

claimed to be planning a scientific analysis (Case, 1957). Subsequently they went to the Washington-based **National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena** (NICAP). NICAP's files, including the CSI material, are now housed at the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies in Chicago.

Sullivan and his associates left the field and were not heard from again.

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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND, 1901-1959

Printed accounts of what may be characterized, even if only generally, as "UFO occupant" encounters begin to appear in the latter half of the nineteenth century and figure prominently, though not believably, in some 1896 and 1897 American newspaper reports of unidentified "airships." (See **Airship Sightings in the Nineteenth Century and UFOs, 1900-1946**.) If there are any reports from sincere witnesses among these, they are lost in the mass of journalistic inventions, jokes, and tall tales from the provinces. As is the case with most pre-1947 twentieth-century UFO reports whether of objects in the air

or occupants on the ground, we must rely in large part on retrospective testimony from—and the fallible memories of—persons who came forward in the years when it became possible to talk about such things, or simply to put such experiences in a perspective unavailable to witnesses before the onset of the UFO age. Sometimes such testimony comes spontaneously from persons who contact UFO writers or organizations; at other times it has come from children or grandchildren who urged reluctant witnesses to report what for years were stories known only within families.

In tracing the evolution of close encounters of the third kind (CE3s) through the first six decades of this century, this entry relies in part on the Humanoid Catalog (HUMCAT) compiled in the 1970s and early 1980s by **Ted Bloecher** and David Webb, who sought to bring together all known occupant reports. (The term "close encounters of the third kind" was coined in 1972 by J. Allen Hynek. Hynek defined these as claims "in which the presence of animated creatures is reported" [Hynek, 1972].) In recent years new old reports have come to light, and these, along with those of which Bloecher and Webb took note, are discussed below. Where no other source was available, HUMCAT is credited.

Humanoids in the young century The first recorded CE3 of the twentieth century allegedly occurred in the summer of 1901 in Bournbrook, England. In 1978 the witness, by now of course an old man but with still active faculties, told his story to investigators Jenny Randles and Philip Barnet. One evening when he was 10 years old, he was returning home through a path behind his family's garden when he came upon a box-shaped device with a small, centrally placed turret. The only opening was a door, through which two small men in uniforms, each wearing an odd-looking cap with a wire sticking up at the right and left sides, stepped out. While one stayed by the door, the other walked toward the witness and waved him away. Except for their height (less than four feet) they looked entirely human and Caucasian. They were dressed in what resembled military uniforms but without insignia. The two beings then reentered their ship. A bright flash lit up around it, and then it shot off into the air with a loud "whooshing" sound

(Randles and Barnet, 1979). Similar entities would be reported in later decades.

An odd story from Mitchell, South Dakota, is reminiscent of dubious 1897 newspaper accounts of meetings with airship pilots. It was, however, related decades later by an apparently sincere informant, Herbert V. DeMott. DeMott said that when he was 10 years old, he saw a "craft" land near a well. A door opened, he claimed, and "I was welcomed inside," where two ordinary-looking men sitting on "camp stools" conversed with him, refusing to tell him where they came from but telling him something about their craft's propulsion system—pseudoscientific baffle-gab judging from Mitchell's paraphrase: "The outer shell of the craft was filled with helium gas, and when the lever was moved the magnetism from the earth was cut off, allowing the craft to rise." The aeronauts took water from a horse trough "to be used in making electricity" (*Albany [Oregon] Democrat-Herald*, August 27, 1973). Possibly this is not a CE3 at all, though if American aeronauts were flying through the upper Midwest in 1906 they left no other record of their presence.

A report from Finland in the summer of 1907 has a more modern sound. While playing along a lake shore at Vilppula, a group of boys saw a light come from over the water and settle on the beach not far from them. A door opened, and beings described only as "humanoids" emerged, scattering the terrified youths. Searchers who later came to the site found traces and footprints (HUMCAT).

In 1909, during a spate of airship sightings in New Zealand (see **UFOs in Australia and New Zealand through 1959**), Great Britain, and the northeastern United States, some witnesses reported seeing figures in passing craft. In one of the more interesting of these cases, a Waipawa, New Zealand, man on horseback spotted a large torpedo-shaped structure in the sky and saw three persons inside it. One shouted at him in an unknown language, and the craft rose high into the air, circled, and disappeared behind a hill (*Nelson [New Zealand] Evening Mail*, December 6, 1952). In May, in Wales, C. Lethbridge claimed that while driving a spring cart on a mountain road, he saw a cylindrical craft resting on the ground, with two "young men ... officers" dressed in fur coats and

standing next to it. They were speaking in a foreign language. When they saw him, they entered the machine and flew away (*London Daily Mail*, May 20, 1909). For various reasons the report is suspected to be a hoax (see **Charles Hoy Fort**).

Playing in a Baltimore baseball field one day in the spring of 1910, five-year-old Lawrence Crone spotted a metallic, brown, blimplike object, over 100 feet long, hovering near a pine tree 200 feet away. (This was the sort of object that, had Crone's sighting been published at the time, would have been called an "airship.") Along its side was a row of variously colored rectangular windows. Only one was clear, and through that one he could see strange entities taking turns looking at him, in groups of twos and threes; he thought there may have been as many as 20 of them. From what he could observe of them—only their heads and upper bodies were visible—they were conical in shape, with pointed heads; possibly the effect was caused by headgear, since the points varied in color from being to being. They were dressed in light-colored garments with a furlike texture. Each of the entities had small dots for eyes and a straight line for a (presumed) mouth but no other features. According to Crone, who related the story separately to Bloecher and Thomas P. Deuley decades later, two young men also saw the sight and were badly frightened (HUMCAT).

An incident near Farmersville, Texas, ranks as one of the most bizarre—not to mention unpleasant—humanoid reports of all time. In 1978 the informant's grandson brought the report to the attention of the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) and attested, "My grandfather has a most solid reputation for truth and honesty but has never told of this because of fear of ridicule.... He has agreed to tell this only after much prompting and encouragement from me, his history-oriented grandson." Later, at CUFOS' behest, Larry Sessions of the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History interviewed the witness. While unable to accept so bizarre a tale at face value, Sessions conceded there was no doubt of the old man's sincerity or sanity.

In May 1913 Silbie Latham, then 12 years old, his brothers Sid and Clyde, and the rest of the family lived on a cotton farm two and a half miles west of

Farmersville. One morning as they were out chopping cotton, Silbie recalled, their dogs Bob and Fox, 50 to 75 feet away on the other side of a picket fence, began barking "just like they was in a terrible distress," and this soon escalated into a "deathly howl." Finally the three boys stopped their labors and went to investigate. They were shocked to find a little man who, in Silbie's words, "looked like he was sitting on something. He was looking toward the north. He was no more than 18 inches high and kind of a dark green color. He was the same smooth color all over. He didn't seem to have any shoes on, but I don't really remember his feet. His arms were hanging down just beside him, like they was growed down the side of him. He had on a kind of hat that reminded me of a Mexican hat. It was a little round hat that looked like it was built onto him. He didn't have on any clothes. Everything looked like a rubber suit including the hat.... He just stood still. I guess he was just scared to death.... Right after we got there, the dogs jumped him."

They tore him to pieces. Red blood spilled everywhere, and the little man's insides, which looked like human organs, fell to the ground. As the boys stood watching, the animals bit his legs off. If he made any sounds as he was being killed, the Lathams could not hear them because of the racket the dogs were making. The boys returned to their hoeing and discussed the incident among themselves. Two or three times they went back to the spot to check the remains. All the while the dogs huddled close by them as if frightened. The next day all traces of the strange little man were gone (Evans, 1978).

Nineteen fourteen must have been a good year for CE3s, if there had been anyone around to record them. As it is, at least five reports have come to light:

Leon, Spain, month unknown: Several persons together or independently observed two "men" wearing silvery objects on their backs. These devices enabled them to fly (Ballester Olmos, 1976).

Lajoumard, France, March: At twilight a farmer returning home saw a round, green, luminous object hovering just above a hilltop. Several small beings emerged, walked around the machine, and went back inside, at which point the object shot off. He told only his family of the strange experience, and ufologists

learned of it many years later, after his death (HUMCAT).

Hamburg, Germany, June: When he opened the door of his house, Gustav Herwagen saw, in a nearby field, a cigar-shaped object with illuminated portholes. Near it were four or five "dwarfs," about four feet tall. He started to walk toward them, but when they saw him, they fled inside their ship, which ascended vertically and was gone (Rogerson, 1973a).

Georgian Bay, Ontario, August: A group of people camping on a beach saw a gray, spherical object with flattened top and bottom and metallic band around the center. It was floating 450 feet offshore. On a substructure near its base stood two four-foot beings wearing one-piece, greenish-purple garments and square headpieces which obscured their features. They were extending a hoselike device into the water. Three similar beings, though dressed in khaki color, emerged from the top of the vehicle. They were working on pipelike extensions which after a few minutes were drawn back inside through the open hatch. They reentered, and the two beings on the substructure reloaded the "hose" through the same hatch. One of them followed it inside, but before the second could follow suit, the object was rising into the air, with the being clinging to the ring encircling the UFO. The UFO paused for a moment, then tilted at a sharp angle and streaked off, the evidently forgotten little man still holding on for dear life (Lorenzen and Lorenzen, 1976).

Caerphilly, Wales, September: Two schoolboys wandering along a mountainside encountered an unexpected mist, at the edge of which two entirely white humanoid figures stood. The beings had piercing eyes and abnormally tall hats, and as they approached the boys, the latter took to their heels. When interviewed in 1975, one of the witnesses was still so disturbed by the experience that he refused to discuss it in detail (HUMCAT).

In 1916 or 1917—the witness could remember only that the sighting occurred "about the middle of World War I"—a Mrs. Whiteland of Aldeburgh, Suffolk, England, observed from an upstairs window a round "platform" on which nearly a dozen uniformed men stood gripping a handrail. The platform was in the air about 30 feet above the house. Accord-

ing to her son A. E. Whiteland, who said he had heard the story repeatedly while growing up, the men "were wearing blue uniforms and little round hats, not unlike sailors' hats. She heard no sound from the machine as it came off the nearby marshes. It turned a bit, and went over the railway yard, to disappear behind some houses.... The men were dressed in blue, with round blue hats (round without any stiffening) pulled tightly to their heads. They stood shoulder to shoulder looking straight outwards, with ordinary faces like us.... The whole occurrence lasted for about five minutes or so" (Creighton, 1969).

There are three known CE3 reports from 1919. In the first of them, a traveler passing down a country road in the state of Western Australia came upon a "man" working on a strange machine. When the traveler stopped to offer his assistance, the stranger looked up, evidently startled, and pointed something at the man, who was knocked unconscious. When he returned to consciousness, the stranger and the strange machine were gone (Basterfield, 1981). (A similar event allegedly took place in another Australian state, New South Wales, in 1893, when a farmer saw a saucer-shaped object land on his property. A strangely dressed man stepped out, pointed something like a "torch" [flashlight] at the farmer, and knocked him senseless [*ibid.*].)

One hot summer night in 1919 Harry Anderson, 13, was riding with two friends and their father when their car ran out of oil and stopped east of Barron, Wisconsin. Presently a farmer who had been out fishing walked by. He offered to give the stranded travelers some oil from his farm two miles away. Young Anderson accompanied him, and the pair walked to the house. After securing the oil, Anderson started back along the one-track road. Soon afterwards the bright moonlight revealed 20 little men walking in single file toward the youth but paying no attention to him. Their heads were bald, and the figures were dressed in leather "knee pants" held up by suspenders over their shoulders. Shirtless and white-skinned, they were "mumbling" but apparently not to each other. Anderson, terrified, continued on his way, not once looking back (Evans, *op. cit.*).

Around eleven o'clock one early July day, a brother and sister who lived on a farm in the Webster City,

Iowa, area suddenly "heard a chirping-like sparrows feeding," the sister would testify. "We turned and saw a brown green object beneath the tree near the creek about 75 feet from us. We ran toward it before noticing a figure in green-brown[; he was] stern looking [and] standing in the door which had been lowered to the ground and had steps. He startled us by making strange guttural sounds—then we noticed a shorter figure in the same clothes running toward the stream leading to the pond. He went very fast [and] dipped up some water in what looked like a tin can about the size of a small soup can. He got the water despite the protests of the man in the door. The one with the can was smaller than the one in the door. The big one hustled the little one into the vehicle and the door slammed shut.... It made a metallic sound when it closed.... The vehicle rose straight up very fast. The top of the vehicle hit the tree limbs and broke a few small branches off—all this without a sound of a motor. It raised [*sic*] straight up, then went sidewise and over the hill with it's [*sic*] three legs still down, no lights, no sound. We followed up the hill, but it soon left us and was out of sight. We went back to where it landed. The soil in a wide area where they had landed was covered with round spots that resembled cane marks" (NICAP files).

The 1920s and 1930s. As the years move closer to 1947, the number of recorded CE3s increases. This does not necessarily mean, of course, that CE3s themselves were growing in number, just that there were a greater number of living witnesses able to tell their stories now that, in the post-Arnold period, such things as UFOs and alien beings were recognized as at least hypothetically real. Some representative stories from the two middle decades of the first half-century follow:

Near Nontron, France, summer 1920: Late at night, as they returned home from a dance, a group of young people saw small beings in the air over a wooded area. Luminous balls surrounded the figures, who were giving off "musical sounds." Two of the witnesses were interviewed in 1975 (HUMCAT).

Marseilles, France, summer 1921: As he played among some hills, an eight-year-old boy was suddenly accosted by two tall, slender men wearing "pliable helmets" and dragged into an "oddly shaped tank."

The witness recalled 33 years later that "after a while an opening appeared in the ceiling of the cabin, and in a few seconds I found myself on the ground. However, I had to walk most of the afternoon until I found myself near the road I had left five minutes before" (letter to *Paris-Match*, October 23-30, 1954).

Detroit, summer 1922: Walking home from a movie, a teenage couple encountered a large disc-shaped object hovering over a vacant lot. Around the perimeter of the UFO's bottom were rectangular windows, lighted from within. Seated at these windows were 20 or so bald-headed beings with eyes set closely together. Visible only from the shoulders up, they were staring intently at the witnesses, who after a few minutes became unnerved and left (HUMCAT).

Rural Saskatchewan, winter 1924: A farm woman going out to do morning chores encountered a "little green man" who then entered a "ship" and sailed off (Musgrave, 1979).

La Mancha, Spain, circa 1925: A strange dwarf, about four feet tall and dressed in a greenish uniform, was seen standing on a moving disc-shaped device. His arms and legs were rigid. He was holding something that looked like a "blow pipe" (Ballester Olmos, *op. cit.*).

Anstey Lane, Leicester, England, summer 1928 (approximately): In a field a six-year-old girl saw a black, faceless, five-foot-high figure with a large head and long, dangling arms. At first she thought it was a scarecrow, and she went back to the book she was reading. But sensing that she was being watched, she looked up again and observed "what I at first took to be a hut"—resembling a "large globe on legs"—near the figure. She woke up her father, who was resting in the open air, but when she turned around to look again, the "scarecrow" and the "hut" were gone. In 1968, when her son showed her a sketch on page 7 of the September/October issue of *Flying Saucer Review*, depicting humanoids around a large sphere as allegedly seen in Cussac, France, in August 1967, she recognized the sight as "absolutely identical" to what she had seen (Berger, 1969).

Near Fermeneuve, Quebec, June 12, 1929: As he was driving home late in the evening, Levis Brosseau, 20, saw what he first took to be a black cloud with yellowish light inside. The phenomenon was resting

on a hillside, and Brosseau got out to investigate. When he got within 150 feet, he was able to make out a structured object 50 feet in diameter. Outside it four or five small men of "yellowish" color were moving quickly about. Soon the UFO flew over his head, "purring like a milk separator," and as it did so, he could hear two voices which sounded as if they were arguing (HUMCAT; Musgrave, *op. cit.*; Rogerson, *op. cit.*).

Greensboro, North Carolina, May 1930: In broad daylight a top-shaped object, dark and 40 feet wide, landed in a garden. Inside it, through a "window," Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Rankin and their daughters, Katherine and Mary, saw the head and shoulders of a figure who was wearing a tight-fitting outfit and helmet. Five or 10 minutes later the UFO ascended quietly and was gone (HUMCAT).

Tomintoul, Scotland, 1930 (approximately): At 9:30 P.M. two men walking along a lane spotted a white light "like a meteor." When it got brighter, they could see a number of figures moving inside it. The witnesses thought they had seen a ghost and linked their sighting to the death of a local nun (Rogerson, 1973b).

Tobin Lake, Saskatchewan, summer 1933: For weeks reports of strange lights in the sky or near the ground circulated through this remote northwestern region of one of Canada's prairie provinces. Curious about these reports, two young men and a woman drove to the site from the village of Nipawin. On their way they saw a glow near the horizon and trekked a quarter of a mile into the woods. From their vantage point they could see a large oval-shaped craft resting on legs. From an open central doorway a bright orange glow emanated and a ladderlike stairway extended, and a dozen figures moved up and down the steps. Dressed in silver suits or uniforms, wearing helmets or ski caps, and slightly shorter than normal men, they appeared to be repairing the craft. The sighting lasted for half an hour, and the UFO and occupants were still there when the observers left for their pickup truck in what proved an unsuccessful effort to get closer. Two nights later they returned and found imprints and burn marks, which they photographed. Subsequently two of them wrote a manuscript and submitted it to several Canadian magazines, which refused to publish what they deemed an outlandish

fiction. By the 1970s, when ufologist John Brent Musgrave interviewed the three, the photographs were long lost (Musgrave, 1976).

Near Sevilla, Spain, April 5, 1935: A farmer saw a large, round, brilliantly luminous object descend and hover just above the ground. Several small beings appeared and strolled around the UFO. The witness believed God had granted him a vision (Ballester Olmos, *op. cit.*).

Antwerp, Belgium, spring 1935: Late at night a brilliant circular object, looking like a huge aluminum pan, passed over the city. A witness saw it on the ground. Two small beings in square helmets came out of its rear side and moved around with a mechanical motion, apparently examining the exterior of the craft (HUMCAT).

Guadalajara, Spain, July 25, 1938: At 11:30 P.M. a lieutenant and his aide observed a hovering, lens-shaped object over 35 feet in diameter and 15 feet high. From underneath it a platform was lowered; on it were two moving figures. A blue beam from the parent object shined on the witnesses, who felt a sudden chill. The platform rose up into the UFO, which took on an intense white glow and flew away. The soldiers assumed they had seen a secret German or Soviet aircraft (Ballester Olmos, *op. cit.*).

Somerville, Massachusetts, summer 1938: One evening Malcolm Perry saw what he first took to be a Navy blimp gliding quietly from east to west, but when a second glance failed to spot gondola or propellers, Perry stopped to observe more carefully. "I noticed there were what looked like square or rectangular port holes in the sides," he recalled, "and I could see the silhouette of a person looking down at me.... I had a terribly strong urge to wave with all my might but restrained myself." He looked up and down the street in hopes of seeing other witnesses, but he was alone. "I looked back and could see other people at other portholes apparently changing places [and] looking down. At this point it disappeared behind some low scudding clouds, and I couldn't see it anymore" (Perry, 1964). If this sighting had taken place three or four decades earlier, it would have been recorded as an encounter with an "airship."

Through 1946. Near St. Clair, Pennsylvania, summer 1940 or 1941: Walking along a country road, young

Frank Sever heard a loud noise in the nearby woods. When he investigated, he saw what looked something like an "aluminum building," partly concealed in the trees. Because he knew the area well, he was aware no such building stood at that location. A short distance from it he saw "six small men milling about or looking for something on [the] ground." Taking them to be "spooks," he fled the scene. Later visits to the site confirmed that no building had gone up there (Sever, 1974).

Near Newbiggen-on-Sea, Northumberland, England, late summer 1942: In October 1967 a series of strange events, including bedroom hallucinations and some apparent UFO sightings, led Albert Lancashire to reflect on a bizarre experience from 25 years earlier. Lancashire contacted British ufologists, who later interviewed him and concluded he was sincere and sane. Lancashire claimed that while standing guard at a radar station he saw a cloud-enshrouded light approaching from the sea. As the object descended, he was drawn up into it by a beam. Pygmy-sized men then grabbed him and carried him into the craft, where he saw other figures of normal human height, including an apparent captain with dark hair and goggles. Lancashire was made to lie down on a couch or table. As he lay there, he saw one of the human-sized figures, wearing what looked like a surgeon's cap and thick goggles, leaning over another table. Lancashire had only vague memories of what happened next, but he thought a "medical examination" had been performed. The next thing he knew, he was back at his sentry post ("New Time Lapse Case," 1976).

Prouvy, France, 1942: When she stepped into her garden around 1:00 A.M., a woman met three dwarfs with large, round heads and short beards. They had large, luminous yellow eyes and wore tight one-piece suits with a metallic sheen. These suits extended over their heads, with only the face exposed. The beings stared at her without moving, their arms bent slightly and rigid. The woman fled inside and got her husband, but by the time they got outside, the dwarfs had disappeared (HUMCAT).

Christchurch, New Zealand, August 1944: A nurse on her way to a tram station at 4:20 P.M. observed an object like an "upturned saucer" resting on the ground

near the road. As she approached it, she estimated it to be 20 feet across and nine feet high. Two beings, not quite four feet tall, were inside, visible through a rectangular window. A third stood motionless, just outside an open door. All three seemed to be gazing on the lights of a nearby fairground. The observer could not decide whether their skin color was green or they were simply dressed in green; but all were encased in a transparent, oblong "box." The head area took up almost half their bodies, and there were no apparent arms or legs. (Seemingly identical beings figure in a till-now-unpublished case from Central Point, Oregon, in 1952. See below.) The nurse quietly got closer for a better look and stayed there for a few minutes, until she made a noise and the exterior figure suddenly noticed her. "His helmet flipped over automatically," the witness remembered, and the figure "drifted" through the open hatchway. The UFO rose straight up and disappeared into the clouds. The witness inexplicably "felt a deep sense of loss" (HUMCAT).

Rochester, Pennsylvania, October 1944: Late at night members of a family who lived in an isolated area on the outskirts of town were awakened by a loud noise and a flash of light. The husband/father went to the door, where he saw a figure, approximately four and a half feet tall, in a brown robe. Fifteen feet to the figure's left were four individuals of comparable height; these were dressed in brown metallic suits. All five were illuminated by a light around them. The witness recalled, "Their heads seemed quite large. Their arms were long with long thin fingers. [There was] a slit for a mouth." Several of the figures, including the one in the robe, came into the house. Then the main witness accompanied them to a "craft" landed near the house. He remembered nothing else until morning but said nothing to other family members, who did not discuss the incident until many years later (Riche, 1980).

Langelmavesi, Finland, August 1945: A woman staying in a sauna along the lake saw a 35-foot "dazzling ball of fire, as bright as the sun," streaking in her direction from the opposite shore and obliterating all else in its blinding glow. She threw herself to the floor in expectation of an imminent crash, but when none occurred, she stood up and looked outside. The object had vanished, but on the shore a big dog stood

frozen in terror, its gaze fixed on the water and on a sort of canoe, over six feet long, with a tall, slender man standing in the prow. He was dressed in a green coverall. On the other side another man sat steering an engine enclosed within a big glass bulb (Johansson-Paasonen, 1973).

Near Bryan, Ohio, October 1945: A couple driving along a rural road came upon an oval-shaped object hovering 50 feet above the ground near a high-tension pole. The craft was 35 feet in diameter, ringed by several amber-colored lights—apparently windows illuminated by interior lighting. Through one, according to the female witness, "there appeared to be shadows of someone moving within." The UFO accelerated toward nearby woods, then shot straight up (report in files of J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies).

Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England, 1945: A slow-moving object, 25 to 35 feet in diameter, came to within 75 yards of a witness. Through a large window he could see sitting men with short hair and one-piece suits. They appeared to be nearly six feet in height (HUMCAT).

Angelholm, Sweden, May 1946: While out for an evening walk, Gosta Carlsson, later to become a prominent industrialist, came upon a disc-shaped machine over 50 feet in diameter. On top of it was a cupola with oval windows, and beneath it were an oblong "fan," two legs, a small ladder, and openings. A man dressed in a white, one-piece outfit gestured to Carlsson to halt. Ten other occupants, three of them women, all wearing suits and transparent helmets, were nearby. One of the male occupants pointed a boxlike device at the witness. Carlsson left the scene but returned via a different route half an hour later, just in time to see the UFO depart. This incident, which Carlsson did not report until 1971, took place as sightings of **ghost rockets** were attracting international attention and setting the stage for the flying saucers of a year later (Frederickson, 1972).

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, late August 1946: Margaret Sprankle, a young civilian employee of Tinker Air Force Base, was returning from work and just about to enter her house when she happened to glance to the northwest and there see, at 100 yards' distance, a large metallic, lens-shaped structure about 75 feet in

diameter. On the lower right-hand side were 12 to 14 square windows; in each, visible from the shoulders up, was a figure set against a dark background. "The hands were quite round, either rather bald or wearing helmets," she told investigators years later. She thought they were looking at her, but because the distance obscured details, she was not certain of this. The UFO rotated 90 degrees on its vertical axis, and now Sprankle could see it edge on. At that point the object silently headed northwest and disappeared from view in seconds (Bloecher, 1974a).

Antwerp, Belgium, August 1946: A young man saw a pan-shaped object hovering near a roadside at 8:30 in the evening. Near it stood a small being holding an acacia branch. The figure entered the object through an opening in its underside (HUMCAT).

Johannesburg, South Africa, summer 1946: Two women on a late-evening walk saw an aerial object hovering just five feet above the roof of a nearby hotel. It was shaped like a saucer with a round, golden ball in the center, evenly split between the top and bottom sections of the vehicle. The witnesses heard a clicking noise, and immediately afterwards the ball dropped through the saucer shape until it was directly level with the hotel top. There was no hole on the bottom of the saucer to indicate where the ball had been. A few seconds later new clicks started, and the ball ascended through the saucer until it had risen above its upper half some eight or nine feet. There it hovered, apparently supported by dark pillars on either side. In the space between the ball and the disc two figures were seen. Of entirely normal appearance except for their larger than normal height, seven feet, they looked like exact replicas of each other: fair-complexioned, broad-shouldered, short, wavy-haired. They were, one witness recalled, "very good looking." They wore white uniforms with stiff collars, and a broad belt covered their mid-sections. They stood motionless, apparently staring at the women, until the object floated away and was lost to view on the other side of the building (Judge, 1979).

Suburban Detroit, 1946: At 3:30 a brilliant light shining into her bedroom woke May Ackerman. The source was a large, luminous oval with a transparent band across its midsection. It was hovering in her neighbor's backyard. Inside the band she saw a

humanoid being. The UFO departed abruptly (HUMCAT).

1947 and after. Reports of UFO occupants would come into public view only gradually after 1947, and even for the earliest ufologists, such as **Donald E. Keyhoe** and Gerald Heard, the existence, appearance, and nature of beings inside flying discs were questions that could be addressed only speculatively (Keyhoe, 1950; Heard, 1950), though another early UFO author, Frank Scully, reported that bodies of human appearance but small stature had been recovered in **crashes of UFOs** in New Mexico and Arizona (Scully, 1950). Such stories, first suspected then proven to be fraudulent, did little to make either CE3s or crash reports seem credible (*see Scully Hoax*).

Neither did the first occupant report to see print following the **Kenneth Arnold sighting**. It appeared in the *Nashville Tennessean* on July 9, 1947. The alleged witness wrote the editor of the newspaper a letter about his encounter with little men, "all heads and arms and legs, and glowing like fireflies," who landed in a saucer and greeted him in sign language before reboarding their craft and shooting away in a cloud of dust. The newspaper account characterizes the correspondent (whose letter was only paraphrased, not published) as "apparently perfectly sane and sober," but the story sounds more like a practical joke than a serious report.

More typical of reports that had preceded it and that would come in the many hundreds in the years after it was a French cyclist's experience, apparently unpublished at the time. Traveling near Amfreville-La-Mi-Voie in early July, the rider encountered an oval-shaped object, 10 feet long and five feet high, resting on the road 100 yards in front of her. Two small beings dressed in gray outfits and headgear were busy around it. When she honked her horn—evidently unwilling to let even alien visitors delay her—the entities scurried into the object, entering it through a 20-inch opening. The UFO rose, oscillated, and streaked away (HUMCAT).

A complete listing of CE3s from the early UFO era would fill a book. A sense of what these reports involved, however, can be gleaned from a review of the patterns and from summaries of representative cases. Where patterns are concerned, it should be

stated at the outset that reports in which humanoids and humanlike entities figure dominate the accounts, as is apparent already from the pre-1947 ones reviewed above. But within the humanoid/human reports the inquirer can find both remarkable variety and striking uniformity.

Humans and near-humans. Lago, Argentina, March 18, 1950: A rancher saw two huge discs, and one landed. In a transparent cabin in the center of the latter were four tall men with pallid faces and "cellophane" dress. They were working on instruments. A searchlight was flashed on the witness, and both objects departed (Bowen, 1969). Abbiate Guazzone, Italy, April 24, 1950: Bruno Facchini encountered a landed disc, with an open door and steps leading down. Three or four men in "diving suits" and helmets with transparent faceplates were inside; one seemed to be welding a pipe. All moved slowly, and their faces were pale. When Facchini spoke to them, they responded with growling sounds. One pointed a small "camera" at the witness, who was knocked over by a beam emanating from it. He lay motionless for the next few minutes as the "repairs" were completed. Then the UFO departed (HUMCAT). Beavertown, Virginia, summer 1950: An eight- or 10-foot disc landed in a field behind the witness' house. From an open cockpit a "man with unusual goggles or head-piece looked out," the witness said in a letter to the **National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena** (NICAP). Apparently surprised that she had seen him, the pilot took off abruptly, breaking a limb from a nearby oak tree in the process (HUMCAT). Bloomington, California, September 1951: Louise McDougall saw a lenticular object, 100 feet in diameter, hovering only 20 feet above her. Tall rectangular windows lined its bottom half, and through these, four men with shoulder-length hair and one-piece suits could be seen. When she shined a searchlight on it, the UFO abruptly sped away but returned 15 minutes later to the same spot, the occupants still visible. The witness' husband and three other persons in the trailer park allegedly saw the craft and its occupants (HUMCAT). Schenectady, New York, July 1952: While in a car one afternoon, a man saw an oblong object hovering nearby. "Then a gondola seemed to lower from the object," he told NICAP, and what looked like a "bunch of Navy officers in

Navy white hats" rushed to the windows. All were wearing huge dark glasses. The "gondola" was withdrawn into the ship, and three smaller objects appeared and entered through the bottom (HUMCAT). Between Salem and Corvallis, Oregon, October 1952: Two passengers in a car sighted an eight-foot, heavily built figure walking "with fluid movements" along the road. He was wearing an Arab-style head dress and a uniform, with gloves and boots, of fine metallic mesh. A ribbed belt surrounded the waist. His face was pale, and his huge round eyes, nearly three inches in diameter, glowed. Within them were reticulations "resembling the filament in old electric light bulbs." The driver turned around immediately, but the figure was gone, even though the terrain was flat (HUMCAT). Peekskill, New York, February 1954: A couple saw a woman standing near a landed UFO. Holding a tube in one hand and a box in the other, she wore luminous clothing and a hood over part of her head; thick glasses or goggles covered her eyes (Vallee, 1969a). Norco, California, spring 1954: Going outside to investigate the source of a metallic droning sound, a mother and her daughter saw an object like a rowboat with a transparent dome, 20 feet long and 10 feet wide, pass slowly overhead, then stop and hover over a nearby tree. Inside the dome five helmeted men sat staring at the witnesses. Their "rather long faces" were olive-colored, and their eyes and hair were dark. After a minute the droning sound resumed, and the object took off at a slow speed (Hanlon, 1968). Near Mosjoen, Norway, August 20, 1954: Two sisters picking blueberries were approached by a smiling man with long hair, a dark complexion, and a tight-fitting suit with a broad belt. One of the women extended her hand, and the stranger touched palms instead of shaking it. Though addressed in several languages, including English, he did not understand and responded in his own "very melodious" language which "didn't consist of separate words but flowed freely like a smooth stream." From a pocket he drew something resembling a "little mirror" and with a "pencil or something like it" drew circles apparently representing planets. Finally he indicated he wanted the women to accompany him, and he took them to a landed disc in a clearing. The man smiled, opened a hatch, waved, boarded the craft, and flew away. The story received international publicity but was quickly "explained" as an encounter

with a U.S. Army helicopter pilot. The pilot, who had short hair and spoke excellent English, denied being anywhere near the site ("Spaceman Lands," 1955; Bloecher and Larsen, 1981). Ranton, Staffordshire, England, October 21, 1954: A silvery lens-shaped object with a transparent cupola hovered over a mother and her three children. Inside the cupola were two "stern-looking" men with long foreheads and shoulder-length hair. They were wearing dark blue "ski suits." The UFO then circled the house and departed (Gibbons, 1958). The report is considered one of the classic early British CE3s. Porto Alegre, Brazil, October 30, 1954: An agronomist and his family encountered a landed UFO along a road. Two men with long hair and one-piece suits emerged and, arms raised, approached them. Terrified, the witness sped away (Lorenzen, 1962). Torpo, Norway, November 23, 1954: A flying saucer followed three girls on their way home from school, then hovered not more than three or four feet above them. Ten feet in diameter, it had a transparent top through which the girls observed a man operating the controls. He wore black pants and jacket and had immense red goggles over his eyes. As the craft was ascended, it plowed into a high-tension line, with a resulting shower of sparks (HUMCAT). Near Linha Bela Vista, Brazil, December 9, 1954: A farmer busy hoeing heard a sewing-machine sound and looked up to see a cream-colored object "shaped like a tropical helmet" hovering just above the ground. One man stood inside it; another was examining a fence, and a third was near the farmer, who dropped his hoe. The being smiled, picked it up, and handed it back to him. The three figures had pale skin, slanted eyes, and long blond hair. All wore light-brown coveralls. They plucked some plants, reentered their ship, and shot off at great speed. The witness, who had never heard of UFOs, thought the men were American pilots (Bowen, *op. cit.*). Milford, Pennsylvania, May 1957: At dawn a farm woman about to enter her barn heard a whirring sound and observed a "flat, bowl-shaped object with a broad rim." As it hovered 50 feet away, its sole occupant, a helmeted man with a long, olive-colored face and a shiny, light-gray suit, gazed at her with a "quizzical" expression. He was sitting on the far rim, with his feet in the bowl. Inside the open vehicle levers could be seen. After a minute the craft departed (Schwarz, 1969). Near Quebra-Coco, Brazil, Octo-

ber 10, 1957: A Spanish Navy officer traveling by truck at night encountered a blindingly luminous lens-shaped object some 500 feet wide. As the truck's motor died, the UFO descended to within 20 feet of the ground. All its light was extinguished except for a reddish glow from a long antenna on top of the UFO. A door opened, and in the red light emanating from the interior seven long-haired men were visible. They stepped outside for three minutes and gazed at the truck, then went back inside. The UFO rose 1600 feet into the air, released a small disc which flew north, and headed off toward the south (HUMCAT). Allen Park, Michigan, October 1957: At 10 P.M. two women in a car spotted a reddish-orange disc, 30 feet in diameter, just above the treetops. They pursued it for a block or two before it streaked off. One of the witnesses looked through a large window on the UFO's lower section and observed two figures dressed in what she thought looked like white Navy uniforms (HUMCAT). Dante, Tennessee, November 6, 1957: In a field 100 yards away, a 12-year-old boy saw an object like an elongated egg. His dog was already investigating it, and as the boy approached the UFO, he noticed two men and two women standing outside it. They were speaking in a foreign language which the boy thought sounded like German. One of the men tried to pick up the dog, and he beckoned to the witness. The four entered the craft by seeming to walk right through the wall. Investigators later found a large elliptical imprint in the ground (Michel, 1958). Near Paraiba do Sul, Brazil, August 1958: A golden-yellow, shining disc landed, and a blond, long-haired man dressed in a light-colored coverall stepped out and smiled at an observer. He made gestures which the witness failed to understand. The being returned to the craft and flew away (Creighton, 1967c).

Dwarfs in diving suits. Quarouble, France, September 10, 1954: Hearing his dog barking, the witness went outside and sighted a dark mass on a railroad track. He heard footsteps and turned on his flashlight, which revealed two beings, less than three and a half feet tall, wearing "diver's suits." As they headed toward the object on the track, a light from it blinded and paralyzed the man. When the beam was turned off, the witness ran toward the UFO, which rose and flew away. Five imprints were found on the tracks. Investigators thought it would have taken a 30-ton

object to make the marks (Michel, *op. cit.*). Cenon, France, September 17, 1954: A motorcyclist was paralyzed after feeling something like an electric shock. From a nine-foot-long vessel emerged a little man in a diving suit. The being touched the witness on the shoulder, muttered something incomprehensible, and returned to the ship. As it flew away, the paralysis left (*ibid.*). Bressuire, France, October 3, 1954: A man riding his bicycle to work at dawn saw a 10-foot disc on the ground. A "small figure clad in a kind of diving suit" stood next to it. The being entered the craft, which sailed off at great speed (*ibid.*). During the fall of 1954 numerous comparable reports were made in the course of a great UFO wave in France. Near Isola, Italy, November 11, 1954: Three dwarfs wearing metallic "diving suits" came out of a cigar-shaped vessel and addressed one another in a language the witness, a farmer, did not understand. Because they were clearly interested in rabbits he kept in a cage, the witness thought they were plotting to steal them. He aimed a gun at them and pulled the trigger, to no avail. Suddenly feeling weak, he dropped the weapon. The beings took his rabbits and left in their craft (Vallee, 1969b).

Human dwarfs. Death Valley, California, August 19, 1949: Two prospectors reported that a flying saucer crashed in the desert sand and two occupants jumped out. When they saw the two observers, they took off running. "The men looked human, but they were very small—like dwarfs," one of the witnesses said. "We chased them over a sand dune but lost them." Their ship also disappeared (*San Francisco Examiner*, August 20, 1949). Near Brush Creek, California, June 20, 1953: At 6:30 P.M., at Marble Creek Canyon, a miner saw a little man, about four and a half feet tall and dressed in a seamless green parka, dip a bucket of water into a stream. Nearby was a landed vehicle resembling a "couple of soup plates put together," with a small window and a tripod landing gear. The figure walked to the ship, handed the bucket to someone inside, and entered. The UFO departed with a hissing sound (Kunkel, 1954). Loveland, Ohio, July 1955: As he drove his truck over a bridge, a young man noticed a terrible odor. On the river bank beneath the bridge four "more or less human-looking" figures, three feet tall, "moving about oddly" (Davis and Bloecher, 1978; Gross, 1989; Stringfield,

1957). Conashaugh, Pennsylvania, December 17, 1956: A woman went outside with a flashlight and encountered two little men, one stocky and three feet tall, the other slender and three and a half feet tall. Both were wearing silvery, tight-fitting suits with helmets. The beings were humanlike and of fair complexion. They stood motionless as the witness focused the flashlight beam on them for three minutes, but they were gone when she came out again with her husband (Schwarz, *op. cit.*). Near House, Mississippi, November 7, 1957: A truck driver encountered a large egg-shaped object with a single propeller blade located at the top and each end. Two men and a woman, with dark hair and four and a half feet tall, stepped outside and spoke to him with a "chattering sound." One tried to shake his hand. They had "pasty white" faces and looked "like no people I have ever seen." The beings returned to their vehicle, which ascended and disappeared in seconds (Michel, *op. cit.*).

Hairy dwarfs. Pournoy-la-Chetive, France, October 9, 1954: Three children, the oldest of them 12, were roller-skating when a "round shiny machine came down very close to us. Out of it came a kind of man, four feet tall, dressed in a black sack like the cassock M. le Cure wears. His head was hairy, and he had big eyes. He said things to us that we couldn't understand, and we ran away. When we stopped and looked back, the machine was going up into the sky very fast" (*ibid.*). Lewarde-Erchin, France, October 14, 1954: A miner met a figure with large, slanted, protruding eyes and a squat, furry body. The being wore a skull cap on its oversized head, which had a flat nose and thick, red lips (Vallee, *op. cit.*). Petare, Venezuela, November 28, 1954: At 2 A.M. two men in a truck encountered a glowing spherical object, eight to 10 feet in diameter, hovering just above the ground and blocking the road. When they got out of the truck, they saw a three-foot-tall being, with claws and glowing eyes, approaching. One of the men picked up the entity, finding it strangely light, hard, and hairy. The entity pushed the man 15 feet, and the latter then tried to stab the former, but his knife glanced off its body. Two similar beings came out of the bushes, their hands carrying soil, and the three fled into the sphere and escaped. One witness was left with a deep scratch on his face ("In Venezuela," 1955; Lorenzen, *op. cit.*; Keyhoe, 1955). Near Chico-Cerro

de las Tres Torres, Venezuela, December 10, 1954: Four little hairy men, three feet tall, came out of a hovering luminous disc and tried to drag a hunter into their craft. The hunter fainted. His companion hit one of the entities with his gun butt, which broke as if it had struck rock. The two terrified witnesses managed to escape and were bruised and scratched, their shirts torn to ribbons, when they reported the encounter to police (*ibid.*). Valencia, Venezuela, December 19, 1954: At 11 P.M. a jockey on a training run saw six hairy little men loading rocks into a disc hovering a few feet above the ground. One pointed a device at him, and the beam of violet light that emanated from it paralyzed the witness, who had been trying to flee. The beings flew off. Police found strange footprints, "neither human nor animal," at the scene (*ibid.*).

Gray dwarfs. Branch Hill, Ohio, May 25, 1955: On his way home from work at 3:30 A.M. a driver saw three figures in his headlights. They were gray-skinned and three and a half feet tall, and of decidedly strange appearance. They had wide mouths without lips and deep wrinkles instead of hair on their heads. Their chests were lop-sided, with big bulges on the right side, and their garments covered only the latter half of their bodies. The being closest to the witness, who had stepped outside his car to watch, at first was holding a bar or chain above its head. Sparks ran along this object. Then the entity bent over and seemed to tie the device around its ankles. The witness watched for about five minutes before returning to his car to alert the local police chief. The case was investigated by ufologists Bloecher and **Leonard H. Stringfield** as well as the police (Bloecher, 1974b; Davis and Bloecher, *op. cit.*; Stringfield, *op. cit.*). Near Stockton, Georgia, July 3, 1955: At 3:30 A.M. a Cincinnati woman driving on a rural highway spotted four objects she first took to be "animals" in her headlights. As she approached them at reduced speed, she saw they were wearing gray-greenish cloaks with slouch hats on their heads. They were huddled together as if digging for something in the middle of the road. One, who held a stick, looked at her as she passed by. Less than four feet tall, he held clawlike hands above his oversized, gray-skinned head. "The eyes," she testified in a sworn statement, "were big, like saucers.... I saw no pupils.... The nose was long—

real long—and pointed.... The mouth seemed small to me. I didn't notice any lips." The other three figures paid her no attention, remaining where they were and letting her swerve around to avoid hitting them. Only the figure nearest the car moved, taking a "little step backward" (Davis and Bloecher, *op. cit.*; Stringfield, *op. cit.*).

Tiny dwarfs. Canby, Oregon, April 1950: While working on her lawn during the day, a woman looked over to the neighbor's yard and saw a 12-inch little man, his back turned to her. When he turned around, she saw that he had a heavily tanned face, was of stocky build, and wore overalls and a plaid shirt. There was a skull cap on his head. The witness dashed inside her house to call to a friend, then ran outside in time to see the figure "waddling" away. He walked under a parked car and disappeared. Kenneth Arnold, who interviewed her shortly after the incident, was convinced of her sincerity (HUMCAT). Villares del Saz, Spain, July 1, 1953: An illiterate 14-year-old cow herder saw a "big balloon" on the ground. Three beings, no more than two feet tall, emerged and addressed the youth in a language he did not recognize. One of the figures struck him. They returned to their ship and departed. The witness told police and civilian investigators (including Spanish ufologist Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos) that the entities had "Oriental" faces and narrow eyes. They were dressed in blue suits and had peaked caps on their heads (Ballester Olmos, *op. cit.*).

Flying entities. Chehalis, Washington, January 6, 1948: In the afternoon an elderly woman and a group of children observed a man equipped with long silver wings hovering 20 feet over her barn. He ascended, flying in an upright position, all the while manipulating instruments strapped to his chest. There was no propeller or other obvious source of power. "I know most people don't believe me," the woman told a local newspaper, "but I have talked to some people in Chehalis that tell me they saw the man, too, and that he came south from Chehalis and apparently came from the north or east" (Rogo and Clark, 1979). Near Grassy Butte, Oregon, September 16, 1948: Just before dawn a man saw two "flying persons" in the southern sky at about 200 feet altitude. Their wings, narrowed and rounded at the tip, did not flap, and their legs were unusually short. Moving slowly, they

were visible for some minutes. Kenneth Arnold later interviewed the witness (HUMCAT). Chicago, April 8, 1954: Looking out on Lake Michigan, a woman observed a "parachute" with the suspended body of a small man who was skimming the water in various directions. Another tenant of the building also saw the figure. The "parachute" grew smaller as it descended and landed on the beach, depositing the man, who wore a tight-fitting, one-piece green suit which also covered his head. He walked up and down the beach. Then, as a Coast Guard search boat came into the area, the parachute, which had been reduced to the size of a newspaper page, expanded in size; the man entered it, and it shot off at high speed (HUMCAT). Near Coldwater, Kansas, September 2, 1954: Late in the evening, as he was finishing chores on the family farm, a 12-year-old boy noticed a dark-complexioned little man crouching 20 feet away. Dressed in "shiny" clothing and carrying two-foot-long cylinders on the back, the entity had a pointed nose and ears. He "floated" toward a 50-foot disc-shaped craft hovering nearby. The UFO shot off. At the site Sheriff Floyd Hadley found numerous footprints of pear shape and with narrow heels (*Wichita [Kansas] Evening Eagle*, September 8, 1954).

Anomalous reports. Flatwoods, West Virginia, September 12, 1952: A woman, a 17-year-old man, and six children saw a bright red object apparently land on the far side of a hill. When they went to investigate, they saw a huge monstrous form with glowing eyes, with a head shaped like the "ace of spades." As it glided toward them, the group fled in terror (Sanderson, 1967; see also **Flatwoods Monster**). Derry, New Hampshire, December 15, 1956: While gathering Christmas greens late one morning, a man turned and saw a two-foot-tall green dwarf standing next to him. The entity had a high forehead, floppy ears, and a face "like a bloodhound" except for its lidless reptilian eyes. The skin hung in folds on the naked body. After watching the witness for a few minutes, the being "started for me with a kind of screeching sound, and I left there," the man said in a letter to ufologist Walter Webb (HUMCAT).

Ufologists' views. To conservative ufologists of the early 1950s CE3s had two strikes against them. One, the first widely publicized little men stories were of bodies found in crashes of UFOs, and these were

proven to be hoaxes. Two, the flamboyant early contactees, whom many ufologists considered charlatans, claimed repeated meetings with humanlike alien visitors. Thus, for some, any kind of encounter with UFO occupants was suspect, if only by association (Nicholson, 1958). To some early UFO writers it had yet to be established that UFOs had even landed, much less unleashed their crews on startled earthlings. In *Flying Saucers from Outer Space* (1953) Keyhoe dismissed one letter—a letter modern ufologists would regard as a valuable historical document if it still existed—as an example of the "effect of certain scare stories published since '47.... [A] nurse and a salesman, driving along a desert road, had been kidnapped by spacemen."

Yet there could be no objection to UFO occupants in principle if one assumed that observers were reporting accurately what they saw: in many cases structured craftlike objects with apparent "portholes." Why would an unpiloted vehicle require windows?

As early as 1953 the conservative Los Angeles-based **Civilian Saucer Investigation** was treating the Flatwoods CE3 seriously ("More on the 'Green Monster,'" 1953), and many ufologists were deeply impressed by the multitude of humanoid reports from France and South America in the fall of 1954. Soon some of America's most sober UFO researchers, including Bloecher, Stringfield, and others, were investigating domestic CE3s, weeding out the hoaxes and documenting the credible sightings. **Isabel Davis** went to Kentucky to look into the **Kelly-Hopkinsville CE3** of August 1955. Occupant reports became a regular feature of the *A.P.R.O. Bulletin*, which owing to its network of contacts in Latin America was able to provide an international perspective on the growing phenomenon. In January 1956, in a lecture to CSI of New York, Bloecher summarized all available reports and noted that occupant sightings had been recorded as long ago as 1896 (*Public Meeting*, 1956).

Davis contrasted these kinds of reports with contactee tales:

[T]he two types of reports are different in every way. The little men's appearance is humanoid, not superhuman; their behavior is quite incomprehensible; and they never *communicate* at all. They utter no lofty messages, no explanations

of ancient riddles, no admonitions, warnings, reassurances, prophecies, or esoteric doctrine. Even when they are said to "speak," what they say is as unintelligible as what they do—non-sense syllables, sometimes interpreted by the observer as words of his own language. The attitude and behavior of the witnesses is likewise completely different in the two types of reports. These enigmatic encounters are always unexpected by the human being or beings involved... The witnesses are always terrified, during and after the experience; they only wish it had never happened at all, and the last thing they want is any repetition of it. Where the communication contactees are obscure before the event and increasingly well known afterwards, those who see "little men" are only too glad to go back, once the nine days' wonder and scoffing is over, into the same obscurity they enjoyed before their distasteful experience. They write no books, give no lectures, attract no defenders or disciples, found no cults (Davis, 1957).

Of mainstream groups of the 1950s, only NICAP ignored or downplayed CE3s and even landings in which no entities were reported (Hall, 1964), though eventually NICAP, forced to acknowledge the growing number of seemingly credible accounts, changed its mind (Keyhoe and Lore, 1969). NICAP's stand seemed determined more by political and strategic considerations than by an objective reading of the evidence, since generally speaking CE3s were no more and no less believable than anecdotal reports of other kinds of UFO encounters. Referring to CE3s and landings, NICAP defended its skepticism thus: "If you seem to treat seriously *any* of these cases, you seem to be accepting *all* of them" (Hall, *op. cit.*). This is a peculiar argument; after all, the same could be said of UFO reports in general. Serious investigators, including those associated with NICAP, have always acknowledged, and sought to separate, genuinely anomalous reports of aerial objects from those that result from misidentifications or deceit. Conscientious investigators of early CE3s were doing precisely the same with the cases with which they were concerned.

Ufologists of the 1950s implicitly assumed UFOs and

their occupants to be of extraterrestrial origin and confined their efforts to pragmatic efforts to investigate and document reports. Nonetheless one theorist who tackled the question of "little men" came up with a fantastic hypothesis. **M. K. Jessup**, an early proponent of what subsequently would be called (after Erich von Däniken popularized the concept) "ancient astronauts," argued that the pygmy races are much older than other human races; they developed an advanced technology tens of thousands of years ago. Much of their civilization was wiped out in geological cataclysms. The survivors flew antigravity spaceships to the moon and settled there but continue to keep tabs on developments on the home planet (Jessup, 1957). Few ufologists rushed to embrace this interpretation.

Perspectives. From a modern point of view, one immediately striking feature of the pre-1960 CE3 phenomenon is the absence (with one arguable exception, discussed below) of reports of little gray men of the sort that within a few years would figure prominently in reports of UFO abductions (Hopkins, 1981, 1987), though the case that brought this aspect of UFO experience to the forefront was to occur soon after, in 1961 (Fuller, 1966). Pre-1960 accounts of hairless gray dwarfs, with oversized heads, slanted eyes, slit mouths, noses consisting of two holes, and thin bodies, would emerge, typically through hypnotic regression years after the (alleged) fact, but such reports seem virtually nonexistent in the literature of the period. (Conceivably the vaguely described beings in the 1944 Rochester, Pennsylvania, story were little gray men. What few details the claimant offers are consistent with this particular variety of entity. But the witness did not report the supposed incident until 1980, by which time little gray men were becoming a staple of popular culture.) If such entities were being encountered before 1961, it is strange that their presence went unrecorded in contemporary accounts.

Moreover, in later years hairy dwarfs of the sort that played so noteworthy a role in 1950s CE3s would all but cease being reported, and even CE3s that did not involve abductions and on-board physical examinations would become relatively rare. At the same time, however, UFO occupants would continue to be described, in nearly all cases, as humanoid in appear-

ance. Reports of purely human and nearly human forms (the latter often said to possess slightly bigger-than-normal eyes) would continue unabated, and sometimes abductees would claim to have encountered both humans and humanoids aboard UFOs (Bullard, 1987). Though the Corvallis-Salem, Oregon, report of October 1952 has not been published till now (see above), beings of a virtually identical description would figure in a strange UFO legend, traceable to informants at Norton Air Force Base, California, and Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, but never confirmed, alleging a landing and high-level contact at Holloman AFB in either 1964 or 1971, or both (Clark, 1990; Howe, 1989). An illustration of one of the supposed entities appears in Robert Emenegger's *UFOs Past, Present and Future* (1974).

Suggestions of the abduction phenomenon can be detected in the French report from 1921, in the English encounter of 1942, and in the Venezuelan CE3 of December 10, 1954, but the first indisputably modern such report is the **Villas-Boas CE3** in Brazil in October 1957. It has the virtue of having been investigated and documented at the time of its reported occurrence. At the time—though certainly no longer, in light of numerous subsequent comparable reports (Hopkins, 1987)—it seemed outlandishly implausible in its assertion of sexual intercourse between abductee and abductor. The **Aerial Phenomena Research Organization** refused to publish it, even though it had an investigative report on the case from one of its most esteemed representatives, Brazilian physician **Olavo T. Fontes**. The episode was not reported in English until 1962 ("The A.V.B. Contact Case," 1962), and a full account did not appear until three years later (Creighton, 1965).

The one other abduction recorded during the period was little noted, appearing only in an obscure newspaper, in an obscure UFO magazine (*Space-Craft Digest*, Fall 1958), and later in an obscure book (Allen, 1959), though resurrected some years later (Bowen, 1967). As evidence of anything the story is worthless, since even the claimant's name is not known. All that is known is that one day in December 1957 a man walked into the office of a Prince George, British Columbia, newspaper and announced he had a story to tell. On December 11 *The Citizen* published the

account, based on reporter Ron Powell's interview with the anonymous individual.

He said that late one evening in 1951 or 1952, while serving with the U.S. Army occupation forces in Austria, he had been walking home when a helmeted figure stepped from behind some bushes and paralyzed him with a pencil-like weapon which made a clicking sound. The figure placed a square black plate on the soldier's chest and led him to a UFO. "I couldn't move or walk," the man said, "but he just pulled me along after him. I wasn't actually in the air, but my full weight wasn't on the ground. It seemed as if I was light." They entered the craft, a round object 150 feet in diameter, through an opening in the top. The craft flew into space, past the moon and on to a planet the abductee took (though uncertainly) to be Mars, where it landed on a platform above a field on which many similar vehicles were parked. The being floated outside and entered another ship. Meanwhile the abductee saw similar beings in the parking lot as well as two that contained human beings, who did not acknowledge his presence. The alien pilot returned, and they flew back to earth. When they landed at the same spot where the soldier had been taken, he was taken out in the same manner he had been brought in. The being pointed the "pencil" at him, and he heard it click, but he was not paralyzed, though he pretended to be. The plate was removed from his chest, and the humanoid and UFO left.

The man described the being thus: "He had no hair at all.... His head was sort of cylinder form. A very high forehead, with big eyes. You could see lots of little eyes in the two big eyes. It seemed to me it looked like the eyes of a fly. No nose at all, just two holes. He had a very small slit for a mouth. It looked like he had skin; it was sort of white. There were two holes for the ears. His skull was very large. The torso was formed kind of like a tin can. The legs were of proportionate length. His arms were a little bit shorter than our arms, I would say. His hand seemed to be three long fingers. I couldn't see any neck, but he was wearing material that was like silver but wasn't shiny."

Except for the "little eyes in the two big eyes," this is a reasonably close approximation of other descriptions of the gray or white humanoids of abduction lore; to compare, see the illustrations in Budd Hop-

kins's books. The Austrian story also shares some elements, including nonresponsive fellow humans, with that subset of abduction reports involving "otherworldly journeys" (Bullard, *op. cit.*). What these accounts mean, if anything, is unclear—even the most literal-minded ufologist would recoil from the notion that these involve *actual* interplanetary jaunts—but they do exist even in cases that have been far better investigated than this one. It is, of course, possible that any similarity between this and the later cases is no more than coincidental and that the tale is a delusion, a hoax, or a joke. In the absence of any investigation, all we have is reporter Powell's statement that the claimant responded forthrightly to questions and did not contradict himself even when the interviewer was trying to trick him into doing so. Nonetheless, as Charles Bowen remarks, "It is still difficult to believe that this story could be true, but if it is just fantasy, then it must be agreed that the author possessed not only a fertile mind, but also a touch of the prophet" (Bowen, 1967).

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CLOUD CIGARS

Cloud cigars were more widely reported in the early UFO era than they are today, but they were among the most striking of UFO phenomena. Typically sightings of such objects involved three elements: a huge cigar-shaped structure, partially hidden in a cloud, and smaller discs which entered or departed from the "mothership."

At Vernon, France, at 1 A.M. on August 23, 1954, a businessman who had just parked his car in the garage noticed a sudden illumination of the landscape. When he looked up, he saw what appeared to be an enormous cigar standing on end. It was hovering above the north bank of the Seine River about 1000 feet away. After a couple of minutes, according to the witness, Bernard Miserey, "suddenly from the bottom of the cigar came an object like a horizontal disc, which dropped at first in free fall, then slowed, and suddenly swayed and dived horizontally across the river toward me, becoming very luminous." It vanished at a high rate of speed in the southwestern sky, and a few minutes later a similar UFO emerged and did the same, as in turn did two others. A fifth disc, Miserey said, "dropped much lower than the earlier ones, to the level of the new bridge, where it

remained still for an instant, swaying slightly.... After a few seconds' pause, it wobbled like the first four and took off like a flash toward the north.... During this time the luminosity of the cigar had faded, and the gigantic object, which may have been 300 feet long, had sunk into darkness. The spectacle had lasted for about three quarters of an hour" (Michel, 1958). Two police officers and an Army engineer separately observed the strange spectacle.

A similar event—though this time in daylight—occurred three weeks later, on September 14, in the department of Vendee 250 miles southwest of Paris. The witnesses numbered in the hundreds, scattered over small towns and farms in the region. At 5 P.M., according to farmer Georges Fortin, "all at once, emerging from the thick layer of clouds that looked like a storm coming up, we saw a sort of luminous blue-violet mist, of a regular shape something like a cigar or carrot. Actually, the object came out of the layer of clouds in an almost horizontal position, slightly tilted toward the ground and pointing forward (like a submerging submarine). This luminous cloud appeared rigid. Whenever it moved (and its movements had no connection with the movement of the clouds themselves) it did so all of a piece, as if it were actually some gigantic machine surrounded by mists." The luminous cloud dropped suddenly from the ceiling of clouds, and then "it stopped, and the point rose quickly until the object was in a vertical position." Then white smoke reminiscent of a vapor trail extended from the lower end of the cloud cigar. The trail fell toward the ground, then turned around, ascended, and circled the vertical cigar in an upward spiral, then did the same as it descended. The exhaust trail vanished, and now, Fortin reported, the witnesses could see the "object that was 'sowing' it: a little metallic disc." The disc flew away and passed over the valley at a low altitude, darting in various directions before returning to the cigar and disappearing into its lower section. The cigar then assumed a horizontal position and flew away, vanishing into the distance (*ibid.*).

These sightings and others like them took place during the great French UFO wave of the late summer and fall. Such phenomena were not confined to France, however. As Jacques Vallee has written, these kinds of sightings "have been associated with every

important phase of UFO activity and have been reported in every country, from Portugal to Greece and the U.S.S.R. as well as Australia, New Zealand, South America and the United States" (Vallee, 1965). In one of the most famous cases, on October 4, 1960, the Rev. Lionel Browning, an Anglican minister and Tasmanian Secretary of the World Council of Churches, and his wife saw a 300-foot-long, dull-gray cigar just under a bank of clouds over Cressy, Tasmania. From those clouds, just behind the ship, five or six small discs shot with great speed, coming "towards the ship like flat stones skipping along water"—exactly how the UFOs were described in **Kenneth Arnold's sighting**. Another observer, Doris Bransden, said, "It was a fantastic sight—like a lot of little ships flocking around a bigger one" ("Flying Saucers," 1961; McDonald, 1968).

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CLYDE TOMBAUGH SIGHTING

In January 1930 astronomer Clyde W. Tombaugh discovered the planet Pluto. At 10:45 on the evening of August 20, 1949, he, his wife, and his mother-in-law saw something potentially as important to science. The three observers were gazing at the stars from the backyard of the Tombaugh's Las Cruces, New Mexico, home when the event occurred. According to Tombaugh:

I happened to be looking at the zenith ... when suddenly I spied a geometrical group of faint bluish-green rectangles of light similar to the "Lubbock lights".... As the group moved south-

nomenon, and claims that *Close Encounters* planted the image simply do not square with the facts. A second truth is that standard humanoids did not rise to prominence in the wake of this movie; they were already there. . . . Standard humanoids [moreover] are not and never have been the only sort of occupants that abductees report. Monstrous, human, and exotic types comprised some 20% of the sample before *Close Encounters*, and this figure has remained more or less constant ever since [Bullard, 1994].

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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND, 1960-1979

In 1964 the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), at the time the leading UFO organization in the United States and perhaps the world, released a thick book, *The UFO Evidence*. The issue of UFO occupants was left to a terse, unenthusiastic discussion confined to a handful of paragraphs on two of *Evidence's* concluding pages. NICAP devoted much of the discussion to contactee charlatans, while acknowledging that some witnesses to "landings" in which entities were seen but not communicated with seemed sincere. "Some landings and near-landing cases are more plausible than others," it acknowledged, then added, "Some may eventually prove to be honest mistakes of some kind." In any case, under existing circumstances "objective investigation" of such cases was "nearly impossible" (Hall, 1964).

Fourteen years later the editor of England's *Flying Saucer Review* (known as *FSR*), then the most influential magazine in world ufology, wrote that the publication sought to "start the shift from the study of the 'machines' to a study of the occupants. . . . The emphasis since then [1966] in the pages of *FSR* has been on the occupant reports, with no punches pulled" (Editor, 1978).

Indeed, from the mid-1960s onward, "occupant reports"—soon to be called close encounters of the third kind, or CE3s, under a classification system proposed by Northwestern University astronomer and former **Project Blue Book** consultant J. Allen Hynek (Hynek, 1972)—assumed enormous prominence in the UFO literature and in the concerns of ufologists. NICAP's skittishness amounted to a last gasp, an anachronistic expression of a view some ufologists had argued in the 1950s: that UFOs and their proponents already had to face enough ridicule without taking up the cause of "little green men"; reports of little men, of whatever color (relatively few reporters described them as green), were best ignored. Ironically, the book was in press when an explosive and impressively documented CE3 case

would receive NICAP's enthusiastic endorsement ("Physical Evidence," 1964).

Yet some of the most respected ufologists of the 1950s, including Ted Bloecher, Isabel Davis, Aimé Michel, Leonard H. Stringfield, and Jim and Coral Lorenzen, had championed CE3s, arguing that they were as much a part of the UFO phenomenon as reports of distant lights and discs. These ufologists were all resolutely skeptical of contact claims, tales told by flamboyant figures such as George Adamski and George Van Tassel who spoke, wrote, and lectured about their friendships with angelic Venusians and other kindly (and long-winded) Space Brothers (see *UFOs in the 1980s*, pp. 51-56; *Emergence of a Phenomenon*, pp. 1-12, 390-92). Yet for all their open-mindedness about accounts of alien encounters outside the contactee context, the ufologists grew visibly uneasy if the interaction between human and humanoid (the beings were nearly always humanoids) was too complex.

CE3s were seen as usually brief, and usually frightening, meetings, unplanned and accidental, with humanoids who, if they spoke at all, said something in an incomprehensible tongue; if understandable, the message was expected to be short, to the point, and devoid of informational or inspirational content. Alexander Mebane, an officer of the New York-based (and pro-CE3) Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York (see *Emergence*, p. 84), was willing to consider a November 6, 1957, report from an Everittstown, New Jersey, farm couple who claimed that a gnomish humanoid landed on their property. The little man approached the farmer and allegedly said, in a "sharp and scary voice" and in "broken language," "We are peaceful people. We don't want no trouble. We just want your dog." Though conceding the story's "outrageous" character, Mebane also took note of the witnesses' apparent sincerity and lack of interest in exploiting the story (Michel, 1958).

A far more outlandish report came to the attention of the Lorenzens in 1958 but was suppressed as "disreputable," in Coral Lorenzen's characterization of it (Lorenzen, 1962). Yet, in an investigative report sent the couple by one of their most trusted associates, Brazilian surgeon Olavo T. Fontes had expressed his confidence in the authenticity of the claim, which was

that a young Brazilian had had sexual intercourse with an alien woman aboard a UFO. Nonetheless for close to a decade the Lorenzens refused to publish or otherwise acknowledge the case in their *A.P.R.O. Bulletin*, though it regularly carried other investigative reports by Fontes. To all but a handful of ufologists in the English-speaking world, the story was little more than a vague rumor until 1965. (See **Sex and UFOs**; also *Emergence*, pp. 392-95.)

April 24, 1964, would be a day of particular significance in UFO history. For one thing, it effectively ended any lingering controversy about whether any occupant reports could be viewed as credible (*The UFO Evidence* was in press at the time). The incident that occurred at Socorro, New Mexico, in the late afternoon of that day puzzled even Blue Book investigators, ordinarily adept at finding explanations even when, in the judgment of others, none existed (see, for example, **Portage County Sightings**). Lonnie Zamora's brief sighting of an egg-shaped structure and two small figures amounted to compelling evidence for the existence of piloted UFOs of unknown origin, when one took into consideration not only Zamora's occupation (police officer) and solid reputation but also the physical evidence (burns and imprints) and the confirmatory testimony of witnesses who saw the UFO's departure (see **Socorro CE2/CE3**).

If the Socorro episode was nearly everything a cautious, intellectually serious UFO proponent could ask for, the incident that supposedly took place elsewhere, in Newark Valley, New York, on the morning of the same day would prove far more characteristic of the kinds of reports to come—reports that would throw much of ufology into chaos and confusion and from there into obscurantism and occultism—all because UFO theorists sought an all-encompassing hypothesis in which experiences as diverse as those claimed at Socorro and at Newark Valley could be subsumed under one explanatory scheme.

In the latter instance a young farmer named Gary Wilcox asserted that he had seen a landed UFO on his property as he was attending to chores. Standing near it were two small figures clad from head to toe in silvery garments. From the tray each was holding, Wilcox inferred that they were collecting plant and

soil samples. They engaged him in conversation via a "voice" whose precise source he was unable to determine. They said they had come from Mars on a scientific expedition and remarked matter-of-factly, if vaguely, that gravitational and other changes would occur in the solar system. After two hours the beings departed. Where they and their ship had been, Wilcox found several small depressions in the soil as well as a jellylike substance which he tried without success to pick up. All along Wilcox suspected he was the victim of a prank, perhaps set up by a television crew from *Candid Camera*.

That evening, in a phone conversation, Wilcox told his mother about the strange meeting, and over the next few days the story spread through the rural county. The physical evidence supposedly disappeared after a rainstorm, and only Wilcox saw it. The first account to see print was in a Binghamton, New York, newspaper on May 7 (see **Newark Valley CE3**).

Though there were no other witnesses, Wilcox's evident sincerity, sanity, and manifest indifference to publicity or profit impressed everyone, including NICAP investigator **Walter N. Webb**. Yet the story was absurd on its face. No modern astronomer would credit the notion that Mars harbors an intelligent civilization, and heretofore meetings with Martians had been claimed only by contactees and visionaries. Logically anyone telling a tale like this one had to be a liar or a lunatic; to the perplexity and irritation of just about everybody seeking a rational approach to UFO reports (and expecting them to be rational in return), Wilcox seemed to be neither. His account oddly wed aspects of conventional CE3s—spacesuited humanoids collecting samples—to elements of traditional contactee lore—extended communication, though here with neither Space Brothers nor the requisite sermons.

In its January/February 1965 issue *FSR* took ufology into uncharted waters with the first of a number of articles on the above-mentioned Brazilian sexual encounter, said to have taken place near Sao Francisco de Salles, Minas Gerais, in the early morning hours of October 16, 1957. The claimant, Antonio Villas-Boas, 23, reportedly was abducted into a UFO and taken into a room where he had intercourse with a beautiful, though unusual-looking, woman who did

not speak to him but emitted "growls" during the act; "they gave me the disagreeable impression of lying with an animal," he later told Dr. Fontes. *FSR* explicitly endorsed this bizarre tale. (Villas-Boas, who eventually became a successful attorney in Brasilia, would claim no other UFO encounters and shun publicity. In 1978, in his first public appearance, he repeated the story on a Brazilian television program and swore it was true.) *FSR*'s readers did not react with outrage but with fascination. In 1967 the Lorenzens, who only a few years ago had concealed and denigrated the incident, incorporated Fontes's report on it (written with journalist João Martins) into their book *Flying Saucer Occupants*. The case was now respectable.

Ufologists sensed that the phenomenon might be more complicated, more strange, than anyone had suspected in the first two decades of the UFO era. Either that, or the reports were getting stranger. Remarking on the wave that erupted in late April 1964 and continued into the summer, NICAP noted the "unprecedented number of landing, near-landing and close-approach cases" ("Wave," 1964). *FSR* and the *A.P.R.O. Bulletin* reported extensively on the many fantastic stories of alien encounters being recounted in the South American press and, less frequently, investigated by Latin ufologists.

According to a sensational *Boston Traveler* series published in late October 1965, a 1961 case originally reported as a CE3 in which shadowy humanoids had been glimpsed inside a hovering UFO turned out to have a whole new dimension. The two witnesses, Barney and Betty Hill of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, asserted that a period of missing time, along with other seemingly inexplicable anomalies, had bothered them ever since their sighting. Finally they sought relief through hypnosis with Boston psychiatrist Benjamin Simon. In that state they independently "recalled" that the UFO had landed and its humanoid crew had subjected each to a physical examination. Betty Hill described an extensive conversation with the leader. John G. Fuller wrote a best-selling book on the case, *The Interrupted Journey* (1966), and an excerpt appeared in the mass-circulation magazine *Look* (see **Hill Abduction Case**).

CE3s were everywhere. *FSR* devoted a 72-page special issue (October/November 1966) to *The Human-*

oids. New sighting waves in 1965 and 1966 brought yet more reports, and even pro-CE3/anti-contactee ufologists were growing less certain about what had once seemed a firm distinction. Other abduction reports, with or without missing time, were emerging. So were tales of **hairy bipeds** in the Sasquatch mold, except that many of these were set in such unlikely locales as Michigan, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and elsewhere. Other kinds of monsters, such as the terrifying winged entity dubbed **Mothman** after a villain on the popular *Batman* television series, were linked, more by presumption than by specific evidence, with UFOs. It now looked as if UFOs were as much a ground-level phenomenon as an aerial one.

Maybe even more so, radical theorist John A. Keel would declare. The influx of high-strangeness phenomena had so shaken many ufologists that they were starting to wonder if ufology's **extraterrestrial hypothesis** (ETH) could even begin to address the bewildering variety of UFO reports. Writing in the March/April 1967 issue of *FSR*, Keel ridiculed ufologists who sought to investigate and document reports of airborne lights and discs; they should be paying attention to contact claims, **men in black** reports, monster sightings, and other extreme experiences. By 1970, when his *UFOs: Operation Trojan Horse* was published, Keel had persuaded many ufologists, Forteanes, and enthusiasts of the paranormal that UFOs and their occupants had nothing to do with visitation from other solar systems; the beings were ill-intentioned entities Keel called **ultraterrestrials**, more commonly known, he said, as demons.

Jacques Vallee, a scientifically trained and articulate student of the UFO phenomenon, abandoned an earlier commitment to the ETH (expressed in two books published in 1965 and 1966) for a milder, less paranoid version of a supernaturalist ufology. In his influential book *Passport to Magonia* (1969) Vallee portrayed CE3s as the Space Age version of an experience other cultures associated with fairies, spirits, divinities, and devils. Subsequent books, such as *The Invisible College* (1975) and *Messengers of Deception* (1979), suggested that a shadowy human group was manipulating the occult realm with "psychotronic" technology for its own purposes. Though Vallee

brought forth no real evidence to support these fantastic propositions, they appealed to many readers for whom extraterrestrial UFOs had lost either their explanatory power or their novelty. *FSR* editors Charles Bowen and Gordon Creighton embraced an explicitly occult reading of CE3s, but theirs, which had a distinctly sinister coloration, owed more to Keel than to Vallee. (See **Paranormal and Occult Theories About UFOs.**)

Not all ufologists, however, used CE3s as a springboard for the most extreme sorts of theory-spinning. To some veteran investigators CE3s were just another variety of UFO experience. As already noted, J. Allen Hynek gave CE3s their name in 1972, adding as he did so that "I would gladly omit this part if I could without offense to scientific integrity"; yet "why should a report of a car stopped on the highway by a blinding light from an unknown craft be any different in essential strangeness or absurdity from one of a craft from which two or three little animate creatures descend?" (Hynek, *op. cit.*). In *Flying Saucer Occupants* (1967), the first book-length treatment of the CE3 phenomenon, the Lorenzens presented occupant reports as the logical consequence of extraterrestrial surveillance of the earth and its inhabitants.

Most researchers kept speculation to a minimum, preferring such pragmatic tasks as the investigation of specific cases, the compilation of masses of reports, and the search for patterns in the data. (The two most significant patterns were that CE3s were most likely to occur in the nocturnal hours and that the reported occupants were overwhelmingly humanoid [Ballester Olmos, 1973, 1976; Banchs with Heiden, 1980; Bloecher, 1975c; Clark and Vallee, 1971; Webb, 1976a, 1976b, 1976c; Vallee, 1964a, 1964b].) Among the most active of these pragmatists were Walter Webb (the first investigator of the Hill case), his brother David Webb, and Ted Bloecher. In 1974 the latter two formed the Humanoid Study Group, under the aegis of the Texas-based Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), and compiled HUMCAT, a catalogue of all known CE3s, each rated according to Webb and Bloecher's judgment of their credibility.

Abduction enigmas. Before the Hill experience was known in its entirety—in other words, its abduction aspect—only two cases that might be called abduc-

tions had been reported. One was the above-mentioned Villas-Boas episode. The other, even more obscure, first saw print in a small-town British Columbia newspaper, the *Prince George Citizen*, on December 11, 1957. The account was reprinted in the contactee-oriented *Space-Craft Digest* (Fall 1958) and in W. Gordon Allen's self-published *Space-Craft from Beyond Three Dimensions* (1959). The latter two were barely read even by ufologists, and the incident—said to have taken place in 1951 or 1952—came to wider attention only when *FSR* reprinted it in its July/August 1967 issue.

The story (discussed in detail in *Emergence*, pp. 100-01) was attributed to an anonymous man who supposedly entered the newspaper office and volunteered to relate an experience he had undergone while serving in the U.S. Army in Austria. A humanoid being, he is alleged to have said, paralyzed him, took him into a UFO, and flew him to another planet, where he saw other ships and observed two other apparent human beings, who did not acknowledge his presence. He was then taken back to his station on earth. Many features of the story anticipate later themes in abduction narratives (Bullard, 1987b), and this is the only pre-abduction-era account to describe the standard gray humanoids of later abduction lore. Unfortunately, the *Citizen* did not print his name, and no further investigation was conducted. We cannot even be certain that he existed outside the reporter's imagination.

Thus the idea of alien abductions did not really exist in the ufological universe until the mid-1960s, and the Hill case was assumed to be an anomalous sort of CE3. NICAP spoke for ufology's conservative wing when it happily accepted Dr. Simon's explanation that the whole affair was no more than a "dream via hypnosis" ("A Dream," 1966), though that was emphatically not the opinion held by NICAP's own investigator of the case.

The **University of Colorado UFO Project**, which in 1966 initiated a government-financed study, investigated a December 3, 1967, report by an Ashland, Nebraska, police sergeant, Herbert Schirmer, who remembered an early-morning close encounter but could not account for a period of missing time. Hypnotized by University of Wyoming psychologist

R. Leo Sprinkle, Schirmer "recalled" being taken aboard the UFO, meeting humanoids, communicating at length with one, and touring the craft. The project dismissed the story as psychological in origin, but Sprinkle, a ufologist associated with the Lorenzens's Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO), felt otherwise (see **Schirmer Abduction Case**). The Schirmer incident alerted UFO researchers to the possibility that a new aspect of the UFO experience was now coming into view.

Over the next few years other claims of dubious or unknown credibility were treated in both North and South American press accounts, but it was the **Pascagoula abduction case** of October 11, 1973, that made the phenomenon inescapable. Two Mississippi fishermen reported, to all appearances sincerely, that robotlike entities with claws had floated them inside a UFO. Their story sparked a media frenzy and would become a classic. By the end of the decade, CE3s as traditionally understood would virtually disappear, to be replaced by abduction claims, most though by no means all "recalled" through hypnosis. In 1975 two American incidents (**Larson Abduction Case** and **Walton Abduction Case**) were covered by international media, and on October 20 NBC aired a docudrama, *The UFO Incident*, about the Hill case. In 1977 Signet, an imprint of New American Library, issued the first book to deal exclusively with the phenomenon, the Lorenzens's *Abducted!*

In the 1980s and 1990s, as abduction reports overwhelmed ufologists, their significance would become a source of great dispute. Some prominent investigators, notably Budd Hopkins and David M. Jacobs, would argue that abductions are events, in other words literal, physical interactions with extraterrestrials. Others, such as Kenneth Ring and John E. Mack, would see them as paranormal in nature, while a third school—including Hilary Evans and Martin S. Kottmeyer—held forth for subjective, psychosocial causes (see *UFOs in the 1980s*, pp. 172-85). Hardly anyone seemed willing to concede that abduction experiences may arise from a variety of stimuli both mundane and extraordinary. All sides would assume an all-or-nothing stance, all but assuring that any discussion would quickly be stalemated.

In the late 1970s the debate boiled to the surface. In the background was a little-known incident which occurred in 1972 in far-away Australia, where abduction stories barely figured in ufologists' concerns. The central figure, 37-year-old Maureen Puddy, lived in the state of Victoria. On the evening of July 3, 1972, driving home from a visit with her hospitalized son, she observed a glowing blue UFO only 100 feet or so from her. The UFO paced her car and then disappeared. On the evening of the twenty-fourth she heard a voice call her name, and it continued doing so all night. The following evening, at the same location as her previous sighting, she sighted the same or a similar UFO. Her engine died, and all sound seemed "drained out of the air." A machinelike voice speaking "too perfect" English told her, "All your tests will be negative." After a short pause it went on, "Tell the media. Do not panic. We mean no harm." A minute of silence fell, and then the voice concluded, "You now have control." The UFO disappeared, and the car started again.

The voice returned in late February. Puddy was instructed to "go back to the meeting place." She alerted ufologists Judith Magee and Paul Norman and told them to meet her at the spot. Driving there, she was shocked and frightened when a human figure with long blond hair and a white ski suit appeared inside the car, only to disappear abruptly. On her arrival Magee and Norman joined her inside her automobile. Soon Puddy saw the same figure beckoning to her, but the ufologists detected nothing. She lapsed into what looked like a faint, but she kept talking. She said she was inside a round room, illuminated but without visible source. A mushroom-shaped object, covered with hieroglyphiclike markings, rose from the middle of the floor, and the man she had seen before stood near it. He was telling her to describe what she was seeing, and she did so, even as she grew ever more frightened. When she started to cry, she returned to normal consciousness inside the car. She had no memory of what had happened, and Magee and Norman had to inform her. She saw the figure one more time about a week later. He was standing on a road (Magee, 1976, 1978).

Looking back on the incident years later, Keith Basterfield, a veteran observer of the Australian UFO scene, wrote:

All who interviewed Maureen Puddy thought her to be a normal, healthy individual. The entire series of events puzzled her, and she got nothing but ridicule from persons for reporting the episodes. Still, no one could ever describe her as anything other than—in her words—“an average housewife.” Ten years later, when I spoke with her, she insisted the experiences were “real” [Basterfield, 1992].

While it was by no means certain how much one could extrapolate from this one case (especially when some other cases involved multiple witnesses and suggestive physical evidence), at the same time it raised disturbing questions and fueled doubts about the physical reality of other abduction claims. This, after all, was the only case that laid any claim to being a “witnessed abduction,” and it looked very much like a subjective experience. Critics of the abduction phenomenon would cite the Puddy case frequently in later years.

In the United States ufologists were growing increasingly concerned about the use of hypnosis in the elicitation of abduction testimony. Perhaps abduction stories were purely imaginary, the products of unconscious confabulation in which overzealous questioners led suggestible individuals to conjure up fantastic visions of extraterrestrials. To examine these possibilities, several California investigators devised an experiment. Beginning in early 1977, they hypnotized 16 volunteers, described as “generally ignorant about UFOs,” and instructed each to place himself or herself into an abduction scenario. Afterwards the investigators compared the imagined narratives with the allegedly real ones and professed to find no difference (Lawson, 1977, 1980).

Though hailed by some as a conclusive debunking, more critical-minded observers pointed to numerous amateurish methodological failings in the conduct of the experiment. D. Scott Rogo complained that the selection process was “about as scientific as asking subjects to describe an imaginary cat, collecting reports of real cats, extracting whatever common descriptions there might be, and then concluding that all cats are imaginary” (Rogo, 1985, 1990). Moreover, the conclusions did not follow from the data. Humanoids figure in 80% of the “real” abduction

cases but in only 20% of the imagined ones (Smith, 1981; Bullard, 1987a, 1987b). Thomas E. Bullard, author of a massive survey of abduction cases, would find a “sharp distinction between real and imaginary cases.” The real ones display

a consistency in context and narrowness of variation [in] contrast with the much greater looseness and diversity of imaginary abductions. Such contrast denies any impression of coherency to the imaginary cases. Real hypnotic and non-hypnotic abduction stories share more in common with each other than with imaginary abduction stories, strengthening the case that not hypnosis or the hypnotist, not cultural or personal elements can explain the unity behind real reports [Bullard, 1989].

Whatever its shortcomings, however, the California experiment, along with the Puddy case and the continuing absence of conclusive evidence for event-level abductions, had the effect of fostering caution toward the phenomenon—and even outright rejection of it—among many ufologists in the decade to come (see *UFOs in the 1980s*, 1-14, 111-12, 172-85).

The CE3 experience. In their work on CE3s, Ted Bloecher and David Webb divided the “UFO-Entity Association” into seven categories:

Type A: Entity is observed inside the object (the true “occupant” report).

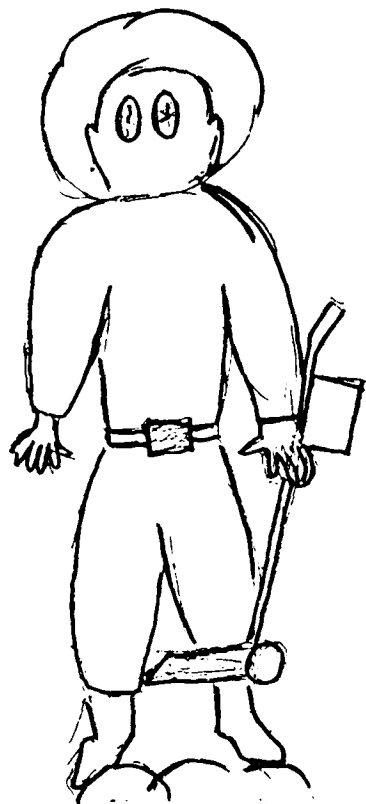
Type B: Entity is observed entering and/or leaving an object.

Type C: “Inferred” association: entity is observed in the immediate area of a UFO sighting, but is not seen actually entering or leaving the object.

Type D: “Circumstantial” association: entity is observed during period of general UFO activity in the area, but no object is reported by the witness of the entity.

Type E: No association can be established between entity and UFO activity.

Type F: Situation in which no entity or UFO is physically involved, but information reportedly is conveyed by means of telepathic “contact” or psychic experience.



This UFO entity was reportedly seen in a Belgian garden in 1973.

Type G: Witness experiences an “on-board” situation, either voluntary or by abduction. Entities may or may not be present, but their presence is implicit, if not explicit. [Bloecher, 1975c, 1978; Webb, 1976a, 1976b, 1976c].

In order to convey something of the flavor of the CE3 experience, we will start by citing an example of each of these types but Type F. Not ordinarily considered a phenomenon related to CE3s, Type F represents a variety of experience associated with psychic contactees—in other words, a kind of mystical, religious, or psychological experience—and therefore is outside this entry’s area of interest (see *UFOs in the 1980s*, pp. 51-56).

Type A: Lake Forest, Illinois, July 1965, between 11:30 P.M. and midnight. Talking on the phone in her second-floor bedroom, Pat Harvey saw a flash and heard a “commotion” or “rustle” outside. When she finished the conversation, she looked out the window

toward her neighbor’s lawn and was shocked to see a transparent bubble of light about 100 feet away. Inside the globe she observed several individuals who looked like normal human beings, though slightly shorter (she guessed five feet tall) and with skin that looked tanned. They were lying down in a somewhat haphazard arrangement. She could see nothing besides the figures inside the globe; in other words, there were no visible instruments, panels, or seats. The object was bobbing up and down slightly, and the figures’ arms were moving in a way that reminded the witness of “rowing motions” (Harvey, 1976).

Type B: Ririe, Idaho, area, November 2, 1967, 9:30 P.M. Willie Begay and Guy Tossie, driving on State Highway 26 a quarter-mile from town, were suddenly blinded by a flash of white light. They thought lightning had struck them, but when their eyes cleared moments later, they saw a small object hovering in front of their car. Five feet off the ground, it was flashing variously colored lights. On top it had a transparent dome, through which the men could see two humanoids. One side of the dome rose, and one floated out “like a bird” and landed by the door on the passenger side of the car. Three and a half feet tall, its head about six inches in diameter, it had small round eyes, a slit for a mouth, and no visible nose. Its ears were large and set high on the head, and its face looked bumpy and scarred. It was wearing tight overall clothing, and on its back was a flat pack.

It entered the car, and as the badly frightened men moved over to give it room, it grabbed the steering wheel with a hand on which only two fingers were visible. The car began to move, maintaining a fixed position behind the UFO, also in motion, as if the latter were towing the former. The car was brought into a field of wheat stubble and deposited 75 feet from the road. As soon as it stopped, Tossie leaped out of the car and ran frantically for a farm house one-fifth of a mile away. Meanwhile Begay was trapped inside. The humanoid spoke to him twice in a high-pitched, rapid voice. Begay did not know what he was saying, but even if he had, he would not have responded. He was scared speechless.

Then the being floated out of the car and into the UFO. The dome closed, the colors grew brighter, and

the object flew away with a rapid zig-zag motion and with a sound like a rush of air.

That same evening a local woman saw a zig-zagging light. At 11:30 another man allegedly saw a UFO land in front of his truck. As the engine stalled, a small figure emerged from the object and tapped on the man's window. He refused to respond, and after a period of time, the being returned to the UFO and flew off. At that time the man had not heard of the earlier incident and lay awake the rest of the night fearing he had lost his sanity. During the evening farmers and ranchers in the immediate area noticed that something was badly frightening their animals. The incidents were investigated by law-enforcement personnel and a local NICAP representative (Keyhoe and Lore, 1969a).

Type C: Butler, Pennsylvania, area, March 20, 1967, after 11 P.M. Earlier in the evening Mrs. R. had seen unusual lights moving at a low altitude. Her husband and her daughter decided to go looking for them in the isolated rural area where they lived. They prowled the back roads for a period of time, then decided to stop, turn off the headlights, and see if anything showed up. A few minutes later Mr. R. stepped out of the car and looked a mile down the road. There he spotted two yellowish-white globes of light at 200-foot altitude. Suddenly the two objects took off toward the car, maintaining a parallel course. Half a mile away they exchanged places but otherwise kept the same speed and position relative to each other. Though they heard no sound, the witnesses thought they were viewing two private aircraft. The objects came down a quarter of a mile away, then shot toward the witnesses at a 70- to 80-mph speed.

The daughter heard a "chorus of voices" inside her head. They were saying, "Don't move" repeatedly, but in a slow, dragged-out manner. Mr. R., all but paralyzed with fear, managed to reach inside the car and switch on the headlights. Then, 50 yards away, the mysterious lights abruptly disappeared, and that same moment the voices no longer sounded in her head. Moments later, 10 feet from their car, the witnesses saw five figures standing in an irregular semicircle. The terrified Mr. R. got into the car, started it, and put it into reverse. Meanwhile his daughter was staring at the figures:

They just stood there. . . . They looked like human beings, but their faces were totally devoid of expression, and unlike a human face. Their eyes . . . were horizontal 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. . . .

All five were dressed alike, somewhat sloppily, in gray-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. . . .

To get away, Mr. R. had to go forward and drive around the figures. They were so terrified that they drove immediately to their minister's house. They thought they might have encountered demons. The incident was thoroughly investigated by the Pittsburgh UFO Research Institute (Schmidt, 1968).

Type D: Hartford City, Indiana, area, October 22-23, 1973, 9:45 P.M. to after midnight. DeWayne and Debbie Donathan were returning home and were just a block from their rural residence nine miles east of Hartford City when they saw two strange-looking figures 30 feet ahead of them on the road. Four feet tall, they were dressed in tight-fitting silver suits and wore boxlike shoes. Their heads appeared to be covered. They moved in clumsy fashion, their arms flopping oddly along their sides almost as if they were performing a sort of dance. Startled and frightened, Debbie, who was driving, accelerated, and swerved around the figures. The car's approach seemed to confuse them, but they quickly dashed off the road.

When last seen, they were standing behind a corn-field fence. They were in view for half a minute.

The couple alerted the sheriff's office. A deputy, a civilian friend, and a state police officer investigated. They saw nothing, but all heard a high-frequency sound of unknown origin. Around midnight the deputy and the friend, Gary Flatter, returned to the site, the former searching in one direction, the latter the other. South of the original sighting location, Flatter noticed that wild animals were leaving the area. Then he heard the high-frequency sound again, and his headlights picked up two four-foot figures 20 feet off the side of the road. The glare was such, however, that he could not see them well, so he backed off some 75 feet on the theory that he could view them more successfully at the edge of the headlights.

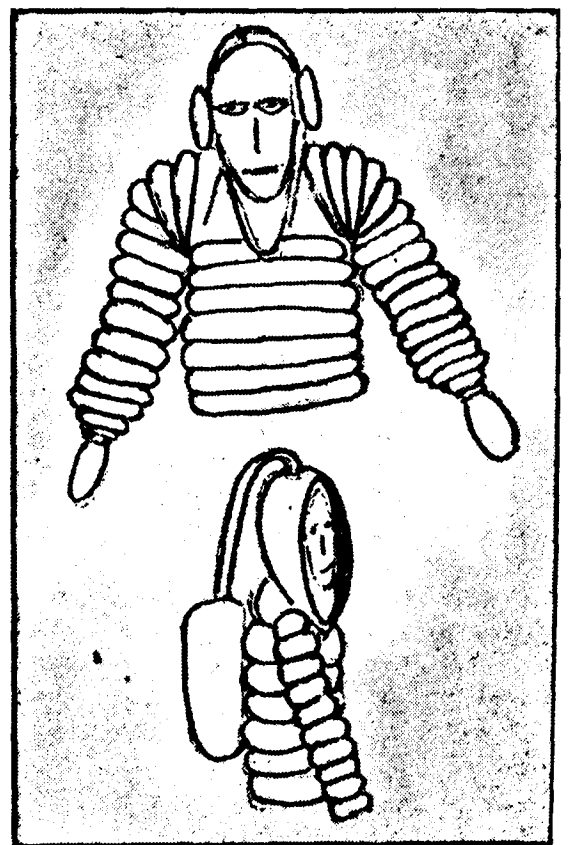
The figures resembled the ones the Donathans had described earlier, except that Flatter could discern a hose going from their egg-shaped helmets down to their lower chests. They moved slowly. Three times they rose three feet into the air, then floated down. The fourth time they did not come down but flew away, still standing erectly. Flatter still heard the sound and thought he saw "red tracer streaks" falling from the sky.

Don Worley, an experienced ufologist, investigated the case for APRO. The incident occurred during the fall 1973 nationwide UFO wave ("Occupants," 1973; Worley, 1976). So many CE3s were reported in that period that David Webb would fill a monograph, *1973—Year of the Humanoids* (1976), with them.

Type E: South River, New Jersey, area, October 23, 1963, 11 P.M. Driving south on Route 18, R.S. glimpsed something like a flashlight shining off to his left. Almost instantaneously three figures, three to four feet tall, crossed the road in front of him. They were dressed in "tight-fitting silver-gray one-piece suits" which "seemed to glow once they hit the headlights." The first figure was three yards ahead of its companions, who were spaced a yard or so apart. Their heads were round and proportionate to their body size, but R.S. saw no features. He could not determine whether they were wearing helmets. He told investigator Ted Bloecher:

Now, there was something very unusual about . . . the way they moved. These figures . . . did not run like a normal human being would. I would say that their movements were at least twice as fast as the fastest sprinter. And their leg movements. . . . It was almost like they *fluttered* across that road; they didn't *run*. . . . I've seen deer and all kinds of small game and I never saw anything move that fast [Bloecher, 1975a].

Type G: Sedalia, Missouri, August 16, 1965, 10:45 P.M.-12:20 A.M. D.S. left her house on the northwest edge of town to drive to a local drug store, five to 10 minutes away, to pick up diapers and cigarettes. After quickly completing her business there, she started back home. A few blocks from the house, she slowed down to observe an unusual-looking figure in the ditch to her right. The figure seemed to be picking things up. It turned and waved at her, then stumbled as it tried to come out of the ditch toward her. She saw something—perhaps a large bird—fly up into



An Argentine gaucho allegedly observed this entity inside a hovering UFO in 1972.

the air just a few feet from the front of her car. She stepped on the gas and fled the scene. On arriving home, she met an irate husband who demanded to know where she had been. It was 12:25 A.M. Confused, she could only say that an encounter with a giant bird had delayed her. She also had vague memories of flashing lights. Perhaps there had been an accident, and for some reason she could not recall the details. She realized that none of this made much sense, and the incident continued to puzzle her for years afterwards.

In 1977 under hypnotic regression she recounted this experience:

In the ditch to her right she spotted two figures which she thought at first were birds. A second glance revealed them to be entities dressed in one-piece suits which covered everything but the front parts of their heads. One carried a sack or container on its back, and the other dropped clumps of grass, stones, and soil into it. The two figures, approximately five feet tall, bounced up and down, their arms flopping at their sides in a manner somewhat reminiscent of bird wings. At the same time their movements were strangely stiff.

One figure slipped as it attempted to come out of the ditch. On its second try it succeeded. It walked toward her car, waving its arm as if to get her to stop. The car had already died, and she was helpless and terrified. The figure's head was wrapped up in tape "like a mummy," with only the eyes visible. It shined a light on her face, and her head and legs hurt. She felt paralyzed.

While the figure was standing outside her car, a large, glowing football-shaped object, with a red light and a number of white ones along its bottom, landed on the road. The glow subsided as it settled, and it then took on a metallic appearance. The figure walked around the car, while the other one left the ditch and headed in the direction of the object. A door opened in the bottom of the craft. Three entities, different from the mummylike figures, stepped outside and approached the car. The tallest of them (about five and one-half feet in height) opened the door and assured D.S. that she would not be hurt but that she must come with them. The words were not spoken but somehow registered inside her head.

The beings carried D.S., whose legs could not move, up a flight of stairs and into the ship. She was taken into a room with curved walls and told to lie on a round metal table. The being who had originally spoken to her, and whom D.S. regarded as the leader, would be the only one to communicate with her during the experience. Though he was generally human in appearance, his head was slightly pointed, and his eyes wrapped around the sides of his head. He had no lips, just a slit along the line of the mouth.

There were two other entities in the room. They were a foot shorter than the leader, and their eyes were rounder. Their foreheads were wrinkled, while the leader's skin was smooth. D.S. suspected they were older. Something about them made her feel uncomfortable, and she did not like them. They assisted the leader in stripping her down to her underwear, and she underwent a physical examination in which her hair was examined and her skin was scraped. Looking at her feet, the leader seemed excited at the sight of red toenail polish, at first thinking that these were her toenails' natural color. He said that his people did not have toes, and he produced what appeared to be a model foot to demonstrate the point.

A round, flat device was taken out of the wall and placed on her head. The leader explained that he was about to take a picture. D.S. experienced brief pain as "pins" seemed to penetrate the top of her head and enter her brain. She felt as if her body had been "blown up with air or something." She was then shown the picture of a small screen on the wall. The picture showed lines, dots, and dashes in various colors. When she said that did not look like her, she had the impression that he smiled.

She had only to think a question to receive an answer. She asked him why they were doing what they were doing. He said it was to determine the differences between people. She asked him (strangely; D.S. was then entirely naive about the subject of UFOs) if he lived nearby. He said no, that his home was in the sky far away. D.S. insisted that was impossible because people don't live there. He replied that they do. He showed her a map of stars on the screen, pointed to one, and told her it was their home world. He said they had come to collect "samples" but that aircraft had chased them and caused them trouble. Other

people were here, too, such as those she had seen at the initiation of the episode. Sometimes they and other races cooperated on specific projects.

On board the ship were two other occupants who looked like the leader but were a little shorter. One was the pilot. D.S. became aware of the second when she saw a clearly female figure enter the room carrying a tray. On her clothing was an insignia which looked to D.S. like a red lightning bolt.

At some point during the incident, the object moved over to the field adjacent to the road so as to avoid detection. D.S. was told that her car had been moved as well, though when she was escorted out of the craft she found it where she had left it.

Finally she was escorted out of the craft and put in her car. Her conscious memory of the on-board experience was wiped out, leaving her with a series of vague, disconnected images which she struggled unsuccessfully to turn into coherent recall.

The case was investigated in the late 1970s by Jerome Clark, assisted by hypnotist Ron Owen.

The humanoids. In four out of five CE3 reports, the aliens are described as humanoid or even humanlike. (A surprising number of accounts involve beings of strikingly human appearance [see, for example, **Laxson CE3**; also *Emergence*, pp. 94-95].) But under the broad heading of "humanoids" we find a variety of beings. Some examples:

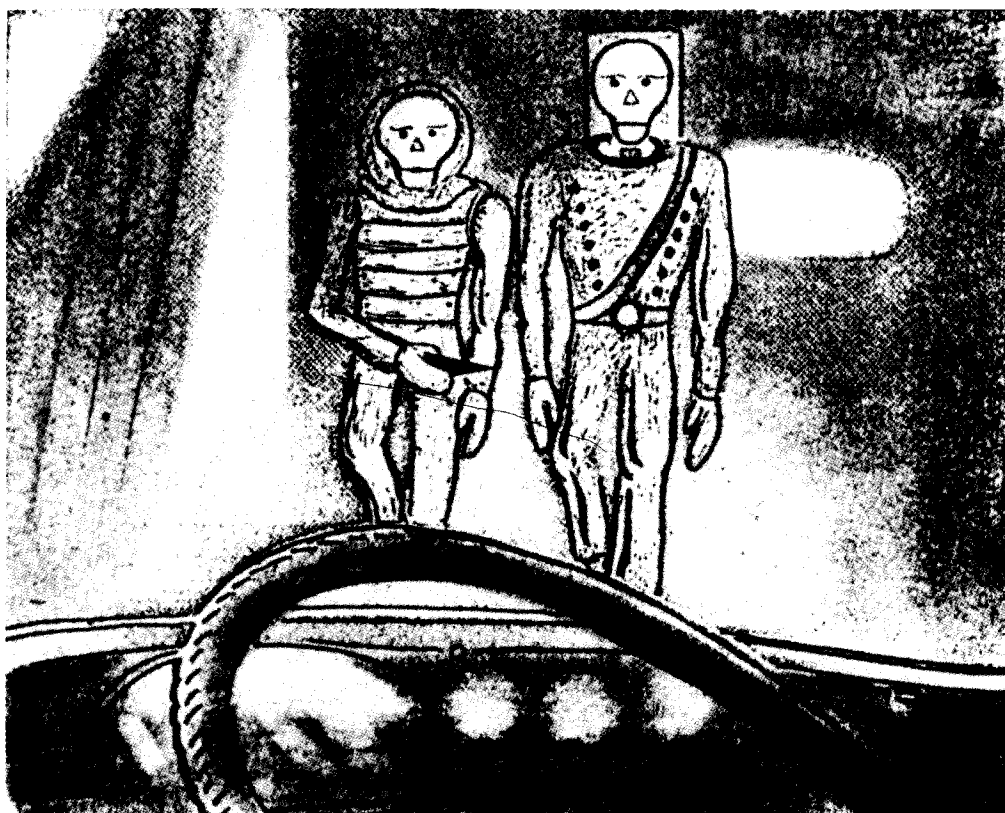
Green men. On the late evening of July 17, 1968, a Brazilian civil servant allegedly was snatched off the São Paulo Highway and taken into a UFO by four green entities wearing devices that looked like headphones. While he was in a state of paralysis, they queried him via telepathy about human customs, physiology, and reproduction. The creatures departed abruptly as if in response to instructions (Creighton, 1969c). A Malone, Wisconsin, farmer and his son saw a UFO descend and apparently land in a field out of view around 10 P.M. on August 7, 1976. The son, 15, drove to the area and shone his headlights out into the field. There he spotted an object the size of a "small camper-trailer." He also saw two green men, one slightly taller than the witness (5'7"), the other shorter. They put their hands up and "disappeared somehow." The youth was too frightened to notice

anything in particular about their features (Sondergard, 1976).

Naked alien. One evening in late August or early September 1960, Rhodes McCarroll and his grandfather, sitting on the upstairs back porch of their Memphis home, noticed a glowing basketball-sized globe in the soil by the hedge. They observed it idly for five minutes, then saw something else: a figure standing some distance behind the ball. It was a glowing nude, generally humanlike figure, about six feet tall, holding a light at chest level. The figure was square-shouldered and "seemed to have unusually long legs for the proportion of its body . . . very high set in the hips" with a "wide set hipline. Its long legs were narrow and pointed between the knees and ankles." The two witnesses watched the figure and the globe for five minutes, at which point both began to fade and were gone from sight entirely in another five minutes (McCarroll, 1978). For earlier cases of unclad aliens, see *Emergence*, 295-97.

Reptilians. David Seewaldt, 13, was crossing a vacant lot in Calgary, Alberta, at 6 P.M. on November 17, 1967. A high-pitched sound alerted him to the imminent landing of a silvery-gray UFO the size of a house. A beam of light shot from it, put him "in a trance," and pulled him into the ship, where he met two hideous-looking entities with brown crocodile skin, slits for mouths, and hole for noses and ears. The creatures, which wore no clothes, had hands with four fingers. They removed his clothes and led him to another room, where one studied his hair, eyes, and nose. An orange ceiling light was directed on him, and he was given a shot with a small needle. The entities dressed him again and beamed him back to the field. He ran home in a state of terror and hid under the bed. All conscious memory of the experience vanished until five months later, when it returned in a dream. An investigation commenced a year after the incident included hypnotic probing by a University of Alberta psychologist (Allan, 1975; Slate, 1976).

Robots. On October 12, 1963, at 3:30 A.M., driving in a blinding rainstorm on the highway between Monte Maiz and Isla Verde, Argentina, Eugenio Douglas felt heat and a prickly sensation all over his body. He saw a brilliant light in front of him. Temporarily blinded,



In a 1970 case a Belgian witness claimed to have been approached by these two beings when his car stalled.

he lost control of his truck and ended up in the ditch. Shaken though not injured, he got out of the vehicle and looked up at the road, which he discovered was blocked by an oval-shaped object at least 30 feet high. A door opened on the side, and three huge “robots in human form” emerged. They wore helmets with short antennas, and they were 12 to 15 feet tall. Douglas took a few shots at them with his revolver and ran away. The “robots” returned to their ship, which chased him down the road. The UFO eventually flew away. The next day police found big footprints near the abandoned truck (Bowen, 1974).

The nonhumanoids. A small minority of reports describe entities other than humanoid in appearance. Consider, for example, this story told by a provincial French businessman:

One evening in November 1962 I was driving along a minor departmental road in Var. It was a dark night, and raining in torrents, so that I was driving with my lights full on. Rounding a

bend, I saw, 80 meters ahead, a group of figures clustered in the middle of the road. I slowed down to avoid the group, and at the same moment it split into two parts, suddenly and jerkily. My window was down and I leaned my head out slightly to see what was the matter; it was then that I saw beasts, some kind of bizarre animals, with the heads of birds, and covered in some sort of plumage, which were hurling themselves from two sides towards my car.

Terrified, I wound up the window, accelerated like a madman, and then stopped 150 meters further on. I turned round and saw these things, these beasts, these nightmarish sort of beings, which were heading, with a sort of flapping of wings, towards a luminous dark-blue object which hung in the air over a field on the other side of the road. It resembled two plates upside down, and placed on one another. On reaching it, these “birds” were literally sucked into the underpart of the machine as if by a whirlwind.

Then I heard a dull sound (clac!) and the object flew off at a prodigious speed and finally disappeared [Trigano, 1968].

The witness, who insisted on anonymity, said to French ufologist Lyonel Trigano that he had told few people about the experience for fear of being thought insane. The story is generally reminiscent of the Mothman tales chronicled elsewhere in this book.

On October 23, 1965, on Highway 27, four miles east of Long Prairie, Minnesota, 19-year-old radio announcer James Townsend slammed his brakes to avoid hitting a rocketlike device resting on three fins or legs. As the car skidded to a stop 20 feet from the object, the vehicle's motor and electrical system died. The "rocket," made of what looked like stainless steel, stood 30 to 40 feet high and 10 feet in diameter. In a circle of light under it, Townsend observed three things which resembled beer cans with "tripod legs and three matchstick arms." They had no eyes, but nonetheless Townsend felt "they were looking right at me." When he got out of the car, they came up to him, and a tense standoff followed. Eventually they "turned around and scooted under the ship," disappearing into the light beneath it. An ear-splitting humming sound emanated from the UFO which assumed a bright illumination and shot off. Both law-enforcement officers and civilian investigators did not doubt that Townsend, an intensely religious man, was sincere ("'Little, Little Men,'" 1965; "Space 'Things,'" 1965; Jansen, 1966).

The barking of their dog awoke an Upton, Quebec, farmer, his wife, and their two children near midnight on July 28, 1968. When the farmer stepped outside, a sparkling, rotating "cloud," dark on the bottom but glowing on top, flew overhead and into a nearby field. As his eyes followed it there, the witness saw four or five entities with bottle-shaped heads chasing his cattle. The entities, three feet high, vanished when the UFO passed above them. The cattle seemed sick for weeks afterwards (Musgrave, 1979).

A Serra de Almos, Spain, farmer doing chores in his barnyard at 6 A.M. on August 16, 1968, glimpsed a light over half a mile away. He thought someone's car had stalled, so he walked over with his dog intending to help the stranded motorist—only to find a globe-shaped, glowing object hovering a yard above the

ground. On the other side of it, he was shocked to see two hideous creatures of an octopuslike appearance. Light-colored, three feet tall, they were running on "four or five legs" toward the UFO, which abruptly departed. Reporters and ufologists found a considerable area of burned grass at the site. Those who went there not long after the incident found that their watches stopped mysteriously (Ballester Olmos, 1976).

Generally speaking, reports of nonhumanoids are more likely to have visible plausibility problems than are their humanoid counterparts. A survey of published accounts of anomalous CE3s accomplished in the course of writing this entry found that relatively few had been properly investigated. Those that had often involved claimants whom investigators found to be imaginative, dubiously credible, or already fascinated by the esoteric. A disproportionate number of "witnesses" are small children. Many other such stories exist merely as stories from newspapers, often South American, of uncertain authority. All CE3 narratives should be received with caution, of course, but none more so than those involving outlandish entities.

CE3s and pre-UFO experiences. Attempts to treat UFO encounters as "folklore" have by now generated a considerable literature, ever since Jacques Vallee's 1969 book *Passport to Magonia* (subtitled *From Folklore to Flying Saucers*) sought to link modern CE3s to traditional supernatural narratives. Much of this writing has been strained and speculative. As Bullard, one of the few academically trained folklorists participating in the discussion, has written in the course of an extended critique, "comparisons of UFOs to other phenomena may be overrated, depending too much on superficial analogies and too little on verifiable homologies" (Bullard, 1991; see also *UFOs in the 1980s*, 172-85). Nonetheless from time to time a CE3 story will contain elements of supernatural lore that predates the modern UFO phenomenon. For instance:

For approximately a two-decade period, between the late 1960s and the late 1980s, numerous UFO sightings occurred at the Yakima Indian Reservation in south-central Washington. Witnesses included native residents, farmers, and fire-control officers. Many of the sightings were capably investigated, and some were strange indeed. A particularly remarkable incident is

said to have taken place late on the evening of December 14, 1975, along a gravel road on Toppenish Ridge.

The witness, whom investigators gave the pseudonym "Jim Miller," saw a cow and two calves running toward him as if fleeing from something. Moments later Miller saw three figures in the ditch. One bounded onto the road, covering 15 feet in a single slow-motion leap, its arms above its head. As it stood facing Miller, the unnerved young man could see it was a skinny, seven-foot-tall man with a narrow, pale face and long, pointed nose. The "man" was dressed in close-fitting black clothing and boots. On his chest there was a white trapezoid insignia. According to one account:

The upper lip appeared to be pulled back in a permanent snarl, and fine teeth were visible. The lower lip was either missing or very small. The man's shoulder-length hair was brownish or reddish-blond, matted and stringy. The fingers on both of the man's bare hands were long, and the creature grasped something purple in his left hand. The thing had a wire on it, which appeared to run down the creature's arm. Jim noticed that the other two individuals remained close together at the side of the road. They were wearing the same kind of clothing, complete with white markings [Long, 1990].

Miller accelerated, swerving around the figure, and a few moments later a bright, elongated UFO appeared behind him. The interior of the truck and a 10-foot area around it were flooded with light. Apparently the UFO had shone a searchlight on the vehicle.

Suddenly Miller became aware of a "shadow" in the passenger seat to his right. From the shape of the head and the coat, Miller "knew" it was a friend of his. The friend looked at Miller, then leaned forward and gazed up at the light coming into the windshield. He then fell back, wiped his eyes, and vanished. At that moment the light disappeared. Miller became convinced at that moment that his friend had died. The next morning he learned that his friend had been killed in a shooting the previous night.

That day investigators Willard Vogel and David Akers interviewed Miller and his parents, whom he had

awakened in a terrible fright as soon as he got home. He gave every appearance of being sincere and had no desire for publicity. Interestingly enough, three months later a ranch family on the reservation reported to tribal police that they had seen two tall humanoid creatures chasing their cattle. The beings were identical to those Miller had described in his own then-unpublished sighting. The second incident took place about 10 miles from the site of Miller's experience.

These entities remarkably resemble a figure known in Victorian history and folklore as "Springald" or "Springheel Jack." The figure, of violent disposition, first came to the attention of the London police in September 1837. Besides looking much like the entities Miller reported, Jack was noted for being able to jump great distances, thus his nickname. Despite the constabulary's best efforts Jack's depredations went on, more or less uninterrupted, until 1845, when witnesses saw him throw a young prostitute into an open sewer where she drowned. Alleged sightings of a Jack figure elsewhere in England were recorded in 1877 and 1904, and in 1953, in Houston, Texas, three witnesses reported much the same sort of being in association with a UFO sighting. (These matters are discussed in more detail in *Emergence*, pp. 318-20.)

Even more curiously, Miller's account is more than a UFO story. It is also a ghost story, incorporating a phenomenon known to psychical researchers and folklorists as a "crisis apparition"—the appearance of a ghost to a friend or relative at the moment of death.

The venerable "vanishing hitchhiker" shows up in a very small number of CE3 reports. At around 3 A.M. on August 28, 1972, Eduardo Fernando de Deugd, owner of a repair shop in Bahia Blanca, Argentina, was driving home from a social engagement in nearby Medanos when someone waved as if to flag a ride. De Deugd stopped his car and asked the hitchhiker if he was going to Bahia Blanca. The man's reply was unintelligible. He was wearing a coat with a turned-up collar, and a round cap covered his skull and half his forehead. He had a jaw so elongated that it came down almost to his chest.

Further efforts to engage the stranger in conversation went nowhere, so de Deugd concentrated on his driving. As he neared Bahia Blanca, his car lights

went off all of a sudden. Ahead of him he saw what he first took to be an overturned bus, with a blue light in its middle and two smaller white lights along the sides. As he stepped out of the car, an intense white flash hit him, and he felt hot. He ducked behind the open door and peered past it moments later. The "bus" was now moving away to the left. He jumped back into his vehicle. The stranger was gone. The passenger door was open, the handle broken and lying on the floor. When de Deugd looked again, the "bus" had disappeared. A factory worker who lived close to the sighting location told police he had seen an object "like a kind of bus" hovering near the highway and flashing white lights at 3 A.M. The story attracted considerable attention in the Argentine press ("Further Details," 1973; Thomas, 1972b).

As Vallee was the first to observe, some CE3 stories—were a detail or two (such as the presence of a UFO) to be eliminated—would be hard to distinguish from traditional narratives about another variety of humanoids, otherwise known as fairies. (It is not generally known that fairylore exists not just in folktales but in what purport to be firsthand reports of encounters with these entities. Such reports are discussed sympathetically in such classic folkloric texts as Robert Kirk's *The Secret Commonwealth* [1691], W. B. Yeats's *The Celtic Twilight* [1902], and W. Y. Evans-Wentz's *The Fairy-Faith in Celtic Countries* [1911].) One example of this sort of report comes from an elderly farmhand in rural Seville, Spain.

On September 12, 1971, around 7 P.M., the man, who was staying in a hut near a melon field in which he worked during the day, sighted a bus-sized object as it landed near an abandoned well some 1000 feet from him. Over 50 "soldiers" in blue "uniforms" emerged. Of normal human appearance, they wore no hats or helmets. They marched in formation into a hollow in the field and were lost to view. The old man now could see only five or six "chiefs" (as he called them) standing on a slope and staring in his direction. When they shined a light at him, he ducked behind the hut. A little while later he looked out again, and they shined the light once more. Thoroughly frightened, he fled to the nearest town to inform his employers, who did not take him seriously. Neither did the local police. In the following days he insisted that the object and the "soldiers" had left marks in

the ground, but no one would go to the site to look at them.

The story eventually came to the attention of Spanish ufologists, including Ignacio Darnaude, for whom the witness had once worked. Darnaude and other ufologists interviewed him at length. Describing him as "illiterate, with only the most rudimentary of intellectual capacities," Darnaude wrote that "he is totally incapable of inventing a story so sophisticated as the one he told us" (Darnaude, 1974).

The problem with the story, however, has less to do with the old man's credibility than with the fact that the incident is amenable to a third interpretation, which happens to be the one the witness held: that he observed "some secret military operation that was being hatched up . . . or some political plot." Darnaude dismisses this interpretation as laughable without explaining why. It is true that humanlike UFO occupants in blue suits are hardly unknown in the literature, but the true nature of this episode is uncertain.

In 1972 Gordon Creighton wrote of an "interesting confidential report about happenings on a farm less than a hundred miles from London." He noted a long-standing local fairy tradition. An unnamed investigator had collected reports of "gnomes" one-third the size of human beings, patches of fields where nothing would grow, mysterious car and tractor stallings, and "throbbing" sounds in the air "suggestive of invisible wings." Creighton promised that he would investigate personally, but nothing further appeared. These vague claims fuse elements of modern CE3 lore and older fairy beliefs (Creighton, 1972).

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COLUSA CE1

At 12:54 A.M. on September 10, 1976, Bill Pecha, Jr., a 39-year-old self-employed farm mechanic, was watching television in his home three miles southwest of Colusa, California, when suddenly the picture tube crackled, faded, and blacked out. At the same moment the air conditioner died. Assuming the circuit breakers had failed, Pecha—clad only in his underwear shorts—stepped out of the house, turned to the right (south), and walked on his lawn. A few feet from the underground cable running between his machine shop and his house, he felt the hair on his body rise as if subjected to an electric current.

He revised his original idea and now thought the cable was shorting out. Yet even when he passed over the cable and moved away from it, the electrical sensation continued, even growing in intensity. Then he noticed a diffuse grayish-white light in the southwest, in the direction of his barn. When he looked up, he saw a large domed, disc-shaped object hovering