

UFO OCCUPANTS: FACT OR FANTASY?

A psychiatric study of two possible cases

Berthold Eric Schwarz, M.D.

Our contributor is consultant to the Brain Wave Laboratory of the Essex County Overbrook Hospital, Cedar Grove, New Jersey.

ACROSS the world there have been many reports of possible UFO occupants.¹ With few exceptions,² however, little attention has been given to this matter by physicians.

The eminent psychiatrist, Joost A. M. Meerloo,^{3, 4} discussed various medical aspects of UFO reports. In a proposed method of medical investigation of a hypothetical UFO witness, Walker⁵ enumerated various tests and procedures. In a recent report⁶ of actual close UFO encounters, much of the relevant medical literature was mentioned. That study stressed (1) how medicine could be useful in determining the possible human biological effects of exposure to a UFO, and (2) how listing all the data connected with a possible UFO experience might aid in determining if the event was a reality or, in fact, the product of mental illness, a delusion, an illusion, an hallucination, or a fabrication. It was noted that an attitude of *a priori* condemnation or *a posteriori* ridicule of possible UFO witnesses was potentially destructive to their health and obstructive to the scientific purpose of obtaining all factual information on UFOs and their purported occupants.

Psychiatric evaluation of persons who have claimed close contacts with UFOs and their occupants might have value. The following accounts are therefore presented.

I. FARM LADY SEES UFO AND OCCUPANT AT CLOSE RANGE

At approximately 6.00 a.m., just before sunrise, on a clear day in late May, 1957, Miss Frances Stichler, age 62, of Route 6, near Milford, Pennsylvania, saw at close range a UFO and its occupant. A detailed account by J. Edson Myer, of Milford, was published in the *Pike County Dispatch*, Thursday, December 19, 1957. Mr. Myer, together with his wife, are leading citizens of Milford. Mr. Myer has known Miss Stichler from high school days before 1914. The Myers made a careful, on-site investigation. (They had formerly lived and worked in Washington, D.C., for many years. Before retirement they had had responsible and sensitive positions in the Federal Government. They were trained to state facts in careful English and, when possible, use careful measurements.) Their report follows, in part:

"As Miss Stichler was about to enter the barn to feed the chickens, a soft whirring or spinning sound caused her to hesitate and look upward. A rather flat, bowl-shaped object with a broad rim soared into view over the barn, only about 15ft. above the roof. About 50ft. away and up about 35ft. from the ground, the saucer came to a stop in a somewhat tilted position and

remained poised for nearly a minute. Then, spinning around, it sailed in a large, nearly horizontal arc to the south-east and disappeared over the wooded hill.

"The detailed observations which Miss Stichler made of the object are fascinating. A man in a light gray, tight-fitting helmet and a loose-fitting, shiny suit of the same colour was sitting on the broad rim with his feet and legs in the lower portion of the saucer. The man sat on the rim on the far side of the saucer, facing directly toward Miss Stichler, the saucer being tilted so that his body could be seen down to his knees. No detail, however, could be made out much below his waist because of the lack of good light and the angle of the saucer. The man, of average size, had deep-set eyes and a rather long face with a calm to quizzical expression. His skin was suntanned. Miss Stichler reported that the man may have been wondering what she was thinking about and if she would scream or run.

"At no time did she think of speaking to the occupant of the saucer. The two looked at each other for the entire time. Miss Stichler was at first too surprised to be uneasy. Then as the man continued to gaze at her, she began to feel disturbed and wondered what his next move might be and what she should do. About that time the whirring sound began to increase and the saucer took off.

"Miss Stichler, with a great sense of relief, then went back to the house and wondered for some time to whom she might phone. She thought about phoning the police, since if it were a Russian spy it should be reported. But because there was no material evidence of any kind to exhibit, she felt that she could not present a logical case. Miss Stichler did report this happening to a few friends shortly thereafter; but it was always taken lightly and they never failed to ask what she had been drinking. (Miss Stichler is not a drinking person.) For this reason no attempt was made to report a detailed account. A short previous account of this experience was reported in Mrs. Emilie Case's column in a recent issue of the *Pike County Dispatch*, but it was felt that a more detailed story would be of interest to many readers.

"The rational thoughts about this episode which occupied Miss Stichler's mind during the sighting and afterward are quite convincing evidence that this was anything but an hallucination.

"The saucer with the flange was estimated to be about 20ft. in total diameter with the flange 3 to 4ft. wide. No bubble cover over the top of the shiny, aluminium-coloured saucer was visible.

"As the saucer disappeared, the bottom came into view and gave the impression of being a shallow hemisphere. The impression also of something spinning was

again evident although nothing was observed to be spinning, nor were there any noticeable air currents which disturbed the ground cover. The spinning or vibrating sound which the saucer emitted made Miss Stichler feel that it was mechanically operated. Because of the relatively small size of the device it was felt that the saucer was based nearby."

Psychiatric examination

After preliminary telephone interviews with Miss Stichler and her cousin, Mrs. Viola Weiser, with whom she lives, and with Mr. Myer, arrangements were made for psychiatric examination of Miss Stichler, which took place on December 7, 1968. Miss Stichler was an open, friendly, cooperative woman who vividly recalled all the details as described in Mr. Myer's account. In response to questions, she produced these following additional points:

1. "[UFO] seemed to be aluminium . . . over the top of it it had a clear plastic . . . it was circular . . . no blades . . . stood there without noise . . . I don't know what made it go . . . [estimated time of observation] not more than 3 to 4 minutes.
2. "[Occupant] looked like a slim, 18-year-old boy . . . had a uniform like a mechanic wears . . . helmet over head to protect him, no goggles . . . face open . . . no hair showing . . . face looked like normal person . . . white . . . eyes and eyebrows . . . hands like anybody else's hands . . . had gloves on. [No buttons, seams, or zippers seen.]
3. "He was as surprised as I was. We looked at each other for a few minutes, and I wasn't frightened. He just stood there, and then I got frightened. [No discernible effects on chickens or birds.]
4. "It had no [steering] wheel (as in an auto) but had things you would pull [levers].
5. "The thing seemed to die down [vibrations] . . . you didn't hear any engine. It was standing still . . . he [occupant] wasn't doing anything while he was looking at me.
6. "He started off and went at right angles to where he had come from before. It seemed to be like a puff of steam out of the back as it flew off . . . went

faster and faster . . . seemed to get louder as it went ahead . . . at a distance all you noticed was the plastic covering. I had looked for that [identification] but didn't see anything like that. [No odour or dust.]"

7. Beyond Mr. and Mrs. Myer's first-hand investigation (and the author's), no one has studied Miss Stichler.

Miss Stichler's past medical history revealed no previous emotional or psychosomatic illness. This viewpoint was also confirmed after questioning of Mrs. Viola Weiser, her cousin (who is older than Miss Stichler and whom she has known all her life), and Mr. and Mrs. Myer, acquaintances for many years. There was no suggestion of any lying, dishonesty, or proclivity for being a practical joker or hoaxer. Although Miss Stichler, as a practicing Christian Scientist, seldom called on a physician, she had seen Jack S. Bullock, M.D., on occasion. A telephone interview with Dr. Bullock revealed that his patient was a truthful person, and at the time of the episode she had no illness. Years after the alleged episode, he treated her for essential hypertension, and at that time, in other respects, she was in good general health and had no evidence of gross disturbances of seeing, hearing, or mentation.

After graduation from high school, Miss Stichler taught school for a short time, and then she helped her parents in the management of their farm for more than fifty years. Miss Stichler, an only child, came to the Milford region near the turn of the century. Aside from occasional head colds and minimal deafness in one ear, she always enjoyed good health.

At the time of the psychiatric study, more than ten years after the purported episode, Miss Stichler spoke in a brisk, logical, coherent manner and reacted appropriately to all the nuances of her story and other significant events in her life. She related warmly and appeared to have a good sense of humour. There was no suggestion of any dereistic thinking, undue preoccupations, and so forth. It was the author's impression that she had above-average intelligence. She was correct in all her responses on formal testing in the mental status examination. Her seeing and hearing were grossly

FSR SPECIAL ISSUE No. 2

BEYOND CONDON . . .

IS A VERY IMPORTANT DOCUMENT, SO DO NOT MISS YOUR CHANCE TO STUDY IT

There are unusual aspects of the UFO enigma which, needing doubly careful investigation, present a remarkable challenge to investigators. It would seem that these aspects were beyond the briefing of Dr. Edward U. Condon's Colorado University Project.

Contributors to this 72-page report include . . .

**JOHN A. KEEL, Dr. LEO SPRINKLE, Dr. BERTHOLD E. SCHWARZ
MORT YOUNG, OTTO BINDER, Dr. W. G. ALLEN
BRAD STEIGER & JOAN WHITENOUR, ALLEN GREENFIELD**

You'll need to hurry to ensure your copy of this limited edition.

Price 12s. (12s. 6d. overseas, or **US\$1.50**—by air **\$1.30** extra)

Remittance with order please, to:

**FSR (Special 2)
49a King's Grove
Peckham, London SE15**

intact. She did not wear eyeglasses. She was not colour-blind on testing with the pseudoisochromatic plates.

II. TWO TINY "MEN" IN UNIFORM AT CONASHAUGH

On the last day of the deer-(doe)-hunting season [December 17], 1956, Mrs. Marie Carow, age 68, had an extraordinary experience with "two little men." At that time Mrs. Carow lived in a very isolated region, Conashaugh, in Pennsylvania (between Milford and Dingman's Ferry). Because of the initial derisive reaction of her neighbours and family, Mrs. Carow's experience was not presented to the public until April 17, 1958 (*Pike County Dispatch*).

After Mr. Myer's article about Miss Stichler, Mrs. Carow wrote about her experience. She sympathised with Miss Stichler because of the "ribbing" she felt Miss Stichler might have experienced. Her letter was forwarded to Mr. Myer who, with his wife, visited Mrs. Carow and conducted an on-the-spot interrogation. Excerpts from his account follow.

"The estate on which Mrs. D.* lives is rather secluded, with a large lawn and garden area to the rear of the house. Beyond this area is an open field flanked by woods, which are roughly 400ft. from the house. A second field farther away lies behind a big old barn and cannot be seen from the house. As a nature lover, Mrs. D. derives great pleasure from watching the deer which come out of the woods into the field and on to the lawn both during the day and at night. They are observed at night by spotting them with a strong flashlight.

"During the last day of hunting season, 1956, there had been a great deal of shooting in the woods beyond the fields, and Mrs. D. was concerned whether there would be any deer left. About 9 o'clock that night Mrs. D. decided to take her flashlight and see if she could spot any deer. Stepping a few paces from the house, she immediately located objects with her flashlight which she recognised to be two men standing on the lawn, close together, with their arms at their sides and facing her a short 150ft. away. They were standing a few feet from garden stakes used to hold up raspberry bushes, so that their height could be judged quite accurately. One figure was estimated to be 3½ft. tall and the other 3ft. tall. [Mrs. Carow is 5ft. tall.] Mrs. D. played the flashlight beam on and off the men for about three minutes. At no time did they move but stood perfectly still.

"Both men were dressed alike in snugly fitting suits made of shiny silvery material which glistened in the light. Each wore a snugly fitting helmet leaving the face visible. Both men had fair complexions. They were well-proportioned and had good muscular development.

"As Mrs. D. continued to play the light back and forth across the men, she hoped that they would depart. However, as they remained motionless, she began to get excited. Finally, she retreated to the house, hurried inside, and bolted the door. She then ran to her husband who was watching television in the living room and very excitedly, with her knees shaking, told him that two little men in shiny suits were on the back lawn. She said that she didn't know what they were and begged him to

come out with her and look at them. Mr. D., however, was so interested in his TV programme and at the same time somewhat sceptical of the presence of the two little men that he didn't go out.

"About 15 minutes later Mrs. D. had calmed down and became so anxious about the men that she again went out by herself to see if the men were still there, but they were nowhere to be seen. During this 15-minute interval, Mrs. D. became impressed with the idea that these little men with their well-formed bodies and shiny uniforms were possibly from outer space and probably had their space vehicle parked behind the old barn.

"About two weeks later Mrs. D. related this account to friends living a few miles away on a hill back of Dingman's Ferry. The friends, a mother and daughter [a Mrs. Johnson and her daughter], said that about two weeks previously, at about 9 o'clock in the evening, they had seen a large luminous object in the sky speeding in a westerly direction. They expressed the opinion that this may have been the space vehicle of the two little men."

Psychiatric interview

After two telephone conversations, a psychiatric interview of Mrs. Carow was undertaken on December 7, 1968. Mrs. Carow, who was seen in her daughter's apartment, was a sincere-appearing, elderly lady, alert, serious, and open. She clearly recalled all the details mentioned in Mr. Myer's article and supplied additional information.

1. "The little one was stocky but the other was slender. They were both perfect in proportion. They were miniature men—perfectly dressed." When asked if they resembled the dwarfs she had heard about in Bavaria as a child, she said 'No.'
2. "It [uniform] looked like aluminium foil, shiny. They had gloves and shoes." [She could not tell if they had seams, pockets, zippers, buckles, or belts.]
3. During the time of the episode (as is true most of the time), there were no automobiles around and there was complete silence.
4. The next morning Mrs. Carow found an area, "in back of the garage" (close to where she had seen the men), where there "was squashed-down grass—but it could have been from the cattle that went through in the afternoon."
5. Mrs. Carow illustrated her comments about the episode with photographs of her former home and surrounding property.
6. In addition to telling her husband at the time of the possible UFO-occupant experience, Mrs. Carow also told her daughter shortly afterward and three of her neighbours. This was confirmed on careful questioning of the daughter (December 7, 1968). At the time of the event the daughter recalled how, "Mother was excited, said no one believed her, but she was staunch in what she believed she saw."
7. Because of her fear from the episode, Mrs. Carow

* Mrs. D. was the pseudonym chosen for Mrs. Marie Carow.

was reluctant to go out at night for approximately six months thereafter, unless she was accompanied by her husband. She never had experienced anything remotely like this event in her past, nor has she since. Prior to her experience, Mrs. Carow, like Miss Stichler, had no more than a most casual interest in "flying saucers."

As was true in Miss Stichler's experience, it should be stressed that Mrs. Carow's house was in a very isolated area. Mrs. Carow at that time of her life enjoyed superb health and had good vision (no spectacles) and hearing. She was a housewife and her husband worked as a bartender. Mrs. Carow was certain that she saw two tiny men, because she had a "five-battery, focusing (magnifying glass) flashlight" which she had bought for the specific purpose of observing deer and other wild life on her property. Although there was no moon, it was a clear night and there were many stars.

Mrs. Carow denied any past history of emotional, psychosomatic, or debilitating illness. She did not use alcohol, tobacco, or unprescribed drugs. She seemed to be of above-average intelligence and was quick and crisp in her answers to questions. She did not hedge in her account and was not reluctant to say "No" when called for. Despite her advanced age, at the time of her interview, her mental-status examination was correct in all areas. With the exception of old-age vision corrected with eyeglasses and suspected mild "old age" diabetes successfully treated with diet (negative urine tests) she enjoyed excellent health.

Mrs. Carow, the youngest of seven children, was born and raised in Germany. She was educated by the Dominican nuns for seven years and then came to America in 1902. She was married the first time in 1907, and her only child was born in 1909. After the death of her first husband she remarried in 1921.

Study of the family history revealed no mental illness, alcoholism, or sociopathic behaviour (lying, stealing, apprehension by authorities, and so forth). On the contrary, Mrs. Carow presented evidence that many of her ancestors were notable for long and healthy lives. She illustrated this with appropriate photographs.

Mrs. Carow seemed to be a completely truthful person. This observation was supported by questioning of Mrs. Carow's daughter. It was also confirmed by discussions with Mr. and Mrs. Myer and with the people who bought Mrs. Carow's former home.

Jack S. Bullock, M.D., for many years Mrs. Carow's family physician, stated that at the time of the possible UFO-occupant episode [which he was not told about] his patient was in good general health. She had no impairment of vision or hearing and had no unusual changes in her state of awareness. She had an excellent reputation for truthfulness; she was one who did not exaggerate. She had never suffered from illusions, nor had she become involved in cultist activities.

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY

Single-witness reports based on purported happenings of more than 10 years ago have obvious shortcomings. However, the rarity of such alleged experiences, the surrounding circumstances in these examples, the probity of the witnesses, their excellent past health records, and current data learned on direct psychiatric

A NEW CONSULTANT

The Editor is happy to announce that Dr. Berthold Eric Schwarz, the well-known psychiatric specialist, who lives in New Jersey, has accepted an invitation to join the FSR panel of consultants. Dr. Schwarz's brilliant psychiatric studies of witnesses in important UFO cases, particularly that of Gary Wilcox—prepared specially for FSR's third special issue *UFO Percipients*—have become a talking point among UFO researchers.

examination justify such a report.

Hoax, as a possible explanation in both instances, would appear to be unlikely because of the prevailing circumstances. There was no motivation for either Miss Stichler or Mrs. Carow to perpetrate a hoax, or reason why they should be the victims of such a trick. Neither lady had in her long life ever shown any need to seek notoriety, to play practical jokes, or to tell fish stories. They both lived in very remote areas. There were no close neighbours.

Lying or fabrication is most unlikely without a past history of such behaviour. This is almost unthinkable without clues for such conscience defects of the ladies or of their families.⁷ It is not common for one to change his character or alter the entire course of his lifetime in the manner described: i.e., one bizarre, outlandish incident that only brought sniggers or ridicule to the witnesses when they told others.

A false confession, as an explanation for these two instances, is far fetched without a past history of such repeated conduct and a psycho-dynamic reason for its existence. Careful study of the past lives of the two ladies revealed no overwhelming emotional problems, guilt complexes, or need for confession.

There was no suggestion of delusion, hallucination, or severely disturbed state of undue suspiciousness. Both ladies had stable and down-to-earth personalities. In the opinion of their peers and the family physician they were incapable of lying or indulging in a flight of fancy.

There was no clinical evidence indicating how their purported experiences could be products of a brain syndrome, head injury, temporal lobe epilepsy, metabolic disease (viz., diabetes mellitus, uraemia, etc.), or ophthalmological condition. There was no history of alcohol, hallucinogens, other toxic agents, or psychosis.

In neither of these cases was there any build-up of various experiential, cultural, or religious factors that could have culminated in the experience. There was no acute precipitating event, as one would expect in various acute behavioural reactions. A psychiatric diagnosis, like an opinion in other medical specialities, is a positive one. It depends on a concatenation of highly specific events and reactions. There is, almost always, a pre-existent history of faulty reactions to various life situations, premorbid personality traits, neurotic character traits, and so forth. A psychiatric diagnosis is not made by exclusion: everything else being ruled out; therefore it must be of an emotional etiology.

Illusion as a possible explanation of Mrs. Carow's

experience can not be excluded. However, the questions to ask would be (1) if her "little men" were illusory, why did they occur precisely when they did? (2) why would they not have occurred under similar circumstances at other times before or after this experience? and (3) would not such an illusion be most unusual without a history of an appropriate psychopathology, possible drug reactions, and other toxic-delirious states, and so forth? If the little men in uniform were in fact children, where in such an isolated area as Conashaugh would the children have come from, at that time, and in that way? None of the other myriad of possible explanations seem applicable here.

A possible parapsychological causation should also be considered. One who is acquainted, from first-hand study, with gifted paragnosts and telepathists (or good magicians, for that matter!), is well aware how easily one can see what isn't there and yet solemnly swear to the validity of his experience. There are examples involving multiple witnesses to alleged ghostly apparitions, and examples of telepathically projected visual hallucinations and illusions. In the lives of both of these ladies there was nothing remotely like such spontaneous psychic examples.

In both instances the difficulty is in the interpretation of what Miss Stichler and Mrs. Carow separately experienced at different times and in isolated places, unknown to each other. It would appear they were frightened from what they observed and *not* that they were first frightened because of some other reason and then

developed the event as the product of their minds.

A psychiatric opinion can only assist in assessing the reliability of the observers and the interpretation of their experiences. What the ultimate reality is (or was) is another problem.

Psychiatric study of two witnesses who had alleged close contacts with (1) a UFO and its occupant, and (2) two "little men" (occupants) revealed the witnesses to be stable, healthy women. There was no apparent psychiatric explanation for their experiences. Medical-psychiatric techniques can be of value in assessing the reliability of the witness, eliciting data, and evaluating their experiences.

REFERENCES

- ¹ Bowen, Charles, Editor, *The Humanoids*, FSR Special Issue, London, England, October/November 1966, 72 pages. [Now published in enlarged form, August 1969, by Neville Spearman Ltd., London, 256 pages—EDITOR.]
- ² Fontes, Olavo; Martins, João (Granchi, Irene, translator). Report on the Villas Boas Incident, February 22, 1958. Lorenzen, Coral and Jim: *Flying Saucer Occupants*, Chapter III, 42-72, Signet Book, N.Y., 1967, pp. 215. [See also Gordon Creighton's complete translation in *The Humanoids*, Neville Spearman Ltd., 1969—EDITOR.]
- ³ Meerloo, J. A. M.: *Le Syndrome des Soucoupes Volantes*, Méd. Hyg., 25:992, 1967.
- ⁴ Meerloo, J.A.M.: *The Flying Saucer Syndrome and the Need for Miracles*, J.A.M.A., 203:1074, 1968.
- ⁵ Walker, Sydney: *The Applied Assessment of Central Nervous System Integrity: A Method for Establishing the Creditability of Eye Witnesses and Other Observers*. Symposium on UFOs, Hearings Before the Committee on Science and Astronautics, U.S. House of Representatives, Ninetieth Congress, July 29, 1963, pp. 152-176, 185-189.
- ⁶ Schwarz, B. E.: *UFOs: Delusion or Dilemma*, MEDICAL TIMES, 96, 10:967-981, 1968. [See also BEYOND CONDON . . . FSR Special Issue No. 2, June 1969—EDITOR.]
- ⁷ Johnson, Adelaide M., and Szurek, S. A.: *Etiology of Antisocial Behavior in Delinquents and Psychopaths*, J.A.M.A., 154:814-817, 1954.

ANNOUNCING AN EXCITING NEW
AND ENLARGED EDITION OF
THE FLYING SAUCER REVIEW
CLASSIC . . .

THE HUMANOIDS

CONTRIBUTIONS BY

Aimé Michel	Jacques Valleé
Gordon Creighton	Antonia Ribera
Coral Lorenzen	Donald B. Hanlon
W. T. Powers	Charles Bowen

This study now includes the full story of Antônio Villas Boas, and a detailed account of the 1947 Villa Santana incident, with interesting comparisons between several important cases.

256 pages, price 30s.

NOW AVAILABLE

The Humanoids

A Survey of
World-Wide
reports of landings
of unconventional
aerial objects
& their alleged
Occupants

Edited by
Charles Bowen

Neville Spearman Ltd.
112 Whitfield Street
London W1P 8DP