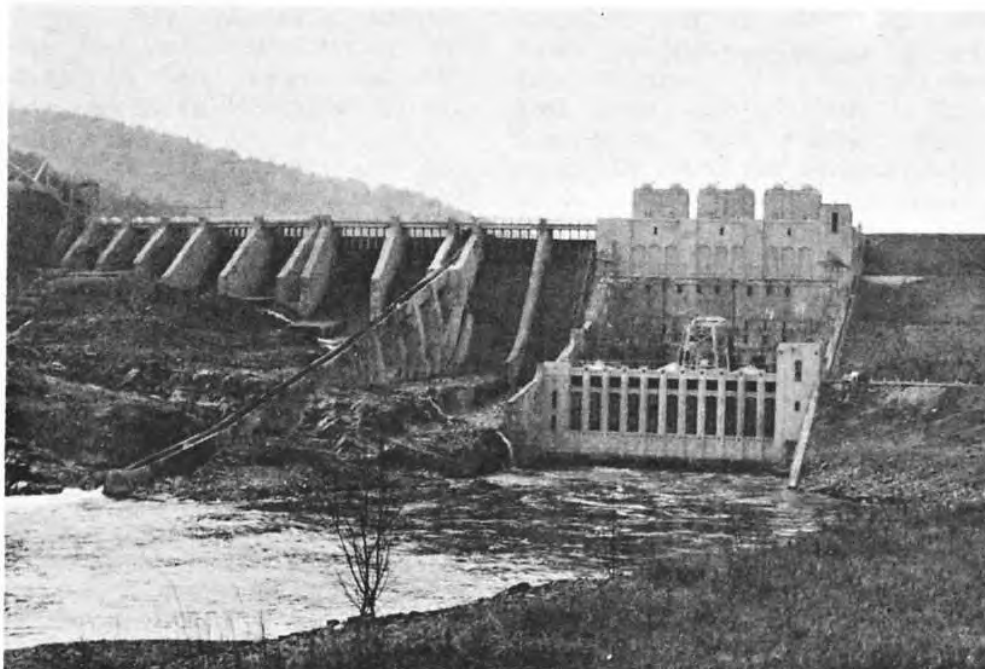
Wyman Dam

During the author's visit to Bingham on May 19, 1975, a

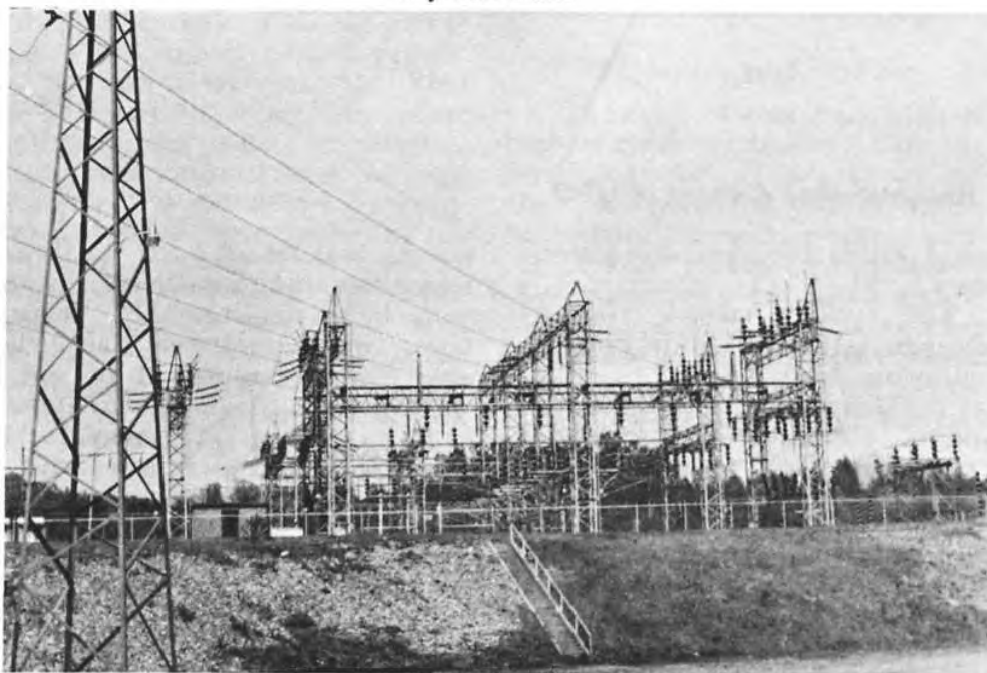
search was made for features which are traditionally associated with UFO sightings, i.e., power lines, water reservoirs, airports etc. With a population of only 1,200 people, Bingham was found to be an unremarkable small, rural town. However, there is a facility situated near the town which is exceptional. Wyman Dam, a large hydro-electric power plant, is located approximately 2.5 miles north of the landing site. The dam is of strategic importance because it supplies the main source of electrical energy to towns and cities located along the Kennebec River. There is also a large man-made reservoir immediately behind the dam, Wyman Lake, over which UFOs have been frequently reported. The presence of Wyman Dam near the sighting is considered significant because of the previously reported association between UFO activity and electrical power lines⁷.

Summary

The Baker Sighting provides an example of a retrospective invest-



Wyman Dam



Electric power lines at base of Wyman Dam

igation. Specifics of who, what, where, and when were documented through signed statements, photographs, drawings and maps. A casual explanation for UFO activity in the area was also attempted. Only the skeleton of this body of information was reported in the newspaper account. And, lastly, the witness has agreed to undergo hypnotic examination.

At a more general level, the case presented above suggests that retrospective investigation could be used more extensively to

enrich old data. Hope is encouraged that selective cases could be similarly investigated before they are entirely lost to inspection.

Notes and References

1. Plummer, Richard, "Bingham Girl Says She Observed UFO," *Morning Sentinel*, Waterville, Maine, Friday, May 6, 1966, Vol.63, No.56, p.20.
2. Hynek, J. Allen, *The UFO Experience: A Scientific Inquiry*, Chicago: Henry Regnery Co., 1972 (pp. 22-31).
3. The following sources contain extensive catalogues of occupant

cases: Bowen, Charles, *The Humanoids*, London: Neville Spearman, 1969. Vallée, Jacques, *Passport to Magonia*, Chicago: Henry Regnery Co., 1969. Webb, David, 1973 — *Year of the Humanoids*, privately printed, 1974.

4. The dialogue in this article was elicited from memory by Mrs. Joyce Baker on May 19, 1975. While the original wording of questions and answers may have varied slightly from that presented above, the essence of the conversation is accurately conveyed.
5. Daily newspaper published in Waterville, Maine.
6. An examination of 217 occupant cases by James McCambell revealed that 85 (40%) of the observations were of human-like beings. McCambell, James, M., *Ufology: New Insights from Science and Common Sense*, Belmont, California: Jaymac Co., 1973 (p. 106).
7. Fowler, Raymond, E., *UFOs: Interplanetary Visitors*, Jericho, New York: Exposition Press, 1974 (pp. 92-110).

Editor's Note

Mr. Bonenfant's article was also supported by attested statements by Messrs. Allie King, Richard Plummer of the *Morning Sentinel* and Francis Gould.

Richard Bonenfant, who has an MA in Anthropology, is a scientist engaged in the study of birth defects with the New York State Department of Health.

DON'T FORGET

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THE CYRUS CASE

G. Cattiau et al

Monsieur Cattiau, and his colleagues R. Gayral and D. Lacenal are members of the Toulouse Research Group. Their report appeared in *Lumières dans la Nuit* No. 153 of March 1976. Translation from the French by Gordon Creighton.

THIS case occurred in August 1975 in a country district near Muret in the Département of Haute-Garonne (S.W. France).

Monsieur R. Cyrus is aged 48, a man with a sound head on his shoulders, and no nonsense about him. Formerly a gendarme, he is now in business and his mind is more likely to be on his shop than on "queer goings-on." If he considers himself to have been successful in his life so far, it is precisely because of this direct, realistic, even materialistic, side to his nature, for which indeed his wife takes him to task from time to time as he laughingly confessed during our investigations. However, Monsieur Cyrus is not known in Muret simply as a reliable and responsible businessman, but also as the president of the town's group of majorettes. So the witness is well known, and very honourably regarded. He even went so far as to confess to us later that it wasn't the first time that he had seen this sort of "thing", that it had not worried him over much except perhaps on this latest occasion, when he had been pretty close to the "thing."

The facts of the case

As stated, it is August 29, 1975, and the time is 10.45 p.m. The witness, at the wheel of his car (*Peugeot 404* — petrol engine type) is on the departmental route D 10 which runs from the village of Longages to National Highway (Route Nationale) No. 125 to the south of Noé.

When three-quarters of the way along the D 10, the witness suddenly perceives — about ten metres distant on the right hand side of the road, in a field slightly above the level of the latter — a dark mass, an aluminium-grey coloured "machine." (It was a moonlit night, and the moonlight seemed to be reflected by the "machine," giving it a metallic appearance.)

M. Cyrus estimates the object to have been about seven metres long, a bit more than that in width, and about three metres high. At this stage the body of the machine is dark, emitting no light.

Just as he arrives abreast of the machine, however, the underpart of it lights up (up to about one-third of its height), with a phosphorescent glow, and it



The dark mass glides towards the car at bonnet level, and then there is a blinding flash.

Illustration taken from the cover of *Lumières dans la Nuit*.



The object seemed to tilt backwards and display its underside, emitting the vast flash of light. Illustrations from *Lumières dans la Nuit*.

"glides" towards the car at the level of the bonnet, and then shoots forth a dazzling light which the witness describes as being as bright as the Sun. Monsieur Cyrus pulls up, takes his hands off the wheel, and instinctively throws up his arms to protect his head. The car ends up in the ditch, which very fortunately is not deep at that spot (about 20 centimetres).

The whole thing has been a matter of four seconds or so. Then the "object" shoots straight up into the air directly above the car and, without the slightest sound, takes up a stationary position there. At this stage it is emitting an irregular light: gradually its intensity diminishes, and then it starts to shine more brightly again. This fluctuation happens several times. Its light is now reddish. It is to be noted that the sky was clear, the temperature mild, and a gentle S.E. wind was blowing.

Meanwhile, Monsieur Cyrus does not get out of the car immediately. He seems to have a gap of half-a-minute or so in his memory. He remembers getting out of the car only when another motorist, who has come from the other direction, starts to open the door for him. This other motorist is a direct witness of Monsieur Cyrus' adventure, since he was only about 150 metres distant when the object swooped at Cyrus' car and poured the flood of blinding light over the bonnet. As this second motorist explained later, he thought that Cyrus' car was exploding.

So now Monsieur Cyrus gets out of the car, and the first thing he does is to touch himself, feel himself. He recalls precisely this gesture, and recalls saying, as he did it, "Good Heavens — is this it!"

The fact that this is Monsieur Cyrus' first action puzzles him greatly: touching himself in fact to see whether he is still alive! But he remains in a state of severe shock, and when people urge him to go straight away to the Gendarmerie to make a statement, he says: "Look, fellows, you all know me. I'll go to the Gendarmerie tomorrow. Now, I'm going home." When he arrives there his wife finds him distraught and manifestly in a state of shock.

The object

Monsieur Cyrus only noticed the object when he came abreast of it. All he saw at first was a dark metallic mass (effect of the moonlight). Then the object lit up suddenly and glided towards his car at bonnet level, and as it did so it seemed to tilt backwards and display its under-face like a vast lightning flash, so that Monsieur Cyrus now thinks that when we see a fireball in the sky we are seeing its underside!

It seems therefore that the object deliberately made for his car and there, at a height of less than 50 cm. from the bonnet of his *Peugeot 404*, tilted back sharply. Then it shot straight upwards till it was no more than a point of light which seemed to keep fading and then becoming brighter again. He stood there watching it for about fifteen minutes. The light beam directed down from it still seemed to be aimed solely on to the spot where his car stood, without lighting up the rest of the countryside (as a searchlight would have done.) And all the time it was emitting pulsation flashes.*



On emitting the flash, the object shot straight upwards into the sky, where it remained visible for some time afterwards as a small point of light.

The effects

1. Effects on the Witness:

Seeing the object right on top of his car, he abandons the wheel and instinctively throws up his arms to protect his head.

1-1. He no longer remembers whether he was paralyzed by it, but he does remember "that he still had all his mental faculties, but that his throat was jammed up." His voice was also "jammed up." He was unable to speak. The ability to speak only returned to him suddenly when the other motorist came up to his car door.

1-2. Disturbance to his watch (it has gained five minutes daily since the occurrence.)

1-3. Increased sleepiness, even when at the wheel of his car. So soon as he stops any activity in which he

* One of the photo captions in the LDLN article mentions that the UFO was still visible, as a point of light, hours later, but there is no discussion of this in the text—G.C.

is engaged during the day, he drops off to sleep in a fashion that is not habitual for him.

1-4. Troubles with his eyesight: two days after the UFO sighting, he woke up in the morning with black patches before his eyes. They gradually faded away and vanished after he had had his dinner.

The car

Peugeot 404 (petrol engine). No anomaly has been noted in the car. No scratch marks, no signs of burn, or changes in the paintwork.

The engine did not stall.

The lights remained on.

No signs of over-heating on the body of the car or on its interior.

(It is to be noted incidentally that no steps were taken to test the car for radioactivity.)

Eyewitnesses

There were other witnesses who came forward later and confirmed the statement made by Monsieur Cyrus.

The first was Monsieur L. Gain, a night watchman at the CUMA-SICA plant, who lives at Longages, and who saw a bright glow which vanished suddenly.

Madame G. Tegedor, a lady residing on the route de Noé at Longages, says she saw the glow over in the direction of the spot where Monsieur Cyrus experienced his "happening", and then later, at about 1.00 o'clock in the early morning, she saw another intensely bright glow, close to the ground, in a field quite some distance from the scene of Monsieur Cyrus' experience, and consisting of two big lights bigger than car headlamps. The glare was blinding, and her eyes were painful next morning. The light seemed to illuminate the whole countryside around as though it were daytime.

Finally, there was also another witness — namely the motorist who came and helped Monsieur Cyrus, but apparently he is unwilling to make any statement.

Then there is the Gendarmerie at Carbonne too, but the gendarmes on this occasion showed themselves very unwilling to co-operate with our investigator.

The site

No marks were found in the field where the UFO had presumably landed, despite the efforts of several people who went there to investigate. Aerial photos of the place were also taken, but these showed no marks.

Monsieur Cyrus makes a confession

Needless to say we were astonished when Monsieur Cyrus all of a sudden informed us that the episode had not greatly astonished him, seeing that it was the *third time* that such a phenomenon had been good enough to manifest itself before his eyes. The details of his two previous episodes are as follows...

First sighting

This was in the Quillan district of the Département

of Aude, in 1957, at the time of the grape-harvest. It was about 8.30 one evening, in mid-September. While the other vineyard workers are all still sitting at their dinner, Monsieur Cyrus steps outside to answer a call of nature, and sees two elongated objects (orange-coloured cigars) at a distance of about 200 metres or so from him, just as though "sitting there" above the vineyard while a cart was passing below them between the rows of vines. He called to some of the other workers, who came and also saw the objects. Then they decided to approach the "objects," but when they had gone half of the way towards them the "cigars" departed silently and without changing colour.

Second sighting

This occurred at the village of Ox, in the same region, in September or October of 1974. The witness, who was with his wife, was driving along the main national highway linking Noé to Muret. The time was about midnight, the weather was clear, and they were headed towards Muret.

They were travelling along at a moderate speed when, after passing through Martres-Tolosane, they spotted a light to their left. They paid at first little heed to it. It seemed to take the form of a series of low flashes, seemingly "vibrating", almost at ground level. After they had passed through Noé the real phenomenon started, when the flashing lights were succeeded by an enormous orange ball which lit up the whole countryside around. The fact that it did not seem to them to be moving suggests that it was in fact travelling parallel to the car, away out to the left from the road.

For a distance of eight kilometres the object continued to accompany them in this fashion. When they arrived at the village of Ox, they became aware of the extent of the phenomenon, for they saw the village church, situated some two kilometres from their road, silhouetted against the glow as though "on the screen of a Chinese shadow-theatre."

By now they can see that the disc is enormous, lighting up the whole countryside. The tower of the church is thought to be about 35 metres high. The vast ball was bigger than that. Still moving along parallel to their route, it now vanished from their sight behind a service station beside the highway. The service station's lights blinked three times and then remained extinguished. Then the ball reappeared again and came back towards the church tower and passed behind it. The ball flared up brilliantly and suddenly, and then died down. The transformer situated near the church appeared to explode in one vast arc of light. Then, with the explosion in the transformer, all the lights in the village went out. Monsieur and Madam Cyrus meanwhile continued on their way to their home in Muret.

Next day, they asked the electricity authorities in Muret whether anything extraordinary had happened in Ox. [It turned out that the Ox transformer's circuit-breaker had indeed tripped for some unknown reason that night. [However, the EDF (French Electricity Board) would not let us have a copy of their report on the matter.]

Remarkable as it may seem, the "ordinary extra-

ordinary" adventures of Monsieur Cyrus were not to end there. For he, along with two other persons, was to witness a further curious phenomenon which — this time — was to puzzle him vastly.

This next episode took place in the summer of 1975, and prior to the happenings of August 29 described at the beginning of the article.

The first manifestation of the phenomena was at 11.00 p.m. on the square in Muret. Monsieur Cyrus had just sat down in his car in order to put it away in the garage for the night when, to his astonishment — since his car radio was not switched on — he hears sounds coming from it. He could not believe his ears; surely, he thinks, this beats everything! The sounds from the radio lasted about half a minute. He checked three or four times and made quite sure that the radio was definitely not switched on, and he also established positively that the voices were coming from its amplifier. (As an indication of the wave-length, he told us that he always kept his radio tuned to *Radio-Andorra*.)

The sounds from his radio

These seemed guttural, and do not appear to be identifiable with any known language. The pitch was flat and monotonous. Several "voices" seemed to be present, and taking part in a "discussion."

Despite the fact that it bore no resemblance to any language, Monsieur Cyrus insists on using the words "speech" and "phrase" in describing it. And he does however make one comparison: he has been in Africa (where he served in the Gendarmerie) and he tells us that it could conceivably be likened "to the language of apes." It had the same sort of abrupt, jarring sounds. This comparison returns several times later, and most cogently, to his mind. (It should be noted incidentally that he knows one foreign language, German, and so is able to cut out categorically any possibility that it can have been that.)

Once his initial astonishment had passed, he went on with his job of garaging the car, and meanwhile the incoherent conversation began again from his radio, leaving him in a state of the most utter bafflement.

Moreover, there was to be a second manifestation of this voice phenomenon. The next time, it occurred on the road to Saint-Gaudens, when he was driving to that place from Muret. His wife was with him, and they were just passing the little place known as Marquefavres. This time, it started with a noise comparable to that of a continuous, drawn-out sounding of a klaxon (like the way country bakers sound their horn in France, for example). Thinking that they were being hooted by another vehicle behind them, they looked back, but there was no sign that any other driver was doing it. Then it began again, and this time with the same voices mingling with the noise of the klaxon. They checked to see where it was coming from, and once again there was no question about it: it was definitely coming from the loud-speaker of the car radio, and with the radio well and truly switched off. The phenomenon continued for about ten minutes, until they got to the village of Cazères. And that is the end of Monsieur Cyrus' remarkable adventures!

Corroborative evidence

It seems that at the moment when all this was going on, there was a burst of intensive UFO activity over the whole region around Muret and Cazères. The case of Monsieur and Madame Cyrus with the voices was no isolated phenomenon. At least two other investigations conducted in the area mention similar phenomena happening to other persons, all quite unknown to each other.

At present we feel that a thorough investigation in the whole area is likely to show that we are by no means done with our surprises from that quarter.

So far the following cases have come to light:—
Cazères, 1974: an object was seen, plus humanoids.
Aspet, 1975: two women report that over a period of ten days an object was seen in the midst of a herd of cows.

Auterive: There was a sighting in 1972.

Further reports are still arriving, and this encourages us to push on with our project for an intensive study of the whole Département — indeed even of this whole south-western region of France. We have just formed our group, the Toulouse Régional UFO Investigation Group (Groupement Régional de Recherches sur les OVNI's) in Toulouse. So it seems that as the reports flow in we shall secure a clearer picture.

Points to be borne in mind in any investigation of this area include the following:—

- a. There is a radio transmitter at Muret.
 - b. There is a Herzian Wave station at Venerque.
 - c. There is a military installation at Venerque.
- All these are within a radius of thirty kilometres.

We must express our thanks to Monsieur Cyrus for his good-natured collaboration and assistance to our members in their task of investigating — not always an easy one.

Comment by Gordon Creighton

Once more we see an interesting report with many of the "classic" features with which we are now becoming so familiar — the physical paralysis of the witness and his temporary loss of speech and shock; the overwhelming luminous phenomenon of the close approach; the EM effect and electrical disturbances (can they be so sure that the car's engine did not stall?). Highly interesting too is the resultant "sleepiness" and visual disturbance of the witness, so reminiscent of the cases of Antônio Villas Boas, Aveyrou, and others. And, last but not least, we have the zany business of sounds and voices coming from the loudspeaker of a car radio that is not even switched on (see my article *Gobbledygook*, in FSR Vol. 18, No.6, November-December 1972).

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

THE TWILIGHT SIDE OF A UFO ENCOUNTER

Brent M. Raynes

S ELDOM are the paranormal mechanics of a UFO encounter as visibly demonstrated as they were in this particular incident, an incident which contained many classic manifestations.

My attention was alerted to this situation at about 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday evening, October 28, 1975, when I received a telephone call from my associate, Mrs. Shirley Fickett of Portland, Maine. Mrs. Fickett excitedly briefed me on an interesting new UFO sighting that had taken place in the early hours of Monday, October 27, near Oxford, Maine. It involved two young men, whom we shall call P, 18, and W, 21, who shared a trailer in Norway. (To protect the witnesses from possibly undesirable feedback we do not use names or even initials.) At about 7.30 p.m. I telephoned W's mother as the young men did not have a telephone at their place. Mrs. W informed me that the young men were there at her house at the moment and that earlier in the day, when Mrs. Fickett had called them, she suggested that they check the automobile and the young men with a compass, which they did. They found that the needle spun wildly in reaction to the car, and both young men, and even seemed to register a slight reaction with her and her husband. She also told me that they had seen UFOs that evening and, when I indicated a desire to do so, encouraged me to drive up. As soon as I had directions I made arrangements with my friend James Carey of Windsor, and we decided to meet at the Androscoggin County Sheriff's Department in Auburn, where the W family had phoned in a report on the event. I copied the details from their file on the call, and noted that they had telephoned in the data to Dr. J. Allen Hynek's Center for UFO Studies.

At about 9.45 p.m. we arrived at Mr. & Mrs W's residence, in Oxford. The two young men were there, quite visibly shaken and upset, and Mr. & Mrs. W. displayed concern over their conditions. Within perhaps a minute of stepping inside the house we were asked if we would like to see a UFO. Naturally we said we would. And as James Carey later wrote for inclusion with my records: "The young man, W, pointed skyward and told us that the bright light in the sky was a big UFO, another we were told was another UFO, and in another section of the sky still another, all bright and all visible to everyone concerned. I am an amateur astronomer, and I told him that what he was concerned about were in fact not UFOs at all, but heavenly bodies, and that he should not be alarmed as these would not in any way harm him since they were natural objects,

Flying Saucer Review respected the request from the author and Mrs. Fickett through Dr. Schwarz that anonymity of the witnesses should be preserved, and initial letters were used in place of names. Since typesetting was completed, one American magazine has published a less detailed version of the report, in which Mr. Raynes and Mrs. Fickett were quoted, and the name of the main witness ('W' in our accounts) was given: it is David Stephens.

EDITOR

each in its place since the creation of the universe. He was angry with me, and went into the house. I went to my car and got my star maps. I showed him that his first "UFO" was in fact Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system, the second "UFO" was Betelgeuse in the constellation of Orion, and the third was the planet Mars."

I followed W. as he entered the house and quickly set up my tape recorder. I explained to him that I wanted him to describe for me everything that he could remember and that I would then review it with him. We stepped into the living room to conduct the interview. About an hour later P. joined us and I questioned him about the various things that W. had described to me. At this point I also had them both hold my pocket compass, but no reaction was registered. Also, shortly after arriving, I checked the car (1971 *Plymouth Satellite*), but again I found nothing abnormal in my readings. While we were there, Ben Twitchel of the Civil Defense in Oxford arrived with a geiger counter and checked the automobile over, but indicated that he had gotten nothing other than normal background readings.

Meanwhile the details had begun to solidify. Both W. and P. worked at night jobs (W. at a poultry processing plant, and P. at a wool mill). Hence their being up at 3.00 a.m. on October 27, when this experience unfolded, was not unusual. They had been inside listening to music when suddenly they heard from outside a sound similar to an explosion of some sort, so they rushed outside but saw nothing unusual. As they stood outside, W. suggested that it would be nice to go for a short ride, and P. abruptly recommended a drive down to nearby Lake Thompson. With P. driving, they had planned to drive about four miles south down Route 26 and just a short distance past the Oxford Plains Speedway stadium and then cut across to a road that would

take them a couple of miles to the west into Oxford. They would then head southwards down the western side of Lake Thompson. But instead of taking this route, they had driven only about a mile down Route 26 when, according to their testimony, the car turned on to a back road to Oxford, completely under its own control. P. had a firm grip on the steering wheel, but there was nothing he could do.

This road is a more direct route to Oxford, about five miles long, passing by Webber Cemetery and Allen Hill. The ride seemed unusually smooth and they estimated that it took only about two minutes to go over it. A song that was playing on the radio at point of entrance was still playing at point of exit.

They continued on through Oxford and down the eastern side of Lake Thompson. About a mile south of Oxford, they passed a field with a group of cows sitting on the ground, all shaking their heads from one side to the other. This struck them as unusual since this had been the only sign of life they had seen on the strange ride down from Route 26.

Just a short distance further they were passing a large cornfield to their left where there were two white lights shining out on to the road. They thought that someone was sitting out in the field in a truck. They slowed to a stop and suddenly the thing began rising. They then considered that it was probably a helicopter, so they turned the motor off and rolled down the windows, but there was no sound. The object also had an assortment of other lights around its body that were green, blue and yellow, but they were extinguished when it rose up just above the tops of the trees that lined up in a row by the road in front of the field. It was only about 20 or 30 feet from the car and seemed very large and elongated, cylinder-like in appearance.

P. restarted the car and hit the gas pedal. They rolled up the windows and locked the doors, with the object giving pursuit. As they were continuing south about a mile down the road, they were aware of the "brightest lights I've ever seen" (W's description), their next fully conscious recollections were of being on the right side of the road, at a complete stop, a mile south of the cornfield site, situated on the left side of a gravel road that empties on to the tarred road they had been travelling. Their windows were rolled down some and their doors unlocked.

They glanced at each other and both saw something strange in the eyes of the other. To W. P's eyes were "all just orange" while to P., W's eyes were orange except for a dark area in the centre where the pupils are.

The UFO was still visible in the sky to the east, so they continued south into West Poland where they turned around and headed north along the same road that they had just come down. At about same road they had just come down. After about two miles the object was no longer visible. W. suggested that they turn back and so they did. Then by an unexplained impulse, as they were going back, again headed south, P. turned into a gravel road leading down to Tripp Pond, which is located to the east of the southern part of Lake Thompson.

There, off to the east, at about a 20° or 30°

elevation above the horizon, was the cylinder-like UFO, giving off a bright white appearance. It was hovering, and W. estimated that it was perhaps 500 feet distant from the car.

Meanwhile; upon their turning into the mouth of this road, the car motor died and could not be restarted, and the car radio faded out. Within a few moments the object seemed to move in an up-and-down fashion, and then rose up into the air to about an 80° elevation, in a south-easterly position, and remained there for the remainder of the encounter, which was approximately an hour and a half. W. estimated that the UFO was 500 yards from the car at this point.

Within 45 minutes to an hour of their being stuck on this road, two disc-shaped objects with green, red and blue lights appeared in the sky, spotted by P., and W. estimated that they seemed to be about a quarter of the size of the "mother ship," which they both agreed was the size of a football field. The discs put on a spectacular "air show" type of display wherein they performed aerial motions in time with one another. In falling-leaf fashion they descended to Tripp Pond, "skimmed across the water," and then flew upwards at right angles, like ascending a pair of invisible stairs, except that these stairs would be going upwards in one direction, at angles, and then suddenly reverse the direction.

Then they noticed a strange "dark grey" and "thick-looking fog" rising out of the pond.

Tripp Pond is approximately a half mile from where they sat at the entrance of this gravel road, but during this experience it appeared to be only 20 or 50 feet from them. One section of the pond seemed to be all water as far as they could see, like an ocean, and there was an island, which one of the discs seemed to fly over during its manoeuvres.* In reality there are hills in the distance behind the pond and no islands are visible.

At any rate, the "fog" soon engulfed their car during which time a voice boomed in over the radio announcing that it was going to be a clear and bright sunny day. The "mother ship" was the only thing visible to them above. The car started when P. tried again at about 6.30 a.m. and at about 7.00 a.m. they arrived at the W. home. They had intended to keep to themselves everything that had happened, but immediately upon setting foot inside the house they were overcome with a number of odd symptoms. They both felt light-headed, their eyes burned, their throats became sore, they couldn't talk coherently, they suffered lack of balance and co-ordination, their teeth became sore and even loose, they had

* George Yeaton Jr., Civil Defense director for Farmington, Maine, saw a cylindrical object with green, red and orange lights hovering low over an island in Rangeley Lake at about 4.30 a.m. on November 5, 1975. The object projected a "bright light" on to the island and fully illuminated it for about 15 seconds, during which time his car radio went dead. He was less than a mile from the island. Not long after extinguishing the light beam, the object "zipped off at an unbelievable speed." (Source: Portland, Maine, *Sunday Telegram*, November 30, 1975.) The similarity between these two separate events is noteworthy.

difficulty in breathing, and they experienced "chills" despite heavy clothing.

At one point they were both startled at the same instance as a mental impression came to them in waves — "no language" as best they could describe it — wherein they were told; "We're not done with you yet. We're coming back for you."

Mr. W. noticed that both young men had yellow discolouration on the skin immediately surrounding their eyes. P. observed in the bathroom mirror that his tongue had a "brownish-white" sort of "scum" on it, and that it was "really cracked." (W. recalled: "When we came to, it felt like it was a desert inside my mouth. It was so dry.")

The experience seems to have contained symbolic elements of sorts. For example during my initial investigation of October 28, W. remarked: "What was weird was when the big one went straight up, the clouds seemed to follow it. It just took off, and all this time not a car went by. We didn't see a person, or an animal, or a bird...nothing! And when the cloud disappeared two ducks went by and then two geese went by and then two ducks again went by. They were going in twos, and we noticed the cows were getting up in twos."

Neither young man recalled seeing the moon during this experience. Mrs. Linda Carey, Mr. Carey's wife, consulted the *Farmer's Almanac* and found that the moon was in its last quarter and rose at 11.01 p.m. on October 26, and set at 1.30 p.m. on October 27. Was the "mother ship" actually the moon? In view of the curious distortions of reality, that must be considered.

The after effects also included strange secondary hallucinations. At about 4.00 p.m. on October 28, W. and P. visited the Tripp Pond site and on several occasions saw what appeared to be white snow flakes coming down around them and overhead black cubes and spheres flying in the direction of the pond, while silver spheres whizzed in all directions. W. alone witnessed a red face-like outline as well as what looked like the beak of a giant bird that flew across the sky and dived into the pond.

On the night of October 27, P. was watching television in the living room of Mrs. W's home when he saw a black cube-shaped object "tumbling" in the air. It seemed to disappear through a wall. A few minutes later what looked like "golden wires" appeared over the television set. They vanished without a trace after a few moments also. Even though W. was in the living room at the time, he saw nothing of this.

That same day W. was alone in his parent's home when he saw an ash tray rise into the air about a foot and then drop back down on to the table.

At about 8.00 a.m. on October 28, something walked across the roof of their trailer in Norway. Shortly afterwards P. went into a very deep sleep. This sleepy condition was repeated again about 4.00 p.m. on October 28, during their visit to the Tripp Pond site, where they both suddenly became very tired and fell asleep in W's 1971 *Chevrolet 10* van.

About an hour before our arrival on the night of October 28, at about 8.45 p.m., three knocks sound-

ed from the front door. W's oldest sister, 22, opened the door. No one was there. P., standing near the kitchen sink about eight feet from the door, heard a male-sounding voice say the letters "UFO". No one else heard it.

My second visit was on November 1. By that time a number of noteworthy developments had erupted.

On October 29, at approximately 9.00 a.m., there came a knocking on the front door of the trailer in Norway. W. opened the door (he was alone), and outside stood a stockily built stranger who had a crewcut hair style, wore sunglasses, and was dressed in dark blue clothing. He asked W. if he was the one who had seen a "flying saucer," and upon getting the affirmative he told W., "Better keep your mouth shut if you know what's good for you." With that the stranger scurried away and around the corner of a nearby building, never to be seen again.

On October 30, at about 8.40 p.m., I was conversing on the phone with my friend James Carey, discussing this case, when the operator cut in to inform me that someone was attempting to place an emergency call to my number. We hung up and within moments my phone rang and it was Mrs. W. She was very upset and told me that her husband was behaving in an "irrational" manner. He had developed an obsession to visit the UFO sites that night but Mrs. W. was fearful of this so she hid the car keys from him.

Her voice quivered as she told me: "I talk to him and then he'll sit there, and sit there, and then he'll say 'What's the matter?' and we just discussed it and he'll be saying 'What's the matter?'"

I suggested that she let me speak to him, but she replied that he did not want to speak with me. Then I told her that perhaps it would be best to let him drive up to the UFO sites, but he responded that he no longer wanted to. Also as we were talking he told her that he knew she was going to have difficulty reaching me.

Not long after our conversation ended, Mrs. W. went to the bathroom, suffering from a sudden and severe headache that began in the left temple, moved across the forehead, and disappeared in the right temple, within probably less than five minutes. A UFO-type light had been outside, but when the headache ceased it was gone.

Mrs. W. noticed that Mr. W. was restless throughout that night, but he recalls no dreams. And when I confronted him with his actions he could not account for his unusual behaviour.

Looking back at the experience of October 27, W. said that he had been functioning as his normal self, he feels that he would most certainly have been very frightened, but both he and P. were in an emotionless sort of state as this UFO activity transpired.

Regarding their friendship, the two young men explained that W. had just been discharged from active military service (US Navy) about a month and a half before the UFO incident of October 27, and P. was visiting in the area with his mother and step-

(continued at foot of page 14)

THE MAIN^E UFO ENCOUNTER: Investigation under Hypnosis

Shirley C. Fickett

THE case of W. and P. was brought to the attention of The International UFO Bureau in Portland, Maine, on October 28, 1975. A friend of mine called from Lewiston, Maine, stating that a brief account of the incident had appeared in *The Lewiston Daily Sun*.

From the Eastern bureau headquarters, I contacted the paper as well as the Androscoggin County Sheriff's Department, which had also been notified of the UFO encounter experienced by the two fellows during the early morning hours of October 27. The Sheriff's Department supplied the un-listed number of the W. family, and upon calling I talked extensively with Mrs. W. about the case. Upon learning that the young men were experiencing continuing physiological after effects, I realized the implications that the two had undergone some very traumatic experience.

It was November 11 before I could get to the W. residence for a taped interview. Both fellows were present and talked freely of their UFO encounter. We were all curious about the lost time element when the UFO beam of light hit the car, sliding it sideways and rendering the two unconscious. It was decided that hypnosis was the best course of action to follow in order to try to pull together the missing facts.

At about that time, through mutual friends, I met Dr. Herbert Hopkins of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, and discovered that among other talents he was a hypnotist and used this therapy on some of his patients. He had five years' study on the subject to his credit as well as a back-ground of psychiatric study. I made arrangements with him for a number of sessions to learn if W. could be regressed, and to see if we could learn what occurred during the blackout. After the first session, Dr. Hopkins said he would do the hypnosis free as a scientific adventure, as well as to cut our costs. W. was chosen as the subject for study since he was the elder, and served as spokesman whenever an interview was conducted.

P. was present for the first hypnosis session as were W's parents and myself. However, after that session P. refused to be present, and he gradually

withdrew. He refused to discuss the subject, and not long after that he moved to Oklahoma with family members where he remains to this writing. During the November 11 interview he remarked that he was terribly shaken by the ordeal. The remaining hypnotic sessions were all attended by the W. family and myself, taping them for the records. Gradually, over a period of time, the enigma of those lost moments of unconsciousness began to unfold under the skillful and gentle technique of Dr. Hopkins.

Session 1, December 2, 1975

Dr. Hopkins explained how hypnosis works, what to expect from it, and that the sessions could not last any longer than thirty minutes once W. had been put under. I will exclude dialogue here to save space, and cover only the highlights of the most important findings. Since Dr. Hopkins did not know the complete story, and had heard only a sketchy account from me, he did not have too much to work with in the first two sessions. Later I gave him a full report of what W. knew in the conscious mind. After that the probing of what had occurred became easier.

In the first session, Dr. Hopkins performed an arm levitation exercise after W. was under, whereby he tried to push the arm down, but to no avail; by this means he knew his subject was under full control of the trance state. This session revealed little and was a review of substantiating what W. knew in the conscious state. As Dr. Hopkins brought the subject to the point where the light hit the car and they passed out, W's excitement became apparent by his breathing, and it was at this point the session was terminated.

Session 2, December 10, 1975

At this session a complete description was given by W. of the earthly-appearing man who approached him October 29 and threatened him not to divulge any further information about the UFO encounter. Again, there was further review of what happened on the conscious level in order to bring W. to the point where the light hit the car. This session ended with

Twilight... (from page 13)

father when they became acquainted. They were both amazed that they each had experienced many identical things. Within a week they moved into a trailer and shared expenses. And it was at this point that P. began to have ESP insights. For example, one night about a week before the UFO incident P. told W. that they should not go out that night for a ride as something bad would happen.

W. ignored him, and they and two friends were involved in an auto accident.

W. told me that on occasions in the past he had seen the outsides of houses in which he psychically knew the appearance of the interior, and upon stepping inside it would be just as he had visualized in his mind, despite the fact that he had never been inside those buildings before.

W's statement that he was outside the car at the point when it was in the process of skidding sideways after being hit by the light from the UFO. He was reluctant to give any more information and he was then counted out from the trance.

These first two sessions each lasted approximately fifteen minutes or so. The ones that followed lasted about thirty minutes, and revealed much more.

Session 3, December 17, 1975

This time W. was in a more emotional state than at any time other than the final session. Dr. Hopkins guided his subject back through time, bringing him to the area where he concluded session 2 when the car was hit by the light. After much probing W. stated that he was standing on a floor suspended above, looking through a window and observing the car sliding sideways with his friend still within. Further questioning revealed he was standing in a room approximately fifteen feet high and thirty-five feet in diameter. There was one door in the room and the walls caved inwards as they rose. There was no furniture, and at this point W. was alone.

It was soon established that a non-human being came in to join W. Although it was not human, we learned from W. that it was a living being, but not of this world. At this point, as the doctor instructed W. to observe the creature and relate what he saw, it was obvious that he was under great stress, and his breathing became laboured, but he continued. His voice trembled slightly as he described the being as about four and a half feet tall, wearing a garment that "looked like a sheet," and having a face that was not at all human. Under questioning W. was having much difficulty finding words to describe the face of his visitor, and emotion rose once more, making it impossible for him to forge ahead. The session was brought to a halt at this point.

After the hypnosis, it was brought to Dr. Hopkins' attention that ever since the UFO encounter, W's eyes had been bloodshot continually. The doctor examined his eyes and confirmed that they were still in that condition.

Session 4, December 23, 1975

It should be pointed out that during this taped session there was an alternation of high-frequency sound within the tape that did not show up in the other recordings. There was no electrical equipment within the room that could account for this.

W. seemed much calmer as Dr. Hopkins slipped into the area where he had left off in the previous session. It was stated that the creature walked on feet, had hands and arms. It had three fingers that were webbed. (In a later session W. stated there were four fingers, but the doctor established that one appendage was a thumb, not a finger.)

This was the only time W. would discuss the shoes worn by the creature in spite of repeated questioning about it later. He stated the shoes looked as if they were made of paper.

As Dr. Hopkins went to explore the face of the creature, we learned that the skin was white, the

head was shaped like a mushroom, and that it had two eyes (later W. stated these were slanted, large and white in colour, and were unblinking). The nose was small and rounded; no mouth could be observed.

The creature began relating to W. by what he, W., refers to as "brain waves" (speaking telepathically). By this manner he was told not to be afraid, that he would not be harmed. When asked by the doctor if the creature told W. who he was, he said "No." When asked if the creature inquired who W. was, the answer was: "He already knew my name".

Next, W. said he was escorted to another room where he met four more similar beings. This room was described as being like a hospital room with what appeared to be an operating table. It had equipment and machinery. Two needles-full of blood were extracted from W's arm (at the elbow of the right arm). After this, they tried to make him lie down on the table for an examination. He rebelled, hitting one of the creatures in the face. In response, it just looked at him, and showed no signs of retaliation. At this point W. was beginning to breathe deeply and show signs of uneasiness, so once more he was brought back to consciousness.

Session 5, January 14, 1976

After a slight review of previous affairs, Dr. Hopkins took W. back once more to the subject of the appearance of the creatures. Their garments were black in colour. (Because W. had stated they looked like sheets, we had assumed they were white... This was a surprise.)

The sleeves of the garments were flowing, and extended to the hands. The gowns were long. Their arms appeared short compared to the body structure, and W. did not notice whether they had fingernails or not, although he observed their fingers were of different lengths, and that they had joints like ours but were thinner than the human finger. Their garments seemed to be made of paper (here Dr. Hopkins named all manner of materials, but nothing seemed to fit but paper). There was no hair on their heads.

Attention was next focused upon the room and the table within. After hitting the creature, W. had finally relented and lay down to be examined. The table was white and soft. There were bright lights overhead, and W. stated that an instrument was used for the examination. When asked if it hurt, the reply was negative. The subject had once more been under hypnosis for the allotted time and was thereupon counted back to consciousness.

Session 6, January 21, 1976

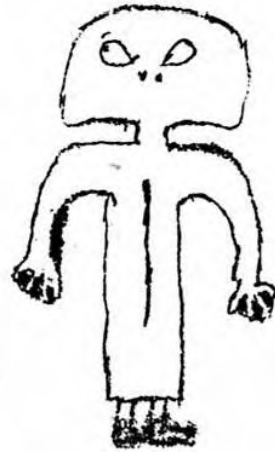
The questioning began concerning the feet and shoes of the creatures, but for some reason the only thing W. would relate was that some of them were wearing footgear and some were not. That was all he would say in spite of continued questioning on the subject. When asked whether or not the beings had ears, W. could give no answer. He did not relate that they had no facial hair. He was asked to draw a picture of them upon awakening.

Now came interrogation about the examination.



The creature as described by "W", drawn by Shirley C. Fickett

The machine used was square with gauges on the side, knobs in the middle. This had an extension on it about four feet long, and at the end of this was a smaller machine which slid over W's body as it was manoeuvred, but did not come in contact with the body. W's clothing was all removed (the beings assisted). This bothered W. but, although the room felt cool he was not cold. Dr. Hopkins named all the parts of the body when asking if they were examined: eyes, nose, mouth, ears, chest, etc. Each time the answer was "Yes." Travelling further down the body, the question was asked; "Did they examine



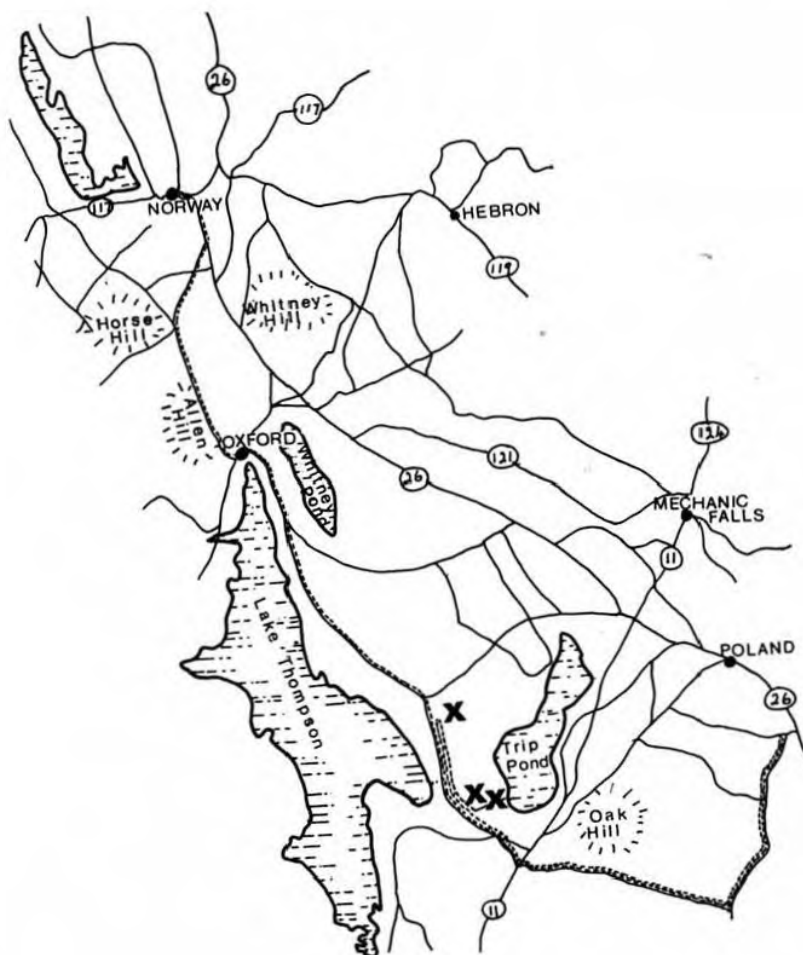
The creature, drawn by "W" following the hypnotic session on February 21, 1976

your genitals?" When this was confirmed, the next question was; "Did they do anything to them?" The answer to this was in the negative. So the questions went on to all the other parts of the body. It appeared there was a thorough going-over, on the part of the intruders, from head to feet. A small sample of hair was taken and put into an empty container. There were no other machines used, and no wires were attached. It was estimated that the examination took about forty to forty-five minutes, in all.

After his clothes were put back on (this time without any help), W. stated that the beings began to communicate with him mentally, saying they had been watching him for some time and wanted to study him. They stated they would be seeing him again and he was given a shot of something. This was administered in the right arm near the shoulder. He was told that it might make him a little tired. When asked if it did, he stated "Yes, about a week later!" After this, W. was escorted back to the room where it all began, and related that next he was back in the car with his friend P.

Before awakening W., Dr. Hopkins went on to a few more questions, asking if there were a lot of test tubes in the hospital room. The answer was yes. We learned that a fingernail sample was taken and bottled. There was more questioning as to what was done with the blood samples. W. stated that after the samples were placed on a table awhile, they were taken from the room by one of the creatures. Upon being asked how he felt upon returning to the car, W. related that it felt like there was glass in his eyes. The doctor asked if this told pretty much the story of what happened while W. was unconscious, and the answer was affirmative.

Once more the hypnosis was terminated. Upon awakening, W. stated he felt there was something he was supposed to do. He was told, and escorted



Area where the witness saw the UFO.
 X indicates the place it was claimed the light shone on them from the object.
 XX where they stated they observed UFOs over the lake.

to the kitchen table where he drew a picture of the beings he'd observed while aboard the UFO.

Later Dr. Hopkins asked if we could have a couple more sessions to tie up some loose ends.

Session 7, March 9, 1976

More questioning about the first room. The window size was about one and a half feet. The floor was shiny. Walls a shiny grey, and the ceiling the same. W. felt a slight vibration and there was an odour as though something had burned. There were no pictures on any of the walls. More stress was laid on the area where the creature was hit. Upon impact, he was not knocked down but just stepped backwards, he made no noise, and the others did not react. His skin felt harder than ours, there was no discolouration, and no mark remained where the impact was made.

The creature seemed surprised when hit and when asked if they appeared to want to be friendly, W. stated "Yes." There was no indication that the beings communicated among themselves, for there was no sound between them. A button was missing from W's denim sleeve, which he said they put into a jar after cutting it off.

After W. returned to the car, it appeared that P. had no recollection that his friend had left him.

Throughout the hypnosis sessions there was complete consistency of both the conscious and

subconscious mind, during the questioning by Dr. Hopkins.

Session 8, March 23, 1976

W. said very little in this session but was more disturbed than at any other time. Dr. Hopkins suspected it was due to the line of questioning. This dealt in the main with the question of when the beings told W. they would return. W. stated he was given a time when they would see him again but when asked when this was, he would not answer. After persistent questioning on this point, W. became very upset, trying desperately to say something but at the same time giving the impression that something was holding him back. He trembled and shook his head indicating alternately yes, then no. Dr. Hopkins stated there was great conflict going on within. He was asked if he had been made some sort of promise and the answer was "Yes," but the nature of that also remains deep within the subconscious mind. W. was so upset that the questioning was brought to a halt and the session ended.

And so we have an account of what occurred during the blackout when the car was hit by the beam of light, with the exception of the promise made to W. and the matter of the return of the beings. Perhaps it is just as well that that remains in the shadows of W's mind.

COMMENTS ON THE PSYCHIATRIC-PARANORMAL ASPECTS OF THE MAINE CASE

*Berthold Eric Schwarz, M.D.**

SHORTLY after the Maine UFO Encounter, Brent Raynes telephoned me. Since it was impossible for me to leave at once, I suggested some nearby colleagues who had ample facilities at their disposal. However, since this didn't work out and I was becoming curious with each new report from investigators Mrs. Shirley Fickett and Brent Raynes, both of whom had corresponded with me for some years before the incident, I could resist no longer and drove to Mrs. Fickett's home in Portland, Maine, on January 16, 1976.

Mrs. Fickett reviewed past and current developments, and showed me all her material. I had previously listened to audio tapes of the hypnotic sessions that Herbert Hopkins, M.D., had with W. The following day, W., the contactee, arrived with his parents at noontime, and in the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Fickett, Brent Raynes (and his parents who came later), it was possible to go over the whole experience and conduct a psychiatric-paranormal survey. Although this technique of airing material in the presence of everyone (exclusive of P., the other young man who was with W. the night of the experience) had its drawbacks, there were advantages. For example, it was possible to observe the interaction between W., his parents and the investigators, etc., and also to weave back and forth over many features of the story. The obvious drawbacks to this quasi public method were compensated for by seeing W. and his parents individually and privately. During the eight-and-a-half hours spent with the family, I photographed all the people and we attempted an experimental paranormal audio taping.¹

W., aged 21, was a U.S.N. veteran of the Vietnam war, who received an honourable discharge. A high school graduate, he seemed to have average intelligence, and was open and co-operative; with one understandable proviso, that anonymity be maintained. W. gave no evidence for any undue trends of thought or preoccupations. Two and one half months after the contact W. still seemed frightened and puzzled by his unusual experience. His account dovetailed with what he had told Mrs. Fickett and Brent Raynes. There was no evidence from W's past history, or from interviews of his father and stepmother, for dishonesty, lying, falsification of, or loss of memory, previous sociopathic or dissociative behaviour, or of excessive interest in flying saucers, detailed knowledge of the Betty and Barney Hill abduction case,² or the Pascagoula incident,³ etc. This was also the situation for W's parents. They were distressed by what had happened to W., and as reported, the father even developed an episode of entranced and strange behaviour.⁴ The father

wanted help for his son (and himself?) and had to fathom the meaning of what happened. He completely trusted his son, and his family shared that attitude with Mrs. Fickett, Brent Raynes, Dr. Hopkins and myself.

The hypnotic sessions penetrated W's amnesia and yielded material that W. was unaware of. Only gradually did he learn what had happened aboard the UFO. It is interesting that, like the Hill's case and the Hickson-Parker case, W. had a physical examination. But superficially and technically considered it seemed so absurd that one wonders if this wasn't also staged by the UFO forces in order to create a particular impression. While entranced, W. recalled hitting one of the entities who was solid⁵ and who did not retaliate.

Many of W's symptoms following the encounter, when he entered his parent's home, might be explained as the physiological expressions of anxiety. Although weightlessness can be a symptom of anxiety or depersonalization, it is not a common complaint, and in view of the possible teleportation this symptom should be kept in mind. The battery of physiological tests⁶ that were used with the astronauts could be applicable here and might yield valuable clues. The complaint of sore and loose teeth is not common, but it would not be an unusual reaction for someone to develop when frightened and clenching his teeth. If the eyes were indeed orange⁷ it is unusual. I've never come across that history in seeing thousands of patients through the years. Although seriously disturbed patients in mental hospital can present bizarre symptoms, they don't develop orange eyes. Floyd Farrant, my ophthalmologist colleague, also could not account for this. However, he said that when he uses fluorescein in his work, the eyes become transiently orange. Could W (and possibly P) have had an eye examination with fluorescein dye? The orange eyes are also reminiscent of what is reported for many of the UFO-related Big Foot encounters, where the eyes are described as a glowing yellow or orange.

Possibly the sightings and events aboard the UFO were sufficiently awesome to induce the terror and the psychosomatic sequelae of sleepiness. Electroencephalography might give clues to the particular stage of sleep induced, or define a normal rhythm that is usually associated with a trance-like state. Other information might show temporal lobe concomitants to W's (and later to his father's?) fugue, changes in photic sensitivity (e.g., a factor in his headaches), etc. Although I've done electroencephalograms on gifted paragnosts (and on one person involved in an outbreak of presumed poltergeist activity) there were no scalp lead changes when successfully performing. That doesn't mean that UFO

* Consultant, Brain Wave Laboratory, Essex County Medical Center, Cedar Grove, New Jersey.

contactees might or might not have findings unless serial tracings or specialized techniques are used.

Although perhaps not unlike some of Mrs. Stella Lansing's seemingly allegorical experiences,⁸ there are the bizarre symbolic features of the twosomes of cows shaking their heads, and the ducks and Canadian geese alternately flying in twos. Was this reality, illusion, or hallucination? It seems similar to later events that occurred in the home and the pond, where W and P saw black cubes and spheres, and silver spheres. W. alone saw the beak of a giant bird. At times he saw things when others didn't, and this was also the case for P, who saw at W's home a black cube and golden wires, which W. didn't see. Many of these percepts are similar to what Mrs. Lansing has filmed on numerous occasions. Also, although there was no one else with him, W. reported seeing an ash tray suddenly levitate. Other psi and puzzling aspects of the case include the "fog"⁹ that engulfed the car, possible telephonic and mail effects, telepathy, precognition, various poltergeist effects, and a man in navy blue. What a field day for a team of investigators!

The question could be asked, what psychodynamically significant events, if any, might have gone on that might have set up the contactees for their experiences? Although it would have been desirable to have spent more time with W. alone, it was learned that he was upset, when he was in the Navy during the Vietnam war, and his parents were divorced. His father choked up when he confided that W's natural mother attempted suicide and had been hospitalized twice. It was strange that the stepmother didn't volunteer that she was not W's natural mother. The stepmother seemed to be a warm person who related well to W. She wanted the best for her family. She, like W's father, had been married previously, but unable to have children of her own, she and her first husband had adopted two children. W. was thus the second oldest of four natural siblings and of two young adoptive siblings. Of all the children, only his older sister, age 22, was involved in the UFO sequelae, for when she once opened the door after hearing a knock, she discovered no one there. The father, but not she, heard spelt out the letters "U-F-O." Were these events psychic projections from the unconscious of the protagonists and aimed at specific people and not others? If so, why and what is their origin? Paragnosts Jacques Romano and Joseph Dunninger were masters of telepathy, who could produce analogous presumed psychic effects when they were properly worked up, so that would not be an unusual situation, but again, why these people, at this time and place? What are the psychic dynamics?¹⁰

Approximately three months prior to the contact, W. and his family were jolted when they learned that the stepmother had an advanced malignancy which would need immediate and prolonged treatment. It should be noted that in some other contact situations prior to their experience the protagonists, like some gifted paragnosts, were keyed up to a near-crisis proportion, for the future seemed to hang in the balance. It has been mentioned that while in the Service W. had already lost his mother through

divorce, and apparently she was a taboo subject. Now W. was threatened with the loss of his warm and giving stepmother, and also his plans for marriage were marred. The reverberations echoed throughout the family; however, it is obvious that such tragedies are not that unusual, and when similar situations exist elsewhere, they are rarely, if ever, accompanied by UFO-psi sequelae as happened here. It is regrettable that there are not suitable clinical controls to aid in the evaluation of such factors. However, the highlights touched upon here suggest how this might be a fruitful area to explore.

In contrast to W's parents, P's family denied the validity of their son's reality and even called him a liar. Perhaps this lack of understanding drove him out of the home. P. moved west and it was impossible to obtain any further information. It might be wondered how well he will fare in the future, because of hypothesized previous similar home experiences¹¹ and the way that his UFO contact was handled (mangled?).

On speculating why these young men were "chosen" it should be noted that it might not have been an accident, for in their short acquaintance-ship both W. and P. were drawn together by their interest in the occult. Could this affinity have set the stage for what later happened? Motivation and suggestion are powerful forces. They can be contagious, and in spontaneous psi examples or in some seances they seemingly further the phenomena. The psychic nexus is part of a continuum — it can go back in time and peer into the future. Although as far as we know, both men had no previous consuming interest in UFOs, there was a background for psi. Perhaps a more prolonged and detailed study of W. and P. could uncover more psi data and better define the UFO-contact/psi interface. Before a collective unconscious effect is proposed, all the specific individual influences, interactions and experiences of the protagonists and their families should be worked out.

Psi could also account for the supposed EM effects. The alleged feats of Uri Geller¹² and other gifted mediums¹³ support this viewpoint. Perhaps a study of many gifted contactees will reveal the hypothetical anatomical, biochemical, or psychic substrates that energize and set off the critical interaction with the UFO. My experience indicates that W. has much in common with other contactees and gifted paragnosts I've studied, i.e., an apparent superabundance of energy, individualism, often being a loner, tendencies toward dissociation and perhaps much pent-up tension — people who give the impression that if their energies are not sufficiently channelled they would be ready to explode. Whatever the final reason, it is also a fact that in some of the families I've studied there is a permissive attitude for psi, sometimes going over three generations, or by history even longer.

Unfortunately not much is known about P. Although W. had no past dissociative behaviour like sleepwalking, fugues, excessive daydreaming, etc., it should be noted that like so many contactees in my experience, and unlike most people in general, he was an excellent hypnotic subject and

had amnesia for what he recalled during entrancement.

Not much was learned about W's family history. His father's father was of German descent: his mother came from a long line of New Englanders, some of whom were clergymen, and there might have been a witch or two in the background. W's mother was of Irish extraction and came from the midwest. Aside from her mental illness (recurrent depressions and suicide attempts?), not much is known about her. According to the father, W's natural mother had no knowledge of her son since the divorce. The father did not know if the former wife remarried or not. In the interviews, it appeared that W's relationship to his mother was glossed over. His private responses indicated unrequited longing and curiosity. Possibly this repression could have been displaced and have added force to the outlet in his contact and related psi experiences. Although touchy, this is also a necessary area for further probing.

W. recalled a possible psi episode when he was in the Navy. While stationed in Norfolk, Virginia, he once met a stranger on the street, called him by name, and told him things about his life. Although W. could not immediately recall other similar psi examples, he said this experience was not unusual. Coupled with the psi aspects of the UFO experience, this faculty might indicate that W. possesses the potential of being a powerful medium. However, this does not explain how, if psychic ability is an indispensable factor for a UFO experience, it took the specific trappings: i.e., the supposed EM effects, the terror, the medical examination, etc. Is the brilliant display of psi — via the UFO symbolism — the message? Could it be as simple as some contactees proclaim: that the purpose of the contact is to alert man to the existence of forces and powers that exert control over his destiny, and that these forces

can vastly expand man's awareness and free him from the materialism that endangers his present-day culture? Or the opposite could be: if man can't learn to cope with such forces as his own hostilities and aggressions he will be destroyed by them. Like all powers, psi can be used for good or evil, depending on the values accorded: e.g., myths, dogmas, superstitions, and the belief systems that surround us.¹⁴ Whether these forces and effects come from projections and condensations of men (or UFO entities) — individually or collectively — in complex ways analogous to how thought and feelings can be transferred in psychodynamic telepathic drawing experiments,¹⁵ is impossible to determine. Whatever the explanation, and the cause and effect relation, the paranormal aspects appear to be central in this case. Mrs. Fickett, Brent Raynes, and Dr. Hopkins had to cope with factors that ethically prohibited their pursuing matters further, but they are to be complimented for their care, consideration and diligence.

Under utopian circumstances it would have been advantageous to have had collaborative psychiatric study of W, P, and their families, so that the loose ends to their experiences could have been pinpointed and fitted together. Facts could replace speculations. In psychotherapeutic techniques the more time that is spent, the more that is learned.

Complex human matters cannot be approached in a simplistic way. In future cases it is hoped that more physicians can be recruited to aid in the investigations and that it will be possible to have thorough physical examinations, appropriate laboratory studies, including electroencephalography, etc. At the least, as much attention should be paid to the human part of the equation as is given to the other data. Perhaps something of practical benefit could come from ufology. No study of any close sighting, landing



Figure 1

Photograph taken by Shirley Fickett at the UFO site. Two strange artifacts resembling UFOs, are seen, similar to those Mrs. Stella Lansing has obtained on many occasions.

or contact case is complete without plans for a long-term follow-up, an adjunctive medical, psychiatric-paranormal survey, and the contributions of the various social sciences.

The thirty-minute attempted paranormal tape recording made in the presence of everyone during the visit did not yield anything. However, in their studies Mrs. Fickett and Brent Raynes took pictures of the UFO site. Mr. Raynes obtained some unusual photographic effects, but artifact seemed to be the likely explanation. Mrs. Fickett's pictures of the alleged landing site showed some strange artifacts resembling UFOs which were similar to what Mrs. Stella Lansing has obtained on many occasions (Figure 1).

Notes and References

- Schwarz, B.E.: "Commentary on the Roberts Mystery," *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol.21 (No.6) 18-19, 1976. Also, on a more recent audio tape Mrs. Lansing obtained a halting man's voice, perseverating: "...please believe me," and then later, "Please believe me, Mrs. Lansing." This was associated with jamming of the tape recorder, and was photographed on motion picture film by Mrs. Lansing. Experimental presumed paranormal tape effects in connection with ufology can also be found in: "Follow-up on Betty Hill," submitted to FSR for publication, 1976.
- Fuller, John: *The Interrupted Journey*, Dial Press, New York, 1966.
- Blum, R., and J.: *Beyond Earth*, Bantam, New York, 1974.
- For similar entrancement with a fugue and its possible dangerous complications, see Schwarz, B.E.: "Berserk: A UFO Creature Encounter," FSR, Vol.20 (No.1): 3-11, 1974. Also, a situation that I have followed over a period of time and which Stan Gordon and the Pennsylvania Center for UFO Research, of Greensburg, have thoroughly investigated, involved a series of spectacular psychic effects, MIB phenomena, and recurrent fugues, during which the quasi contactee behaved as if possessed, and demonstrated, on many occasions, dangerous, violent acting out.
- Similar indications of the solid (materialized?) nature of the UFO or entities are given in a Venezuelan case, where the protagonist stabbed the UFO-associated dwarf and found that the blade "glanced off the body as though from steel," (Creighton, Gordon and Bowen, Charles (ed.), *The Humu* ..., Neville Spearman, London, 1969, pp. 93-94) and in the instance where Gary Wilcox threw a rock at the craft and it bounced off (see FSR, Special Issue No. 3, 1969, pp. 20-27, "Gary Wilcox and the Ufonauts."); also, the famous Kelly-Hopkinville sighting as reported in Hynek, J. Allen: *The UFO Experience, A Scientific Inquiry*, Henry Regnery Co., Chicago, 1972, pp. 150-155. In *The Edge of Reality* (Hynek, J. Allen, and Vallée, Jacques, Henry Regnery Co., Chicago, 1975, pp. 129-142), Dr. Hynek recounts the example of Mr. H., who with three other hunters had noticed what they thought was an airplane come down and crash. The craft, or whatever it was, had four occupants beside it. In the course of matters, Mr. H. fired a shot and hit one of the forms in the right shoulder: "When the individual was struck, he spun around, down to his knees, and he got up with the other guy's assistance, and looked over and said or hollered, 'Now, what the hell did you do that for?' (p. 136)." This experience indicates a solid effect. For many years afterwards Mr. H. suffered with this horrible secret. Through coincidence or synchronicity it was my fortune to spend several hours with this man. As in other contactee situations, I learned about his many personal and family paranormal experiences.
- The severity and persistence of many of W's symptoms, as for example his weightlessness and sleepiness, would suggest considering the battery of physiological studies for some contactees that were used for the astronauts (see Driscoll, Everly: "Every Man's Response to Zero-G," *Science News*, Vol.102 (Sept. 9): 172-174, 1972; and "Inside the Crew of Skylab II," *World Medical News*, Dec. 14, 1973, pp. 26-27).
- Although not orange eyes, a related eye effect pertains to a contactee under study by the Cleveland Ufology Group. In the midst of her experience, this woman noted a golden spotlight shining out from her left eye. She claimed it was 10-12 inches in diameter and would light up the TV, refrigerator, walls, and that she could read through it. My study of this contactee revealed many interesting psychic aspects for her and other members of her family.
- Schwarz, B.E.: "Stella Lansing's UFO Motion Pictures," FSR, Vol.18 (No.1): 3-12 (Jan./Feb., 1972). "Stella Lansing's UFO Movies of Four Entities and Possible UFO," FSR, Special Issue No. 5, UFO Encounters: 2-10, 1973. "Stella Lansing's Clocklike possible UFO Formations," FSR, Vol.20 (No.4): 3-9 (January 1975) Part I; *Ibid.*, Part II, Vol.20 (No.5): 20-27 (March 1975). *Ibid.*, Part III, Vol.20 (No.6): 18-22 (April 1975). *Ibid.*, Part IV, Vol.21 (No.1): 14-17 (June 1975).
- In World War I, British troops mysteriously disappeared at Gallipoli, after they were enveloped in a strange mist, according to accounts from New Zealand sources. References on mist and UFOs are: Creighton, G.: "Teleportations," FSR, Vol.16 (No.2): 14-16 (Mar./April 1965); Galindez, Oscar A.: "Teleportation from Chascomus to Mexico," FSR, Vol.14 (No.5): 3-4 (Sept./Oct. 1968); Frederickson, Sven-Olof: "Finnish Encounter on the Snow," FSR, Vol.16 (No.4): 31-32 (July/Aug. 1970); Frederickson, Sven-Olof: "More on the Imjarvi Case," FSR, Vol.16 (No.6): 22 (Nov./Dec. 1970); Frederickson, Sven-Olof, et al.: "The Strange Force That Moved a Car," FSR Case Histories Supplement No. 10: 1-3 (June 1972). The apparently related subject of teleportation with its parapsychological and ufological implications, can be found in a 30-item bibliography featuring studies by Fodor, Sanderson, Jessup, Creighton and Galindez; see Galindez, Oscar A.: "A New Teleportation Near Cordoba," FSR, Vol.19 (No.3): 6-12 (May/June 1973); also see Bowen, Charles: "Car Teleported by UFOs in Rhodesia," FSR Vol.21 (No.1): 18-20 (June 1975); van Vlieden, Carl (transcribed by Bowen, Charles) "Escorted by UFOs From Umvuma to Beit Bridge," FSR, Vol.21 (No.2): 3-10 (August 1975); and the Travis Walton case in the *APRO Bulletin*, Vol.24 (No.5): 1-5 (Nov. 1975); *ibid.*, "Walton Takes Polygraph Test," Vol.24 (No.6): 1-3 (Dec. 1975).
- Some of my psychiatric studies touching on the paranormal aspects of ufology can be found in FSR, Vol.17 (No.2): 4-9 (March/April 1971); Vol.17 (No.3): 21-27 (May/June 1971); Vol.18 (No.4): 5-9, 17 (July/Aug. 1972); Vol.19 (No.1): 3-6 (Jan./Feb. 1973); Vol.19 (No.2): 18-23 (March/April 1973); Vol.21 (Nos. 3,4 (No.2): 18-23 (March/April 1973); Vol.21 (Nos. 3,4): 22-28 (Nov. 1975). Also see, Proceedings of the Eastern UFO Symposium, Jan. 23, 1971, Baltimore, Maryland, pp. 8-12 (sponsored by APRO, Tucson, Arizona); Proceedings of the 5th APRO UFO Symposium, June 15, 1974, Pottstown, Pa., pp. 14-18; Proceedings, MUFON 1974 UFO Symposium, Akron, Ohio, June 22, 1974, pp. 82-95. A fascinating case from the New York-New Jersey megalopolis dealt with possible landings, occupants and sightings, involving different witnesses near the Stonehenge apartments. See Bloecher, T.,

Hopkins, B., and Stoecher, J.: "Digging Holes in the Ground, Occupants Sighted in New Jersey," *Skylook*, No. 100, pp. 3-7, (Mar. 1976). My cousin whose medical office is close by, told me about a medical secretary at the local hospital and her related sighting with possible telephone harassment. I also saw four of the Stonehenge protagonists in cursory psychiatric and paranormal surveys, and unsuccessfully attempted some movie experiments. EU, the day dorman, and a leading experient, has had lifelong high-quality psi: e.g., possible precognition — he claimed foreknowledge of the UFO activity — apparitions and telekinesis. His son and wife also had unusual presumed psi experiences. EU and the apartment electrician shared a close daytime sighting. They noted how the top floor of their apartment was unique, and might have resembled the stereotyped concept of a conventional UFO by its circular shape, dome, and flashing lights on the sides. EU wondered: "Is there an attraction to this building?" It might have been more than just the building. If hoax can be excluded for the episodes of the little man digging a hole, this series of UFO events in the heart of the metropolitan

area is unusual. From the earliest years to the present FSR has had many excellent articles on the general and psychological psi aspects of ufology.

11. Robinson, David B. (ed.): *Experience, Affect, and Behaviour, psychoanalytic Explorations of Dr. Adelaide McFadyen Johnson*, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1969.
12. See Creighton, Gordon: "Uri Geller, the Man Who Bends Science," FSR, Vol.19 (No.5): 8-11 (Sept./Oct. 1973); Puharich, Andrija: *A Journal of the Mystery of Uri Geller*, Anchor Press, Doubleday, Garden City, N.Y., 1974; and Geller, U.: *Uri Geller, My Story*, Warner Brooks Inc., (Paperback) New York, 1975.
13. Fodor, Nandor: *Encyclopaedia of Psychic Science*, University Books, New Hyde Park, N.Y. 1966.
14. The masterful writing of John A. Keel and many FSR editorials and articles through the years fully explore these challenging possibilities.
15. Schwarz, B.E.: "Psychodynamic Experiments in Telepathy," *Corrective Psychiatry and the Journal of Social Therapy*, Vol.9 (No.4): 169-214 (1963).

BOOK REVIEW

Flight Towards Reality, Victor Goddard (Turnstone Books, £2.50)

AS most of our readers will know, the author is a distinguished scientist and retired R.A.F. Air Marshal. In this deeply thoughtful and thought-provoking book, he deals with much paranormal experience, ranging from survival of death and the evidence for it, down to dowsing and other techniques which undoubtedly exist, yet still defy satisfactory explanation. Sir Victor also deals with UFOs, and this is why a review of the book appears here.

As all our readers know, many authorities today are beginning to veer away from belief in the actual and extraterrestrial existence of UFOs — the chief proponent of which is still Major Keyhoe — and to think in terms of more subjective explanations, despite the undoubted facts that UFOs can leave physical traces, can interfere with electrical circuits, can be tracked by radar, and seem in every way to be examples of some supernatural hardware with an equally supernatural power to manoeuvre and attain almost astronomical speeds.

The favourite new theory of some is that what we are seeing over our world — and *really seeing* — are fully materialised projections *backwards* in time from the period in the next millenium when such vehicles will first be built in ordinary "man-made" time. This concept is difficult to grasp, but it is finding favour, especially in certain official circles which have now been forced to accept the actual existence of UFOs in our skies.

But Sir Victor puts forward the theory — for the first time, I believe — that the UFOs we see today are materialised "thought-forms" brought into existence by discarnate inventors and designers who — in the next world — carry on their aeronautical work. The notion of "thought-forms" will be familiar to all those engaged in research on survival after death: it has been convincingly shown by many discarnate communicators that, in certain circum-

stances, they can create actual objects by the power of imagining, hence "thought-forms." It has also been shown — occasionally — that discarnate people can succeed in materialising themselves and certain other items for us to see and experience on earth. Sir Victor carries this idea further, and suggests that UFOs may be fully materialised thought-forms of this kind.

Whatever one's own views, this book, for both its mental and spiritual examination of many paranormal subjects, is well worth reading. Sir Victor displays a very fine mind, and as fine a sensibility, allied with that humility of spirit common to many great men.

CHARLES H. GIBBS-SMITH

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URGENTLY REQUIRED: a copy of the book "Flying Saucers Close Up" by John W. Dean, now out of print. Write, stating price, to David Chan, S.P.C.C. Science Club, Caine Road, Caine Way Mansion, 25th Floor, Flat B, Hong Kong.

IN DEFENCE OF AMATEURS

Ann Druffel

Mrs. Druffel has written regularly for *Flying Saucer Review* for more than five years and, in addition to the activities she describes herein, she is also a member of the Center for UFO Studies, and gave a paper at the recent Conference. We understand that this article has been accepted for publication in *Skylook*, the MUFON journal.

I N recent months a few books have been published, written by scientists in the field of ufology. We hail the arrival of these books, for they indicate that ufology has at last reached respectability in the public eye.

This attitude should be encouraged, but it is strange, for it should always be respectable to seek truth. But in our technologically-orientated society, the stamp of scientific approval on any field of endeavour is tantamount to public acceptance.

The books referred to above are fascinating. But without exception, each refers to scientists as having an innate ability to seek truth, comparing "scientists" to the "amateurs" who have handled the majority of public UFO research during the past three decades.

Being one of these "amateurs" myself, I must confess the term rankles me. For some obscure reason I have frequently looked upon an amateur as a bungling idiot, akin to an amateur carpenter who smashes his thumb with a hammer, or an amateur plumber who ends up knee-deep in water yelling for help.

Since this meaning of "amateur" is about as far from the real meaning as Pluto is from Mercury, a brief review of terms is in order.

"Amateur," going back to its Latin root, means "one who loves." Apply this to the well-known genre of amateur astronomers, who for centuries have studied planets, discovered comets, and were the first to become aware of radio sources in space. These amateur astronomers, a majority of whom are qualified observers with precision instruments, typically make no money from their contributions, but engage in astronomical study for sheer love of the work.

This is not to take anything away from professional astronomers. But there is no great difference between the *quality* of work put in by a paid professional astronomer and a good amateur. Most professional astronomers are only too glad to admit to this fact.

So to our "amateur" ufologists.

The very word "ufologist" brings up another semantical snag. What is a ufologist? It is one who studies ufology.

The first ufologists *had* to be amateurs. Since ufology has been in existence less than thirty years, it has not yet become a science. Too little is known about UFOs to even properly classify them — and classification is the heart of any science.

Likewise, almost nothing is known of the facts behind their existence — what they are, their purpose and motives, how they are propelled. A prolonged

study into the literature leaves any researcher, scientist and non-scientist alike, agape with their seemingly infinite complexity.

It must be admitted by anyone who studies UFOs that ufology is not yet a science, and therefore a ufologist is not a scientist, *per se*.

The only answer to this problem lies in determining who is competent to study UFOs. At present this research requires two things: 1. detailed documentation, without prejudice, of whatever facts are available from individual sightings, and 2. generous individual donation of time, energy and resources without hope of compensation.

Let us hope that this second requirement will change before very long. But until money grants become available to fund extensive research projects, each ufologist must willingly pay his own way.

Referring back to the two requirements for a ufologist — 1. an ability to perform competent research and 2. a willingness to give of his/her own resources — where does anyone get the idea that only scientists are capable of fulfilling these demands? Why are non-scientists referred to as "amateurs"?

When I was taking graduate training in the field of social case work, an established and respected profession, one of the first things we were taught was the definition of a "profession." A profession possesses two elements: first, it provides a needful and trained service to society and secondly, the members should give that service with financial reward being secondary in their minds.

If one reviews the requirements for a "profession" and for a "ufologist," one will note that they have identical elements. Therefore, a competent ufologist — scientist and non-scientist alike — is to all intents and purposes a professional.

It all comes down to whether each individual researcher is competent to study UFOs. I have known scientists who sadly lacked the ability to interview witnesses properly; likewise I have known competent persons in non-scientific fields who easily gathered "the facts" with open, objective minds. And vice versa.

Let's face it. In ufology there are no real professionals because of the tenuous nature of the subject. There are no amateurs either, if the term is used in semantical opposition to "professional." There are only those persons who can competently give of themselves.

Provided each researcher is competent, we are all professionals or we are all amateurs together.

(continued on page 31)

IS THE EARTH A CULTURE MEDIUM?

Dr. Bernard Finch, MRCS, LRCP, DCh, FBIS

H G. Wells was right, as we remember the "pay-off" in his story *War of the worlds*: the aliens were vanquished by Earth's bacterial infections, to which man was immune, but to which the aliens had no immunity. My contention is that a similar situation could have been occurring with occupants of UFOs.

First we notice the reluctance of the aliens to make contact with humans; perhaps they are afraid of contagious infections. To support this point we notice that they are said always to wear protective covering and helmets, but not, apparently, as we originally speculated, to protect them from our atmosphere, but to prevent them breathing in spores from that atmosphere. Again, this would explain the strange antics of UFOs in various areas of the world — from taking up water, to testing for sterility in samples of plants and soil — for they cannot land and expose themselves unless the area chosen is free from bacterial and virus invaders.

Secondly, we see another piece of evidence in several contact stories, where blood samples have been taken from "victims," and frequently by tubes and suction, as in the case of A. Villas Boas. Surely this must be for testing for antibodies which we earthlings all have in our blood. They may use this blood for developing a vaccine for immunising themselves against current infections.

For it would appear that the UFO entities are unable to sustain an existence on our planet without previous immunisation against all the current viruses and bacteria which permeate our atmosphere and lives. This immunity could be short lived and fresh samples of blood from earthlings must be obtained at frequent intervals to keep their immunity high.

During times of epidemics on the earth — when fresh immunisation is required against virulent organisms — so there may be a rash of UFO sightings, landings and abductions, for an immunisation programme.

It would be instructive to plot incidences of landings against incidences of epidemics in the last fifty years when I assume we would find identical

curves. We can conclude that the aliens may have lost their powers of immunity to infection, or they may have had it suppressed by radiations on their own planet, or from space. Is the earth a giant "culture medium" for bacteria and viruses, and do space aliens come here to obtain blood samples, to prepare vaccines to build up their immunity? Failure of immunity, or lack of immunity, would mean the death of the alien — and, by the way, how do they dispose of their dead? By burial, or by cremation? We must not forget that they often have been reported digging holes, and the purpose of this may not always be for retrieving soil samples.

I feel that the time has come for a new appraisal of the whys and wherefores of the landings and sightings, for we must remember that the earth's gravity field attracts all manner of space debris including spores of bacteria and viruses. These sink down into our atmosphere where warmth and moisture are ideal for their multiplication. This is repeated in humans until conditions are ripe for an epidemic. During this period a high titre of antibodies is built up in human blood. After the epidemic, the blood concentration of antibodies is very high, an ideal time for non-immune aliens to prepare a vaccine.

So we must study areas of the earth, after epidemics, for sightings of helmeted and protective covered creatures. Later, having immunised themselves, for a short time the aliens will be safe to make direct contacts... Still later, their immunity wears off, and they avoid contact and appear only in isolated sterile surroundings well away from human habitations.

Let us not forget that we can read in the Bible, and no doubt elsewhere, of objects being seen in the skies after epidemics or plagues, and of "contacts" having been made. There springs to mind the story of the Plagues in Egypt, of the Flight of the Hebrews, of the passage of the Red Sea and of the Pillar of Cloud by day and of fire by night.

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ON THE SIRIUS MYSTERY

Victor Goddard

AN excellent new book *The Sirius Mystery* by Robert K.G. Temple (published by Sidgwick and Jackson, £6.95; 272 pages with appendices and index), presents a serious research into knowledge which has been lost but which, apparently, was well established over 5,000 years ago; it seems to have influenced profoundly the Sumerian and Egyptian hierarchies towards civilisation. Robert Temple's researches make it evident that these leaders civilisation were actually guided in their thoughts towards their great achievements on this planet, and it is to be hoped that more and more people will become aware of his work. There is a good chance that this is likely to come about because, already, a second printing has been ordered by the publishers, and the author and his book are to be welcomed in America this year. No doubt, a new edition of the book will be published in the U.S.A. Indeed, one of the most remarkable aspects of this publication has been the widespread and extensive reviews that have been published in the Press and the many interviews which have been broadcast by radio featuring the author and his work.

Briefly, the story is that some beings called Nommos arrived in the country now called Libya more than 3,000 years B.C. before the start of the Egyptian dynasties. These Nommos were received, so Robert Temple's researches show, by a community in Libya who have been identified, after successive migrations, as a tribe by the name of Dogon. They have been found in the Mali region of the South Sahara. They have a religion and a priesthood which are based upon a remarkable knowledge of the brightest light in the heavens, after the Sun, Moon and Venus — the star, Sirius.

The mystery featured in the title lies in the process by which advanced astronomical knowledge came into the possession of men who lived so long ago and had no technological means of gaining that information. Sirius, of course, has been an object of interest to mankind considering the heavens for many years, but the fact that Sirius is more than a single star has only been known to astronomers for about one hundred years. The further fact that there is a secondary star moving around the main star has much more recently been discovered. Furthermore, there are things about this tiny, adjacent star — Sirius B — which make it remarkably interesting astronomically. For instance, it was the first-to-be-discovered White Dwarf; it has been proved to be immensely heavy — its specific gravity being several thousand times that of water. Also, its orbit around Sirius A takes about fifty years, and that orbit is uneven in its track because of some interference which is now believed to be an as-yet-unobserved Sirius C, and either Sirius C or Sirius B is believed by the astronomers to have a satellite revolving around it. But all the facts just mentioned and the final theories about Sirius C and

Sir Victor Goddard, airman of distinction, whose career with the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force spanned from 1915, the Somme in 1916, and a spell as Captain of the Airship R36, to Air Marshal commanding the New Zealand Air Forces in the South Pacific in World War II, service with the Air Council and the Berlin airlift operation. He also pursued a varied academic career, being a science graduate of Cambridge University and a post-graduate of London University in aeronautical engineering. Since his retirement from the RAF Sir Victor has evinced a deep interest in psychical research and healing, interests which have brought him into touch with UFO researchers and research. He has been a reader of our journal for many years, and has made his own characteristic observations about UFOs in his own books, the latest of which is *Flight Towards Reality*. He is a member of RILKO (Research into Lost Knowledge), as also is the author, Robert Temple, of the book which he here reviews.

EDITOR

a satellite are included in the beliefs and religious rites of the Dogon tribe now living in Mali.

The mystery is diligently explored in the book by the author who thus clearly establishes himself as a man of intellectual integrity. And the fact that he has latterly been accepted as a Ph.D student in the University of Warwick in the Historical Faculty shows that he is also well regarded by our Intellectual Establishment.

Readers may not all need to study in detail the middle part of the book which is largely concerned to prove the reliability of the evidences which go towards solving the mystery; that is, the explanation of the influences upon the Dogon tribe and upon the Sumerian and Egyptian dynasties. But a mystery which remains is in regard to the means of arrival of the Nommos on this planet from Sirius, if, indeed, they came from Sirius B. The evidences for this supposition are hard to accept but, nevertheless, are very strong that these Nommos (capable of dematerialisation, perhaps) arrived on Earth in a space craft and that they were of a "merman" type of being, which required occasional if not habitual immersion in water. For that reason, the space ship landed in a hollow which was then inundated with water.

The reading public throughout the world has become accustomed to the idea of spaceships and, through their interest in UFOs, they may be ready to accept the idea of dematerialisation. It may be that starry-eyed acceptance has too readily been given to the modern range of literature about extra-terrestrial technologies and the beings which are said to fly in UFOs. None of that literature, however, has been based on serious original research by any of the many authors. *The Sirius Mystery* is clearly an entirely new departure perhaps not in the same

(continued on page 32)

THE EDITOR GOES WEST

Charles Bowen

AN invitation to attend the first meeting of the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) couldn't have come at a better moment for there had been enticing suggestions from other friends that I should visit the United States at about that time. The CUFOS invitation was the final incentive.

As I understood it, the meeting was intended to be largely informal, and was to be held at an hotel between Chicago and Evanston, close to the shores of Lake Michigan. It would be a welcome opportunity to meet for the first time many people who had been valued contributors to *Flying Saucer Review*, and many others well-known to many of us by reputation. Furthermore there would be old friends to meet again, Dr. J. Allen Hynek and Mrs. Mimi Hynek, Mrs. Ann Druffel, Dr. Dave Saunders, Dr. David Jacobs and Fred Beckman, all of whom had visited us in London on numerous occasions.

Apart from the meeting at Chicago, my trip was fixed to take in visits to the New York — New Jersey area, where of course

I was to meet that good friend and FSR colleague, Dr. Berthold Eric Schwarz, his family and friends. And although I thought I knew Bert Schwarz well from his correspondence and the occasional telephone conversation, his energy, drive and enthusiasm still came as something of a revelation to me.

Indeed my education began soon after we had met at J.F. Kennedy Airport, for to mark my first visit to New York the good doctor and his son Eric drove me on a worm's-eye-view tour of the towering city, through Queens, under East River, and into a Saturday afternoon Manhattan. But that was not the end of it, for after the passage of the Lincoln Tunnel under the Hudson River we were in New Jersey — the Garden State, one learns from the car registration plates — and bearing northwards on to the Palisades. I soon discovered the reason for taking this route, for after I had gazed in awe across the river at the waterfront anchorages backed by forests of concrete, steel and glass skyscrapers in row upon soaring row — anchorages which once teemed with ocean liners, but now berthed only two or three — we reached a district called North Bergen.

We had made a detour from the main route, and my host said in apparent seriousness:

"There we are; that's Stonehenge."

And he indicated a gaunt, unlovely-looking, multi-sided tower, with so many sides it looked cylindrical. To be honest, I couldn't have imagined anything less like Britain's famous stone circle, a relic of a masterpiece built over the centuries between 4000 and 3500 years ago by the Beaker and Wessex folks, aided, we suspect, by Mycenaean architects. I don't know whom the North Bergen folk hired to do their job for them; they might have had a more aesthetically



pleasing result if the Wessex folk and the Mycenaeans had still been around.

Dr. Schwarz broke my brief reverie:

"There have been all manner of UFO reports, landings and occupants, around that building," and he gave a brief synopsis of events. This latter-day "Stonehenge" had only been plagued by flying saucers: the beautiful one back in England has been accused by people, many of whom should have known better, of having been built to look like one.

Events at N. Bergen, I learned, had been the subject of a thorough investigation by local investigator Ted Bloecher and his friends, whom we were due to meet at Chicago.

And so, deeper into New Jersey and to afternoon tea at (for me) bed time, followed by a trip out to dinner with the senses protesting that it was time to be tucked up and fast asleep. Then, at last, wearily to bed where, not unexpectedly, sleep stayed away. Finally and in desperation, with "jet lag" coming in for the blame, the TV is switched on randomly to test its soporific effect. No such luck, for there on the screen was none other than Betty Hill, of *Interrupted Journey* fame, being interviewed with Stanton Friedman.

One of my many surprises was how Berthold Schwarz contrives



Berthold E. Schwarz



Ann Druffel



Jerome Clark and Richard Yinger



Fred Beckman (left) and Claude Poher

to combine a busy practice as a psychiatrist, and a consultancy to the Brain Wave department of a big hospital, with his interests in parapsychology and the overlapping UFOs. Even with his drive and enthusiasm, and even with his smoothly organised operation both on the professional and on the extra-mural fronts, it is still a herculean achievement. And what he does — and here I can speak only in so far as UFOs are concerned — is of prime importance, especially in the realm of the in-depth psychiatric examination of witnesses. Furthermore it is his long association with psychic research that permits him to probe into the psi-UFO overlap, which rouses the hackles of both those who prefer their UFO-thought “straight, no-nonsense and E.T.” and the spiritualists among psychic researchers.

I still look back in wonder at the coincidence that Dr. Schwarz as a last throw in what was then for him a minor interest in UFO reports, should have submitted a paper to a medical journal. It was accepted and published and, via John Keel, came to the notice of *Flying Saucer Review*. We obtained permission to re-print the item in our Special Issue No. 2 *Beyond Condon*, and the happy association has burgeoned since then.

Chicago

On April 29 Bert Schwarz and I flew to Chicago to take part in the CUFOS conference at the

Lincolnwood Hyatt Hotel. During preliminary get-togethers, when we were met by the Hyneks and Dave Saunders, we had our first meeting with Dr. Leo Sprinkle and with an entirely new personality, Dr. Jean-Pierre Petit, a French physicist. These two gentlemen were in turn to be jointly the life and soul of the party; Leo Sprinkle for his great good humour and infectious laugh, and J-P. Petit for his wit, and ability not only as a physicist but also as a cartoonist. Busy too, guiding, meeting and directing, were Margo Metegrano, the Center's secretary, and Mark Chesney.

As the group assembled, there was Jerome Clark — he must have been very young when, as my first American correspondent after I

became Editor, he started to write for FSR — Dr. Claude Poher, Fred Merritt, Richard Bonenfant, Henry McKay, Wido Hoville, John Musgrave (the last three from Canada), Ann Druffel, Jenny Zeidman and Joan Jeffers, Drs. Richard Haines, Richard Yinger, Bruce Maccabee and Alvin Lawson, and also Ted Bloecher, David Webb, Don Worley and Jim McCampbell. The last member to arrive had travelled farthest, having made a long and arduous trek all the way from Brazil, flying from Belo Horizonte to Rio, and thence to New York and finally to Chicago; it was a delight to meet Professor Húlvio Brant Aleixo, particularly well-known to readers of FSR for his splendid studies on the Bebedouro and Baleia cases.



Dr. Jean-Piere Petit's final comment on experimental shapes propounded in his lecture on hydromagnetics

In all some seventy members attended, 63 from all points of the United States, and 7 from abroad, which, considering the distances travelled, was a very commendable turnout.

Once the serious business of the meeting began it became clear that informality had been dispensed with; a large number of people, it seemed, had applied to give a paper. And here I am obliged to make a criticism. There were far too many papers for the short time of the meeting, time allocations were consistently over-run, and there was no time to breathe in between many of the presentations, let alone meet and speak with people. For my part (and I was not alone in this) I found myself leaving the auditorium from time to time, either to take a rest, or to meet up with someone for a private chat.

It was not that the papers lacked interest. Most of them were extremely engaging and of

considerable value, and some of them were fascinating. It was encouraging to hear and see the earnest scientists, young, and some not so young, as they discussed, for example, the merits and proved the validity of this or that photograph, the perils inherent in perception, and the forecasting of waves of UFO reports.

Ted Bloecher's paper about the New Jersey "Stonehenge" events was of great interest. It will be published in the next issue of FSR, so suffice it to say here that one of the associated incidents was a bizarre "stone collecting" expedition by entities from a UFO, entities that moved like automatons and apparently succeeded in doing little else other than puzzle the observer. This reported behaviour also puzzled some of those present, as was apparent from the questions put to the speaker, questions which revealed a measure of

impatience that anything so pointless should be reported or considered. At the end of all this I mentioned that it was our experience of humanoid encounters that most of the reported activities seemed pointless. I supported this with a brief description of the account of the French motorist who saw a glowing object shaped like an Italian coffee pot as it landed in a field next to the road where he had halted his car. A "door" opened and three mechanically-moving entities came out and paraded back and forth around the craft carrying objects that looked like fishing rods. This produced a good laugh, heartily led by Leo Sprinkle, and the meeting proceeded happily enough, but immediately, to the next paper.

I had the pleasure of addressing the meeting on the last (Sunday) morning. Following the theme that good things usually start in a small way — that FSR is a good thing and, although still small, is an accepted world leader, and that CUFOs is small, but good — I stressed the point that until the Center can get adequate funding, it mustn't try to be too big too quickly. I traced the history of FSR and spoke of our aims, and of the need to look at some of the strange and to some, almost unacceptable reports, and so to broaden out outlook on the subject. I closed by relating briefly the story of Peter and Frances and their nightmarish ride from Umvuma to Beit Bridge, and what was revealed by investigation using hypnosis. That, I said, was my spanner thrown in their works.

After that it was lunch, many farewells and an American Airlines DC10 blasting its way from Chicago to New Jersey. There some hard but essential work awaited me. Hopefully it will bear fruit later this year. And, by the way, I did hear that Columbia are working on a film called — would you believe it — *Encounters of the Third Kind!*

Postscript:

Dr. Richard Haines has promised to write up a summary of the papers given at the meeting and this should appear in our next issue. C.B.



Farewell to the conference and farewell to Chicago as we fly off past Northwestern University

Going back East: Dr. Hynek's observatory at Northwestern University on shore of Lake Michigan is arrowed

THE "SNAILS" ARE STILL AROUND - PART 2

Ernst Berger

OUR second part of the follow-up report on the Traunstein local "flap" will deal with phenomena up to the deadline of April 20, 1975.

December 14, 1974

Between 6.45 and 7.00 p.m. CET, Hans Pritz started his car and left for Kaltenbach. The night was starry, even too starry. One especially bright "star" seemed to be out of place, twinkling 4° over the horizon. Pritz drove home to fetch his binoculars and trained them on the "star". What he saw was enough to make him drive 1.7 km. further to the south-west and park his car in a field. He cranked down the side window. Later he asked us: "Have you ever watched the beacon light of a patrol car? It was very much like that, a patch of light going round and round." The object had Jupiter brightness and was basically of yellowish tint but changed colours a little, though they were weak. The "beacon" rotated continuously counterclockwise with a frequency of about one rev. per second. With binoculars the object was also seen to be projecting a very thin motionless ray from the upper left edge straight upwards to a point some two object diameters distant, where it ended abruptly.

Suddenly Hans spotted a carmine red dot in the sky in the beacon-object's first position (az. 114°), but lower, flying towards the east at the same moderate speed. "Maybe it was released from the big one and I missed it, because I looked somewhere else... It struck me they were flying so slowly - no speed compared to 1973." The whole watch lasted hardly a quarter of an hour. The red dot was finally lost in the distance and the "beacon" flew further to the west where it eventually was lost in a cloud.

December 21, 1974

While Hans Pritz was watching TV, Fichtinger arrived to tell him to come and see three objects which didn't fit into the star formations. They were the usual yellow-orange colour as bright as Jupiter and standing in a triangular formation: "A star would never twinkle as much." Through binoculars they appeared to consist of a clod of light and a peak slanting to the left a bit (see sketch). Because of the cold night, Hans returned home after 15 minutes.

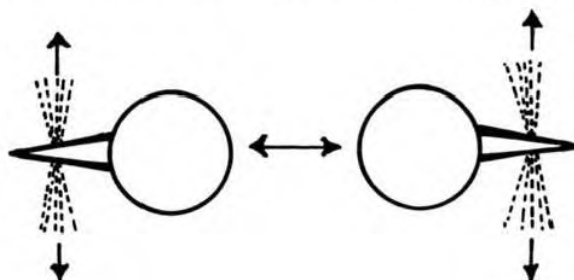
A "spark-thrower" enters the stage

The next report reached us by chance and the witness, who chose to remain anonymous, is not acquainted with the Pritz family. Mrs. X lives in a village (more correctly a few scattered houses) in an isolated wooded valley south of Poeggstall, which

lies 15 km. SSE of Traunstein. She is an old country wife in her sixties walking with a limp after a leg injury, and with reduced powers of hearing. However, she has impressive mental freshness and an interest in natural phenomena.

On a clear morning before Christmas, 1974, about 6.30 a.m., she spotted a globe, halfway up the mountain called Mt. Mandelgupf, and it was swinging to and fro gently like a pendulum. This secondary movement seemed to be superimposed on a slow, forward motion, i.e. a straight course to the east, towards the slope of Mt. Hofkogel, south of Mandelgupf. "First I said: For heaven's sake, what does it mean? Is the thing going to explode?...it was like a sword, and it changed from left to right alternately, but the ball remained the same..." From the fiery orange ball of nearly full moon diameter there extended a kind of peaked horizontal appendage (see sketch) of the same colour and brightness... "Pretty large, and the sword didn't stay long. But the most interesting to me was the sparks - beautiful, like a wonder candle (a popular piece with phosphorous for the Austrian Christmas tree which when set afire throws out showers of bright sparks - E.B.) or a blacksmith hammering a red-hot iron, but only for seconds." As soon as the "sword" achieved its full length, lots of tiny sparks "like tiny stars" sprayed out, up and downwards, from the point right in the middle of the spine, halfway from the globe to the outer tip. "It sparked, but was gone very soon each time."

The appendage showed the same change as described by the Spielberg witness - it "came out" both to the left and right side of the globe reciprocally and without a stop. The sparks seemed to be dependent on full extension of the peak, for they never appeared outside this period of a few seconds. The witness went to look whether her son was awake (he lives with his wife in the next house down the slope) and he was not, unfortunately. When she



Poeggstall "spark thrower"

returned the ball had almost gone behind a patch of conifers. The observation came to an end about ten minutes after 6.30 a.m. Mrs. X asked quite a few neighbours and Poeggstall residents, including the head forester, but nobody else had watched the phenomenon in the valley. "I can trust my eyes, believe me," she remarked, "I am able to count the cows on Mt. Mandelgupf in summer (two kilometres away)."

January 12, 1975. The "defective neon tube"

At 10.30 p.m., Hans Pritz was alerted by his friend Fichtinger to a yellow-orange object in the sky "like a neon streetlight tube flickering wildly before its burn-out. Pritz, who looked at it through binoculars, commented, "It twinkled much more than an ordinary star. 'Living Light' would aptly express it. There was some kind of red waves which, — well, scurried over the surface..." The whole object looked rather flat, not globular." Two days later, on January 15, at 6.05 p.m., Pritz decided to go for a drive. At the veranda door he happened to look up and saw, in the clear sky some distance from the cloud cover's edge, a yellow-orange object following a straight trajectory (when first noticed it was at 214°az. , 11°el.). Pritz hastened to the car to fetch his binoculars and was amazed to watch the object turn into a red shape — the "switch-over" typical of the Grafenschlag low-level object — at its course to the east. After a total of about a minute and a half (time test) it disappeared behind some trees beyond his neighbour's rooftop. Only a few minutes later at 6.10 p.m., another one appeared. It was different — a carmine red shade with a curved upper part and a flattened bottom, like a disc seen in profile — and following the first object's path. The apparent size of the first object was nearly the same as in the Grafenschlag case, but the second was only two thirds its size. At 6.20 p.m. a third object appeared, with the same trajectory and duration of visibility. Pritz climbed into his car shortly afterwards and drove away. He returned after 7.00 p.m. — in time to see a soundless "disc" at 7.35 p.m. "I was lucky enough to have a comparison with a light plane — one flew past between observations and gave quite an echo in the woods, I can assure you."

January 17, 1975

At 8.45 p.m., Hans Pritz and his uncle watched three sulphur-yellow objects in the northern sky over Wachstein. One object was as bright as Jupiter at 310°az. , 13°el. , and two "stars" of less brilliance formed a perfect triangle with it, one at 310°az. , 16°el. and the other a few degrees further to the north. Hans Pritz, who used his binoculars, was able to provide us with the best technical description of a "classical dogfight" we have on our records: "The big one (and upper) would go left and right (horizontally), then up and down (vertically), then do a clockwise circle — and one time I even saw it approach us in a kind of slalom race motion, wiggling and drawing back quickly...And besides you'd see it move along within the next half hour more than a star would do...The intervals between the motion periods were not always the same length, but the

periods were. For instance, it (the big one) would go left-right, hang motionless for a while, then up-down, and immediately afterwards do a circle; but on the next occasion it would perform all the figures without a stop." The two lower "stars" did not move most of the time, but always followed the big object's movement to the right after the latter had done a series of figures. Consequently, the three in their formation moved to the right, gradually, "in a hesitating way" as had the three globes of October 29, 1973. Hans Pritz watched another "dogfight" identical to this on February 27, 1975, from 7.45 to 8.00 p.m.

March 1, 1975

Pritz was in a car with three friends (names withheld by request), travelling from Frankenreith to Zwettl. Just before entering Gross Weissenbach there is a bend, and it was here that a red glow from an oval body was sighted. Pritz's companions urged him not to stop, to his subsequent deep regret, saying it must be due to a fire. But no flames or smoke were noticed, and on checking later no fire had been reported. Pritz also spotted three lemon-coloured globes, half the size of the full moon; they consisted of many small parts, like pieces in a jigsaw, clearly divided, and were standing in line at the same level of the fiery object, like a string of pearls. In our subsequent field investigation, triangulation showed that the "dirigible" was 50 metres in length, 10–12 metres wide and had hovered some 30 metres from the ground.

April 19, 1975. Something with a cupola

At 9.50 p.m., Frau Lilly Tham, the wife of our service station owner and witness, was on her way from Biberschlag (one kilometre east of Spielberg) to the garage. Driving her Opel car along the flat road which runs westwards across open fields, she caught sight of something in the sky, right over the garage roof, but definitely further away.

"It was round and at first going on and off like a car blinker — that's why I initially assumed it to be a plane." She stopped the car and throttled the engine: no sound... "Red and green it went on two parts simultaneously. The 'something' turned out to be a yellowish ellipse, blinking red at the upper right rim and green at the right lower edge. A dark 'hump' rose above its upper left contours." She stepped on the gas again to get her husband out of the garage.

Ernst Berger had asked them to drive by car to different positions during their next sighting to allow for triangulation, and this they did during the next five minutes. Meanwhile the lights stopped flashing and two points of light, green and red respectively, moved around the object's outer shell in concentric paths.

They rushed back across the centre of the village and in the direction of Traunstein. On the top of the hill, "Spielberg Höhe", Frau Tham hit the brakes as it seemed such a fine prospect point. Walther immediately noticed that the object appeared flatter than before and that the hump over it appeared higher. Either the object had dipped in the time it took to cross the village, or it was an effect of the observ-

ation angle. Most important, this observation made it clear that the "something" was a kind of disc with a superstructure. The lights were still travelling around anticlockwise.

Flying Tank Number Two

Questioned more closely, Tham commented that it was "like a round turret, a tank turret. Well, it really looked like a flying tank. The hump wasn't in the middle, but a distance to the left in the front third." He dropped a bombshell with this description as we had made sure by asking Herr Pritz that Tham never read about the details or saw the sketch of the "tank" of October 28/29, 1973, which had hovered near Traunstein and had been described by Pritz in nearly the same words apart from the "feelers" and illumination details: "The whole Traunstein tank was dark."* The Tham couple also noticed the same yellowish airglow around the turret which had been present around the whole "Traunstein Tank". Tham insisted that he had never talked to Pritz about it and also reminded us brutally that we had neglected a brief comment of his at our interview with him in 1973 about the turret on Tank Number One: "Maybe it wasn't in the middle." We suppressed this for no good reason and drew a perfectly symmetrical shape for FSR. This may not be correct.

The Tank's departure

The object was estimated as hovering at 330° az. and 5.5° el. Tham later calculated the horizontal diameter to be 20' in this position. "It was so impressive I felt light in my stomach," he told us.

The object stood out prominently in the starlit night. Seconds later it was left behind the trees. Breaking all speed limits, Lilly raced into Traunstein to fetch Hans Pritz from his home. A few minutes past 10.00 p.m. the trio were back, but the object was not.

* It should be mentioned that the domed disc sketch in FSR Vol.20 No.2, p.14, shows an overdimensioned turret which is about twice the size described by Pritz; also, the pointed ends of the ellipse should be erased.

Evaluating our azimuth rays we found out that the disc very likely moved towards the west every time the observers changed their position by car, but stopped when Lilly Tham did. There is no other explanation than this for two parallel azimuth lines from two locations 500 metres distant. If we assume a true distance of 750 metres, which is also approved by the Tham couple, the true diameter would have been five metres across horizontally, the disc being 80 metres off the ground.

April 20, Traunstein again

At about 3.00 a.m., Gerhard Pritz was walking home (sober) from an extended visit in central Traunstein, totally ignorant of his brother's sighting four hours earlier. "I stopped for a while down there, near the lamp (where the Pritz driveway enters the road—E.B.), and smoked a cigarette, gazing at the stars. Suddenly something approached. I first thought of an aeroplane, but there were two things, not one. The first one stopped, and the second flew right over it and then stopped too. I watched them for quite three quarters of an hour from this moment. They didn't move. It was a red shape in the starry night, all quiet — and completely silent too. Later on I watched an aeroplane fly past — audibly."

Both objects were 15' wide in the sky, egg-shaped, with clear outlines and rather dark carmine red in colour. Not knowing this would be the very last chance for months, Gerhard forgot to immediately inform his brother, who was fast asleep in his room with a camera from Ernst Berger and a high speed-negative film in his drawer! The Pritz brothers got no second chance for some time. The photo-shunning "snails" had fled the area. Later, there were two sightings at Spielberg, on October 31 and December 28, 1975. Although the Traunstein region seems not to have lost its visitors, the real "flap" had its deadline in April, 1975, and we may close our study with a few statistics.

[The discussion will follow in Part III— EDITOR]

In Defence of Amateurs (continued from page 23)

When the time comes that sufficient knowledge is available as to the nature of UFOs, and they can be properly classified and studied, only then will ufology be a science. The distinction of "amateur" as opposed to "scientist" as used at present is illogical.

In Southern California, the mainstream of UFO research since 1955 has been handled by small groups of dedicated persons. One of the most effective groups was the Los Angeles NICAP Subcommittee which handled the majority of Southern California sighting reports from 1959 through 1972. It included a bio-physicist, three engineers, a public relations person, a bookkeeper, a social worker and a secretary, together with various scientific and technical consultants.

We worked in fruitful unison for more than twelve years. Since 1973, when it transferred its resources

to MUFON, the group has grown manifold, pulling in scientists in varied disciplines and other experts of widely disparate skills. The only thing required of each individual is that he/she loves the subject and is competent in research and field investigation of UFOs.

This is the only reasonable way in which UFO research can be done. It makes no difference *what* skills and training a UFO researcher possesses. The field is so complex that every learned, intelligent, and properly motivated person can contribute to it in a unique way.

If we remember that no one holds within his grasp the ability to explore the *whole* field, we can rid the literature forever of the word "amateur" and the mental picture it invokes of a lay ufologist, nursing his mashed thumb.

MAIL BAG

Travis Walton replies

Dear Mr. Bowen,—I read your article *The Snowflake Story: a Commentary* in the February issue of FSR. Although your treatment of the material you had was quite fair, I'm afraid you've been the victim of some false reportings. Some of these result from mistakes made by newsmen, but the majority of the false statements come from Bill Spaulding of GSW.

Mr. Spaulding gave the same impressions to MUFON's *Skylook* magazine, and as many newspapers as would hear him. This was done in keeping with his promise printed in the papers which said; "We're gonna blow this whole thing out today!" which he made after being miffed when APRO took over investigation of the case. He has tried to carry out his threat to destroy the credibility of this case but has succeeded only in hurting his own credibility, for in the words of Dr. J. Allen Hynek of the Center for UFO Studies: "I guess I sent the wrong man in on this one." It was Dr. Hynek, not the police, who sent for Spaulding because Spaulding was closer, being in Arizona.

I'm enclosing comments on the articles in *Skylook*, and a new clipping, because to clear up the misunderstandings GSW has created would require covering that same ground anyway.

In your article you asked: "Is Duane Smith Travis's brother?" Dwayne Smith is not my brother but Duane Walton is. My brother Duane was not at work with us at the time of the encounter, but was 180 miles away in Phoenix where he shoes horses for a living.

My brother Duane was very angry at the men who ran and left me lying on the ground that November 5th. I myself have no hard feelings about that. It's quite understandable now, after seeing the awesome power demonstrated by that blue beam, those men would flee. Any attempts at heroics would possibly have only resulted in a similar fate for those who thought I had been killed and was beyond help anyway. I can't say I would have done any differently faced with apparent hostility from intelligences far superior to our own.

Sirius Mystery (continued from page 25)

field. But the relatively lightweight stories which have recently been written, and the heavyweight technologies which have been developed in the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. during the past 25 years have prepared the public mind for accepting something previously

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

All of us would prefer to imagine ourselves as more gallant, but I think that fleeing was their only sensible choice under those circumstances.

I had my own share of fear and was scared into returning to the truck by the sudden sound of the saucer, but I was quickly prevented from doing so by that ray. Perhaps my curious approach was foolhardy but for all concerned I can only say, what's been done is done.

I haven't read one account of this that was totally correct but maybe these letters will help correct some misconceptions. The first APRO Bulletin on the case had some minor errors but the new one should clear everything up. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Travis C. Walton

Box 1072, Snowflake, Arizona,

85937, U.S.A.

April 12, 1976

Charles Bowen comments ...

Travis Walton's neatly typed letter arrived a few days before I was due to leave for America to attend the Chicago conference of Dr. Hynek's Center for UFO Studies. FSR Vol.22 No.1 had been pushed forward in preparation at that time, so the letter has had to await this issue for publication. We do not have sufficient space to print the comments on the Skylook article but, in fairness, I will extract one relevant observation from the copy of a letter (which could have been typed on the same machine as Travis Walton's letter) sent by Mr. Michael H. Rogers to Mr. Dwight Connelly, Editor of Skylook, on April 11, 1976:—

"In your report from GSW, Spaulding says Travis's mother showed no emotion during her son's disappearance. However, I find in the February issue of *Flying Saucer Review* Spaulding says that she told him, crying, that her son was 'with God in a UFO.' What is the matter with this man? Neither of his conflicting statements is true. I know Mrs. Walton was terribly upset, as I was the one who first broke the news to

her that night. After a few days of fruitless search she realised Travis had to be on the UFO but she did not say he was 'with God in a UFO.' "

I presume the Michael M. Rogers who wrote the letter is the man who was crew boss of the logging team when Travis is said to have encountered the UFO. It now remains to conclude this item with a re-printing of the news cutting which Travis sent me, an article in the "Phoenix Gazette" of March 23, 1976:—

"There is 'no substantiation in fact' for the hoax accusations brought against a young Snowflake man who claims to have been abducted by an unidentified flying object last fall, according to the nation's leading authority on UFOs.

"Dr. J. Allen Hynek, a Northwestern University astronomer and head of the Center for UFO Studies, said today he had interviewed Travis Walton and believes he is 'not hoaxing.'

"He has been made the subject of a lot of unnecessary and unfounded accusations,' Hynek said. 'There seems to be little support for the accusations made against him.'

"The professor who has interviewed hundreds of UFO witnesses since he began studying the phenomenon in 1948, said Walton had successfully completed a polygraph test of his story three weeks ago.

"Walton, 22, disappeared for five days in early November after he and six logging companions reportedly sighted a UFO on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest near Heber. When he reappeared, he claimed he had been taken aboard the craft, examined and held captive.

"After the incident, observers claimed the entire event was a hoax, or that Walton had been hallucinating on drugs. Navajo County police authorities suggested the idea had originated with a television show which was aired shortly before the incident.

"Hynek today cast doubts on all those stories.

"He noted nighttime temperatures in the Heber area at the time hovered around 8 degrees, and loggers in the area agree there are 'grave doubts' a

undreamed of about the initiation of civilisation on this planet. It is to be hoped, therefore, that FSR readers will not be slow to study the work of this bright young man, Robert Temple, who is likely to be of great significance in years to come.

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Artwork by Eileen Buckle

man could survive five days with only blue jeans and a jacket.

"In addition, he noted Walton was very clean, especially his hands, when found in a Heber phone booth — unlikely for a man who had been hiding in the woods.

"He attributed Walton's refusal to take a polygraph test last November to the presence of dozens of newsmen at the scene. The recent test was done without publicity.

"Hynek said the young logger described his captors as having large eyes, large dome-shaped heads without hair, and with no apparent form of communication between them. But he said he was conscious only for a couple of hours of the five-day ordeal.

"The Northwestern astronomer has interviewed about two dozen people who claimed to have been in direct contact with creatures from UFOs, and he said he found Walton's story 'equal

or better' to any of them in credibility.

"I still don't know whether he was abducted in a nuts-and-bolts UFO,' Hynek said in an exclusive interview. 'The case isn't open-and-shut.' He said he would await further hypnosis of Walton before reaching more definite conclusions.

"But I came away with a healthy feeling,' he added, 'and the idea this poor guy was being badly mistreated.'"

World round-up

of news and comment
about recent sightings

Brazil

UFO with lethal ray?

A weird account from the Argentinian newspaper *La Razon* of October 27, 1975, tells of strange events reported from the Fortaleza, Ceara, region of Brazil.

It seems that the inhabitants of the town of São Gondolo de Amarante hide in their houses at nightfall because of regular appearances of a flying saucer which, according to the sacred witnesses, "attacked folk with a ray." The object emits a powerful blue light which "paralyses" those caught in the beam. Such an incident occurred on October 25, 1975, when the victim was a man who was said to be in danger of death from the severity of the burns he suffered.

Lawyer João Luciano Gualberto, who lives in the district and gave the news, intimated that the saucer made its appearance just after 6.00 p.m., and stopped at frequent intervals above the same place. Several other witnesses confirmed this.

A little girl who was bathing in the nearby river felt a sort of burning and saw what the lawyer called an "oscillating blue light." Frightened she took cover in undergrowth, but the light increased in intensity. The child ran off back home where she arrived with extremely bloodshot eyes, and a high body temperature.

With acknowledgements to LDLN: translation by C. Bowen.

Disc pursues cyclists

A multi-witness case was reported in the Rio de Janeiro newspaper *Ultima Hora* of September 10, 1975. This version is taken from a press account which appeared in *Lumières dans la Nuit*:

"On Friday September 5, 1975, at about 10.00 p.m., three students were returning home from school on their bicycles when, according to their testimony, they were pursued by a

flying disc. The incident took place on the road into Itaperuna. [A town some 250 km. to the NE of Rio de Janeiro and, as readers of *Flying Saucer Review* will know, a favourite haunt of our weird nocturnal visitors,—EDITOR].

"The three young men were Adão Charif (21) of Medeiros, Janecy Fernando Lima (18) and José Roberto (18) of Sousa Pereira. At first they saw a great light in the sky, and this was followed by the appearance of strange objects 'hedge-hopping' towards them. They were so alarmed they left from their bicycles and took refuge under a nearby bridge. Senhor Bochat Buri, who had also seen the unusual light, heard the alarmed shouts of the students and ran to their assistance. When he arrived the danger had passed."

An amateur photographer who happened to be close on hand, took a snapshot, and the picture, showing a luminous circle in a star-studded sky, was published in *Ultima Hora*.

Translation: Charles Bowen.

Chile

UFO and "physical effects"

The Buenos Aires newspaper *La Razon* of August 4, 1975, gave details of another multi-witness case, this time in Chile, on the Pacific coast of South America.

A UFO was seen on the night of August 3, 1975, by a number of people in the town of Antofagasta, which is some 1,400 km. to the north of Santiago. According to the witnesses the UFO was cigar-shaped, and gave off multi-coloured flashes of light, the predominant colour being orange. The UFO settled for a moment on the top of a hill. It was then that a news-stand attendant became aware of a strong "chemical" smell just as he was about to go to fetch his supply of newspapers. "My eyes were filled with tears, while I felt a pain in my nose," he said. Another couple confirmed that the whole area was bathed in a yellow-orange glow. Some other

witnesses, including students, rushed towards the hill on which the strange object could be seen, but a few seconds later it shot off in a straight trajectory towards the Pacific Ocean.

Van buzzed by UFO

On the day following the foregoing report, a vehicle chase was reported from the same region of Chile. This account has been taken from *Lumières dans la Nuit*.

"The witnesses were Sr. Ricardo Villanueva (36) and his wife Margarita Ardiles (32) who claimed to have been pursued by a UFO in their motor van. The remarkable story began at about 4.00 a.m. on Monday August 4, 1975, in the region of Agaras Verdades, 300 km. to the south of Antofagasta.

"Sta. Margarita took up the story: 'At first I saw what I took to be a sort of meteorite, or aerolith, but I was greatly surprised when I saw what appeared to be other similar objects appear on the scene,' she said, and added: 'My husband said to me with a chuckle "they are flying saucers."'

"For his part Sr. Villanueva told how his tone of irony changed swiftly to an unusual sensation of fear. He added: 'I began to accelerate, and almost immediately one of the objects, which seemed to be attracted by the headlights of the van, swooped down at an unbelievable speed. My wife cried out in alarm and threw her arms around me.'

"The machine was not disc-shaped, but was a kind of huge ball of intensely luminescent orange-coloured fire. It stationed itself behind the van at about 30 metres from the side of the road. I accelerated still more while my wife covered her face with her hands. I could see the object in the driving mirror, and for a few moments I was dazzled. The UFO was following us, and it was then that I became very frightened. Suddenly I saw it rise up swiftly until it seemed no more than a pin-point of light, then it vanished.'"

Translation: Charles Bowen.

France

Brilliant cigar scares motorist

The French newspaper *Le Dauphin Libéré* of March 24, 1976, carried an account of a bizarre landing on January 21, 1976, near Sainte-Eulalie-en-Royons, Drome. This condensed version has been taken from *Lumières dans la Nuit*.

It was at about 9.10 when Monsieur Jean Robert of La Baume d'Hostin was driving home in his car. Suddenly he was surprised by a light which at first seemed like the headlights of another car, but the source of the light was away to his left, and off the road. He then saw, surmounting a banked-up piece of ground, a blindingly luminous cigar-shaped object, about 1 metre 20 cm. in height. It seemed to have portholes, and from the rims of these, very bright lights were emitted. The car was at a halt and the driver, in a state of fear, hid his face in his hands to shield his eyes, in which position he remained for some time, and did not see the actual departure of the object.

Translation: C. Bowen.

United States of America

Jimmy Carter's UFO

From the London *Daily Telegraph*

of June 2, 1976, we take extracts from an article which appeared under the signature of the newspaper's correspondent, Ian Bale:—

"Jimmy Carter, the front-runner in a dwindling field of candidates for the Democratic party's Presidential nomination, provided further details in an interview yesterday about the 'flying saucer' he believes he saw late one night in Georgia three years ago.

"His comment on the campaign trail last month that he felt reports of unidentified flying objects should be taken seriously caused some discomfort among certain of his supporters.

"It was felt that, placed alongside his account of his 'spiritual rebirth' while walking in the woods with his evangelist sister 10 years ago, the 'flying saucer' belief might convince many Americans that Mr. Carter was too much of a 'mystic' to be entrusted with the Presidency.

"At the time the issue arose last month, Mr. Carter confirmed a report that he and a group of friends saw what they believed was a 'UFO' above a field in Thomaston, Georgia, in 1973, after a late-evening speech before the local Lions Club.

"He then disappointed journalists questioning him by switching to other topics without offering any descrip-

tion of the phenomenon. But in an interview published yesterday in the *National Enquirer*, he gave this account of the sighting:

"It was a very peculiar aberration, but about 20 people saw it.

"It was the darndest thing I've ever seen. It was big, it was very bright, it changed colours and it was about the size of the moon. We watched it for 10 minutes, but none of us could figure out what it was.

"One thing's for sure, I'll never make fun of people who say they've seen unidentified objects in the sky!"

"Mr. Carter added that 'if I become President, I'll make every piece of information this country has about UFO sightings available to the public and the scientists. I am convinced that UFO's exist because I have seen one.'

"The report said the candidate talked 'frankly and without hesitation' about his flying-saucer experience."

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