

NORTH AMERICA 1966

Development of a Great Wave

by John A. Keel

DURING 1966, I travelled over ten thousand miles, visiting the areas of concentrated UFO reports and interviewing scores of ordinary citizens who suddenly found themselves living in a science-fiction nightmare. Something strange is happening in the United States. Rural dwellers are sitting in stunned silence around their kitchen tables after witnessing UFO landings, and glimpsing strange creatures which they assume to be UFO occupants. Most of these people are reluctant to talk about what they have seen and it is obvious that only a small percentage of these incidents are reported to the local authorities or to the press.

Newspapers across the country did, however, struggle valiantly to report on what was happening in their immediate bailiwicks. Some were so inundated with UFO stories that they abandoned all pretence of being objective. Many, such as the *Democrat-Herald* of Albany, Oregon, dropped the terms "UFO and "flying saucers" and began to refer openly to "space ships from another world". In one news clip after another we find the chilling phrase: "He (or she) has been a changed person since he saw that thing the other night." The press has begun to concentrate largely on the sober reports of police officers and sheriffs. The clipping in my files of March 1966 bear witness to this, for they name over 50 policemen and law officials who reported observing UFOs.

The most significant trend in 1966 was the fantastic number of low-level and touchdown reports. These came in from every state in the union, and many of the witnesses complained of eye-ailments following a sighting. I interviewed a number of people while their eyes were still swollen, red, and watery. Farmers in West Virginia sought me out when they heard that there was "a UFO investigator" in the area and they told me in hushed tones that they had seen round, glowing objects land in their fields and steal their cattle. They were afraid to tell anyone, they said, because most people would think they "had gone around the bend".

After the story of Betty and Barney Hill was published in *Look* magazine, people from several states came shyly forward with tales of having sighted UFOs and then mysteriously "losing track of the next three hours". I am now investigating four such cases in which the people seem particularly honest and reliable. In one of these cases, the witnesses unfortunately fell into the hands of an amateur hypnotist.

Based upon the material that has come my way, I cannot help but wonder how many hundreds . . . or thousands . . . of similar cases might have occurred during this same period. Of one thing I am certain—there are thousands of frightened and con-

fused people in this country today. Recently I discussed this problem with the Pentagon's current spokesman for PROJECT BLUEBOOK, Col. George P. Freeman. He told me simply that since no one is complaining direct to the Air Force, no official investigation is being conducted into this aspect.

The Big Breakthrough

Two men are largely responsible for the big breakthrough in UFO scepticism in America. John G. Fuller's thorough investigation of the UFO sightings in Exeter, New Hampshire, in the fall of 1965 brought reason and respectability to the subject. And Dr. J. Allen Hynek's cautious and public reappraisal of the problem in the pages of *Science* and the *Saturday Evening Post* added to the momentum of the change in attitudes across the country. Frank Edwards's best-selling *Flying Saucers: Serious Business* contributed a note of hysteria which was further augmented by the massive wave of sightings. Only the hard-bitten sophisticates of the cities outside of the areas of UFO activities were able to cling to their "show me" stance. The UFOs apparently were "showing" everyone else.

Perhaps the biggest change of 1966, was the sudden public interest in a previously taboo subject—the UFO occupants. The ground was broken by articles in *Look*. Their circulation doubled for those issues, inspiring them to contract biologist Ivan Sanderson to write a book covering this hitherto ignored area. A paperback reprint of a much updated version of Coral Lorenzen's *The Great Flying Saucer Hoax* disappeared off the newstands with gratifying rapidity. Several other UFO paperbacks, some mere potboilers by hacks who rehashed earlier books, also proved to be big sellers.

In every town I visited during the year, I encountered people who claimed to have seen UFO occupants—although some of them had been careful not to publicise the fact. And several of these "secret" contactees told me privately, "All those stories about little men are bunk. The saucer people look just like us." One contactee, a very prominent business-man in Ohio who made me swear to keep his identity and even the name of his town secret, said he had encountered a grounded UFO on a highway early one morning in November. The occupant had spoken to him, he said, without moving his lips, and had told him that they "came from under the earth". This witness had never heard of Shaver and swore that he had disbelieved in UFOs until his alleged experience.

Currently I am attempting to tabulate and analyse all of my thousands of clippings and reports covering

the year 1966. It is a herculean job but here are some of the things covered in my initial study.

The 1966 Flap

There was a time when ufologists were contented to ponder and debate random newspaper clippings describing peculiar lights in the skies. We now find that there were thousands of such reports in 1966, and I tend to drop them into my "Atmospheric Phenomena" file and ignore them while I concentrate on the numerous low-level reports. Certain cases were overplayed in the American press while other, far more important, incidents were ignored. The celebrated Ohio Police Chase in April, 1966, for example, has been widely reported, and ufologists have devoted far more time and effort to it than it was worth. There were several such police chases in 1966, but I will restrict myself to the Ohio incident which began near Ravenna, Ohio, the site of a large government arsenal. While the two police officers were dashing across the countryside in pursuit of their dome-shaped cloud of swamp gas, a reddish circular object was operating at ground level around the arsenal.² This appears to be a case of pure diversion and misdirection. By luring the local police away from the area, the UFOs were able to make their visit to the arsenal without interference.

The Wanaque Reservoir in northern New Jersey was the site of the first publicised UFO incident on January 11th, when scores of witnesses including police officers, mayor Harry Wolfe, and many others, saw a brilliant sphere of light hover over the reservoir. Mass sightings persisted throughout the area during the spring, summer and fall. During my research into this particular "UFO Zone" I discovered that Wanaque lies right in the middle of a long ribbon of magnetic deviation.⁴ At nearby Pompton Lakes, where there were also many sightings, there is a Dupont factory which manufactures T.N.T. and other high explosives. A few miles further south, there are several large chemical factories, one of which is operated by the Pantasote Corporation, a company engaged in making plastics. Some of these factories dump waste periodically into small streams which flow directly to the reservoir. One engineer in the area hinted to me that the UFOs always turn up within 24 hours after such wastes are released.

As for the Pantasote Corporation, they also maintain a large factory on the shores of the Ohio River in Point Pleasant, W. Va. During my extended visit to that region in December (it is hundreds of miles south of Wanaque) I discovered that the majority of the UFO sightings there were centred directly around that factory . . . some only yards away. This is another curious coincidence in an investigation shot full of coincidences.

A few miles west of Wanaque there is a large government arsenal . . . the Picatinny Arsenal. Route 80 passes close by, and there have been repeated reports of UFOs from drivers moving over that highway late at night in 1966.⁵

The Flaw in UFO Investigators' Reports

In spite of the revelations of the past two years,

many local UFO investigators still blindly concentrate upon getting descriptions of the objects sighted and blatantly overlook obtaining background information on the features of the area where the sightings allegedly took place. Generally speaking, questions about the size, speed, altitude, etc. of the objects seen are worthless because few witnesses are qualified to make such judgments. If we are ever going to determine the exact nature and motivations of the UFOs, we must analyse the features which could attract them to a given area. Location of power plants and power lines is important, as are the local industrial plants, communication systems, and military installations. Such data should be included in every report. Patterns can be determined from such data, but long-winded descriptions of a bobbing light in the sky hardly contribute anything to our research. A detailed list of 500 green lights with red lights on top is meaningless. But if we find out that 380 of these lights appeared directly over a lake or arsenal we then have a piece of evidence worth contemplating.

A new form for investigators should be developed in which all this background information could be entered. Ufologists in the United States have too long been engaged in a constant fight to prove the mere existence of these objects—and to prove that they, personally, are not crazy—and they have overlooked the important job of gathering the kind of information that might reveal definite patterns of behaviour. The one exception is APRO* which has managed to pick out some patterns and trends.

What is Important ?

Among the trends I have observed in the 1966 flap is the concentration of UFOs around State and National Parks.⁶ Most of these parks are in thinly populated areas and most are closed to the public at sunset or at midnight. After midnight some of these parks, many of which cover hundreds of square miles and are heavily wooded, are patrolled by only one or two men. Often these watchmen spend the whole night in a cabin reading or listening to the radio. Such areas therefore make ideal landing bases for the UFOs and from the hundreds of clippings in my "Public Parks" file it appears that they may be doing just that.

A large number of the 1966 "Monster" reports came out of public parks. Usually the witnesses were teenagers or young adults in parked cars.

The Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, site of the big January 1965 flaps, is largely a huge National Park and is located directly over one of the longest, largest, and least explored cave complexes in the United States. Most of the landings reported during that flap took place in or near known vortexes of magnetic deviation.⁷

The relationship of these factors to the UFOs is still speculative and tenuous. But at least it is a clue. We must also concern ourselves with data on the racial background of witnesses claiming contacts or

* Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation, Secretary, Mrs. Coral Lorenzen, 3910, E. Kleindale Road, Tucson, Arizona, 85716, U.S.A.

low-level sightings. In the fall of 1966, for example, I found that the Portuguese community in Provincetown, Massachusetts and the isolated, thinly populated area on bleak, sandy Cape Cod, suffered a series of strange experiences. A number of individuals claimed to have seen tiny men in the area. Portuguese fishermen reported seeing globes of light following their boats. And police there were trying to locate a prowler of unusual size, a very large man who was seen by several people and whom no one could identify as being anyone known locally.⁸

There have also been a number of sightings reported around Indian reservations across the country. In several of these cases, witnesses claimed they saw the objects actually descend into the reservations area. The Indians, however, aren't talking.⁹

Communications

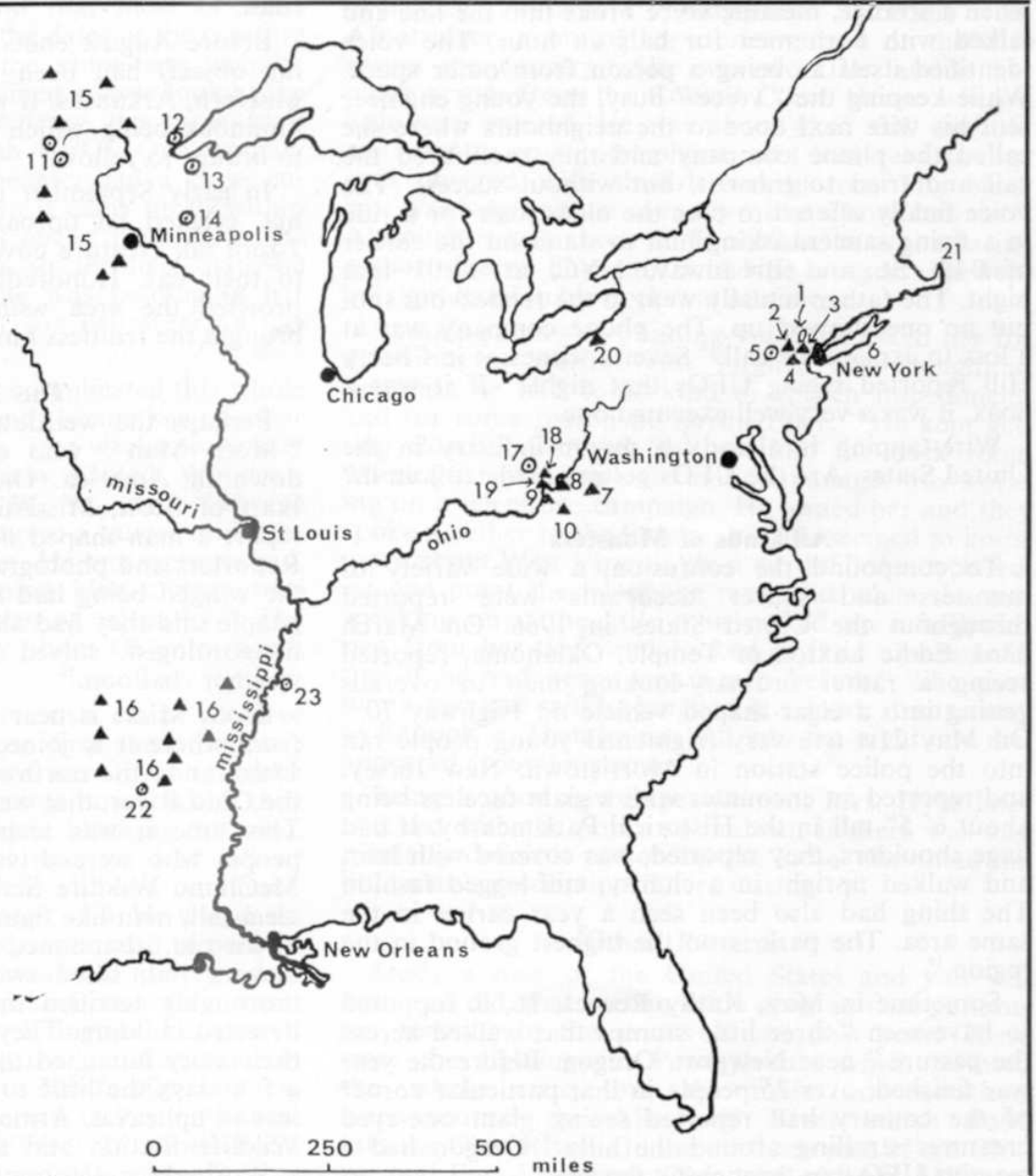
APRO officials have predicted that the UFOs might soon begin a study of our communication networks, and might eventually interfere with such systems.¹⁰ A long line of disturbing events involving communica-

tions did occur on Long Island, just outside of New York City, in 1966. Hardly any of these events appeared in the local press. Through contacts high up in the government of the area, I managed to keep abreast of developments there. In most cases, the witnesses refused to allow their names to be used. There was one case of an automobile stalling while a UFO hovered directly overhead,¹¹ but most of the other incidents were of a less dramatic nature. Two landings were reported, however. One was near the home of a woman of Indian ancestry.¹² The other was on a private island, Gardener's Island, which is deserted most of the year.¹³

Long Island has a long line of micro-wave relay stations parading along its length and culminating in the high McKay Radio Towers which serve the major wire services and telephone companies and broadcast to Europe. Throughout 1966 there were frequent reports of unknown objects coming directly down to these towers. On May 2nd, for example, a group of reliable adult witnesses observed a large white oval object which came down directly to the transoceanic

Some regions of intense UFO activity in the United States of America during 1966.

- KEY: 1. Wanaque Reservoir, New Jersey. 2. Picatinny Arsenal, N.J. 3. Pompton Lakes, N.J. 4. Morristown, N.J. (Landings). 5. Delaware River district. 6. Long Island. 7. Clarksburg, W. Virginia. 8. Parkersville, W. Va. (Contacts). 9. Point Pleasant, W. Va. (Moth Man and UFOs). 10. Charleston (UFOs, landing and Moth Man). 11. Minnesota (Auto chases, Aug. 16). 12. Wisconsin (Auto chases, Aug. 16). 13. Wisconsin (UFOs, Aug. 16). 14. Minnesota (UFOs, Aug. 16). 15. Minnesota (UFOs, Aug. 16). 16. Arkansas (UFOs, Aug. 16). 17. Ohio (April 1966, Auto chase). 18. Marietta, Ohio (Moth Man). 19. Pomeroy, Ohio (Moth Man). 20. Presque Isle, Erie, Pa. (creature). 21. Cape Cod. 22. Malvern, Ark. (creatures). 23. Scott, Mississippi. (First Moth Man case).



towers. They said that two rod-like structures, glowing bright red, came out of the object and briefly touched the top of the towers.¹⁴ The latest report was on January 20th, 1967 when three witnesses told officials that they had seen a large purple mass hovering low over the beach facing Gardiner's Island. Bright beams of white light came from it and scanned the beach, they said.¹⁴

Southern New Jersey also has a long line of RCA micro-wave relay towers and there were a number of UFO sightings around them in 1966. One landing was reported near these towers and is still being investigated. In that incident, a peculiar double-rod device is supposed to have come from the bottom of the circular craft and "sniffed" around the ground. Then the craft spewed out a white substance and took off. Some of this substance is reportedly being analysed.¹⁵

In this same area of New Jersey (outside of Camden), a bizarre telephone contact was reported in early December. A young RCA engineer in Cherry Hill was talking with his father on a long distance call when a strange, metallic voice broke into the line and talked with both men for half an hour. The voice identified itself as being a person from outer space. While keeping the "voice" busy, the young engineer sent his wife next door to the neighbours where she called the phone company and they monitored the call and tried to trace it, but without success. The voice finally offered to take the older man for a ride in a flying saucer, asking him to stand on the corner of 34th St. and Broadway, NYC, at 12:01 that night. The father actually went to the rendezvous spot but no one showed up. The phone company was at a loss to explain the call.¹⁶ Several witnesses in Cherry Hill reported seeing UFOs that night.¹⁷ If it was a hoax, it was a very well executed one.

Wire-tapping is already a major industry in the United States. Are the UFOs getting ready to join in?

All kinds of Monsters

To compound the confusion, a wide variety of monsters and saucer occupants were reported throughout the United States in 1966. On March 23rd, Eddie Laxton of Temple, Oklahoma, reported seeing a rather ordinary-looking man in overalls getting into a cigar-shaped vehicle on Highway 70.¹⁸ On May 21st five very frightened young people ran into the police station in Morristown, New Jersey, and reported an encounter with a giant faceless being about 6' 5" tall in the Historical Park nearby. It had huge shoulders, they reported, was covered with hair, and walked upright in a clumsy, stiff-legged fashion. The thing had also been seen a year earlier in the same area. The park is on the highest ground in the region.¹⁹

Sometime in May, Kathy Reeves, 16, is supposed to have seen "three little stumps that walked across the pasture" near Newport, Oregon. Before the year was finished, over 25 people in that particular corner of the country had reported seeing giant one-eyed creatures strolling around the hills.²⁰ Oregon had a massive UFO flap throughout the year.

July brought the monsters out in force. A tall, animated blob panicked a 16-year old girl in the Presque Isle Park at Erie, Pennsylvania on July 31st.²¹ A few days earlier, on July 21st, John Osborne, 35, reported seeing a giant hairy creature between 6 ft 6 ins and 7 ft tall, striding along a road in Richmond, British Columbia, Canada. The same creature was also seen next day by one Don Gilmore of Richmond.²² Canada, of course, was an unwilling participant in the 1966 flap.

In August, at least two people claim to have seen a strange being in a yellow costume moving stiff-legged through the streets of Erie, Pa., during the small hours of the morning.⁸ And seven witnesses in Edinboro, Pa., 18 miles south of Erie, reported meeting a giant creature in the park around Edinboro Lake on August 17th. According to a local story, which I have been unable to check out, another man saw the same creature a few days previously and was so terrified that he was unable to speak for three days. A local posse was formed and they claim to not only have glimpsed the monster, but to have fired at it with rifles.²³

Before August ended, a UWO (unidentified walking object) had been reported by five witnesses in Malvern, Arkansas. It was, they all said, a tall (8 feet) luminous being which changed its colour from red to orange to yellow.²⁴

In early September two girls in Fontana, California, created an uproar when they reported that a 7-foot tall creature covered with hair had strolled up to their car. Hundreds of would-be monster-killers prowled the area with guns until the local police brought the fruitless hunt to a halt.²⁵

The Moth Man

Perhaps the weirdest creature of them all is the "Moth Man" who chose 1966 to settle himself down in America. On September 1st, Mrs. James Ikart of Scott, Mississippi, phoned a local paper to report a man-shaped object fluttering about the sky. Reporters and photographers dashed to the scene but the winged being had flown. However, several other people said they had also seen it. John Hursh, a local meteorologist, solved the mystery by calling it a weather balloon.²⁶

Scott, Miss., is near the Mississippi River, not far from where it is joined by the Ohio. On November 15th, far to the northwest and less than a mile from the Ohio River, that weather balloon turned up again. This time it was seen at midnight by four young people who were driving through a local park, the McClintic Wildlife Station. They were astounded to see a tall, man-like figure with wings standing in front of an old, abandoned power plant. Its eyes were a blazing red, some two inches in diameter, and it thoroughly terrified them before waddling into the deserted building. They went for the local police and their story launched the "Moth Man" saga. Within a few days the little town of Point Pleasant, W. Va., was in upheaval. Armed men searched the McClintic Wildlife Station and the adjoining TNT Area . . . a World War II ammunition dump which still con-

tains igloos filled with high explosives. People were sharply divided on the "Moth Man" issue. There were the disbelievers, who scoffed, and there were the believers—who were mostly scared out of their wits after having seen the thing. Within a few weeks over one hundred people in the area had reported glimpsing the "Moth Man". Many were prominent business-men, teachers, and clergymen. All their descriptions were the same. The creature was taller and broader than a man, grey in colour, with luminous red eyes that had a hypnotic effect. It was seen both on the ground and in the air. When airborne, its wings, which had a ten foot span, were stationary and did not flap. On several occasions it was said to have pursued automobiles at speeds up to 100 miles per hour. Most of the sightings were either in the TNT Area, or very close by.²⁷

I first heard of this incident through Jim Moseley of *Saucer News* and I spent three weeks in Point Pleasant in December. The story of that visit is too involved and too bizarre to record here. But I quickly discovered that circular flying objects were being seen throughout the area and that most of these UFO sightings coincided with the dates of the creature reports and were always in the immediate vicinity. Oddly, everyone who had obtained a close look at the "Moth Man" later suffered from the same kind of eye ailment associated with UFOs. One woman, together with several other people, had a close encounter with the creature when it came up to within six feet of them after they got out of their car in the TNT area. The woman was so terrified that she actually dropped the baby she was holding in her arms. Her eyes were swollen for two weeks afterwards.²⁸

To give you an idea of how complicated this whole situation is, there were apparently a number of other types of "contact" in the area. Two weeks previously on November 2nd, a salesman named Woodrow Derenberger of Parkersburg, W. Va. came forward with a story of having driven up to a saucer on Highway 77 outside Marietta, Ohio. He was approached, he said, by a man in glistening blue clothes who spoke to him briefly by means of telepathy.²⁹ The area of this encounter is only about 60 miles north of Point Pleasant.

Two men in Point Pleasant also claim to have experienced similar contacts on that same highway at about the same time. They were driving home from work in the early morning hours when they found a large cigar-shaped object blocking the road. A being in shiny overalls (he was six feet tall or a little shorter) came up to their car and communicated with them by telepathy, they said. He was dark-skinned, had slightly protruding eyes, and a pointed chin but didn't look too abnormal. He merely asked them where they were going, and who they were. 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.³⁰ In short, Point Pleasant has contactees as well as "Moth Men".

A couple in a nearby town claim to have lost 2½ hours after watching a UFO come down towards their car in the early summer. Three dogs disappeared in the area simultaneously with the appearance of UFOs in the fall.³⁰ And many other strange things have happened. I should mention that these people are not "hillbillies", but they are very religious and turn to the Bible for explanations of what they have seen. The Ohio Valley is quite prosperous and does not suffer from the economic problems that plague the state further south.

There have been many sightings of the "Moth Man" all up and down the Ohio Valley since I left West Virginia. And there was a UFO landing reported on a highway outside Charleston, a few miles south of Point Pleasant, on January 19th, 1967.³¹ Early in January, Mrs. Mary Hyre, the Point Pleasant correspondent for the Athens (Ohio) *Messenger*, and a newspaper-woman of some 25 years experience, received a strange visitor in her office. (Mrs. Hyre accompanied me during many of my investigations in the area and she wrote a number of stories about the UFO sightings. Since she is an AP stringer, many of her stories go out on the wire across the country.) She was working late in her office across from the County Court House when a little man entered. He was about 4' 6" tall, she told me recently on the telephone, and had very strange eyes covered with thick-lensed glasses. His black hair was long and cut squarely "like a bowl haircut". Although it was about 20°F outside, he was wearing a short-sleeved blue shirt and blue trousers. He kept his right hand in his pocket at all times.

Speaking in a slow, halting voice, he asked her for directions to Welsh, West Virginia. She thought at first that he had some kind of speech impediment, and for some reason he terrified her. "He kept getting closer." Alarmed, she ran into the back room where the newspaper's circulation manager was working on a telephone campaign. He joined her and they spoke together to the little man. "He seemed to know more about West Virginia than we did," she declared. At one point the telephone rang and while she was speaking on it the little man picked up a ballpoint pen from her desk and looked at it in amazement, "as if he had never seen a pen before". She gave him a pen and said he laughed in a loud, strange way as he took it. Then he ran out into the night and disappeared around a corner.

Being a good newspaper-woman, Mrs. Hyre later checked with the police to find out if there was any mentally deficient person on the loose who fitted the little man's description. There wasn't.³²

Other Patterns

Study a map of the United States and you will find, as I did, that certain basic geographical patterns are forming in the events of the past year. There were the sightings in Pennsylvania which covered the whole state, but the main concentrations were around the Alleghany River which flows into the Ohio River. On the northern part of the Ohio we find East Liverpool, Ohio, site of many UFO in-

cidents, including car pursuits and a case in which a 14-year old boy, Chris Ward, was paralysed by a beam of light from a UFO as it hovered low overhead on August 19th. Three of his friends could not move him until after the object had passed.³³ Southwards along the Ohio, we find that there have been UFO reports spread out methodically on both sides of the river, past Steubenville, Wheeling, Parkersburg, Point Pleasant, through Ohio and Kentucky and into Missouri. Early in January 1967, Shelbyville, Kentucky, a town about thirty miles from the Ohio River, suffered a power blackout while hundreds of people were watching strange lights in the skies.³⁴ UFOs were then reported in Cairo, Illinois, at the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.³⁵

The pattern seems quite obvious. The UFOs have been moving slowly and methodically along these waterways and they have been lingering in areas of special interest. When they decide to linger, they may also decide to make a few random contacts, perhaps on the assumption that this will somehow relieve the excitement their close attention might otherwise cause.

Conclusions

I have not attempted here to summarise the overall situation in the United States but have picked a few relatively small areas which are within the limited range of my personal experience. I have seen and heard enough—and the monumental bills I receive from clippings services is additional proof—to believe that what I have observed personally is only a minute fraction of a universal situation. There are many Point Pleasants across America and there are thousands, if not millions, of bewildered and confused people being constantly exposed now to this mystery. John Fuller found it in Exeter. I have found it in dozens of other towns, including my own hometown of Perry N.Y. which is near the great power complex of Niagara Falls.

It appears to me that the UFO activity is now largely at ground level and is unbelievable intense, with every type of vehicle and creature that can be enlisted being used for this massive "survey". We now have many stories of UFOs pursuing people on the ground and coming directly up to the doors and windows of homes. It is almost as if they are singling out certain individuals and observing them closely.

Hundreds of these "monitoring" cases appeared in 1966. I hope, eventually, to compile a statistical breakdown of the material I have collected. Until that breakdown is completed, it is almost impossible to summarise what has been happening. Here, however, are a few of the more recent incidents:

1) Miss Marie Wood, 30, a schoolteacher of Greensboro, Maryland said that she sighted a "strange craft with fluorescent lights" at 9.45 p.m. while driving home from the Benedictine School for Exceptional Children at Ridgely, Maryland on December 2nd, 1966. Seven hours later she was awakened "by a vibration, and the windows were

filled with a red glare". She reportedly saw the object twice again during the next two days. (Washington, D.C., *Post*, December 5th, 1966.)

2) Also on December 2nd, a farmer named John Nelson of Garvin, Minnesota (hundreds of miles from Maryland) was badly frightened when a saucer-shaped object about 40 feet in diameter and 8-10 feet thick came down over him and hovered a few feet away. He was ploughing, but his tractor did not stall. The object flew away but returned a few minutes later, and hovered above him again while casting a beam of white light into the field and emitting "an eerie noise like the whirling wind". (Lamberton, Minn. *News*, December 8th, 1966.)

3) At 6 p.m. on December 6th, Diane Brown of Howard, Michigan, was awakened by a sound "like a transformer running". She looked out of her window and saw a hazy red object about 25 feet in diameter hovering directly outside her house and shining a white light towards the ground. According to the police report she said she watched the object for about 15 minutes. During that time she said two cars passed by her house and the light was pointed towards them as they went by. (Niles, Mich. *Daily Star*, December 7th, 1966.)

4) Another low-level UFO was seen by several witnesses near Lakewood, N.J., on December 5th. A total of six adult witnesses, all named in the newspaper account, said they saw a circular object with six coloured lights on its side and a bluish flashing light in the centre as it hovered over a field at a height "a little higher than a two story house". It moved away briefly, then returned to where the witnesses were standing. Finally all of the lights went off and it made "a funny loud sound, unlike an airplane" as it rose into the sky and disappeared. (Lakewood, N.J. *Ocean County Citizen*, December 6th, 1966.)

5) On December 28th, the Waldman family in Santa Ana, California, was watching television at 7.45 p.m. when their TV picture became distorted. Billy Waldman, 9, glanced out of the window and screamed for his mother. She joined him and saw what she described as a circular object "about 20 feet across, and flashing red, yellow and orange lights on and off". It was hovering directly outside their window and was also seen by a neighbour, Mrs. Patricia Reynolds. After a few seconds it shot skywards and, "as it climbed, it seemed that small pieces broke off and the whole object seemed to smoke," Mrs. Waldman added. (Santa Ana, Calif. *Register*, December 30th, 1966.)

These items were actually selected at random from the huge pile of December low-level reports. The 1966 flap was of mind-numbing proportions. Many of the reports, while obviously honest and sincere, were so skimpy on details that I have simply thrown them into a large box marked "Insufficient" and will ignore them, except when tabulating dates and geographical factors. Generally speaking, we can break the 1966 flap down into the following categories:

1) **Geographical.** Sightings which followed a geographical and chronological pattern along rivers and

interstate highways, moving progressively from point to point along those features.

2) **Technical.** The usual pattern of sightings around technically interesting areas such as Air Force bases, arsenals, military installations of all kinds, chemical factories, power plants, dams, transformer stations, radio and TV antennae, etc.

3) **"Monitoring" low-level flights.** Pursuits of automobiles, airplanes, and individuals on foot, plus hovering activities around individual homes.

4) **Reservoir sightings.** These continued on a large scale throughout the United States in 1966.

5) **Landing and direct contact reports.** There were more of these in 1966 than in any previous year.

Altogether, these thousands of reports mount up to an alarming picture. Perhaps they indicate that the UFOs are now engaged in a massive final stage of operations.

Tad Jones, the witness at the January 19th landing outside of Charleston, West Virginia, reported that the object he saw had **wheels**. If this is true, then we have a new development which would suggest that the UFOs are going to abandon their old tripod-type landing gear and replace it with something that will give them ground mobility.

My repeated visits to the Pentagon have convinced me that the U.S. Air Force is not genuinely interested in this problem. They have made no real attempt to interfere with the UFO activity in the flap areas, and they have shown no real interest in the complaints from citizens living in those areas.

At the same time, I should add, I have not tried to keep my research secret and I have not been approached by any agency or individual intent on hampering my efforts. The Air Force, NASA, and other official agencies have actually granted me limited co-operation and have, in fact, gone to considerable trouble to supply me with specific information when I have requested it. John Fuller recently told me that certain officers in the Pentagon actually encouraged his research. Fuller certainly paved the way for public acceptance of flying saucers.

The intensive UFO activity seems to support APRO's theory that our population is now being rapidly prepared to accept their existence and deal emotionally with the fantastic social changes which their arrival is sure to foster.

NOTES

- 1 Published in paperback under the title: *Flying Saucers: The Startling Evidence of the Invasion from Outer Space* by Signet, NY, 1966.
- 2 *Record Courier*, Ravenna, Ohio, April 18, 1966. Five witnesses in an automobile were followed by a glowing object which rose up from the Ravenna Arsenal. Same date as the police chase.
- 3 *The Saucer that Terrorised a Small Town* by Dave Anderson, SAGA magazine, August 1966.
- 4 Since 1951 the U.S. Geological Survey has been painstakingly making magnetic maps of the United States. These detailed quadrant maps are available for about 50c each from the Office of Geological Survey, Washington, D.C. 20242. Write for free catalogue.
- 5 Many clips from New Jersey newspapers, plus personal reports from several individual witnesses including Mrs. Ivan Sanderson who saw three objects in this area in December, 1966.
- 6 I have approximately 150 clips in my files which specifically name parks throughout the country. I also witnessed low-level UFO activity in Letchworth State Park, N.Y., shortly after dark, August 30th, 1966.
- 7 Personal investigation on the scene, November 1966. For details of the January 1965 Virginia flap, see *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* March/April 1966.

- 8 Investigation via telephone and personal communication.
- 9 Numerous clips plus personal investigation at Indian reservations in New York State.
- 10 APRO BULLETIN, March/April 1966.
- 11 Wm. Fields' automobile stalled as he was passing the McKay tower in East Hampton on March 30th. He climbed out to look under the hood and was horrified to see a large circular object hovering directly overhead. Personal investigation. See also NICAP INVESTIGATOR, March/April 1966.
- 12 April 14th. A greyish-black object with a dome on top and white lights around the perimeter straddled a back road in East Hampton. Took off when lights of witness' car struck it. Personal investigation.
- 13 Fall, 1966. Markings and footprints left in the sand. LIFE magazine is supposed to have photographed them but pictures have never been published. From a reliable source.
- 14 Personal investigation in the area.
- 15 Investigation by local APRO member. Substance report has not been released.
- 16 *The Cherry Hill News*, Cherry Hill, N.J.—December 15, 1966.
- 17 *The Cherry Hill News*, Cherry Hill, N.J.—December 22, 1966.
- 18 *True* magazine, February 1967.
- 19 Personal investigation in the area, August 1966.
- 20 *Spokesman-Review*, Spokane, Washington, November 18, 1966. Numerous other clips.
- 21 Personal investigation in area. *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* November/December 1966. Also APRO BULLETINS, July/August 1966 and September/October 1966.
- 22 Vancouver (B.C.) *Sun*, July 22, 1966.
- 23 Erie (Pa.) *Times* August 19, 1966.
- 24 Malvern, Ark., *Daily Record*, August 23, 1966.
- 25 Philadelphia (Pa.) *Inquirer*, September 2, 1966.
- 26 Greenville, Miss., *Delta Democrat Times*, September 2, 1966.
- 27 Numerous clips from Ohio and West Virginia papers plus extensive personal investigation.
- 28 According to her friends, this woman has been "a changed person" since this incident. She is living in fear and now refuses to discuss this matter at all. Her story is far more involved than can be presented here. She has hinted that she somehow received some kind of message from the creature which she is afraid to divulge.
- 29 UPI, November 3, 1966. Eight witnesses, including an Air Force recruiting sergeant allegedly saw low-level UFOs in the area at the time of the contact. Gray Barker has interviewed the principal witness at length.
- 30 Personal interview with witnesses.
- 31 AP, January 20, 1967.
- 32 Personal communication, by mail and telephone.
- 33 East Liverpool (Ohio) *Review*, August 19, 1966. According to the police report on the incident, the boy's hearing was partially impaired for several days afterwards.
- 34 T. Beckley, *Interplanetary News Service*.
- 35 St. Louis (Mo.), *Post Dispatch*, January 21, 1967.

BUFORA NEWS

SATURDAY EVENING LECTURES 7 P.M.

Kensington Central Library London, W.8

(Members and Guests only)

6th May, Bryan Winder "Engineering & UFOs"

1st July, Andrew Tomas "Visitors from Space?"

7th October (6 p.m.), A.G.M. and Lecture

NATIONAL SKY-WATCH DAY, Saturday, 24th June. All interested are being encouraged to form themselves into local groups. Send S.A.E. for further information to: Edgar Hatvany, BUFORA Projects Officer, 19 Richmond Avenue, East Bedfont, Middlesex.

NORTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Saturday, 28th October

Hosts: Merseyside U.F.O. Research Society

Send 9" x 4" S.A.E. for free details of BRITISH U.F.O. RESEARCH ASSOCIATION AND BUFORA JOURNAL to: Lionel Beer, (FSR), Flat 15, Freshwater Court, Crawford Street, London, W.1.