

# STELLA LANSING'S UFO MOTION PICTURES

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"Impossible is a word only to be found in the dictionary of fools."—Napoleon

A CONCLUDING statement of my lecture, "Ufology and Psychiatry," at the APRO Eastern Symposium, Baltimore, Maryland, January 23, 1971, was a quotation from my former teacher, friend, and colleague, Adelaide McF. Johnson, M.D., that could apply to the problem of studying people with close UFO experiences: "We can see now that in years past patients were lost or driven into psychosis by our failure to believe them because of our conviction that much of their accounts must be fantasy."<sup>1</sup>

## Background

Just as I finished my lecture, Gordon Aylott, APRO Field Investigator from New Hampshire, tapped me on the shoulder and said that his friend Mrs. Stella Lansing, a middle-aged Massachusetts housewife, had something to tell me. Instead of having dinner with Mrs. Coral E. Lorenzen and Dr. J. Allen Hynek as planned, I spent the time in the auditorium listening to one of the most unusual accounts of alleged repeated close UFO contacts that I have ever heard. On the surface the data were extraordinary if not preposterous: experiences involving strange little men, voices appearing out of nowhere, creatures, loss of consciousness, "electric shock" from a shimmering figure, a gaping round hole in the ice, a craft possibly surfacing from under water, miniscule footprints, religious symbols, bizarre harassments, etc. Fortunately, as I later learned, Mrs. Lansing kept meticulous records of her many experiences.

## The Contactee's Evidence: Psychiatric Study

The *pièce de résistance* was Mrs. Lansing's mention of various motion picture films of UFOs, including one reel showing an alleged UFO with four occupants. Fortunately she had brought her films to the APRO meeting, for without such evidence her story would have been completely incredible. That is, if one was not familiar with some of the bizarre aspects of ufology from first-hand study, one could reasonably conclude that because of Mrs. Lansing's claims she would have to be emotionally ill and in need of psychiatric attention. Plans were made for further study, and on February 12 and 13, 1971, and April 15, 16 and 17, 1971, I visited Mrs. Lansing at her lake-front home in rural Massachusetts. This field trip study was supplemented by numerous phone calls and letters. From May 13 through 17, 1971, Mrs. Lansing was further intensively

studied in my office (Montclair, New Jersey). At that time physical, neurological, and electroencephalographic examinations revealed that her general health was good, and the central nervous system was objectively intact. There were no impairments of vision, hearing, or intellectual functions.

From psychiatric evaluation of Mrs. Lansing, I concluded that, allowing for her total ethnic and social background and the specific situational aspects of her accounts, she was telling the truth as she saw it about her experiences. There was no history nor motive for deception or exaggeration. She did not use any drugs (except aspirin) or hallucinogenic agents; she only infrequently used alcohol.

She was a high school graduate who, before marriage, had one year of nurse's training. Throughout her marriage she has worked off and on in nursing homes, as a part-time jewellery store clerk, as a cocktail waitress, as an injection moulder in a plastics factory, and as a taxi driver. She has been active in various social and school organisations, and was formerly the president of her hometown VFW Auxiliary, and the Button Club (an organisation of antique collectors).

Early in the course of her UFO investigations (1967) Mrs. Lansing became acutely disturbed, possibly due to bitter frustration at the refusal of those close to her to listen to her and believe her experiences, or look at her films. Following a brief meeting with her priest, she entered a nearby state hospital for study and treatment. In his letter of April 28, 1971, the hospital's Director of Clinical Psychiatry kindly sent a summary of Mrs. Lansing's hospitalisation. She was diagnosed as paranoid schizophrenia, with many typical symptoms, including hallucinations of seeing flying saucers. Her initial admission was for ten days, at the end of which she requested release, against medical advice. However, less than a month later she returned and stayed for five additional weeks. She had a satisfactory response to therapy and has had no recurrences since 1967.

When seen in 1971, she recalled all the complex details of her illness and the possible interphase areas of UFOs and psychopathology. At the time of her illness in 1967, she, a practising Roman Catholic, believed that she received the UFO-related (telepathic) communications from Beelzebub. In former centuries she might have been considered to be possessed. Many of the symptoms of her schizophrenic reaction, as recalled in 1971, were similar to the peculiar religious



Stella Lansing

colouration also found in numerous contactees, as reported by Keel<sup>2</sup> and Vallée.<sup>3</sup> Mrs. Lansing had no particular previous interest in the Bible or religious literature.

Mrs. Lansing had a very literal, down-to-earth type of exacting mind. She just recorded the facts. Beyond that she was quite as puzzled as anyone and had no explanation for her experiences other than that they actually happened. That is why she originally turned to her priest for an explanation. She was not widely or well read at that time, or for two years afterwards. She was busy with her research, working, and raising five children.

Mrs. Lansing took the Periodic Health Examination History (AMA, Form A), the Cornell Medical Index Questionnaire, Rotter Incomplete Sentences test, and the computerised Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI). Again, there was no suggestion of lying, delusions, hallucinations, or impairment in her general health. The MMPI appraised the validity of the results as follows: "The responses are not polarised in direction of favourability or unfavourability, which indicated the subject presents a reasonably candid picture of herself in the test."

Although, like many people, Mrs. Lansing's past and present life adjustment had its imperfections, with periods of stress and trial, she impressed the author as being completely honest.\* She related warmly and openly. She showed me all her material and drove me to the places where the reputed UFO sightings took place.

In my opinion, Mrs. Lansing's probity was supported by modified collaborative investigation of her husband, a mechanical engineer and former counter-intelligence corps corporal in General Patton's 3rd Army, and their three children who were at home at the time of my visit.

During our sessions, Mrs. Lansing showed me

numerous memoranda and drawings, many recorded at the time of the UFO events, by her children, others, and herself. Some of this material was remarkable: the data dovetailed and there was no conflict.

Several of Mrs. Lansing's friends were also interviewed. Many of her more than three hundred regular and super 8 mm. 50-foot colour film reels of UFOs, including the one close-up shot, clearly show that some

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\* The question is not so much *what* happened to her past life, as *how* well she managed the various traumas, and *how* her past life experiences might have influenced her truthfulness or interpretation of her data; and *how* her psychopathology and psychophysiology might have made her a candidate for such data: viz., what was the specific interaction, if any, between her and the UFOs?

The contactee should be studied in her own habitat as much as possible. Her history should be taken as it is given, without disrupting, premature interrogations (or interpretations!) or other indications on the scientist's part that could well dampen the spontaneity and hinder the flow of the material. Although some, or much, of what the contactee has to say might sound strange or even resemble a Keystone-cops routine, it should not be rejected out-of-hand. The scientist, as a human being, might have the same unconscious shortcomings of dissociation or denial of much possibly significant material. By observing the contactee, studying her claims, and her pattern of behaviour—even though it might conflict with the scientist's *a priori* values, or his common sense—much might be learned. For, as it appears in the case of Stella Lansing, she might have succeeded through an arduous trial-and-error, at times quasi child-like, approach to a problem. The scientist, on the other hand, has been properly criticised by his colleagues for his failure to duplicate analogous data, or to conduct the repeatable UFO experiment: as in this case, to successfully film UFOs.



kind of craft and four alleged occupants, and other strange phenomena, were viewed. Although most of her films were taken at night, some were daytime films (with filter in and out). The films she showed me must have contained hundreds of strange lights and unidentified aerial objects. In no way were these to be confused with the usual type of artifacts which were also occasionally seen on her films: dust, dirt, lens smudge, etc.

On two occasions hypnotic regression was induced in Mrs. Lansing for the study of two separate episodes of loss of consciousness in connection with very close (and in one instance, photographed) UFO sightings. One of these times Mrs. Lansing was alone and another time she was with a middle-aged woman and man, and four children. Her lady friend, who was also involved in various close sightings, was also quickly hypnotised into a deep trance and regressed to the time of the unusual alleged experience involving eight UFO occupants.† The hypnotic interviews were undertaken in the presence of Mrs. Lansing's husband on one occasion. At a different time, both Mrs. Lansing and her lady friend were hypnotised separately in the presence of each other and the lady friend's sister. The reported material did not conflict and, for the most part, was tape recorded.

#### Electroencephalographic Studies

Because of Mrs. Lansing's two episodes of loss of consciousness when in close contact with UFOs, plus the "paralytic shock" to the left hand when photographing a "shimmering figure" on another occasion, an electroencephalogram was performed. It should be stated that she had never fainted in her life, nor had she ever had any dissociative behaviour. Following the one episode of loss of consciousness, she evidenced automatic trance-like behaviour during which she operated her car for a period of time. She said: "A wave came over me and I couldn't function properly—couldn't drive or steer correctly—I saw a tree coming at me but had no sensation of being afraid." Fortunately, there were no sequelae. Such behaviour is not too dissimilar to that seen in temporal lobe epilepsy.

† On one occasion, while so entranced, Mrs. Lansing had acute abdominal pain and felt she had to vomit. She had left upper extremity twitches, and was so terrified that she could not talk. She had amnesia when she came out of the trance. This same experience was repeated at a later date. The second time her lady friend was also hypnotised. She was terrified and had grotesque facial grimaces. The friend talked about seeing eight occupants whose heads looked like carved Hallowe'en pumpkins<sup>4</sup> which snarled at her.

Mrs. Lansing produced a document of the second episode which was written almost immediately afterwards (November 9, 1969) by a nine-year-old boy who supposedly was the last to lose consciousness. He wrote (edited for spelling): "We went riding in the car and I saw lights. We flashed to it and it flashed back. We clapped the light on it and it began to come closer. We saw a black man about eight feet tall and I saw something like a wolf, but it was not a wolf. It had a strange body, two and a half feet long. It had three fingers and a face (see Figure 1).

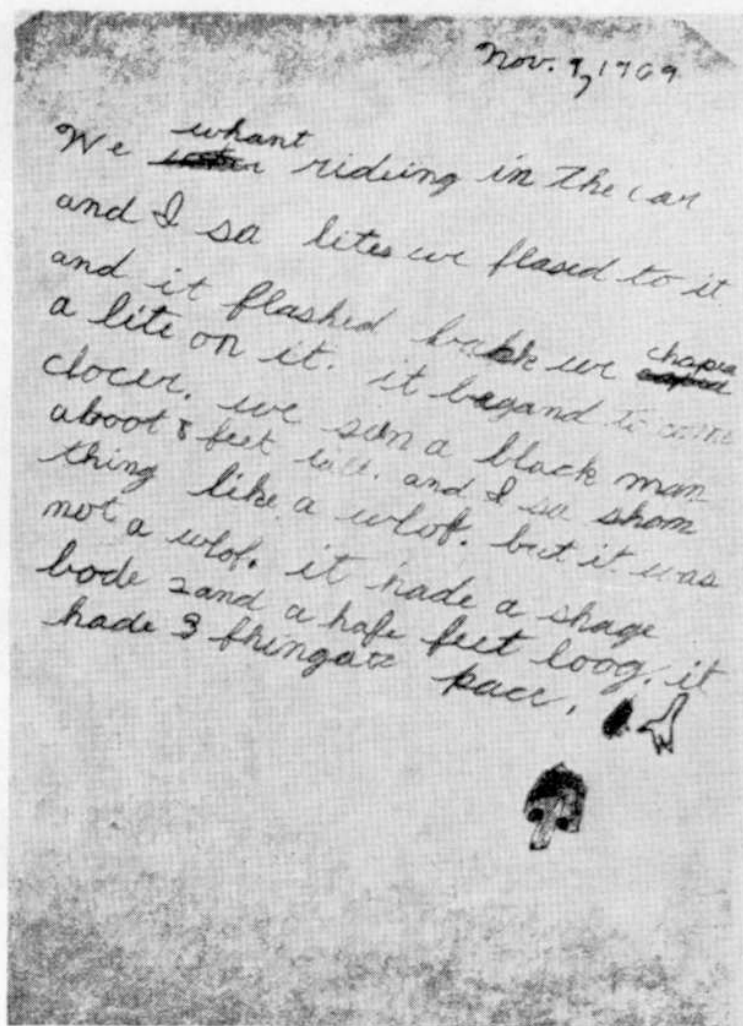


Fig. 1 (see footnote)

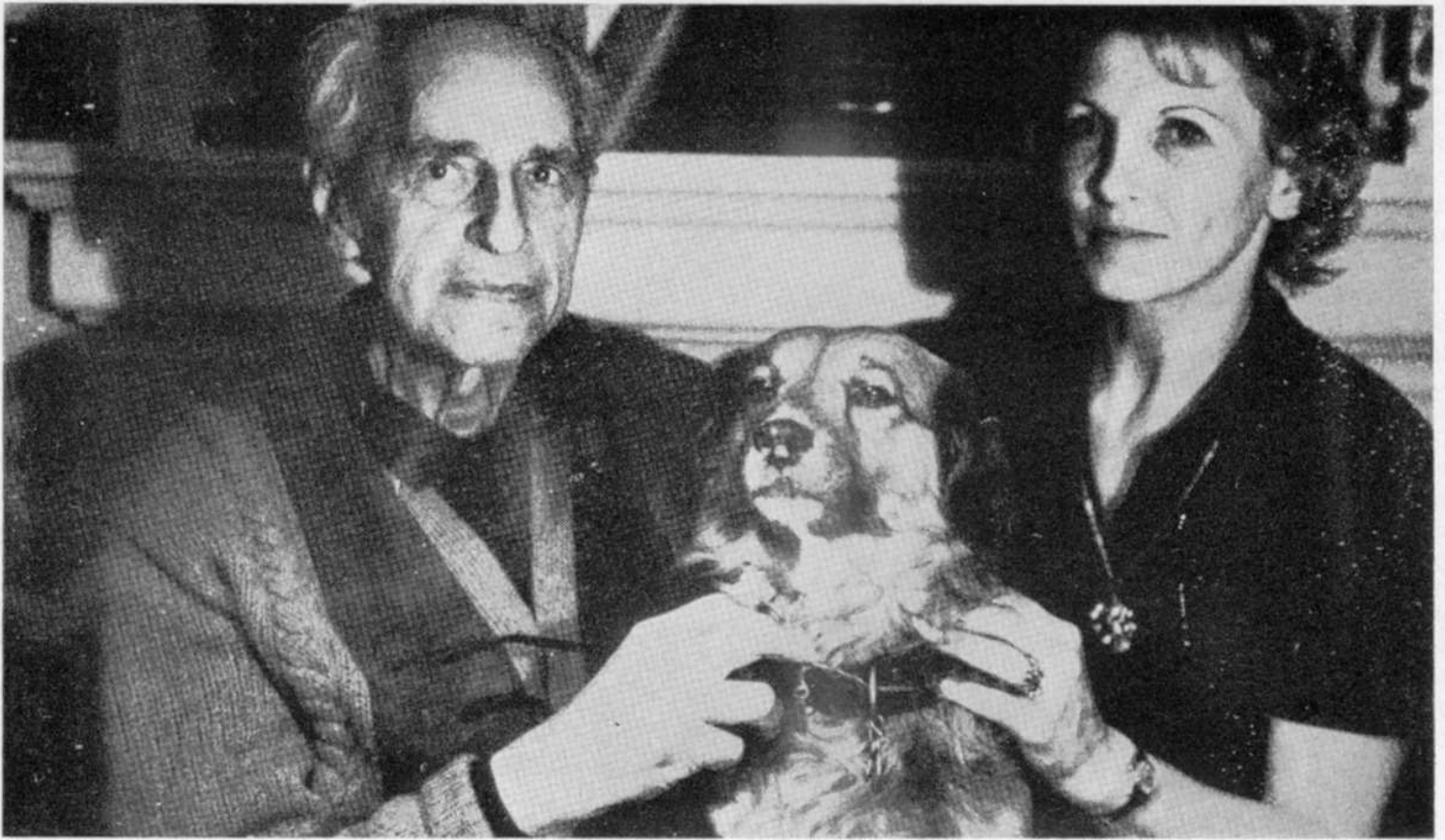
The electroencephalogram was normal. However, because of the infrequency of electroencephalographic reports on persons who are contactees or who have had close UFO experiences<sup>5</sup> mention should be made of the presence of well-developed bilateral wicket rhythms. Although relatively uncommon, the wicket rhythms are a normal finding. Their clinical significance, however, is not apparent.

Hypnotic activation of the electroencephalogram, according to a technique described elsewhere,<sup>6</sup> was undertaken. The patient, contrary to the previous hypnotic trials where a somnambulistic trance with amnesia was obtained, had much resistance, and only a light trance was induced. For the purposes of hypnotic activation, however, this is often sufficient. In any event, no changes were noted at this time.

#### Paranormal Survey

It is beyond the scope of this study to chronicle exhaustively all of Mrs. Lansing's many paranormal experiences. In contrast to many who claim such experiences, and who are quite adept at abstruse religious interpretations and adumbrations of elaborate systems of philosophy, Mrs. Lansing was quite matter of fact and modest about her experiences. She said: "These things happen, I don't know why."

Her experiences are complex and include alleged telepathic, precognitive, and telekinetic events, yet



**Dunninger, Rusty and Stella Lansing**

within the range qualitatively and quantitatively of what one obtains in studying a cross-section of people who have awareness for psi events.<sup>7, 8</sup> The difficulty lies in reconciling Mrs. Lansing's past psi experiences with her possibly psi-related UFO events, which involve, for example, frequent episodes of intuitions and strong hunches (telepathy or subliminal stimuli?) regarding the appearance or absence of UFOs—in some cases recorded on film, dematerialisation (?) an MIB automobile, and the merging of such bizarre physiological feats as allegedly looking at the "sun" when another sun is still evident, without any visual discomfort or impairment, and a (telekinetic, telesomatic, or other modality?) shock from a shining figure that she was photographing.

She has also had vivid visual dream imagery and experiences sometimes bordering on religiously coloured ideas of reference to hypothecated UFO stimuli. In some cases her veridical dreams were verified by independent perception of such (telepathic?) UFO stimuli by the dreams or actual waking experiences (i.e., hallucination or the actual appearance of the face of a ufonaut) of her children at the exact times that her subjective and objective events occurred. Unfortunately, from her own detailed account, study of her assorted notes made at the times, and from observation of her state hospital summary, none of her claims has ever been seriously considered and checked out. This is an all too common practice. Her responses to the most useful Ehrenwald test for psi<sup>9</sup> yielded a wealth of material.

#### **Dunninger**

During her visit in New Jersey, Mrs. Lansing and some of her films were examined by the master telepathist Joseph Dunninger, § at his home (May 13, 1971). Although Dunninger had no explanation, he believed that Mrs. Lansing was truthful and not involved in any hoax. He did not feel that her UFO-related experiences and films conformed to a psychic pattern in the usual sense.

He wondered if ". . . somebody or something had engineered a deal and had brainwashed her without her knowledge—unless it is her subconscious. Many mediums deceive themselves in this way and actually believe in what they do. The pictures have much artifact, but there is also much that is unexplained. They would need careful photographic analysis. Could she be a Trilby to some cosmic-minded Svengali?"

In his vast experience of attending thousands of seances and examining many physical mediums, devices, and alleged "spirit" (or psychic) pictures, Dunninger had never come upon anything similar to the data presented by Mrs. Lansing. He felt that her material was unique and worthy of intensive analysis. In his career of more than half a century, Dunninger has travelled and performed all over the civilised world,

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§ Dunninger also looked at the author's films of the mystery auto and some Polaroid prints made from the projected images. He had no ready explanation but felt that two cameras used by two people at the same time and covering the same scene made a paranormal cause very unlikely.



and has written more than thirty books on telepathy, magic, and exposures of fraudulent mediums.

### Two Field Trips—The Repeatable Experiment

On February 12, 1971, after an evening of intensive interviewing of Mrs. Lansing and her lady and gentleman friends, I went with her, at 4.00 a.m., to one of her favourite UFO sites, overlooking a hilltop that was cleared for high-tension wires. At that time the dark sky was suddenly lit up and we saw a round, pulsating, bright yellow-orange, noiselessly gliding light, which expanded and contracted, went out and relighted. Mrs. Lansing intermittently photographed<sup>¶</sup> this over several minutes, while I tape-recorded the event. Stars and the moon were also seen and photographed as controls. Later, that morning, after I had returned to the motel, Mrs. Lansing, on her way home, had taken more photographs of strange lights in the sky overlooking the Massachusetts Turnpike, with the lights of passing autos in the background.

After viewing her developed motion picture film on April 16, 1971, I felt there was no reason to interpret the possible UFO experience as aeroplanes, radio-TV tower lights, pranks, or various artifacts. Her film revealed numerous, strange, different-coloured geometric forms and shapes. Some of these objects resembled the conventional sketches of various UFOs, as well as the dazzling subjective effects that one experiences under mescaline, LSD-25, and stroboscopic stimulation.<sup>10</sup>

During my second trip to Massachusetts, on the night of April 15, 1971, Mrs. Lansing, her middle-aged lady friend, and I drove to a very isolated rural area at 10.45 p.m. The engine and lights of the car were switched off; we got out of the car, and within minutes the sky over the nearby hill across the field was illuminated by a sudden appearance of one, and then two, white-yellowish-orange discs, which pulsed, changed size and colour, and merged into one, and then separated into two discs; then they noiselessly glided away at varying speeds. This was simultaneously photographed by Mrs. Lansing on her battery-driven motion picture camera<sup>†</sup> and by me on a spring-wound camera. □

¶ Cannon, battery-driven super 8 mm. camera with f/1.4 lens opening and 60 mm. lens. She used Kodachrome II colour film and no filters, often with telephoto and wide-angle lenses.

† The same cameras as described in preceding footnote.

□ Revere 8 mm. Magazine Reflex Model 154, telephoto (28 mm.) lens position (with lens barrel extended) and lens opening manually fixed at f/1.8; type A Indoor Kodachrome II film (ASA 25) with a filter was used. Each frame of the developed film represented one-thirtieth of a second.

+ Even though the original mercury transistor batteries were new, checked and found to be in good condition at the start of the evening, they failed. Immediate replacement with a second set of similar mercury batteries was of no value. However, for no apparent reason, the tape recorder worked well the next morning. At the time of the experience, the temperature was just below freezing; however, the interior of the car was warm because of the heater. Mrs. Lansing's battery-driven camera worked well, and there was no apparent effect on the physician's wrist watch.

Unfortunately, my Sony Cassette-Corder (TC 40) suddenly failed to operate at this time. +

While Mrs. Lansing and I were filming these strange lights, an automobile suddenly seemed to appear out of nowhere. It stopped approximately one to two hundred feet ahead of our car. We were shocked to see its headlights illuminate our dark area and flicker alternately left and right (and *vice versa*) in a manner reminiscent of semaphore signals,\* and then dim out to a pink, and come on again. At the height of the excitement, the lady friend panicked, and screamed to us to get back in the car, which we did. Fortunately I photographed most of this bizarre incident, and for several film frames the flaming disc can be seen gliding in the background, above and then just over the glaring headlights. The latter part of the event was filmed from the interior of Mrs. Lansing's car, and showed reflections from her windshield. The mystery car then suddenly turned up its lights, started its engine, and barrelled past us at great speed. Because of the blinding headlights we could not make out the licence plate, but the auto seemed to be a rather large, nondescript General Motors model of several years ago. The mystery car was noisy and sounded as if its muffler [silencer] was defective. It was impossible to see if there were any occupants in the car. Mrs. Lansing, her friend, and I were completely surprised by this weird incident. § The ladies never had

\* It is hoped that a member of the FSR staff or readership can decipher the signals.

§ The whole question of MIBs and like situations is most difficult to analyse. The pioneering studies of John A. Keel<sup>2, 4</sup> and articles in FSR give many examples of this. The borderline between psychopathology, coincidence, telepathy, and synchronicity, and possible MIB events, is very poorly defined. The author was very surprised to learn from interviews with several respected ufologists that MIB phenomena happen rarely, or never at all. However, upon further pointed questioning, it was learned that one of these people had indeed some excellent examples of MIBs but had consciously dismissed the material because it would contaminate his studies, was too weird to be considered, or was irrelevant to the problem of UFOs. As in many matters, one must first think of the possibility and then have a technique of getting at the information before one concludes that it doesn't exist. This latter policy can only be an example of the investigator's inexperience or ignorance of the phenomena at hand, rather than its non-existence.

In the author's personal experience many odd and possibly UFO-related coincidences have happened. In the study of some close UFO experiences he has the example of a strange telephone interview of Sgt. Ben Thompson<sup>5</sup> of Wanaque, New Jersey, where among several strange and crank events a mysterious caller, allegedly from Washington, D.C., obtained the Sergeant's unlisted number and asked him many questions about the sighting, instructing him to say nothing. On March 31, 1966, Mrs. Connie Bateman, her mother and sister, children, and others, had a very close, tree-height UFO sighting at White Rock Lake, New Jersey. The following morning Mrs. Bateman's mother received a 'phone call to her unlisted number. She was admonished not to discuss the matter with the newspapers (or anyone). The mother got the impression that the mystery caller was from the government, although he gave no identification.

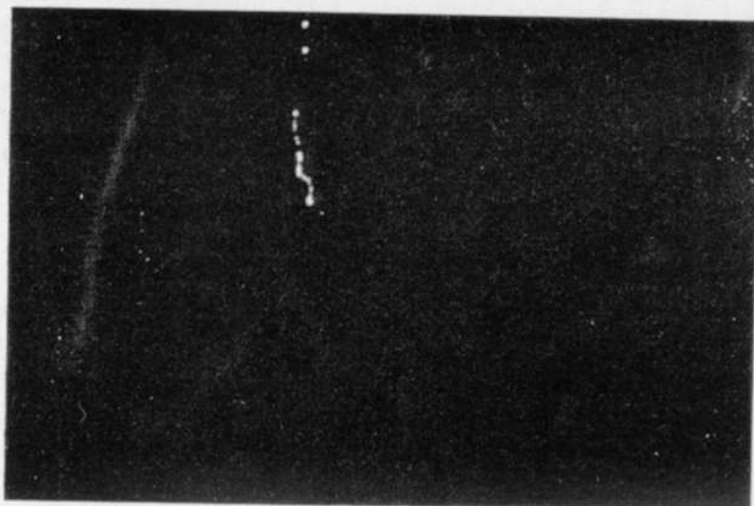


Fig. 1

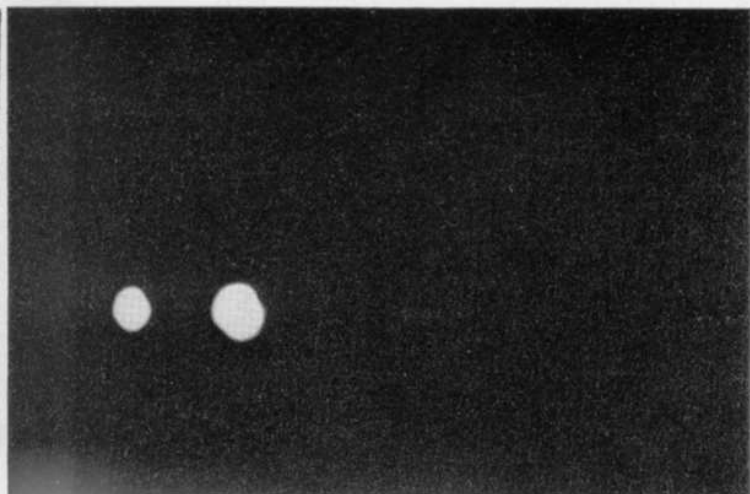


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

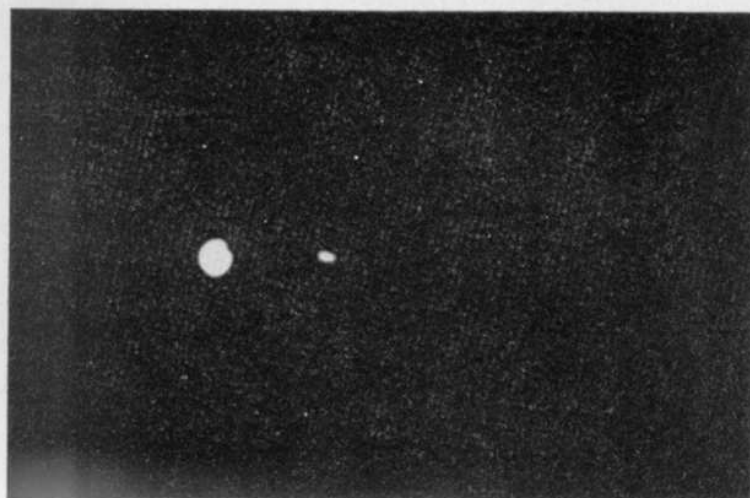


Fig. 4

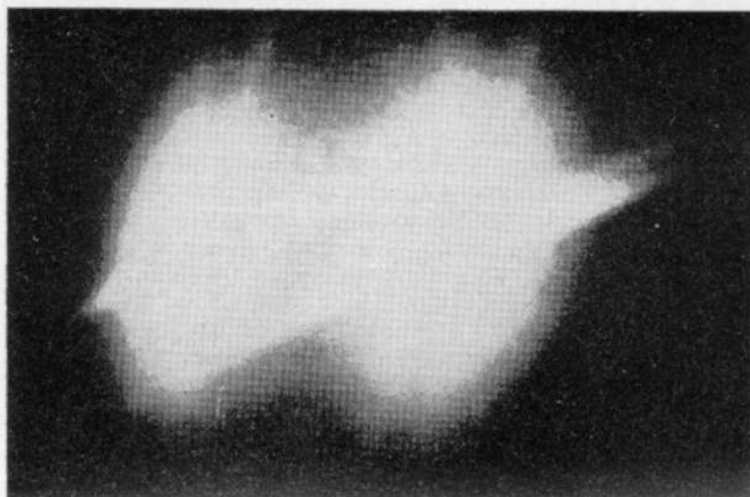


Fig. 5

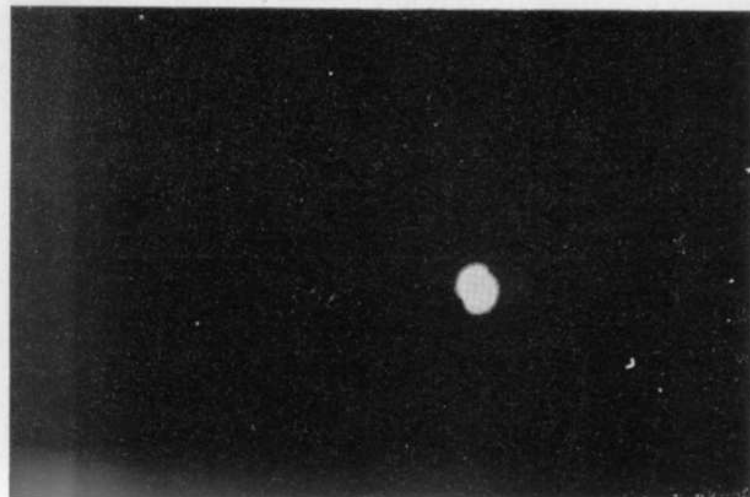


Fig. 6

**Black and white prints from Dr. Schwarz's movie**

this type of experience before and we had no idea (nor had anyone else, in the opinion of the ladies) that we would be in this particular location at this time.

Illustrative prints of the motion picture film strips of this experience are seen in Figures 2-7.

When Mrs. Lansing's films of the same incident were viewed by the author, members of his family and his colleague, Batholomew A. Ruggieri, M.D., the flaming discs were clearly seen. But she did not photograph the

strange auto with the possibly signalling headlights. No additional UFOs were seen that night.

The next day motion pictures were taken of the areas that were seen the previous night. The distance from where we were standing to where the possible UFO might have been, was approximately a half mile. (See Figure 8 for this and 9 for the approximate position of the mystery auto.) The strange lights were estimated by Mrs. Lansing to be a little above tree height at the



mountain top of the region of high tension wires. ≠

On the second night (February 14, 1971) not much was observed until 12.15 a.m., when "the red bug" was noted on the ridge of the mountain, bordering the highway, where we were driving. Mrs. Lansing stopped her car and we photographed the craft. It flew over the valley from mountain top to mountain top, ending in the area of the cable-vision TV tower (with a red beacon light) and high-tension wires. Although the craft was clearly visualised in my camera's viewfinder, I

*Footnote continued from page 8*

On a Wednesday night in April, 1967, members of the Lawrence Robinson and Herbert C. Lindsay families of Hackettstown, New Jersey, noted a noiseless, gliding UFO, with a circle of spinning lights going counter-clockwise for one hour, over the Hackettstown Fish Hatchery, and then hovering over the rooftop of the house across the street from their homes. During the event the local police were contacted and they notified the state police. All the police arrived promptly in unmarked cars. The informants remembered overhearing the radio communications between the police car and headquarters. However, when I checked this matter with both the most helpful local and state police, there were no records of the incident. There was no newspaper account of the episode, but Bruce Prichard, currently a college student, who at the time of the sighting was in high school, wrote a composition on the sighting for his English class. He kindly wrote me and confirmed the facts of his earlier interview. The morning after the event, according to Mr. Lindsay, a black car drove up and two middle-aged white men made inquiries about the event of the night before. A photographer took pictures of the house over which the UFO had hovered. Although the watchman at the Fish Hatchery kept careful records in his log book, upon questioning the Superintendent, it was learned that the watchman had neither memory nor written record of the incident. Interviews and psychiatric screening of Mrs. Robinson, her son, Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay, and their daughter Stella convinced me that they were truthful and free of any relevant psychopathology.

The final example is the incident of Mrs. V.N., a seventy-nine-year-old widow of an air force Colonel, near Mount Snow, Vermont. A Smith College graduate, she had witnessed and recorded in her diary several tree-height sightings over her home and barn during the spring and summer of 1969. On a few occasions she was convinced that a car, on the dirt road in the valley below, was signalling its headlights (both in unison) at the craft, which apparently responded by dimming its lights. The lady had no fixed opinion on her "artificial moon, with a strange ladder device coming down." It was hard for me to believe her account of the automobile-UFO signalling aspect and to reconcile it with psychiatric study which revealed that the lady was alert, highly intelligent and literate. She appeared truthful, and free of relevant psychopathology. My opinion was further supported by an interview of my informant, the telephone line repairman, who drove me to her home. He became occupationally involved at the time, following one close sighting when the lights of the UFO woke up the lady, and the telephones, along with the electricity, failed. Mrs. V.N.'s experiences were further supported by an interview of her nephew, a college professor who was originally from the author's home town.

Additional examples of possible harassment include the Port Monmouth Landing (FSR May/June 1971) and the Woodstock, New York cases.

was shocked to see, when the films were developed that at no point was this "red bug" with its sputtering red sparks—estimated to be three times the size of Venus—seen. However, some very strange structures did appear on several frames of the film (see Figures 10 to 12 for this; and Figure 13, for daytime picture of the particular area). In many ways these structures were similar to "craft" that Mrs. Lansing had photographed on numerous previous occasions.

Most of her pictures, like my solitary beginner's luck experience, showed the filmed craft (artifact?) in the vertical axis. However, if the plane of Mrs. Lansing's pictures were tilted to the horizontal, the "craft" was similar to some conventional drawings of alleged UFOs: i.e., with the many compartments or lights and domed bubble, superiorly. It should be stressed that many of Mrs. Lansing's photos over the years showed superior, detailed form, colour, movement, and relation to other objects. On the night of our conjoint observation, Mrs. Lansing successfully photographed the "red bug" which was similar to other movies she had of this over the years. She is a good photographer ☉ and the author is not.

The "red bug" also might have been the craft with the four occupants that were very clearly visualised on film she had taken several years earlier (but not in fact at the time of filming—and not recognised until several months later when she got a slow-motion movie projector). One odd feature of the "red bug," as actually observed by Mrs. Lansing and me, was the sudden occurrence of a loud sound, like an early-model propeller-driven aeroplane motor. Although the path of the "red bug" had not changed sufficiently, its propeller sound just as strangely "clicked off."

Later that night, when returning to the motel, I photographed a three-quarter yellow-pink moon as a control and reference for the size of the "red bug" we had seen earlier. When the film strips were analysed, frame by frame, some tiny blue discs and circular objects were seen in the vicinity of the moon. Although this might seem like artifact to someone who had not studied such film frame by frame, or who was unfamiliar with Mrs. Lansing's technique and films, I call attention to it because of the appearance of many such unobtrusive forms, where they appear as just flickers of light at slow-motion projection speed. It is only after a careful frame-by-frame analysis that many such flickers

≠ Many of Mrs. Lansing's best UFO pictures were taken in isolated areas, close to high-tension wires, following railroad tracks, swampy areas, the local airport which rarely has night flights, gravel or sand pits, and supplies of fresh water.

☉ Perhaps the neologisms ufographer, ufography, ufographs would be more precise and meaningful than the cumbersome terminology of UFO photographer, etc.

@ It is not the purpose of this study to attempt to catalogue the many weird, varicoloured forms Mrs. Lansing has photographed. In addition to what has been described, her objects also resembled huge "skeletons", musical instruments such as guitars or banjos, Coelenterata, figures by Hieronymus Bosch, Dali-like ideograms, and phantasmagoria. A most practical classification scheme for Mrs. Lansing's photographs might be that offered by Ivan T. Sanderson (*Uninvited Visitors*, Cowles, New York, 1967, and Neville Spearman Ltd., London, 1969).

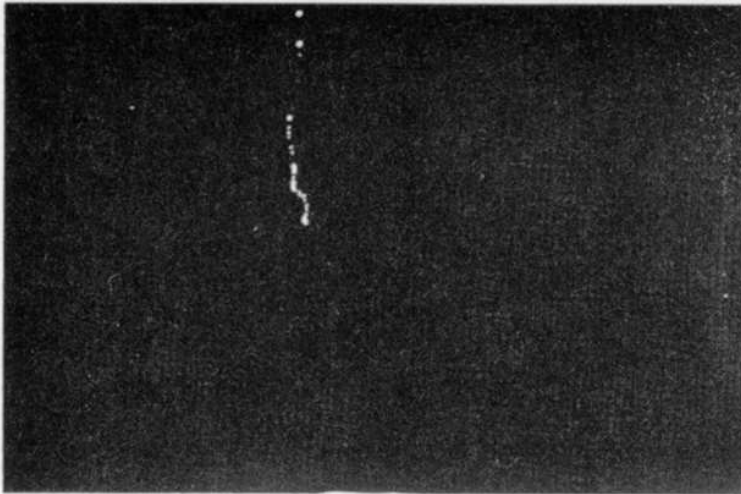


Fig. 7

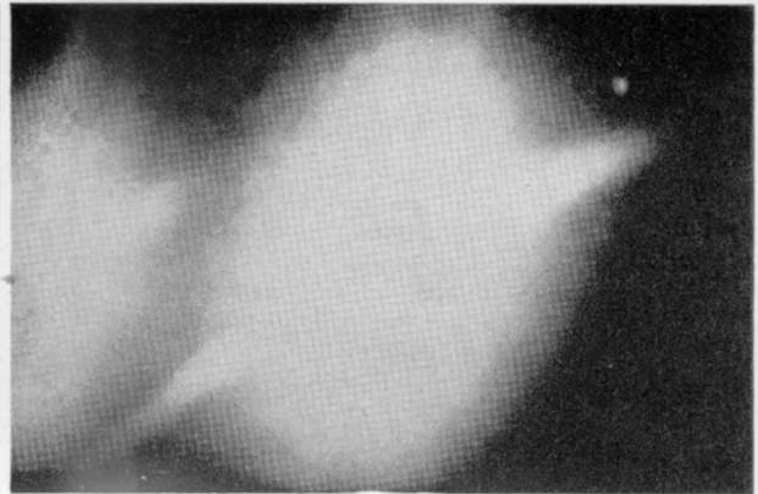


Fig. 8

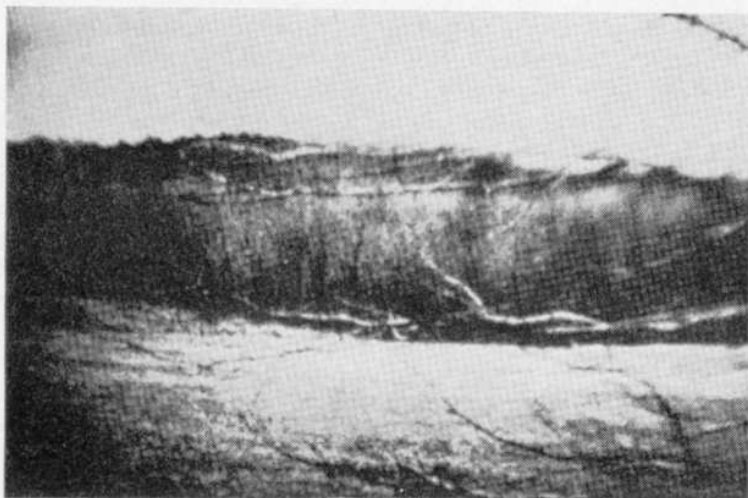


Fig. 9

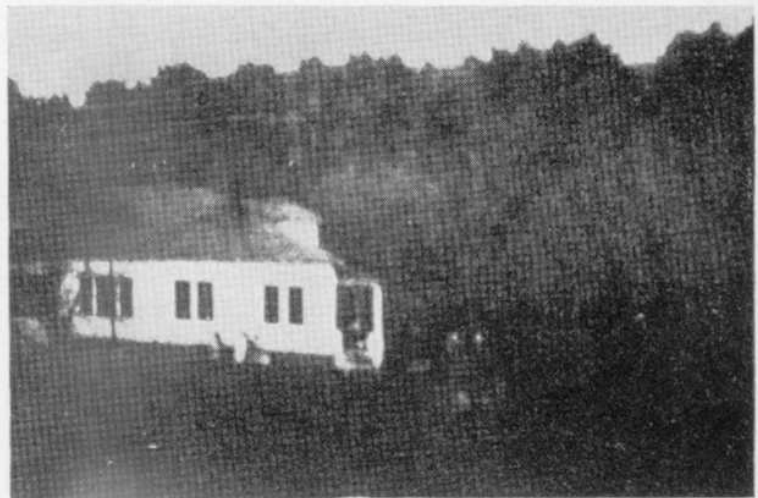


Fig. 10

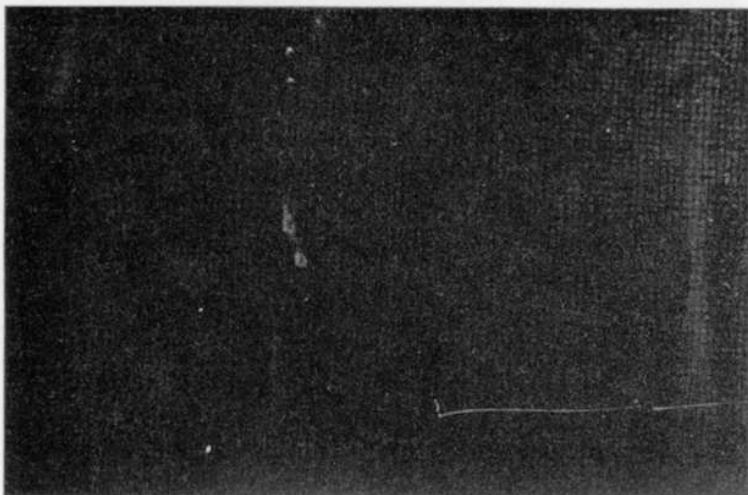


Fig. 11



Fig. 12

(Figures 14, 15, 16) are clearly delineated into variable-sized, shaped, and coloured structures. @ Mrs. Lansing has trained her eyes and ears to an awareness that is corrected and refined by the feedback mechanism of viewing her projected films. What might be an unobtrusive smudge to the casual observer often turns out to be (on frame-by-frame analysis) an interesting phenomenon of possibly another world—invisible—but all around us.

The third night, after a day of further intensive study,

interviews, field trips, and so on, Mrs. Lansing, her friend, and I all had the feeling that we would see nothing that night. And nothing was seen.

Although many nocturnal pictures were taken in Massachusetts and New Jersey of various familiar objects, such as aeroplanes, beacon towers, stars, and the moon as controls, a study of the developed films revealed nothing like the things Mrs. Lansing and I had seen and photographed separately and together. ≡



## Discussion

The purpose of this preliminary report is to mention briefly some of the claims and motion picture evidence of a confirmatory UFO photographing experience of contactee, Mrs. Stella Lansing. Although an exhaustive collation and scrutiny of all the data as to time, place, and person cannot be offered in this study, it is unlikely that such a complete and most desirable record will be procured. Since there is neither motive nor apparent method for fraud or hoax, such an explanation under the described circumstances would appear unlikely.

Two possible explanations are that Mrs. Lansing's "trick" was to take motion pictures of a "science fiction TV show" or that her pictures of supposed UFOs are "impossible" because there is no film sufficiently sensitive. The supposed trick, however, would require more of her hard-earned money, skill, ingenuity, plus the talents of a prestidigitator, than the actual method she used.

The facts completely contradict the opinion of fraud. If the honesty of the photographs are no better than the character and truthfulness of the one who is taking them, then Mrs. Lansing has produced an invaluable document. It is for the astronomer, physicist, chemist, photographer, engineer, biologist, and anthropologist to explain what appears on the film. ●

Direct psychiatric study of her at her home, in action while filming UFOs, in the physician's office and laboratory; and a modified collaborative investigation of her family and friends in their homes and on field trips unequivocally support her honesty and truthfulness. She is a very fine lady. "Scientific proof of causation is not satisfied by demonstrating the invariable presence of the suspected cause (unwitting parental permissiveness) whenever the effect (anti-social behaviour of children) is observed. It must (also) be demonstrated that the suspected cause does not occur unless the effect is also seen."<sup>1</sup>

To concoct such a hoax and to lie so convincingly and produce such a wealth of purported evidence would require the subject to have a long and involved history of being a brilliant confidence trickster. There is nothing in Mrs. Lansing's life to suggest this. She has avoided any notoriety for herself and her family. As a matter of fact, she and her family have worked hard and made costly material sacrifices so that she could continue the UFO studies. Furthermore, as a possible direct consequence of her researches, she paid the frightful price of

developing a psychosis which necessitated psychiatric hospitalisation. This aspect of the relationship between ufology and the mental health of those who have undergone the experiences, and the relevance of the attitudes of others about them, is discussed elsewhere.★, <sup>5</sup>, <sup>11</sup> It is just as erroneous to conclude that because a psychosis intervened the patient's truthfulness or reality testing in the area under study is fallacious, as the opposite: the "healthy" person has a guaranteed superior ability in this regard. For many reasons it is not rare for patients, with some type of emotional disorder, to have a localised superior observational ability: hyperacusis, hyperamnesia, spuriously increased vision. Generalisations are of limited value; each case must be decided on its merits.

Mrs. Lansing's honesty was independently corroborated by Joseph Dunninger's study of her and her films. She had known of Dunninger for many years, and rather than avoid him for the incorrectly but commonly held misconception that he is a "mind reader" or "human lie detector," Δ she looked forward to meeting him. As mentioned earlier, Dunninger is a world-honoured magician, inventor of illusions, exposé of fraudulent mediums, and a famous telepathist.

If Stella Lansing's pictures are fraudulent or all artifact, then one must explain how it was done, duplicate the data himself, and then apply the same yardstick to the author, a poor photographer, who (1) on one trip accompanied Mrs. Lansing when she successfully filmed UFOs, and (2) at a later time filmed UFOs himself, with the strange signalling (?) mystery car, while Mrs. Lansing independently recorded the UFOs. An exact copy of the film of this latter episode was sent to Mr. Charles Bowen, Editor of *Flying Saucer Review*, for independent study and preparation for publication.

Although far short of the ideal laboratory precision, the subject at hand must be studied in a suitably appropriate manner. In this case the *sine qua non* is the repeatability of the Lansing experience and the independent and simultaneous recording of the episode of the UFOs on film.

The reported films for both Mrs. Lansing and the

≅ In some control film frames odd structures were seen. These were different from the known objects that were photographed and recognised as such. These films were reviewed by knowledgeable World War II veterans: a former captain in the United States Army Air Force and a former naval aviator. Neither of them, Robert L. Brasher, a building contractor, nor Floyd H. Farrant, M.D., an ophthalmologist, could interpret the strange objects. They felt that the vertical string of lights blue-ray effect were not aeroplanes. Thus, there is an admitted need for controls and expert photographic analysis to define artifact.

● One should bear in mind Dunninger's quotation of his friend Houdini: "Put the greatest investigators, scientists and myself in a box and dump us overboard—and I'm the only one who will come up alive."

★ When psychosis is more likely the occasion for the patient's UFO interest, rather than the reverse condition, the psychiatrist obtains an altogether different history. The overlap area is the problem. In his files of more than 175 psychiatrically screened UFO examples, the author has excellent examples of the former: Mrs. Lansing's case represents the precipitation of a psychosis by her keen UFO interest and the way it was managed; and there is one instance where a patient with a life-long manic-depressive psychosis had observed, with his wife, a very close UFO sighting and consequent landing, as was supposedly reported in the newspapers.

Δ In one UFO case, various photographs of alleged UFOs made the front pages of a large-circulation metropolitan newspaper, UFO books, and a major TV network. However, after careful collaborative psychiatric study, the mere mention of the witness's forthcoming interview with Dunninger caused the young person to confess the hoax and its *modus operandi*.



Fig. 13

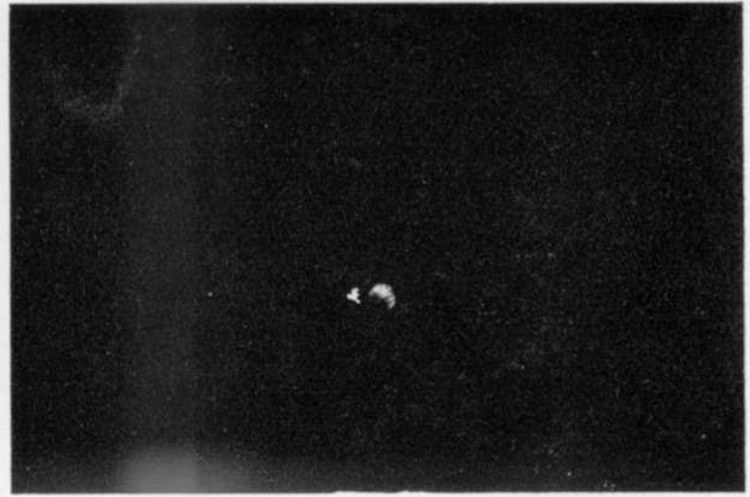


Fig. 14

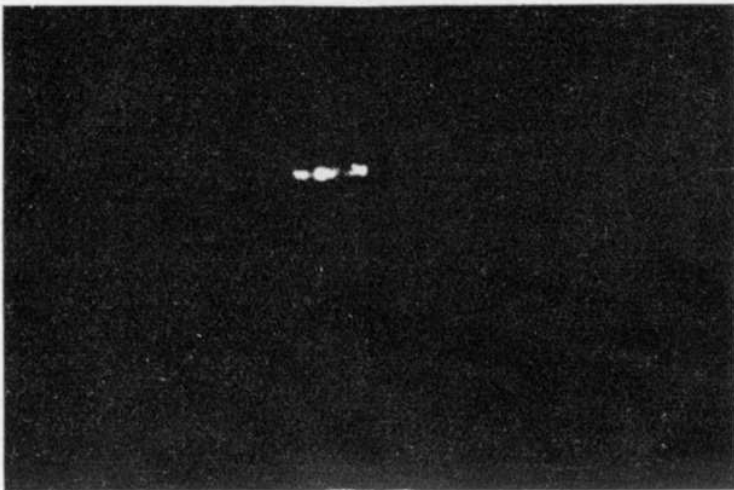


Fig. 15

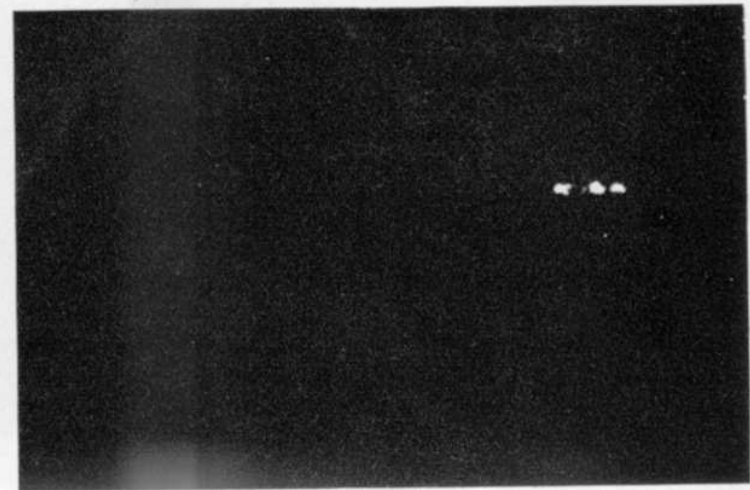


Fig. 16

author render the possibility of collective visual hallucination unlikely. To explain the films as paranormal would also be unsatisfactory because the data do not conform to the thoughtography material as presented in Eisenbud's epoch-making study,<sup>12</sup> nor do they conform to the vast experiences and collections of Joseph Dunninger. However, the whole UFO business is so bizarre that some type of hitherto unrecognised UFO-induced paranormal film effect cannot be ruled out.

Mrs. Lansing is continuing her pioneering efforts, and some of her UFO films are being prepared for scientific publication. The implications of what she has done are enormous. She has shown that what some might consider to be impossible is possible. She has found a technique that others can try. If what she has done is truthful, as it seems to be, she has given us the repeatable experiment. It would be premature, and beyond the scope of this report, to delve into the intriguing, and at times awesome, possibilities of various interpretations of her numerous experiences and films: for example, the significance of the possibly signalling mystery car, and speculations about the pros and cons of the interpenetration of parallel worlds vs. the extraterrestrial hypothesis.

Fortunately, as far as the tasks of the investigator are concerned, Mrs. Lansing has always been more interested in the collecting and recording of facts in writing, tape, and on film, than indulging in prolix, often insupportable, philosophising. Her studies show

how one person—even a not-so-ordinary housewife—might singlehandedly make a significant discovery.

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(continued on page 20)



# PROJECT DICK

*Aimé Michel*

“Half-baked ideas of people are better than ideas of half-baked people.”—Irving John Good

EVERY time that, for my own instruction, I re-read one of my articles in *Flying Saucer Review* and I find it strewn with ridicule, sarcasms, and bad jokes, a blush of shame rises to my brow as I think of the promiscuous outrage thus inflicted on so many serious investigators, investigators who respect their readers, and I swear that I will display more decency next time.

Alas, that next time won't be yet. Desirous of setting forth my thoughts regarding the epistemology of our investigations, I have been immersing myself in the innumerable works devoted to *Interstellar communication*, *Communication with superior intelligences*, *Intelligent life in Space*, and so on (about 80 titles in Lynn Catoe's 1969 bibliography<sup>1</sup>—I do not have all of those she lists, but I have also others) and, apart from a few exceptions<sup>2, 3, 4</sup> one must admit that what has been written on the subject so far can only invite derision. Almost all these solemn works are inspired by one single and solitary idea, always the same one: to wit, the crazy presumption of the human mind, which would have the immense Universe teeming with non-human superintelligences, always provided however that—as Bergier puts it—those superintelligences have studied at the Sorbonne or Oxford or M.I.T.

As a start, let us quote a few of the most illustrious of these authorities:

For Su-Shu Huang<sup>5</sup> “these superintelligences, in order to increase their chances of contacting civilisations in other worlds, must (*sic*) divide the antenna time and beam the signals successively to all stars which are within reach.”

For Michael H. Briggs<sup>6</sup> “attempts by intelligent extraterrestrials to establish contact might (*sic*) be by radio transmissions, space probes, and emissions of radiation in the far infra-red.”

For A. G. W. Cameron,<sup>7</sup> “the laser may be the obvious (*sic*) way of communication, since the signal-to-noise ratio of their optical transmissions should be orders of magnitude better than that calculated for the Sun by Schwartz and Townes.” (Let us pity the poor superintelligences who might perhaps not have read Schwartz and Townes.)

Let us recognise however that many other scientists, more cautious, have refused to speculate on the means of communication that superintelligences *would have to* employ, and have confined themselves to studying, among the various means that are imaginable by man, those which we could try to detect. Let us note in particular the authors of Project Ozma,<sup>8</sup> von Hoerner,<sup>9</sup> F. J. Dyson, Melvin Calvin,<sup>10</sup> etc. On the other hand, others, like the Nobel Prizewinner, Jacques Monod,<sup>11</sup> do not shrink from affirming that man is very probably

the sole intelligent being in the Universe, which view is apparently shared by Harlow Shapley,<sup>12</sup> while the great expert on evolution, G. G. Simpson,<sup>13</sup> thinks all contact may be for ever impossible.

All speculations on the means of communication between superintelligences, and on projects for the detection of such means, recall to my mind a certain other “Project Ozma” much earlier than the one that failed so notably a few years ago. I shall call it “Project Dick,” from the name of its author. With my own eyes, at about the age of 15, I watched this Project Dick being formulated, being developed, and I saw it fail in the same way and probably for the same reasons as, later, Project Ozma failed.

## PROJECT DICK

Dick was an immense and fierce sheepdog (a German sheepdog) who looked after my father's cows. He had only one method of communication, but one which he understood to perfection. This method consisted, on the transmission side, in deftly piddling in a thousand different ways. On the reception side, it consisted in unerringly sniffing the emissions of his colleagues. His virtuosity and skill both ways were prodigious. He had piddles that were protective, aggressive, benevolent, possessive, dreamy, meditative, scornful, evasive, dubitative, and peremptory. He had one for every kind of circumstance. And, inversely, one single exploratory sweep of his nasal radar enabled him to identify instantaneously all the concepts put into circulation in his intellectual space-framework by all the beings present in that space, that is to say, by all the dogs of the neighbourhood.

This superlatively controlled technique encountered no defeat until its utiliser got into his head the idea of detecting the problematical existence, within his environment, of non-canine intelligences. One day when, in a meadow, I was engaged in discussion with a very distinguished gentleman (subsequently a member of the Paris Academy of Medicine), Dick came and sat down near us, gave us a long and pensive look, and suddenly received his Project Ozma revelation. I do not think I am misrepresenting his thoughts if I attribute to him the following line of reasoning:

“These two natural phenomena clearly obey simple physical laws. When I take my cows to the meadow, the smaller phenomenon of the two does this, that, and the other. I manipulate him at will, triggering off in him elementary mechanisms in conformity with the experimental method. I have not studied the other, taller phenomenon, well, but, as they are identical, he should present no particular problem. However, it is necessary