

# ANTHROPOIDS, MONSTERS AND UFOs

*Jerome Clark and Loren Coleman*

REPORTS of hairy anthropoidal creatures comparable to the legendary *yetis* of Tibet are as old as, or older than, American history. Loren Coleman and Mark Hall, in a study published in *The INFO Journal*, have written: "A vast folklore and a belief in a race of very primitive people with revolting habits is found from northern California up into the Arctic lands themselves. This tradition covers not only the whole stretch of the Pacific coast, but much of the rugged territory to the east, even into Greenland. Generally, these sub-hominids are described as very tall, fully haired and retiring. Sometimes they are described as carnivorous."

The first known written account dates back to 1811 and appears in the journal of one David Thompson, surveyor and trader for the Northwest Company of Canada. The *Memphis Enquirer* of May 9, 1851, reported an Arkansas sighting of the previous March, noting: "This singular creature has long been known traditionally in St. Francis, Greene and Poinsett counties, Arkansas sportsmen and hunters having described him so long as 17 years since."

Sightings of these anthropoids have continued up to the present day. The Bigfoot/Sasquatch of the American Northwest and British Columbia is only the most famous such creature and just about every state and province in North America has logged its share of reports. Curiously, there is every indication that such accounts are growing in number. In the past several years sightings have increased dramatically and probably will continue to do so. In 1970 Illinois underwent a prolonged anthropoid scare, complicated by repeated stories of large, mysterious felines allegedly seen in some of the same areas. Oklahomans in late 1970 and 1971 were running into ape-like beasts sometimes encountered in populated areas like the city of Lawton. During 1971 anthropoids appeared in Missouri, California, Florida and other states.

Fine, you say, but what has this to do with UFOs? A great deal, apparently. Consider the following:

On the evening of May 18, 1969, a power blackout blanketed a small rural area outside Rising Sun, Indiana. For two hours the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Kaiser was without electricity. The Kaisers did not connect the blackout with sightings of mysterious lights along a nearby ridge which had been made in previous weeks.

The next evening, around 7.30, the Kaisers' son George was walking through the farmyard on his way to a tractor when he was startled to see a weird figure standing about 25 feet away.

"I watched it for about two minutes before it saw me," young Kaiser said later. "It stood in a fairly upright position although it was bent over about in the middle of its back, with arms about the same height as a normal human being. I'd say it was about

five-eight or so and it had a very muscular structure. The head sat directly on the shoulder and the face was black, with hair that stuck out on the back of its head; it had eyes set close together and a very short forehead. It was covered with hair except for the back of the hands and the face. The hands looked like normal hands, not claws."

When Kaiser, who had been standing transfixed, moved, the creature made "a strange grunting-like sound," turned, leaped over a ditch and disappeared down the road running at great speed. Subsequently investigators made plaster casts of footprints found in the dirt by the ditch. These casts show three toes plus a big toe.

The following evening, around 10.15, neighbour Charles Roling watched a glowing greenish-white object for eight minutes as it manoeuvred in the sky above him.

A power blackout, an anthropoid and a UFO on three successive evenings. An interesting coincidence, at the very least.

A remarkable incident from Vader, Washington, a year and a half later adds a fourth piece to the puzzle.

On December 4, 1970, Mrs. Wallace Bowers heard her children calling for her to come outside. Stepping out the door, she was astounded to discover huge footprints in the inch-deep snow covering her yard. When she looked at them closely, she found that the tracks sank all the way through the snow to crush the gravel underneath down about an inch and a half. The prints measured 15 inches in length and nearly six inches across. She called the sheriff's office immediately. Vader, Washington, is in the middle of Bigfoot country and Mrs. Bowers was uneasily recalling how strangely the family dog had behaved the night before.

At 7.15 a.m. three days later, on the seventh, Mrs. Bowers again heard her children calling, "Mommy, come look!" The children were at the window staring out at something moving across the sky. At first, according to their mother, it "looked like a bright star" but then it got closer and for ten minutes the observers were able to view it carefully.

It appeared to be centred by a dome around which a larger circle seemed to be revolving. It was deeper orange in the centre, with the light diffusing toward the outer edge, but with a definite bright rim.

Mrs. Bowers said it seemed slightly tipped sideways, rather like an aeroplane banking, and then hovered briefly over the nearby Bonneville power lines. After it left the power lines, it changed from orange to a bright clear light and at one time seemed to make one last sweep closer, again turning orange. The children thought they saw a "grey shape" drop away from the UFO just before it vanished in the distance.

During the sighting Mrs. Bowers switched on the

intercom in the house only to hear a peculiar "sharp" sound. "And the funny thing is," she told a reporter for the *Centralia-Chehalis Chronicle*, "we tried to use the intercom the night before and we got that same sharp sound."

But that was not to be all. Later in the week (the UFO sighting occurred on a Monday) Mrs. Bowers was putting a log in the living-room fireplace when she saw the curtains moving in the boys' bedroom, which was visible from where she stood.

"All the children were in the living room with me," she said. "And all I could think of was getting them safely out of there. So I loaded them into the car and we left, but I definitely saw a shape in the bedroom as we drove away." They returned only after Mr. Bowers had come home from work.

"I feel sure that was probably a prowler," Mrs. Bowers remarked. "We've had trouble in our neighbourhood and I don't think it's related to the others. But the footprints and the saucer—I don't know . . ."

Nonetheless the "prowler" was a strange one: he took nothing. He rummaged through the bedrooms but afterwards the Bowers could find nothing missing. While it is of course impossible to prove anything, we cannot help thinking of the mysterious "grey shape" the children thought they saw, and then of those enigmatic entities John Keel has called "bedroom invaders."

Two other incidents briefly noted:

1) **Monongahela National Forest (near Marlinton, West Virginia), October 1960.** A nearly incredible story related by W. C. "Doc" Priestley has it that the witness, while driving along a road behind a group of friends in a bus, encountered an eight-foot hairy ape-like "monster with long hair standing straight up." Just moments before he saw the thing, his car engine suddenly had ceased working. "I don't know how long I sat there," Priestley said, "until the boys missed me and backed up the bus to where I was. It seemed the monster was very much afraid of the bus and dropped his hair and to my surprise, as soon as he did this, my car started to run again. I didn't tell the boys what I had seen. The thing took off when the bus started."

Priestley and the bus resumed their journey. Soon, however, the car began to sputter again. "I could see the sparks flying from under the hood of my car as if it had a very bad short. And sure enough, there beside the road stood the monster again. The points were completely burned out of my car." The bus backed up again and the creature fled into the forest.

Priestley's was only one of a number of anthropoid sightings made in West Virginia that year.

2) **Erie, Pennsylvania, July 31, 1966.** Five persons in a car parked on a Presque Isle beach saw a UFO land; shortly afterwards a tall, evidently anthropoidal figure shambled up to the car in the dark, terrifying the witnesses and leaving large footprints in the sand. The incident by now is a well-known one and has been reported in *Flying Saucer Review* and in several UFO books. A few days later a large hairy biped appeared near Edinboro, a city 18 miles from Erie.

\* \* \* \* \*

Northeastern Missouri has had its share of mysteries.



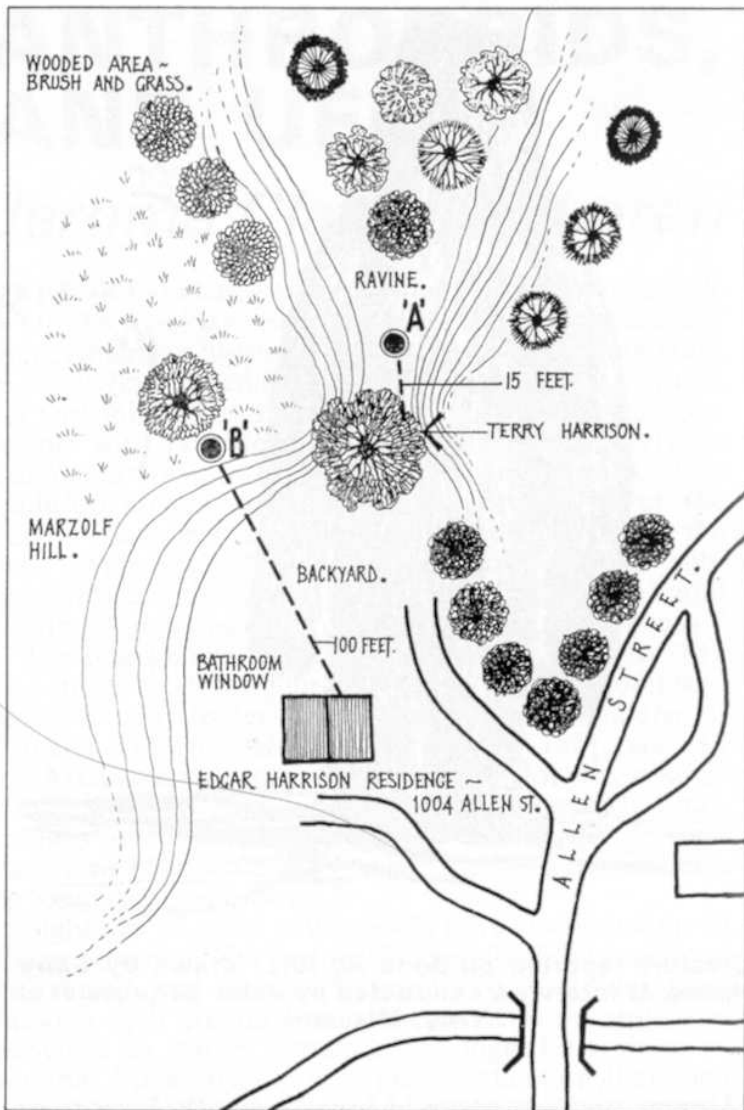
**Creature reported on June 30, 1972: drawn by Larry Hanna at interview conducted by John Schuessler at Troy, Missouri**

"Momo," as the monster of July-August 1972 was to be called, is only the most recent.

Along River Road, which stretches north from Highway 54 along the Mississippi River and past the mouth of the Salt River, there is a longstanding tradition about a phantom man who walks across the road and vanishes. In the 1940s travellers and residents repeatedly heard what sounded like a woman's screams emanating from the general vicinity of an abandoned lime kiln. The screams came always around midnight and were never explained.

In addition to recurring reports of fireballs or "swamp gas" there have been a number of mysterious deaths. The strangest of all occurred during the winter of 1954, when a man and a woman were found dead in a car along the roadside. The woman sat on the passenger side and seemed to be asleep. The man lay crouched under the steering wheel completely nude, his clothing piled neatly 20 feet behind the car. The coroner listed the deaths as caused by "asphyxiation" even though the window on the driver's side was open all the way—this in ten-degree-below-zero weather.

Joan Mills and Mary Ryan were not on River Road that day in July 1971 but they were not far from it. Highway 79 is a backwoods road which runs north of Louisiana, Missouri, a place that a year later would achieve a measure of immortality in Fortean annals. They had taken the highway on their way back to St.



**A: Position when first observed by Terry (aged 8 years)**

**B: Position when observed by Doris and Terry from within the house**

Louis because they were looking for a picturesque spot for a picnic. When they found a promising spot, they turned off on a dirt road, put out a blanket and brought out the food. "We were eating lunch," Miss Ryan recalled, "when we both wrinkled up our noses at the same time. I never smelled anything as bad in my life."

Her friend suggested they were smelling a whole family of skunks. Suddenly her jaw dropped and she pointed toward a brushy thicket behind her companion.

"I turned around and this thing was standing there in the thicket," Miss Mills said. "The weeds were pretty high and I just saw the top part of this creature. It was staring down at us."

Miss Ryan added, "It was half-ape and half-man. I've been reading up on the abominable snowman since then, and from stories and articles, you get the idea that these things are more like gorillas. This thing was not like that at all. It had hair over the body as if it was an ape. Yet, the face was definitely human. It was more like a hairy human."

"Then it made a little gurgling sound like someone trying to whistle under water," according to Miss Mills.

It stepped out of the brush and proceeded to walk

toward the young woman, who dashed for their Volkswagen and locked the doors. The beast, continuing to gurgle, caressed the hood of the car and then, in a clear demonstration of intelligent behaviour, tried to open the doors.

"It walked upright on two feet and its arms dangled way down," Miss Ryan stated. "The arms were partially covered with hair but the hands and the palms were hairless. We had plenty of time to see this . . ."

The women were terrified—all the more so because Miss Mills had left her car keys in her purse, which she had abandoned outside in the flight to the safety of the automobile. "Finally," said Miss Mills, "my arm hit the horn ring and the thing jumped straight in the air and moved back." She kept on beeping the horn.

"It stayed at a safe distance, then seemed to realize that the noise was not dangerous," Mary Ryan said. "It stopped where we had been eating, picked up my peanut butter sandwich, smelled it, then devoured it in one gulp. It started to pick up Joan's purse, dropped it and then disappeared back into the woods."

Joan Mills ran out of the car to retrieve her purse and returned to roar on down the highway at 90 m.p.h. Subsequently, once back in St. Louis they submitted a report to the Missouri State Patrol.

"We'd have difficulty proving that the experience occurred," Miss Mills wrote, "but all you have to do is go into those hills to realize that an army of those things could live there undetected."

A dramatic enough introduction to the events scheduled to erupt exactly a year later. Joan Mills and Mary Ryan were due to have their story confirmed in startling fashion.

The "Momo" (after "Missouri monster") scare began on Tuesday, July 11, 1972, at 3.30 p.m. on the outskirts of the city of Louisiana (pop. 4,600). Terry Harrison, 8, and his brother Wally, 5, were playing in their yard, which sits at the foot of Marzolf Hill, and had gone off by some old rabbit pens in the woods next to the Harrison property. Suddenly an older sister, Doris, who was inside, heard them scream and looked out the bathroom window. She saw something standing by a tree—"six or seven feet tall, black and hairy. It stood like a man but it didn't look like one to me."

The thing was flecked with blood, probably from the dead dog it carried under its arm. Its face could not be seen under the mass of hair covering it and it seemed to be without a neck.

The Harrisons' dog got very sick shortly after the incident. Its eyes grew red and it vomited for hours afterwards, finally recovering after a meal of bread and milk.

The same afternoon Mrs. Clarence Lee, who lives half a block away, heard animal sounds, growling and "carrying on something terrible." Not long afterwards she talked with a farmer whose dog, a recent gift, had disappeared. He wondered if the "monster" had taken it.

Three days later, on July 14, Edgar Harrison, Terry and Doris' father and a deacon in the Pentecostal Church, conducted the regular Friday evening prayer meeting at his house. Around 8.30 it had started to break up, and as Harrison and a dozen or so of his

congregation lingered, talking, they sighted two "fire-balls" soaring from over Marzolf Hill and descending into the trees behind an abandoned school across the street. The objects appeared at a five-minute interval. The first was white and the second green.

About 9.15 Harrison heard ringing noises such as might be caused by the throwing of stones on to the metal water reservoir which stands at the top of the hill. The reservoir, which holds a million and a half gallons of water, is in an area where neighbourhood children often play. After one especially loud ring "I heard something that sounded like a loud growl. It got louder and louder and kept coming closer. At that time my



**Edgar Harrison's sketch of the monster, made under the direction of Doris and Terry Harrison.**

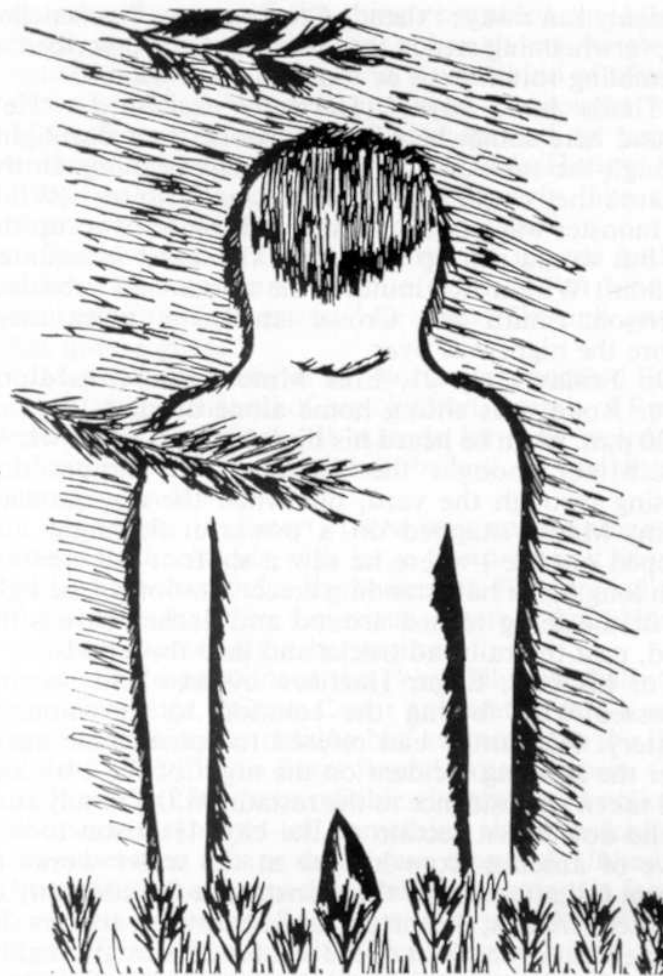
family came running from the house. They began urging me to drive off.

"I wanted to wait and see what it was that was making this noise. My family insisted that I drive away and so I drove down Allen Street across the Town Branch.

"I stopped the car and my wife and family told them, 'Here it comes!' And those 40 people turned and ran down the street."

Police officers Jerry Floyd and John Whitaker went to the Harrison home, poked around for a while and found nothing. That night, however, UFOs were reported in nearby New Canton, Illinois.

Late that evening Harrison, along with several others, explored Marzolf Hill and came to an old building from which a pungent, unpleasant odour was emanating. Harrison subsequently described it as "a mouldy, horse smell or a strong garbage smell." This was not to be the only time he encountered it—in the days ahead he would find it whenever he approached an area where the strange noises seemed to be coming from.



**Louisiana, Missouri, creature observed by Doris Harrison and Terry Hare on July 11, 1972. Interviewer: Walt Andrus.**

Around 5.00 the following morning Pat Howard of Louisiana saw "a dark object" walking like a man cross the road near the hill.

On the 19th Police Chief Shelby Ward led a search through Marzolf Hill, accompanied by Harrison, State Conservation officer Gus Artus and 17 others. Nothing was uncovered.

But the next day Richard Crowe, a reporter for Chicago's *Irish Times* and also for *Fate* magazine, and Loren Smith went up the hill with Harrison for another look. Near the tree where Doris had seen the monster, Crowe was to write, "There was a circular spot in the brush where leaves and twigs had been stripped from the branches." Further along Crowe found evidence that someone or something had been digging in an old garbage dump and not far away Harrison showed him two disinterred dog graves with the bones scattered about. Higher up the hill they came upon two tracks some distance from each other. The first, over ten inches long and five inches wide, appeared to be a footprint; the other, five inches long and curved, was evidently the print of a hand. The prints had been made in hard soil (there had been no rain for ten days) and Crowe estimated that it would take a minimum of 200 pounds of pressure to create such impressions.

Harrison led Crowe to an abandoned shack which Harrison thought might serve as a resting place for the monster. While they were there, Harrison's dog Chubby

suddenly ran away; "then," Crowe wrote, "we smelled an overwhelming stench that could only be described as resembling rotten flesh or foul, stagnant water."

"That's him, boys!" Harrison exclaimed. "He's around here somewhere." They shone their flashlights through the surrounding trees but saw nothing. In the distance they could hear dogs barking furiously. (While the monster was about, dogs would refuse to go up the hill but would run up and down the street in agitated fashion.) Within five minutes the odour had subsided. Harrison, Smith and Crowe smelled it twice more before the night was over.

On Friday, July 21, Ellis Minor, who lives along River Road, was sitting home alone around 10.00 or 10.30 p.m. when he heard his bird dog start to growl. At first Minor thought the stimulus was another dog passing through the yard, but when the dog growled again, Minor snapped on a powerful flashlight and stepped outside—where he saw a six-foot-tall creature with long black hair standing erect. As soon as the light hit it, the thing turned around and dashed across the road, past the railroad tracks and into the woods.

For his part, Edgar Harrison by now had become obsessed with finding the solution to the monster mystery. His family had refused to come home again after the howling incident on the night of the 14th and had taken up residence in the restaurant the family runs in the downtown section of the city. Harrison took a leave of absence from his job at the water works to devote full attention to the monster; in the company of assorted friends, reporters and curiosity seekers he camped out at the foot of the hill for 21 straight nights. Evidently even the negative report of Oklahoma City's zoo director Lawrence Curtis on the plastercasts of the prints did not shake Harrison's firm conviction that something very strange was taking place. "It does not seem to be an actual print made by a natural living animal," Curtis said on the 25th. "It appears to have been made by one of those rubber-type gloves women use to wash dishes with—either that or a snow mitten."\*

Though he never saw the monster himself, Harrison did succeed in making two startling discoveries which add a whole new dimension to the riddle. First, he noted that the obnoxious odour always appeared just when searchers appeared to be on to something, leading him to believe the odour was really a stink gas used to distract the searchers' attention. On several occasions witnesses reported seeing a small glowing light which would explode leaving the stench in its wake.

On the night of the 29th Harrison and a group of college students, standing on top of the hill, heard what sounded like a shot from near the road. They rushed down the hill until they got near the road, where they all distinctly heard an old man's voice saying, "You boys stay out of these woods."

The voice seemed to have come from a nearby clump of trees no more than 20 feet wide by 50 feet, but an immediate and thorough search failed to turn up anything.

A week later, on August 5, another evidently disembodied voice spoke to Pat Howard and a friend, who were camped out in Harrison's back yard. The two were drinking coffee when someone or something said, "I'll take a cup of your coffee." Again a search

produced no results.

Later in July mysterious three-toed tracks made by something with an oval foot appeared on the Freddie Robbins farm eight miles south of Louisiana. On August 3, just before dawn, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Suddarth, who farm northwest of the town, heard a high-pitched howl in their yard, grabbed flashlights and headed outside. In the middle of the garden mud they observed four tracks of some three-toed creature.

Suddarth quickly phoned Clyd Penrod, a hunting buddy, who drove over to make a plaster cast of the best print. Penrod was puzzled by the whole affair. "It was 20 to 25 feet from the tracks to anything else," he said. "I can't understand how they were made." They began nowhere and ended nowhere, and no other tracks were to be found anywhere else on the property.

The Suddarth prints were different from the ones discovered at the Robbins farm in being narrower, longer and more perfectly formed.

Crowe's investigation uncovered a number of Louisiana UFO sightings which did not make the papers, presumably because reporters were already busy enough running down monster stories and rumours. Nonetheless, on the night of the 26th, a "fireball" alighted on top of a large cottonwood tree at the first railroad crossing on River Road. It shot out two spurts of red light and then zoomed out of sight. On the following three nights coloured lights were observed along the top of the limestone bluff at the northern end of River Road. The witnesses, the Harrison and Shade families (Mrs. Shade is Mrs. Harrison's sister), thought the lights were signalling back and forth to each other. Sunday night, the 30th, at 9.00, an orange, glowing UFO with lighted "windows" landed in the thicket at the top of the bluff and sat there for five hours before it "went straight up into the air and disappeared," in Mrs. Lois Shade's words.

That week the Shades' seven-year-old son Rossie came home with two pieces of paper with writing on them. He said to his mother that "something in my head told me" to pick them up and take them with him.

The first message, written with blue ballpoint on good quality white paper, read:

Explain away my fears, answer my questions and relieve my heart. I ask, I want, I seek and I punish. The sweet, good delightful, beautiful are destroyed as I see only devastation (sic) and feel sorrow for myself & bitterness. Is askance the answer? I don't know? *I'm lost* & forlorn though I desperately try to see the good. Turning to God to music & love I feel relief (sic) & I feel guilt What is it? And the second:

I can't realize the finality of the affair I don't realize the futility of my fondness My adoration is wanted but not

\* Presumably Curtis is referring to the smaller of the two alleged tracks.

Lest readers be tempted to dismiss his testimony out of hand, I should like to say that in the past I have had dealings with Curtis (involving several long telephone conversations) on a related matter, namely Oklahoma's 1970-71 anthropoid scare, and found him to be an unusually open-minded and fair man whose considerable scientific training has most decidedly not prejudiced him against the possible existence of these unknown animals. See my article, "Manimals' Make Tracks in Oklahoma," *Fate*, September 1971.—J. Clark.

myself as a whole, and as someone said "you can't have the cake & the icing too." Making the cake the good part and the icing; although not bad, the show, it's hard to see why you can't have both! Only on rare occasions I've been told do both come together. For the icing though by far the most romantic & sweet looking is very deceptive for it has a bitter taste if not taken in stride. Oh, but I feel like turning away the cake too. I've been advised and I've sought many answers from other mens words but the decision is mine. Yeah, you who read this, only I shall understand my writings take from me not the pleasure of my work, leave it still.

Both were written by the same hand. Mrs. Shade searched for other possible messages but there were no others. Both she and her brother-in-law, Harrison, believed they were penned by either the monster or the intelligence controlling it. To an outside observer, however, the "messages" sound like nothing so much as the ravings of a deranged rejected lover.

The Shades not long before had been subjected to an equally strange experience: The evening of the partial eclipse (July 26) the entire family had seen "a perfect gold cross on the moon," Mrs. Shade said. "The road was lit up as bright as day from the cross." They interpreted the sight as an omen from heaven.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Momo" was not the only monster to frighten Middle America that summer. In the extreme northwestern part of Arkansas, a state which borders Missouri from the south, the summer brought several reports of an imperfectly-observed, vaguely-described "creature." It first appeared, according to an article in Fayetteville's *Northwest Arkansas Times*, some time in January, when on two occasions Mrs. C. W. Humphrey of Springdale heard dogs barking loudly, looked out the door of her trailer home and saw a "creature" strolling on by. In the following months several other persons in the neighbourhood caught a glimpse of the thing, but only in the dark, and so they did not get a good look at it. Early in July Pete Ragland shot at the creature with a .22 pistol.

Then, starting at 10.15 on the evening of July 20, the climatic events took place. Mrs. Humphrey, her three sons and a daughter-in-law were sleeping when they were awakened by pounding on the trailer. Mrs. Humphrey quietened one of the children and went outside to find the cause. There she encountered the "biggest looking thing I ever saw"—something that alternately walked upright and crawled on all fours.

Shortly afterwards Bill Hurst, who lives just south of the Humphrey residence, sighted the creature in his garden. It was staring at him with "two great big eyes." He was sure it was some sort of animal (others had thought it might be a huge man). When he yelled at it, it took off running.

The night of September 6 Mrs. Barbara Robinson of Springdale called police to report that a prowler had peered through a bedroom window of her house. The policeman who investigated remarked that the prowler "had to be at least seven feet tall" since the window was that high and there was nothing in the immediate area on which he could have stood.

The *Peoria* [Illinois] *Journal-Star* for July 26 relates the claim of Randy Emert, 18, who reportedly saw a monster two different times over the previous two

months. Emert said the thing resembled the Missouri beast in most particulars although its height was between eight and 12 feet and it was "kind of white and moved quick." When it appeared, it brought with it Momo's rancid odour and also seemed to scare the animals living in the woods near Cole Hollow Road. Emert said: "It lets out a long screech—like an old steam-engine whistle, only more human."

Emert asserted that a number of friends had seen either the creature or its footprints. "I'm kind of a spokesman for the group," he said. "The only one who has guts, I guess."

Mrs. Ann Kammerer of Peoria corroborated Emert's story, stating that all of her children, friends of Emert's, had seen the thing. "It sounds kind of weird," she admitted. "At first I didn't believe it, but then my daughter-in-law saw it."

According to Emert, there was an old abandoned house in the woods with large footprints all around it and a hole dug under the basement. Readers will recall the empty shack in Louisiana where Edgar Harrison thought Momo might be staying.

July 25th, announced the *Pekin* [Illinois] *Daily Times* two days later, "Creve Coeur authorities said a witness reported seeing 'something big' swimming in the Illinois River." The Illinois River flows through Peoria. On the night of the 27th "two reliable citizens" told police they had seen a ten-foot-tall something that "looked like a cross between an ape and a cave man." A United Press International account describes it as having "a face with long gray U-shaped ears, a red mouth with sharp teeth, [and] thumbs with long second joints . . ." It smelled, said a witness, like a "musky wet down dog." The East Peoria Police Department reported it had received more than 200 calls about the monster the following evening.

Leroy Summers of Cairo, Illinois, saw a 10-foot, white, hairy creature standing erect near the Ohio River levee during the evening hours of July 25. The Cairo police found nothing when they came to investigate and Police Commissioner James Dale warned that henceforth anyone making a monster report would have his breath tested for alcoholic content.

A series of several "monster" reports in the Vineland, New Jersey, area apparently were caused by the sight of a 6ft. 5in. bearded swimmer as observed by a group of excitable teenagers. By the fourth week of July "monstermania" evidently had taken a grip on the consciousness of many Americans.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is not our purpose here to analyze the many strange stories recounted above, but some brief observations might be in order.

We are confronted with three presumably separate questions: mysterious anthropoids, UFOs and, perhaps most important, psychic phenomena. Clearly, to us at any rate, the answers do not lie in conventional flying saucer buff theorizing, and Hayden Hewes' much-publicized theory that Momo and his relatives might be experimental animals dropped by extraterrestrials from their saucer-spaceships proves only that there is much of which many ufologists are unaware.

For example, there is the Russian folk tradition about

# BUT I READ IT IN A BOOK!

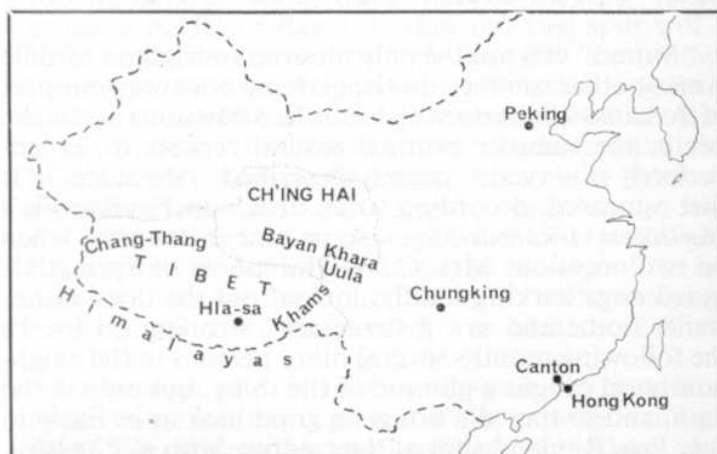
*Gordon Creighton*

IN two Soviet propaganda-publications<sup>1</sup> issued in the English language in 1967, a curious tale was reported by the popular-science writer Vyacheslav Zaitsev.<sup>2</sup> It was to the effect that, according to remarkable revelations made in a *German* publication called *Das Vegetarische Universum*, Chinese scientists exploring caves high up in the Bayan-Khara Uula (Mountains)<sup>3</sup> in Central Asia in 1938 had found graves with many strange skeletons, rock-drawings of beings wearing round helmets, and a total of 716 mysterious 2-cm. thick granite discs, all with a very high mineral (mainly cobalt) content and all having a central hole, as modern long-playing gramophone records do. These granite discs, so the story went, bore patterns and hieroglyphs, "incised in double-grooved spirals" which represented the "oldest language in the world." This incised script "ran out spirally to the edge of the plates."

After racking their brains for two decades in attempts to decipher the mystery writing, the Chinese scientist Tsum Um Nui<sup>4</sup> and four colleagues had finally been successful, but the results with which they came up were "so shattering that the Peking Academy of Prehistory banned publication." Later however the ban was relaxed and the story was finally published in 1963. It related how, about 12,000 years ago, a group of alien beings in a spacecraft had crash-landed on our planet and had lacked sufficient power to take off again. They had come into conflict with the local Earthlings and most of the visitors had been wiped out, though enough of them had survived to leave traces of their stock in two debased local tribes. In the rock-drawings and the rows of graves containing weird skeletons the Chinese scientists had found corroboration of ancient

Chinese legends that once upon a time small, ugly, big-headed, spindly-legged yellow-skinned beings had descended from the skies and, on account of their revolting appearance, had been liquidated. Even to this day, said the account, the region of the Bayan-Khara Uula was inhabited by the "Ham" and "Dropa" tribes—"frail, stunted men, averaging four feet two inches in height" who "so far have defied ethnic classification."

Since much of my work involves the part of the world in question and seeing that the story was one in which considerable linguistic investigation might be required, involving German, Russian, Chinese, Tibetan, etc., I decided that I would put some effort into following it up to its source, and see where it led me (just as much hard work by Western explorers had to be expended in the selfsame area before the source of the famous Yellow River was finally established). My immediate reason for giving now this résumé of my findings is that



China, showing the Provinces of Tibet and Ch'ing Hai

## ANTHROPOIDS, MONSTERS AND UFOs *Continued from page 23*

"Wild Women." The legend reminds us unmistakably of our anthropoids—up to a point—when suddenly we discover that the other half of the tradition is just as unmistakably out of the fairy-faith. Using Hewes' logic, might we then assume that anthropoids are a kind of fairies? Of course not. Not any more than we can assume, because in recent years Irish countryfolk have reported viewing "leprechauns" stepping out of flying saucers, that fairies are really UFO beings.

Fairies, anthropoids, UFOs: in a sense all are the same, each no more and no less real than the others, and all are part of a vast riddle whose answers do not wait on another planet but much, much closer to home.

\* \* \* \* \*

One last item, a letter from Mrs. Beulah Schroat of Decatur, Illinois, published in the *Decatur Review* of August 2, 1972:

"To the Editor:

"In reference to the creatures people are seeing, I am 76 years old. My home used to be south of Effingham. My two brothers saw the creatures when they were children. My brothers have since passed away.

"They are hairy, stand on their hind legs, have large eyes and are about as large as an average person or shorter, and are harmless as they ran away from the children. They walk, they do not jump.

"They were seen on a farm near a branch of water. The boys waded and fished in the creek every day and once in a while they would run to the house scared and tell the story.

"Later there was a piece in the Chicago paper stating there were such animals of that description and they were harmless. This occurred about 60 years ago or a little less.

"My mother and father thought they were just children's stories until the Chicago paper told the story."