

# HUMANOIDS SEEN AT BUTLER

*An unusual report from Pennsylvania*

**By Robert A. Schmidt**

Our contributor is Secretary of the Pittsburgh UFO Research Institute

LATE in the evening of March 20, 1967, about 10.45 Eastern Standard Time, Mr. Rible\* and his daughter, Jean, of Butler, Pennsylvania, took out the family car for a trip around the neighbourhood in the hope of glimpsing some unusual lights. They had been seen earlier by Mrs. Rible who described them as "flitting around at low altitude".

The Rible home is in a sparsely populated area of scattered houses and farms. It is also a mile from a private airfield used by Cessnas and other light aircraft. The Rible family is familiar with night flying, and the lights seen by Mrs. Rible did not in any way conform to those seen at night on aircraft in the vicinity. It was the curious behaviour of the unusual manoeuvring lights that persuaded Mr. Rible and Jean to take the car and investigate them.

They saw nothing at first as they drove around the back roads of the Butler area, and decided to pull off the road, switch off the lights of their Volkswagen, and await events.

## Globes of Light

They had only been parked for a few minutes when Mr. Rible, who had stepped out of the car for a better view, spotted two globes of light about a mile down the road and about 200ft. up. The secondary road on which they were parked is a straight stretch, sloping downwards for at least a mile from their observation post. They had a clear view of the lights which, when first observed, looked slightly smaller than the full moon appears to the naked eye ( $\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ ).

The objects travelled towards the Ribles, flying parallel to each other, and a little way apart. When about half a mile away, they changed places, but maintained the same parallel course, the same distance apart. But they now looked considerably larger, and although they shone yellow-white, they did not light up the area over which they travelled.

Both Mr. Rible and his daughter first thought they were observing two private aircraft, each with a landing light, coming to touch down on the highway where the car was parked; but there were several factors against this. There was no noise; private aircraft carry much smaller lights; and tight formation flying on a pitch-black night in March, culminating in a landing on an unlit narrow highway, was unlikely to be done, even by an experienced stuntman.

The Ribles watched with increasing concern as the

two globes of light appeared to land on the road a quarter of a mile away from them, at the foot of the gradient. They came up the slope at an estimated 70-80 m.p.h., looking like the lights of two motor-cycles racing along, ten feet apart. While Mr. Rible stood paralysed with fright next to the Volkswagen, Jean yelled to her father: "Oh my God! They're coming right at the car!"

## Collision Course

Mr. Rible reached in through the car window and flicked on the headlights. The strange lights continued to approach on a collision course with the car—and then, fifty yards away from it, they vanished into thin air.

The Ribles, crouching, tensed and bracing themselves for what they believed to be the inevitable impact, saw to their astonishment, a few yards away from the bonnet of their Volkswagen, a group of five figures, standing somewhat irregularly in a semi-circle. This was an additional shock which prompted them to swift action.

## The entities

Within a few seconds the Ribles were back in their car. While her father was busy starting the car and reversing, Jean got a good look at the humanoids. She told me . . .

"They just stood there, about 10ft. from the car. They looked like human beings, but their faces were totally devoid of expression, and unlike a human face. Their eyes, if you could call them such, were horizontal slits about this long (she extended her forefinger and thumb to indicate the length of the slits). I could not see any irises or pupils—just slits. Their noses were narrow and pointed, not unlike a human nose, and their mouths were slits like the eyes.

"Four of the figures were about 5ft. 7in. tall, and the fifth was considerably shorter—about 5ft. All wore caps with a flat top, not unlike baseball caps, beneath which blond hair was showing. The hair of the four taller figures was ear-length. The shorter humanoid had hair falling to the shoulders—I thought it might have been a woman. I didn't get a good look at the ears.

"All five were dressed alike, somewhat sloppily, in grey-green shirts and trousers, not unlike a hunter's outfit. The shirts, which were open at the neck, were worn outside the trousers. Everything was loose-fitting.

"The skin on their faces and hands was rough-looking—it resembled scar tissue or skin which has been severely burned.

"It gave us the creeps, seeing them just stand there

\* This is not the correct name of the witness; we have this on file, but have been asked not to use it.

doing nothing. We heard no noise in connection with either the lights or the figures. Father nearly broke the door handle trying to get back into the car. When we had started the engine, we had to reverse and then go forward and round the figures, to miss them. We had been parked on the hard shoulder of the road, and if we had gone straight ahead, we would have run them down as they were standing right in front of the car.

"To this day the details of this encounter are clear in my mind. It was the most unforgettable experience of my life, and of my father's too."

### Investigation

Mr. Rible told investigators that he was so intent on getting away, he had to rely on the description given by his daughter of what she observed from the passenger seat in the car. He had, however, a quick glimpse of the figures, and agreed to their numbers and height.

The Ribles at first discussed their experience only with close family friends. They were afraid that ridicule would have serious repercussions on Mr. Rible's job, which is an important one in the Butler area, and that any mention of his name in association with such a bizarre incident might have ruined him. Jean is an honours student at the local high school.

In late October, 1967, Pittsburgh UFO Research Institute made a complete investigation into the sighting. By this time the Ribles had heard of the serious studies made by the Institute's members, most of whom are scientists with degrees in their respective fields, and

decided to pass on the information to them.

The investigators found the Ribles to be capable people, well-known and liked by their friends and neighbours. After cross-checking all points of the case, tape recording their conversations, the Institute found no reason to disbelieve the claims made by the family.

Under pressure of questioning, Jean mentioned another point which she had at first deliberately refrained from mentioning. Asked if there was anything else of interest relevant to the sighting, no matter how absurd it might sound, she confessed to a curious experience which may be of considerable importance.

"As the lights swiftly approached the car, coming down the road, I heard a chorus of voices in my head—not with my ears, but I seemed to sense them in my brain. The voices said: 'Don't move . . . don't move . . . don't move . . .' They kept repeating 'Don't move . . .' but they dragged it out—'Dooooooooooooonnnnnn'tttt Moovvvvvveeee.' When the lights vanished, the voices stopped at once. My father didn't hear a thing and so I thought I was hearing things—but now I'm not too sure. I just had to tell you about it."

The investigators learned that Jean, near hysteria, was driven immediately after the sighting to the Minister of their local church and comforted; her father went too. Both of them had thought that the devil himself had been at work. The Minister (who asked for his name to be withheld) confirmed the testimony. Mr. Rible returned to the scene of the sighting a while later to see if there was any trace of the strange encounter, but nothing was found.

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# ENCOUNTER WITH "DEVILS"

*A strange account from the Cussac Plateau in France*

*By Joël Mesnard and Claude Pavy*

Translated from *Phénomènes Spatiaux* for June, 1968, by John C. Hugill\*

ON the Contal plateau in a setting of pastures divided by little stone walls and curtains of trees, a tiny village stands on a hill—Cussac, 20 km. east-south-east of St.-Flour. It is 10.30 a.m. on August 29, 1967. In a meadow beside Route D.57 ten or so cows are grazing in the care of François Delpeuch (13½) and his sister Anne-Marie (9) accompanied by their little dog Médor. The weather is fine, the sky is clear, and a light wind is blowing from the west.

As the cows make a move to cross the low wall, François gets up to bring them back, turns round and sees, on the other side of the road, what he takes at first to be four children. They are behind a hedge 40 metres or so away. He climbs on top of a few stones the better to see these children whom he does not recognise. François and Anne-Marie make out, near the strangers, a large sphere half hidden by the hedge. It is very brilliant and shines so much it is painful to look at.

One of the little beings is bending over and seems to be busy with the soil, while another, holding in one hand an object which reflects the sun (which François likened to a mirror), is waving his hands, apparently making signs to his companions.

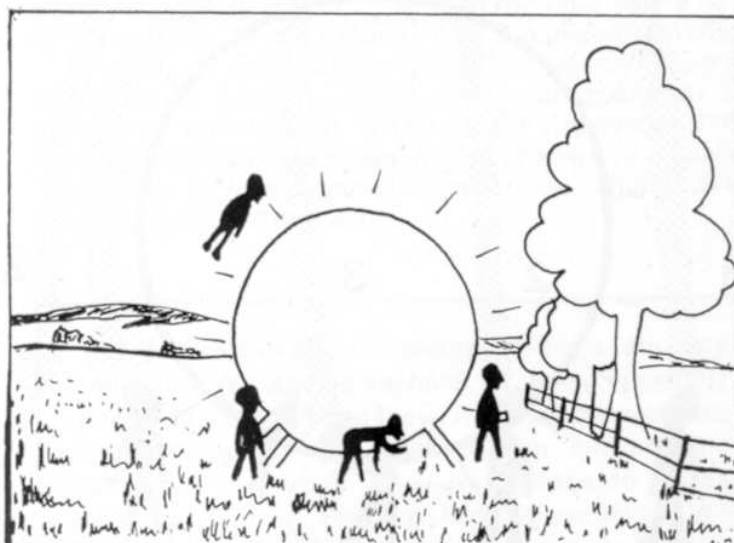
François then called out, "Have you come to play with us?" At this moment the small beings, who did not seem to be interested in the children, became aware that they were under observation. The first one (see sketch) took off vertically and then plunged head first through the top of the sphere. The second followed in the same way, and the third, after getting up, did likewise. The fourth also got up, but before diving into the machine, came down again and seemed to pick up something from the ground (his mirror, François thinks). Then he took off again and caught up with the sphere which during this time had begun to rise in a small spiral, and was already 15 or so metres up in the air. He then disappeared inside like the rest. When climbing, the sphere made a soft, fairly piercing whistling noise, mingled with the sound of a breeze which neither of the children felt.

The sphere then made several more circles, climbing all the while, and in doing so the intensity of the light given off by it increased considerably. Then the sound stopped and the sphere flew off at full speed to the north-west. At the same time, a smell of sulphur began to spread, reaching the children. The cows started lowing and gathered near to those of François and Anne-Marie.

The dog Médor barked at the object and wanted to follow it. The children did not see the object disappear, as they had to look after the cows, which were very upset, and which they drove home half an hour earlier than usual.

Details of the object are scanty. It was a perfect sphere, about 2 metres in diameter, of a very brilliant luminous silver colour, and dazzling. François, who wears spectacles and so must have sensitive eyes, experienced running eyes for a quarter of an hour after seeing the object, and every morning on waking for several days afterwards. His sister, who does not wear glasses, felt nothing.

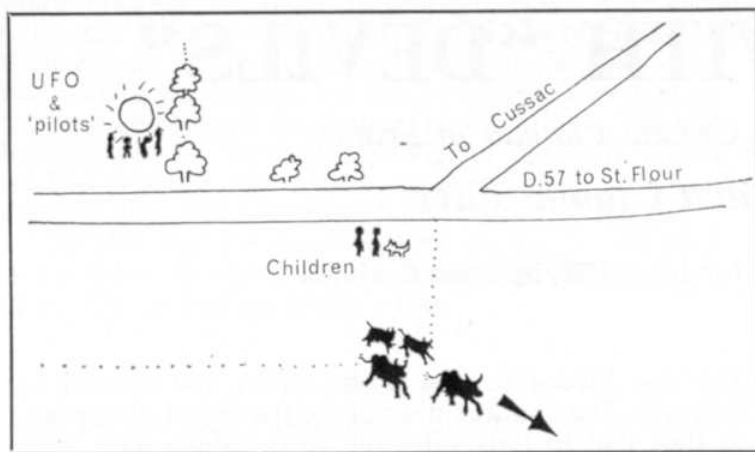
No details were noticed on the sphere itself; it was perfectly smooth, without marking or visible opening. The little beings seemed to pass through the wall of the sphere. The only detail noticed, and one of the points of difference in the children's stories, was by Anne-Marie. She says she saw beneath the machine a landing gear consisting of three or four straight legs, equipped with round "shoes" 10 cm. in diameter. They were no longer visible beneath the machine in flight. Anne-Marie did not see them retract into the machine. One minute they were there, the moment after, they were there no longer. It may be thought that, as the machine rose and the intensity of the light increased to a point where it was unbearable, the visible details of the object would have been swamped by this dazzling light, which would explain why François, with his sensitive eyes, could not see the legs at the point of take-off, since at



Artist's impression of the "Devils" as seen on the far side of Route D.57 by the Delpeuch children.

\* For address of *Phénomènes Spatiaux* see page ii of cover under *Broaden Your Outlook* . . .



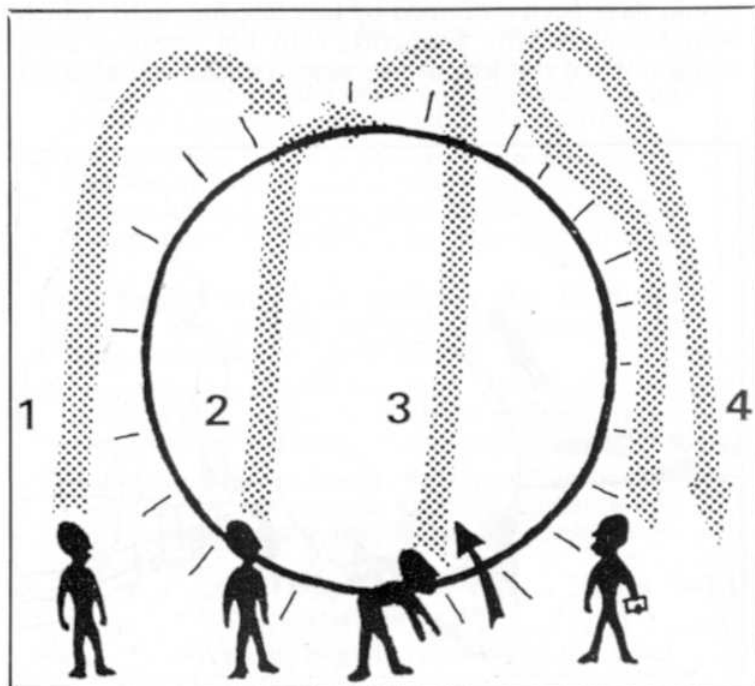


Sketch map of the incident.

that instance the machine was very luminous.

The smell of sulphur spread as the machine began to climb in a spiral or, more precisely, helical course. The light west wind was blowing from the object towards the children. The cows started to low as soon as the machine moved off. It may be noted that in sufficient concentration, ozone has a smell which could be confused with that of sulphur (i.e. of sulphurous gas) and that a smell of ozone has already been noticed in a number of UFO landings.

Details of the small beings are more numerous and interesting. They were 1-1.20 metres tall, not all of the same height. Nos. 1 and 2 (see sketch) were the smallest, and the tallest was No. 4, the one with a "mirror" in his hand. They were "completely black", but with a shiny look which François compared to that of silk. The children could not be certain whether the colour was that of the beings' skin, or of some sort of



Embarking, with order of movement indicated.

protective suit, for there was no visible dividing line between any possible clothing and the heads of the beings, which were bare. If there was a protective suit of some kind, it was perfectly fitted.

The limb proportions were not completely in accordance with the norms of our species. The arms were somewhat too long and thin (see sketches). The children could not distinguish anything which might serve as hands. The legs were short and thin. Unlike the hands, the children were able to observe No. 4's feet and described them as "webbed" (see sketch). Perhaps this appearance may have been due to foot covering of some sort. The head seemed of normal proportions relative to the body, but the cranium was pointed and the chin equally was very much accentuated. The nose also was pointed, and here was a second point of difference in their stories. Only Anne-Marie saw this nose when No. 4 took off to overtake the sphere and showed himself in profile. It may be thought that this was a fairly fleeting glimpse, and that for this reason François did not notice it. The last and very interesting point is the beards which the children said were worn by these beings. They were on either side of the head, and there was also a little tuft under the chin. The children were unable to distinguish either eyes or ears.

Although they did not appear to wear any apparatus on their backs, the beings flew with great ease and speed. It may be thought that they are equipped with apparatus similar to that suggested by M. Jean Goupil in his article on repelling force fields (*Phénomènes Spatiaux* No. 11, p. 22), miniaturised, or that the phenomena were produced by the luminous objects on a given signal, or by the action of a fifth member inside the machine.

We arrived to make enquiries without giving advance notice to anyone at all. Thus the children were not expecting us, and it is out of the question that they could have rehearsed their story. We went first to the police station where we were courteously received, and given confirmation of the basic facts we had—i.e. what we had learned from Radio Luxembourg (who very obligingly sent us a recording of a conversation between one of their reporters and the children's father on the day following the event) and from an article published in *Paris-Jour* of September 2 and 3, 1967. In confirming the basic outlines of the sighting, the police told us definitely that investigators on the spot at 4 p.m. on the same day had confirmed the existence of a sulphurous smell. Further, the police and their investigators had from the outset treated the matter seriously.

We then went to Cussac where we found little Anne-Marie with her mother and her younger brother, André, and were very well received. We questioned Anne-Marie for nearly an hour. There were two of us and we asked questions in turn, in a continuous stream, reverting from time to time to the same questions but differently formulated, in an effort to try to make the child contradict herself. She is a timid little girl, but she never once did so. After this interrogation she took us off to find her brother François who was working in the fields with his other brother Raymond. We walked back with François to his parents' home, interrogating him as we had done his sister. He too never contradicted

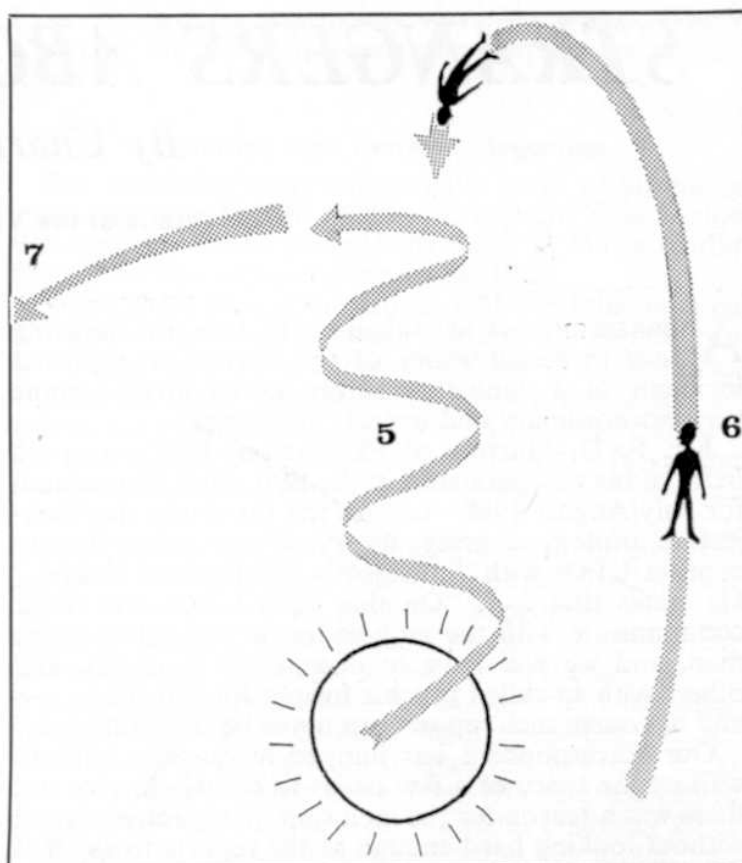
himself. Again, when questioning them together, both at home and at the scene of the incident, and asking them ever more specific questions, we never saw any conniving looks pass between them. They never seemed embarrassed by our questions; either they had seen the detail asked for, or they had not. For example, François told us: "From the first day, Anne-Marie has said she saw legs beneath the object, but I didn't see any, so I can't tell you anything!" On this point, incidentally, he thinks she mistook the branches of the hedge for "legs".

We learned from the parents that Anne-Marie had been unable to sleep for two nights following the sighting, and that they had had to take her in with them. François too was sleepless the first night. M. Delcher, a resident of Cussac who was shifting hay in his barn, had heard the whistling sound of the sphere as it rose. They also told us that the children were in tears when they came back with the cows (the children, perhaps from pride, did not mention this).

All this it must be agreed speaks in their favour. On the other hand, if they had invented this many-faceted story, it squares so well (apart from the smell of sulphur which as far as we know is something new in UFO stories) with the general structure of the UFO phenomenon, and with what so many people say they have seen, that one could more or less class it as a typical sighting, and suppose that François and Anne-Marie had read the specialised publications devoted to the subject. Certainly there are more and more of us who take an interest in the problem, but the spread of publications dealing with it remains very thin, and we doubt very much whether the children of a Cantal farmer, from one of the least densely populated areas of France, could have had knowledge, through one of these publications, of all the details (already more or less familiar to us) which they supplied.

His parents told us that François is in the Fourth Grade and is a hard-working child. Asked about his lessons, he mentioned the titles "Treasures of French Poetry", Georges Sand, and Chateaubriand, which presumably form part of his curriculum. On the other hand, he did not seem to us to have the sort of imagination which would lead him to invent such a story, and apart from the fear he felt at the time, he does not seem to have grasped the importance of all that he saw, nor all that it might imply. In any case, we still have to explain the whistling sound heard by M. Delcher, and the persistent smell of sulphur confirmed by the police.

All the above only strengthen the feeling, which we had had throughout the enquiry, that we were confronted by a passionately believed and deeply serious case, whose significance and importance we could not over-emphasise. We have rarely heard evidence which gathered together so many major indications, or set us so many problems—problems which, for the most part, are already well-known, but on the subject of which, alas, we can only lose ourselves in conjecture. Here we find systematic avoidance of contact, even with children; the mystery of the machine's propulsive power (although here perhaps Jean Goupil's articles published in Nos. 11, 12 and 14 of *Phénomènes Spatiaux* bring us a little nearer clarity); the humanoid and yet somehow disturbing appearance of the beings. Questions about



Departure, with continuing sequence of events indicated numerically.

the origin and objectives of these beings remain yet again unanswered.

[In his comments on this article, René Fouéré reminds us of two interesting points.

First—when discussing the entities' somewhat unorthodox mode of alleged "re-embarkation"—he suggests that the sphere could have been solid, and surrounded by an envelope of ionised and luminescent gas, which, by its intense luminosity, masked a real and ordinary opening. He then recalls the famous Papuan case of June 21, 1959, when Father Gill and his pupils at Boianai saw a solid object revealed by the extinction of a luminous envelope.

Secondly, he writes of the "pilots" of the craft observed at Valensole (July 1, 1965) which, according to the account in *PHÉNOMÈNES SPATIAUX* for September 1966, were described as "rising and falling in space like bubbles in a bottle without apparent support, or "sliding along bands of light"—EDITOR.]

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

# STRANGERS ABOUT THE HOUSE

By Charles Bowen

With details of the Villa Carlos Paz landing

A CORRESPONDENT has taken me to task for devoting space in recent issues of the REVIEW to reported incidents of a "ghostly" nature which involve some very extraordinary and unreal "strangers".

Mr. F. D. Marrow of Flemington, New Jersey—a letter of his was published in the FSR *Mail Bag* column for July/August 1968—berates me for doing the "subject of ufology a great disservice" by attempting to connect UFOs with "graveyards and haunted houses." He states that . . . "On this basis UFOs will never communicate with the authorities or with the average man, and we will have to depend on mediums, and others with so-called psychic insight for information—and of course such reports can never be substantiated."

Our correspondent has jumped in quickly, without waiting the space of a few issues to see whether or not there was a reason for the inclusion of a spectre or two; without looking hard enough at the reports to see that they contained features well-known to those who have made a close study of the reports of the alleged occupants of UFOs. Nevertheless, his attitude does not surprise me, for new lines of thinking on any problem are bound to be repugnant either to those who are committed hard and fast to one particular hypothesis, or to those who have already solved the problem.

What does surprise me is that in his letter of June 28, 1968, Mr. Marrow should even imply that there is a possibility that UFOs could communicate with us, for as he indicated in his published letter—which was dated March 4, 1968—he agrees with Mr. Philip J. Klass<sup>1</sup> that UFOs are all fireballs.

History is littered with the miserable records of those who have endeavoured to interpret brand new phenomena, or revolutionary ideas, in terms only of known principles. These unfortunates have each had their little day leading the ridicule—or the persecution—directed against those who seek the truth. Ridicule is not a new thing to the subject which so holds our attention. The "Nuts and Bolts" brigade, who for twenty-one years have waited with varying degrees of patience for the extraterrestrial hypothesis to be proved correct, have suffered their share of ridicule; the cultists, who have waited almost as long for the fulfilment of all they hope for, have invited their share of it; anyone willing to face up to the possibility that there may be some connection between UFO phenomena and psychic phenomena will have to be prepared to suffer his share of it.

In the end, one or other of these lines of thought may well be proved to be correct, and the laugh will be on our detractors. Until that day arrives, however, it is incumbent upon us patiently to scrutinize all the facts or alleged facts that are presented. We should not discard a thing without absolute proof that it is false.

It is inescapable that nowadays *more* is being seen; if their accounts are to be believed, then a greater number of the witnesses to UFO occurrences are watching the whole of the "performance" than heretofore. We are receiving fuller accounts of entity appearances—with or without UFO—so unreal and seemingly pointless that they cry out for investigation. Cases of this kind prompted Maxwell Cade to postulate his theory that some people could be "seeing things" due to the effects of radiation, possibly from extra-terrestrial sources.<sup>2</sup> Such cases also support the idea that there is an overlap somewhere between UFO manifestations—with us through the ages—and ages-old psychic phenomena.

## In an Aston "Villa"

Ten years ago I read, with surging disbelief, the strange account of Mrs. Cynthia Appleton<sup>3</sup>—which eventually found a place in my contribution to *The Humanoids*. On November 18, 1957, Mrs. Appleton, went to an upstairs bedroom of her Aston, Birmingham, house. She sensed an oppressiveness, and then saw the figure of a man appear in the way that a television picture appears, accompanied by a whistling noise. She was frightened, but was calmed by this "man's" influence on her. Tall and fair, the visitor was clad in a tight-fitting garment. His lips moved, but Mrs. Appleton could hear nothing, until she realised that unusual questions were racing through her mind. She claimed she learned that he was from another world, and was looking for a substance the name of which she thought sounded like *titium*.

According to Mrs. Appleton, her visitor indicated that he came from a world of peace and harmony, and by some unusual process involving his hand conveyed a picture to her of a saucer-shaped object with a dome. He disappeared in such a way that "suddenly he wasn't there any more."

This visitor returned to the Appleton establishment on subsequent occasions, sometimes accompanied by another figure.

Now that I am ten years older, and I hope, a little wiser, I find that I am also much more tolerant than heretofore. So I didn't sniff with disbelief when I came across two new incidents this year. The first was a British case of "Strangers in the house" in many ways similar to that of Mrs. Appleton. The second, a brand new incident from Argentina, is even more interesting than the others, and that by virtue of the fact that a flying saucer was observed near the house where the meeting took place.

## Visitations at Bristol

The first of these incidents has been brought to my



attention by a reader, Gerald Lovell of St. George, Bristol. This is his report:

"The witness—in this case a housewife—wishes to remain anonymous for the present; she will be referred to as Mrs. B.

"The year was 1965, but the precise dates of the visitations were not known. Nevertheless, it is known that with the exception of one Thursday, they all took place on Mondays.

"Mrs. B. was always alone, usually busy in her kitchen. The door between the kitchen and the lounge was always kept open. Suddenly a strong compulsion to look into the lounge would fill her consciousness, and upon doing so she would invariably be confronted by the tall figure of a man. After a second or so she would turn away, and when returning her gaze to the spot where he had been standing, she would see that the figure had vanished.

"On other occasions Mrs. B. would be entering the room, having come from the kitchen, and on looking up she would see the figure. Never at any time did she actually see him appear, and she did not see him disappear, for this always took place when her gaze was averted.

"Her uninvited guest, quite solid in appearance, would simply stand looking at her, never attempting to communicate or move. Mrs. B. was unable to detect from his facial expression whether he was angry, surprised, or just plain bored. He never smiled, but Mrs. B. was adamant that at no time did she feel afraid of her visitor.

"The witness is an ordinary, down-to-earth sort of person, and it was several months before she revealed even to her husband all that had taken place. When relating her account to me, she suggested that perhaps it was a 'ghost' of someone long since dead—perhaps an airman. In no way did she connect the incidents with alien intervention. I also discovered that although she gave no thought to the subject, she had an open mind on the topic of 'flying saucers'.

"Mrs. B's description of the 'man' is as follows: he was tall, and even without the large, bulbous, silvery 'helmet' that he wore, she estimated that he topped 6ft. 3ins. Fair-skinned and rosy-cheeked, he was good-looking, with clear-cut features, blue eyes and a finely chiselled nose. Big and broad shouldered, he also appeared as if he never needed to shave.

"He was dressed in a sort of grey, metallic-looking two-piece suit, the coat being hip length, and also having a rounded collar at the neck. A belt, approximately 4 inches in width, of a darker material than the suit, and with a clasp, was worn. The trousers were not tight fitting, and were tucked into rather large, dark boots.

"At every appearance this 'visitor' always stood in the same spot facing the kitchen door, and in all made at least six appearances. This sequence ended just as suddenly as it began."

Mr. Lovell told me that he had known the witness for a great many years, and that he is confident that her account is of something that to her was a very real experience. He added that Mrs. B. never once spoke to her visitor, and that the visitations do not appear to

have changed her life in any way. She wishes simply to forget the incidents—hence her request for anonymity.

### Visitation near Cordoba, Argentina

The remaining case concerns the story of an entity who came in out of the cold at the town of Villa Carlos Paz, and surprised a young lady, Señorita María Eladia Pretzel, on the night of June 13-14, 1968

Villa Carlos Paz, in the province of Córdoba, is some 800 km to the west of Buenos Aires, the capital city of Argentina. It is to Señor Guillermo J. Gainza Paz and his group of friends in the capital, Associates of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, that I am particularly indebted for press accounts of this story. Nor must I forget the assistance of our friend Dr. W. Buhler of Rio de Janeiro.<sup>4</sup>

Señor Pedro Pretzel, 39, is well-known in the picturesque town of Villa Carlos Paz where he has lived for ten years. A well-educated man, he is proprietor of the Motel La Cuesta, a comfortable modern establishment on the highway entering the town from the east. Señor Pretzel lives at the motel with his wife and daughter María Eladia, 19, a pleasant, intelligent young person.

On the cold, wintry night in question, at about 00.50 hours, he was walking home from the deserted centre of the town when he saw, on National Highway 20 at a distance of some 50 metres beyond his motel,<sup>5</sup> an object which he was unable to identify, and which had two very bright red lights. These did not give the impression of being the rear lights of a car, for the device was projecting two beams of red light of great intensity. The "machine" was seen by the witness for only a few moments.

Puzzled, Señor Pretzel hurried to his motel and there found his daughter María lying in a swoon close to the kitchen door. When she had revived, his astonishment was heightened by the bizarre tale which his daughter told.

Up to a few minutes earlier María had been talking with her fiancé, a young mechanic. After saying good-night to him, she had then escorted some guests to one of the exits and returned to the kitchen.

### The visitor

Suddenly she saw that a bright light was illuminating the vestibule. Puzzled—because she remembered that the lights had been switched off—she went to investigate, only to find herself face-to-face with a being about two metres in height, dressed in a kind of "diver's suit" of shining scales of a sky-blue colour. He had blond hair, and was holding in the palm of his left hand a sort of sky-blue ball, or sphere, which he kept moving about.

The various accounts also speak of the luminosity which was emitted from the tips of the being's hands and feet.

María stated that the visitor's right hand held a "huge ring, which had the form of a gauntlet half covering the hand". Another description stated that this ring "looked like a gauntlet, as it covered half the hand and was fastened to the fourth finger."

The visitor constantly moved his right hand up and down. On each upward movement María felt herself

overcome by a kind of languor as if all her strength had left her. It seemed that this happened as the light emanating from the tips of the fingers pointed at her. Her feelings returned to normal as the being lowered his hand.

Apart from this the interloper at no time showed any signs of aggressive intent, and Maria's impression of him is one of overall goodness and kindness, for he smiled throughout the visitation. He also seemed to be trying to communicate with her, although his lips never moved, for she could hear an unintelligible mumble—which "put her in mind of the Chinese or Japanese languages".

After a few minutes the visitor walked, with slow, precise movements, and absolutely silently, to the side exit which was open, and passed through. The door closed of its own accord without being touched by anybody. At that moment Maria lost consciousness, coming to later when her father was at her side.

Badly shaken by what his daughter had told him, Señor Pretzel reported the alleged incident to the police. After issuing an official report, the police stated they would mount an investigation.

Newspaper reporters later found Maria to be overcome by extreme nervousness and subject to fits of weeping. This was put down to her interpretation of the visitor's gestures and actions—to wit, that he would return.

The Pretzels are held in high esteem in the town of Villa Carlos Paz.

### Speculations

Two new cases of strangers about the house, each in part similar to Mrs. Appleton's case of 1957, each with suits like those worn by "divers" or "airmen".

Without doubt the most important parts of this flying saucer mystery are the reports of UFO landings and of alleged occupants, or of unidentified walking objects. The whole thing is very, very complex, for the reports range from seemingly solid, chunky-type "pilots" of small stature (who generally seem uninterested in humans, or occasionally hostile) to "giants" and unearthly creatures like the "Mothman" or "Birds" of West Virginia<sup>6</sup>, or the Flatwoods Monster<sup>7</sup>. Half-way between these extremes are the normal-sized, or slightly-more-than-normal-sized, apparently friendly, sometimes ethereal, often blond, creatures.

I confess I can lay no claim to know what this is all about, but I recall I once remarked in an article in the REVIEW<sup>8</sup> that there was talk of a "war" in space. That was in 1963, and I think we should consider that there is still in a sense a "war", but not necessarily in interplanetary or interstellar space. Could this struggle not

be the ages-old one between what we know as good and bad?

As already mentioned, C. Maxwell Cade has suggested it is possible that hypothetical entities could induce hallucinatory effects in the minds of "receptive" people. Mr. Cade envisaged this induction taking place from extraterrestrial sources; I wonder if it could be taking place between different levels of existence, from universes parallel with ours but with a different time stream. Have some (bad?) entities discovered a way of "seeping through"<sup>9</sup> to our level? Are there other (good?) entities who, knowing of this seepage, endeavour to warn us? Do their images come from their levels by radiation, by reflection, or by a means assisted by the passage of a machine—hence the marks, rings, "nests", allegedly left behind by UFOs—which, once here, can employ a radiation device to pass the message? (as could have been the case with Maria Pretzel). Can these entities materialize into a solid state, or do they remain as reflections or hallucinatory images in the mind, or are they capable of both these forms of intrusion upon us? Is this something of what lies behind both UFO phenomena and psychic phenomena?

Whether they come from worlds on other levels of existence, or from extraterrestrial worlds in our level of existence, someone somewhere is trying, it seems, to get through to us. Maybe they are even attempting to warn us. These warnings need not necessarily be, as the contactees often claim, against ourselves, but against other-world entities whose visitations are in no way connected with human welfare.

Is this the meaning behind these eerie indoor intrusions? Is this the meaning of contact?

It seems to me there is a very good reason for the introduction into our studies of a "ghost" or two, especially where there is a hint that the ghostly appearance is connected in some way with a UFO report. I will never tire of insisting that we must not reject *anything*—however silly it seems—where there could be connections with our subject.

### NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Klass, Philip J. *UFOs—Identified*, Random House Inc., New York.
- <sup>2</sup> Cade, C. Maxwell. *A Long Cool Look at Alien Intelligence Pt. IV FSR* November/December 1967; *Pt. V* March April 1968.
- <sup>3</sup> See *Birmingham Woman meets Spaceman*, FSR March/April 1958.
- <sup>4</sup> Newspaper accounts from: *La Razon*, June 15, 1968; *La Nacion*, June 15, 1968; *A Noticia*, Rio de Janeiro, June 17, 1968.
- <sup>5</sup> *La Nacion* says Sr. Pretzel was about 500 metres away when he saw the object.
- <sup>6</sup> See Keel, John A. *West Virginia's Enigmatic 'Bird'*, FSR July/August 1968.
- <sup>7</sup> For a complete report see: Sanderson, Ivan T. *Uninvited Visitors*, Cowles Education Corp. (Due to be published in U.K. by Neville Spearman Ltd.).
- <sup>8</sup> Bowen, Charles *Time, Saucers and the Fourth Dimension* FSR May/June 1963.
- <sup>9</sup> "Seeping through": Gordon Creighton's description in private discussion.

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