

THE MAN-IN-BLACK SYNDROME... I

FOLLOW-UP ON THE MAINE UFO ENCOUNTER

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FLYING SAUCER REVIEW recently published the account of a spectacular possible teleportation, involving two young men in the state of Maine.¹⁻³ David Stephens, one of the protagonists, has been involved in some bizarre follow-up experiences which, hopefully, will be fully reported later. This account will be confined to an unusual Man-in-Black (MIB) experience that involved Dr. Herbert Hopkins, the skilled physician who conducted the hypnotic sessions with David Stephens. Dr. Hopkins is a 58-year-old family physician who lives in a beautiful coastal resort town of Maine.

For the purpose of this report I will try to present the happenings that involved him and other members of his family, using a narrative style based not only on quotations obtained from Mrs. Shirley Fickett's original letters and tapes sent to me shortly after the MIB visitation, but also telephone calls and direct interview with Mrs. Betty Hill who was also involved in the case, numerous telephone and written communications between Dr. Hopkins and me, and taped interviews with Dr. and Mrs. Hopkins, plus a brief meeting with his two sons and daughter-in-law, at his home in Maine, from 1.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m., on December 1, 1976. Relevant aspects were also confirmed on interview of Mrs. Hill in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on November 30, 1976, and an interview of Mrs. Fickett in Portland, Maine, on the morning of December 1, 1976.

I. Dr. Herbert Hopkin's experience with a Man in Black

"September 11, 1976. Time: 8.00 p.m. Saturday. This was the first time I had been alone in the house for an extended period of time. My wife and children had gone to an outdoor movie, which I dislike.

"The telephone rang and I answered it. A man's voice identified himself as the vice president of the New Jersey UFO Research Organization,⁴ and he told me he would like to talk to me about the David Stephens case. He asked if I was entirely alone and if it would be convenient for me to see him. I told him to come right up and I would talk to him. I did not even ask his name, which is very uncharacteristic of me, and also I never see anyone alone since my home and office have been broken into twice and since there is a great deal of illicit drug activity in this town at the present time — even the murder of a pharmacist.

"Immediately I went to the back door to turn on the light so that he could see his way in from my

parking lot. Just as I turned on the light, I saw this man dressed in black coming up the porch stairs. I saw no car, and even if he did have a car, he could not have possibly gotten to my house that quickly from any phone. Strangely, at the time I did not think of this but opened the door for him without even asking who he was. I do not do things this way ordinarily. He did not introduce himself, but simply came in. He was about 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighed perhaps about 140 pounds. He wore a black derby, a black jacket, black tie, white shirt, black trousers and shoes. I thought, 'He looks like an undertaker.' I was struck immediately by his immaculate attire. His suit had not a wrinkle and fitted him like a clothing store dummy. It didn't fill out his legs and arms. The crease in his pants was perfect and razor sharp. The suit looked as if he had just put it on. Everything about him seemed to be super-perfect. He asked if he might sit down and I said, 'Yes.' As he sat down, the crease in his trousers even at the knees did not flatten but stood out.

"He removed his hat and I saw that he was completely hairless and had no eyebrows or eyelashes. He had a smooth face with no hair follicles. He had a small nose set low, and small ears, set low. His head and face were of a dead-white colour and his lips were a vivid red in stark contrast to his white face. His eyes were not remarkable — couldn't tell the colour, I must have been 12 feet away from him. I remained calm and unafraid as I appraised him. I wonder why? As he asked me about the Stephens case, I noted that he spoke in an expressionless, monotone, scanning speech. His voice — he spoke English, flawless, with no accent, but no sentences, no phrases, just a series of words.⁵ His voice was completely neutral and passive.

"After I told him about the Stephens case, he said, 'That's just what I thought.' As I was telling him about the case, he idly put the backs of the fingers of one hand against his lips (he wore grey suede gloves, I noticed that the bright red of his lips had become smeared and the backs of his gloved fingers were stained red! This character was wearing lipstick!

"I thought, 'This is some kind of a queer.' His mouth was a perfectly straight slit, which he hardly opened. I didn't see any teeth. His head seemed to blend into his collar. He had a receding chin, and he did not move his head at any time; he didn't turn his head, nod, or anything. His head was perfectly stationary with the upper part of his body. As a matter of fact, I'd say with his entire body, except his legs.

"He then told me that I had two coins in my left

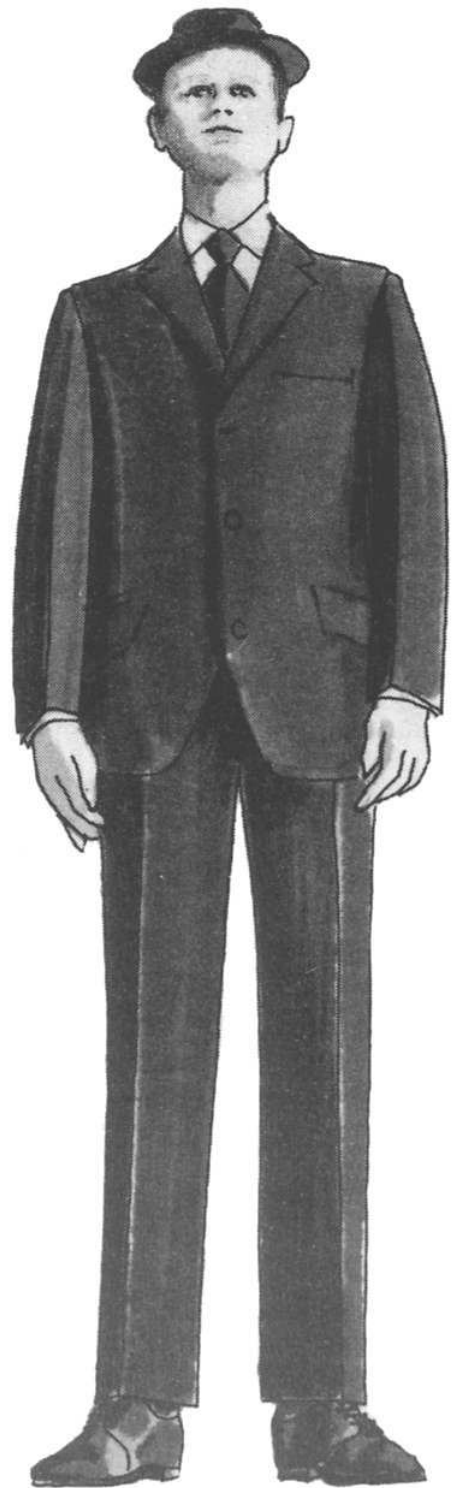
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pocket, which was true, a dime and a penny. He told me to take one of the coins and hold it out in the palm of my open hand. I took the penny because it was the larger of the two coins. Perhaps a 25-cent piece would have been better. I placed the shiny new penny on the palm of my extended hand and looked towards the strange man. He said, 'Don't look at me, look at the coin.' I did, and the shiny new penny was now a bright silver colour. He told me to keep looking at the coin; as I did so the coin slowly became light blue in colour, and then it began to become blurred to my vision. My hand was in sharp focus, but try as I might I could not seem to focus on the silver-blue penny. It became more blurred, became round like a little blue fuzzy ball, and then became vaporous and gradually faded away. All the time this was going on I felt and heard nothing. I looked at him and said, 'That was a neat trick.'⁶ I felt eerie at this and asked him to make the coin return. He said, 'Neither you nor anyone else on this *plane* (not planet) will ever see that coin again.'

'He then asked me if I knew why Barney Hill died, and I told him that I assumed it was the result of a long illness. He told me that this was not the case, that Barney Hill died because he knew too much. He then asked me if I knew how Barney Hill had died, and I told him I understood that he died of a heart attack (wrong information, I was to find out later).'⁷ He then told me that this was not correct, that he had died because he had no heart, just as I no longer have a coin. This frightened me. He then told me that I had tape recordings of the Stephens case and also correspondence relating to this case. I said that this was true. He then ordered me to destroy the tapes and any other correspondence and literature I might have pertaining to UFOs in any way, or I would suffer the same fate as Barney Hill. He said he would know when I had done this, but did not say that he would come back.

'As he spoke his last words, I noticed that his speech was slowing down. Slowly, and a bit unsteadily, he got to his feet and said, very slowly, 'My energy is running low — must go now — good-bye.' He walked in four steps to the door and I opened it for him. He clung tightly to the railing as he went down the steps, one foot at a time — one foot down, then the other next to it, before taking the next step — not one foot after another. I watched him as he very unsteadily and slowly walked to the corner of the building and the driveway. He was so unsteady I thought he might fall. I saw a very bright light shining up the driveway and thought that it must be coming from his car — but there was no light there when he arrived. The light was definitely brighter than automobile headlights and was bluish-white in colour. I immediately rushed to the nearby kitchen window and looked out to watch him, but I didn't see or hear anything and the light was gone. I rushed out to the front porch but saw no car leaving.

'He walked in a different direction from the driveway — 180° opposed to the direction that he came in. I can't remember seeing his shadow. And walking out that way there is no way he could get out because the house is on one side of the driveway and the



Pauline Bowen's impression of Dr. Hopkins' strange visitor, based on a sketch by Shirley Fickett

hedge on the other. The hedge is dense and he'd have a hard time getting through it, especially in his weakened condition. When he didn't appear there, I went out the front door on to the front porch and stood there looking for some time, watching the driveway, waiting for him to come out, but he didn't appear, and no car left the driveway. Two or three cars passed by on the street in the meantime, and I didn't think to look up.

"I was much shaken and left all the lights on. The interview took only a matter of minutes. Oh, I don't know — twenty minutes. At no time was there any odour. When the man came to my house, the dog (half shepherd and half collie) barked, then put his tail between his legs, and hid in the closet (unusual behaviour). A mother cat and four newborn kittens and a Persian cat were apparently not affected.

"When my two sons and wife returned from the drive-in movie, about one and one-half hours later, I told them of this experience. My oldest boy suggested we examine the driveway for marks and he got a flashlight. We went out and found in the very middle of the driveway a series of marks that looked like a small caterpillar tractor tread. The marks were about four inches wide and continued for only about a foot and a half. There was nothing except this single set of marks. No automobile could have possibly made them because the driveway is too narrow for a car to get over far enough so that its wheels would be in the middle of the driveway. Also, they were too deep and distinct to have been made by a motorcycle, and, also, they did not continue for any length greater than that mentioned above. The marks were gone the next day (no one had used the driveway in the meantime).

"We went back inside and my family urged me to do as the man said. I erased the four tapes and then physically destroyed them in the fireplace. I burned some articles on UFOs and believe I had cleaned out everything. I called Shirley Fickett and asked her to contact the *National Enquirer* and tell them not to publish anything (on the Stephens case). Oh, how I hated to destroy those tapes. They weren't hurting anyone, but I wanted to be safe and I was really terrified at this point. I slept well that night, but a week later I had recurring nightmares in which I would see this creature's face getting bigger and closer. The nightmares stopped after a week and have not returned. We have had a lot of trouble since with the telephone⁸ being cut off, clicks followed by background sounds indicating that there was an open line to another telephone somewhere, but never any voices. Also, people kept breaking in on phone calls. At the present time, however, the phone has not been disturbed any more. I hope this is the end!"

Mrs. Madeline Hopkins, R.N., the physician's wife, and their two sons and daughter-in-law, verified the account. Mrs. Hopkins recalled how surprised her two sons and she were when they returned home: "All the lights were on — on the porch, the front room, everywhere. I said that something was going on, so John (son) came in to find out. We saw my husband at the table which had a gun on it. I asked what went on? He started telling us the story. I said, 'Well, what good was the gun if he made a penny disappear?' I wish I had been there. But then, if I had been there, I don't think he (MIB) would have come."

II. Strange man and woman visit Dr. Hopkins' son and daughter-in-law.

Dr. Hopkins continued:—

"Here is a transcript of the strange case of John and Maureen Hopkins, my eldest son and his wife.

"Friday, September 24, 1976. Time of phone call 7.30 p.m. (dark). Weather: clear, dry and cool. Air quiet. Phone answered by Maureen. Conversation: name given as Bill Post. Party calling knew her name, and called her by her name, said he was the friend of a friend who knew John, but did not state who that person was. He stated that they were from Conway, New Hampshire, and were at King's department store in Biddeford. He asked if they were busy and if they were alone, and he wanted to know if he and his companion could come to visit. There was a pronounced buzzing on the phone and the man's voice sounded distorted. He wanted to know where they could meet and asked, 'Isn't there a McDonalds (fast food restaurant) close by you?' He said he was at King's shopping centre and that he could get there in 5 minutes. This would be impossible even under ideal conditions; also, this was a Friday evening and the traffic on U.S. Route 1 was very slow and congested in this area. It would take at least 25 to 30 minutes at this time and under these conditions to get from King's to McDonald's. He said he would recognise John's white van. (John's white van was disabled, in the garage, and he was using his mother's green Chevy, which the man did not know about.)

"It took John 3 minutes to get to McDonald's as it is quite close. When John drove into McDonald's a young man walked over to him and said, 'Hi, John.' The window was down and he extended his hand into the car to shake John's hand. He had previously described his car to Maureen over the phone and said it had temporary New Jersey plates on it. John recognized the car as described and noticed that it did have temporary New Jersey plates,⁹ but the plates were devoid of any letters or numbers, merely saying: 'Temporary, N.J., 1975.' The man asked John where could they talk, and John suggested their mobile home. John asked the man to follow him, but they got separated due to a traffic light changing. John slowed down and saw the man's car cutting across the parking lot, going in back of the building, and coming out the driveway and stopping right in back of him. Evidently this person was very familiar with the territory and knew how to take a shortcut and to circumvent the red light. The car followed John to his mobile home.

"The man had a female companion. They were both Caucasian and appeared to be in their mid-thirties. He was about 5 feet 8 inches tall, medium build, about 160 pounds. He had dark hair, cut short and smoothly slicked down, a style not seen for many years. He wore a tan, short-sleeved shirt with matching buttons, open at the collar, no tie. His trousers were dark brown, neatly pressed, and had wide cuffs. Style of shoes was not noticed. He wore dark-rimmed glasses. His nose was small with two nostrils, brown normal-appearing eyes, medium-size ears set far back. His voice was high-pitched and had a nasal quality. His complexion was light. He was very talkative without really saying much of anything, and he was quite fidgety.

"His woman companion was about 5 feet 8 inches tall, 150 to 160 pounds, with a pronounced potbelly. She had small firm breasts set very low, below the

costal margin, and wore no bra. She wore a plain white blouse, black and white checked skirt of an unknown material (seemed it may have been plastic), nylon stockings, black shoes, the slip-on type with small heels which we do not see now. She talked very little, with a whining voice. She had excessive makeup by today's standards, including very red lips. When she stood up, she seemed quite off-centre in relation to the way her legs seemed to join her hips. She walked with very short steps as did her male companion, and leaned forward as though she might fall. She wore no glasses, and her blue eyes appeared to be normal: her nose had a sharp pointed ridge. She had small ears set well back, and very light blonde hair pulled back in a bun. Both presented a rather old-fashioned appearance, perhaps of 20 or more years ago.

"When John and the strangers arrived, Maureen was looking at a Jacques Cousteau underwater TV show which was still on. The man commented that the type of submarine being used was elementary. He downgraded it and indicated that the underwater work being shown was child's play.

"Then while Maureen was in the kitchen, and he was alone with them, John asked them to sit down. The man turned to the girl and said, 'Yes, Jane, I guess we can sit down for a little while, can't we?' John asked them if they would like something to drink (non-alcoholic), and the man answered, 'We don't drink, take drugs, or anything.' John then said that he meant soft drinks like Coca Cola. Both accepted Cokes but did not even taste them.

"The man asked John if he watched TV much and what he watched. The man and his companion seemed startled when John told them that both he and his wife watched TV frequently. It was difficult for John to explain to them that he and his wife did most things together. The man said that he knew where John's father lived and asked him if he talked to his father very much and what they talked about. He kept at this point, asking: 'Well, did you talk about anything else?' He never got to the point of the three-letter-word I choose not to mention.

"He then said, 'The sky is very clear tonight,' and said, 'You are going to be in amateur radio [no equipment visible, but John, like his father, was involved]. What are you going to use your transmitter for?' When John told him, he asked, 'Is that all?' He asked what kind of literature John and Maureen read. John told him that they read many different things but did not elaborate, and the visitor answered, 'Yes, I know.'

"John went into the kitchen where Maureen was preparing something to eat and asked her to come back with him because he did not want to be alone. Reluctantly she joined them. The man asked John what he did and John told him he was a musician, and the visitor seemed puzzled. While questioning John, he kept pawing and fondling his female companion while repeatedly asking John if it was all right to do this and if he was doing it right.

"John left the room to answer the phone, and the man asked Maureen to sit beside him on the couch, but she refused. While John was on the phone, she man also asked Maureen how she was made. She

said, 'Oh, what do you mean?' He said, 'I mean, how are you built?' She answered: 'Well, I guess I'm built just like any other girl.' Then he asked her if she had any nude pictures of herself so he could see how she was built and to study the pictures. She was upset and refused, saying 'Certainly not,' that she had none. John returned to the room and that was the end of that part of the conversation.¹⁰

"The man said to John: 'You are going to New Jersey.' John did have plans to go to New Jersey, but he had not said so to this couple. The man told him to forget the route that the Automobile Club had given to him and that he would tell him how to get there. He then told of a detailed and complicated way to get to New Jersey, which avoided turnpikes and other well-travelled ways and, instead, used all out-of-the way back roads and numerous detours. Later, out of curiosity, John tried to check out some of these roads and found some of them discontinued, some of them re-routed, and some of them no longer considered back roads but now improved main roads.

"That was the end of the visit. The female stood up and said she wanted to leave. Her male companion also stood up but did not start to leave. She repeated to him several times that she wanted to leave, but he did not move. Finally, she said to John, in apparent desperation: 'Please move him; I can't move him myself.' He was standing closer to the door than she was, but not blocking her exit.

"John finally said, 'Well, I think you'd better go now.' and tried to calm her down. There were no obstacles — he, she, and the door were in direct line, and apparently the only way she could go to the door was to go directly to it through him: he had to move. The man seemed to want to sit down again, but suddenly left, followed by the female, walking a perfectly straight line, exactly over the spot where he had been standing. They didn't even say good-bye,

"My oldest son had not been able to sleep for a week prior to this visit and for a week after that. I prescribed some Dalmane for him. He said it didn't do much good. However, there was no apparent effect on my other son, wife, or daughter-in-law. Approximately a few weeks after the visit, the man telephoned and spoke to Maureen. He apologized for anything he might have done that seemed inappropriate or out of place, or if they didn't like the way he acted. He was sorry for that and said it wouldn't happen again. He asked if they could please talk some more. However, Maureen just cut him off by saying she didn't want anything to do with people like them."¹¹

References and Notes

1. Raynes, Brent, J.: "The Twilight of a UFO Encounter," *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 22 (No.2): 11-13, July, 1976.
2. Fickett, Shirley, M.: "The Maine UFO Encounter," *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 22 (No.2): 14-17, July, 1976.
3. Schwarz, B.E.: "Psychiatric-paranormal Aspects of the Maine Encounter," *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 22 (No.2) 18-22, July, 1976.
4. As far as I (BES) am aware, there is no New Jersey UFO Research Organization. Possibly this title was chosen

because I am the only New Jersey link to David Stephen's case.

5. Edwards, P.M.H., Ph.D.: "The Interpretive Dilemma" (Part One), *Canadian UFO Report*, Vol. 4 (No.1): 13-15 (Fall), 1976; (Part Two), *Ibid.* Vol. 4 (No.2): 10-11 (Winter), 1976-77.
6. The exact circumstances of the disappearing coin were described to Walter B. Gibson, at his home on February 17, 1977. In addition to being a magician himself, Mr. Gibson had written numerous books and articles on his friends Houdini, Thurston, Blackstone, and Dunninger, and had also authored 282 novels on The Shadow. He could not think of any explanation for the "neat trick." Although in my researches of gifted sensitives I have never seen dematerialization (or materialization!), I have witnessed some impressive demonstrations of negative telepathic hallucinations by Jacques Romano (*The Jacques Romano Story*, University Books, Inc., New York, 1968, pp. 3-4).
7. Mrs. Betty Hill visited Dr. Hopkins and his family and reassured them that "Barney's death was a stroke and not a heart attack."
8. I had recorded Mrs. Fickett's and Dr. Hopkin's telephone conversations on September 16, 1976 and September 20, 1976 on my Lanier Edisette dictating equipment while simultaneously making written records. When my secretary was preparing to type the protocols, I was shocked to hear her say, "Nothing came through, except a slow, low-pitched, unintelligible growl." This could not be remedied by using four other tape recorders that I had access to, and also a variable-speed special taping apparatus utilized by the electronic inventor Donald Selwyn of the National Institute for Rehabilitation Engineering, Pompton Lakes, New Jersey. My office equipment has seldom given trouble. When there has been some difficulty, it was easily localized and repaired. In this case a large part of the recording having to do with the MIB description was ruined.
On December 27, 1976, at 9.00 p.m., I had telephoned Betty Hill and compared notes about the latest developments in the David Stephens case (see reference 11) and Dr. Hopkins's MIB experience with the particular reference to Barney Hill. When I hung up, I learned that an upstairs fuse had blown which knocked out many circuits in the house, including my consultation room lamp. Since I couldn't find the trouble, an electrician was called the next day and he could not understand why the fuse had blown since none of the circuits had overloaded (see "Talks with Betty Hill, FSR, Volume 23, Nos 2, 3 and 4, 1977).
When I was checking one of the fuse boxes in the cellar, the office phone rang. I ran upstairs and found there was only a dial tone. The phone was out of order, and the next day the telephone repair man was called. When the phone was in order again, and I tried to call Dr. Hopkins, more than an estimated twenty-five times over a period of four days, to make arrangements for my visit with him, I either got no answer, or there was a busy signal. Dr. Hopkins later told me that someone was at home all that time and his phone was not in continuous use.
9. The Montclair Police Department and the Motor Vehicle Registration Office stated that temporary New Jersey license plates are good for only 20 days, and, as Dr. Hopkins surmised, they have letters and serial numbers. Thus, if the observation is correct, the plates that were devoid of numbers or letters, and had a date of 1975, would be hard to account for through official sources.
10. I have touched upon some of the sexual aspects of the UFO cases elsewhere (*Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 17, No. 2: 4-9, March/April, 1971; *ibid.* No. 3: 21-17, May/June, 1971; and "Talks with Betty Hill," *Flying Saucer Review* Vol. 23, Nos. 2, 3 and 4, 1977). However, mention might be made of one unreported situation

which had some parallels to the experience of Maureen and John Hopkins and which involved a leading Ohio UFO investigator, Mrs. Geri Wilhelm. Space precludes detailing many of her group's UFO sightings and investigations and presumed related poltergeist effects. However, as a background to the Hopkins's experience, three things that happened to the Wilhelms involved: (1) the electric oven being maximally (and dangerously) heated when the switches were in the "off" position; (2) Mrs. Wilhelm's observation or hallucination of a little man in a silver suit, who was not seen by her husband who was with her at the time, but who was later seen independently by her daughter who knew nothing of her mother's observation; and (3) Mr. Wilhelm's once being run off the highway by an MIB-like pursuer who tried to crunch him into a trailer truck and then into a gulley.

I visited the family on September 11, 1974, and checked out their accounts. Whatever the meaning of so many of their odd experiences, two events might be relevant to the Hopkins MIB case. One evening after an appearance on TV about UFOs, Mrs. Wilhelm received a call from a man with a Germany accent. He told her about HG, a famous scientist, and said Mrs. Wilhelm should telephone him. She did so, and noted that HG also had a German accent. He made many lurid and grandiose claims about himself and UFOs. Although the telephone recording of the first caller was intact, the HG conversation, as it was later discovered, did not record. "It sounded like I was talking long distance. There were bee-beeps and high-pitched noises. We were frequently interrupted as he was being called to other phones. I could overhear him talking a different type of language - real gibberish. He sounded angry and strange." HG was insistent upon meeting Mrs. Wilhelm, and she finally compromised on a nearby bowling alley.

Being an adventurous person, she went off in high spirits but left the recording by the telephone with a note for her husband, in the event anything might happen to her. HG said that an Apollo XVI patch would be his calling card, and that she should bring "a little money, so that we can sit and have a drink," and he mentioned a strange name of a type of drink. Mrs. Wilhelm walked over to the bowling alley and met HG, who showed her his Apollo XVI patch. He said: "I'm really not HG. 'I'm possessing the body of HG. I'm making it do what it is doing.'" Mrs. Wilhelm related: "I got him a beer and myself a coke. I got him another beer and he told me how beautiful I was and said that since his wife had been killed in an accident, he'd like me to give up everything I have on earth, marry him, and go to his planet. He said he had kept one space in the saucer that was leaving and that it would arise from Tylersville at 8 o'clock that evening and that he would be flying over the townhouse where I lived." Mrs. W. recalled that when she went to buy the second beer for HG, there was another family sitting in the booth behind them and that the World Series was on television. The lady asked HG who was winning and he answered with, "What is the World Series?" The lady said, "What do you mean? Anyone who lives in America knows what the World Series is." When Mrs. Wilhelm got back to the table, the lady told her about the conversation and said, "Where is this man from? He has to be from out of this world. He's sincere, but he really doesn't know. He told me he's too much in love with you to care about the World Series."

When HG discussed the subject of God and his alleged inhabitation of the planet Terrapin, the creatures, etc., Mrs. Wilhelm became upset and left by a side entrance. She thought of going to the front where the parking lot was and get the licence number of his Mazda car. However she was fearful that if she did that, she might never see her husband and two children again, so she walked directly home.

When Mrs. Wilhelm returned home and told her husband about what happened, she said it was odd because at the time of Geri's interview with HG their four-year-old daughter came downstairs, sat on her father's lap, and told him that her mother was at the bowling alley with a man who had a ring on his left hand. This was strange because Angel had no idea where her mother was going nor that the man had a ring on his left hand. Mrs. Wilhelm said HG reminded her of the "perfect example of a German Reich type of person that Hitler said would be the superior race: he was a little over 6 feet tall, had white hair, big blue eyes, and wore a wedding ring, plus another ring that looked like a college ring."

Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm thought the experience was a hoax, even if it was well planned, until that night when she and another investigator received calls from different people near Tylersville Road saying that a saucer-shaped craft was rising out of the woods. The time was 8 o'clock, as HG had said.

"The feelings I had were of evil when I was in his (HG) presence. I'm thankful for the fact that I believe in God, and I had Him with me at all times."

A friend and associate UFO investigator of Mrs. Wilhelm, BR, who knew about the HG incident, once called and asked HG to tell her about what happened. However, he refused to talk about it. Discreet inquiries by additional Ohio UFO investigators discovered that HG's listed house number was not correct, that according to his fellow workers at the factory, where he was well thought of, he had no previous interest in UFOs; and because he was of a rather introverted and shy nature, the above-cited experience would have been completely out of character. Even up to my most recent telephone follow-up (February 22, 1977) this information has remained unchanged. However, the varied psychic and telekinetic effects in Mrs. Wilhelm's home and family life persist. After I interviewed Mrs. Wilhelm in the presence of her mother, Mrs. Sherrin, and two other friends, and listened to the HG telephone-recorded tape, I was aware that here again was an opportunity (note p. 26, *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 17 (No.2): 4-9, March/April, 1971; *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 17 (No.3): 21-27, May/June, 1971) to interview a parent of a leading UFO experient. I wasn't disappointed because after conducting a psychiatric-paranormal survey, Mrs. Sherrin, who had a responsible job in a photograph studio and seemed to be a straightforward lady, free of any relevant UFO psychopathology, recalled how approximately a year and a half previous to my interview, she received a call, one January evening, from her favourite Aunt Lorraine (mother's sister): "She was four years older than I. We were like sisters. We talked about different things we had done in the past, places we had been together, just sort of reminiscing. I was home alone. This went on for about half an hour, but when I hung up, I thought 'It was Lorraine! But she's dead. She was killed instantly in an automobile accident six or seven months ago! I even get chills now, talking about it. In fact I was so upset, I dialled her number but nobody answered.'"

My question that uncovered this example was prompted by a hunch based on a previous 'telephone voice from the dead' case (see Schwarz, B.E.: *Telepathic Humoresque*, *The Psychoanalytic Review*, Vol. 61 (No.4): 591-606, 1974-75, example 12, pp. 600-602, and of another case, where after an APRO symposium (Pottstown, Pa., June 15, 1974), an elderly couple asked me about an experience in which, after their car was followed by a UFO for several hours, they received a telephone call the next morning from a voice saying it was Roger. They knew of no Roger, but the voice identified himself - a "forgotten family secret" - as being the brother of one of the experients who died as a baby. These examples, for whatever they are worth, should not

be dogmatically construed as proving anything, but they merely indicate the uniqueness of some of the UFO-related material, which is begging for a prolonged, detailed psychiatric-paranormal study of the experients and their families.

11. During the Hopkins family's stressful post-MIB period, there were some new developments with David Stephens, the young man who, with his friend, had the alleged teleportation and who was studied hypnotically by Dr. Hopkins. Mrs. Shirley Fickett wrote me on September 20, 1976, that on Friday night (September 17) David visited her and reported an intensification of activity: "His friends are seeing these things (UFOs). Lights came on and stayed on; TV doing the same; the refrigerator door opened and slammed itself; the outside door then opened and didn't stay shut. Someone said something about UFOs and the kitchen table slid out 5 to 6 inches from the wall. Four people saw this."

Mrs. Shirley Fickett also wrote me: "It was on September 17, 1976, that I received a call from Mrs. Herbert Hopkins, stating that her husband had experienced a visit from an unearthly 'man in black,' who told him to rid his property of all UFO material. Dr. Hopkins was upset and did not speak to me on the phone. Later than afternoon I went to his residence and he carefully related the incident of the night before. I wrote down his exact words and forwarded them to Dr. Schwarz."

"On September 13, 1976, as Mrs. Bea Stephens, David's mother, was cooking a spaghetti supper, she reached for a bowl in the cupboard above the boiling water on the stove. The bowl slipped from her hand and the water burned her abdomen. She was home alone at the time and rushed to her physician. When she and her husband, who had previously been at the store, returned home, he looked up at the ceiling and noted spots where the water had hit and also three 7s on the cupboard, above the refrigerator. The numbers gradually faded away, but on September 17, 1976, I received a call from the Stephenses telling me that the number 7 in reverse had appeared on Bea's abdomen among the markings from the burns received on the 13th. The following day I was visited by the Stephenses, and Mrs. Stephens let me photograph her abdomen. However the photo did not come out. During the visit, Mr. Gene Stephens drew a picture of the 7s on the cupboard door, which I (Shirley Fickett) have redrawn (see Figure 1, a)."

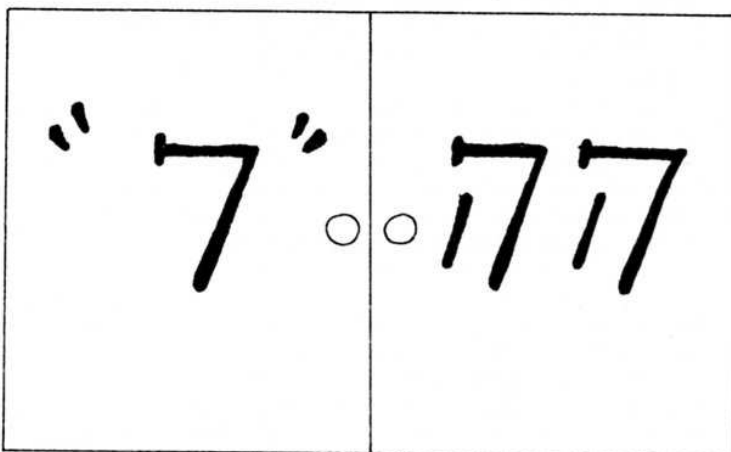


Figure 1a

This data was independently confirmed by a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Gene Stephens and also a drawing by Mrs. Stephens of the reverse 7 on her abdomen (see Figure 1, b). It is of more than passing interest to compare Mrs. Stephen's periumbilical reverse 7 which corresponded with the 7s on the cupboard doors with Michel's spectacular case where the doctor developed a geomet-

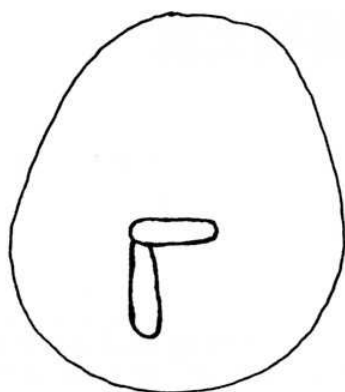


Figure 1b

rically perfect triangle in the umbilical region shortly

before his son also developed a triangle in the same region (see Michel, Aime: *The Strange Case of Dr. "X"*, *Flying Saucer Review*, *UFO Percipients*, Special Issue No.3: 3-16, September, 1969).

Another thing: David was stopped by the police because his one headlight was out, and he was asked for his driver's licence, which he didn't have. The police radiod Augusta and the reply came back that David Stephens was deceased as of last October (the alleged teleportation happened October 27, 1975). David was told he was an imposter, and he resisted arrest. Help was called and three men showed up. David panicked, and was jailed after a fight. They kept telling him that he was not David Stephens. Finally after three hours, they let him go, after taking fingerprints. Later he checked and there were no records of this imbroglio!, nor of other things that occurred that night! (For a similar case of missing police records see footnote on the Hackettstown case, pp.8 to 9, *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 18 (No.1): 3-12 Jan/Feb., 1972).

PROBING INTO OTHER DIMENSIONS

Eileen Buckle

THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY by Stephen Jenkins. Neville Spearman Ltd., Sudbury 1977

ONE of the reasons ufology is such an intriguing and worthwhile study to pursue, for me anyway, is the possible light it may shed on the nature of reality. Not that I consider the UFO entities themselves necessarily wish to shed that light for us, and indeed their intention may be to obscure it as much as possible. But so long as we don't believe everything that "They" tell us, there is a good chance that some clues may be gained as to the source of their origin, whether it be physical, metaphysical or hyper-physical, and what relationship it has to our physical Earth. What conditions are necessary for a "manifestation" of either a UFO or a related phenomenon is another important question.

The idea that "They" may come from "other planes of being" has been strongly advanced by the evidence presented by John Keel and Jacques Vallée in their writings. A further contribution towards the "other realities" viewpoint in ufological research is Stephen Jenkins's book *The Undiscovered Country* (Neville Spearman). Although the author is familiar with Keel and Vallée's works and discusses several of the issues dealt with by them, e.g. the Fátima case, he has some fresh angles to offer, and some quite new material which includes a number of bizarre personal experiences. Not content with merely theorising and speculating, he has got down to thorough and painstaking research in the field, such as the correlating of UFO and paranormal happenings with leys, especially where three or more ley-lines meet ("nodes").

In spite of having had quite a few strange, psychic-type experiences Stephen Jenkins says he is not particularly psychic. But he has a most unusual personal background which may well have brought out latent faculties, and also anyone actively researching into entities normally invisible is likely to meet

unusual experiences. A senior history master at a leading public school, the author is, of course, well trained in western modes of thought. In 1970, while a lecturer at the State University of Mongolia, he became the first westerner to be initiated into a rare school of Mahayana Buddhism, the Wheel of Time System, or Kalacakra, by a high Mongolian lama. This embodies teachings about the realm of Shambhala, a mysterious country which the author regards as having a connection with strange tales of UFO entities. Study of these ideas from ancient Asia revealed that a surprising number of them appeared to tie in with what Keel and Vallée have to say about the background to the UFO beings.

Stephen Jenkins has requested that an erroneous statement he made in the book concerning what he thought had been an omission on the part of Gordon Creighton in *The Humanoids* be brought to FSR readers' attention here, and hopes this will make amends. In referring to the Antônio Villas Boas case, which was reported in full in *The Humanoids* by Gordon Creighton, Mr. Jenkins states that the latter had accounted for the occurrence purely in orthodox materialistic terms, simply as a physical experience, without being aware of the echoes in the story of the ancient traditions of incubus and succubus. But as many of our readers will be aware, Gordon Creighton *did* discuss this aspect of the case in FSR Vol. 11, No. 4, in an article entitled "Postscript to the Most Amazing Case of All". Unfortunately Stephen Jenkins had not been aware of this article.

Error apart, *The Undiscovered Country* is good reading, offering food for thought for all interested in the UFO enigma, and will probably inspire many others to take up research into ley-lines in association with "odd" happenings.