

UFO LANDING AND REPAIR BY CREW PART I — THE REPORT

Ted Bloecher

Investigation of a report of an incident at New Berlin, N.Y., U.S.A., on November 25, 1964

INFORMATION about this previously unreported UFO landing and occupant case came from Alexander D. Mebane of New York City, long-time friend and colleague. Lex Mebane had learned of the incident through a mutual friend of his and the primary witness, Mrs. Mary Merryweather.* The intermediary, Miss Charlotte Ronald, had spent a weekend with Mary at the latter's family home near New Berlin, New York, in the early fall of 1970 or 1971. At that time, the two women observed several unidentified lights along the crest of a nearby hill. This incident prompted Mary to disclose her observation of some five or six years earlier, at which time she observed two landed objects and the repair of one by the apparent "crews." Miss Ronald, knowing of Lex's interest in the subject, told him about her sighting as well as the earlier observation by Mary; he, in turn, passed along the sketchy details to this reporter early in December, 1972. I wrote to Mary Merryweather on December 12, 1972, requesting additional details on the occupant case, but received no reply.

On June 2, 1973, I called Mary long distance, introduced myself, and explained my interest in obtaining a first-hand account of her earlier sighting. Apparently satisfied that my inquiry was genuine and that I was not just some curious "nut," she willingly provided additional details about the incident. During the course of our half-hour phone conversation, it became evident that the witness was providing a coherent and straight-forward account of a most unusual and possibly important UFO event, and that adequate details could not be gathered in a single telephone conversation. She therefore agreed to a personal interview at her present home in northeastern Pennsylvania and the date was set for Sunday afternoon, June 10, 1973.

Interviews

This report is based upon notes taken and a lengthy taped statement made during that three-hour interview, in which Mary described the landing of two objects on a nearby hillside and her subsequent four-hour observation of the repair of one object by the two crews — a group of perhaps as many as a dozen "men." In addition, further information was obtained in a number of subsequent

telephone calls, as well as by answers provided to a series of specific written questions that were submitted to the witness following our June 10 interview. These questions and answers are included in an addendum to this report.

Because of his experience in interviewing many UFO witnesses involved in similar incidents, I advised another colleague, Dr. Berthold Schwarz, psychiatric specialist of Montclair, N.J., who is well-known to readers of FSR as consultant and contributor, of the New Berlin case. Dr. Schwarz contacted Mary and, with her consent, met with her for four hours on August 14, 1973, at which time valuable additional information about the witness, including hypnotic-regressive data, was obtained. It is hoped that the results of this independent interview will be made available to Dr. Schwarz at some future date.

In addition, it is anticipated that an artifact, found by the witness at the landing site a day or so after the incident, will be provided and subjected to appropriate laboratory tests to determine if analysis can confirm its uniqueness. If this is the case, an addendum report will be prepared regarding the results of such tests.

Mary Merryweather has at no time sought publicity as a result of her unusual observation; to the contrary, she has gone out of her way to avoid it and has discussed the incident with no more than a dozen people, most of whom were family members or close friends.

Location

The location of the site of the incident is about one mile north of the centre of New Berlin, N.Y., on old Route 80, just northwest of an area known as Five Corners (Latitude 42° 39'; Longitude 75° 20'). The UFO landings were made on a hilltop about 1300 yards northwest of the observers' locale. The date was Wednesday, November 25, 1964; Mary is quite certain about the year, as 1964 was the first year of her marriage. Likewise, she is definite about the date, as November 24 is her parents' wedding anniversary; the incident occurred during the early morning hours of the following day, from about 0045 to 0455 EST.

Besides Mary, who was about 20 at the time of the sighting, a second witness was her mother-in-law, at whose home she was staying. Mary grew up in the vicinity of New Berlin. From 1962 through 1964,

* This is a pseudonym.

she attended Ithaca College, where she majored in Music. She married her husband, Richard, a chemical engineer, in 1964 and, at the time of the sighting, they resided in the Syracuse, N.Y., area. During Thanksgiving week, 1964, Mary and Dick were visiting their parents in New Berlin. On November 25, Mary was staying with her mother-in-law to keep her company, while Dick and his father, with several other local men, were off on a hunting trip.

At the time of our interview in June, 1973, the Merryweathers had two children: a son, about six-years-old, and a daughter, about four; in July, 1973, a second daughter was born.

Since our initial telephone conversation in early June, Mary has been most cordial and helpful in providing details about the events of November 25, 1964. As far as this reporter is concerned, the primary witness in the case is entirely credible. Her account must be considered an accurate and true report, to the best of her ability, of what she perceived to be a real, and unique, event.

The following Narrative is derived from Mary's own first-hand testimony; apart from minor editing to remove non-essential material, and revision to maintain proper sequence, the words used to describe what took place in 1964 are entirely those of the witness. Transitional sections (in brackets) have been derived from notes obtained during our interview and from our several phone conversations. A list of specific questions and answers is included in an addendum.

Narrative account by the witness

"Dick had gone hunting with his father and I was staying with his mother so that she wouldn't be alone, in New Berlin, north on Route 80, at Five Corners. It was about 12.30 at night and I decided I couldn't sleep very well...so I turned on the television. There was an old movie I had seen several times; it wasn't very interesting to me and I got up and got a ginger ale, and decided I'd look outside and see what it was like.

"It was unusually clear for a November night...it had been snowing that year, often in the evening, and (had been) cloudy, overcast and miserable. But this night was light and very, very clear. An unusual number of stars were visible; the moon was out, very bright.

"I stepped out on the porch and it was cold, so I...got my coat and went out again. I was looking at the stars and trying to figure out where the constellations were and I noticed a falling star. I was looking north northeast and it fell in an arc, as it usually does, in an easterly direction, toward the horizon.

UFO observed

"Then I saw another one, only instead of arcing along the horizon, it came straight down. I saw it in about the same spot as I saw the other one. It appeared to come down directly over the highway (Route 8, which runs north out of New Berlin—TB), or a little bit east of the highway, down by the Five

Corners. Then it followed along the brook...more or less parallel to Route 80, which comes directly across in front of the house. I realized how strange it was, because...it was clearly visible and the hillside above the creek and on the north side of the road was visible above the object. It occurred to me that this was an unusually bright light, a brightness and intensity that I had never seen before. Mercury vapour lamps are extremely bright, but this particular (light) was even brighter than that.

"Not only was the visible part (of the sighting) strange, but there was a kind of low hum, like a drone-hum combination, like a...water pump running kind of laboriously, and it never changed pitch, it was about the same.

"I think that my mother-in-law got up to come to come to the bathroom and I spoke to her as she came through the living room. I opened the door and said, 'When you get through, I want you to step out here and take a look at something.' At this time she usually would let the dog out. They have an English Springer Spaniel, very devoted to Dick's mom, and she always went out at this time of night.

UFO approaches

"The next thing that happened was a car, probably some young people coming home from a movie, came north from New Berlin and turned left at Five Corners and was coming along the highway between me and the creek bed, along where the vehicle was travelling. It was travelling rather slowly, and this car kept on going... Then another car came by, probably a minute and a half later, and they slowed down and pulled over a little northwest of the house, kind of on the shoulder of the road, and this flying object slowed way down, practically to a stop. Then it did stop and hovered for a moment, and then it came back towards me, back past where this car was, and they started right off (the car—T3) and were on their way!

(At this point several things happened almost simultaneously: Mary's mother-in-law had come to the door, opened it, and was about to step out as the object began moving rapidly back toward her daughter-in-law, who at that time was standing on a slight rise in the middle of the driveway; Mary, alarmed at the sudden motion of the object towards her, made a hasty retreat to the porch; the car, of course, 'burnt rubber' as it took off up the road—TB.)

"When the thing had started to back up, I decided that maybe I was a little too close and I backed up too! I was within good sprinting distance to the front door. My mother-in-law started to step out on the porch and she saw this thing, and she swung the door right around again...She kind of left it open a little bit, as if she didn't want me to be alone, but she wasn't going to come out there, either! She said she definitely thought 'that was very strange,' and wished that I'd come back into the house. I turned around and said no, I didn't think I would. The object came to a stop at a point several hundred feet directly across the road from the

house and hovered there...I felt like I was being observed, as much as I was observing.

Animal effect

"And then she tried to persuade the English Springer to come out, so that I'd at least have some company, and the dog would not come out of the door. She wouldn't even come past my mother-in-law's legs — she just lay there and I could see her shaking, she was just quivering.

Landing observed

"Then another car came by and slowed down. This was the third car. They slowed down and the vehicle started to go along at the same speed as the car was travelling; they (the people in the car—TB) appeared to become frightened, and they floored it and got out of there. It kept on going slowly, when this other car decided to leave...very, very slowly along the valley; it followed along the creek bed, followed that up the hillside...It kept going north northwest and went up on the side of this mountain about 3800 feet away, according to the scale on this topographical map. Then it settled down just below the ridge of the hill, and I couldn't hear the humming sound, the drone, but I could see the light, it was still there. My mother-in-law said, 'Now will you come back into the house?' And I said no, get me the binoculars, which she did.

"My mother-in-law called to me from the front door and said that I could see a little better out of their corner dining room window, which faces north northwest, and would I come in and try, because she didn't want me to get cold. I'd been out there quite a while and I was getting cold, so I did. She'd been watching from the dining room window and I found that I could see better...Anyway, sometime after it had landed, probably two or three minutes, I went into the house. My mother-in-law felt considerably better, and I was more comfortable and warmer. And the dog still hovered at her feet. She followed her everywhere. She was just petrified, she literally shook.

(According to Mary's time-table, she went indoors a little after 1.00 a.m.—TB.)

Occupants observed

"As I watched out of the dining room window, I tried to look through the binoculars and I couldn't see because of the glare on the lenses. She said, 'Tip them up and down,' and I did, and it cut the glare off so that I could see what was going on. There seemed to be movement around this vehicle. My mother-in-law said to me, 'What do you see?' and I said, 'Well, I can see light, and there seems to be movement around there...You know? It looks like men to me.'

"I couldn't tell the shape of the object, except that the light seemed to be underneath it and it apparently was setting on legs, because the bottom of the object was up from the ground, far enough so that these — I'll call them 'men' for lack of knowing who they were or what they were, because

they were built like men — could get under this thing, if they got down on their hands and knees, or sitting down; they lay down under it like a man does working under a truck or a car. But they had more room than they would have if they had been under a car or a truck.

"I could see them coming around this vehicle and they brought with them their boxes of tools, like tool chests or something, and one of these chests took two men to carry it. I don't know if there were two (chests) or three, but I know there were more than one. They appeared to be coming around something in a semi-circular movement, as if they were walking around a round vehicle, or something that had a round shape to it. I couldn't see the shape of it because of the bright light. It appeared to be a light on the bottom of the object...that was so intensely bright I couldn't make out the form of the object.

"I asked her (mother-in-law) to take the glasses and tip them up and down to see if she could see movement, and she did; and she said, 'Oh, definitely, I can see them.' And you could tell when she saw (the figures), because she stiffened, you know. It alarmed her, and she said to me, 'Definitely, I see them.' She said, 'Now you watch them and you tell me, because I don't want to watch them any more.'

Humanoids described

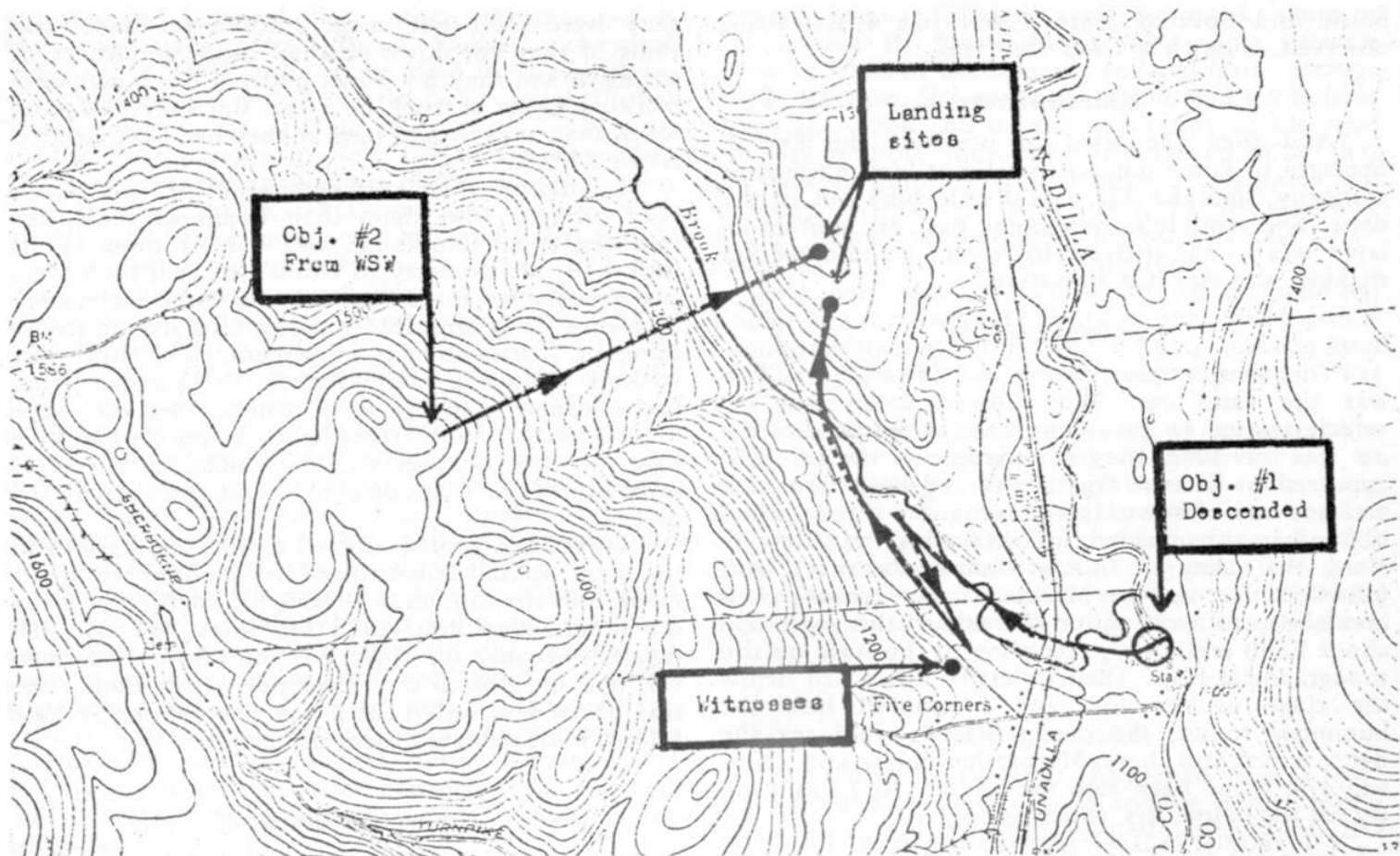
"Now, to describe the 'people' that I was seeing: there were about five or six... They seemed to be dressed in something like a skin diver's wetsuit. It was a dark colour, and their hands were visible apart or out from the wrist of the suit; their skin was lighter than the suit they were wearing. They were built like men: their heads were on necks, which were on shoulders, etc. I could see the muscular build of them, their spinal column; they were standing on two legs like we do, and they worked with arms and hands that were like ours. The only difference was that they were slightly taller than we're accustomed to seeing people — between six and a half to eight feet tall.

(Mary based her estimate of height on the size of the bushes she could see in the lower portion of the field on the hillside—TB.)

"The only ones I could see well were the ones up close to the vehicle where the light was shining on them, and most had their backs to me, or their sides. They did have lighter skin on their faces and necks, like their hands, because I could see the sides of their faces and necks, some of them...I don't think they had anything on their heads. They seemed to have hair, like we do, although their hair wasn't long, as is the custom today for men to wear their hair long, as they do. It seemed well-barbered, fairly close to their heads. The profile of their faces on the men that were on the ground, underneath the vehicle, was like the profile of a man's face.

Occupant activity

"They were working on this vehicle like I've seen my father work on farm machinery; they seemed to



Map of the hilly area just to the north of New Berlin showing locality of the witnesses and the UFO landings.

have wrenches and screw drivers, and tools like a man would use to work on a piece of machinery that had gone bad, or (on) a motor. They took something out from underneath the centre of their vehicle and let it down, gently, with their hands. I don't remember if they wore gloves or not to do this. There was a team of about five 'men.'

"Sometime before this, about five to seven minutes after I had gone into the house and found that I could see better out the dining room window, my mother-in-law got up and when she started to turn around, she said, 'Oh, there's another one!'

Second UFO lands

"I took the glasses down and I could see another vehicle was coming from the west southwest, going east northeast, and it settled down on the crest of the ridge, just above where this other vehicle had settled. Four or five more 'men' joined the ones who were working on the ground. It was just after they (the first crew—TB) had removed whatever they took out of the centre of it, which seemed to be like a motor or a power supply, or something... The four or five other 'men' joined them...and they also began to work. I could see 'men' standing in the foreground, down the hill a little way. I could see them cutting long — what looked like — heavy cable, because it arced, or fell in a loop as they were holding it between them. They were cutting it in

exact lengths and they worked quite hard at doing this. I don't know whether it was because it was so heavy or cumbersome, or large, or what the reason was, but the cable appeared to be dark, and they used it in fixing this piece of machinery.

"Repair" work continues

"They left this — what appeared to be a motor or a power source — directly underneath where they took it from and didn't take it away from there, they left it there and worked on it. When I saw that, when they sat down to work, my mother-in-law told me that it was quarter after one. And while I watched them work, and cut and struggle, they were walking around, were sitting or half-lying down, leaning on an elbow, and kneeling. There were about ten or twelve 'men' in total — I couldn't be absolutely sure, because they were coming and going, and bringing things and taking things back to the vehicles.

"I couldn't see the figures without the binoculars. The only thing I could see without the binoculars was the light — well, the two lights. I could see the light below the crest of the hill, and the one above it, and the one above it was not as bright. It was as intense, but it wasn't as large... The one at the top of the hill would have been smaller than the full moon, and the one below would have been three times larger. Whatever was wrong with the vehicle

seemed to be connected with the size of the light.

“Periodically, my mother-in-law would tell me what time it was, and she decided she’d stay up with me, she said, mostly because, ‘Number one, I can’t sleep till they leave or something else happens, and, number two, I wouldn’t leave you here alone for anything in the world.’ And, she said, ‘The dog is scared to death; she’s almost as frightened as I am.’ I wasn’t particularly afraid, I didn’t feel any fear. She said she was frightened because she had never seen a light like that before. She wanted to know if we should call the police, or some authority, or maybe the government, a U.S. government agency of some kind; I looked at her and she looked at me and I said, ‘Well, I hate to,’ and she said, ‘So do I.’ And I said, ‘You know, if we call someone, they’re going to come up here with guns and firearms and bother them, and they just want to get that thing fixed and get away.’ And I just didn’t want to be bothered with whatever trouble might occur from it, and she felt the same way. At that time we didn’t think of the trouble that might happen to us because of it, but we were thinking that they just want to get this thing fixed and get away, and we didn’t want them bothered by some stupid persons.

“I’m convinced they knew I purposefully didn’t call the authorities... I’m sure they saw me after that car decided it would go away — I felt I was being looked at by numerous eyes. I don’t know if you can tell; I can tell if somebody’s watching me. I felt like I was being watched, intensely. My mother-in-law remarked on that, that she also felt that we were watched. She said, ‘I can’t explain it, but between you and me and the wooden fence, I am sure that they realized that we did not call the authorities, that we weren’t going to, and wouldn’t.’

“Difficulties” observed

“At exactly four-thirty by our kitchen clock, the ‘men’ got down in a team and there were nine of them — there were some behind, a group of three, that were evenly spaced around this piece of machinery; and then there was a line of men,’ six ‘men’ behind them; they seemed to be holding something, or seemed to be ready with something. Maybe each one of them had tools, I couldn’t see that, but they all seemed to be working together. They got this thing ready, and there seemed to be a man underneath who was the leader, and he would gesture to them as if to say, ‘Now take it easy,’ and he used both his hands to gesture with... They got a hold of the thing and they seemed (to be) working together, and he seemed to be saying, ‘Now, we’ll move it.’ Then, all together, they picked this thing up and moved it directly upwards and tried to fit it into the bottom of this vehicle. It went right up, maybe eight inches...and then it seemed to go off at an angle. You could see the bottom, like a plate, or like the bottom of a motor; you could see that, because the light very abruptly ended there and it was circular, like a dinner plate. As this thing went up in and then went off, at an angle, the bottom of the thing you could see was tilted, instead of being level. As they tried to get it in, they were turning

it, too, like screwing a screw in; they turned it a little, and it went back a little bit, but it wouldn’t go up in there the way it should.

“They got it up into the vehicle, I think, except for the last three, maybe four, inches of it, and it was just off, it wouldn’t fit, it wouldn’t go. They couldn’t get it to go any further, so then they carefully retraced everything they had done and set the thing back down on the ground again. They worked on it another ten minutes, and then they tried it again, the same method, and it wouldn’t go... They retraced their steps again and put it back down on the ground and worked on it another ten minutes. These ‘men’ that had been cutting cable, cut something else that was like cable, only it seemed to be a little lighter...and they cut shorter pieces. They worked, and they were hurrying — you could see how they were rushing with this.

“They tried it again a third time. They lifted the thing up in there and they got it closer to going the way it should have, then it was the other two times, but it just wouldn’t go. It lacked about an inch and a half of being right and it was off at an angle; they couldn’t get it in there the way it should have. One of the ‘men’ who was with the three who had a hold of it, and then two or three ‘men’ back down the line, made a gesture like, ‘It’s not going to work!’ They were exasperated, anxious for it to go in right, and it just wasn’t working.

“Then they took this thing out again and set it on the ground and worked on it for...maybe three minutes, and the man who seemed to be the leader gestured to them as if he was saying, ‘Well, now take it easy, we’ll try it once more, and try to get it to do what it ought to.’ He was on the left side of this motor. I couldn’t hear them, of course, but that seemed to be about what he was saying. And they very carefully picked the thing up and it went back in.

Success, and departure

“There was just enough of the extra light that I could see that the front part of the vehicle (the part toward the witness—TB) was round, and the bottom tapered up. Now, whether it tapered up to a cone-shape or was rounded on top, I don’t know... Just before they got this thing into the centre — and it seemed to be cylindrical, I don’t know what the top was like — this intense light came out from underneath the vehicle. Anyway, they got it to fit in there and they seemed to be very pleased. It was a minute before five minutes off five. I could see them quickly pick up everything they could pick up and the ‘men’ from the vehicle above them on the hill ran with their material up there; these ‘men’ were running like a man running with something extremely heavy, two ‘men’ with the tool boxes — the one that required two to carry. There were at least two more tool boxes, other than the one that took two ‘men’ to carry, because there were two other ‘men’ who were laboriously running. They ran around the side and I didn’t see them after that. It looked like they were picking up cable pieces these other men had

left just before that; they ran up the hill with them, and I didn't see them any more, either.

"At five minutes off five, the vehicle on top of the hill left. It went straight up — I don't know how many feet — and it shot off, almost like an instantaneous disappearance, in the direction that it had come from, west southwest. A minute later the other vehicle rose straight up, went to the crest of the hill, rose a little further again, and shot off in the same direction that the other one had left in, at the same speed. And that was it. It had been a long night.

"The next afternoon I got up and I said to my mother-in-law, 'I want to go up there.' She said she thought I should. Now my mother-in-law is quite heavy, and she's a tall woman, nearly as tall as I am, but she has arthritis and bursitis, and it's hard for her to get around. In order to get to the top of this hillside — they use it for a hay field and they cut alfalfa and timothy from there for feed — it's expansive, but there's quite an incline to get up to where the field is, where those vehicles were. I had to cross through two barbed wire fences and I had to go through low berry bushes and the messy part of the pasture there, down on the steeper part of the hillside. And she couldn't get through there.

"But I went to the farm house, which is fairly close to the road — this property belongs to them — and I asked them if I could go up there, and they said yes, that I could, and they kind of looked at me strangely and I didn't offer an explanation; fortunately, they didn't ask, so apparently they hadn't seen anything, or hadn't been aware of anything having happened. I said thank you and I went up there; Mom sat in the car, 'I can't walk up there but I can sit in the car and watch!'

Marks found

"I searched around up there and I found, at the top of the hill and down from the crest at the same angle I had been observing the night before, three places where something cone-shaped and round at the bottom, very heavy and spaced in a triangle about 15 to 20 feet to a side, had set into the ground. They were at an angle like they were the legs of a tripod, (with) something on it that was very, very heavy, because of one them had set on a

NOTES ON URI (Continued from page 20)

One shudders when one recalls the terrible dilemma of Aladino Felix (alias Dino Kraspedon) who was deserted by his contacting controlling entities after he had apparently served his purpose by writing his book, and particularly by staggering his countrymen with his incredibly accurate prophecies.

We must hope that the controlling power in the Geller/Puharich affair is not Ahrimanic — that is to say, evil. According to most religions there are good forces as well as evil which attempt to influence us, and this has always been a source of hope for mankind. Perchance we should also console ourselves with the view that a power which controlled the beneficial healing feats of Arigó could hardly be evil.

Or could it?

rock and had broken it, and gone down a little ways into the ground where it was bedrock, or maybe shale. The impressions on the bare ground that didn't have any rock underneath were about 14 inches wide and up to 18 inches deep. The shallowest hole was about four inches deep.

"There were two sets of these, one at the top of the hill and one down the slope. They were set like an equilateral triangle — one hole wasn't any further from the other two.

Artifact found

"I searched around and then remembered the 'men' cutting cable, and I went on down the hill where there was a lot of tall grass and so on, and began to look around. I don't remember whether I found it that day, or when Dick and I both went up there after he came back from hunting, but it seems to me it was that day. On the ground, about 50 or 60 feet below the lower set of holes, I found a three-inch piece of what looks like cable. It looked like a strip of something they had missed. The outer part of it looked like the wrapping, something like a brown paper towel, only it wasn't like our paper towel. It felt rather like that and was dark brown in colour. It seemed to be a wrapping for a cable, tubular. And in the centre of it — it had been cut out laterally — you could see the strip, maybe an inch wide more or less, something that looked like very finely shredded aluminium strips laid in there, and it was as long as the piece of paper and had been cut, and had the colour and feel of aluminium, although it wasn't aluminium. It didn't behave like aluminium. Aluminium will crumple and this wouldn't crumple. You couldn't crease it. It was inside, strips of this, laying inside of the paper. You could remove the inside, for the outside paper had been cut along the length of the piece, but it was all together.

"That's what I've got. It's at my mother-in-law's, unless it got thrown away. She wanted to put it up, and I wanted to put it up — you know, keep it, put it away, not let anybody get their hot little hands on it. It was very light. It had practically no weight to it at all, including the paper."

(The artifact has not been located as of this writing, December 15, 1973—TB.)

PHILIPP J. HUMAN

It is with great regret that we inform our readers that our dear friend, correspondent and contributor, Philipp Human, died on June 11, 1974, of a coronary thrombosis and influenza.

Philipp, who lived in Amamzimtoti, and worked in Umkomaas, Natal, South Africa, was both a cheerful correspondent and tireless collector of UFO news items, which he forwarded regularly for at least 15 years, to his beloved FSR. When official duties permitted, and distances involved weren't too great, he also conducted investigations on our behalf.

Philipp will be sorely missed, and an expression of our sorrow is extended to his widow, Letitia, and daughter.

C.B.