

THE PASCAGOULA UFO & OCCUPANT INCIDENT

Richard W. Heiden

The original version of this article was translated and published in the Spanish magazine *Stendek*,* No.17, of September 1974. This new version includes changes made by Mr. Heiden, based on new information, and a few minor improvements.

IN the autumn of 1973 the United States of America experienced a UFO flap which was undoubtedly the biggest ever. The most interesting, best documented, and most publicized sighting was that of Charles E. Hickson (45) and Calvin R. Parker, Jr. (18), in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Pascagoula, the county seat of Jackson County, has a population of 27,000. It is on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, on the banks of the Pascagoula River. Several shipyards are located there.

Charlie Hickson and Calvin Parker are family friends from Jones County, north of Pascagoula. At the time of their sighting they both lived in the town of Gautier, which is just west of Pascagoula, and worked at the Walker Shipyard in Pascagoula, where Hickson is still a foreman. On the evening of Thursday, October 11, 1973, they stated that they met three UFO occupants, and at least one of the witnesses was taken aboard their craft.

Hickson and Parker said they were fishing in the Pascagoula River, when at about 9.00 p.m., they heard a "zipping" sound behind them and an oblong blue-grey craft five to six metres long, with flashing blue lights, descended and hovered in an open area nearby, about 50 cms. above the ground.

An opening appeared in the craft, and three creatures (possibly robots) came out. They were about 155 cms. tall, with wrinkled pale grey skin ("a little more metallic-looking than an elephant's skin"), pincer-like hands, slits for eyes, two small cone-shaped ears, a small sharp nose, with a hole below, and no neck. As they approached the two men, they floated 30 cms. above the ground, not moving their legs. One of them made a humming or buzzing noise. Hickson was paralyzed by fear, and Parker passed out.

Two of the creatures gently picked up Hickson by his arms, and carried him inside the ship. He lost all feeling, including that of weight, when they touched him. Hickson observed that the room he was taken to was completely bare and well-lighted, but he could not tell where the dazzling light was coming from. He was placed in a reclining position, but stayed suspended in air, and never touched the craft itself. An instrument resembling a huge eye, and about 25-30 cms. long, floated around, moving back and forth across his body, at a distance of 20-25 cms., as though it were examining or photographing him. The creatures left Hickson alone for a while and then "floated" him back to his original location on the pier, and returned to the object.



A Pascagoula entity, as described by the witnesses.

He is not really sure how long he was inside the UFO — it may be anywhere from 15 to 40 minutes. Parker, who did not come to until after the craft had sped away, was probably taken into it by the third occupant. The UFO left no traces.

There were several other reports of UFOs in the Pascagoula area that same evening, and many television sets experienced interference. The interference was worst on sets closest to the river.

At about 11.00 p.m., an hour or two after the UFO and its occupants had gone, Hickson and Parker called the sheriff's office, and went there to relate what had happened.

Sheriff Fred Diamond and Captain Glen Ryder interrogated them about the sighting. "We did every-

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thing we knew to break their stories," said Ryder, "but both stories fit. If they were lying to me, they should be in Hollywood."

After the interrogation, which was tape-recorded, the two witnesses were left alone for a while. The tape recorder which, unknown to Parker and Hickson, was left running, recorded their conversation about their frightening experience — a conversation they thought was private. Calvin Parker's emotional strain was such that, after his companion left the room, he prayed.

The next morning, Friday, Hickson and Parker went to Keesler Air Force Base at Biloxi, Mississippi, to be checked for radiation, because the local hospital does not have facilities for that purpose. The examination fortunately did not reveal the presence of any radiation contamination.

While they were at the air force base, Hickson and Parker related their experience to the head of base intelligence. He asked very few questions, and "just let 'em tell their story from start to finish," according to Tom Huntley, a detective with the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, who had driven Parker and Hickson to the base. Huntley said that he did not even seem excited, "like maybe he'd heard it all before."

On Saturday Hickson's left arm started bleeding just below the shoulder, but the next day all trace of the wound was gone. It may also be of interest to note that Hickson does not wear a watch, because they do not keep time on him. "They'd either lose time, or gain time," he said. "Or they'd just stop.... I tried every make and brand I could find, but I never did find one that would keep correct time."

Dr. James A. Harder of the University of California at Berkeley (APRO's¹ director of research and consultant in civil engineering) and Dr. J. Allen Hynek of Northwestern University (former astronomical consultant to the United States Air Force's Project Blue Book and director of the recently-founded Center for UFO Studies² and now a Consultant to FSR) came to Pascagoula to investigate the case. On Sunday morning, October 14, Dr. Harder hypnotized the two men separately, and regressed them back to the time of their experience, the terror of which they both relived. Dr. Harder commented afterwards: "The experience that they underwent was indeed a real one. A very strong feeling of terror is practically impossible to fake under hypnosis."

On October 30, Charlie Hickson underwent a polygraph examination, or lie detector test, at the Pendleton Detective Agency in New Orleans. The polygraph operator, Scott Glasgow, was very sceptical of Hickson's truthfulness concerning his incredible experience, and spent 2½ hours in a vain attempt to prove him a liar. Glasgow was finally forced to admit, "This s. o. b. is telling the truth."

Calvin Parker did not accompany his friend to New Orleans for the lie detector test because he had suffered a nervous breakdown as a result of his experience, and required hospitalization. It took him several months to recover.

The Pascagoula sighting, which was substantiated by several means, is a most important contact case. It stands as the most interesting, and sensational incident reported in the flap. Dr. Hynek said, "There's simply no question in my mind that these men have had a very real, frightening experience, the physical nature of which I am not certain about."

Notes:

- 1 Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, 3910 E. Kleindale Road, Tucson, Arizona 85712 USA.
- 2 Center for UFO Studies, P.O. Box 11, Northfield Illinois 60093 USA.

References:

- APRO Bulletin, Sept.-Oct. 1973, pp. 1 and 3-4, and Nov.-Dec. 1973, p.6
- Blum, Ralph, with Judy Blum, *Beyond Earth: Man's Contact with UFOs*, New York City, Bantam, 1974, pp. 9-25, 29-36, 124-128, 134-140, 195-200, 217, and 224.
- "The Dick Cavett Show," ABC-TV, November 2, 1973 (appearance by Charles Hickson). (In Milwaukee the show was in the early morning of November 3, but in most cities it was shown before midnight, November 2).
- Friedman, Stanton T., and B. Ann Slate, "The Truth Behind the Amazing Pascagoula Contact," *Saga's UFO Report*, spring 1974, pp. 18ff.
- Hickson, Charles, "Story of U.F.O." (record relating his experience).
- Hynek, J. Allen, talk at Carroll College, Waukesha, Wisconsin, January 20, 1974.
- Lorenzen, Coral, personal communications, March 23, 1974, and April 4, 1974.
- "The NCB Evening News," October 15, 1973 (interview of Charles Hickson and Calvin Parker).
- "UFOs — Do you Believe?" NCB-TV, December 15, 1974 (appearances by Charles Hickson and Calvin Parker).
- "UFOs Over Mississippi... A 7-Day Space Odyssey," the Pascagoula *Mississippi Press*, 1973.

A NOTE ON BLUMRICH

FSR Volume 19, No.6, carried a review by Luis Schönherr of Josef F. Blumrich's *Da Tat sich der Himmel Auf...* (1973, Dusseldorf and Vienna), an interpretation of the book of Ezekiel as the account of a series of UFO encounters. An English edition has recently been published by Bantam Books in North America and Corgi Books in the U.K. under the title *The Spaceships of Ezekiel*. The translation is by the author, and so presumably says what he

wants it to say. The text of ten chapters is followed by an appendix, which deals with the technological issues raised by this interpretation according to the tenets of current thinking. The book is well produced, with drawings and photographs located in situ in the text. Both editions are available in England, differing only in the cover design. Bantam Books got theirs out in February 1974 and so were able to obtain £1 for its 180 pages from gullible readers (such as me) before Corgi published their version in June at 50p.

Ivor Grattan-Guiness

CROCODILE-SKINNED ENTITIES AT CALGARY

W. K. Allan

WE have been criticised for "sitting" on this single-witness case report, but I would like to emphasize that it was not our intention to withhold details from anybody. Our wish was only to keep from publication the sketch made by the witness, David Seewalt, and his description of the entities until a similar experience was reported reliably and independently from a different locale.

The details of the Pascagoula case reported by Messrs. Parker and Hickson seem to have satisfied Drs. Hynek and Harder; they seem also to meet this criterion. However, the David Seewalt sketch of the "android" is retained by us, together with the details (i.e. numbers) of fingers and toes, in the hope that either Parker or Hickson can provide a sketch, for comparison, with no possibility of previous collusion. Later correlations between such sketches would provide a strong element of the kind we have sought after for so long.

Elsewhere Dr. Leo Sprinkle has come across a girl who, under hypnotic regression, described how she was exposed to an "orange light" which seemed to erase the conscious memory; within two weeks of that, the experience of two Idaho Indians — described two years later in the last multipage format NICAP UFO Investigator — also seemed to check. One of the Indians was quoted as saying that the face of the reported entity had a rough look like "scars, deep scars," large "high" ears, a slit of a mouth with thin lips — or none at all; no nose could be seen in the roughness of the face. These cases, including that of David Seewalt, should certainly be considered as a group.

The incident

On November 17, 1967, David Seewalt left his chum's home at 5.45 p.m. and started on his short walk home, which would normally take three minutes. At 6.30 p.m. his older sister saw him dash in through the front door and, following him upstairs, she found him trying to hide under the bed. She stated that his eyes were glazed, and that he seemed to be in shock. She shook him and he said: "I've been chased by a flying saucer." One of his shoes was missing, and this she later found out in the road.

David's parents telephoned me, and on the Sunday (three days after the alleged experience): I went over and taped his description of what he believed had happened. His mother told us that David, who normally is a placid person, had been uneasy and nervous all weekend.

Investigation

On April 21, 1968, David had a nightmare — his

Our contributor, who has just retired after 39 years as a school teacher, lived and worked for many years at Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Well-known locally for a series of radio broadcasts on the topic of UFOs which he made on the local station, he became a focal point for people who wished to report UFO experiences without seeking newspaper publicity. Mr. Allan now lives in Kelowna, British Columbia.

EDITOR

first — and on being awakened by his younger brother, with whom he was struggling, he said: "Call Dad. I know what happened when I was chased by the UFO."

Mrs. Seewalt telephoned us about this development, and some time later we were lucky to obtain the services — gratis — of Dr. K. (name and address on file), a doctor of dental surgery who employs hypnosis in his practise. Dr. K. conducted six sessions of hypnotic regression for us, and requested that we did not record any of it other than one short, dramatic sequence.

I found the reactions to Dr. K.'s questions most convincing. For instance, when he asked David what they had been doing at his friend's house, he replied: "Weight lifting." Now Mrs. Seewalt had told me that David was always home on time, so, when Dr. K. said: "Now you boys know you were up to some mischief and devised this yarn to cover up your being late getting home," David replied with an angry and hostile denial.

When he had quietened down he was asked what had happened as he walked home across the field. He replied:

"Heard this high-pitched hum."

"Then what happened?"

"I looked up and saw this big thing."

"What happened next?"

At which question David's leg, which had been relaxed and crossed over the other leg, began to shake violently, as though the boy were frightened.

After a pause to allow him to calm down, the question was repeated, and was followed by another paroxysm of terror.

Dr. K. thereupon changed his approach:

"Now you are watching a T.V. show of your experience and it can't hurt you. Just relax and tell me what you see on the screen."

At that the story unfolds. He is taken up in an orange beam of light, put on a table and wheeled through a 'computer room' with a console with blinking lights, and undressed by aliens who had a 'rough brown skin like crocodiles.' They had no clothes, 'x' fingers, 'x' toes, and when he recalls how the fingers touched his body he begins deep breathing and trembling, and is obviously terrorised.