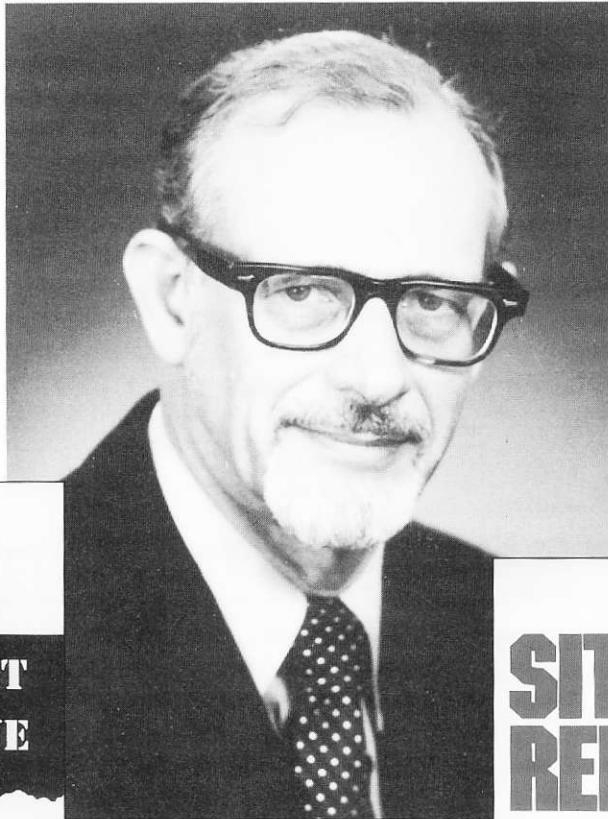


# IUR

*International UFO Reporter*

January/February 1995  
Volume 20, Number 1

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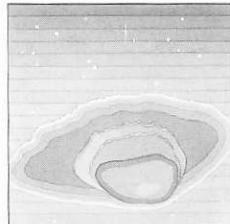
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# INTERNATIONAL

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## UFO

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# LEONARD H. STRINGFIELD (1920–1994)

## AN APPRECIATION

BY DENISE SPARKS, RICHARD HALL, AND JEROME CLARK

**L**eonard H. Stringfield's lifetime love of words brought him pleasure, excitement, a career, and world acclaim. He died at home on December 18, 1994, the day after his 74th birthday.

Born and raised in Cincinnati's East End, Len told stories all his life about the flood of the 1930s, baseball games at Kellogg Avenue, and walks with his Grandpa Peck down Walworth Avenue. When he graduated from Withrow High School in 1939, the yearbook listed him as Leonard "Webster" Stringfield because he had met his goal of memorizing Webster's dictionary. Among his other early accomplishments, he sang with the Withrow Minstrels, earned a summer scholarship at Cincinnati Art Academy, and attended the University of Cincinnati's Journalism School.

He joined the Fifth Air Force at Wright Field at the beginning of World War II as soon as he heard about the attack at Pearl Harbor. His journalistic skills were used in military service from Australia and the Philippines to Japan. His final war years involved intelligence and counterintelligence. He was a member of Disabled American Veterans.

His art and journalistic skills were a springboard to employment at DuBois Chemical Company. Employed by the advertising department, he created the art department and then retired, after 30 years, with the title of director of public relations.

In April 1954 he started *C.R.I.F.O. Newsletter* (retitled *C.R.I.F.O. Orbit* in mid-1955), a UFO periodical read around the world until it ceased publication in March 1957. His research efforts produced books and publications up to the time of his death. His 1977 book *Situation Red, The UFO Siege!* was translated into several languages. A Japanese television company produced a series to introduce his full works to that country.

Dell, his wife of 47 years, remembers the hours Len put into his many hobbies, including stamp collecting, tropical fish, and birds. His love for his greenhouse plants and Japanese landscaping initiated an invitation by the Cincin-

nati Garden Club to put his home on the group's tour in 1963.

Also surviving are daughters Colette Rhodes, Denise Sparks, and Camille Reynolds; brother Jack Stringfield; grandchildren Erich and Beau Stegmaier, Jesse Rhodes, Adam and Rachel Sparks, Amber and Autumn Reynolds; and sons-in-law Jeffrey Sparks and Dennis Reynolds.

Memorials may be directed to Mariemont Community Church, 3908 Plainville Road, Mariemont, Ohio 45227, or United Home Care Hospice, 2400 Reading Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.—Denise Sparks

**W**hile serving in Fifth Air Force intelligence and counterintelligence in the Southwest Pacific at the close of World War II, Len Stringfield was flying to Tokyo during the Japanese surrender when his aircraft encountered three UFOs during a rocky flight involving engine trouble. The incident combined to create in Len a lifelong interest in UFOs and a fear of flying. The whole time I knew him (40 years), Len always traveled by train or bus.

I first became aware of Len and his work in 1954 while I was attending Tulane University as a belated college student, after serving in the Air Force myself from 1949 to 1951. Through Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York, I learned of Len's *C.R.I.F.O.* newsletter and became a subscriber and reporter for it.

In 1957 Len published *Inside Saucer Post... 3-0 Blue*, summarizing his investigations and reporting on his unique position working with the Air Defense Command (ADC) from 1953 through 1957 via his home telephone to help the Air Force track UFOs. He was assigned the special code name *Fox Trot Kilo 3-0 Blue* for reporting by phone to the ADC filter center in Columbus, Ohio. On more than one occasion Len was connected with Air Force interceptors on his home telephone via base radio to guide the pilots toward UFOs operating in the area. The Air Force today denies that this happened, but it did.

During those years Len worked closely with Ted Bloecher investigating reports of humanoid beings, especially sightings around the Cincinnati area and nearby Kentucky during the 1955 sighting wave. In 1977 Doubleday and Company published Len's book *Situation Red, The*

(continued on page 24)

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Denise Sparks, Len Stringfield's daughter, lives in Crawfordsville, Indiana. Richard Hall, an IUR contributing editor, is a ufologist of many years' standing. Jerome Clark edits IUR.

# ABDUCTION AND PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS

BY JENNY RANDLES

Readers of my many books and articles on the UFO subject will know of my general reluctance to embrace the extraterrestrial interpretation of our data. This has not been as a result of disbelief in this possibility—I have always said I could not rule the explanation out of the question—but it probably stems more from a natural caution about such matters. My position has altered significantly in the past two or three years, however, not least because of some personal reasons outlined in my book *Star Children* (Robert Hale, London, 1994; to be published later this year by Sterling, New York).

There are also other, perhaps more objective factors to be taken into account—to some extent arising out of the work I did specifically for the MIT symposium in June 1992 (at which I presented five papers based on these data). These surveys and experiments have been followed since that time by research into several new cases, the like of which I heretofore had not encountered in Britain. The cases were such that I suspect no one with an open mind could fail to be impressed with them.

I wish to discuss one of these cases now, since I have had the good fortune of spending time with the principal witness. She has become one of the few British abductees willing to face the severe ridicule that confronts such individuals whenever they venture outside the wilder shores of the tabloid press. Whitley Strieber was treated scornfully in May 1987 when he made a brief visit to the United Kingdom. His British counterparts know the effects of ridicule only too well. Moreover, the generally skeptical attitude among our UFO community (not excluding me) has not been irrelevant in making life more difficult for abduction claimants.

## THE WITNESS

Rosalind Reynolds-Parnham, in her mid-thirties, is a successful businesswoman. She breeds dogs and often displays

Jenny Randles, an IUR contributing editor, is an active investigator of UFO reports and a much-published writer on the subject. She edits Northern UFO News.

them at shows around the world, including famous events such as Crufts. I have seen her interviewed by peers in that profession and treated with considerable respect. The very last thing she would wish for, or need, is the stigma of an alien-abduction memory clinging to her life and threatening to jeopardize her credibility and her livelihood in what is a rather conservative establishment. But fortunately, her honesty is such that she is determined, whatever the consequences, to put the truth on record.

I find no reason to doubt any of her testimony. She has impressed me as much as any, and indeed more than most, abductees I have interviewed. That in itself is no guarantee of reality, of course. But I think it is an important consideration. Furthermore, she has a friendly, warm personality and is able to discuss other issues beyond ufology. In other words, her UFO experience has not taken over her life, even though its undercurrents always threaten to seep through.

She is married to a man whom she met as a result of the investigation of her experience. He provides an interesting foil to her nature, being much more like the proverbial believer than she is, yet retaining a pleasant, no-nonsense manner I find refreshing. His support was something she badly needed, because in the immediate aftermath of the experience she found herself almost a recluse, unable to cope with the trauma that confronted her at a time when not even ufologists in Britain took abduction cases seriously. In many senses her relationship has built a bridge from personal hell toward freedom to live a normal life.

## THE ENCOUNTER

Though one or two versions of the story (for example Philip Mantle's recent book *Without Consent*) list the event as having occurred in September 1983, Ros tells me she is sure it was 1982. She is not certain that it was September, but it was early evening and dark; yet she was still wearing a summer dress. Given the insular nature of the English climate, it seems unlikely to have been much later in the year than September or much earlier than late August.

Then 21 years old, Ros lived on the Essex coast and was traveling to visit friends in Corby, Northamptonshire, with her boyfriend Philip. They had driven through Sudbury, Suffolk, about a third of the way into the journey which

normally took around two and a half hours to complete. As they drove beneath some electric cables on the northwestern outskirts of the town, they were first confronted with an oval mass of orange lights. The object, which appeared to emerge from the overhead pylons, was sparking the metal in a curious way, as if emitting tendrils of energy, and generating a powerful bluish light which resembled a photographic flash gun except that it did not hurt their eyes. A powerful noxious odor (possibly nitrous oxide) also wafted in briefly through the open window. Though mystified, Ros and Philip did not stop but drove rapidly onwards. At the time they did not realize that they were within a mile of the infamous Borley Rectory, scene of numerous alleged paranormal events earlier in this century.

A few minutes later the couple turned to head west on the A-1092 from Long Melford toward Haverhill. It was on this stretch that the truly frightening encounter took place. This seems to have been somewhere around the vineyards at Cavendish, though it is hard to pinpoint exactly.

Ros saw bluish lights through the rear mirror, then realized that these were heading toward the car. Philip dismissed them as probably an aircraft, but then power began to drain from both engine and lights, which soon failed altogether. With the object in close proximity, a strange silence descended on the road, which was uncharacteristically devoid of traffic. Also Ros recalls that even the wind had ceased rustling the trees and the birds were no longer twittering. This apparently is a manifestation of what I have called the Oz factor. In a number of close-encounter cases, witnesses give testimony that suggests they have been transported temporarily from our world into another, where reality is but slightly different.

Ros and Philip got out of the car and with a flashlight attempted, without success, to find the problem under the hood. Then suddenly the headlights came back on, and Philip scurried back inside and tried the ignition. It worked the first time. The couple hurried off toward their destination. Ros reports seeing a UFO-like light shooting up into the clouds shortly afterwards.

Upon reaching Corby, they were aware that they had experienced an odd episode but had not connected it with anything really extraordinary. But their minds began to change when their friends failed to answer the door. Instead of its being 9 p.m., as they anticipated, they were informed from a bedroom window that it was now nearly 1 a.m. Unsurprisingly, their friends had assumed that Ros and Philip were not coming. Even allowing for the tardiness introduced by the sighting, three hours of time is unaccounted for.

## THE AFTERMATH

Ros and Philip decided not to report their experience. They maintained their silence even when the local media told of strange lights seen in Suffolk (around Haverhill) over a several-day period surrounding their sighting. The couple,

who had gone together since their latter schooldays, broke up soon after the incident. Ros suspected this was more than coincidence. She felt that in the wake of their UFO experience Philip's personality had drastically changed, and this drove them apart. Without his support she was unwilling to go public with her strange story by herself.

She also suffered in her own way. Ros discovered

## “With the object in close proximity, a strange silence descended on the road . . . ”

apparent scarring around her abdomen and lower genital regions. There had been no such scarring before the encounter. She also stopped menstruating for a time, though she knew she was not pregnant. She became withdrawn and had trouble in her relationships. Her weight plunged from around 170 pounds prior to the episode to around 90 pounds a few months afterwards. Her family was concerned that she was afflicted with anorexia, though there was no clinical evidence of this eating disorder. But later, after she found peace of mind, her weight was restored to its pre-encounter level.

In the meantime she started to experience nightmare images in which she saw flashes of a horrible face, with bluish-gray coloration, wizened appearance, and large, dark black eyes. This, I should emphasize, was long before publication of *Communion*, which Ros still has not read.

In addition, she became unusually creative, sketching faces and scenes ostensibly glimpsed inside the engine room of some strange device. She also wrote odd treatises about ecological disasters and the nature of space, things till now of no interest to her. She also notes that her watch never worked properly again. Apparently it was strongly magnetized after the encounter.

## THE KEY

These memories, if that is what they were, remained fragmented, however. An article in a local newspaper in the late 1980s would be the key that would open the door to fuller recall of the 1982 incident. The article referred to a recently formed group in East Anglia. Ros decided to contact it to see if it could help. She had yet to read anything on UFOs. Once, seeing the cover of what probably was *Communion* in a bookstore window, she could not bring herself to go near it.

The UFO group suggested hypnosis, about which she knew nothing. Hypnosis proved unhelpful, even frightening. She was then urged to speak with Mark, who was attached to the group as a psychic. They became attracted to one another and eventually married. He persuaded her to try hypnosis again. While she relived some additional

memories, she was brought out of the hypnotic state screaming in terror at an early phase. She has never subjected herself to the procedure again. She has little good to say about hypnosis and is pleased with the moratorium I persuaded British investigators to adopt in 1988. This has effectively banned its use during British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) investigations. Only about 10% of

**"The most harrowing memory . . .  
was of a much taller entity  
holding a probe to her abdomen  
and indicating they wanted her to  
have a child."**

her recall of the abduction owes anything to hypnosis; the rest comes from dreams, flash images, mental impressions, and a sort of automatic-writing or creative-visualization technique.

### THE ABDUCTION

When the pieces are put together, this story emerges:

- When the car had been stopped and the couple stood outside looking into the hood, a voice sounding in Ros's mind directed her to approach the UFO. She resisted, but it returned, and she was compelled to walk away from Philip. Then a beam of light shot out from the UFO, and she lost consciousness. In her original recall of the story, this was the final memory before she "awoke" standing next to Philip with the headlights now returning to normal.
- Further memories placed her inside a strange, well-lit room with nothing but a translucent table or flat bed inside. Several small creatures of the type seen in her visions insisted she remove her clothes. She protested vigorously but futilely. She then lay on the table, unable to resist their probes, which examined her gynecologically.
- The most harrowing memory, and the one that brought her out of her final hypnosis session, was of a much taller entity holding a probe to her abdomen and indicating they wanted her to have a child. He seemed to be extracting fluid from her body. She kept screaming that she would *not* have a baby.

Ros feels that these memories are the source of the marks on her body and her subsequent irregular menstruation. Checks with a doctor to determine why she and Mark

cannot conceive a child have failed to find any clear physical cause with either partner, but she suspects it is related to the encounter. It may perhaps, at least partly, be a psychological reaction against the procedure through which she feels the entities put her.

### AFTERTHOUGHTS

Other details of this case are gradually being pieced together. Ros and I recently traveled to Ireland to appear on *Kelly*, a popular television chat show. As she related her story in front of a large studio audience, she was subjected to giggles, some open laughter, and at least one gesture indicating perceived insanity from a sadly misguided person. Ignoring the jeers, she simply and bravely recounted what she recalls, remarking that it does not matter who believes her since all she can do is describe what she remembers. When I was given the opportunity to defend her with more general reaction and comment—and, indeed, as her story progressed—audience members grew notably more quiet. By the end of our 20 minutes, they were listening attentively.

I admired Ros's courage in these circumstances. She is not putting herself on the line in hopes of financial reward. She has never asked for a fee in my presence and is clearly not motivated by a desire for money or fame. This is, of course, very much the norm, but it is a point often overlooked by critics insensitive to the vulnerable position a responsible professional is placing herself in when she goes public. There is no prospect of even modestly large fees or TV movie deals if you tell your story in Britain. Abductees end up losing far more than they gain.

Ros recalls numerous psychic experiences throughout her life. I am not surprised; I recognized this pattern long ago in most abductees. She remembers being in her crib and playing mind games with objects in the room, making them move ostensibly by psychokinesis.

### POSTSCRIPT

In another recent British case a prominent businessman has refused all entreaties to probe the case further despite its dramatic import. He had stopped to relieve himself near Leek, Staffordshire, when he observed strange lights. The next thing he knew, he was recovering consciousness and discovering a time lapse. Nearly naked, physically and emotionally battered, he struggled back to his car, where he found his clothes neatly folded outside the door. As he put them on, electric sparks were given off from what appears to have been a strong static charge induced into the cloth. Sadly, unlike Ros, he is terrified of how public discussion might destroy his career, and so far he has agreed only to talk to one investigator, Doug Pickford, and then once only so as to put an anonymous statement on record.

In many respects Ros matches characteristics I have *continued on page 23*

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# THE ADVENTURES OF WOODY DERENBERGER

BY JEROME CLARK

In Woodrow W. Derenberger's telling of the tale, it all began on the rainy evening of Wednesday, November 2, 1966, on Interstate Highway 77, just north of the Route 47 interchange. It was around 7:25, and Derenberger, a 50-year-old salesman for a Parkersburg, West Virginia, sewing-machine company, was driving south on his way home. Home was a farm outside a tiny Parkersburg suburb, Mineral Wells, where his young wife and two small children waited.

Because of reduced visibility and uncertain road conditions, Derenberger was driving at a cautious 50 mph. A car passed him, and immediately afterwards something else—a dark gray object—overtook him, moving at 15 to 20 mph faster than his panel truck. Then, when it was about 30 feet ahead of him, the object turned sideways and covered both lanes. Derenberger hit the brakes, and as his vehicle skidded to a stop, the object maintained a 20-foot distance between them.

Trying to describe what it looked like, Derenberger would think of the glass covering of an old kerosene lamp. If one were to cut two such coverings in half, join them at the broad end, and put the resulting creation on its side, that would describe the object's shape. Its color was a dull charcoal, and its surface was smooth.

For a moment Derenberger considered trying to drive around it, but it was blocking so much of the road that he had no choice but to pull over to the shoulder. His headlights were shining on the middle of the object. Then, according to a statement he made to investigator Kevin D. Dee on November 6:

[The object] appeared to be about eight to 10 inches hovering off the ground. There was a small fluttering sound. The instant it stopped, a door opened, and a man stepped directly out and began walking at a normal rate of walk towards the side window opposite the driver's side. At the second he stepped out of the object, the door closed immediately, and the object rose to a height of what I estimated to be 50 to 75 feet straight up and remained stationed. . . . I was aware of a voice which said, "Will you open your window?" I leaned over the

engine hump, and I had the window down by the time he got directly there. He was standing with his arms folded under his armpits. He was about six feet high in height, and I would estimate weighing about 185 pounds. He was smiling. I did not see his lips move, but I was aware that he was talking to me.

The man wore a top coat which hung between the knees and the ankles. His skin was dark as if tanned, and his dark hair was slicked back.

Derenberger opened the conversation by introducing himself. "My name is Derenberger," he said.

"I am called Cold," the man replied. When Derenberger looked confused, the man repeated, "Cold." This time Derenberger understood that he was speaking his name.

Cold went on, "Please do not be frightened. I wish you no harm, only happiness." Looking toward the lights of Parkersburg, he asked, "What is this called?"

"That's a city or town called Parkersburg," Derenberger said.

"Where I am from, that is called a gathering. Mr. Derenberger, why are you frightened? Look at me. You can see we are as you are. We eat, sleep, breathe, and bleed just as you do. Do you have to work for a living? Do you work for a living?"

"I am a salesman."

"I am a searcher. Mr. Derenberger, don't think of me as an alien. Please don't be frightened. Why are you frightened? Your country is more powerful than mine. You have more armament than we."

With these words Cold stepped back from the truck and walked in front of it. Illuminated by the headlights, he delivered a brief message: "Mr. Derenberger, we will see you again." With that he made a hand signal, and suddenly the object reappeared, now just six feet from the driver's side of the van. According to Derenberger:

The door opened again. I could observe an outline of a figure, which I could not identify, back inside the doorway. It appeared to me that the figure stepped back to allow the man [Cold] to step inside, stooping as he did. What appeared to be an arm and hand . . . closed the door, and the vehicle rose directly up.

The shaken Derenberger raced home. He arrived there at 7:45 and told his wife what had happened. After 8 he began making phone calls: to the Parkersburg police, the West Virginia State Police, Glenn Wilson of the Parkersburg

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*Jerome Clark is editor of IUR and vice president of CUFOS. This article is adapted from his forthcoming book High Strangeness: UFOs from 1960 Through 1979—The UFO Encyclopedia, Volume 3, to be published later this year by Omnigraphics, Inc.*

radio-television station WTAP, and *Parkersburg News* reporter Larry V. Murphy. The following evening WTAP television ran a half-hour interview with him.

The next day, with police and an Air Force representative in attendance, Derenberger held a news conference at which he offered to take a lie-detector test to prove his sincerity. By Friday his story, thanks to a UPI dispatch, was being recounted in newspapers all across the country. The Parkersburg papers, the *News* and the *Sentinel*, treated Derenberger respectfully. The *Sentinel* noted that Derenberger was a regular churchgoer, and in his column on November 6, the *News*'s Larry Murphy, who would write a number of supportive articles, said Derenberger "has an honest, wholesome and healthy appearance, an air of sincerity. . . . He has a friendly smile, and looks you directly in the eye—not belligerently, but in a sincere and convincing manner."

## MESSAGES AND SIGHTINGS

Derenberger's space adventures were only beginning. On the evening of the fourth, little more than 48 hours after the first, a second contact occurred.

He and a friend, Phillip Elliott of Parkersburg, were on U.S. Highway 50 when Derenberger, who was behind the wheel, started pulling his hand across his face. "At one point he pulled it all the way from the back of his head, down his face," Elliott testified. "A few minutes later, he was steering with his left hand, his right hand cupped over his chin. I nudged him and called his name twice. He did not answer."

Suddenly he lapsed into a kind of trance. His jaw dropped open, and his eyes rolled back in his head. Alarmed—they were moving at 60 mph and going down a hill—Elliott shook him, to no avail. He noticed that Derenberger's body was rigid. Moving Derenberger's foot from the accelerator, Elliott managed to slow the car down to 35 mph. Then Derenberger started making mumbling sounds which over the next few minutes grew audible, if not always coherent. All the while Elliott was keeping the car at a safe speed and on the road, though he himself did not assume control of the wheel.

The first understandable words were: "Fly! Fly! Fly! One ship!" Then, as if being corrected, he said, "More ships. More ships. More ships." After a lapse into incoherence, he came out with a clear message, spoken slowly: "When they are ready they will tell all." To Elliott's ears it sounded like "reading off a telegraph machine as if he was getting one word at a time." Derenberger struggled with a word which he seemed unable to pronounce or understand. Elliott, who was jotting notes, rendered it phonetically as "Grundileis." After speaking the word "Ardo," Derenberger collapsed. His companion slammed on the brake, steered the car to the side of the road, and switched off the engine.

Thoroughly unsettled, Elliott shook Derenberger in an effort to bring him back to consciousness. After three or

four minutes he revived. He asked, "What happened?" When Elliott told him, Derenberger said he would keep the episode to himself until he could make sense of it.

According to Derenberger's subsequent version of the episode, he had experienced a tingling sensation around his eyes. As he rubbed his forehead, he realized that Cold was sending him a telepathic communication. Cold told him his ship was directly overhead and pacing the truck, and he urged him more than once to drive carefully as he listened. Cold went on to say he was from the "galaxy of Ganymede," a place ecologically much like the earth, though it has only three seasons: planting, harvest, and cold. (To earthly astronomers Ganymede is a moon of Jupiter, not remotely suited to anything like human life.) His first name was Inrid, and he was married to Kimi, and the couple had two young sons, with a third child due shortly. His people live between 125 to 175 earth years. Time on Ganymede is different from time here, Cold said.

On the eighth the *News* reported that two men in a passing truck had apparently seen Derenberger speaking with Cold at the spot where the encounter was said to have taken place. On the evening of the second, at approximately 7:25, an unnamed "Parkersburg businessman, who is engaged in the trucking business and who doesn't want his name revealed because he fears his customers might doubt his rationality," saw a van matching the description of Derenberger's vehicle on the side of the road. A few days later investigators from the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) located the man. On November 12 Walter Vanscoy provided a signed statement:

I was traveling in a truck (as an assistant driver) going North on I-77. About ½-mile past the interchange for W. Va. Route 47, I observed a panel truck parked on the berm of the Southbound lanes of I-77. The panel truck had its lights on low-beam. I also observed what appeared to be a man standing by the right-hand front door of the panel truck. The man was standing upright and did not appear to move during the time that I saw him. He appeared to be wearing a knee-length coat that did not give off any unusual reflection. I didn't notice if he was wearing a hat. I did not notice anyone inside the panel truck, or any lights inside. . . .

State Police told the *News* that after the Derenberger story became known, they received calls from several residents who lived near the site. They said they had experienced odd problems with television reception at the time of the sighting. One woman said she had seen a strange light beam around 7:30, and another saw a "gray streak of light" between 7:30 and 8. The object was near the I-77/Route 47 interchange. Unfortunately neither police nor civilian investigators followed up on these reports.

(In an article published the next year in England's *Flying Saucer Review* [March/April 1967], John A. Keel claimed that "at about the same time" as Derenberger's

encounter two men driving home from work early in the morning in the Point Pleasant, West Virginia, area—approximately 50 miles southwest of Parkersburg—saw a cigar-shaped object landed on the road. Its occupant, a humanlike, dark-skinned figure in shiny overalls, approached and asked them, via telepathy, about their names and destination. According to Keel, "The two men decided not to tell anyone, but one of them took to heavy drinking for the first time in his life and finally confided to his family, and exchanged notes with another person in Point Pleasant who had reported seeing a UFO." In a later book, *UFOs: Operation Trojan Horse*, Keel wrote that he had found and interviewed the men, who wanted no further involvement. This story, significant if true, does not appear in the extended and sympathetic treatment Keel accords Derenberger in *The Mothman Prophecies* [1975].)

A UFO sighting made at 6:45 p.m. on November 4 also seemed to provide support for Derenberger's story. Irma Hudgins, her son Fred, and her daughter Pamela Sue, traveling south on I-77, noticed an unusual object "at or near the crest of the hill, just north of where you turn off onto State Route 47"—in other words at or very near the site of the Derenberger encounter. Fred, who was driving, stopped the car. "All three of us looked," Mrs. Hudgins said later, "and the object had moved from its former position, and was straight ahead of us, toward Mineral Wells. Once it looked like it was going in reverse. It had been right on the tree-tops when I first saw it, and now it still was fairly close to earth." Light gray in color and without lights, it resembled "two glass chimneys from a kerosene lamp welded together at their widest or bulging ends." Her description is virtually identical to Derenberger's. She claimed, however, that she had not heard of the earlier story at the time of the sighting.

After about five minutes the object reversed direction and disappeared in the direction of Parkersburg, after being visible for a little more than five minutes.

NICAP investigators who interviewed the Hudginses on November 12 concluded they were sincere.

On Sunday, November 6, a driver on Route 47, just off I-77, recounted a close encounter with a beam-wielding object. He spotted the object about 6:30 p.m. and got out of his car to watch it. At first it looked like "two lights" low in the sky "near the Viscose plant, across the Little Kanawha River," to the south. The UFO crossed the river and crossed 47, then turned off its lights. The witness estimated its altitude to be 100 to 150 feet.

"It hadn't quite reached I-77 when it turned off its lights," he told the *News*. "A minute or so later, it turned on its two lights again, then started moving back in my direction." When it was nearly overhead, the man impulsively pumped his brake pedal, causing the brake lights to go on and off. In this way he hoped to attract the UFO's attention. He said that "the thing stopped right over my car and suddenly focused a beam of bright light on my car, something like a spotlight. It was a bright light and was

shining directly in my eyes from the thing overhead, whatever it was." He was almost blinded for the 10 seconds the light kept shining. When it shut off, the object headed at a leisurely pace in a southerly direction. The two other lights, one red, one yellow, were back on. It executed a sharp turn and headed up 77. The lights shut down again, and it was lost to view.

Over the next weeks other residents of the Parkersburg area would come forward to recount their own sightings of unusual lights. UFO activity all up and down the Ohio River Valley was on the upswing, but around Parkersburg any sighting Derenberger supporter Larry Murphy reported in the *News* amounted to validation of the November 2 claim.

Kevin Dee had already interviewed Derenberger and others before a four-man team from NICAP's Pittsburgh Subcommittee arrived in Parkersburg on Saturday, November 12. The investigators spoke with Derenberger, other witnesses, police officers, and local media people. At one point they went to the encounter site but found nothing out of the ordinary. Four days later a team member wrote NICAP headquarters, "Based upon the evidence which has been obtained thus far," the group had concluded that "Derenberger's story cannot be labeled as a fraud or a hoax. The question of whether Derenberger experienced an hallucination (possibly in conjunction with an epileptic seizure) cannot be ruled out." The group planned to continue its investigation.

## COLD'S WORLD

Meanwhile Derenberger's contacts with Cold were continuing. A few days after the initial meeting, he came home from work about 9 p.m. and met Cold and his navigator (Cold called him his "panion") Carl Ardo. Though it was chilly outside, Derenberger was so excited that he forgot the cold over the next two hours, as the three of them engaged in animated conversation. "They . . . would not come into the house because my wife was frightened," Derenberger would write. "Since then she has lost all fear of them and has entertained them in our home."

Cold and Ardo asked him many questions about earthly life. They said the concept of hate is incomprehensible on their world because "we are all brothers." Derenberger would provide this account for *Probe* magazine (September 1968):

These people do not have a written record of how their planet began; however, they do have a legend. They believe their forefathers came from Earth in a space ship and after they had landed, somehow lost the art of space travel. It was many, many years before they again learned how to travel in space.

Mr. Cold told me that their religion, and their belief in God is the same as our own. They believe there is but one God, who created everything that is good, and is the Father of all. Mr. Cold has told me many times that they

would like to land and come and talk with our people, but he has met several times with hostility, has been shot at and also other ships of his friends have been shot at. At one time in Arkansas, he was shot with a shotgun and he had to have several pellets removed from his legs and thighs. These people are as much afraid of our people as we are of them. Yet they say they would like to make friendly contact with all our people, and be able to tell us their ways and learn ours. They would like to be able to trade with our country. Mr. Cold says that they have things that we would like to have, as do we have things that they need. He has told me things that I have no way of knowing whether they are true or untrue, yet in everything he has told me I have never, never in any way learned that he has been untruthful. He has told me that he made an offer to our Government that if they would guarantee safety for both him and his ship, he would land. But for some reason unknown to him, our Government will not grant him his request. He said that our Government leaders said that no physical harm would come to him, but otherwise he would have to place himself and his ship in their hands and they would do what was best for him and for us. Mr. Cold has declined this offer. I have no way of knowing if this is true.

In their country, they don't have a Government as we know it, but a Guiding Council. Their officials are also elected. There are 56 members in their Council, and they are elected every six years (in our time). Any time one of the officials proves to be unfit for the job, he can be dismissed and another one elected. These people are very friendly and have never had a war on their planet, nor have they crime, as we know it here. They not only talk with telepathy, but have a language of their own. I know a few words of their language. When a couple is married, it is said that they are "united." The wife calls her husband her "united," and the husband calls his wife his "union." Their children are very healthy, but they do have sickness. They also have diseases they cannot control, as we do, and have death they cannot prevent. When their children are old enough to know right from wrong, no matter what age, they are sent to school and go until they are 28 years old. At this time, if they have not reached the standard of learning that they should, they go to school until they do. Everyone works at a job that he himself chooses. If a man does not like his work, he can ask for reclassification and can be assigned to something else.

By now Derenberger was something of a celebrity and the focus of a fair amount of hysteria. Every night cars filled with spaceship-hunting (and sometimes gun-toting) gawkers lined up on the roads around his farm. No spaceships appeared. Nonetheless, or so Derenberger would assert, one night in early 1967 a black Volkswagen drove through the crowd. A neatly dressed man with a deep tan got out and

met Derenberger on his porch. The man handed over a vial of medicine, returned to his car, and drove off undetected. Indrid Cold had just delivered the cure for a chronic stomach ailment.

## NICAP BOWS OUT

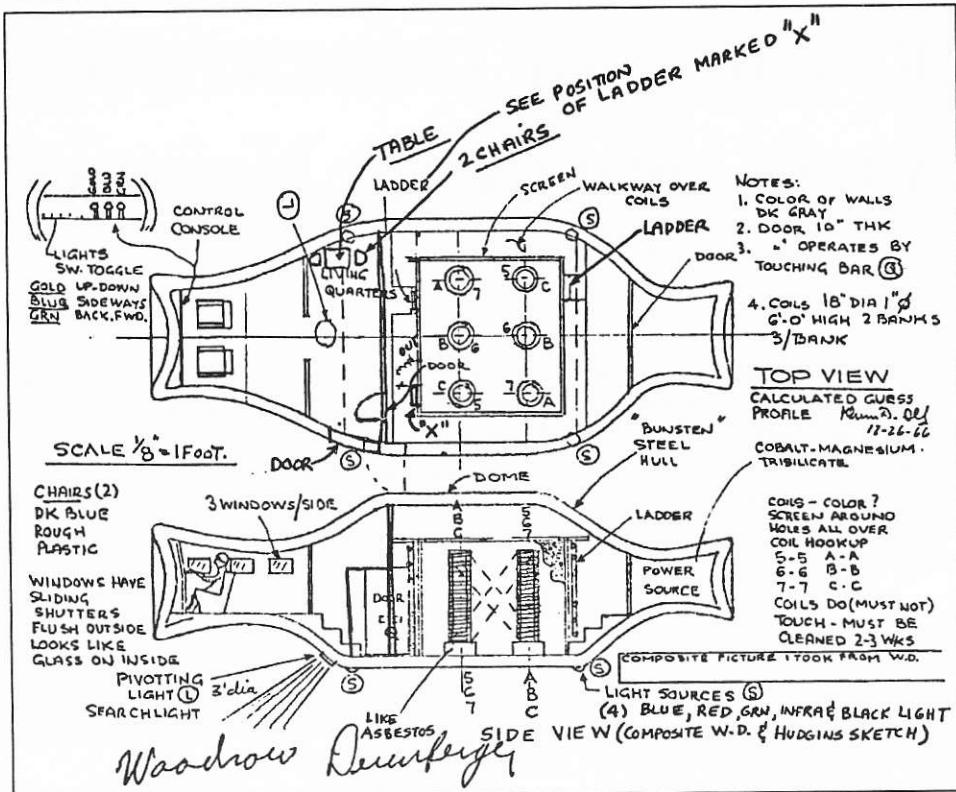
Investigators from NICAP's Pittsburgh Subcommittee returned to the area on November 26 and met with Derenberger at his Mineral Wells home. When they asked him if he would be willing to submit to hypnosis, he declined. Earlier, he said, an "Air Force major from the Pentagon" had visited him and specifically asked him to refrain from being hypnotized. He further claimed that a man who identified himself as an FBI agent had interviewed him. The NICAP people, openly skeptical, suggested that the visitors had been impostors, but Derenberger said they had shown him authentic-looking identification. Derenberger confided that he had had three subsequent contacts with Cold, who informed him that he came from the planet Lanulos, "near the Ganymede star cluster."

Among those who sat in on the meeting was a Parkersburg psychiatrist, Raymond Jarvis (pseudonym). On November 29 Jarvis sent in membership fees to NICAP's Washington headquarters and offered to "help in any way possible." He said he had long been interested in UFOs. The local NICAP investigators wanted him to conduct a psychiatric and neurological evaluation of Derenberger. Jarvis found Derenberger to be a "friendly, outgoing man whose behavior, thinking, and interaction with others does not reveal evidence of serious psychopathology." On December 7 a further EEG test was conducted on Derenberger at a Baltimore hospital. The physician who did the work detected "no evidence of brain damage or of focal organic change and certainly, nothing to suggest the presence of a convulsive disorder."

In early December Jarvis and his family, who lived in the country outside Parkersburg, had a daytime sighting of a disc-shaped object. Two days later, as he was watching a televised football game, he felt a tingling in his head and arms. Then the voice of Indrid Cold announced that he and his associates would like to meet him. Cold himself would soon appear in the guise of a salesman. In the days following this incident, Jarvis would see lights in the woods a mile from his home, but these lights would appear only when he was alone. Whenever he alerted family members for corroboration, they would vanish. Cold did not keep his promised appointment.

NICAP's investigation went on inconclusively. Members checked into Derenberger's background and uncovered no evidence of criminality or other abnormality. Dr. Jarvis's background proved similarly ordinary. Members of the team participated in sky watches hoping that they would see the UFOs area residents seemed to be sighting regularly, but the results were disappointing. Though Pittsburgh Subcommittee chairman William Weitzel called

Sketch done at Woody Derenberger's direction by Kevin D. Dee showing the interior of a Lanulosian spacecraft.



Derenberger's "one of the most interesting cases NICAP has ever studied," Derenberger had begun to grow uncomfortable about the group, apparently because he feared that NICAP would monopolize his story and cut him out of the profits. A local man named Jack Mace had appointed himself Derenberger's manager. Mace spoke privately but frequently of the money Derenberger—and presumably Mace as well—could see from commercial exploitation of the story.

In late November Gray Barker, a West Virginia publisher of contactee and occult literature, showed up in Parkersburg and talked with Derenberger, then gave an interview to the *News*. Barker, who had been expelled from NICAP that year, was eager to settle scores. "I think [the NICAP investigators] plan to come up with a very negative report," he charged. "And the people of the Parkersburg area should be righteously angry at the treatment afforded one of their citizens by this innuendo."

Not only had NICAP always been hostile to contact claims, it was reluctant to endorse even reports of brief, noncommunicative encounters with UFO occupants—the sorts of incidents that would come to be called close encounters of the third kind. Yet it had devoted considerable attention to Derenberger's claims, in spite of their increasingly bizarre character. NICAP headquarters in Washington even drew up a list of questions it wanted Dr. Jarvis to ask Indrid Cold next time the latter established telepathic contact with the former.

But NICAP's patience and Derenberger's credibility were rapidly eroding. In its May/June 1967 issue the organization's newsletter devoted three short paragraphs to

the matter. The item concluded, "While NICAP has been unable to conclusively disprove the claims by Derenberger [sic], the case is considered highly dubious." A statement drafted for press inquirers was more specific:

The alleged sightings, visits, and communications with spacemen as reported by Woodrow Derenberger . . . have been investigated in detail by NICAP. No convincing evidence has been found to substantiate Derenberger's claims, and it has been noted that the claims tend to become more complicated, and correspondingly more fantastic, with the passage of time. Evidence has been found indicating a degree of suggestibility among some of the people involved in the Derenberger case, whereby unrelated events have been connected, misinterpreted, and made mysterious when there is no objective justification. Thus, much of what has transpired seems to lie in the realm of psychology rather than empirical experience.

## FROM THE EARTH TO LANULOS

Now that the crowds around the farm had dispersed, the people of Lanulos felt free to land regularly on Derenberger's property. He took an extended flight with them to the Amazon and from there flew to a huge mothership parked near the moon. On another occasion he sailed through the solar system. Along the way he learned through personal observation that Saturn's rings "are simply rainbows that are caused by the sun shining on the ice." The ship went on

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# OBSERVATIONS OF UNIDENTIFIED SUBMARINE OBJECTS IN NORWAY

BY OLE JONNY BRAENNE

In the waters of Norway (and Sweden, too) there have been observations of unidentified submarine objects for a long time, going back before World War II. In what follows we will take a look at this peculiar phenomenon and report sightings of objects coming up from or going down into lakes and rivers. This article is based on newspaper clippings and reports from the archives of UFO-Norway.

The Royal Norwegian Department of Foreign Affairs has a certain number of documents pertaining to this subject, but these documents mostly concern identified foreign submarines. We have been given access to the documents only up to 1969; the ones from 1970 to the present are still classified. The operational headquarters of the Royal Norwegian Navy, which takes these reports seriously, classifies them in four categories:

(1) "Certain U-boat": when it is clearly observed visually by competent personnel, unequivocally registered on electronic localizing equipment, or photographed.

(2) "Probable U-boat": when there is no reason to doubt it is a U-boat, but the requirements for a certain U-boat have not been met. Twelve such reports are known from 1975 to 1989.

(3) "Possible U-boat": 120 reports from 1975 to 1989.

(4) "Not U-boat."

From 1969 to May 1983 the presence of unknown U-boats in Norwegian territorial waters was reported on some 200 occasions. The observers thought they had seen a periscope, tower, or actual submarine. Several of the reports had geographic and time correlations. By correlating the approximately 200 reports, it is possible to reduce the actual number of objects to 175. Of these the Navy classified 75—42.8%—as "not U-boats." These are the sightings of greatest interest to ufologists.

## 1946–1959

Let us first go back in time to some early reports.

On Thursday, July 18, 1946, a "ghost rocket" crashed into Lake Mjøsa (in southeastern Norway). Between 12 and

12:30 p.m. several witnesses observed a V1-like object coming in low from the west, at about 50 meters' height. The witnesses first heard a strong whistling sound, not exactly like that associated with known aircraft. The object flew so low as to cause the trees to sway. It impacted in Lake Mjøsa, about two kilometers from the western shore and seven kilometers from Minnesund, where the depth is 300–400 meters. It was cigar-shaped, about 2.5 meters long, with about one-meter-long wings placed one meter behind the nose. The front and back parts were shining like metal, but the middle section including the wings was dark. The wings seemed to flap a little, as if made of fabric. No fire, exhaust, or light was seen.

When it hit the lake, the water splashed several meters into the air. There was no explosion. The sky was clear, and the water quickly calmed. Some witnesses thought they saw two objects, one in front of the other. The Norwegian Defense High Command conducted an investigation, according to press reports of the period, but the documents have never been recovered. There is a distinct possibility that all documents on the 1946 ghost-rocket wave have been destroyed. If so, this is a disaster for UFO historians, who will be left with only newspaper accounts as source material.

Shortly before 7 a.m. one Thursday in October 1952, Johannes Nordlien was waiting for coworkers when he suddenly heard a howling, jetlike sound. A moment later a saucer-shaped object, four meters in diameter, came at high speed from the west and passed by him 100 meters away. It impacted with a violent splash in the river Lågen. The object was white as snow, and Nordlien clearly observed its flat and round shape as it hit the water. When his fellow workers showed up, the water was still boiling. The loud howling sound vanished as soon as he saw the object.

At 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, June 1, 1958, a silent "unknown aircraft" with no identifying markers crashed into the Alta fjord. At the impact site, 70 meters deep, a column of water rose up. The aircraft resembled a twin-engine delta-winged jet. The witnesses were Bjørn Taraldsen, Nils M. Turi, Kate Julsen, and Rasmus Hykkerud. When others arrived half an hour later, all they found were a number of dead fish. The frigate *KNM Arendal* and the submarine *KNM Sarpen*, along with divers, searched for the aircraft fruitlessly for over a week. The *Arendal*, however, did get a sonar reading of a mobile object.

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At 10 one evening just before Christmas 1959, Lorentz Johnsen saw a dark, silent object—which he described as looking like a small bus with a number of windows along its side—fly slowly by at an altitude of 150 meters. It was heading in the direction of the Namsen fjord. It descended to about 50 meters, grew fiery red, then exploded with an ear-splitting crash. According to Johnsen, “It looked like sort of a cover was torn off the object in one piece. This, along with a number of other things, fell into the water. I especially noticed three black ‘columns,’ about two meters long and one-half meter in diameter. The cover itself was torn off in one piece and reminded me of a curved sheet of metal. This was fiery red at first but grew black before reaching the water.”

## 1972–1990

Between November 12 and 22, 1972, an extensive search was conducted in the 1300-meter-deep Sogne fjord. Thirty Navy vessels, plus NATO forces, participated. The excitement began when the military received a report of a U-boat. The next day, the thirteenth, two witnesses watched an “aircraftlike object” maneuver along the fjord. The same night four other witnesses observed a “bright object” on the water. On November 20, at 1 p.m., a U-boat was seen near Kyrkjebo just as it headed away from Mårenlandet toward the fjord’s southern end. Fifteen minutes later it was seen by five police officers at Kvamsøy, a small island about 50 kilometers north of Kyrkjebo. Here frigates dropped mines on the object. If these were two observations of the same object, we have a speed of 200 kph—a speed of which no known submarine is capable.

On the night of November 21, four witnesses sighted four “rockets” shooting up from the water at Hermansverk. The rockets were silent and resembled small red balls of light. On the afternoon of the next day, an antisubmarine missile was fired at the intruders. The water’s depth at the site was only 25 meters, and the shock waves of the explosion were so powerful as to throw small boats onto land 10 kilometers away. Any conventional submarine would have been severely damaged and forced to surface; yet this vessel escaped apparently unscathed.

At the same time other odd events were occurring. Aircraft experienced unexplained electronic problems. Yellow and green objects were seen flying along a mountainside. Navy vessels registered sonar contact with something in deep water. Surveillance aircraft encountered unidentified “helicopters” which executed breakneck maneuvers in fierce storms.

On Wednesday, July 4, 1973, Erling Bakke and his wife sighted a peculiar vessel on the water. They spotted it at 11:15 p.m. It was 25 feet long and six feet high and had a protrusion on top. “When we first spotted the strange object, which had a speed of at least 100 kph along the water,” Bakke reported, “we at first thought it had to be some sort of speedboat, and we were amazed at people

going that fast. But suddenly the object rose up at a 45-degree angle, and a moment later it was gone. Then my wife and I became aware of having witnessed a UFO up close. And it was a wonderful experience.” The object was entirely black and thus clearly visible.

Local divers spotted a submarinelike tower in the Husnes fjord (a minor fjord in the Hardanger fjord) on Wednesday, April 27, 1983, and by 1 p.m. a search team from the Norwegian Defense was at the site. It consisted of the corvette *KNM Sleipner*, two submarines, and one Orion aircraft equipped with anti-U-boat weapons. The next day the *KNM Oslo* and two more frigates joined the search. At 4:55 p.m. the *Oslo* achieved the first possible sonar contact south of Leivik on Stord Island. At 5:21 the frigate fired a Terne rocket as a warning to the intruders that they had been observed and were being pursued.

The following night a possible sonar contact occurred in the Selbjørn fjord (another minor fjord in the Hardanger fjord), but the pursuers did not open fire out of concern for a nearby Norwegian submarine. Two more sonar contacts took place at different positions, and on the afternoon of April 30, the *Oslo*, after sonar contact, fired a Terne rocket and dropped a mine. Five minutes later it launched four more rockets, and then the sonar contact was lost. Around 4 p.m. five Terne rockets were fired at nearby Halsenøy. Near midnight a sonar contact south of Leivik resulted in another rocket-firing.

On May 1, a Sunday, at 4:20 p.m., after sonar contact, six Terne rockets were launched. They hit the water and plunged into the deep before the charge detonated. Immediately afterwards an Orion aircraft dropped a mine at the same spot in the Skåneviks fjord. An hour later the *Oslo* attacked again with six rockets. The last sonar contact was achieved by an Orion aircraft at 8:30. The plane dropped mines at the entrance to the Høylandssundet. The next night mines were dropped at the Selbjørn fjord.

All during the search the military was fielding numerous reports from civilian observers. In all six mines and 24 Terne rockets were fired—with no results.

Paul Paulsen Frøyen saw two “U-boats” between Lavik and Vadheim in Ytre Sogn, about eight kilometers from land or about 65 kilometers inside the Sogne fjord, on Friday, June 2, 1989. “I went out of my car and watched the two U-boats for two and a half minutes,” he said. “I’ve grown up with the Norwegian Kobben submarines, and these were not similar to them. . . . I’m certain that the two U-boats had to surface in order to communicate. . . . I watched the periscopes and the towers on both U-boats, and when they submerged, I observed the spray from the propellers in the nice weather.” The Royal Norwegian Air Force sent two jets to look for the submarines, and the Coast Guard was ordered there as well. Military sources told the press that these objects could not have been submarines.

On Wednesday, September 19, 1990, *KNM Stavanger* had a sonar contact with an “unknown U-boat” in the waters

(continued on page 17)

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# THE ARNOLD PHENOMENON:

## PART ONE

BY BRUCE MACCABEE

**K**enneth Arnold's sighting on June 24, 1947, alerted the nation to the presence of strange objects in the skies. Within days local newspapers and national news services were reporting sightings made both before and after June 24. Though many of these could be studied as the "earliest cases," Arnold's is particularly valuable for several reasons.

For one thing, it is the prototype of daylight sightings by aircraft pilots. For another, it was the first widely publicized report and therefore could not have been made as a response to publicity (some other witnesses were called copycats or publicity seekers). It was made by a respected and credible observer (Arnold was a businessman with over 4000 hours of flying time). Arnold had no radical ideas about what he saw (he assumed that he had seen some new developmental aircraft of the [Army] Air Force). He observed the objects carefully and even timed their transit over a known distance. He sent to the Air Force a complete description of his sighting and the circumstances in which it had taken place. Finally, Arnold's sighting is important because several explanations have been proposed. These attempts to account for the incident tell us much about how skeptics have dealt with the UFO phenomenon.

Summaries of Arnold's sighting have been published in a number of books, including his own (*The Coming of the Saucers* [1952], with Ray Palmer). Unfortunately these accounts leave out some of the details that must be known so that we can properly evaluate the suggested explanations. Because of space limitations I cannot reprint Arnold's report verbatim, but I will present most of the information contained therein so that readers will gain a clear understanding of just what happened.

### THE SIGHTING BEGINS

Arnold took off in his small plane from Chehalis, Washington, at 2 p.m. on June 24. He had just completed a business trip; he sold and installed firefighting equipment. He planned to spend about an hour searching for a lost C-46

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Marine transport plane which had crashed in the mountains west-southwest of Mount Rainier and for which a \$5000 reward had been offered. After searching for about an hour and finding nothing, he turned east toward his next destination, Yakima, Washington. He was near Mineral, Washington, about 22 miles west-southwest of Mount Rainier; Yakima was about 80 miles ahead of him along a flight path that would take him just about 12 miles south of Mount Rainier's peak. As he leveled out onto his new flight path, he was at an altitude of approximately 9200 feet. His sighting began within a minute or two of the turn.

In what follows, I have emphasized some of his words with italics because of their importance in the later analyses of would-be explainers. Sentences taken from his Air Force letter are preceded by (L) and statements from his book are preceded by (B):

(L) The air was *so smooth that day that it was a real pleasure flying* and, as most pilots do when the air is smooth and they are flying at a higher altitude, I trimmed out my airplane in the direction of Yakima, Washington, which was almost directly east of my position and simply sat in my plane observing the sky and terrain. There was a *DC-4 to the left and to the rear of me approximately fifteen miles distance*, and I should judge, a 14,000 foot elevation.

The time was about 3 p.m., and the sun was just slightly to the southwest of being directly overhead (this was only two days after summer solstice). It is important to notice how Arnold's attention was first drawn to the presence of strange flying objects because his initial observation rules out any explanation that depends on aerial phenomena that are not shiny (reflective, in other words, like a mirror) such as birds. It also rules out atmospheric effects.

(L) The sky and air was as clear as crystal. I hadn't flown more than two or three minutes on my course when a *bright flash reflected on my airplane*. It startled me as I thought I was too close to some other aircraft. (B) I spent the next twenty to thirty seconds urgently searching the sky all around—to the sides, above and below me—in an attempt to determine where the flash of light had come from. The only actual plane I saw was a DC-4 far to my left and rear, apparently on its San Francisco to Seattle run. My momentary explanation to

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myself was that some lieutenant in a P-51 had given me a buzz job across my nose and that it was sun reflecting from the surface of his wings as he passed that had caused the flash. Before I had time to collect my thoughts or to find any close aircraft, the flash happened again. This time I caught the direction from which it had come. I observed, far to my left and to the north, a formation of very bright objects coming from the vicinity of Mount Baker, *flying very close to the mountain tops and traveling at tremendous speed.* (L) I observed a chain of nine peculiar looking aircraft flying from north to south at approximately 9,500 foot elevation and going, seemingly, in a definite direction of about 170 degrees.

Mount Baker (alt. 10,000 feet) is 130 miles north of Mount Rainier. Even if the objects were not as far away as Mount Baker, the flashes must have been very bright to be visible over a great distance. This suggests that the flashes were reflections of sunlight from mirrorlike (specular) surfaces, in other words polished metal surfaces. Anything less would be invisible over such a distance in the bright sky. Since the sun was nearly overhead, some portion of the object's surface must have been momentarily at an angle of nearly 45 degrees to the vertical (or horizontal) in order to cause a reflected sun ray to travel nearly horizontally in the atmosphere from the object to Arnold's plane.

(B) At first I couldn't make out their shapes as they were still at a distance of over a hundred miles. I could see the formation was going to pass directly in front of me, as it was flying at approximately 170 degrees. I watched as these objects rapidly neared the snow border of Mount Rainier, all the time thinking to myself that I was *observing a whole formation of jets.* In group count, such as I have used in counting cattle and game from the air, they numbered nine. They were flying diagonally in an echelon formation with a larger gap in their echelon between the first four and the last five. What startled me most at this point was the fact that I could not find any tails on them. I felt sure that, *being jets, they had tails*, but figured they must be camouflaged in some way so that my eyesight could not perceive them. I knew the Air Force was very artful in the knowledge and use of camouflage. I observed the objects' outlines plainly as they flipped and flashed along against the snow and also against the sky.

(L) Anyhow, I discovered that this was where the reflection had come from, as two or three of them every few seconds would *dip or change their course slightly, just enough for the sun to strike them at an angle that reflected brightly on my plane.*

(B) [As they were traveling perpendicular to my path,] I was in an excellent position to clock their speed; I determined to make an attempt to do so.

(L) I had two definite points I could clock them by [by this Arnold means Mount Rainier and Mount Adams,

about 47 miles to the south]; the air was so clear that it was very easy to see objects and determine their approximate shape and size at almost fifty miles that day. I remember distinctly that my sweep second hand on my eight day clock, which is located on my instrument panel, read one minute to 3 P.M. as the first object of this formation passed the southern edge of Mount Rainier. I watched these objects *with great interest* as I had never before observed airplanes *flying so close to the mountain tops*, flying directly south to southeast down the hog's back of a mountain range. I would estimate their elevation could have varied *a thousand feet one way or another up or down, but they were pretty much on the horizon to me which would indicate they were near the same elevation as I was.* They flew like many times I have observed geese to fly in a rather diagonal chain-like line as if they were linked together. They seemed to hold a definite direction but rather swerved in and out of the high mountain peaks. . . . I could quite accurately determine their pathway due to the fact that *there were several high peaks that were a little this side of them as well as higher peaks on the other side of their pathway.*

These statements about how the objects flew with respect to the mountain peaks are highly important because they provide information on the distance from the observer, Arnold. These mountain peaks lie along a wide north-south line extending southward from Mount Rainier to Mount Adams. These peaks were about *20 miles east* of Arnold at the time. These statements also provide the altitude of the objects. To Arnold they appeared to be approximately at his altitude because they looked to be "pretty much on the horizon to me." Since he was flying at 9200 feet, this implies that they were close to that altitude. (Arnold actually stated in his letter that they were at 9500 feet.) However, the mountain peaks south of Rainier generally are 5000 to 7000 feet high, with the higher ones being farther away (more to the east) from Arnold. Hence his statement that there were higher peaks on the far side of the pathway indicates that the objects were definitely lower than 7000 feet. Furthermore, he said they went behind some (or at least one) of the lower, closer peaks. Geological survey maps show that mountain peaks behind which the objects could have disappeared have altitudes of 5000 to 6000 feet. Thus it appears that they were lower than 6000 feet and that Arnold overestimated their altitude.

Is it reasonable to assume that he could have made an error of several thousand feet in estimating their altitude? The answer to this question lies in the fact that Arnold inferred the altitude by observing that the objects *appeared* to be almost exactly on his horizon (that is, level with his altitude). But it is difficult to determine the exact horizon from an airplane. In this case the angle (the "depression angle") between exact horizontal and his downward sighting line to the mountain peaks south of Mount Rainier was

quite small. The depression angle from Arnold's plane at 9200 feet to the top of a 5500-foot-high mountain at a distance of 20 miles (105,600 feet) was about two degrees. Such a small angle would be hard to detect from an airplane. So the answer is yes, he could easily have made an error of 4000 feet in estimating the altitude of the objects. Perhaps if he had looked up the actual altitudes of the peaks south of Mount Rainier, he would have revised his statement.

## OBSERVING THE OBJECTS

While Arnold was timing the flight, he observed the objects carefully. According to his letter (my emphasis), "I observed these objects not only through the glass of my airplane but *turned my airplane sideways where I could open my window and observe them with a completely unobstructed view. (Without sun glasses.)*"

(B) They didn't fly like any aircraft I had ever seen before. In the first place, their echelon formation was backward from that practiced by our Air Force. The elevation of the first craft was greater than that of the last. They flew in a definite formation, but erratically. As I described them at the time, their flight was like speed boats on rough water or similar to the tail of a Chinese kite that I once saw blowing in the wind. Or maybe it would be best to describe their flight characteristics as very similar to a formation of geese, in a rather diagonal chain-like line, as if they were linked together. As I put it to newsmen in Pendleton, Oregon, they flew like a saucer would if you skipped it across the water. . . . [T]hey fluttered and sailed, tipping their wings alternately and emitting those very bright blue-white flashes from their surfaces. At the time I did not get the impression that the flashes were emitted by them, but rather that it was *the sun's reflection from the extremely highly polished surface of their wings.*

(L) What kept *bothering me as I watched them flip and flash* in the sun right along their path was the fact that I couldn't make out any tail on them, and I am sure that any pilot would justify more than a second look at such a plane. . . . *The more I observed these objects, the more upset I became, as I am accustomed and familiar with most all objects flying whether I am close to the ground or at higher altitudes.* . . . Even though two minutes seems like a very short time to one on the ground, in the air in two minutes time a pilot can observe a great many things and anything within his sight of vision probably as many as fifty or sixty times. . . . Of course, when the Sun reflected from one or two or three of these units, they appeared to be completely round; but, I am making a drawing to the best of my ability, which I am including, as to the shape I observed these objects to be as they passed the snow covered ridges as well as Mt. Rainier. When these objects were flying approximately straight and level, *they were just a black thin line* and when they flipped was the only

time I could get a judgment as to their size. These objects were holding an almost constant elevation; they did not seem to be going up or to be coming down, such as would be the case of rockets or artillery shells. *I am convinced in my own mind that they were some type of airplane, even though they didn't conform with the many aspects of the conventional types of planes that I know.*

In his letter Arnold included a sketch which shows the leading edge being nearly a semicircle, with short parallel sides and with the rear being a wide-angle convex (protruding) V shape which comes to a rounded point at the trailing edge. His drawing suggests that the objects were nearly circular overall. He wrote on the sketch that "they seemed longer than wide, their thickness was about  $\frac{1}{20}$ th of their width." His suggestion that their width (or length) was about 20 times greater than their thickness may be an exaggeration. The sketch he drew of how they appeared "on edge" has the dimensions 4 mm wide by 45 mm long (approximately) which suggests a ratio closer to  $\frac{1}{11}$ . (It is common for people to overestimate length-to-width ratios.) Though he did not mention it in his letter, he later stated in his book that one of the objects had a somewhat different shape. His book carries an illustration in which the object has a semicircular front edge and a rear edge that consists of two concave edges which join at a rearward pointing cusp at the center of the rear edge.

(L) I knew they must be very large to observe their shape at that distance, even on as clear a day as it was that Tuesday. In fact I *compared a zeus fastener or cowling tool I had in my pocket with them—holding it up on them and holding it up on the DC-4—that I could observe at quite a distance to my left, and they seemed smaller than the DC-4; but, I should judge their span would have been as wide as the furtherest [sic] engines on each side of the fuselage of the DC-4.*

(L) . . . I observed the chain of these objects passing another high snow-covered ridge in between Mt. Rainier and Mt. Adams, and *as the first one was passing the south crest of this ridge the last object was entering the northern crest of the ridge.* As I was flying in the direction of this particular ridge, I measured it later and found it to be approximately five miles long so I could safely assume that the chain of these saucer like objects were [sic] *at least five miles long.*

(L) As the *last unit of this formation passed the northern-most high snow-covered crest of Mt. Adams*, I looked at my sweep second hand and it showed that they had travelled the distance in one minute and forty-two seconds. Even at the time this timing did not upset me as I felt confident after I would land there would be some explanation of what I saw. . . . I might add that my complete observation of these objects, which *I could even follow by their flashes as they passed Mt. Adams*, was around two and one-half or three minutes—although, by the time they reached Mt. Adams they were out of my range of vision as far as determining shape or form.

Arnold estimated their size in an indirect way. He stated that they appeared to be comparable to the spacing of the engines on a DC-4 (four-engine propeller-driven, 117-foot wingspan, 94-feet length, 27-feet height) *which he had seen* at a distance thought to be 15 miles. He estimated the engine spacing to be 45 to 50 feet, though 60 feet would have been more accurate. By this means he was essentially providing an angular size for the objects: the equivalent of about 60 feet at 15 miles. He reported the size of the objects as 45–50 feet by comparison with the airplane *as if the plane had been at the same distance as the objects*. But the plane was not at the same distance, so a correction for the distance difference is necessary.

It is possible to estimate the size of the objects assuming his assessment of the distance to the DC-4—15 miles—was generally accurate. Using the outer engine spacing as 60 feet, the angular size at his estimated distance is  $60 + (15 \times 5280) = 0.00076$  radians or about 2.6 minutes of arc (1 degree = 60 minutes = 0.0174 radians). Projecting this angle to 20 miles, the rough distance of the objects, would yield a size of about  $(20 \times 5280 \times 0.00075) = 80$  feet. Had he overestimated the distance to the DC-4 (if it had been less than 15 miles away), the calculated angular size, and hence the calculated object size, would increase. If he underestimated the distance to the DC-4, then the calculated size would decrease. My own suspicion is that he overestimated the distance and that therefore the objects were larger than 80 feet in length. Unfortunately no investigator pursued this size estimate at the time, and with Arnold's death in 1984, it is no longer possible to improve the size estimate.

Using the dashboard clock in his airplane, Arnold measured the time from the moment the first object passed the flank of Mount Rainier until the last object passed Mount Adams. The distance from the flank of Mount Rainier to the peak of Mount Adams is about 45 miles (depending upon where on the flank one picks as the starting point). Since the length of the chain of objects was about five miles, the leading object was *about five miles south* of Mount Adams when the last object passed Mount Adams. Thus the total distance it (along with the others) traveled was about 50 miles in 102 seconds. This corresponds to a speed of about 1760 mph. (Arnold intentionally underestimated this speed, saying that it was 1200 mph or more, which was still faster than any aircraft of that day. Chuck Yaeger first broke the "sound barrier" at about 700 mph a few months after Arnold's sighting.)

Arnold estimated that he had the objects in view for a total of two and a half to three minutes, during which time they may have traveled 80 to 90 miles, from a location about 30 to 40 miles north of Mount Rainier where Arnold first saw them (not from the 100 miles distance of Mount Baker, as Arnold had thought) to some distance south of Mount Adams, where they disappeared from view.

On landing at Yakima, he told some of the people at the airport about these amazing high-speed aircraft.

(L) I described what I had seen to my very good friend, Al Baxter, who listened patiently and was very courteous but in a joking way didn't believe me.

Arnold then left the airport to fly to Pendleton, Oregon, on a business trip. The discussion of his sighting presumably would have ended in Yakima had not someone at the airport contacted the press to report the sighting of some new, fast-moving aircraft. When Arnold arrived at Pendleton, he was surprised to find a number of reporters eager to learn about the new craft. Arnold told them about the sighting and his (under)estimated speed of 1200 mph. He then described how they flew: they wobbled and flipped, like saucers skipping on the water. In no time at all, some anonymous journalist coined the phrase "flying saucers."

(L) I did not accurately measure the distance between these two mountains [Rainier and Adams] until I landed at Pendleton, Oregon, that same day where I told a number of pilot friends of mine what I had observed and they did not scoff or laugh but suggested they might be guided missiles or something new. In fact several former Army pilots informed me that they had been briefed before going into combat overseas that they might see objects of similar shape and design as I described and assured me that I wasn't dreaming or going crazy.... [A] former Army Air Forces pilot [said] ... "What you observed, I am convinced, is some type of jet or rocket propelled ship that is in the process of being tested by our government or even it could possibly be by some foreign government." ♦

## NORWAY—*continued from page 13*

off Ona lighthouse about 30 kilometers outside Molde. The vessel sent international-warning signals but got no response. In an effort to get the U-boat to surface, hand grenades were dropped into the water. When that failed, at 5:30 p.m. the *Stavanger* shot off three Terne rockets. The sonar contact ended, and the next day the search was called off. The *Stavanger* managed to make a recording of its sonar contact with the unknown object.

It is a fact that the Norwegian Defense Forces have never managed to force a *single foreign submarine* to surface. Perhaps there is a reason for this. It is logical to assume they know a great deal more about foreign activity in the fjords than they are willing to acknowledge publicly. It is not smart to advertise all one knows in these circumstances. Conceivably the activity is permitted to take place so that diplomatic conflict may be avoided. Norway is, after all, situated in a sensitive area both geopolitically and militarily. The Norwegian defense authority regards a U-boat search as successful whenever the U-boat leaves the area. Or at least that is what is said for public consumption.

All the rest of us know is that we have reports, so far unexplained, of unidentified objects able to operate in both the atmosphere and the aquasphere. ♦

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## LETTERS

### BETTY HILL ON THE HILL EXPERIENCE

To the editor:

I have just read Geoff Olson's "The Eyes Have It" in the November/December 1994 issue of *IUR*, and I wish to correct a misconception. Olson has no way of knowing the circumstances, for I doubt that most people in the UFO field are aware of some of the basic facts.

Barney and I had 26 appointments with Dr. Benjamin Simon. Each hour was spent with about 45 minutes of deep hypnosis. We spent hours and hours reliving every detail of our experience.

In *The Interrupted Journey* (1966) John G. Fuller tells only the basic outline of our story. In Barney's first hypnotic session he talks about the eyes which have no body, and he knows it must be a wildcat up a tree. Then he laughs and decides it is the Cheshire cat (as in *Alice in Wonderland*), so he has no need to be afraid.

So what did I see? First, a group of men. Then one steps forward ahead of the others, and he is holding some kind of object: two glowing orbs with a small space between them. He points this object at the car and moves it slightly back and forth, and the car motor dies. Actually, they stalled out the motor by some kind of equipment. The motor did not stall by itself.

After our sessions in Dr. Simon's office, we had other sessions at his home. Dr. Hynek, John Fuller, Barney, and I were together at one of these. Dr. Simon put us in hypnosis and back on the craft so that Dr. Hynek could question us; we did not tell our experiences, we relived them. Barney demonstrated how they got him. He opened the car door and began to run. Suddenly both his legs were pulled from under him—both legs together at the same time—probably physically impossible to do on his own. They went up into the air, and he hit the floor so hard that the house shook. Just another minor detail, but I thought you might be interested, since Dr. Hynek witnessed this.

At the moment I am busy writing my experiences of the past 20 years of working with those who thought they might have been abducted, when they had not been—pinpointing the sources of their beliefs. I am also developing the criteria for real abductions.

Betty Hill  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

### OBJECTIONS TO A REVIEW

To the editor:

Jerome Clark's reviews of my books ("Circles," November/December 1994 *IUR*) seemed fair and thoughtful on the whole. But his detailed analysis of *Dark White* did contain

some errors and misconceptions which deserve correction.

Most importantly, he suggested that I gave Budd Hopkins the credit for first noticing the pregnancy theme in abduction accounts and that I missed John Keel's earlier discovery and analysis. But on page 156 of my book I did discuss Keel's discovery, in some detail. For example: "Keel decided that this alien impregnation theme, which had ample precedents in the fairy lore, the demonological lore, and even the Bible, was just another game." Earlier, on page 60, when I discussed Hopkins's encounter with this theme, I noted (in almost a direct quote from an interview with Hopkins) that the pregnancy theme "had been there all along; it was just that Hopkins had tended to downplay it, suspecting that it might just be fantasy."

Clark also said that I treated "uncritically" the imaginary-abductions experiment by Alvin Lawson, et al. But I introduced the Lawson experiment in a quick survey of Philip J. Klass's arguments, only because Klass had mentioned it in his 1988 book on abductions. And I did note (p. 105) that Lawson and his colleagues, in response to criticism of their experiment by ufologists, had backed away from some of their findings. What more was left to say?

Clark went on to condemn me for "soft" treatment of Michael Persinger and Philip Klass. Again, the book contained my own or others' criticisms of both. I made clear in my analysis on pages 286–301, for example, that Persinger's theories fail to cover a very large area of abductee behavior—for example, deception and competitive self-victimization. I also made clear that Klass went to unusual lengths to tweak ufologists. On page 107, for example, I mentioned (based largely on an interview with and documents received from Clark) the University of Nebraska incident, in which Klass apparently disrupted a ufology conference.

As Clark himself seems to admit, early in his review, my book was more a journalistic history and survey of the main characters and themes than an intensive critical analysis. The latter would have been fun for me but dead boring for the average reader. That the analyses in *Dark White* didn't go far enough for Clark, and that he condemns my failure to mention some of his favorite characters and their arguments, is evidence of the strength of his own opinions, rather than of "gaping, crippling holes" in my knowledge.

Incidentally, I have published an analytical study of chronic abduction claims in the March 1994 issue of the psychiatric journal *Dissociation*.

Jim Schnabel  
Chevy Chase, Maryland

Jerome Clark responds:

My criticism of Jim Schnabel's handling of the alien-pregnancy issue is clearly in error, and I apologize to him. This oversight only serves to strengthen my conviction that

all nonfiction books should have indexes.

Schnabel unconvincingly asserts that if he had followed my guidelines, he would have produced a "dead boring" book. One may agree or disagree with him, but it is hard to believe he could ever be boring. I for one hope *Dark White* is not his last word on our subject.

I will leave it to readers of the book to judge the fairness of my other criticisms.

## GLITCHES AMID THE GIZMOS

*To the editor:*

I want to point out two errors which crept into my "In Search of Gizmos: A 1947 Radar Case" (*IUR*, November/December 1994). Paragraph 1, page 17, left column, line 12, should read: "The use of new types of equipment such as MTI, which will eliminate all targets from the scope . . ." —not "New types of equipment such as at MTI. . ." I think the editor was confusing MTI with MIT and scrambled the sentence. MTI stands for *moving target indication*, a form of pulse radar which uses the Doppler frequency shift to eliminate stationary clutter.

Also, paragraph 1, page 18, right column, line 6: "multiple variation excitation" should read "multiple vibrational excitation." Ehlers's theory posits molecules vibrating and exciting other molecules as a result of the gang effect of photon bombardment.

These two errors notwithstanding, the rather complicated technical detail of this old radar case was presented accurately.

Greg Long  
Philomath, Oregon

## ROSWELL AND THE WEATHER ARCHIVES

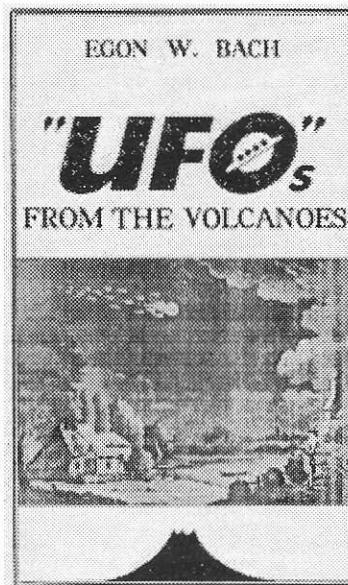
*To the editor:*

I am writing in reference to Karl T. Pflock's "Roswell, the Air Force, and Us" (November/December 1994 *IUR*).

Pflock says the Air Force has "established officially and unequivocally that what Brazel found could not have been an ordinary weather balloon." In support of his statement he quotes from a memo from the "Weather Directorate of the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Air Force." The memo states, "We did not find any records in the Air Force weather archives of a weather balloon crash near Roswell, New Mexico[,] from 20 June to 31 July 1947." One might infer from this that if an ordinary weather balloon had "crashed" in New Mexico in July 1947, a record of that incident would exist in the "weather archives of the Air Force." Unfortunately, this is not the case.

There has never been a requirement to document weather-balloon "crashes." Generally, weather balloons are expendable equipment. Ordinary weather balloons are

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not tracked to their final "crash" site because nobody cares what happens to them once they have outlived their usefulness. Records are not created to document such events, so even if something of the sort did indeed occur at Roswell, it would be a miracle if a record of it existed in the weather archives—or anywhere else.

Robert G. Todd  
Ardmore, Pennsylvania

## A SUMMER 1947 SIGHTING

*To the editor:*

Karl T. Pflock's "Roswell, the Air Force, and Us" (November/December 1994 *IUR*) brought to mind a sighting of an apparent UFO during the summer of 1947. At the time I was a 22-year-old student at the University of Washington in Seattle. During early twilight I happened to be walking in Greenwood Park and looking over Puget Sound. For some reason I happened to glance up into the twilight sky, at which time I noticed a bright, round, white object descending from the upper atmosphere. The object made a sharp turn and then continued at a high velocity south along Puget Sound. I did not hear any sound of motors, and the entire

sighting lasted 15 or 20 seconds. I was astonished at the sight.

Though I did not know this at the time, a U.S. Coast Guardsman named Frank Ryman took one of the first photographs of the puzzling flying discs on July 4, 1947. He was stationed at Seattle's Sand Point Naval Station to the east of Greenwood Park. The photograph was reproduced in Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer's 1952 book *The Coming of the Saucers*.

The object I saw from Greenwood Park was about the size of a pea or dime held at arm's length. Indeed, it seemed similar to the object in Ryman's photo. In my opinion I may have seen the same white object over Puget Sound that Ryman photographed some four miles to the east.

Kenneth Lloyd Larson  
Los Angeles, California

## BLACK ALIEN AND BLIND ABDUCTION

To the editor:

In "An Extraordinary Encounter in the Dandenong Foot-hills" (September/October 1994 *IUR*) Bill Chalker mentions a "black" alien which looked like "a hole in matter." A similar sight was reported in my book *Into the Fringe*, when during a multiple-witness encounter my grown son saw a moving "shadow" entity whose presence was like "a blackness, a 'not,' a 'not there.'" I wonder if a comparison of these and similar reports would tell us something about these unusual perceptions that some abductees experience, in which they perceive the entity in an entirely different way from the way in which it is perceived in the typical alien encounter.

I've been involved in abduction research for several years, and during this time I have never come across a case of a blind individual who reported abduction events. Persons with other physical problems, yes, but no one without vision. I would like to hear from readers who do know of such reports. All information will remain confidential, and names do not have to be provided.

Karla Turner, Ph.D.  
Kelt Works, Box 32  
Roland, Arkansas 72135

## ENCOUNTER AT BUFF LEDGE by Walter N. Webb

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## DERENBERGER—continued from page 11

to Lanulos but did not touch ground there. It flew close enough to the surface, however, for Derenberger to wave at some of the planet's friendly inhabitants.

A May 1967 voyage brought Derenberger to Lanulos again, and this time he was permitted to disembark. He stayed at the Colds's luxury home, but whenever he went outside, he attracted stares because unlike the Lanulosians he wore clothes. Later he decided to do as the Lanulosians did, and so he became a nudist. This made the space people happy, and they welcomed him warmly into their midst. Even so, he felt uncomfortable because he was a "little bit overweight" while the Lanulosians all had perfect bodies. On a trip to Venus he learned that Lanulos is not the only nudist planet.

(Curiously, in one of the very first contact claims of the UFO era, an elderly man told a local newspaper that he had encountered nude and beautiful Venusians in the clearing of a woods near Mineral, Washington. Though it allegedly took place in March 1950, the story was not reported in the UFO literature until three decades later, long after Derenberger made a comparable claim. A sighting of a beautiful extraterrestrial couple, "dressed in nature's garb," allegedly occurred on April 16, 1897, near Springfield, Missouri. A naked, humanlike UFO being figures in an unpublished CE3 from Memphis in the late summer of 1960. A dubious 1986 abduction claim from Germany alleges a meeting with giant but otherwise human-looking, attractive nude aliens.)

Though conservative ufologists had long since written Derenberger off, he continued to intrigue the iconoclastic investigator and writer John Keel, who was researching UFO reports and other anomalous phenomena in the Ohio River Valley. Derenberger would figure prominently in Keel's *The Mothman Prophecies*. During his first visit Keel saw "some small lights bobbing around in a field behind Woody's house"; Derenberger claimed they were projections from Cold's spacecraft. Keel believed explicitly in Derenberger's essential sincerity and did not doubt that he was having extraordinary interactions with other-than-human beings; he disagreed, however, with Derenberger's interpretation. He thought Derenberger's friendly space people were really malevolent, manipulative occult entities in disguise.

Keel interviewed Derenberger's wife Marge and two children. According to Keel, they "also met Indrid Cold and his colleagues from the planet Lanulos." The Lanulosians often passed undetected among earthlings. Some had even shopped in Parkersburg stores. Nonetheless Mrs. Derenberger shared Keel's suspicions of their motives. She thought at first that there was something evil about them. Two other individuals, cousins Jim Hacket and Darla Sartor, also claimed to have met Cold, Ardo, and another Lanulosian, Demo Hassan, in Derenberger's company.

Derenberger moved from the Parkersburg area, com-

plaining all the while of persecution by men in black. On one occasion, he said, he had been the victim of a knife attack which left a prominent scar on his belly. The scar, however, proved invisible to others. He appeared before contactee-oriented audiences, and he became a regular guest on radio and television talk shows. On February 28, 1968, he invited reporters to a private home in Vienna, Virginia, promising a meeting with space people. When they failed to show, he blamed sabotage by evil-doers.

## VADIG AND THE TIME CYCLE

The next month Derenberger appeared on Fred Gale's call-in show on Washington, D.C., radio station WWDC. To the astonishment of all concerned, Derenberger most of all, someone called in to say he, too, had been to Lanulos. Though agreeing with much of what Derenberger had said about the planet and its people, he added some new details which Derenberger quickly verified. After 15 minutes the caller was put on a special off-air line and asked his name and phone number. He identified himself as Ed Bailey but refused to give out further information. He wanted no more publicity, he explained.

A few minutes later, however, Bailey's phone rang. The station had traced the call and given the number to Harold Salkin, Derenberger's manager. To Salkin "Bailey" revealed that his true name was Tom Monteleone, 21 years old and a psychology major at the University of Maryland. A week or so later Salkin and the Derenbergers visited him at his apartment and tape-recorded an interview with him.

Monteleone related that at 1 a.m. on December 10, 1967, he was driving home on an interstate highway when a UFO landed and blocked his way. Two humanlike occupants stood near the craft, and one approached him, smiling broadly. The alien, who had a "suntanned" complexion and bulging eyes, introduced himself as Vadig. After a few minutes' conversation Vadig said, "I'll see you in time," and reentered the ship. Two months later Vadig entered the Washington restaurant where Monteleone worked part-time as a waiter. He was dressed in an ordinary business suit. He arranged to meet the young man the following Sunday night. When he left, he said, once more, "I'll see you in time."

At midnight that Sunday, Vadig picked up Monteleone in a large black sedan and drove him to a farm in rural Maryland. There they boarded a UFO and flew, in what seemed like seconds, to Lanulos. Monteleone was surprised to find that its inhabitants did not wear clothes. "Some of them were real lookers," he would recall. He was flown back to earth and driven back to his apartment. Vadig again promised, "I'll see you in time." A week later Vadig and another Lanulosian came to the restaurant and talked for a short time with Monteleone. He never saw them again.

In late March, Salkin and the Derenbergers returned for another interview. This time they brought Keel with them. Keel did most of the questioning. At first he seemed

skeptical but soon was won over. Keel said he thought Monteleone was telling the truth because he had revealed information known to Keel from his investigations but not to ufologists or the larger public.

The next year Keel devoted several paragraphs (though without naming Monteleone) to the story in a *Flying Saucer Review* article titled "The Time Cycle Factor." Cases like Derenberger's and Monteleone's indicated, he wrote, that the UFO intelligences "originate outside of [sic] our time frame. . . . UFOs are from another time cycle vastly different from our own." In other words, Vadig was trying to tell Monteleone something when he promised to meet again "in time."

Using his real name, Monteleone made several public appearances in New York City in January 1970. He soon regretted these and complained to Keel about harassment by a "horde of kooks. . . . Although the experiences I had with Vadig were completely true, I sometimes wish that I had never revealed them to anyone." Monteleone's story was incorporated into a book Derenberger wrote with Harold W. Hubbard, *Visitors from Lanulos* (1970). Keel cited it in *Mothman Prophecies*, remarking that "even Woody was surprised by such direct confirmation of his own experiences." Nonetheless "I finally had to conclude Tom was on the level."

He was not, however, on the level. His story was science fiction from beginning to end, he confessed in a brief 1979 *Omni* piece. Recalling his phone call to the radio station, Monteleone stated, "I contradicted Mr. Derenberger's story on purpose, claiming to have seen totally different things on my visit to Lanulos. But on each occasion, he would give ground, make up a hasty explanation, and in the end corroborate my own falsifications. He even claimed to know personally the 'UFOaut' who contacted me!"

In the article, devoted chiefly to ridicule of those foolish enough to believe him, Monteleone neglected to mention either his public lectures or his insistence on his sincerity as long as three years after the initial claim. Instead readers got the false impression that his involvement in the hoax consisted of a single phone call intended as a "harmless prank." While lamenting all the attention he received from the "odd, achingly pathetic world of the UFO cultists" even though he "wished to receive no publicity," Monteleone wrote, "I shudder to think what would have happened had I sought public attention"—a disingenuous remark if ever there was one.

In a longer exposé published the next year in *Fate*, ufologist Karl T. Pflock reported that Monteleone's call to the radio station had been done at the urging of his roommates; as he was waiting to go on, it occurred to him it would be amusing to say that he, too, had been to Lanulos. Monteleone went on to achieve modest success as a science-fiction writer, and he even wrote a play based on his brief career as a contactee.

## "THIS IS GOOD BY"

Derenberger largely disappeared from public view after the early 1970s. By then it had been some while since any but the most militantly credulous flying-saucer enthusiasts took him seriously. Even Keel, whose supernaturalist approach provided a framework in which practically anything could "happen" in some sense, privately remarked that barely a year after his initial claim "Derenberger's deterioration was well advanced."

In the early 1980s Derenberger was residing in Parkersburg, selling used cars and living in reduced circumstances. A Massachusetts admirer who provided him with financial assistance was promised either a view of Cold's spaceship or a personal meeting with him. "Some day I hope to make Lanulos my home," Derenberger wrote his benefactor, "and in the not to [sic] distanced [sic] future Indrid's people will land openly and make themselves known to all earth people." A couple of weeks later he reported a recent conversation with Demo Hassan, who "stopped to talk to me for some time . . . of some changes on Lanulos. I can hardly wait to go back there, it seems so long since I was there last."

On May 9, 1984, Derenberger's benefactor received a hand-printed letter from no less than Cold's wife Kimi:

Altho [sic] you think you are ready to meet with my people you are not. When you are completely ready Indrid will contact you. Do not become impatient. If you are contacted to [sic] soon it could ruin all our plans for you. . . . Woody is having quite a bit of trouble making ends meet. We are not permitted to help with money matters. . . . Do not for any reason try to come here before Indrid contacts you. Any help you can generate for Woody would be appreciated. It wont [sic] be to [sic] long before I talk to you personally.

A follow-up letter from Kimi read:

Recieved [sic] your letter today. Was very glad to get it for Woody was very much in need. He was being pursued by the men in black. Indrid has already left for (Lanulos) [sic]. We dont [sic] know just how long he will have to stay there, before it will be safe for him to return here. We all suffer from homesickness and lonleness [sic] all the time. But we have to condition ourselves to stand whatever faces us. In the nervous state you are in the actual shock of meeting face to face with our people would be to [sic] much for you to bear. . . . Two of our people have already talked to you but couldn't reveal themselves to you because of your nervous condition. . . . Just recievied [sic] a mental message that Woody and Indrid have landed on (Lanulos) [sic]. They will return as soon as it is safe.

A final communication, signed "Woody," was dated July 31:

Charley[,] Just received word from Larry [Murphy?], you are trying to reach me. Charley[,] I am dropping out

of sight[.] I am going over seas, I dont [sic] want anything else to do with U.F.O.s, they have caused me to [sic] much worry and trouble. Please dont [sic] try to reach me in any way, for I am thru [sic] with all space people, I have told them never to contact me again. This is good By.

Though his space adventures read like something out of a comic book, the November 2, 1966, episode has some puzzling aspects. For one thing, it appears to have been independently witnessed, though Walter Vanscoy's sighting of a figure in a coat, while consistent with Derenberger's description, hardly proves that the figure was an extraterrestrial. But it is undeniably curious. So is the sighting two days later of something very much like the UFO Derenberger reported. In both cases the witnesses seem credible.

It is at least arguable that Derenberger initially had some sort of unusual experience. Possibly it, or the publicity resulting from it, affected him to the extent that he first imagined, then consciously concocted, ever more elaborate and fantastic tales which he exploited for financial gain. One could also argue that the episode was a hoax from the outset (thus Cold's promise of future contacts and the implicit suggestion that Derenberger was already planning for a career as a contactee) and that it was unrelated to the UFOs more truthful people were reporting around Parkersburg. At this late date the truth probably will never be known. Still, we may safely conclude that Woodrow Derenberger's tales owe far more to human invention than to extraterrestrial intervention.

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## ABDUCTION—continued from page 6

identified in other abductees and reported in such books as *Abduction* (1988) and *Aliens: The Real Story* (1994). Most witnesses I have studied display many, or even all, of the following factors:

They have a phenomenal memory of early life, often visualizing events while only a few months old (typical memory for most people does not date back before the age of three or so). The presence of what I call psychic toys is strong in this recall. Most typical are balls of light which enter the bedroom and "play" with the children; but mind games using psi such as those Ros mentions are common. My phrase psychic toys merely indicates that they seem to function like training exercises in fantastic abilities, just as normal children's toys help them to develop ordinary motor and cognitive skills.

Other clues are their lifelong track record of paranormal phenomena and the creative visualization that allows them to develop artistic pursuits. I have seen abductees run off to art communes, become village potters, write 100,000-word alien novels, create space poetry, "dictate" alien songs, and hone their unusual skills at artwork—painting and drawing in Ros's case.

Further points to note are the possession of eidetic (near-photographic) memory, regular sleep and consciousness abnormalities, and frequent unusual migraines. In three of my cases the witness was wrongly diagnosed as suffering from temporal lobe epilepsy as a result of such symptoms.

I still do not know what this means, but we must take it into account. Contrary to what might be anticipated, it does not establish that these are psychological phenomena. It does suggest there may be something unusual about the neural capacity of abductees. This could make them more amenable to alien contact than other people, in view of the apparent paranormal nature of most alien abductions.

I fear that many researchers run from these implications, on the grounds that they detract from the extraterrestrial hypothesis, when they do no such thing. Everything we know about abduction data suggests that aliens possess abilities we would call psychic: they communicate by telepathy, seem able to apply psychokinesis to affect physical matter, appear and disappear like apparitions, and so on. To me this makes it logical and fascinating if we can establish that their human "targets" possess similar abilities. So why avoid these issues when they may be crucial to our understanding of what is happening? ♦

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## STRINGFIELD—continued from page 3

*UFO Siege!* in which he cautiously reopened the issue of crash/retrievals, which all serious researchers had long since rejected as so much nonsense. Probably he is best known since then for his series of monographs on crash/retrievals, containing a lot of new information and reports that tend to cast the subject in a different light.

Len served in a public-relations capacity for the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) even before I arrived there in 1958, through 1970 when I also left NICAP. He later served in a similar capacity for the Mutual UFO Network and as an associate of CUFOS.

Len also was a primary investigator of the January 6, 1976, Stanford, Kentucky, abduction case involving three women in a car. Since then he had been quietly working with a number of abductees with the help of a qualified hypnotist. In fact, over the years he was a pioneer along all the fronts of UFO research, including general sightings, radar-visual cases, humanoid reports, and abductions. He was a true UFO generalist who made many important contributions along the way, not least of which was the example he set of honesty and dignity.

I was privileged to know Len personally and to visit in his home on a few occasions, where I marveled at his Japanese gardens and his conservatory. On the last visit to Cincinnati, our mutual friend the late Dr. Peter Rank was also a houseguest, and Len shared with us some inside information about crash/retrieval cases. He arranged for us to speak over the telephone with one of his confidential witnesses.

Len was a guest in my house more recently, and we went out to a neighborhood steak and seafood house where we compared notes and reminisced for hours, mesmerized by the fire in the huge stone fireplace—which to our mutual amusement and hilarity turned out to be a fake-log gas fire. We chuckled over that many times. I have many other fond memories of Len, including a trip via recreational vehicle from Cincinnati to Houston; along the way we listened to a tape of music from *South Pacific*, a special favorite of his since he had lived it, and also of mine.

My basic memories of Len are of his extraordinary selflessness, lack of ego problems (unfortunately a rarity in the field), dedication, patience, perseverance, and overriding personal integrity. Even persons who disagreed with him about one thing or another could not help liking and admiring him. His whole interest was in helping and protecting victimized UFO witnesses, not in exploiting their experiences for personal gain. His over-protectiveness of witnesses was turned against him by some who criticized him for it, but I have always considered that to be one of his great strengths.

I propose that Len Stringfield be remembered not only as a true pioneer and pathfinder in the UFO field but also as

a man of great rectitude. There was no sham or game-playing about him.—Richard Hall

**I** remember the first time I met Len Stringfield—at a MUFON conference in the mid-1970s—and I well recall my excitement at meeting a man I regarded as one of the heroes of the field.

And of course Len was a hero, one of those far-sighted first-generation ufologists who sought to rescue UFO study from the clutches of contactee kookery and put it on the course of rational inquiry. His *Inside Saucer Post* and C.R.I.F.O. newsletters are documents of enduring worth to those who want to know about the early days. Unlike many of his colleagues, Len never lost his energy or his enthusiasm, and he remained an active and valued presence practically up to the day he died.

Though I never doubted Len's energy or enthusiasm, there was a time when I questioned his good sense. In the 1970s, when he took up the heretofore-verboten subject of crash/retrievals, I was appalled. I must have been his most vociferous critic, and I blasted him from just about every forum available to me.

From the experience I learned two things. The first was that Len, a wise man, knew better than to take it personally, and every time I saw him, he went out of his way to assure me that he knew my criticisms were intended to be constructive and he appreciated them. And he meant it. That's when I came to the realization that Len was not only a pioneering ufologist but an extraordinarily kind and decent man. "Gentleman of the old school" was the phrase that always came to mind when I thought of him.

The second thing I learned was that he was right and I was wrong. Crash/retrieval claims are a legitimate concern of ufology, and they may turn out to be its most important question. It's a good thing for all of us that most ufologists elected to listen to Len rather than to me. The last time I saw him, in Chicago a couple of years ago, I told him exactly that. Len simply chuckled in his characteristically good-natured way. It would not have been like him to respond with a smug "I told you so."

All of us are poorer for Len Stringfield's passing. He will be much missed.—Jerome Clark ♦

### Alien Discussions

*Alien Discussions*, the proceedings of the Abduction Study Conference held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, June 13–17, 1992, is now available. Included are John Mack's paper on "Why the Abduction Phenomenon Cannot Be Explained Psychiatrically," reports on the Richard Price implant and the MRI images of alleged implants, and a 50-page survey of abduction investigators by Eddie Bullard. A copy may be ordered for \$55.00 (U.S. postage and handling included) from Proceedings, P.O. Box 241, North Cambridge Post Office, Cambridge, MA 02140. Outside the United States, the cost is \$60.00 in U.S. currency.