

WOODSTOCK UFO FESTIVAL, 1966 — 2

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THIS is the second part of a report of UFO events, in 1966, from the small town of Woodstock—an arts and crafts centre which is actually some fifty miles north of the site of the 1969 Rock Festival which bore the same name—in the Catskill Mountain area of the State of New York. The principals, the Carriers (pseudonym), were interviewed in 1969 and 1970 (including a psychiatric interview of Mr. Carrier) and were found to be in good health with no evidence of previous emotional or psychosomatic illness, or of lying, stealing or dishonesty. We saw how the young couple were completely bewildered by the events which began with the observation of greenish lights six feet in diameter in a field near their house, and of “something” that flew close to their car.

Continuing events at Woodstock; Summer 1966

Mrs. Carrier’s account continued:

“One afternoon, my girlfriend (age 20) and I heard something like a jet breaking the sound barrier, but it was above our roof. We ran out to look and saw a thick vapour cloud from it: the noise was like a jet—but the vapour trail didn’t break up, it lasted a long time—it went straight over the roof to the mountain. It had a zigzag pattern over the mountain. Later in the summer a friend (a young man) came out from Boston. We talked about seeing green lights above the fields and other strange things; and later, when this happened to all of us together, my friend went out to check and see if there were lights in the mountain, but there weren’t any. It was in the fields.¹⁰ One time there was a power blackout; and the man came to fix it. At that point the light was close in the field and we were so scared that no one went out to see what it was.

“Another time, when my girlfriend and I were looking at TV, we saw and heard the (green) thing; and we got a local Florida station on our TV set!¹¹ Toward the end of the summer (1966), another friend, who had lived there for several years, told us about Little Buck, a Hopi Indian¹² and his family, who lived high up in the mountains near the Reservoir. When he heard about my experiences the Indian came to see me. Indians are very reserved people, and Little Buck was reluctant to bring up his own experiences, but after I told him what had happened to us, he said that for years he and his wife wondered if they were insane, because the same thing had happened to them. And that was the reason why they finally left Woodstock. He said, ‘They (lights) came close to us and the sound and pull increased so much that we threw ourselves face down on the ground and rocks were strewn about. I yelled at

them: “Show yourself!” We ran to a friend’s house in fear.’

“One time, when my girlfriend and I were in the house we saw the light and heard the sounds. The vibrations and sensations were so strong that our throats were constricted (globus hystericus?). It was strong—like a magnet above the house—directly above our heads, pulling us up. It increased until the centre of gravity was in the centre of the stomach. The legs were ordinarily heavy, but this time I felt giddy and was laughing at the novelty of the experience. It was like carrying your body around like a thin handkerchief. We walked around on the tip of our toes. We couldn’t force our heels on the floor and I became frightened. We were afraid we would float up toward the ceiling. Then it broke—so quickly that it was like going back into your body. I could feel the heaviness.^{13, 14}

“Once, [after many of the described events] the niece of the man we rented the house from, the pilot, came to our house to say hello. It was the time of so many reports. She told me about flying back from New York to Kingston, when she saw something so strange that

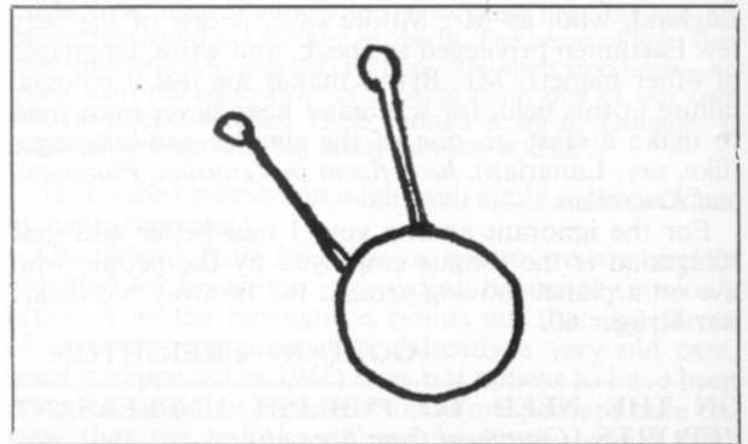


Fig. 3. UFO, as seen by the 12-year-old. The Tappan Zee bridge crosses the Hudson River just south of Nyack (see sketch map)

she couldn’t describe it.¹⁵ She had a young boy with her, and she told me about a friend of hers who works for the Kingston paper. She also told me how her niece,¹⁶ who was sixteen years at the time, said that several years ago she had been in the middle of Woodstock on the green, and saw a thing like a ship with portholes. It stopped and landed on the green. The door opened and then closed. The girl said she was so terrified that she didn’t tell anyone outside of her family for two to three years. Last summer I heard, from a friend, of another

sighting where there were thousands of people at the fair, close by, and they saw an object hovering above them.¹⁷

“The other mountain, in back of our house, has Clarence Schmidt¹⁸ the artist living there. His house was up one year before we moved to Woodstock. He is an old man with white hair and beard. He has a lot of mirrors around his house that reflect on the water; and he can look out at the reservoir. There is something funny about this. We’d seen bright lights around his house all summer. There might be a clue there. Once we all stayed up late one night to talk about him. Then we decided to go and see him. We stopped in town to buy some cookies, and as we were about to take a turn—our intention was to go straight up the road—in a split second my husband impulsively wheeled the car to the left. He just cleared a truck ahead of us with a huge blade on its back, which fell off and hit the pavement. It was a close call.

“Once, toward the end of the summer, in the middle of the night, my husband and I were in the house and we heard a voice over a loudspeaker, like a megaphone, saying, ‘No. A little to the right. Over there.’ It was very strange, for there was nothing there. I was so frightened that I called the Air Force at once, and told them of this and the (associated) lights. [However, Mr. Carrier felt that this was due to people with walkie-talkies, although he couldn’t explain the incongruity of the timing.] There was also a brilliant white light. When the policemen came, they had the siren going and nothing was up there. One of the policemen¹⁹ listened quietly and said, ‘Don’t be upset. I’ve seen them myself.’ The lights have even appeared in the form of a cross in Kingston.

“Our house had poltergeists.²⁰ I’d put safety pins and baby lotion down many times, in the middle of the bed. I’d turn around and they’d be gone. Then they would be back later. [Husband: “We’d miss things. It was insane. We’d look and look and we couldn’t understand it.”] My girlfriend, who lived close by with her family, would hear a car drive up. They would look out, and

see nothing. They would hear the crunch on the gravel, doors slamming, footsteps, a knock, and then nothing. She said this happened several times.

“The night that May came to the house we aimed an old movie camera at the (green) light and tried to get some footage. After that a few people came to the house and a lot of negative things happened to us. Things were being lost that never happened before. My husband didn’t believe me. The light and the steady noise you could take in your stride, but we heard funny noises from the house—high-pitched. [Husband: ‘High-pitched screams.’] Once the two poodles came back very frightened. There was a funny crackling sound, like the kind that comes out of a hi-fi set. My husband heard it too. [Confirmed.]

“One night we heard a noise like someone yelling, ‘Help.’ But it was a crackly, taut voice, the stereotyped spooky voice. Then our house was robbed and the movie camera taken. The film had not been developed and there was a lot of footage on it. Many other things were stolen.

“Our car was breaking down all the time for no reason at all, and it wouldn’t start. Once, my husband’s friends and I were sitting on the screened porch and we heard some funny crackling sound on the gravel. ‘That’s it,’ a friend said, and there was a brilliant flash of light, as if someone was taking his picture. The fellow who was with us later disappeared, and we haven’t heard from him in a long time. We would have constant harassment on the telephone: clicks, disconnects, and funny sounds.

“When we moved to the city we dismissed all this from our minds.”²¹

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We emphasise that neither Mr. or Mrs. Carrier nor their immediate families had a past history for various diseases, including brain syndromes, injuries, temporal lobe epilepsy, delirium or drug ingestion.²² The Carriers, like many other young couples, had smoked marijuana in the past, but at the time of their experi-



Fig. 4a: Merz grandchild



Fig. 4b. Similar image on damaged car

ences neither they, nor their friends were under the influence of marijuana. After the Carriers left Woodstock, their son was born, and at the time of the study (1969-1970), both mother and child remained healthy. Her pregnancy and delivery were uneventful.

At the conclusion of my (BES) original telephone interview of Mrs. Carrier (29/7/69) at 9.30 p.m., the electric lamps of my recently deceased father's office, where I was working, suddenly went out. My mother, who then entered the room and who did not know the content of my phone talk or anything of these researches, remarked how odd it was, since the lights were on timers and set to go off at 10 o'clock, and should not go off at 9.30. I was as unaware of this data as she was unaware of my odd interview; so I checked the clocks to see what was wrong. There was no explanation why the two lamps went out within a half minute of each other at this earlier time and almost immediately following this call. There was no evidence

for a local or general interruption of the house current. Perhaps this episode illustrates how possible telekinesis might occur under emotionally charged conditions. If records are kept for such minutiae over the years, a pattern of built-in controls,^{2,3} as also happens in telepathy, can frequently be observed.

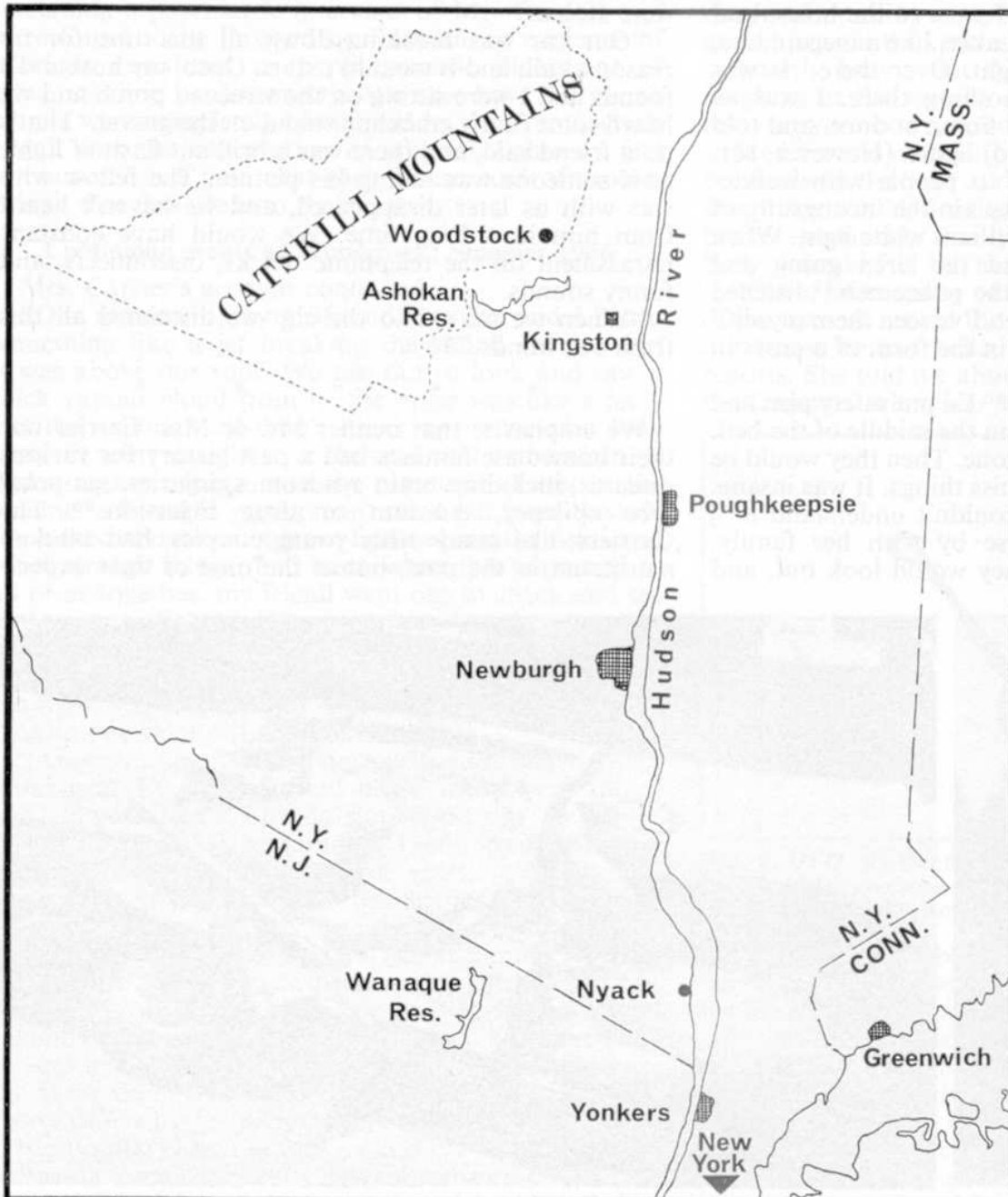
Summary

Psychiatric study of a young couple who had numerous presumed UFO-related experiences over a period of months, tends to support the credibility of their accounts and suggests the need for more prolonged and intensive probing in the attempt to understand the complexities of the interphase of psi and ufology.

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Notes and references

¹⁰ Telephone interview on September 25, 1969, of Mr. P.M., who had a master's degree in mathematics and worked



Part of the State of New York, showing the location (within the dotted boundary line) of the Catskill Forest Reserve, and the position of the country town of Woodstock. Abbreviations employed at the inter-state boundary lines: N.Y., New York State; N.J., New Jersey; CONN., Connecticut; MASS., Massachusetts. The Tappan Zee bridge referred to in reference 15 crosses the Hudson River close to Nyack, N.Y.

with Mr. Carrier, confirmed the essential features of the account. Mr. M. lived in Woodstock throughout the period of these happenings. He was frequently at the Carrier home and spent nights there. He specifically recalled seeing lights hovering over the cornfield, chasing lights with a car and finding nothing, hearing strange noises outside and from the ceiling of the house "as though someone was walking around and yet no one was—it is an isolated area—" sound of cars driving in and out yet there were no cars, sewing-machine-like sounds in the house as if coming from the ceiling which he heard himself with the Carriers, mysterious unexplained thefts of jewelry, and on one occasion the sound of cows moving around in a field of six-foot-high corn, yet there were no cows within a mile of the area and they failed to discover the cause. Mr. M. said that the Carriers were truthful and that neither he nor they were accustomed to playing practical jokes on each other. On occasion they all had used marijuana, but were not under its influence at the time of these odd experiences.

Although Mrs. Carrier had a mystical inclination and was interested in the supernatural, it should be stressed that her possibly UFO-related experiences preceded her reading knowledge of the subject. Mr. M. recalled one episode when Mrs. Carrier had begged him not to go to an Army Reserve meeting in Massachusetts because of an impending disaster. As Mr. M. was driving up, a deer jumped in front of the car and smashed it. Because of the continued weird events and terror in Woodstock, Mr. M. finally left, as did also the Carriers. Mr. M. had no idea of my preliminary investigations nor my knowledge of the Carrier's experiences. He denied any relevant psychopathological stigmata, on tangential and direct questioning. He has been healthy and has had a good job throughout the years.

¹¹ C.D.B., an electrical engineer who has been a ham radio operator for thirty-five years, told me that it is not unheard of to pick up a television programme originating from a local station many miles away. He wrote about another unexplained phenomenon occurring in radio transmission. "It has been observed rarely . . . this phenomenon is the observance of long-delayed echoes by both the originators of transmissions and by others. Since radio waves travel with the speed of light, you wonder where they've been all that time." Two relevant references originating from the Radioscience Laboratory, Stanford University, and supported in part by the Office of Naval Research, are: Villard, Jr., O. G., Graf, C. R., and Lomasney, J. M.: Long-Delayed Echoes . . . Radio's "Flying Saucer" Effect, *QST* [Radio Amateur's Journal] 38-43, May 1969; *ibid.*: There Is No Such Thing As a Long-Delayed Echo AR . . . or, The LDE Mystery Deepens; *Quest*: 30-36 (February) 1970. A spectacular example of a possible LDE if verifiable is presented in Edwards, Frank: *Strangest of All*, chapter headed "Signals From Space," pp. 165-166, Ace Books Inc., New York, 1956.

¹² In *The Sky People* (Award Books, pp. 104-106, N.Y., 1970), Le Poer [Trench—ED.] writes about some of the UFO-related myths in the legends of the Hopi and their supernatural friends, the Kachina, who believed they originated from the skies. "If the Hopi and Kachina had a link long ago with Mars, could the Kachina today, in their ritual dancing still wear the symbols of two Martian satellites?"

¹³ From the *World of Coos Bay, Oregon* (September 28, 29, and October 10, 1959) and personal letters to me, Leo Bartsch, a real estate agent, described an early morning episode: "I was lifted right out of bed. I was weightless for [about] a minute." At the same time as his experience,

he subsequently learned that a Mrs. Carlson and her two sons had seen (and reported to the police and the Air Force) a brightly coloured, mysterious, low-flying object. In an article entitled, "The UFO, a change in my life," Mr. Bartsch described his experience (as told to his wife at the time): ". . . something out of the universe just went low over this roof. Although I saw and heard nothing, I knew it. How or why, I do not know . . . my arm became normal instantly. Then I realised she [the wife] must be thinking I had a nightmare. So I told her to look at the clock and be sure to remember the time, as I said, 'someone saw it and it will be in the newspapers.' I even wondered why I was saying this when I had not heard or seen a thing. And when the next issue came off the press, there it was, September 28 (my birthday), the 1959 issue of the *World*, Coos Bay, Oregon. . . . This woman and her sons lived only three miles from me. From where she lived, the direction of her sighting was directly over my house, and she stated it was low."

He attributed the immediate healing of his left arm, which at the time of the experience felt "like a sparking, electric contact," to the UFO, and soon afterward started attending flying saucer meetings. He became a knowledgeable fundamentalist in his interpretation of the Bible. It is regrettable that there was insufficient medical evidence or observation to document and speculate upon this alleged effect.

¹⁴ In a bizarre experience H. D. Stocks reported (*Red Sun That Rises Straight Up, Air Facts, The Magazine for Pilots*, Vol. 33: 10, 50-55 (Oct.) 1970, also see *FSR*, Vol. 15, No. 3, May/June 1969) how, in association with an eerie glow and a feeling of detached unreality, he noticed, "with amazement that they (a flock of sheep) all appeared to be standing on tiptoe, like ballet dancers, with their heads held unusually high, just as if they were suspended in space with their hoofs barely touching the grass." Mr. Stocks and the farm manager, Jock Marais, then experienced "a peculiar feeling, almost of weightlessness." This experience was related to an ancient Zulu legend of the sun "that rises straight up into the sky after devouring some of the tribe's cattle." After the sensations of weightlessness appeared, Stocks had a most peculiar, near-immediate experience in his aeroplane, which had "an incredibly rapid accelerating ascent," associated with instrumental changes and "strangely no feeling of the G force." (For a well-documented similar experience see Sanderson, I.T.: *Invisible Residents*, Chapter 9, "Supramarine Time Anomalies," pp. 143-156, World Publishing Co., New York, 1971.)

This episode, which occurred in Natal, was "forgotten" until a very peculiar related experience, "halfway across the world, almost exactly a year later, the 15th of June." While flying with a man who was one-quarter Cherokee Indian, they were amazed to suddenly see an "eerie pinkish glow, more intense in the centre of the circular object as it shot straight up into the sky." With appropriate details Stocks describes how they had a sensation of "no G force, and my camera, which had been lying in my lap, now felt light as a feather to my touch."

After Stocks and his passenger had landed they compared notes on their experience, and by a peculiar coincidence, a farmer then telephoned them to describe his strange related phenomena. They flew over to the farmer's ranch and were amazed to hear how a herd of white-faced Hereford steers had stood in a semicircle in association with a pinkish glow, an absence of sound, a peculiar weightless feeling—and "one of the oldest steers was missing." One of the ranch hands, an American Indian, recalled a legend of "the sun that rises straight up." This account was confirmed by Stocks' friend who had heard the same story from his Cherokee grand-

mother. Stocks' experiences were reported to *Project Blue Book*.

¹⁵ After a preliminary telephone interview on October 29, 1970, Mrs. Gale Brownlee, a licensed commercial pilot, with a flight instructor rating, was interviewed in her home on February 14, 1971. Present at that time was William Salvucci, a prominent local restaurateur. Both of these people recalled hearing the Carriers describe "what she saw and felt—told goofy things. I didn't get the impression that she was imaginative. She genuinely believed, and, whatever it was, she was terrorised." Mrs. Brownlee was free of any relevant psychopathology. She described her own sighting, which was reported in *The Daily Freeman* (Kingston, New York, Saturday evening, April 23, 1966). A twelve-year-old passenger and she were returning by aircraft: "We were at an altitude of about fifteen hundred feet. When flying over the Tappan Zee bridge we looked out and saw the object. It was high above us and appeared as a bright green and yellow flare, travelling in a north-north-west direction. A green and yellow flame appeared to be shooting from the UFO, which was travelling at a high speed like a satellite."

As reported, the object was witnessed from other vantage points by many people. On telephone interview (29.10.70) of the young man who was the original passenger, his account was as reported, except that he recalled that the object was noiseless and there were no physiological effects.

¹⁶ Mrs. Brownlee's sister, Mrs. E.K., and her friend, Miss E.H., when interviewed on the telephone (29.10.70) recalled the golf course UFO episode of 1958: "It was approximately 11.00 p.m. There was moonlight, and no clouds. There were three oval-shaped [craft], with domes on top, hovering about one telephone length over the airport. They had windows with slots all around. There were no lights. They were gunmetal grey and there was no noise. We had a weird feeling before we saw them. Our observation lasted 5 to 10 minutes. We were scared and stayed in the car. It had no effect on the motor or lights. One UFO came back and it was just sitting there; then two went back and forth. We told our parents and many people. They didn't believe us."

The friend, Miss E.H., said: "Spooky effect. Strange-appearing—out of the ordinary. Not like a plane or a helicopter—no noise. One object was elliptical." Both ladies were of good health and had no previous or subsequent experiences similar to this. This was one of the most moving experiences of their lifetime. This event took place a very short distance from the Carriers' home.

¹⁷ On direct interview of the then current occupant of the Carriers' home (2.2.71), he reported no strange events in his home since he lived there, but he recalled a Woodstock rock concert in August, 1969, which was tape-recorded by N.Y. radio station WBAI (Pacifica Foundation). At that time everyone was amazed, because a UFO hovered above the audience. This event took place about one mile from his home. It was impossible to check out this story further, and the gentleman could not locate the tape. See Figure 3 for his drawing of what he saw.

¹⁸ Rehberg, W.: Clarence Schmidt of Woodstock, *The Newark News Sunday Magazine* (cover story), Nov. 29, 1970. In my interview of Mr. Schmidt on Sept. 13, 1969, he denied any knowledge of UFOs. However, it appeared that he was an observant old man, and with more time the results might have been different.

¹⁹ When contacted on the telephone, the chief of police of Woodstock vaguely recalled the Carrier incident. However, the officer who made the house call during a particularly trying time remembered entering the complaint on the blotter but with no details. He chiefly recalled the Carriers' terror. Both the officers remem-

bered Mrs. Brownlee's personal experience. When State Trooper CVW was phoned, he was initially reluctant to discuss his own Woodstock observations of a "red-green-blue standing-still object that also went like hell. It appeared to be a mile away, then over the street and I observed it for four hours. I counted seven or eight of them. There was no influence on the car, lights, compass, or wristwatch. The other officers saw it too. I contacted Stewart Air Force Base but took a hell of a beating and harassment because of this. They convinced me it was ice crystals. But it was quite a thing to see. This was in 1967" (near the area of the Carriers' sighting).

²⁰ The relationship between parapsychology and ufology is difficult to define. If levitation, teleportation, materialisation, and dematerialisation were easily demonstrable facts, which they are not, these would be the most reasonable explanations for much UFO phenomena. Many of the presumed associated telepathic aspects of ufology are assumed to come directly from the UFOs or the entities. However, this might be too superficial a view of a much more complex problem. For example, from my experience in psychotherapy, it is not unusual to have highly polarised, poorly repressed ideas telepathically sent or received. Of course when one is worked up and excited about a subject as fascinating as UFOs, this can be an excellent *modus operandi* for telepathic leakage from the physician investigator to the witness, and totally without the witness's awareness of what is going on—an unconscious process. Thus, this greatly simplified process alone could be a suitable explanation for much of the supposed UFO-associated telepathy and other paranormal phenomena, without any need to invoke its origin in the UFOs themselves.

As an illustration, there is the Merz case (note p. 26, FSR, Vol. 17, No. 2: 4-9, March/April 1971) where three generations of a family saw UFOs at different times, and in some instances under well-controlled conditions with countless other observers. The grandmother, who never took herself seriously, also has had many lifelong non-UFO related psychic experiences. For instance, when her grandson was injured, a picture of her sister (who was psychically talented) fell off the wall. At another time, when Mrs. Merz's husband and son were involved in an auto accident many miles away, Mrs. Merz, in the presence of her granddaughter (whom she had raised since age five), had a premonition that something horrible had happened. She was very attached to this granddaughter who was the only one of the five grandchildren who resembled herself. When Mrs. Merz later found out what had happened—her husband and son knew better than to try to conceal such news—they were more surprised than anyone else to see that the polaroid picture (of their damaged car door), taken by the mechanic for insurance purposes, showed a resemblance to the favoured granddaughter through a coincidental deformity (see Figure 4 a and b). Unfortunately, I could not borrow the best picture of the granddaughter, which showed her bangs and which was a better resemblance to the image on the damaged car door.

These accounts become so complex that it is almost impossible to find a cutoff point for the psi material *per se*, let alone relating it to the UFOs. The Merz case involved the later haunting by the same favourite aunt and psychic who "came back" on many occasions with warnings which checked out. In her lifetime the aunt was a snake charmer with a circus for many years, had many unusual psychic experiences as did her sister, the grandmother. Thus, do UFO experiences happen to odd people? Or, are people who are accustomed to out-of-the-run-of-the-mill experiences—like psi stuff—more likely to become aware of other strange events such as UFOs? Or do

UFOs (or what is behind them) take advantage of such biologically and psychopathologically vulnerable individuals?

In many cases, why should one have to resort to the hypothesis of implanted lies, false prophecies, etc., when observation of non-UFO-related psychic matters in paragnostes reveals the same pattern: i.e., an inexactitude and a groping for correctness. For example, anyone who has followed the careers of some of the publicised prophets will note the infrequency and vagueness of their hits, and their many outlandish errors. Although such "errors" are at times parapsychologically correct—they are more often, perhaps, examples of the paragnostes' own projected psychopathology and fumbling attempts at synthesising their impressions (see Tenhaeff, W. H. C.: Proceedings of the Parapsychological Institute of the State University of Utrecht, Nos. 1-3, 1960, '62 and '65).

Thus, much more spade work would be indicated in cases like the Merz or Carrier families and in other published reports, before jumping to an unjustifiable *pars pro toto* conclusion. The UFO and psychic phenomena might be related; yet there are also differences that must be taken into account. It can be erroneous to try and place them all under one umbrella.

²¹ When scouting the area for additional opinions, I noticed the name of a psychiatrist who was formerly affiliated with our local hospital in Montclair, New Jersey, and with whom I was acquainted from departmental meetings. When I telephoned him (2.11.70), he claimed no knowledge of UFOs and was most reluctant to discuss the subject. It is of interest that at the time this man practised in my town, he had much pressure on him because he was allegedly a follower of Wilhelm Reich, and such practices as espoused by Reich were far from the mainstream of practice.

It is of interest that in his writings Wilhelm Reich called attention to the possible connection between his Orgone energy and flying saucers. This would be an interesting subject for someone to undertake who is thoroughly familiar with the controversial researches and personality of Wilhelm Reich. Either Reich was a genius years ahead of his time, or a once brilliant man who succumbed to the insidious effects of psychosis. Some interesting and conflicting references about Reich and UFOs are:

Steiger, Brad, and Whritenour, Joan: *New UFO Breakthrough*, Award Books, New York, 1968; Ch. III: "The Silencing of Wilhelm Reich," pp. 29-37.

Hoppe, Walter: *Autobiography, The Journal of Orgonomy*, Vol. 3 (No. 2): 155-165, Nov. 1969.

Reich, Ilse O.: *Wilhelm Reich, A Personal Biography*, St. Martin's Press, Inc., New York, 1969, pp. 110, 115, 119, 122, 129, 146, 150-151.

Eden, Jerome: *Orgone Energy*, Exposition Press, New York, 1972, pp. 69-74; 149-153.

Schatzberg, A. F.: Wilhelm Reich: Self-Destined Victim and Social Casualty, *Archives of General Psychiatry*, Vol. 27 (No. 1: 67-72, July, 1972).

Mention was made elsewhere (*Proceedings of the Eastern UFO Symposium*, January 23, 1971, Baltimore, Maryland, published in 1971 by Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation, Tucson, Arizona: page 12) of a world-renowned physiologist who had a close UFO experience that was initiated by telepathy. This researcher, famed for his many contributions, was a former student of Reich and performed numerous successful but unpublished experiments. Although many years later he privately upheld to me the validity of the earlier researches and his UFO experience, few knew of his interesting and significant association with Reich earlier in his career. He was still intrigued with the possibilities of UFOs and orgone energy.

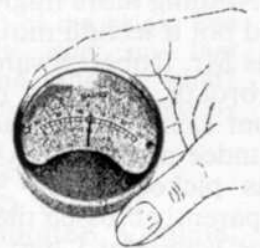
²² Although the study of the Woodstock events is, unfortunately, incomplete from the psychiatric viewpoint, attention might be directed to the experiences of the astronauts and cosmonauts, some of whom reputedly had UFO or UFO-related experiences. While voluminous data has been published on the telemetric monitoring of their various physiological functions and other data, as far as I am aware, there have been no psychiatric reports of these brave men. If the matter is as it seems, then it might be asked why has exclusive attention been given to the "objective" aspects of the astronauts' experiences, while neglecting the correlative subjective, or human aspects. Unless such anamnestic anecdotal data about the astronauts' UFO experiences (see *Condon Report*, pp. 204-208, New York Times Books, 1969) exists in presumably classified files, this omission could be reprehensible from the broad scientific and ufological viewpoint: e.g., clues concerning the extraterrestrial vs. ultraterrestrial hypothesis. Furthermore, if the popular accounts of some of the astronauts developing various presumed emotional problems are creditable, then the lack of intensive pre- and post-flight psychiatric (and parapsychological?) study of these highly trained and programmed astronauts might have left them unduly vulnerable to their emotionally charged explorations.

Unlike the largely anecdotal data obtained from the young Woodstock couple, the accounts of the highly trained and technically sophisticated astronauts might have given clues for such questions as: (1) Are the UFO and UFO-related events "real"? (2) Might such events be related to possible psychodynamic factors, and if so, in what way? (3) In what ways might these almost experimentally observed factors have influenced, if at all, the astronauts (and vice versa)?

If such psychiatric investigations have not been undertaken previously it is hoped that NASA, which has not overlooked myriad other aspects, will consider future flights as an ideal opportunity for such studies. It is regrettable that the Condon Report was inexplicably remiss in such an opportunity by not tackling close UFO landing or occupant cases from the psychiatric viewpoint.

²³ Schwarz, B. E.: Built-in Controls and Postulates for the Telepathic Event, *Corrective Psychiatry and the Journal of Social Therapy*, Vol. 12: 64-82 (March) 1966. Some key articles on psi and ufology which have appeared in FSR are those by Charles Bowen, Gordon Creighton, P. M. H. Edwards, Janet Gregory, John A. Keel, Ivar Mackay, and Aimé Michel.

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THE MONSTER OF THE A85

F. W. Holiday

Although not on the topic of UFOs, this article is presented in view of the theme of Mr. Holiday's new book *The Dragon & the Disc*.

UNKNOWN monsters of huge size and curious shape, apparently living animals, can only be one of two things. If they are not hoaxes or absurd mistakes by the witnesses they must be either actual organic creatures unknown to science—a view presently held by the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau—or some strange form of reality so far described only by certain religious thinkers and other mystics.

If the subject of monsters is explored in depth then all sorts of weird "coincidences," psychic overtones and illogicalities are found to occur. In the end the researcher finds himself holding a bunch of paradoxes which causation as currently understood cannot possibly explain. It is as if we were flat-earthists admitting worriedly that there does indeed seem to be evidence that one or two ships have unaccountably disappeared in the west only to reappear, after a long time-interval, in the east. But of course (since the earth is flat, say we) this obviously must be a mistake and a delusion. It stands to reason. We feel very firm on this point and insist that observers of the alleged phenomenon are somehow unreliable (we are careful not to say how). This leaves our dogma intact and all further discussion is avoided.

This is the situation I came across in the case of the monster of the A85. It was first reported in the *Scottish Daily Express* on October 5, 1965.

The story began when Mrs. Maureen Ford, wife of the Scottish amateur fly-weight boxer David Ford, was driving home with friends along the A85 between Dundee and Perth at 11.30 p.m. on the night of September 30. The car was moving fairly fast towards Perth. Out of the side window Mrs. Ford suddenly saw a large strange object by the roadside. "It was a long grey shape," she said. "It had no legs but I'm sure I saw long pointed ears. It was only a few yards from the banks of the River Tay."

Nothing more might have been heard of this incident had not a second motorist encountered the object. This was Mr. Robert Swankie, owner of the National Bar in Arbroath, who was nearing home after a journey up from London. He had left Perth and was heading for Dundee along the A85 when suddenly a large object was picked up by his headlights. The object had apparently crossed the road since Mrs. Ford saw it. The time was now 1 a.m.—an hour and a half after Mrs. Ford's sighting.

"The head was more than two feet long," Mr. Swankie stated. "It seemed to have pointed ears. The body, which was about 20 feet long, was humped like a giant caterpillar. It was moving very slowly and made a noise like someone dragging a heavy weight through the grass."

This was all I could usefully learn from the *Express*.

At once I tried to get in touch with Mrs. Ford and Mr. Swankie. Mrs. Ford soon replied confirming her own sighting and enclosing a very rough sketch of the object's head. She mentioned the arrival of a "Miss Fergusson" on the scene.

This later turned out to be Miss Russell-Fergusson of Clarach Recordings, Oban, with whom I opened a correspondence. She had, she told me, taken down on tape both Mrs. Ford's and Mr. Swankie's accounts. "I seem to have stumbled on something quite exciting,"¹ she wrote, adding: "We both had the same *cri de coeur*: Why did he not stop?" Why indeed.

It soon transpired that the recordings were on their way to Dr. Constance Whyte who is an M.D. and who, as wife of the manager of the Caledonian Canal, had written a book called *More Than A Legend*² which sparked off the post-war Loch Ness investigations. I had corresponded with Constance Whyte for years and at once asked her to describe the Swankie affair as given in the tape.

She wrote: "He was motoring at about 1.00 a.m. towards Dundee and was on a twisty bit of road about 6 miles from Perth. His headlights picked up something moving on the near side of the road (i.e. the side away from the Tay estuary). He said that the silhouette was as drawn by him (no doubt you have a copy of his sketch). He slowed down and opened his window—looked to see if there was any following car—and saw the lights of one about five minutes (sic) behind him, so carried on to the start of the Dundee bypass (about 12 miles further on) when the following car occupied by a lady driver alone caught up with him and he waved her to stop but without success."

"Mr. Swankie does not say that he actually stopped at all. He does not explain by what illumination he saw the 'thing' when he was alongside it. He makes no mention of any reaction on the part of the 'thing' either to him or the sound of his car. His description seems to me to correspond pretty closely to the semi-comic postcards of the Loch Ness monster."³

Mrs. Whyte clearly did not approve of Mr. Swankie's apparently irrational behaviour in not investigating the phenomenon on the spot nor in its alleged appearance as described by him. Miss Fergusson declined to loan the original tape because "I am using it for my own research." The authorities, naturally, did nothing whatever. A police spokesman at Longfargan told the *Express*: "We know of nothing in that area which could possibly be confused with a monster. Of course in the dark the headlights of a car could play tricks when they strike walls and trees."⁴

In that case one wonders why Mr. Swankie didn't see monsters all the way up from London and why he didn't report them as he reported the A85 specimen. And why