

ENCOUNTER ON DAPPLE GRAY LANE: Part I

Ann Druffel

OVER the past few years, ufologists have become blasé about reports of alien humanoids, occurring in all shapes, sizes and colours. The encounter on Dapple Gray Lane in Palos Verdes, a fashionable coastal community in Southern California, however, might stretch credulity to the limit.

This report nevertheless comes from two sober and intelligent young men, well educated and gainfully employed. The case also contains three unique factors: 1. The primary witness is himself a UFO investigator, having researched cases for a major U.S. UFO organization; 2. Some of the entities or "occupants" involved were of non-humanoid appearance; 3. The experience, in part, seemed to be a "projection" or advanced hologram.

We shall call the primary witness John Hodges to preserve his anonymity.† He first became acquainted with the author when he became aware of her long-standing interest in UFO phenomena above and in the Santa Catalina Channel. This body of water lies between the coastline of Southern California and Santa Catalina Island, twenty miles offshore to the southwest (Figure 1). The area has for at least thirty years been the scene of UFO reports of all kinds — surface sightings of hazy craft which cruise leisurely in full view of military installations, aerial spheres bobbing in oscillating flight, gigantic cloud-cigars, and at least one report of an underwater UFO with uniformed occupants. However, the Dapple Gray encounter is possibly the first land sighting of occupants around this area.

John Hodges, aged twenty-nine, lives four miles inland from the coast and often visits beach areas overlooking the Channel. He contacted the author in March 1976 regarding sightings he and friends had made of Channel phenomena. His accounts seemed reasonable and valuable. After about two hours of interview, Hodges seemed to gain confidence in the author. He ventured a most unusual report concerning an encounter with what he termed "two extraterrestrial beings."

Dapple Gray Lane, where this encounter occurred, is a pleasant tree-lined road, somewhat isolated and about three miles from the coast. About 2.00 a.m. on a clear, cool night early in the 1970s, Hodges and a friend, Pete Rodriguez (pseudonym), confronted two strange creatures in the road. They were about six feet from the witnesses' stationary car, illuminated in their headlights. To the young men's conscious memory, the fright and consternation they experienced at the inexplicable sight overwhelmed them. After staring a few seconds at the odd little entities, they manoeuvred the car around the area where the creatures stood and

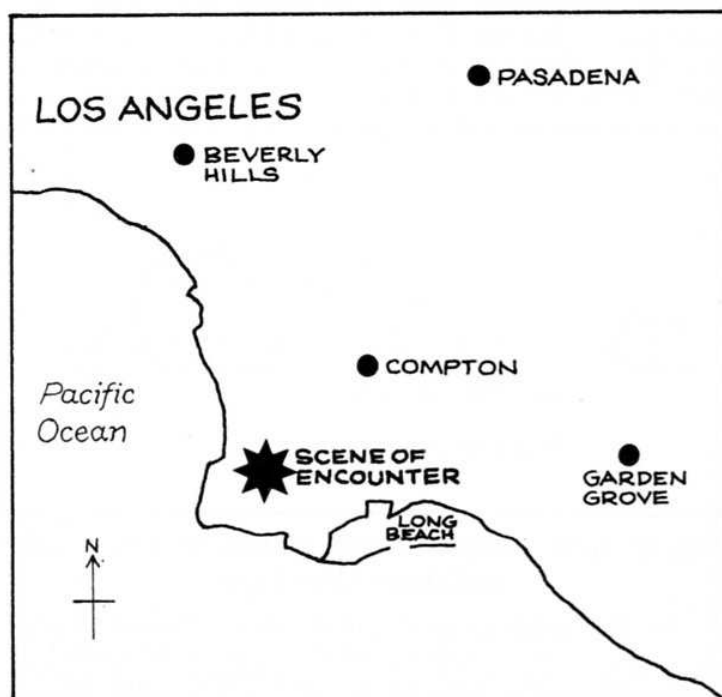


Fig. 1: Part of Southern California

tore off down the darkened street toward home.

In Hodges' own words, here is his conscious memory.¹ "Something blocked me. I don't even remember the year. My buddy Pete and I had a friend who was a big wheel at the Institute of General Psionics. He was always trying to get me to join. It was like a parapsychological church. Mike and I went to his studio apartment and were rapping with him till the wee hours of the morning, not especially about parapsychological phenomena, but mostly about girls.

"About 2.00 a.m. Pete and I decided we'd split. Our car was parked facing south on the deadend street. We walked up the path, out the driveway and north along the road to the car. We could see where we were going — no problem. We got in the car, turned on the lights and directly ahead of us were two 'extraterrestrial beings.'

"Pete only remembers the larger one to the right, but I remember both of them. One was about the size of the trunk of a human body, and the other the size of an overgrown softball. They were both the shape of brains with the dura matter still intact — kind of a filmy bluish. On the larger one was something red. It resembled a hematoma, or a rupture, or

† Name and address on file — EDITOR.

a pumping device. It could have been anything. I don't know." (See Figures 2 and 3.)

Hodges remembered taking Pete home, a five minute drive, and then driving home himself, another five minutes. As he entered his home, he noted the time was about 4.30 a.m. It was not until a couple of years later that Hodges realized this incongruity. About two hours were missing from his life.

The day after the encounter, Hodges and Rodriguez called up the friend whom they had visited that night and confirmed that there was nothing in Dapple Gray Lane which could account for the sighting – no large rocks, dead animals, or trash. They returned to the spot seeking information,

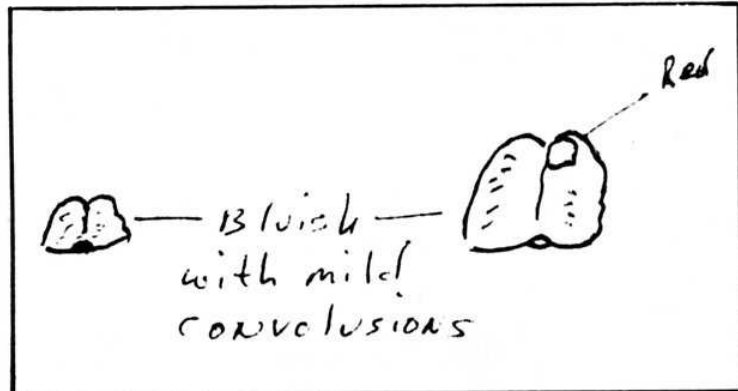


Fig. 2: John Hodges' sketch of two entities in road on Dapple Gray Lane

As the years passed, the memory remained alive but muted in Hodges' mind – even less vivid in Rodriguez.' The experience had been eerie and ill-logical; they tried to forget.

Intrigued by Hodges' straightforward statement and by the possibility that this could be a time-lapse case, the author arranged for him to be hyp-

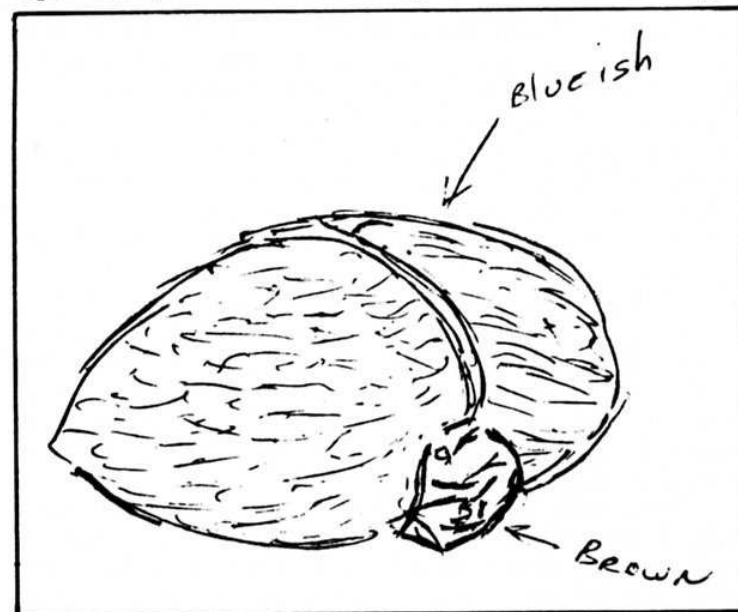


Fig. 3: Hodges' sketch of 'brain' entity in room, drawn immediately after hypnosis session (April 14, 1976). Writes Mr. Hodges: "Brown spot suggests *patula oblongata* in opposite position in relation to Brain as it faced me."

notically regressed by William McCall, M.D., a practising physician whose speciality is family practice. Dr. McCall is an expert clinical hypnotist, as well, who uses the technique to aid patients whose medical symptoms are complicated by underlying emotional disturbance.

At the hypnosis session, conducted April 14, 1976, Hodges at first described the encounter with the alien creatures in much the same way as his conscious-memory statement.²

"I see two objects. One is large and the other small. They're kind of bluish. They look like brains. Pete's quiet. I look at him. I say, 'Do you see what I see?' He says, 'I think so.' And I say, 'Are they brains?' He says, 'Yes.' And then something... something happens. I'm having trouble remembering..."

To relieve Hodges' evident discomfort as his subconscious memory took hold, McCall took him back to shortly before the sighting, and determined that the exact date of the experience was August 17, 1971. "We'll get back to those objects," McCall stated then. "Something is happening."

"Yes," continued Hodges. "The larger one is coming toward us. We're sitting in the car. It is talking to us, not with words, but with something in our mind...telling us we must be careful, that there are many things we do not understand. If we do not take the time to understand ourselves, we will be the instruments of our own fate...that there are many like us and we will come to know our place in the world. Then the larger one moves back and says, 'We will meet again. Until that time you will not remember what has gone on here.'"

"Why doesn't he want you to remember it?" commented McCall.

"He didn't say. I don't know. I take Pete home. He seems OK. I am still puzzled. I drive home and am sitting in my car. I have a dream...I am back on that hill, talking to the larger one and ask him, 'Why is it me? Why do you come to me?' And somehow I am enveloped by...I don't know...and taken to some kind of large room. There are people there... but they're *not* like people. (Figure 4.)

"It seems to be real, but I say to myself, 'I must be dreaming.' The brain is there. He tells me these are people who monitor my world because there's too much power. He shows me all the different parts of the world like on a large television screen... it looks like we are travelling above the earth. On the screen are pinpoints of light on the earth, and the 'brain' says these are places where we could destroy ourselves – places in California, in the Midwest, all over America... in Europe, in Russia and other places I don't know...even places in the ocean."

MC: What 'power' is he talking about?

JH: The power...the installations...the places where they have atomic bombs. They look like exploding atomic bombs on the screen. Some on the ocean, on deserts, on ice (Figures 5 and 6).

MC: Are all these pictures on earth?

JH: There is one picture of a planet. I don't know where it's at. It is totally destroyed. He says this was caused by too much power.

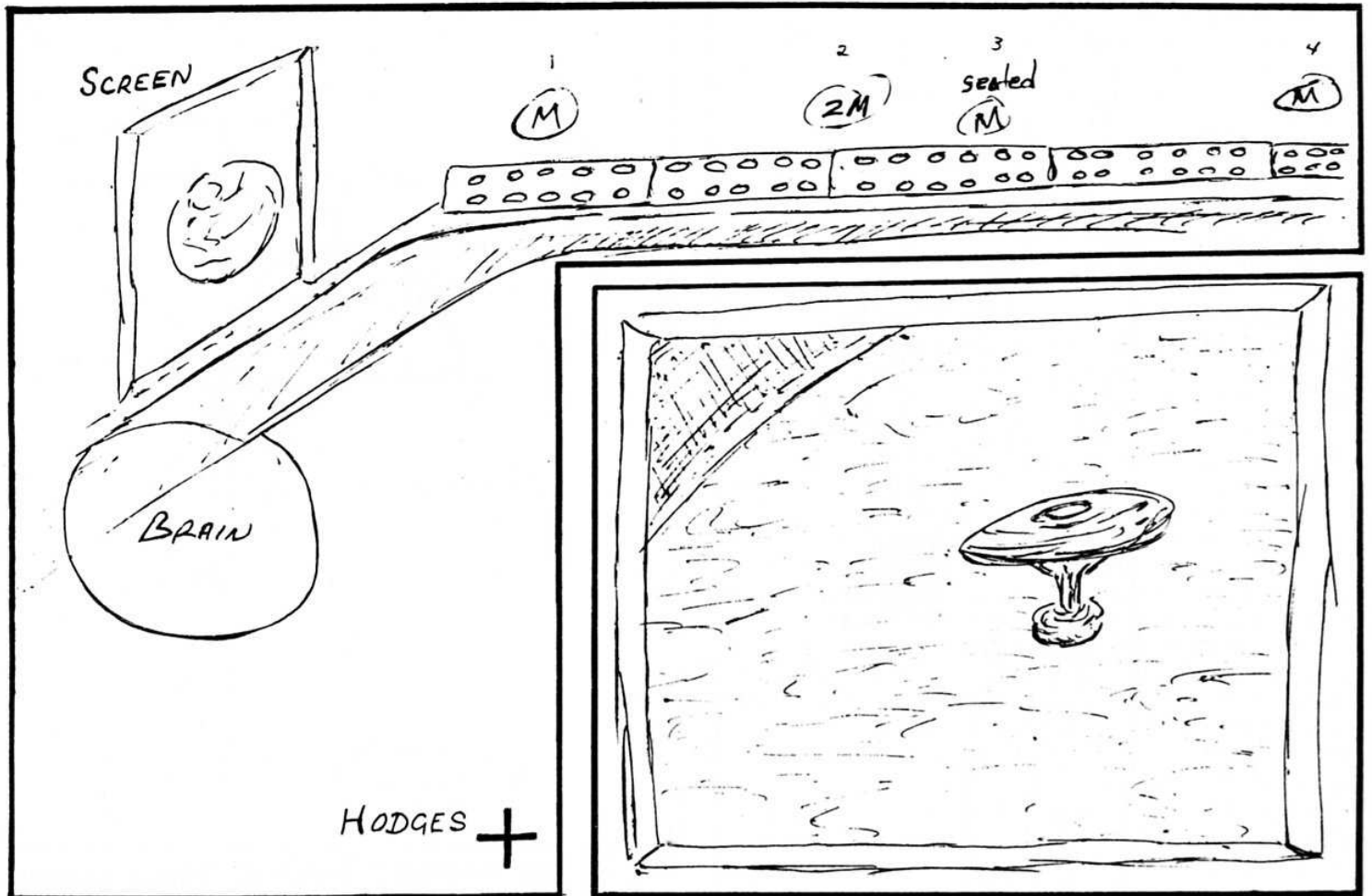


Fig. 4: Hodges' sketch of the 'room' with screen, position of 'brain' in relation to his own position. Room was of metallic silver, floor brown. 7 or 8 men. Varicoloured lights on panels. Screen was about 4 ft square, up to 7 ft away from him
 Fig 5 (right): The screen in operation, depicts ocean scene, with bomb. Sketch by J. Hodges on April 14, 1976, as also was sketch in Figure 4

MC: What is the date this dead planet occurred?

JH: It's now.

MC: Do you mean 1976?

JH: No. It's 1971.

MC: Now, you're in this room...how do you feel?

JH: I'm puzzled. I'm...I'm not frightened.

MC: How does the 'brain's' message come into your mind?

JH: I can hear him. He doesn't have a mouth, but he has a voice. It's English...must be English, because I can understand it. No accent. It sounds like a man. I can hear him in my mind. The voice...comes within me, but it sounds like you are talking to me. He floats, seems to be eye level with me, has no arms or legs. He's just a ... 'brain.'

Dr. McCall then instructed Hodges to concentrate on the brain's red spot. Hodges replied that he did not see it on him now, that maybe this 'brain' in the 'room' was not the same one on the road, though it was the same size as the one he had seen on Dapple Gray Lane. McCall took him back to the encounter on the road, instructed him to 'freeze' the larger entity as it came close to the windshield and to describe the red spot. Hodges did so.

"The red spot seems to be covering about one-eighth of the brain. It's pure red, doesn't shine, looks almost like a light. It looks like it might be a growth.

It doesn't have an even line. I can't see the texture; there doesn't appear to be any depth to it. Doesn't move, doesn't pulsate, nothing like blood vessels around it, only the soft tissue covering the brain."

Regarding the other entities in the room, Hodges stated, "They are tall, skin grey...yellow eyes, very thin eyes...mouths but no lips. Funny flat noses.

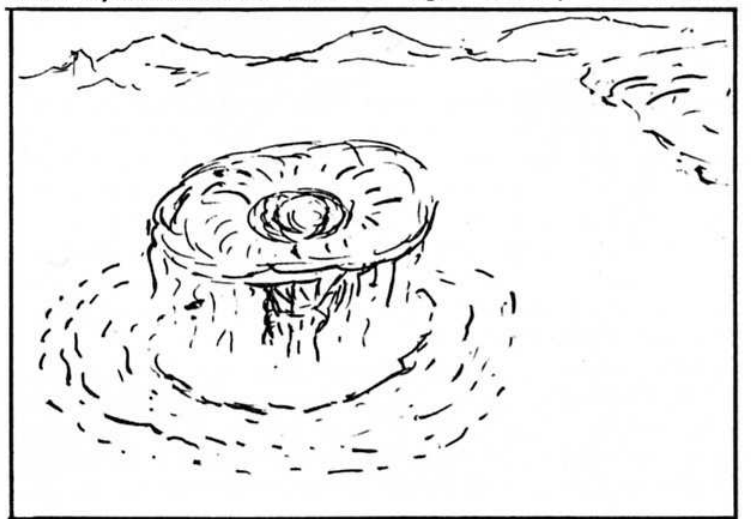


Fig. 6: The screen depicts Desert scene with explosion, which, says Hodges, had a 3-D effect

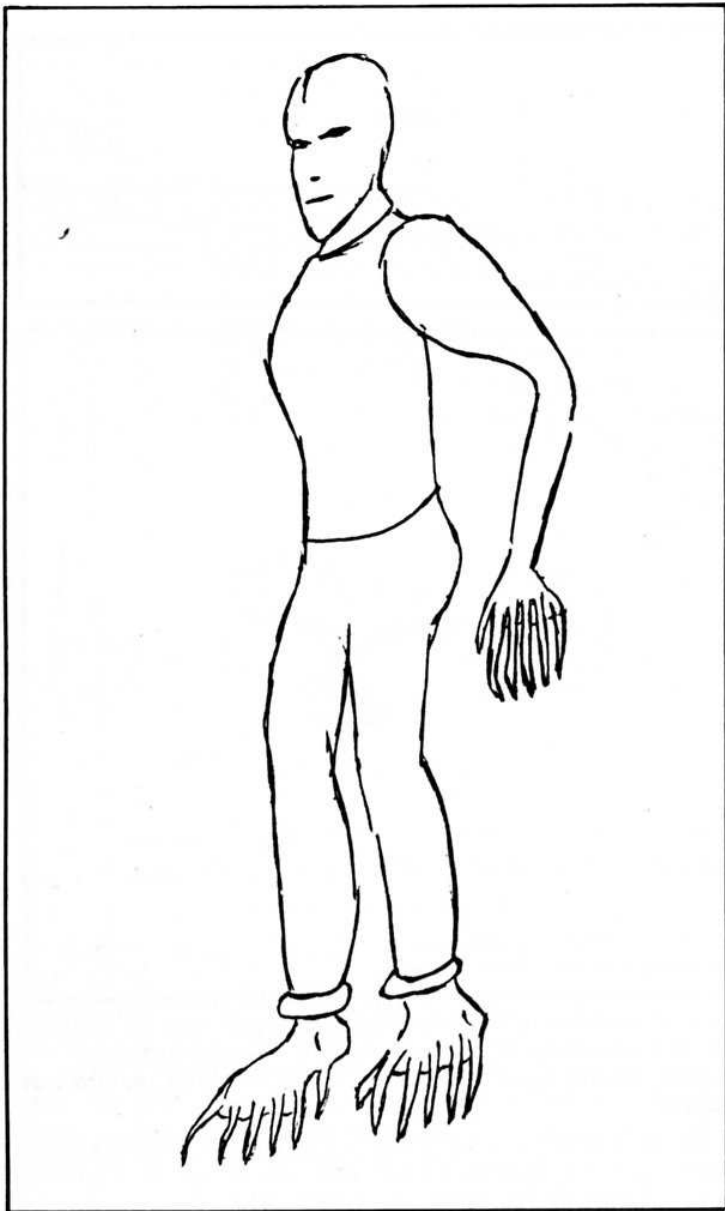


Fig. 7: Hodges' sketch of 'crewman', one of several humanoid entities in 'room'. Sketch made immediately following hypnosis session. Eyes, yellow; body covering, grey; ankle-rolls, blue-grey; all skin, grey

Their hands have long, thin fingers, six fingers, and a thumb. They're webbed more or less from the palm to the first knuckle. Their feet are much the same. They're barefoot but not naked, wearing grey vests and grey pants, looks like a kind of plastic or vinyl, with a spongy cuff...something like a doughnut around their ankle. No belt, but a line seems to separate the pants from the vest. They're about seven feet tall." (See Figure 7).

MC: What is their relationship to the brain?

JH: I don't know. They seem to be crewmen, doing specific functions. It looks like they're working on some type of continuous computer board...

The abrupt end of Hodges' experience in the room was shortly after his second reference to seeing the "dead plant" on the screen.

JH: He (brain) tells me to stand in this one spot...

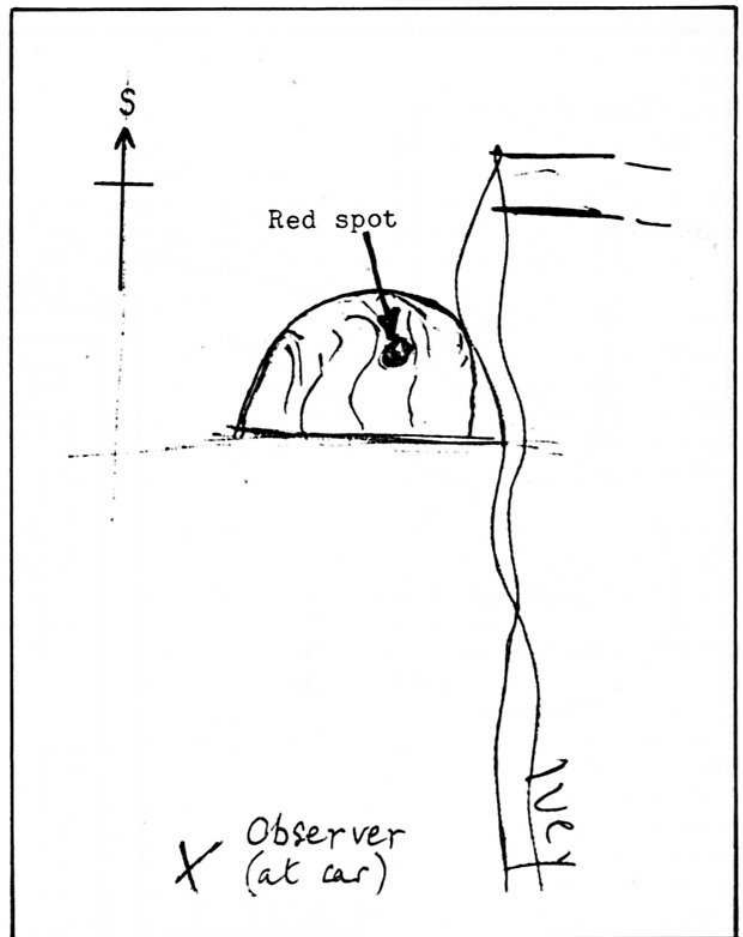


Fig. 8: Pete Rodriguez' sketch of 'object' in road, positioned in relation to car, roadside.

something envelops me again, and I'm sitting back in my car. Not instantaneously...I seem to feel a kind of buzzing and everything was black. Then I'm buzzing again. *Then I'm sitting in my car.*"

John Hodges seems to be an honest and intelligent individual. This impression was confirmed by Dr. McCall. Hodges attended a Catholic boys' high school in Southern California. He was unhappy there because he was placed in a group of "public school rejects" while his brother was placed with "the best of the Catholic crop" in the same school. In 1965 pressures at school resulted in a brief nervous breakdown. He now considers himself "Christian," having given up practice of the Catholic faith. He regards his life at present as "happy."

His brother is presently studying law. Hodges attended one year of college but was dissatisfied and dropped out. He continued studying on his own, primarily scientific subjects. He took IBM training and obtained certification as a keypunch operator but was disinterested in this field. For the past six years he has been employed in "parapolice" work (security guard and similar positions) and received standardized training, including special courses in chemical warfare and small arms. He has made attempts to get on a regular police force, but his eyes are far beyond the accepted standard. His vision is fully corrected by glasses.

Hodges is a chain smoker and admits being unable to quit. He was nervous about revealing his encounter

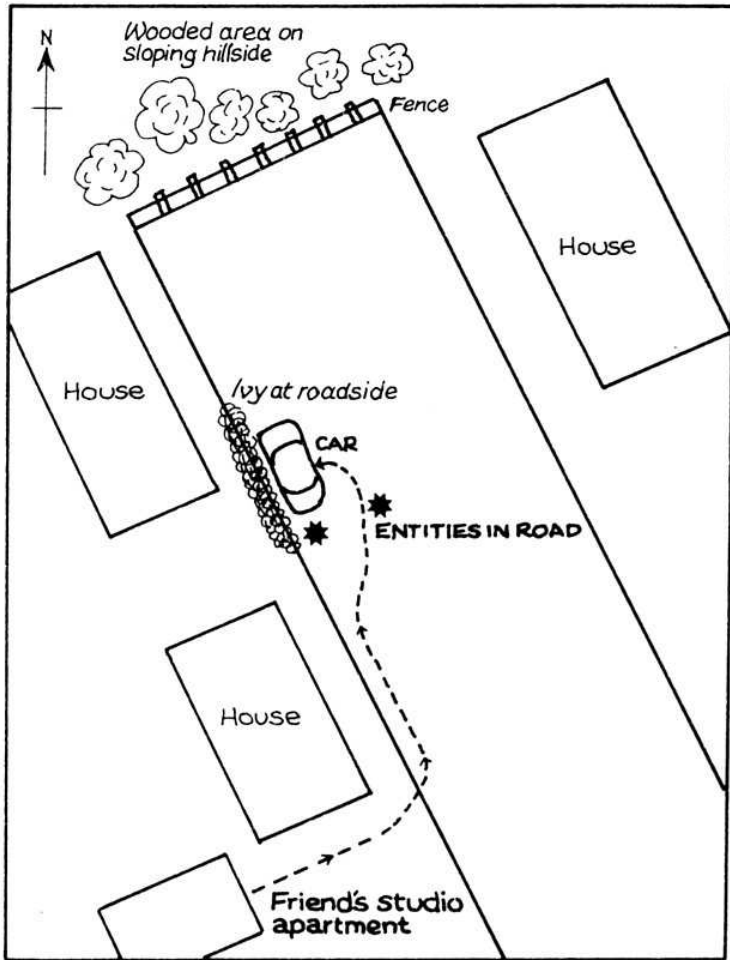


Fig. 9: Dotted line represents witnesses' route to car



Fig. 10: John Hodges indicates approximate height of larger 'brain' entity. Photo taken from position in which witnesses' car was parked, facing south



Fig. 11: Fence at dead end of Dapple Gray Lane. Hillside and wooded area slope down and away. City (Los Angeles) miles beyond, hidden by smog.

of August 17, 1971, feeling he "is in the spotlight when he shouldn't be and doesn't want to be." For that reason he requested anonymity. However because of a deep desire to find out more of the encounter's real meaning, he has co-operated fully with the investigations carried out on behalf of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON)

His smoking, according to Dr. McCall, might indicate insecurity stemming from childhood; nevertheless, Hodges maintains an equable and good-natured personality.

Pete Rodriguez was interviewed on April 17, 1976. He is employed as an operating room technician in a large Southern California hospital. He also teaches OR technician classes during the day. He seems to be a calm, reliable young man, in his twenties. Regarding the Dapple Gray Lane encounter, he made the following statements.³

"I can't remember the year, probably the early part of 1970. I was still in school. John and I went to visit a friend of ours. It must have been rainy that night...it was misty. As we came out through the ivy, the car was parked on the left hand side of us. We must have passed right by it [the object in the road]. After we got in the car was when we actually saw it. It was on the ground in front of the car, maybe five or six feet away, in front of the right headlight. The headlights were focused on it. The colour I saw was red. I don't remember if the entire object was red and the lights made it look like there was a red light on it or if there was just a red light on this object. It looked like *something*. It wasn't just a rock or anything. It looked like something that could have been alive, or constructed.

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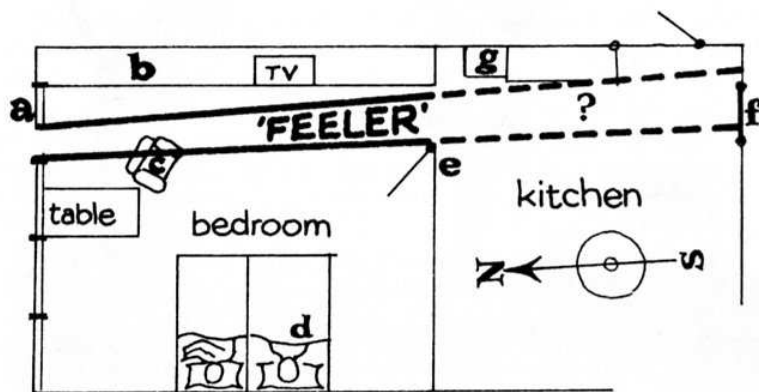
"SNAIL FEELER" ENTERS A ROOM

Ernst Berger

OF several unusual reports from the Vienna Basin area (a suspected "window") we at MUFON-CES received one which was a real puzzler. The occurrence was in September, 1975, and if it is UFO-related it may well be the Austrian counterpart of the Logrono, Spain, "light feeler" and room inspection case of June 22, 1972.¹ Whatever it was, it provided the witness with a short, but excellent chance to observe physically "impossible" light characteristics which fall into the "solid" light" category². Thanks to the witness, an old, sober-minded woman, and a truly excellent observer, as we will see, a wealth of data was retrieved.

September 25, 1975 was a busy evening. At about 9.48 p.m. CET a brilliant meteor rushed through the night skies of Vienna and was seen by many citizens. Press reports followed and in their wake a series of other observations that had happened "around" the astronomical ones. The "meteor deception" (an old Austrian trick John A Keel should take down as a European Trojan Horse) was on once again. Some observers of non-meteor events over Vienna that same night presented their experiences like: "Listen to what that meteor looked like to us..." to be ridiculed quickly. However, there was an easy way to separate them from the rest of the data — the time. Three events took place between 5.45 and 9.00 p.m., before the meteor. One concerned an oblong body seen over southern Vienna that hovered and suddenly sped away at a terrific rate with three coloured tails, one happened near Salzburg and dealt with a hovering white blob and the last one appeared like a green kite that was seen to fly suddenly at right angles on its west-east trajectory. There was but one event forthcoming after the time of the meteor. At first it was considered linked with astronomy by the witness and was finally reported out of curiosity.

Frau Elsa W., then aged 75 years, lives with her grown-up daughter Lotte in a third storey flat with large windows overlooking the tops of old lime trees



0 1 2 metres

A word of explanation

Our contributor used the "snail" description for certain UFOs in his article "Luminous 'snails' near Traunstein, Austria" which was published in FSR Vol. 20, No. 2 of 1974. The objects on that occasion were said to look like "...luminous globes with fuzzy edges ...giving a so-called 'signal' consisting of two curved beams of light...which were projected slowly upwards like a pair of *snail feelers*...whose tips turned green when they stopped moving, when a green mist formed and then fell sideways, and the rays, or feelers, were gone."

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in an alley leading to the world-famous Schoenbrunn Imperial Palace of Vienna. The building is in the 12th district and looks terribly run-down but it contains some well-furnished flats with high, spacious rooms. Especially the W. bedroom (at day the living room) is neat and clean. From a wooden set of built-in furniture (see photograph and sketch of room) near the right double casement window a colour TV set faces the double bed which is converted to a couch in the daytime.

"We used to leave the left side of that window (both inner and outer) open all the time. It was a very warm day then," began Frau W. at our field investigation on October 7, 1975, 13 days after the event. She had switched off the TV at 10.00 p.m. on September 25 and had unplugged it. "I have a sleeping problem and could not find sleep that night, even after some reading. So it happened that I, unlike my daughter, was wide awake twenty minutes to midnight. You must not think I'm crazy, but it was the time 'it' came through the window." We have to add that the left side of the window was standing open but the shade (indicated by hatching in the photograph) had been down as far as the middle section of the inner window reducing the normal window opening by 50% (38.5 to 57.0 cm.).

"There it came in, flashing as lightning, but it was no lightning. It was a ray, bright as burning magnesium, crossing my room like a line. When it left I was stunned, waiting for a thunderclap, but there was none. It was eerie — a sharply outlined *stripe, flat*. If I had gone crackers due to old age or the like, you know, I would have told you of a parapsychological visitation. But I won't do this... There was no sound, not even a crackle...It shot in and went as far as the kitchen, perhaps the door of our flat — and back, out." The connecting door to the kitchen was open. The flat door (see sketch) is part of a wall that runs parallel to the window wall at nine metres 15 cm. distance.

According to Frau Elsa W.'s description the "band of light" stretched out from the window in a nine to ten metre-long sloping path right into the kitchen,