

**CLOSE ENCOUNTER AT KELLY
AND OTHERS OF 1955**

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**CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES
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INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of the first contemporary wave of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) in this country in 1947, little was said about the possible occupants of these mysterious devices. The question was, "Do they exist or not?" and the consensus was that if they did exist, UFOs or "flying saucers" were probably United States secret devices of some novel design. Few observers at that time claimed publicly that what they had seen were "spaceships," and the idea of extraterrestrial visitation was confined mainly to the columns of journalists making light of the reports (1).

This does not mean that there were no reports of occupants in 1947. Local newspapers published at least three accounts of small beings associated with "flying saucers" that year. An elderly woman reported the first incident, at Webster, Massachusetts on June 19. She had seen from her window a "moon-sized" object fly nearby with a "slender" figure inside dressed in what appeared to be a Navy uniform (2). On July 7, during a flurry of object sightings at Tacoma, Washington, residents of the Center and J Street neighborhood, Gene Gamachi, I.W. Martenson, and others, told of seeing a number of objects, some of which landed on nearby roofs. Witnesses saw several "little people" who disappeared upon the arrival of newsmen (3). On July 8, during a concentration of sightings all over Texas, an unidentified merchant seaman in the Acres Home suburb of Houston observed the landing of a "silver saucer." From it emerged a diminutive pilot no more than two feet tall with a round head "the size of a basketball" who greeted the seaman, re-entered his vehicle, and took off (4).

If these absurd-sounding stories--especially the last--were sketchily reported and written tongue-in-cheek, apparently with no expectation that they would be taken seriously, this is understandable. For almost everyone in 1947, such stories were without precedent; press and public, already confounded by the enigma of the saucers themselves, were naturally unwilling to take on the added riddle of a two-foot man with a head like a basketball. Stories like these, of course, never made the wire services and were known only in the areas served by local newspapers, although stories about occupants of aerial objects had been told long before 1947. During the American Airship Mystery of 1897, "aeronauts" had frequently been reported in or near their vehicles. But in 1947 no one seems to have made any connection between "flying saucers" and the fifty-year-old "airship" reports. (Those 1897 sightings, incidentally, are as baffling today as they were when they occurred, but that is another book.)

Closer to the 1947 wave of reports was the series of "ghost rocket" sightings in Scandinavia in the summer of 1946. Two striking occupant cases in that year have recently come to light. The first, near Ängelholm, Sweden, occurred in May, just when the ghost rockets were beginning to be reported.

In Ängelholm, a man named Gösta Carlsson came upon an object on the ground in the shape of a domed disc, in a wooded section outside the town. It rested on two legs and a fin, and in and around it Carlsson said he observed as many as eleven crew members of human appearance and of both sexes, dressed in white coveralls and bubble-type helmets. As he approached the area, Carlsson was warned by the hand gesture of one crew member not to come any closer; believing he had stumbled upon some military operation, he left the scene. Returning from another direction a short time later, he observed the object ascend from the clearing and rapidly disappear in the sky. Traces were reported to have been found at the site (5).

The second report occurred three months later in the United States, during the crest of newspaper publicity about the Swedish ghost rocket reports. Toward the end of August, Margaret Sprankle, a civilian employee at Tinker Air Base in Oklahoma City, observed a large, disc-like object near her home. The disc hovered in a vertical position with its broad side toward the observer, and the lower right quadrant contained twelve to fourteen square windows through which she clearly saw a number of round-headed, bald-pated occupants. When she called out to her mother, the disc turned abruptly on its vertical axis, affording the witness an edge-on view, and then swiftly climbed out of sight toward the northwest, vanishing in seconds (6).

Two years of the modern wave of domestic UFO reports went by before the wire services gave national publicity to an occupant report. On August 19, 1949, two California prospectors, Buck Fitzgerald and Mace Garney, said they had seen a saucer make a forced landing in Death Valley. According to Fitzgerald, "The flying disc, which was 24 feet in diameter, whizzed past us going about 300 miles per hour. It crash-landed and two little men jumped out and started running when they saw us. The men looked human but they were very small--like dwarfs. We chased them over a sand dune but lost them. I don't know where they went" (7).

It was not long after the Death Valley report that the occupant question became a significant part of the flying saucer controversy. Even while the prospectors were chasing dwarfs over sand dunes, an experienced pilot and aviation writer was interviewing military, commercial and private pilots all over the country. The result of these inquiries appeared in an epoch-making article: "The Flying Saucers Are Real," by Major Donald E. Keyhoe, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.). It was published in the January 1950, issue of True magazine and was the first full-length, fully-documented presentation of the extra-terrestrial hypothesis. Its impact was enormous. Even though Major Keyhoe presented no occu-

pant reports in his article, his contention--first, that the saucers were real and second, that they were extra-terrestrial spaceships--immediately raised the questions implicit in the idea of other-worldly visitation: who were these visitors and where did they come from?

From then on the subject was squarely in the public consciousness and people began asking, "But what about the occupants?" Other people began answering and unfortunately, some of those answers were to bring the whole subject into disrepute.

The first book-length story on occupants, Frank Scully's Behind the Flying Saucers (8), told a fantastic tale of small, chocolate-colored humanoids found dead in crashed saucers in the American southwest. It was so carelessly written and so poorly documented that it was thoroughly implausible. Furthermore, the originator of the tale, Silas Newton (who may have based this elaborate fabrication on the 1949 Death Valley incident), was eventually indicted and convicted in California for oil stock fraud--not the most reliable source for stories about "little men" (9).

The basic absurdity of Scully's story, the background of its sponsors, and the absence of any confirming evidence gave serious students of the UFO phenomenon a strong bias against occupant reports. For a long time many who accepted the reported objects as real and regarded the extraterrestrial hypothesis as worthy of consideration tended to reject all stories of saucer occupants, or at best, to suspend judgment on them.

During the UFO wave of March and April, 1950, there were several occupant stories that received widespread publicity. For example, there was Ray Dimmick's tale--an admitted hoax--of a crashed saucer and its charred occupants discovered the previous December outside of Mexico City (10). And the report by Craig Hunter of a close encounter with a saucer-shaped object near Clearfield, Pennsylvania, on March 15, 1950; although the incident was widely publicized, the original newspaper stories did not

mention occupants (11), but a week later, in a telephoned interview with William C. Baggs of the Miami Daily News (12), Hunter reported having observed several "human-like" figures staring out of a window-like opening on the object.

Little publicized was the first American "contact" case reported by Samuel Eaton Thompson, of Centralia, Washington (13). Thompson said that while he was driving between Morton and Mineral, Washington on March 28, he saw a "huge" saucer on a clearing near the road. Approaching, he encountered as many as 45 human-appearing occupants, including men, women and children, all dressed "in the buff." They told him they were from Venus and invited Thompson to join them; he said later he spent the next forty hours in their company (14).

Less spectacular was the report of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Edwards several months later. They said they had seen a saucer on the surface of Steep Rock Lake, Ontario, on the evening of July 2, with a dozen tiny robot-like figures apparently taking on water through a hose (15).

Reports of occupants dropped off in 1951, although several cases did come to light some time later. In September of that year, the proprietors of a trailer court in Bloomington, California saw a low-hovering disc. Three prospective buyers of the court were present at the time of the observation. They all saw the figures of four "men" clad in "jump suits" through the windows in the object (16). In December, 1951, Sam Coley and two of his children reported to local sheriff's deputies that they had seen a low-hovering object near their home in Red Springs, N.C. Coley said that he could see the figure of a "man" inside a cabin-like bulge in the center of the object (17).

Reports like these were not confined to North America. In July, 1952, the wire services gave wide publicity to the report made by the former mayor of an East German city who had defected to the west. Herr Oskar Linke said that two years before, on June 17, he and his daughter encountered a landed object near Hasselbach,

just inside the eastern sector of Germany. Herr Linke compared the object's shape to a "huge warming pan"; nearby were two small figures dressed in one-piece garments of a shiny, aluminum-colored material who abruptly boarded their vehicle and took off (18).

Other 1952 domestic reports include the West Lumberton, North Carolina encounter by James J. Allen on August 6 with a small man 30 inches high who emerged from an object that grazed Allen's chimney (19); the Pittsburg, Kansas sighting on August 25 by William Squyres of a motionless figure seen through the window of a low-hovering object--one of the few Air Force cases of occupants classified as "unidentified" (20); and the Flatwoods, West Virginia "monster" report of September 12, which was investigated by Ivan T. Sanderson (21).

In 1953 wide publicity was given to the Brush Creek, California encounter by John Q. Black on June 20 with a small humanoid taking water in his craft. Because Black and his partner, John Van Allen, had also seen objects in the same area on March 20 and May 20, it was somehow assumed that there would be a repeat visitation on July 20. Hundreds thronged to the isolated Northern California valley to greet the "spacemen"; when the anticipated appearance failed to materialize, Black and Van Allen were branded as hoaxers (22).

As bad as the attendant publicity to the Brush Creek fiasco was, 1953 saw an even more damaging setback regarding the question of UFO occupants with the appearance of another sensational book, Flying Saucers Have Landed, by Desmond Leslie and George Adamski (23). Adamski described personal meetings and telepathic communication with idealized human beings from Venus who were charged with lofty, simplistic messages for humanity. The book became an immediate best-seller.

The pattern set by Adamski--reassuringly human space people and watered-down pseudo-mystical, quasi-religious philosophy--was

widely imitated: many others, from "sincere" cranks to outright charlatans, got aboard the Space Brothers' wagon and gave the public a ride for its money. The "chosen" told us all about the saucers and their occupants: what they looked like, where they came from, what they ate, the political, economic and social organization of their home worlds, and their purpose in visiting the earth. So far as these authorities on the subject were concerned, there was no such thing as an unidentified flying object.

It was chiefly because of Scully and Adamski that the subject of UFO occupants had gotten off on two left feet. Conservative UFO researchers, both individuals and private organizations, like Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York (to which the authors of this book belonged), continued to be skeptical of occupant stories. The number of such reports, in comparison to the large number of object sightings, was few; these few seemed to have little in common, ranging from the commonplace to the grotesque. Some were foreign. Almost all of them were fragmentary, sketchily reported in the press. Very few had been properly investigated; in fact, the nationwide network of competent UFO investigators that would later be set up by private organizations to look into such reports did not then exist.

Six reports from the United States and Canada in the spring and summer of 1954 illustrate the contradictory nature of the stories that were coming in. An unpublicized report from the Air Force files described the April 8 sighting by a Chicago woman of impressive background. From her North Side apartment overlooking Lake Michigan, Mrs. Lelah H. Stoker observed a brilliant white, parachute-shaped object skimming back and forth over the lake at 4:30 p.m. She called the Coast Guard to report the incident, but when a coast guard cutter appeared ten minutes later, the object moved in toward shore. As it came nearer, Mrs. Stoker could see a man in a structure suspended beneath the object. It seemed to conceal itself in the undergrowth along the shore and the man stepped from it and paced up and down the beachfront. Mrs. Stoker described him as short but of human appearance, wearing

a green, tight-fitting one-piece garment and a tight-fitting headpiece. When the coast guard cutter gave up its search, the man re-entered the object, which moved back out over the lake and eventually disappeared to the east at high speed. Neighbors were called in to verify the object sighting, and the report is officially classified as "unidentified" (24).

From Garson, Ontario came the report of Ennio LaSarza's encounter on July 2 with large, bizarre, six-armed creatures who "hypnotized" him and left him in a state of shock (25). In Hemmingford, Quebec, on the evening of August 7, Henri (11) and Gabriel (13) Coupal saw the landing of a spherical object; a "tall man" in a black, tight-fitting one-piece garment pursued them as they fled the scene on horseback (26). From Dewey County, Oklahoma came the report of an Indian woman's "contact" along the Canadian River near Taloga: in mid-August a dark, long-haired and wildly-laughing "spaceman" predicted frightful disasters in the near future (27). From Coldwater, Kansas came the report of a September 2 encounter of 12-year-old John Jacob Swaim with a "little man" who "flew" to his hovering saucer, leaving small footprints in the plowed field (28). And finally, the sighting by Lawrence Cardenas on September 30 of a disc-shaped object and its fourteen small, green-clad crewmen in a field near Dearborn, Michigan (29).

In theory, of course, there was a logical case to be made for the existence of occupants. If UFOs were in fact vehicles from elsewhere, then at least some would presumably contain occupants (unless they were all operating by remote control), and some of these occupants would presumably emerge sooner or later. Perhaps some had already been seen; but which of many conflicting reports were factual? Among more cautious researchers, the tendency was still to shelve a decision on the more credible stories, while arguing that in general all occupant reports were to be regarded with a high degree of suspicion.

If anything, this attitude was reinforced by the extraordinary stories that began to come across the Atlantic, in the

late summer and fall of 1954, from France, Italy and other parts of Europe. Wire service accounts carried dozens of stories of dwarfs, medium-sized beings, and huge creatures, emerging from or entering landed objects of varying descriptions, exhibiting the most outlandish variety of apparel and displaying the strangest behavior. Even after making allowances for the fragmentary nature of most of the wire service items, and for distortion by the press here and abroad, could anyone seriously be expected to believe that a friendly, dark-haired Ufonaut chatted unintelligibly with two Norwegian sisters while they picked berries (30)? Or that a diminutive saucer pilot asked for gas and oil for his engin (31)? Or that one wore an orange corset (32), and another a cellophane bag (33)? Or that one kissed a farmer on both cheeks (34) whereas another paralyzed a railway worker with a green ray (35), and still another, when asked if he was a Martian, replied he was French (36)? Not to mention the one who asked directions for the German frontier (37), or the report, from multiple witnesses, of a humanoid who melted into thin air before their eyes (38). How could such stories be taken seriously? They were simply too ridiculous to be believed.

But early in 1955, information began to arrive from South America about a series of UFO occupant encounters which could not be so easily dismissed. Word of these reports came first from Coral Lorenzen, editor of the Bulletin of the Aerial Phenomenon Research Organization (APRO) (39); local news accounts were later received from associates in South America (40). Spanish- and Portuguese-language newspapers in Latin America gave the incidents extensive coverage, brief accounts were published in British and European newspapers but none of these South American stories appeared in any newspaper in this country at the time.

Six reports from Venezuela in November and December, 1954 were especially impressive. With many circumstantial details--the kind of details that do not occur to a deliberate liar or hoaxer--these reports told of encounters with small, hairy

humanoids with glowing eyes and prodigious strength that emerged from or entered objects hovering a few feet above the ground. In three cases the beings displayed sinister or belligerent behavior (41). The stories were disturbingly realistic; perhaps they were true. And if these stories were true, perhaps the European stories would have to be re-examined.

In the summer of 1955, reports of diminutive humanoids began to come from the United States itself but with an important difference. Most of the European and South American cases described beings associated directly with objects; in the United States, the beings' association with an actual UFO was uncertain or even absent altogether. In several cases, the entities displayed details of appearance strikingly similar to some of the foreign humanoid reports--small size, large glowing eyes and clawed hands. In other respects, there were some notable differences; for example, none of the domestic reports described the "diving suits" that were so often reported in the French and Italian cases.

The domestic reports included the account by a Cincinnati woman who, driving at night along a lonely southern Georgia highway, saw in her headlights four small beings with enormous luminous eyes and clawed hands standing in the middle of the road; she was forced to swerve onto the shoulder of the road to avoid hitting them (see Chapter VIII). In the Cincinnati area, various residents reported frightening encounters with small humanoids (see Chapters VI and VII). And toward the end of August, a story came from southwest Kentucky that was the most startling of all--the alleged landing of "the little green men of Hopkinsville" (see Chapters I-V).

These American encounters, while not so numerous as those of the foreign wave in 1954, now made it possible to find out how such stories would withstand first-hand investigation. For practical reasons, it was months before CSI could carry out such inquiries; meanwhile, we began to receive a number of French newspaper clip-

giving details about the European sightings of fall, 1954, and discovered that the translations had taken a heavy toll of their accuracy. Stories that had seemed ridiculous as published in the American press were less ludicrous when translated correctly. (The "orange corset," for example, became an orange corselet, or a garment resembling a piece of body armor.)

The significance of 1955 as a turning point with respect to the question of UFO occupants can hardly be overstated. New and persuasive data about the European reports of late 1954 began to erode our initial skepticism. The 1955 reports from this country, though fewer in number than those from abroad, reinforced our opinion that the UFO occupant question required systematic, first-hand investigation. In the summer of 1956 it was possible to make such inquiries about the domestic cases and the results of these investigations comprise most of this book. The almost unavoidable conclusion was that the witnesses in many of these encounters were reporting real events as they perceived them, and that these events described beings who could in no way be confused with any living creatures native to Earth. One of the strangest of these encounters--the case of the "little men" of Kelly, Ky.--has probably been more thoroughly investigated than any other humanoid report, thanks to the diligence of Bud Ledwith and Isabel Davis. Part One presents, for the first time, the complete report of these investigations.

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Part One

CLOSE ENCOUNTER AT KELLY

by

Isabel Davis

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the great assistance received from Connie Bell in preparing this part of the book for submission to the Center for UFO Studies. She typed a large part of it, and performed invaluable service by redrawing many of the maps and figures.

The opinions expressed herein regarding the Kelly case are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the views of any member, staff member, or advisor of the Center for UFO Studies.

CHAPTER I
BACKGROUND OF THE INQUIRIES

The Story

Late in August 1955, newspapers and radios all over the country carried a UFO story which is still one of the most bizarre incidents on record--the alleged landing of the "little green men of Hopkinsville." The description was far from accurate: they were not green, they were certainly not men, and they were seen, not at Hopkinsville, but some seven miles north at Kelly, Kentucky.

The stories were approximately as follows. Shortly after sunset on the evening of Sunday, August 21, a saucer landed in a field behind a farmhouse occupied by a family named Sutton, and soon thereafter a group of "little men" (in some newspapers, an army of little men) approached the farmhouse. The creatures were about three feet tall, with oversized heads, huge luminous yellow eyes, big ears, long arms, and big hands ending in "talons"; they glowed all over with a silvery luminescence, and they seemed to float rather than walk.

For three or four hours they "besieged" the farmhouse. Shotguns and rifles fired at them had no effect. About 11 o'clock the terrified family fled the farmhouse in two automobiles, driving as fast as they could travel to the police station in Hopkinsville for help. City police, county police, state police, military police from nearby Fort Campbell, the Hopkinsville newspaper photographer, and other investigators drove to the farm and searched the house, the yard, and the fields, but found no concrete evidence to support the family's story. When the investi-

gators left, between 1 and 2 o'clock in the morning, they were understandably skeptical. Half an hour or so after they had gone, the "little men" returned; again they approached the house; again they were impervious to bullets. Shortly before sunrise they disappeared for good.

For a few days the area buzzed with excitement. Reporters and photographers from the wire services and from individual newspapers in Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee poured into Hopkinsville and Kelly. A New York City newspaper made a "personal investigation" by telephone (resulting in a news item of superlative inaccuracy); radio reporters came; there was talk of a TV program, but this did not materialize. At Kelly, automobiles blocked the roads and sightseers swarmed over the farmhouse. Skepticism rode high along with the interest; reporters cracked jokes about "little battlin' spacemen" until other news claimed their attention. Investigators issued statements of disbelief. The Hopkinsville newspaper, the Kentucky New Era, was disdainful.

In spite of these negative assessments, the incident as reported had several noteworthy features besides the grotesque appearance of the creatures. The number of witnesses was unusual: of the eight adults and three children who had been at the farmhouse that night, all except one had seen the creatures. The duration was unusual: from early Sunday evening until almost sunrise on Monday morning. And the close approach of the creatures was unusual: they were reported to have been seen and shot at from very close range. Other interesting details were mentioned in an extensive account by a private investigator, published early in 1956 in a well-known saucer magazine. (1) Something certainly seemed to have happened at Kelly--but what?

Interviews

When I went to Hopkinsville in June 1956, I did not expect to come to any definite conclusions. I knew that the lapse of time since the event would be a serious handicap. In ten months

some of the witnesses and investigators would have scattered, and their recollections would have become blurred. I hoped merely to establish a few facts and confirm or refute some of the wilder statements that had been made about the case.

When I learned that three adults from the original group of eye-witnesses, Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Sutton and Mrs. Glennie Lankford, as well as the three children, were living in Hopkinsville, I had visions of checking every possible detail with the best possible sources. But I was due for a disappointment. These witnesses had become deeply embittered and resentful as a result of the ridicule they had received. The last thing they wanted was to talk about the case to anyone, least of all to a stranger who proposed to write about it and perhaps open the gates to more publicity and ridicule. (From what I had heard elsewhere, their reluctance was fully justified.)

Nevertheless, Mrs. Lankford, the senior adult present at the farmhouse on the night of the landing, did talk to me, however reluctantly. From her I obtained a limited amount of valuable information and more importantly, a strong impression of her personal integrity.

Russell Greenwell, Chief of Police of Hopkinsville, was extremely helpful. He had conducted a careful official investigation, and was therefore in a position to supply a great deal of useful information. He arranged for me to be driven out to Kelly, where I met Mrs. Juanita McCord, the current occupant of the farmhouse, and took pictures of the house and yard. Chief Greenwell answered many questions and discussed various aspects of the case as they came up in interviews with other people.

Mrs. McCord was also very informative. Her husband is a nephew of Mrs. Lankford's and she was familiar with many details of the case that were not available elsewhere, such as an accurate list of the persons present at the farmhouse on the night of August 21-22, and of the firearms on the premises that night. At the time of the encounter she lived about three miles

from the farmhouse, on the Old Madisonville Road toward Hopkinsville, and therefore had not suffered personally from the publicity and did not feel the same reluctance to discuss the subject that members of the immediate family did.

Bud Ledwith, engineer-announcer at radio station WHOP, provided invaluable assistance. He went to the Sutton farmhouse on the morning after the landing, interviewed the women who were there (the men had gone to Evansville, Indiana), and drew a sketch at their direction of what they said the "little men" looked like. He returned later in the day, interviewed the men after their return, and drew sketches from the men's descriptions. This material, taken down on the spot, directly from the witnesses, before publicity and ridicule had made them angry and bitter, was uniquely valuable. Not only did Mr. Ledwith make his written report of the interviews and his sketches available for this report, he also carried on many further inquiries that arose while the report was being prepared.

These four chief sources of information were supplemented by interviews with a number of other people to whom I talked at greater or lesser length. I also received interesting details obtained in January 1959 by Mr. Albert Andre of Green Brier, Tennessee, who interviewed Mrs. Lankford and sent a report to the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), who supplied us with a copy (2). In 1974 documents in the Blue Book file on this case became available, and are discussed in Chapter V.

In the four days that I spent in Hopkinsville (June 12-15, 1956), I talked to the following people:

Eyewitnesses

Glennie (Mrs. Oscar) Lankford

Alene (Mrs. J.C.) Sutton, her daughter-in-law

Note: During my talk with the above, Mrs. Lankford's three younger children (Charlton, Lonnie and Mary Lankford) were in and around the house. I did not ask the children any questions.

Others

Juanita (Mrs. William E.) McCord, niece by marriage of Mrs. Lankford, who occupied the farm at Kelly in June 1956

Russell Greenwell, Chief of Police, Hopkinsville

Sgt. Malcolm Pritchett, Hopkinsville Police Department

George Batts, Deputy Sheriff, Christian County Sheriff's Office

Trooper Russell N. Ferguson, Jr., Kentucky State Police

Trooper G.W. Riley and Trooper Simpson (interviewed by telephone), Kentucky State Police

Harvey Reeder, staff photographer, Kentucky New Era (the Hopkinsville daily paper)

Mrs. Harvey Reeder, Tom Covington, and Joe Dorris, reporters

Frank Cameron, news reporter, radio station WHOP

Andrew B. ("Bud") Ledwith, engineer-announcer, radio station WHOP

The Place and the People

At the time of my visit to Hopkinsville, which is the county seat of Christian County in western Kentucky, about 15 miles north of the Tennessee border, the town had a population of about 26,000. The region is agricultural, raising chiefly corn and tobacco, and the city was prosperous and flourishing. During and after World War II, trade and population were stimulated by the proximity of Ford Campbell, then the home of the 11th Airborne Division of the U.S. Army, for Hopkinsville was a convenient recreation center for thousands of paratroopers in training at the base. The city is an important shopping center; a new bank building was under construction; the residential area displayed fine old houses with lawns and trees; and there were



Figure 1. Map of Kentucky and Adjacent States

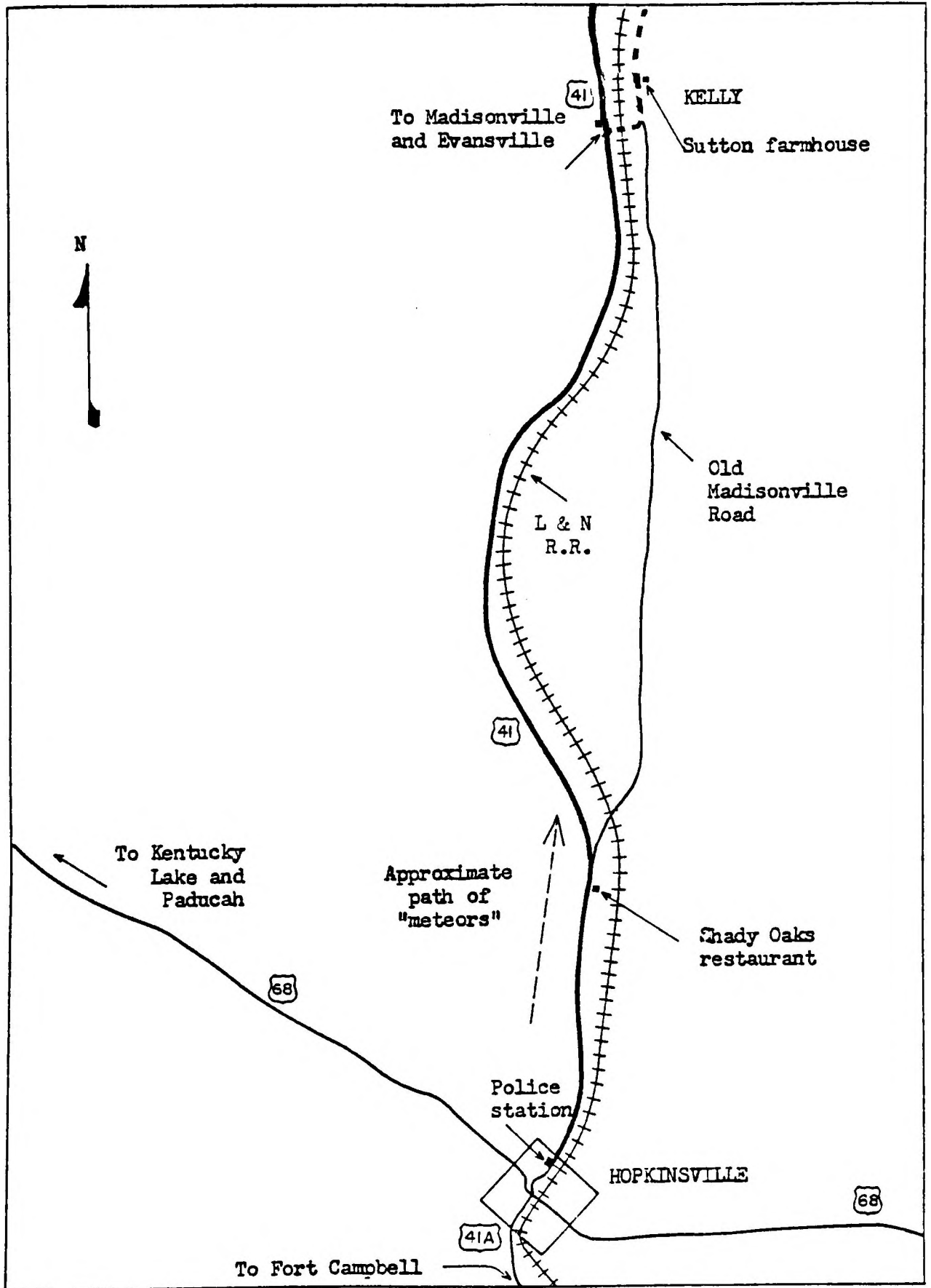
a number of modern motels on the outskirts of the city, as well as three commercial radio stations and a long-established newspaper, the Kentucky New Era, published daily except Sunday.

Running approximately east and west through the town is U.S. Highway 68. Entering from a general southerly direction are U.S. 41 and 41-A; U.S. 41 continues northward and is the main traffic artery to Madisonville, 30 miles north. About 50 miles beyond, across the Ohio River, lies Evansville, Indiana. Almost parallel with U.S. 41 going north from Hopkinsville is the earlier highway, the Old Madisonville Road, a two-lane gravel turnpike now little used, on which Kelly is located seven miles north, a small community of 150 people in scattered farmhouses.

Chief Greenwell, head of the Hopkinsville police and the first person I talked to, is an impressive man, personally and professionally. His department was run with unobtrusive efficiency; the offices were quiet, with no hangers-on or loungers in evidence. His men were well-groomed with clean, pressed uniforms and a quiet manner. One of them told me the Chief had made such a change in the police situation that the city fathers of Hopkinsville "would give him anything he asked for."

Figure 2. MAP OF HOPKINSVILLE-KELLY AREA

As of 1955



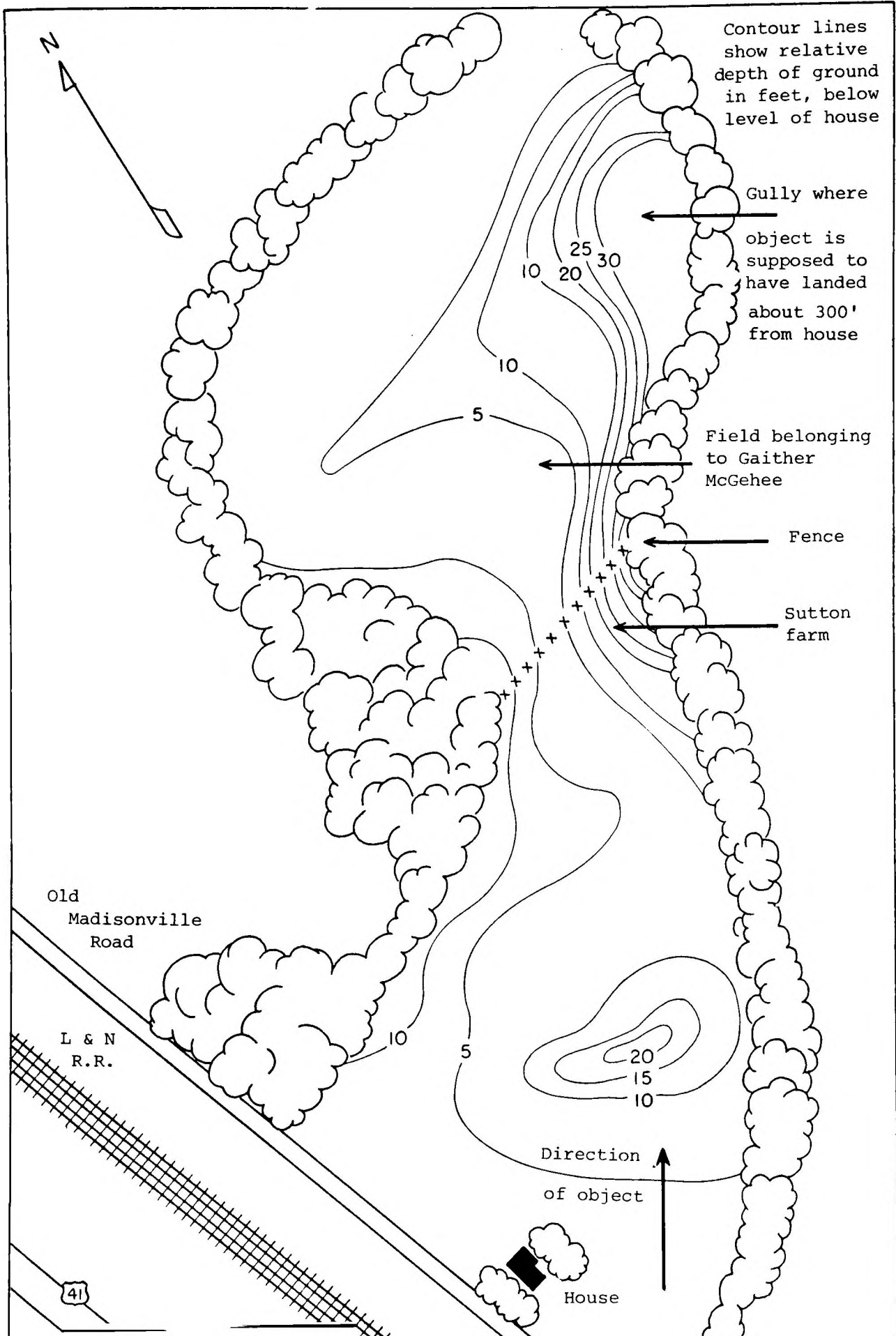
Two items about Chief Greenwell were important in terms of the investigation: he himself had seen a UFO, and his mother was a full-blooded Shoshone Indian. The latter fact probably meant that he had had some experience with the kind of prejudice that falls to the lot of minority groups. He could consider the Sutton's story from a viewpoint that was not available to the other investigators.

As for his UFO sighting, it had occurred on a summer afternoon in 1952, as he was driving away from Kentucky Lake where his sister operated a resort-hotel for sportsmen. He and many other drivers stopped their cars to watch a glowing oval object in the sky above them, which remained in the same place for 30 or 40 minutes before departing at high speed. He then returned to the Lake to find out whether any of his sister's guests had also observed the object. Many of them had seen it, and he estimates that it was watched there by 75 to 100 persons.

Thanks to these two factors--his own sighting and his personal background--Chief Greenwell was a good deal less inclined to scoff at the Suttons and their story than most of his fellow-townspople. He did not particularly conceal his attitude about UFOs, but neither did he flaunt it, and his professional competence protected him from ridicule. Those who rejected the story out of hand were naturally not inclined to study it carefully, but Chief Greenwell's interest in the case and his more temperate attitude made him a much better source of information than any of the skeptics.

The visitor who wants to see Kelly and the Sutton farm, scene of the "spaceship landing" and the "invasion by little men," drives north out of Hopkinsville on U.S. 41. About two miles out, on the right of the two-lane highway, is the Shady Oaks restaurant, where a curious subsidiary incident of the night's events took place. About five miles beyond the restaurant a small grocery store stands on the left side of the highway, and opposite the store an inconspicuous gravel road--easy

Figure 3. MAP OF SUTTON FARM, SHOWING FIELDS AND GULLY



to miss, even by daylight--turns off the highway to the right. The road bumps across the tracks of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad and ends, 300 yards east of the highway, at the Old Madisonville Road. As the map shows, the highway, the tracks, and the old road are almost parallel here. Turning north on the Old Madisonville Road, another 300 yards brings you to the front of the farmhouse.

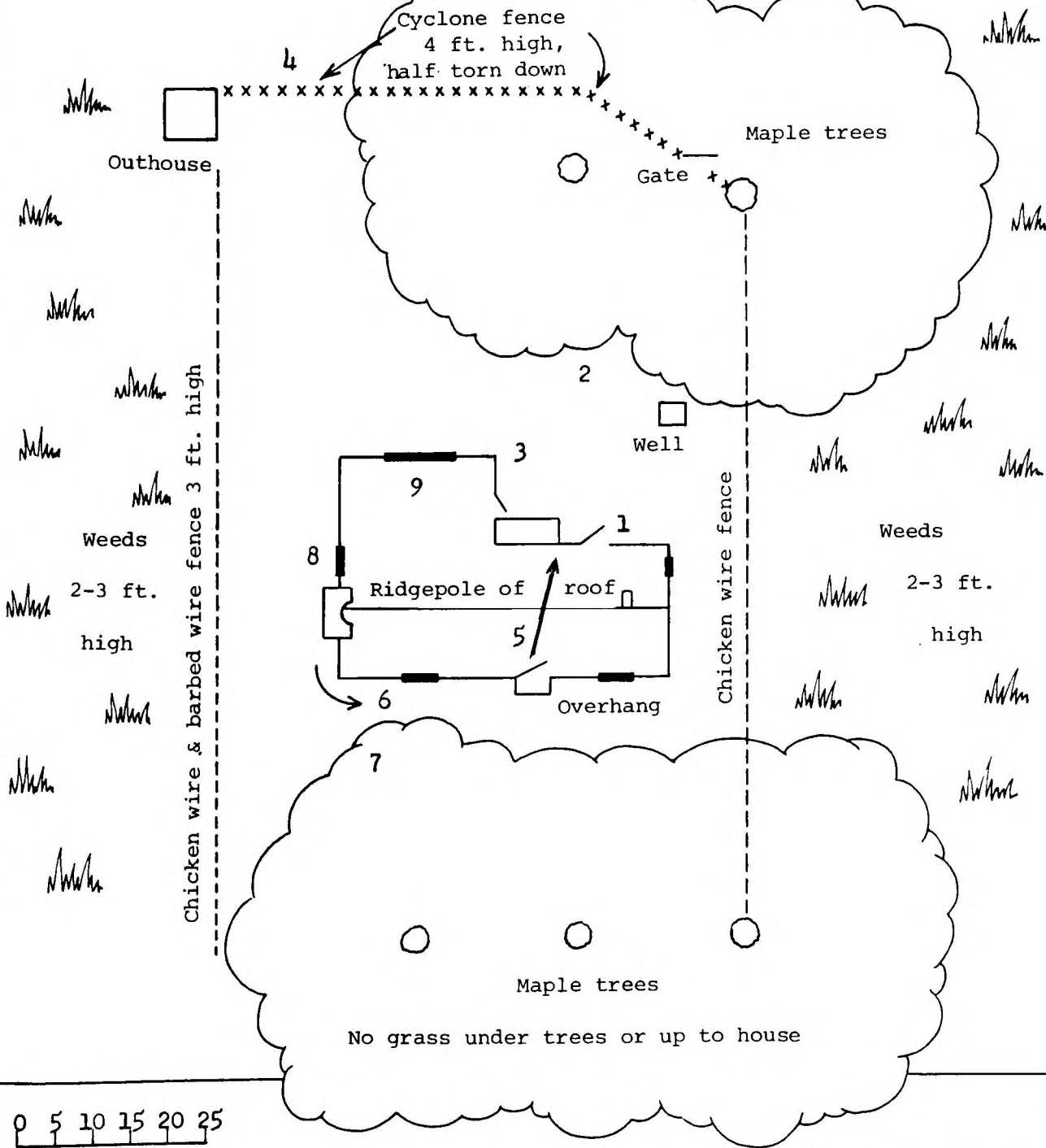
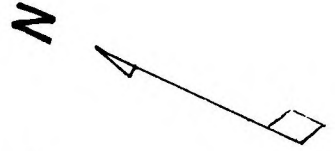
The building faces almost due west; from the front yard, across the intervening bushes and scrub trees, you see plainly the tops of the automobiles going along U.S. 41. To the north and south of the farmhouse the nearest houses are about a quarter of a mile away. A two-foot bank of sloping yellow clay is the only division between the road and the front yard, where three fine maples shade the ground and make it difficult to grow grass. The house itself stands almost immediately behind the trees. In the backyard stand two more maple trees; the bucket well is between the trees and the house. There were no other trees of any size, only grass, scattered bushes and saplings.

In August 1955 there was no fence or hedge at the front of the property; the fences on the other three sides of the yard were in poor condition and offered no obstruction to anyone entering or crossing the yard. The cyclone fence, half torn down, that divided the yard from the fields beyond, was nailed at one point to a "goatpen" built of rough lumber, and at another point to one of the maple trees. Southeast of the yard was the pigpen. There was no barn. Livestock consisted of pigs, several cats and kittens, one dog, perhaps a few goats (their existence is uncertain), and no chickens.

The farm, about three acres, grew tobacco (the staple crop for small farms in the region) and also vegetables for home use. The fields behind the house run almost due north. About 1,000 feet out, a wire fence marks the end of the farm property and the beginning of a field belonging to Gaither McGehee. In

Figure 4. MAP OF FARMHOUSE AND IMMEDIATE VICINITY

- 1 Back door
- 2 First shot fired when creature was about here
- 3 Creature seen here 10:30 p.m. by Mrs. Lankford
- 4 Approximate position of luminous spot on grass
- 5 Creature knocked over roof by shot
- 6 Creature came around corner of house
- 7 Creature seen on limb of tree
- 8 Window next to fireplace
- 9 Kitchen roof



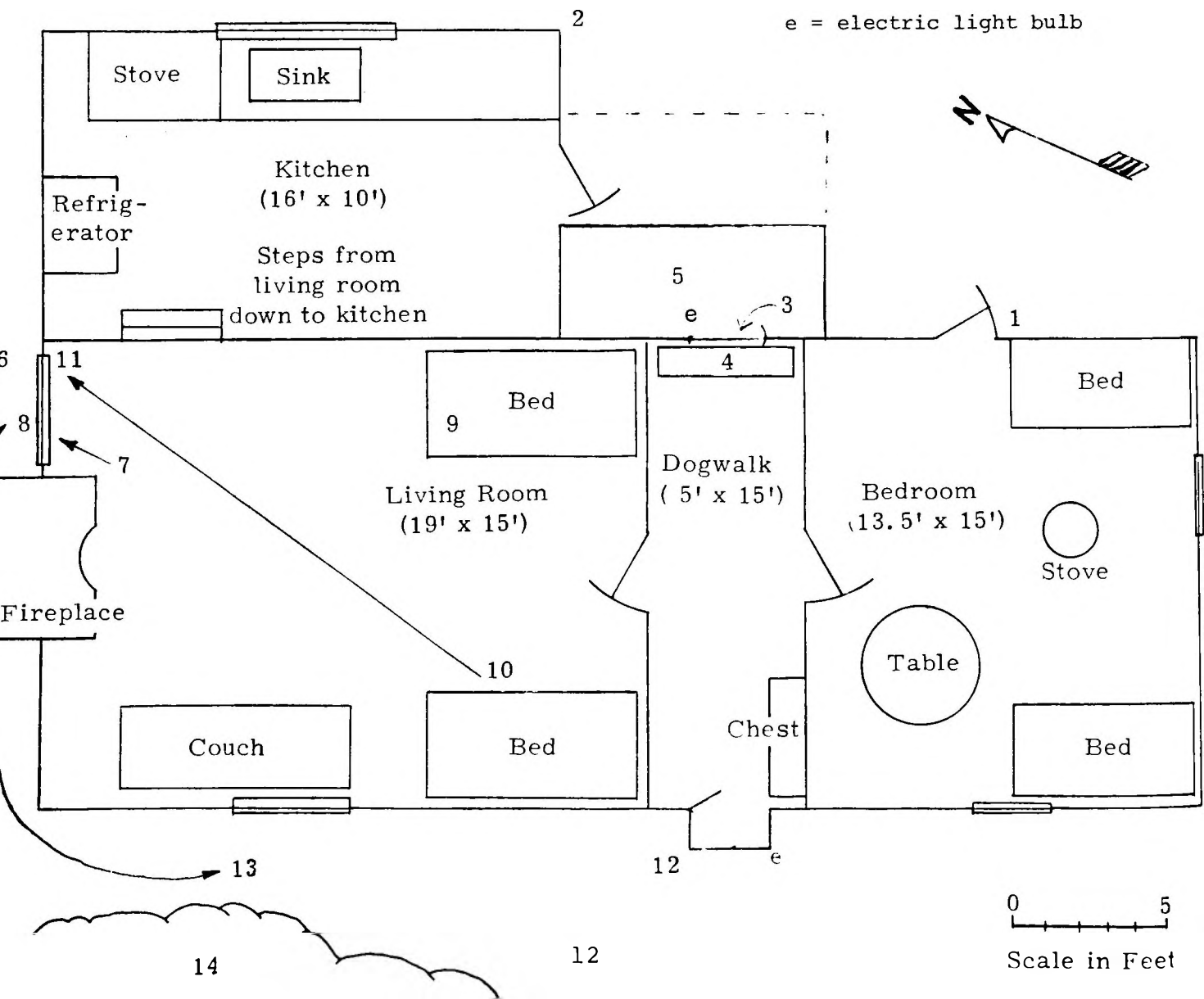
0 5 10 15 20 25

Scale in feet

Old Madisonville Road

Figure 5. PLAN OF FARMHOUSE

1. Back door. From here the first creature was seen and the first shot fired, and from here Mrs. Lankford first saw one of the creatures at 10:30 p.m.
2. Approximate position of creature when seen by Mrs. Lankford at 10:30 p.m.
3. Back door of dogwalk, not in use at time of landing.
4. Dresser or chest blocking back door of dogwalk.
5. Overhanging roof above back door of dogwalk, later replaced by a porch (broken line).
6. Window outside which a creature stood on at least two occasions.
7. Approximate position where J.C. Sutton stood when he fired the first shot through the screen; short arrow shows suggested trajectory of this shot.
8. Creature seen outside window by Mrs. Lankford, 3:30 a.m.; "it seemed to come round the chimney."
9. Bed from which Mrs. Lankford (her head toward window) saw creature, 3:30 a.m.
10. Approximate position from which Lucky Sutton fired at creature outside window, 3:30 a.m.; long arrow shows suggested trajectory of this shot.
11. Side of window frame from which shotgun pellets were dug the next day (see photograph on page 76).
12. Overhanging roof above front door.
13. Creature that came around corner of house was shot approximately here.
14. Creature seen on limb of maple tree approximately here.



this field, another 500 feet from the house, is a gully or ravine, 35 to 40 feet deep, and wide enough to accommodate a circular object 40 to 50 feet in diameter, the only spot in the vicinity that could have accommodated such an object without its being visible, after landing, from the house. The gully and the field west of it are circled by trees and bushes. In August 1955, there had been no rain for weeks, and the yellow-clay soil was baked hard.

The house itself is a one-story frame building with a corrugated iron roof, about 35 by 15 feet, with a kitchen added behind the living room. It is divided into two main rooms by a passageway called locally a "dogwalk," with a screen door at either end. Over the front door is a small overhang for protection from the rain; beyond the back door was a porch. Neither door had a lock.

To the left of the dogwalk as you enter the house is the living room, and behind it the kitchen; to the right of the dogwalk is the bedroom. The living room was also used for sleeping. There is no cellar.

Normally, three doors give access to the back yard--one from the kitchen, one from the bedroom, and one from the other end of the dogwalk. At the time of the encounter, however, the back door of the dogwalk was blocked by a dresser and not used; the "back door" mentioned in the story is the one that opens into the back yard from the bedroom.

All the doors are narrow, as are all the windows, except those in the kitchen and the one next to the fireplace in the living room. Except in the kitchen, all the windows go almost to the floor and their bottom sills are not more than 18 inches above the ground.

These and other important details are shown on the large-scale plan of the house and in the photographs. The house had electric lights and a small electric refrigerator. There was

no radio and no telephone. The living room was heated by the fireplace, and the bedroom by an iron stove. Cooking was done on a kerosene stove, and water was drawn from the well in the back yard. The position of the furniture is also indicated on the plan.

So much for the scenery of the Kelly landing. It remains to sort out the cast of characters. On the evening of Sunday, August 21, 1955, the farmhouse was occupied by eight adults and three children, as follows:

Mrs. Glennie Lankford, age 50, widow of Oscar Lankford, her second husband

Elmer ("Lucky") Sutton, 25, Mrs. Lankford's son by her first husband (deceased), Tillman Sutton

Vera Sutton, 29, his wife

J.C. (John Charley) Sutton, 21, Mrs. Lankford's son by her first husband

Alene Sutton, 27, his wife

Lonnie Lankford, 12

Charlton Lankford, 10

Mary Lankford, 7

} Mrs. Lankford's children
by Oscar Lankford, her
second husband

Billy Ray Taylor, 21, a friend of Lucky's

June Taylor, 18, his wife

O.P. Baker, 30 or 35, brother of Alene Sutton

O.P. Baker lived in Hopkinsville, but often stayed overnight at the farmhouse, where the person with whom he rode to work could pick him up more conveniently than in town.

Two other grown sons of Mrs. Lankford's first marriage, Tillman Sutton, Jr., and Frank Sutton, lived in Hopkinsville proper, and a married daughter, Violet, lived in Michigan.

The permanent residents of the farm were Mrs. Lankford, the J.C. Suttons, and the three children, but the Taylors and the

Elmer Suttons had been staying there for some months. These two couples had been with a traveling carnival. (It was there that Elmer had the letters "L-U-C-K-Y" tattooed on the fingers of his left hand, acquiring the nickname "Lucky.") This carnival experience of the two men was an important element in interpreting the landing story, as will become clear later.

I will follow the somewhat inaccurate practice of the newspapers and refer to the entire group as "the Suttons." All but one of them saw the creatures; thus, strictly speaking, there were only ten actual eye-witnesses. Mrs. Lankford told Mr. Ledwith that "one of the women was too frightened to look," and by elimination this seems to have been June Taylor.

Billy Ray Taylor, June's husband, was a witness of a different stripe. He had looked at the creatures with extravagant success. He was the only member of the group who appeared to arouse immediate doubt in everyone who talked to him. Mr. Ledwith became suspicious of him almost at once. Even among the family he had a low standing; when he first came into the house and reported a "spaceship," they paid him no attention. Later, during the investigations, he basked in the limelight of publicity. He elaborated and embroidered his description of the creatures (though not his description of the "spaceship") and eventually produced the most imaginative and least credible of the little-men sketches. Several skeptics who labeled the story a hoax referred to him as the probable originator. His behavior was in sharp contrast to that of the other witnesses, none of whom aroused such prompt suspicion in the investigators.

The dominant personality among the men was Elmer (Lucky) Sutton. His brother, J.C., the actual operator of the farm, ran him a close second in forcefulness, but pretty clearly, when Lucky was around, Lucky gave the orders. When the three men returned to the farm on the afternoon of Monday, August 22, it was Lucky who took instant, direct, and angry action. It is significant that none of the skeptics who advanced hoax or

hallucination to explain the story ever suggested Lucky as the originator, or even as a participant.

The other important personality among the group of eye-witnesses was Mrs. Glennie Lankford, the senior adult among those present at the farmhouse, whom I talked to on the second morning of my stay in Hopkinsville. I see her clearly; a woman of average height, with strong features, a straight nose, and dark eyes, steady and self-controlled behind her gold-rimmed glasses. Her dark hair was wound in a heavy braid around her head. She was not wearing makeup; her skin was tanned, but smooth and almost without wrinkles. She wore a cotton print housedress. She had a rather somber demeanor, and she gave no indication of being easily amused.

In July, 1956, she and the three young children were living in a new housing development in Hopkinsville. The house was a great improvement over the farmhouse; a well-constructed new two-story brick building, with a modern kitchen, a radio, and telephone. A table of plants flourished in a sunny window.

Mrs. Lankford was not glad to see me. Standing inside the screen door, she listened to my explanation and request for an interview, but shook her head. "I don't want to talk about it any more. I've talked to so many people."

I persisted. I told her what a long trip I had made, and that I only wanted to get the facts from someone who really knew them. She was plainly unconvinced, but eventually she led the way into the living room; I suppose there seemed to be no other way to get rid of me.

There was no reason for her to take any other attitude. All her associations with the Kelly landing and its aftermath were unpleasant. I was merely another inquisitive stranger wanting to talk about what she wanted to forget. Investigators before me had probably professed to be objective and non-skeptical, but some of them may have laughed at what she told



Figure 6. MRS. GLENNIE LANKFORD AND MARY LANKFORD

PHOTO FROM KENTUCKY NEW ERA, HOPKINSVILLE, KY.

them. Why should she trust me any more than any other uninvited, unannounced, and unwanted researcher? (I had not even telephoned to ask if I could see her, almost certain of a rejection if I had.)

Still plainly reluctant to talk, she warned me that she would answer questions only about things that she herself had seen with her own eyes, not about what anyone else had seen. We sat down stiffly on the davenport. Mary, the youngest child, came and leaned on the arm of the davenport next to her mother, and watched me unsmilingly throughout the conversation. The two boys paid no attention to us; they dashed in and out of the house, playing.

Alene Sutton was visiting her mother-in-law that morning. Across the room she was ironing, and listened without saying much herself, although she commented occasionally and contributed some of the details. Because I had my hands full talking to Mrs. Lankford, I could not ask the younger woman more than one or two direct questions. From the expression of her face as she watched us, I got the impression that she was somewhat amused (as well she might be) by my difficulties in obtaining information from her mother-in-law.

The conversation was not marked by any thawing in Mrs. Lankford's response, or even by any particular show of interest on her part. She answered my questions laconically, and several times refused to elaborate on an interesting statement, with "I didn't see that myself . . . I don't know any more about that part of it . . . I only saw two of them, different times, one each time." She did not appear to be manufacturing any information that she did give.

What did emerge clearly were some of the reasons for her present reluctance to talk. As one investigator remarked later, "That family took an awful beating," and the scars were there to stay. Mrs. Lankford's comments, though spoken without heat,

were bitter. "The lies they told about us. Said we were drinking. . . . The things they put in the newspapers, like saying there were twelve or fifteen of them (the little men). . . . People just want to make money out of it and sell things." The latter remark I did follow up because there had been a rumor that mysterious men pretending to sell magazines and aluminum kitchenware had called at the farmhouse a few days after the landing. But the "salesmen" apparently never existed; Mrs. Lankford was referring to people who wanted to set up concessions and sell souvenirs in the yard. None of these offers were accepted.

I was conscious that my skill as an interviewer was not equal to the difficulties of the situation, and that I was not obtaining all the information that she might have given me. Two very interesting details were elicited by Mr. Andre, for example, when he interviewed Mrs. Lankford in 1959 (see pages 59 and 62. One statement she made, however, made the visit--indeed, the entire trip to Hopkinsville--worthwhile.

It was memorable, not so much for the words themselves, as for the inflection of her voice. She had been describing how she saw one of the creatures during their second visit, at about 3:30 in the morning. She was lying on her bed in the living room, trying to go to sleep, when it came up to the window beside the fireplace, seeming to have come around the chimney (see floor plan, page 12). "I turned my head three different times, because I thought maybe my eyes were fooling me. But every time I turned my head back, there he was."

"How far away was he?" I asked. "How close to the screen did he come?"

She waited a minute before she answered. It was not an uncertain pause nor a pause to create suspense; it was more as if she were seeing the picture again in her mind's eye. "Close enough to put his little clawy hands up on it," she said.

When I left, a little of the stiffness had gone out of the conversation--not much, but a little. She offered to telephone for a taxicab to take me back to the hotel--I had arrived in one because I had thought the distance to her home was much greater than it turned out to be.

Disappointing though the conversation had been in terms of the wealth of information I had hoped for, it had added something new and important to the case--Mrs. Lankford's character. This rigid, unbending, dour woman, silently wishing I would go away and leave her alone, had made a deep impression on me. I understood what Chief Greenwell meant when he said, "She was the most impressive witness. She's the type of person who wouldn't tell a lie if her life depended on it."

The reaction to the story on the part of Tillman and Frank Sutton, Mrs. Lankford's two other sons who live in Hopkinsville, is significant. When they first heard the report they did not believe it, taking it for some kind of a joke played by someone at the farmhouse. But when they learned that their mother, too, said she had seen the creatures, they changed their views. "If Mama saw it, it was there," Tillman told Mrs. McCord. It was impossible to picture her taking part in a hoax; it was impossible to imagine her having hallucinations or going into hysterics.

Someone suggested that I ought to go back and talk to Mrs. Lankford again, perhaps at a different time of day. Other interviews prevented this until my last day in Hopkinsville, by which time I had met Mr. Ledwith and learned of his written record and sketches made the day after the landing. I did return, however, to say goodbye and to thank her for having seen me. This time both Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Sutton were at Mrs. Lankford's house; I caught a brief glimpse of J.C., but did not ask to interview him. (The attempt would probably have been unsuccessful. Mr. Ledwith tried later, and reported that J.C. was even more uncommunicative to him than his wife and mother

had been to me. J.C. was still suffering from his connection with the Kelly case, having lost several jobs because of it.)

I apologized to Mrs. Lankford for my intrusion. "I'm sorry you've been bothered by so many people, including me."

She did not say, "Oh, no bother at all." The polite lie is not in her. But she did smile a little. "Well, you didn't bother me near as much as some of them did."

* * *

With two more items, the background is complete. In a household like this one at Kelly, firearms are taken for granted. The following guns were in the farmhouse that night:

- 1) 20-gauge single-barrelled shotgun, relatively new. It had been bought at Montgomery Ward's in Hopkinsville by Oscar Lankford, and with it he bought three chokes (accessories to be attached to the muzzle of a gun to concentrate the shot pattern in different degrees, according to the size of the choke). Belonged to J.C. Sutton, who used it that night; this was the shotgun that was fired through the window the first time (pages 24-25).
- 2) 12-gauge shotgun, old "duck gun," 30-inch barrel. Had once belonged to Mr. McCord, later to Mr. Lankford, then to J.C. Sutton. Used by Lucky Sutton that night; this was the gun that knocked the little man over the roof from the overhang above the front door (page 25).
- 3) .22 rifle; had belonged to Mr. Lankford, then to J.C. Sutton. Used that night by Billy Ray Taylor.
- 4) Miniature German pistol, barrel 2 to 3 inches long, belonging to J.C., who brought it back from overseas after the war. Apparently not used.

Finally, there were two automobiles on the premises, one said to belong to the Taylors and one to Lucky, the makes and ownership not established.

REFERENCES

CHAPTER I

1. "Panic in Kentucky," by Jacqueline Sanders, in The Saucerian Review, January 1956, pp. 19-23 , published by Gray Barker, Clarksburg, W. Va.
- 2 Private communication from Albert Andre to National Investigations Committee for Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) 3535 University Blvd., Kensington, MD 20795.

CHAPTER II
WHAT HAPPENED AT KELLY

The First Visit: Sunday, August 21, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

As eight o'clock came that Sunday night, everyone was indoors at the Sutton farmhouse at Kelly. It was almost dark--a very dark, clear night with a new moon which set at 8:30 p.m., hot and full of mosquitoes.

About an hour earlier there had been a little excitement. Billy Ray Taylor had gone out to the well in the back yard for a drink of water, and came running back into the house with a wild story about seeing a "flying saucer." As he was bringing up the bucket, he said, a silvery object, "real bright, with an exhaust all the colors of the rainbow," came silently toward the house from the southwest, about 30 or 40 feet overhead. It continued down the fields on a horizontal course; then it slowed down, came to a stop in the air, and dropped straight to the ground, seeming to disappear into the 40-foot gully at the end of the fields. After that, nothing could be seen from the yard where Billy Ray stood.

Taylor's story amused the family; they were not in the habit of taking him seriously. He must have seen a shooting star, they said. They talked about it for a while, then everyone passed it off as a joke. No one even considered investigating it, or walking out to the gully on the chance that something was there.

Half an hour or so later--around eight o'clock--the dog began to bark violently. Lucky Sutton and Billy Ray Taylor went to the back door and looked out to see what was bothering

the animal. The dog then put his tail between his legs and ran under the house, not to be seen again until the next day. Lucky was sarcastic: "Shit! A real good dog--ran away after this thing appeared."

Approaching from the fields was a strange glow. As it came nearer, they could make out what seemed to be a small "man"--though a man not much like any they had ever seen before. He was about three and a half feet tall, with an oversized head that was almost perfectly round, and arms that extended almost to the ground; the huge hands had talons at the end of the fingers. The eyes were much bigger than human eyes, and glowed with a yellowish light; they were directed neither to the front nor to the side, but about midway between. The whole creature was seemingly made of silver metal that gave off an eerie light in the darkness, like the light from the radium dial on a watch.

The creature's hands were raised now, "as if someone had told him he was about to be robbed." He was approaching the house slowly, moving toward the back door.

Confronted by the frightening unknown, men used to guns reach instinctively for something to shoot with. Lucky and Billy Ray armed themselves--the 20-gauge shotgun for Lucky and the .22 rifle for Billy. Withdrawing slightly into the house, they awaited the arrival of the creature. When it had moved to within 20 feet of the back door, both men fired. The creature somersaulted backwards--"did a flip," as the men put it--scrambled hastily upright, and scurried away into the darkness at the side of the house.

Lucky and Billy Ray waited a few minutes, then went into the living room, where the women were. Another creature appeared at the side window; the men fired at it through the screen. Again they apparently hit it, and again it "flipped" and disappeared.

Because this shot was the cause of much controversy, the scene should be clearly visualized. As the plan of the house shows (page 12, item 7), J.C. Sutton was standing at or near the corner of the fireplace nearest the window; he now had the 20-gauge shotgun, but we do not know whether one of the three chokes was attached to it. When the creature appeared outside the window, J.C. turned and aimed at the screen; the distance from gun muzzle to screen could not have been more than two feet, and might have been one foot or less, depending on J.C.'s exact position. This fact has a bearing on the size of the hole in the screen said to have been made by this shot.

Taylor, using the .22 rifle, also fired through the screen at this creature. His position in the room is now known; however, the maximum distance for his shot would be about 16 feet, the diagonal of the living room from the bed at the front of the room to the window beside the fireplace.

The men decided to go outdoors and see whether they had actually hit the creature; as they started out the front door there occurred one of the most talked-about and terrifying incidents of the story. Taylor went through the doorway first; as he stood under the small overhanging roof, about to step down into the yard, those behind him in the hall saw a claw-like hand reach down and touch his hair. They screamed at him, and Alene Sutton seized him to pull him back into the house. Lucky, close behind Taylor, pushed past him into the yard, turned the 12-gauge shotgun up toward the creature on the overhang, fired, and knocked it over the roof. "There's one up in the tree, too," Billy Ray said--it was on the limb of the maple tree to the right as you leave the house. Both Lucky and Taylor shot at that one, knocking him off the limb; he floated to the ground, they shot at him again, and he too scurried off into the weeds. Almost at the same moment, around the northwest corner of the house, right in front of Lucky, came another one--or the same one that had been knocked over the ridgepole.

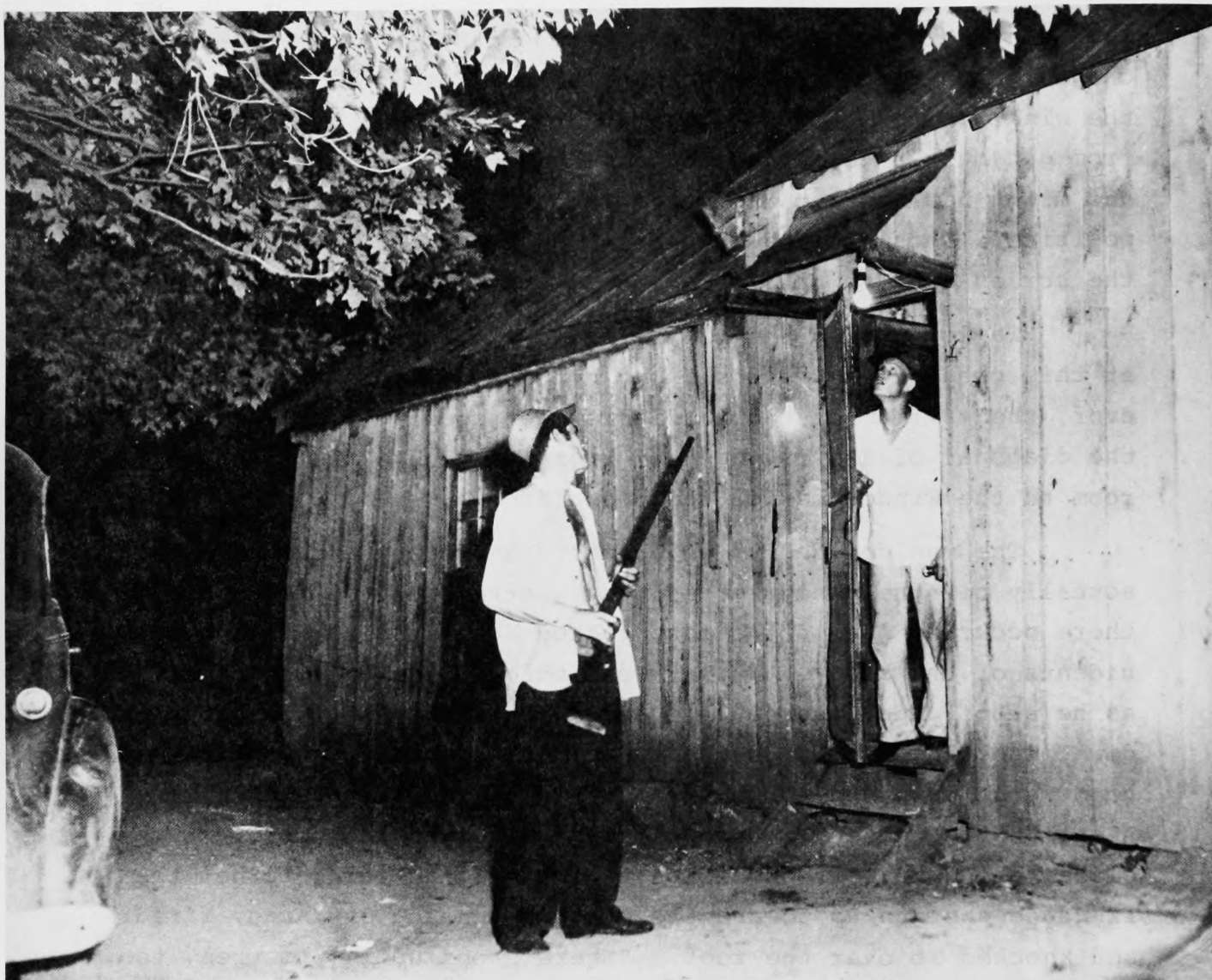


Figure 7. ELMER SUTTON AND BILLY RAY TAYLOR AT THE DOOR OF THE FARMHOUSE

PHOTO FROM KENTUCKY NEW ERA, HOPKINSVILLE, KY.

When running away, the creatures seemed capable of extremely rapid movement (see below), and it was impossible to tell whether there were several of them, or whether there were only two or three that disappeared from one place and reappeared very quickly in another. The swiftness of these reappearances could easily have given the impression that there were many of them; but the figures given in the newspapers--10 or 12 or 15--are almost certainly exaggerated; the episodes just described seem to be the only time when two were seen simultaneously. When I interviewed her, Mrs. Lankford, in fact, insisted that no more than one had ever been seen at a time. I did not have an opportunity to ask her about the incident described above.

Shots had now been fired at the creatures at least four times: first, from the back door as the creature approached the house; second, the double shot from rifle and shotgun through the living room window; third, Lucky's shot from the front yard at the creature trying to touch Taylor's hair; and fourth, the double shot at the creature in the tree. Now, as the creature came round the corner of the house, Lucky brought the shotgun down to bear on it and fired at point-blank range. It sounded as if the shots had hit a metal bucket. The thing "flipped over," got up, and ran off into the darkness, seemingly unhurt.

When a direct blast from a 12-gauge shotgun had no effect, Lucky made an obvious decision; he would leave the things alone. The men went back into the house to try to think what to do next.

At some point, the lights over the front and back doors were turned on, and then someone noticed that whenever the creatures approached the house, they came from a dark part of the yard. Was this an attempt at concealment? The rest of their behavior makes it unlikely. It seems more probable that they disliked light. As the sketches show (pages 44, 48, 51), the eyes were large and had neither pupil nor eyelid; that is, no method of accommodating to changes in the amount of light.

Perhaps the most extraordinary feature of their behavior was their method of locomotion. Whenever they came toward the house they had an upright posture, walking slowly with their hands raised. (Talking to Mr. Ledwith the next morning, Mrs. Lankford said she thought the slow approach and raised hands meant that the creatures were trying to establish communication.) When struck by shots on a tree-limb or on the roof, they performed their fantastic trick of not falling but floating toward the ground (see below). But whenever they had been knocked over, while on the ground, by a shot, and had "flipped," in the Sutton's phrase, they moved differently. They lowered their hands to the ground and "ran" very rapidly--except that the arms seemed to furnish most of the propulsion; the thin legs, "as spindly as broom handles," seemed to be used only for balance and to move in unison.

The legs were inflexible. When the creatures "ran," the hip joints were flexed slightly--not much of a "bend" was necessary because their arms were so long and the huge hands so close to the ground. But the legs were never seen to bend as if there were a knee joint; they seemed inflexible, and might have almost been stilts. No one noticed the feet, although these must have been visible when the things floated. The arms were bent at the elbow when the creatures approached the house with raised hands, but no other flexibility of arms or hands was noticed, except for a slight movement of the taloned "fingers" when the hand reached down toward Taylor's head. Neither the eyes nor the head were seen to turn to "follow" the movements of the human beings.

One incident illustrates particularly well the creatures' reported ability to "float." A scraping or tapping noise was heard on the kitchen roof, and the men went into the back yard to see a creature moving up that roof. They shot at it and knocked it from the roof; then it "floated" to the back fence--a distance of some 40-odd feet--where it seemed to perch; they

shot again, knocked it off the fence, and this time it scurried off into the weeds in the "all-fours" position.

Except for the big glowing yellow eyes, the creatures were the same "color" all over. In the dark, this was a phosphorescent or luminescent glow, but when a light was turned on them this changed to a dull metallic look. The body surface gave the witnesses the impression that it was skin; if it was some kind of a space suit, as has been suggested, it covered them completely. The glow of the bodies increased when they were shot at or shouted at--as if noise affected the luminosity. The strange triangular ears--large, floppy, wrinkled like leather and pointed at the top--were seen by the women as extended somewhat outward, by the men as closer to the head. There was no hair, no indication of sex, and they gave off no smell.

The creatures made no noise at any time; the "mouth," if such it was (see sketches pages 44, 48, 51), never opened, and they made no sound when moving, although the weeds and bushes rustled when the creatures fled into them. The only noise associated with them was a slight scraping sound on the metal roof, as if the points of the talons were dragging lightly across it; this noise was also described as a tapping.

They never exhibited any behavior that could be described as hostile. They made no attempt to retaliate for the shooting. They never attempted to enter the house, simply stood at a door or window looking in. If performed by human beings, their actions would be interpreted as profound curiosity and persistence; but of course we can not know what their behavior meant. We do not even know that they recognized the shooting as a sign of antagonism.

The number of shots fired in all, by whom, and from exactly what positions, is not known, and statements on this point varied widely. One investigator, a skeptic, told me positively that none of the neighbors heard any shots at all.

Another investigator, also a skeptic, told me equally positively that the neighbors said "it sounded like a small war."

Understandably, the sequence of events was and remains confused. No one was keeping a log. Mrs. Lankford, for example, when interviewed by Mr. Andre in 1959, thought the incident of Taylor's hair being touched occurred about 10:30 p.m. She said that at first she did not pay any attention to the boys, thinking they were only joking and shooting for the fun of it. She and the other women were busy with the supper dishes and putting the children to bed. "We thought the boys were only kidding, although they were coming into the house and telling about seeing and shooting at the things.

"I did not take them seriously until about 10 o'clock, when Alene came in terrified, white, nervously shaking, saying that she had seen one of the little men. She was terribly upset and her nervousness continued for several days. I suggested to the boys that we turn the lights out, which we did. I decided then to see just what it was they were seeing. I went out in the hallway and crouched down next to Billy and asked him, 'Now just what have you been seeing?' He replied, 'Wait and you'll see.'

"We remained crouched down about three feet from the screen door (the front door) for about 20 minutes, when I saw one approaching the door. Billy and I remained crouching until it came right up to the screen. It looked like a five-gallon gasoline can with a head on top and small legs. It was a shimmering bright metal like on my refrigerator.

"I tried to get up from my crouched position to move back farther from the door. I did not make it, as I am heavy and my legs had become stiff from remaining in a crouched position a long time; and being in the dark I lost my balance and fell flat on the floor, making a thud-like noise and letting out a shriek. At the same time the thing jumped back into the yard and Billy shot at it right through the screen.

"It then jumped up, we thought, right on the roof of the house. As Billy went out the door to get another shot at it, the thing's clawy hands snatched at Billy's head. By that time Alene had come to the door; she grabbed Billy's arm and snatched him back into the house. By then, my son, Lucky, who had been guarding the other doorway (the back door) had also arrived at the front door, coming through the house. He pushed out the door past Billy and Alene and shot at the thing while it was still on the overhang above the front door."

Several times, apparently, the men thought they had driven the creatures off for good, only to have them return after an interval. This is indicated by Lucky's statement, quoted in one newspaper, that the creatures "came up to the house six times," and also by the fact that the family waited so long before going for help.

But as their invulnerable visitors returned again and again, matters got worse. Mrs. Lankford did not panic ("I kept trying to get him to come in the house and shut the door. The things weren't doing us any harm"), but the other women were increasingly terrified. The children were frightened too, in spite of efforts to reassure them and even to prevent them from seeing the creatures at all. But they could not be kept in bed. At least once, one child was in the front yard when a creature was seen and fired at; and by the time the family left the house, one child was screaming with fear and had to be carried to the car.

It was about 11 o'clock when the Suttons got into the two automobiles and headed at top speed for the Hopkinsville police station.

The farmhouse was deserted and would remain so for half an hour or more, the time needed for the Suttons to reach the police station and for the first investigators to get out to Kelly.

The Night Investigation: Sunday, 11 p.m. to Monday, 2 a.m.

Skeptics and non-skeptics alike seemed to be in complete agreement on two facts about the Kelly landing, and one of them was the extreme and genuine fright shown by the Sutton family. One of the most outspoken skeptics, after expressing utter disbelief in the whole story at some length, added unexpectedly, "But one thing's sure--those women were scared green." Chief of Police Greenwell was emphatic: "Something scared those people. Something beyond reason--nothing ordinary." He pointed out, furthermore, that their coming to Hopkinsville at all was significant. "These aren't the kind of people who normally run to the police for help. When they feel themselves threatened, what they do is reach for their guns." With their guns having no more effect than water pistols, the measure of their fear was the trip to the police station.

There is also objective evidence that their fear was genuine. One of the investigators, who rode to Kelly in the same automobile with one of the men from the farmhouse--probably Billy Ray Taylor--had had medical experience. This investigator not only noticed that Taylor was "pale, almost hysterical," but observed the rapid pulsebeat in his neck and timed it. The rate was 140 per minute, twice normal. The skeptic who mentioned this fact was still impressed by it. "Maybe the boy could pretend to be frightened in some ways, but I don't know how he could make his heart beat twice as fast as usual."

At the police station, certainly, the officers were sufficiently struck by the family's behavior to take immediate action. They radioed the Madisonville headquarters of the Kentucky State Police, which broadcast orders to State Troopers patrolling the highways and to others at home, to go to the police station at once and thence to Kelly. The Christian County Sheriff's Office, in the same building as the city police, sent a Deputy Sheriff, and telephoned the staff photographer of the Kentucky New Era. Chief Greenwell, at home, answered

the telephone to hear his desk sergeant say, "A spaceship has landed at Kelly." "If this is your idea of a joke," Greenwell answered, "it's not mine." "I'm not joking, Chief--the State Police are sending units there."

A State Police car reached the Hopkinsville police station. The trooper who drove it did not know the location of the farmhouse, and even by daylight the turnoff from U.S. 41 to the Old Madisonville Road is easy to miss. Ahead of him, therefore, went one of the Sutton cars--possibly both--to show the way. They were hardly gone before another State Police car, its siren screaming, drove up, and on its heels Chief Greenwell, in his own police car.

June Taylor (who had refused to look at the creatures) was still at the police station. She had not wanted to go back, but now she was also frightened by the possibility of missing the "explanation," and asked Chief Greenwell to take her back with him. He refused, because he expected to drive too fast to risk having a civilian passenger. How she got back is not known; however, many cars went back and forth between Hopkinsville and Kelly that night, and she was certainly at the farmhouse when Mr. Ledwith interviewed the women the next morning.

Following the second State trooper, Greenwell took the road to Kelly, traveling at 70 or 80 miles per hour. At the turnoff another State Trooper, from Madisonville, was waiting to follow them the rest of the distance to the farmhouse.

Shortly before this--the exact time cannot be established, but it was sometime about the beginning of the night's investigation--occurred the strange incident of the "meteors." One of the State Police reported that at Shady Oaks, a restaurant two or three miles out of Hopkinsville toward Kelly, he had heard several meteors passing overhead "with a noise like artillery fire" or "whining" and had looked out of his car in time to see two of them. They were traveling in a slightly descending

trajectory from approximately southwest, in the general direction of the Sutton farm.

At first, right after the Kelly incident, this policeman stated definitely that these were not ordinary meteors; he had watched the Perseids earlier in August, and these objects were larger and brighter than the Perseids, besides making a noise. Later, he said they were meteors and nothing but meteors.

Again, there is no timetable to settle the order in which all of the investigators arrived in Kelly, but cars and people, voices and tramping feet, headlights, flashlights, and guns now converged rapidly on the farmhouse. Besides the people already mentioned, there were at least four MP's (on duty in Hopkinsville from Fort Campbell), a Madisonville newspaper reporter, the car with Deputy Sheriff Batts, the New Era photographer and his wife, and even one or two members of the general public who had somehow got wind of the excitement.

As the photographer--from the first an outspoken skeptic--stepped out of his car, he demanded, "Now show me the roof where this little man is supposed to have been sitting." One of the Sutton men (it sounds like Lucky) turned on him. "Supposed, hell! He was sitting there!"

Even with police officers all around, and with headlights and flashlights lighting up the house and yard (like a Roman candle), none of the family would go back into the building until it had been thoroughly searched. It is important to remember this fact: that when the investigators made their first examination of the living room, including the window through which shots had been said to be fired, all of the Suttons were still outdoors.

Chief Greenwell supervised a thorough search of the house, the yard, and outbuildings. Without making a point of it, he looked for evidences of drinking. None was found, either by him or any other investigators, to several of whom the same

thought occurred. Mr. Ledwith noticed a few beer cans in a rubbish basket the next day; but the second point on which everyone I talked to seemed to agree was that there was no evidence that anyone at the farmhouse had been drinking. When interviewed by Station WHOP, Mrs. Lankford stated that liquor was not allowed in the farmhouse. Nevertheless, when Lt. Col. Spencer Whedon of ATIC referred to the Kelly case on the famous Armstrong Theatre of the Air program on January 22, 1958, he allowed himself to hint broadly that liquor had been responsible for the whole story.

The atmosphere was tense. Again Chief Greenwell was emphatic. "In and around the whole area, the house, the fields, that night, there was a weird feeling. It was partly uneasiness, but not entirely. Everyone had it. There were men there that I'd call brave men, men I've been in dangerous situations with. They felt it too. They've told me so."

Whatever the cause--the contagion of the Sutton's fear, the strangeness of their errand, or an actual sense that somewhere in the darkness beyond the farmhouse non-human entities might be watching--everyone's nerves were on edge. Someone stepped on a cat's tail, the cat yowled, "You never saw so many pistols unholstered so fast in your life," Greenwell said. The fame of this anonymous cat seems to be permanent; everyone I talked to mentioned that screech and the ensuing panic.

Another odd item was mentioned by Chief Greenwell. He had finished his search of the immediate premises, and had interviewed the family as well as he could in the prevailing confusion. Going into the back yard, he joined a group of men who stood inside the fence, looking out toward the fields and woods where other searchers were moving about with their flashlights. On the outer side of the fence, about where one of the creatures was supposed to have been knocked onto the grass by a shot, several men saw a luminous patch, roughly 1½ feet in diameter, on the grass. From the side of the fence nearer the house, the

patch was visible from only one angle; Greenwell and others examined the spot carefully, but at close range nothing at all was visible and the grass did not seem different in any way. The contrast between the surrounding grass and the luminous patch was definite, Chief Greenwell said--of about the same magnitude as the contrast between the white background of the topographical map that was on his desk and the brown contour lines of the map.

Whatever this luminous patch was, at least it was not the piece of aluminum foil that one investigator discovered in a corner of the fence thirty-six hours later. Even in that nervous atmosphere, Greenwell and the other officers were unquestionably capable of identifying a piece of aluminum foil.

The first officer to arrive at the farmhouse had noticed a few shotgun shells in the front yard, but none of these were picked up and saved. Everyone had seen the square hole in the screen--jokes were already being made about it by the early skeptics. Otherwise, no one had seen any evidence of any kind. There were no footprints on the hard ground, no spaceship, and above all, no "little men" in fields or woods. (Whether the gully was actually approached and searched that night is perhaps open to question. Mrs. Lankford told Mr. Andre, "Nobody went out there that night. They were all too scared.") One Hopkinsville policeman said he saw a greenish light in the woods; officers were dispatched to search the area, but returned without confirmation. There was no evidence at all except the obvious fears of the family and their angry persistence in sticking to their story.

The newspaper photographer and his wife were disappointed; pictures of authentic little men from a spaceship would have made their fortune. "I wish I could see one," she complained, as she walked through the front yard past one of the Sutton cars in which two or three of the Sutton women were sitting. "Lady, if you did, and it scared you like it scared us," someone called after her, "you'd drop that camera and run like a whipped cat."

A few at a time the investigators began to leave, taking with them their cars, their flashlights, and whatever degree of skepticism each one had developed. They promised to come back as soon as it was light, and repeat the search. By 2:00 or 2:15 the Suttons were alone in the farmhouse again, still frightened but trying to settle to sleep for what was left of the night. The woods, fields, and yard were dark again.

And the little men came back.

The Second Visit: Monday, 2:30 a.m. to Daybreak

We have less information about the return of the creatures than about the hours when they were first at the farmhouse, but it was during this period that Mrs. Lankford saw the little man with his hands on the window screen. She had gone to bed. All the lights were off (the investigators had reassured the family to that extent). Her head was toward the window and she was trying to go to sleep, when she became aware of a glow at the window. The creature seemed to have come around the chimney to stand there; it put its little clawy hands up on the screen and stared silently into the room.

Throughout the night Mrs. Lankford had been the most self-possessed and observant of those present. It was she who mentioned that the creatures always approached the house slowly, with raised hands, as if they were trying to reassure their hosts or even communicate with them. Had she been able to control the situation, the shooting might have stopped. "I kept telling them to come into the house and shut the doors," she said to me. "The things weren't doing us any harm." Now she looked away and back again, three times, because she thought perhaps her eyes were fooling her. But each time she looked at the window again, the creature was still standing there.

She called quietly to the rest of the family to come and look; Lucky, across the room, was on his feet at once. He lifted his gun. "I'm going to shoot," he said.

"For God's sake, don't!" his mother answered (probably trying to prevent a repetition of the terrified excitement of the earlier visit). Lucky was not persuaded. "Mama, I'm goin' to shoot that little man," he said, and fired. This shot may have been the one that damaged the window frame; in any event, it had no effect on the visitors. None of the shots fired during the second visit injured the creatures any more than the earlier ones had done.

The last time that a creature was seen that night was approximately half an hour before sunrise, which took place about 5:15 that Monday morning, August 22.

CHAPTER III
INVESTIGATING WHAT HAPPENED

The Daytime Investigations: Monday Morning to 11 a.m.

The Suttons had little sleep that night, and they were up early. Shortly after sunrise Lucky Sutton, J.C. Sutton, and O.P. Baker left by car to drive to Evansville, Indiana, 85 miles north, to borrow a truck (or to pick up some furniture in a borrowed truck; the detail is uncertain). Billy Ray Taylor went out hunting with a neighbor. The four women remained at the farmhouse.

Soon the investigators began to come back, to search the area by day. They went through the fields and woods and the gully, looking for traces of the little men or the spaceship, but still without the least success. They questioned the women again and talked to the children, getting the same story and the same details as the night before. Some of them got up on the roof of the house; it was dusty from the long drought, but they reported finding no footprints to confirm the tapping, dragging noises that had been described by the family.

Chief of Police Greenwell talked several times to each of the women, trying to trip them up by referring to the "small eyes" of the creatures, or their "suits," or the noises they had made, but he was always corrected. (A few days later he went back with three of his men and searched the woods even more extensively.) The State Police also returned, and at least one of them questioned the children and talked to several of the neighbors. (This State Trooper was one of the people I talked to in Hopkinsville, but his time was limited and I did not get details

of his interviews with the neighbors. These details, which would be of extreme interest, may be included in his official report on the case, filed at the main State Police headquarters in Frankfort, Kentucky, but these files were not available.) It is unknown whether the Christian County Sheriff's Office investigated further.

The role of the U.S. Air Force in the Kelly encounter was not clear at the time. Under the title "Project Blue Book," this agency was the one officially charged with investigating UFO reports. According to Blue Book documents, which became available in 1975 (see Chapter V), the incident was "never officially reported to the Air Force," and "no official investigation was ever made." During the days immediately after the landing, however, the Air Force seemed to be involved. According to the Evansville Press of August 22, "Fort Campbell authorities today sent Major Albert Coren to the scene to investigate, sheriff's officers said," although "The Public Information Office at Fort Campbell reported no knowledge of the incident." Chief Greenwell stated definitely that Air Force Intelligence from Fort Campbell was on the scene. He also mentioned that two men came from Standiford Field, the commercial airfield in Louisville, and contacted him before going out to the farm, but that they gave him little information about who they were or exactly what they did at the farm in the way of investigation; he thought they might have been Civil Defense officials.

Another piece of information obtained by Mr. Ledwith may be significant. During his later inquiries he talked to the neighbor who had gone hunting with Billy Ray Taylor on Monday morning. This man said that during the hunt he and Taylor had watched two Army airplanes circling over the fields and woods for some time. One was a light observation plane, which might have been taking pictures of the area (this is, of course, unproved); the other was possibly a DC-3, C-119, or other large aircraft used at Fort Campbell.

In spite of the numerous reported investigations, for most of them we have little actual detail as to the methods the investigators used, what tests they applied, what precautions they took. We can feel fairly sure, however, that certain things were not done. During the night investigation no part of the area was ever roped off to prevent damage to the footprints everyone was looking for; the investigators were everywhere and anywhere. There was never any systematic attempt to collect shotgun shells in and around the house. So far as Chief Greenwell knew, no one used a Geiger counter anywhere in the area, unless the military did so. These points have a bearing on certain of the arguments used by the skeptics.

Meanwhile, the windmills of publicity had begun to spin. The story had been told briefly over station WHOP in their 7:15 and 9:25 a.m. news broadcasts, and soon afterwards the station's news reporter, Mr. Cameron, arrived at the farm to tape a short interview (2½ minutes) with the witnesses for the 12:30 and 6 p.m. broadcasts. (This tape was erased routinely by the station at the end of 1955.) The Kentucky New Era reporter and photographer were there for a story and more pictures for the afternoon issue (the paper comes out at about 3:30 p.m.). Reporters from the wire services and from individual newspapers in Kentucky, Indiana, and Tennessee descended on the Hopkinsville police station, and some of them went out to the farm. There were other radio reporters. There was talk of re-enacting the story on T.V. In Evansville, Indiana, the Press found the three men from the farm and took their picture, which shows Lucky demonstrating, as J.C. Sutton and O.P. Baker watch, how the "spaceship" had come down over the fields.

And following the publicity came the sightseers. The Suttons, having spent one night, according to their story, in fighting off inquisitive little men from outer space, were now destined to spend days and nights fighting off even more inquisitive human beings. Though they showed no signs of realizing it, a

second and worse invasion was rolling toward the farm, and they would have no more success in getting rid of these unwanted visitors than of the first group. As the news spread, the crowds grew thicker. Their cars jammed the Old Madisonville Road. They stared and pointed. They stopped their cars, got out, walked around the house, opened the doors and walked in, asked questions, told the family to pose for pictures, laughed and made jokes. The little men had been terrifying, but at least they had stayed outside the house and had taken themselves off by daybreak. The human horde grew every minute, swarming more and more as the day wore on, everywhere uncontrolled and making themselves free of the place. (Mrs. Lankford told Mr. Andre that "someone" had gone out to the gully and come back "with something in his hand." There were too many people around for her to know who it was and she didn't remember what he had shown her.)

But in Hopkinsville an important development was taking place. Engineer-announcer Andrew B. ("Bud") Ledwith, of Station WHOP, was about to come to Kelly. The following section is in his own words, and describes the events of Monday as he experienced them; he wrote them up in the evening after his interviews.

The Ledwith Inquiries: 11:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

by Andrew B. Ledwith

I GOT UP LATE THAT MONDAY MORNING, AS IT WAS MY DAY OFF AT STATION WHOP, AND DECIDED TO WORK AT MY HOBBY, AMATEUR RADIO. I RAN INTO A TOUGH PROBLEM AND WENT TO CONSULT THE CHIEF ENGINEER AT THE STATION. WHEN I ARRIVED, ABOUT 11 O'CLOCK, EVERYONE I SAW GREETED ME WITH, "HAVE YOU SEEN THE LITTLE GREEN MEN YET?" I INQUIRED, AND GOT A VAGUE ACCOUNT OF THE NIGHT'S HAPPENINGS. REMEMBERING A MAGAZINE ARTICLE THAT I HAD READ NOT LONG BEFORE ABOUT THE WAY THAT POLICE ARTISTS RECONSTRUCT FACIAL FEATURES FROM WITNESSES' DESCRIPTIONS, I DECIDED TO TRY TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION. I HAD ONCE STUDIED ART AND THOUGHT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET SKETCHES.

WITH ME WENT MIKE LACKEY, SON OF THE OWNER OF STATION WHOP; HE COULD WATCH AND LISTEN AND MAKE SURE THAT I WAS NOT LEADING OR GUIDING THE PEOPLE I INTERVIEWED. EQUIPPED WITH PENCILS AND PAPER, WE DROVE OUT TO THE SUTTON HOUSE.

MRS. LANKFORD WAS SITTING IN A ROCKING CHAIR IN THE FRONT YARD. WE INTRODUCED OURSELVES, AND SHE AND THE OTHER TWO WOMEN WHO HAD SEEN THE CREATURES (MRS. LUCKY SUTTON AND MRS. J.C. SUTTON) AGREED TO SIT DOWN WITH ME AND LET ME DRAW SKETCHES FROM THEIR DESCRIPTIONS, AND TO GIVE ME AN ACCOUNT OF THE NIGHT'S EVENTS. WE WENT INDOORS, INTO THE LIVING ROOM. MRS. TAYLOR WAS IN THE KITCHEN.

I DID NOT LEAD THE WOMEN IN ANY WAY AS THE PICTURE WAS DRAWN. THEY WERE EXTREMELY POSITIVE OF WHAT THEY HAD SEEN AND HAD NOT SEEN; IT WAS A MATTER OF FOLLOWING THEIR DIRECTIONS AS TO THE SHAPE OF THE FACE, EYES, HANDS, AND BODY. IF I EVEN SO MUCH AS ADVANCED A SUPPOSITION OF HOW ONE PARTICULAR FEATURE MIGHT HAVE LOOKED, THEY WOULD QUICKLY CORRECT ME.

I STARTED BY DRAWING A LARGE FACE, AS THEY DIRECTED: BUT AS WE PROGRESSED IT SEEMED OBVIOUS THAT THE WHOLE FIGURE WOULD NOT FIT ON THE PAPER ON THIS SCALE, SO WE STARTED AGAIN. IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THE "APPARITION" BEGAN TO TAKE FORM. THE EYES WERE LIKE SAUCERS, LARGE AND SET ABOUT SIX INCHES APART; THEY SEEMED TO BE HALFWAY AROUND THE SIDE OF THE FACE (see sketch on the next page). THE EARS WERE "FLAPPY," LIKE A PIECE OF LEATHER; THEY SEEMED TO BE POINTED AT THE TOP, AND THEY WERE "TOO BIG." THE HEAD ITSELF WAS CIRCULAR AND COMPLETELY BALD ON TOP, AND THE FEATURES SUCH AS EYES AND EARS WERE NOT PLACED ON THE HEAD AS WE MIGHT EXPECT THEM TO BE.

WE PROGRESSED TO THE BODY. NO ONE WAS SURE WHETHER THERE WAS A NECK OR NOT, SO WE LEFT IT OUT. ACCORDING TO THE WOMEN, THE BODY WAS THIN, WITH A FORMLESS STRAIGHT FIGURE. THE ARMS AND LEGS WERE "SPINDLY." THE ARMS WERE PECULIAR: THEY WERE ALMOST TWICE AS LONG AS THE LEGS, AND ALMOST TOUCHED THE GROUND

Figure 8. "Little Man" drawn by Andrew (Bud) Ledwith from descriptions of Mrs. Lankford, Mrs. Elmer Sutton and Mrs. J.C. Sutton

Height: 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 feet

Sex: No indication

Head was bald, same color as body; like an egg.

Ears floppy, large, came to point at top, like a piece of wrinkled leather. Did not extend too much above crown; extended out from side somewhat.

Eyes like saucers, oversize, spaced about 6 inches apart midway between ears and position of human eyes - part way around face. Cornea oversize, yellow, glowing. Remainder of eye surface white.

Mouth - a thin line spread from ear to ear. No lips. Perhaps slightly lower than the ear (this not certain).

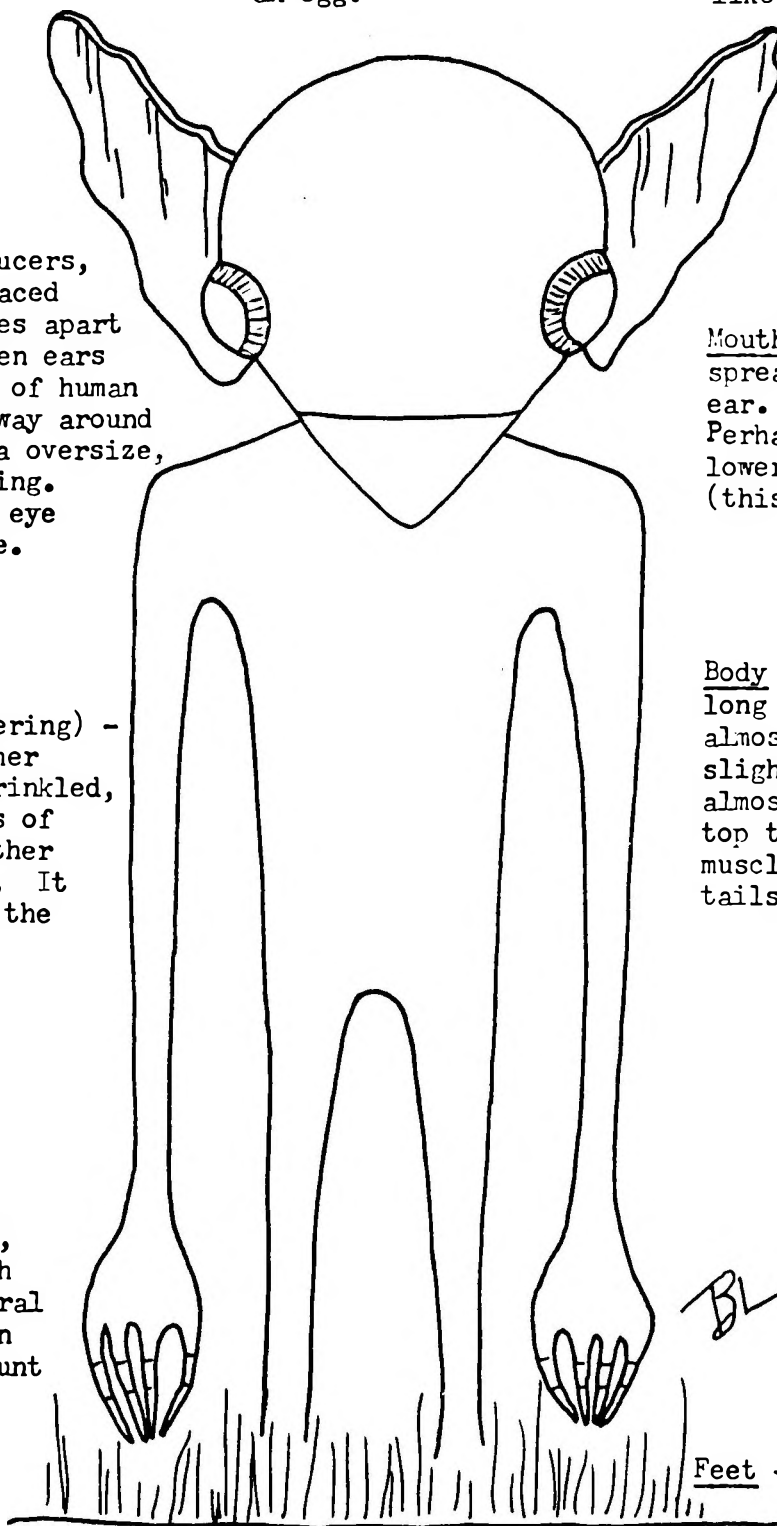
Skin (or covering) - texture neither smooth nor wrinkled, had qualities of both but neither predominated. It seemed to be the actual skin.

Body - no neck; arms long and extended almost to ground, slightly tapered but almost straight from top to bottom; no muscles or other details.

Hands - large, oversize, with talons. General shape of human hands. No count of fingers or knuckles.

BL

Feet - none seen.



WHERE THE FEET WOULD BE. THE HANDS WERE HUGE, BULKY-LOOKING THINGS, WITH CURLING TALONS SEVERAL INCHES LONG IN PLACE OF FINGERNAILS.

THE ONLY PART OF THE FACE THAT NO ONE COULD DESCRIBE WAS THE NOSE--MAINLY BECAUSE, AS THEY ALL AGREED, THE HUGE EYES WERE TREMENDOUSLY FASCINATING, AND DISTRACTED THEIR ATTENTION FROM THE OTHER FEATURES. I TRIED TO SKETCH IN A NOSE; THEY SEEMED TO AGREE THAT THE CREATURE MIGHT HAVE HAD ONE, BUT NO ONE WAS SURE, SO WE REMOVED IT. VERA SUTTON CALLED TO MRS. TAYLOR IN THE KITCHEN TO COME OUT AND LOOK AT THE SKETCH: "SEE--HERE'S WHAT WE SAW LAST NIGHT."

AFTER THE BASIC SHAPE HAD BEEN SKETCHED, AND THE HEAD ADDED AT THE TOP, MRS. LANKFORD SAID THAT IT WAS SO LIKE THE APPARTITION SHE HAD SEEN THAT SHE WAS NOT GOING TO LOOK AT IT ANY LONGER, AND SHE WENT BACK OUTDOORS.

THE THREE OTHER WOMEN, MY COMPANION, AND I STAYED INSIDE TO PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE DRAWING. WHEN IT WAS COMPLETED, WE TOOK IT OUTSIDE TO SHOW TO MRS. LANKFORD, WHO TOOK ONE LOOK, SAID WE HADN'T MISSED A THING, AND ASKED ME TO TAKE IT AWAY-- SHE DIDN'T WANT TO LOOK AT IT ANY MORE.

(During this visit, Mr. Ledwith's companion picked up a shotgun shell from the floor of the living room. The first investigator on the scene the night before had noticed a few shells around the front door, but apparently there was no attempt to collect or keep these.)

LEAVING MRS. LANKFORD, WE WENT AROUND TO THE BACK OF THE HOUSE AND TALKED TO A FEW OF THE SIGHTSEERS. IN GENERAL, I WAS NOT SHOWING THE SKETCH; BUT ONE OF THE WOMEN CAME OUT OF THE HOUSE AND ASKED ME TO SHOW IT TO A FRIEND OF HERS, AND SAID, "THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE." THEN WE WALKED OUT INTO THE FIELD, TO THE NEARER CREST OF THE HILL, WHERE THERE WERE TWO STATE TROOPERS. I DISCUSSED THE CASE WITH THEM AND ASKED IF THE STATE POLICE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A COPY OF THE SKETCH I HAD

JUST DRAWN UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE WOMEN. THEY ACCEPTED, AND TOLD ME TO GIVE IT TO ANOTHER STATE TROOPER WHO LIVED IN HOPKINSVILLE WHO WOULD TRANSMIT IT TO HEADQUARTERS IN FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY. IN THE COURSE OF THE DAY I ALSO OFFERED MY SKETCHES TO AN AIR FORCE OFFICER WITH WHOM I TALKED, BUT HE EXPRESSED NO INTEREST. A WEEK LATER THE STATE TROOPERS PICKED UP THE SKETCHES AT WHOP.

WE RETURNED TO THE HOUSE. IT WAS ALMOST TIME FOR THE 12:30 P.M. BROADCAST OF THE SHORT INTERVIEW THAT HAD BEEN TAPED EARLIER THAT MORNING BY THE STATION'S NEWS REPORTER. AS THERE WAS NO RADIO IN THE FARMHOUSE, WE INVITED MRS. LANKFORD TO SIT IN OUR CAR, WHERE THE THREE OF US LISTENED TO THE NEWSCAST. AFTER THAT, MRS. LANKFORD RETURNED TO HER CHAIR OUTDOORS.

MY FRIEND AND I THEN WALKED BACK THROUGH THE FIELDS TO THE DISTANT GULLY WHERE THE SPACESHIP WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE LANDED, AND SEARCHED IT THOROUGHLY WITHOUT FINDING ANY TRACES WHATEVER. WE RETURNED TO THE HOUSE, AND ABOUT 1:45 BILLY RAY TAYLOR WALKED IN, GUN IN HAND, RETURNED FROM HIS HUNTING TRIP. I QUIETLY LAID THE WOMEN'S DRAWING ON THE BED NEXT TO WHICH I WAS STANDING, AND MOVED AWAY. BILLY RAY CAME INTO THE ROOM, GLANCED AT THE BED, SAW THE DRAWING, RAN OVER AND PICKED IT UP, AND GAVE US ALL THE COLD CHILLS BY DECLARING, "THAT'S IT, THAT'S IT, THAT LOOKS JUST LIKE IT!"

I THEN ASKED HIM INTO THE OTHER ROOM (THE BEDROOM) AND WE STARTED TO DRAW A SECOND PICTURE, USING THE FIRST AS A BASIS. AGAIN, I DID NOT PROMPT HIM. AT THIS TIME HIS DESCRIPTION WAS MUCH THE SAME AS THE WOMEN'S. (LATER, ON MY SECOND VISIT, HE HAD A GREAT DEAL TO ADD TO IT.)

BEFORE LEAVING THE FARM, WE ASKED PERMISSION TO RETURN THAT EVENING WHEN THE MEN WOULD BE COMING BACK FROM EVANSVILLE. THE WOMEN AGREED, AND MY FRIEND AND I HEADED BACK FOR HOPKINSVILLE. WHILE EVERYTHING WAS FRESH IN MY MIND, I SAT DOWN TO REDRAW THE WOMEN'S SKETCH, SINCE THE RATHER SCARRED TABLE I HAD USED AT THE HOUSE WAS NOT THE BEST DRAWING BOARD. I TRACED THE ORIGINAL

SKETCH IN ORDER TO KEEP THE PROPORTIONS, SMOOTHED UP THE ROUGH SPOTS, AND SHADED THE DRAWING TO GIVE MORE EMPHASIS TO THE FACIAL AND BODY FEATURES. I DID NOT REDRAW TAYLOR'S SKETCH BECAUSE IT WAS SO LIKE THE WOMEN'S.

IT WAS THIS REDRAWN SKETCH (ALSO TAYLOR'S) THAT I TOOK BACK WITH ME TO KELLY THAT EVENING ABOUT 7:30, AGAIN ACCOMPANIED BY MIKE LACKEY AND THIS TIME BY A SECOND WITNESS AS WELL. THE THREE MEN WERE STILL NOT BACK FROM EVANSVILLE, BUT TAYLOR WAS THERE, AND IN THE BEDROOM I DREW FROM HIS DIRECTION A SKETCH OF THE UFO. HE THEN BEGAN TO OFFER NUMEROUS MINOR "CORRECTIONS" TO THE SKETCH OF THE LITTLE MAN THAT I HAD DRAWN AT HIS DIRECTION EARLIER IN THE DAY. HE EXPERIMENTED WITH EARPHONES AND ANTENNAE PROTRUDING FROM THE HEAD, AND WAS VERY POSITIVE ABOUT A MUSCULAR BODY. HE ATTEMPTED TO DRAW SEVERAL FEATURES HE CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN. HE INSISTED THAT HE HAD SEEN A NOSE (LATER, IN FRONT OF LUCKY, HE RETRACTED THIS OBSERVATION).

I MODIFIED THE SKETCH ACCORDING TO THESE COMMENTS, BUT I REALIZED THAT HE WAS ELABORATING CONSIDERABLY, AND WHEN A SOLDIER FROM FORT CAMPBELL, PFC GARY HODSON (AFFILIATED WITH THE ARMY CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL) ARRIVED, INTERESTED LIKE MYSELF IN GETTING A DRAWING OF THE LITTLE MEN (HE CAME AS A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL, NOT IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY), I WILLINGLY TURNED BILLY RAY TAYLOR OVER TO HIM AND WENT OUTSIDE FOR A BREATH OF FRESH AIR WHILE AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF THE THREE MEN, THE FINAL WITNESSES. WE HAD BEEN OUTSIDE FOR ONLY A MINUTE WHEN A THUNDER-SHOWER DOUSED EVERYONE WHO COULDN'T FIND SHELTER. WE WENT BACK INTO THE HOUSE. IN THE BEDROOM TAYLOR WAS TALKING TO HODSON AND HELPING HIM TO MAKE A SKETCH LIKE MINE (WHICH HODSON HAD NOT SEEN). I LOOKED AT THE DRAWING. THE SAD PART OF IT WAS THAT THE SOLDIER WAS SWALLOWING HOOK, LINE, AND SINKER, ALL THE NEW DETAILS--THE ANTENNAE ON THE HEAD, THE NOSE, AND A VARIETY OF OTHER FEATURES THAT ONLY TAYLOR HAD NOTICED. TAYLOR WAS THOROUGHLY ENJOYING HIS POPULARITY.

Figure 9. "Little Man"
as described by Billy Ray Taylor
drawn by Andrew (Bud) Ledwith

Height: 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 feet

Sex: No indication

Miniature
feelers or
antennae on
each side of
top of head.

Dark depressions
in each ear.

Nose - saw a cone-
like nose, tapering
to a point, with a
ball on the end of
it.

Body powerfully
built to waist.

Legs slim and
sticklike.

Head bald, same color as
body, chin almost a point.

Ears floppy,
large, extended
considerably
above crown of
head. Pointed
at top. Like
wrinkled
leather. Ex-
tended out
from side of
head somewhat.

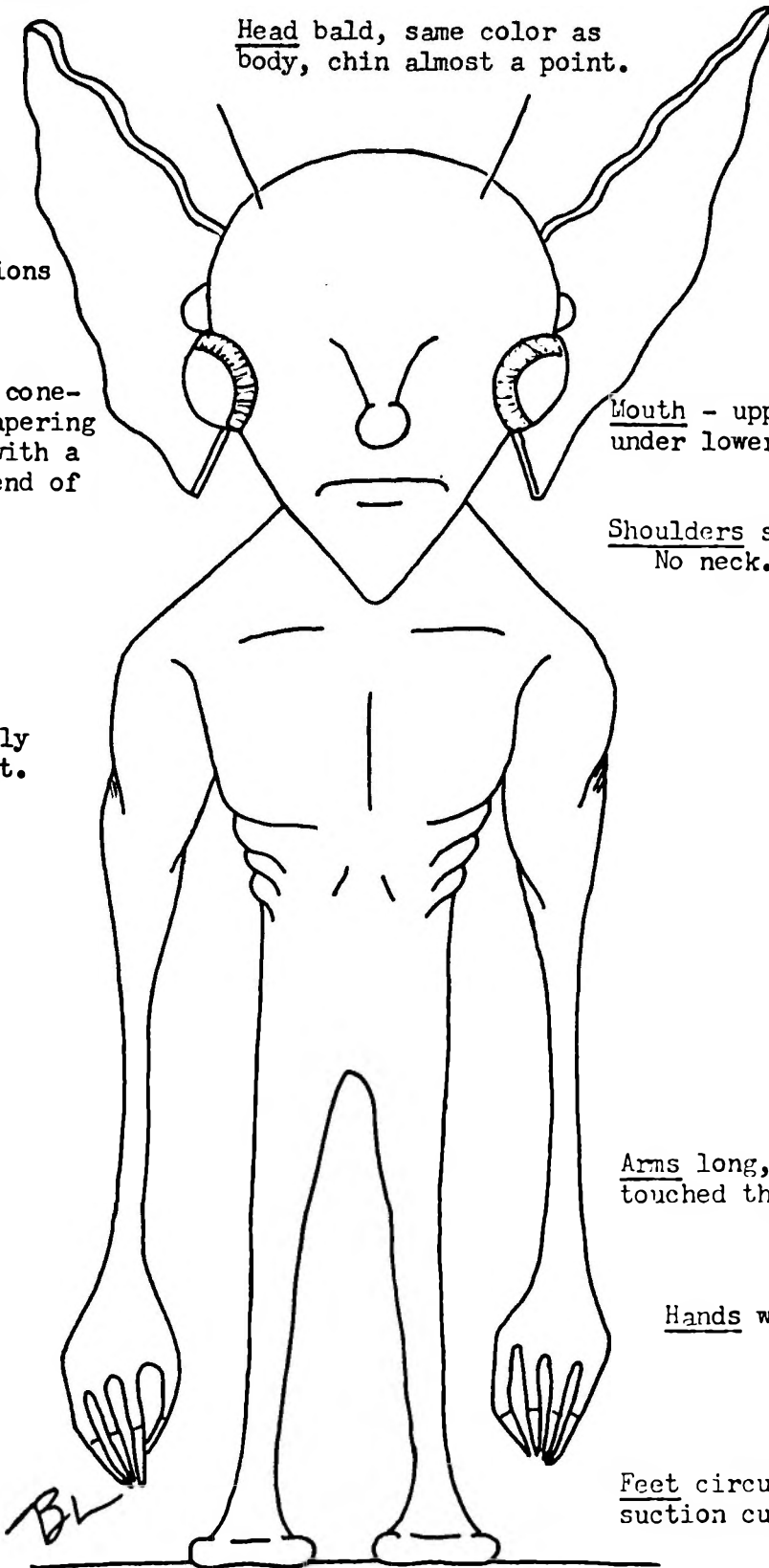
Mouth - upper lip tucked
under lower lip.

Shoulders sloped sharply.
No neck.

Arms long, almost
touched the ground.

Hands wide; talons.

Feet circular, like
suction cups.



THE SUTTON FAMILY HAD NOW BEEN AWAKE FOR MORE THAN 36 HOURS, AND IT WAS BEGINNING TO SHOW. IN THE LIVING ROOM MRS. LANKFORD WAS CRYING FROM EXHAUSTION. SHE WENT TO THE DOOR SEVERAL TIMES TO ASK THE SIGHTSEERS TO GO AWAY, BUT WITHOUT MAKING ANY IMPRESSION ON THEM. SINCE DAYBREAK THE GROUNDS HAD BEEN CRAWLING WITH THE CURIOUS. THE SHOWER DID SEND THEM RUNNING TO THEIR CARS, BUT IT WAS SOON OVER AND THEY CAME RIGHT BACK. (Relatives and friends had also come since Mr. Ledwith's morning interview, including The Reverend L.E. Player, Mrs. Lankford's pastor. Mrs. Lankford, apparently the only church-going member of the family, attended the Trinity Pentecostal Church in Hopkinsville. Services at this church are entirely conventional.)

THIS WAS THE SCENE AND TEMPER OF THE PEOPLE WHEN LUCKY DESCENDED AT 8:30. HE IS RATHER A DOMINEERING TYPE OF MAN. HE IS STRONG AND WELL-BUILT, WITH BLACK HAIR, AND HE WASN'T AT ALL HAPPY WITH THE HOMECOMING HE RECEIVED. CARS WERE LINED UP FOR HALF A MILE IN BOTH DIRECTIONS (HE COULD NOT PARK ANYWHERE NEAR THE HOUSE), AND HIS FRONT YARD WAS FULL OF SIGHTSEERS.

HE CAME INTO THE HOUSE LIKE A BEAR. JUST BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL WE HAD GONE INTO THE BEDROOM, WHERE BILLY RAY TAYLOR WAS TALKING TO HODSON. THE DOOR WAS THROWN OPEN, AND IN STRODE LUCKY, SCOWLING. "WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?" I FELT THAT HIS MOTHER HAD MET WITH HIM IN THE FRONT YARD AND HAD BEGGED HIM TO REMOVE ALL SIGHTSEERS FROM THE HOUSE AND SURROUNDINGS, AND HE WAS ABOUT TO START WITH US.

HOWEVER, BEFORE HE DID ANYTHING ELSE, HIS EYES DROPPED TO THE TABLE WHERE THE WOMEN'S DRAWING LAY. WITHOUT SAYING ANOTHER WORD, HE SAT DOWN, AND WE KNEW WE HAD STRUCK HOME WITH THAT PICTURE. HE LOOKED IT OVER, STARTED TO SHAKE HIS HEAD, AND SAID, "NO, THE FACE IS ALMOST ROUND, IT DOESN'T COME TO A POINT."

THE OTHER TWO MEN HAD NOW COME INTO THE BEDROOM, TOO, AND WE GOT RIGHT TO WORK ON THEIR DRAWING, USING THE WOMEN'S AS A GUIDE AND MAKING CHANGES AS THE MEN INDICATED. AT ONE POINT, LUCKY STOOD UP TO DESCRIBE HOW HE HAD FIRED ON THE APPARITION

THE NIGHT BEFORE, BRINGING THE SHOTGUN DOWN TO BEAR ON THE LITTLE CREATURE, ONLY A FEW FEET AWAY. HE VOLUNTEERED THE INFORMATION AT THAT POINT THAT WHEN THE SHOT STRUCK THE CREATURE, "IT SOUNDED AS THOUGH I HAD BEEN FIRING AT A BUCKET."

IN MY JUDGMENT, LUCKY IS NOT THE TYPE TO BECOME FRIGHTENED EASILY--THAT IS, NOT UNTIL CIRCUMSTANCES PROCEED BEYOND THE AVERAGE UNDERSTANDING: WHEN THE 12-GAUGE SHOTGUN DIDN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY EFFECT, HE TURNED AND RETREATED INTO THE HOUSE.

THE MEN'S DRAWING PROGRESSED MUCH AS THE FIRST ONE DID. THE HEAD WAS BALD--ALL AGREED ON THAT. THE NECK HAD BEEN LEFT OUT OF THE WOMEN'S DRAWING: NOW THE THREE MEN AGREED--WITHOUT MY ASKING THEM ABOUT IT--THAT THERE WAS NO NECK. THE PRESENCE OF A MOUTH WAS DISPUTED: LUCKY WAS ADAMANT THAT THERE WAS NONE: O.P. BAKER AND J.C. SUTTON INSISTED THEY HAD SEEN ONE, THOUGH IT WAS NOT MUCH MORE THAN A LINE STRAIGHT ACROSS THE FACE. TO PACIFY THOSE WHO HAD SEEN IT, I DREW IN A STRAIGHT LINE, HIGH, AS THEY DIRECTED, FROM EAR TO EAR. THE CHIN WAS ROUND, MAKING THE HEAD AN ALMOST PERFECT CIRCLE. THE EARS WERE AGAIN FLAPPY, BUT CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN THE WOMEN'S DESCRIPTION HAD INDICATED: IN ADDITION, THEY WERE FLATTER AGAINST THE SIDE OF THE HEAD, MORE LIKE THE POSITION OF A HUMAN BEING'S EARS. THE MEN AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT THE BASIC SHAPE OF THE EARS WAS CORRECT AS SHOWN IN THE WOMEN'S DRAWING.

THE THREE MEN COULD NOT DESCRIBE ANY OTHER FEATURES. BECAUSE OF THE EARLIER CONTROVERSY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A NOSE, I MADE A POINT OF LEADING THEM UP TO THAT QUESTION. WHEN NO ONE OFFERED ANY INFORMATION ABOUT A NOSE, I CAME RIGHT OUT AND ASKED ABOUT IT. NONE OF THE THREE HAD SEEN ANY NOSE, AND LUCKY WAS SURE THERE HADN'T BEEN ANY. AT THIS POINT BILLY RAY TAYLOR, LISTENING FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM, WHERE HE AND THE SOLDIER WERE WORKING ON THE OTHER DRAWING, SPOKE UP AND SAID THAT HE HAD DEFINITELY SEEN A NOSE. LUCKY GAVE HIM A DISDAINFUL LOOK. TAYLOR BEGAN TO HEDGE, AND FINALLY SAID HE WASN'T SURE. THIS GAVE THE SOLDIER A BAD OUTLOOK ON TAYLOR; HE STARTED TO GO OVER THEIR

Figure 10. "Little Man" as described by
Elmer Sutton, J.C. Sutton and O.P. Baker
drawn by Andrew (Bud) Ledwith

Height - $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft.

Sex - No indication.

Ears swept
back; ex-
tended quite
a bit above
crown of
head.

Eyes yellow
center, white
rim; about 6"
apart; glowing.

Mouth a thin
line; but not
sure that
there was
a mouth.

Body powerful
above waist,
muscles
clearly seen.
Below waist
thin and
spindly,
almost no
shape to legs -
sticklike.

Hands over-
size, talons
2" or 3" long;
webbing be-
tween fingers,
starting about
a knuckle
above talons.

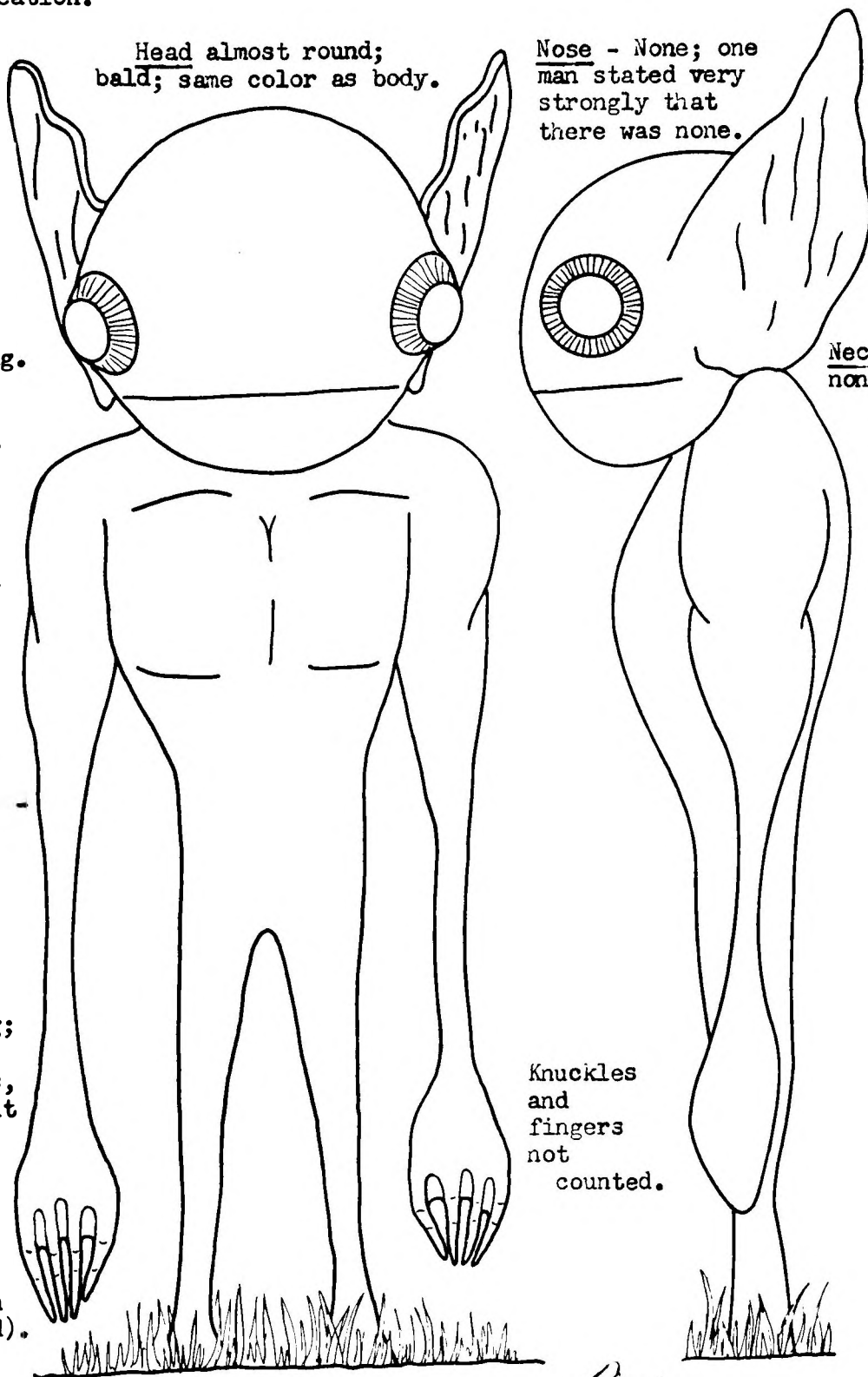
Feet not seen
(or not noted).

Head almost round;
bald; same color as body.

Nose - None; one
man stated very
strongly that
there was none.

Neck -
none.

Knuckles
and
fingers
not
counted.



DRAWING AGAIN, FEATURE BY FEATURE. (To judge by Hodson's final sketches (see page 57), he did not retain his distrust very long. He also prompted Taylor; in a letter supplementing the above account, Mr. Ledwith says, "You can credit the ball-jointed arms to Mr. Taylor. As I sat across the room drawing the three men's idea of the little men, Hodson was pumping a very willing Billy Ray by exactly the method I had refused to use. You might say that he was 'priming' him as they went along. I remember hearing him ask about the way the arms moved, and whether they could move backward as well as forward. He advanced the 'ball-jointed' idea, and Billy Ray took it up like a piece of cake.")

THE HAUNTING SIMILARITIES CONTINUED, AS THE MEN CONFIRMED OR DISAGREED WITH DETAILS IN THE WOMEN'S DRAWING. THE BODY ABOVE THE WAIST WAS POWERFUL, THEY SAID, AND THE UPPER ARMS ALSO: THE LEGS AND FOREARMS WERE THIN AND SPINDLY, AS IF THEY WERE "MADE OF BROOM HANDLES." THE MEN, LIKE THE WOMEN, HAD NOT SEEN ANY FEET. TAYLOR, STILL BEING INTERVIEWED BY THE SOLDIER, TALKED ABOUT FEET THAT RESEMBLED SUCTION-CUPS, BUT SINCE HE WAS IN THE MINORITY WE DECIDED NOT TO INDICATE FEET AT ALL. WE DID WIDEN THE AREA AT THE END OF THE LEG SLIGHTLY, ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE CREATURE WOULD HAVE HAD TO HAVE SOMETHING MORE THAN BROOM-STICK LEGS TO SUPPORT IT IN AN UPRIGHT POSITION WITH RAISED ARMS. (PERHAPS THE ASSUMPTION WAS WRONG, HOWEVER, BECAUSE WEIGHT WAS APPARENTLY NO PROBLEM TO THE CREATURES.)

THE HANDS WERE LARGE--WAY OUT OF PROPORTION, THEY ALL AGREED. LUCKY VENTURED THE POSSIBILITY--THIS REMARK, TOO, WAS UNSOLICITED-- THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN WEBBING BETWEEN THE TALONS, ABOVE THE FIRST KNUCKLE. AND SO ON, UNTIL THE PICTURE INCLUDED EVERYTHING THE MEN COULD REMEMBER.

DURING THIS ENTIRE TIME THE WOMEN WERE IN THE LIVING ROOM, AND ALL THREE MEN WERE SITTING AROUND THE TABLE WITH ME. THEY HAD NOT EVEN HAD A CHANCE TO EAT ANY SUPPER BEFORE I MADE THE DRAWING FROM THEIR DESCRIPTIONS. ONCE LUCKY WENT TO THE FRONT DOOR TO SAY, "GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!" TO THE CROWDS, BUT HE CAME BACK IMMEDIATELY TO THE TABLE WHERE THE OTHERS WAITED.

THE WOMEN CAME IN, AND WE SPENT ANOTHER HALF HOUR TALKING WITH THE FAMILY. THEN WE DECIDED THAT WE HAD BOTHERED THEM ENOUGH. I MADE A QUICK CHECK WITH PFC. HODSON, WHO WAS JUST FINISHING HIS DRAWING FROM TAYLOR'S DESCRIPTION. IN SPITE OF THE ODDITIES DESCRIBED ONLY BY TAYLOR, IN GENERAL PROPORTIONS AND STRUCTURE IT SHOWED AN AMAZING SIMILARITY. (I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HODSON ALSO TRIED TO OBTAIN DRAWINGS FROM THE WOMEN AND FROM THE OTHER MEN; CONSIDERING LUCKY'S TEMPER, I DOUBT IF HE DID.)

THESE SEVEN PEOPLE--THE THREE WOMEN (EXCLUDING JUNE TAYLOR), THE THREE MEN, AND EVEN TAYLOR (AT FIRST)--HAD TOLD ME ALMOST PARALLEL STORIES, AND HAD GIVEN ME ALMOST IDENTICAL PICTURES. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR SO MANY PEOPLE TO SUPPLY ACCOUNTS AND PICTURES THAT TALLIED SO CLOSELY UNLESS THEY FIRST TALKED TOGETHER AND DECIDED WHAT EACH FEATURE LOOKED LIKE: BUT THREE OF THE MEN HAD LEFT VERY EARLY THAT MORNING FOR EVANSVILLE AND HAD NOT BEEN HOME THROUGHOUT THE DAY. THESE WERE NOT INTERVIEWS WHERE ONE PERSON WOULD LOOK AT ANOTHER AND SAY, "IS THAT WHAT YOU THOUGHT IT LOOKED LIKE?" NO, ALL SEVEN WERE SURE OF WHAT THEY HAD SEEN, AND NO ONE WOULD RETRACT A STATEMENT (EXCEPT FOR TAYLOR AND THE NOSE EPISODE), EVEN UNDER CLOSE CROSS-EXAMINATION. I USE THAT WORD LOOSELY WHERE LUCKY IS CONCERNED: YOU DIDN'T EXACTLY CROSS-EXAMINE LUCKY SUTTON.

THROUGHOUT BOTH INTERVIEWS I TRIED TO TAKE THE MOST OBJECTIVE ATTITUDE. I BELIEVE I WAS IN A UNIQUE POSITION, BECAUSE UNTIL I WENT TO THE RADIO STATION THAT MORNING I HAD NOT HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THE AFFAIR, AND AFTER HEARING THE FIRST JOKES I DECIDED TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND UNTIL I COULD TELL FOR MYSELF. I MADE A MENTAL NOTE NOT TO BELIEVE OR DISBELIEVE, BUT TO REPORT THE INCIDENT AS IT WAS TOLD TO ME FROM THE FAMILY'S LIPS.

AS THE REPORTS SPREAD OUTSIDE THE FAMILY, THEY WERE DISTORTED IN ALL DIRECTIONS; EVERYONE WHO TOLD THE STORY SEEMED TO ADD HIS OWN IDEAS OF HOW THE CREATURES LOOKED. FOR THIS REASON I AM PLEASED THAT WE HAD THE ADVANTAGE OF TIME. OUR MORNING

INTERVIEW WAS THE FIRST COMPLETE REPORT OF THE WHOLE NIGHT'S HAPPENINGS. THE WOMEN WERE FRIENDLY AND RELAXED, AND WE HAD NO DISTURBANCE. THE SIGHTSEEING HORDE HAD NOT YET GROWN OVERWHELMING. THAT NIGHT WE TALKED TO THE MEN IN THE SAME WAY, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THEY CAME HOME, BEFORE THEY HAD ANY OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE FIRST INTERVIEW WITH THE OTHERS. I WAS GREATLY IMPRESSED WITH THE SINCERITY SHOWN BY BOTH THE MEN AND THE WOMEN. AND ONE OTHER FACT WAS IN EVIDENCE: WHEN I ARRIVED THAT MORNING THE WOMEN WERE STILL BADLY FRIGHTENED, AND THEY HAD NOT GOTTEN OVER IT WHEN I LAST SAW THEM.

(When I visited the farm ten months later with Chief of Police Greenwell, Mrs. McCord remarked half-jokingly, "I certainly hope those little men never come back here." Chief Greenwell commented, "They still aren't quite easy in their minds. Anyone who ever lives in that house from now on is going to be a little frightened.")

The Muddying of the Waters: Tuesday, August 23, and After

As late as midnight on Monday, hundreds of sightseers had been at the farm, and they were back in even greater numbers on Tuesday. The Suttons had no way to get rid of these visitors, or even to keep them off the property. People could approach the house from almost any direction, and did so. They peered into the windows, walked into the house when they felt like it (the doors had no locks), questioned the adults and the children, demanded that the family pose for snapshots. Enterprising small businessmen wanted to set up concessions in the yard and sell souvenirs; all of these offers were turned down. Nor were the Suttons on the radio except for the short news tape over WHOP at 12:30 and 6 p.m. Monday afternoon.

On Tuesday morning the staff photographer for the Kentucky New Era and the reporter handling the story came again; it was during this visit to the property that the photographer noticed the piece of aluminum foil near the fence where one of the little

men was said to have been knocked off, and said to the reporter, pointing, "Look--there's your 'little man.'" That afternoon the paper printed Mrs. Lankford's appeal to the public: "The people are worrying us to death. Please tell them not to come here and worry us." The crowds continued. Several times that day the family sent word to the State Troopers, who would come and clear away the cars for a while. On Tuesday the Suttons put up a "No Trespassing" sign, which did no more good than anything else, since there was no way of enforcing the prohibition short of 'ringing the entire house and yard with policemen.

That same day the Air Force issued two statements to the press: first, that there had been no official investigation of the reports of the spaceship and its passengers, and second, that there was no basis to the report.

Naturally enough, the visiting public was almost entirely skeptical, since there was nothing to make them otherwise. The attitude of the newspapers, the official statements, and the status of the family itself, all supported the general disbelief and made it quite safe to laugh at the whole thing while eating a picnic lunch in the front yard of the farmhouse.

Nevertheless, some of the officers involved in the case remained impressed by the family's stubborn insistence that the thing had happened, and felt sympathetic toward them because of the beating they were taking from the public.

The next development lost the Suttons a good deal of this sympathy. They followed the ineffectual "No Trespassing" sign with a sign charging 50 cents admission. The price was raised several times; at one point the sign demanded 50 cents for admission to the grounds, \$1.00 for information, and \$10.00 for taking pictures.

Whatever the purpose of the admission signs, they were useless, too; they did not get rid of the sightseers, who were as free as ever to walk around. With no fences, gates, guards, or

locks, there was no way to keep them out, let alone to compel payment. No money was collected. What the signs did do was to make formerly sympathetic individuals decide that the whole story had been a money-making scheme from the start. There was a good deal of righteous indignation. On Wednesday the Madisonville, Kentucky Messenger ran the headline: "EARTHMEN PROFIT--See Where the 'Tubmen' Landed; Only 50¢ Per." (One description of the "spaceship" was that it looked like an egg-shaped No. 2 washtub, hence the nickname "Tubmen" for the supposed occupants.) The story included the following paragraph:

There was no report of how many sightseers were willing to pay 50 cents for a look at the Sutton farmhouse, but it was reported that some 2,000 persons went as far as the road in front of the farmhouse yesterday (1).

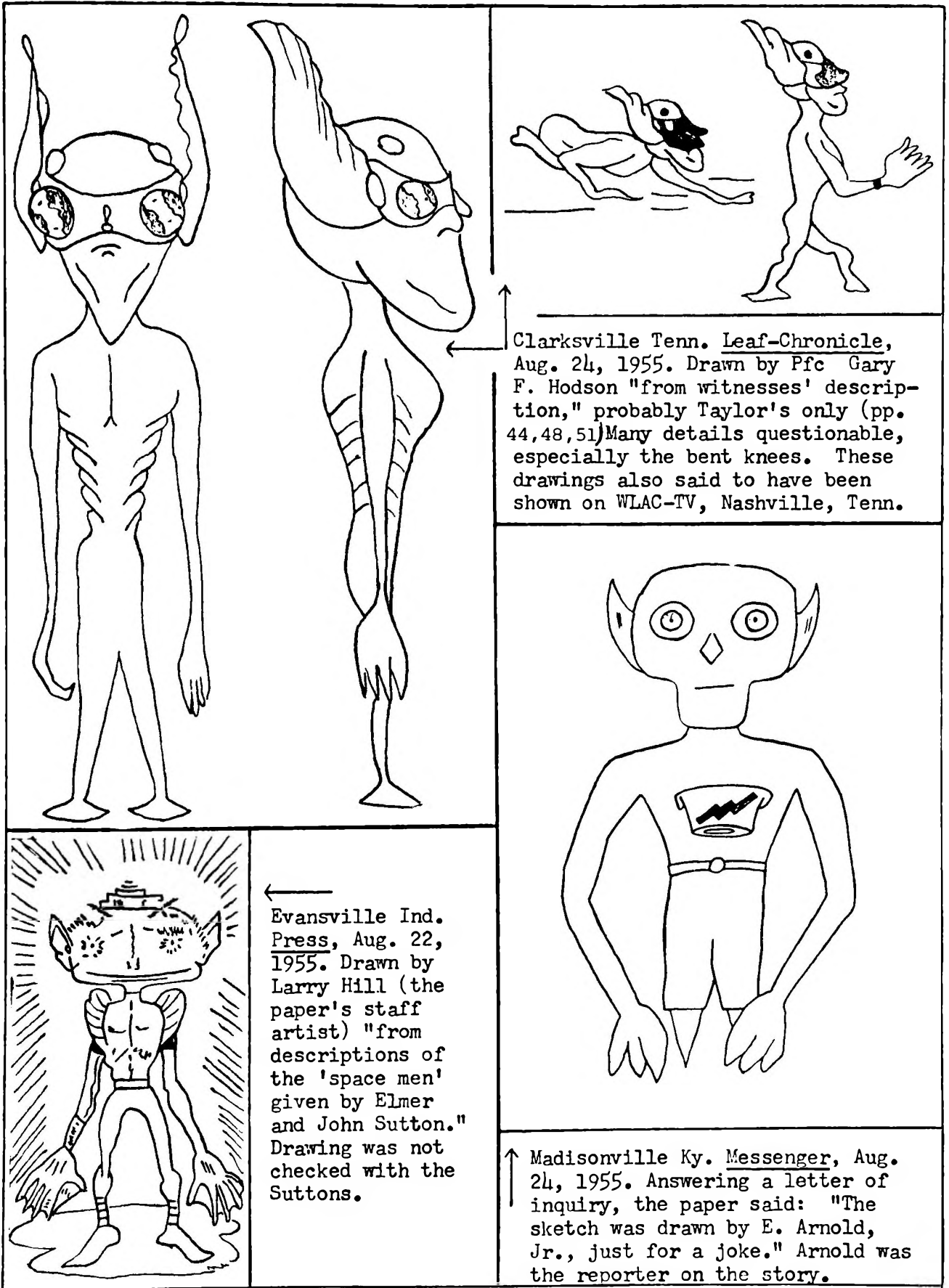
Billy Ray Taylor was reported by Mr. Andre to have taken money from two reporters for his story; "the Taylors were destitute."

The Messenger also ran statements from two astronomers, one in Lexington and one in Louisville. The first said that creatures like the "little men" could not exist in our solar system, and the second said that the report was imagination(2).

Sometime during the week, while the excitement was still high, Mrs. Sanders made her investigation. The article, published in The Saucerian Review, does not give the date of her visit, but it must have been within a few days after the event, for she says that the Hopkinsville police station was "jammed with people, most of them reporters, some of them law enforcement officers." For lack of time she did not visit the farm itself, and someone told her that the whole family had "disappeared (3).

By this time the air was thick with rumors, counter-rumors, statements, charges, theories, allegations, and speculations, but the disappearance rumor was only partly true. What did happen was that the Suttons, sick of the unwelcome publicity, started out for Michigan where Mrs. Lankford's married daughter lived.

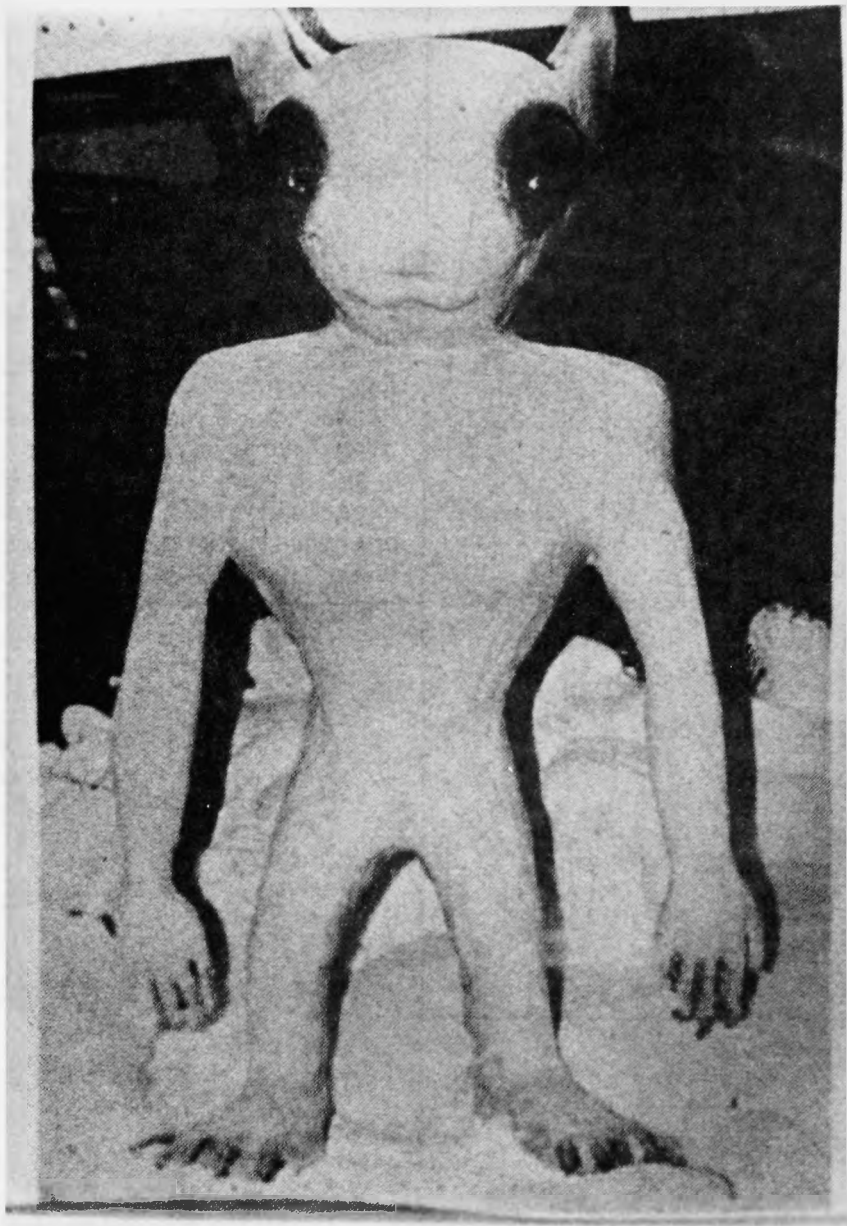
Figure 11. The "Little Men" as Pictured in Nearby Newspapers



Clarksville Tenn. Leaf-Chronicle, Aug. 24, 1955. Drawn by Pfc Gary F. Hodson "from witnesses' description," probably Taylor's only (pp. 44,48,51) Many details questionable, especially the bent knees. These drawings also said to have been shown on WLAC-TV, Nashville, Tenn.

← Evansville Ind. Press, Aug. 22, 1955. Drawn by Larry Hill (the paper's staff artist) "from descriptions of the 'space men' given by Elmer and John Sutton." Drawing was not checked with the Suttons.

↑ Madisonville Ky. Messenger, Aug. 24, 1955. Answering a letter of inquiry, the paper said: "The sketch was drawn by E. Arnold, Jr., just for a joke." Arnold was the reporter on the story.



MODEL OF "LITTLE MAN"
(origin unknown)

Figure 12.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN CARLSON

But before they got very far they realized what would happen to the farmhouse at the hands of souvenir-hunters, and came back to protect their belongings. The report that the family had vanished was still current in Hopkinsville, however, when I visited there; it was mentioned by one skeptic as proof that the story was fraudulent.

Another item reported by Mr. Andre was a visit to the farm, sometime during this period, by three other investigators from Fort Campbell, who asked for a detailed description of the little men. They returned a few hours later with a model, to have the family confirm its accuracy. No changes were made. Mrs. Lankford said that "the man who made it must have known exactly what they looked like."

This model may or may not be the same as the object represented on a photographic slide of unknown origin (see p. 58) in the possession of John Carlson, Department of Astronomy, University of Maryland. The existence of two such models seems highly unlikely.

The Kelly "Spaceship"

Long after the evidence for UFOs themselves became overwhelming, the evidence for the reality of any extraterrestrial occupants seemed weak or false except in a handful of cases. Yet logic demanded that if spaceships from other worlds existed, there must be extraterrestrial creatures in some of them.

At Kelly we have the puzzle in reverse. There is a wealth of circumstantial detail about the "little men," but the evidence about the object they presumably came in (if we rule out the "fourth dimension," time travel, and similar exotic suggestions) remains unsatisfactory. The object's arrival was reported only by Billy Ray Taylor, the least reliable of the witnesses, and when he came into the house with his story, no one believed him. After the night's experiences they may have changed their minds; this is indicated by the picture in the Evansville Press (see pages 41 and 60), but on Sunday evening none of the others



How the Flying Saucer Landed

"It came down like this," says Elmer (Lucky) Sutton, center, describing the space object which he saw land behind his home near Hopkinsville last night. O. P. Baker, left, and John Sutton, right, also saw the mysterious creatures which came to the house. The Suttons gave battle.

PHOTO FROM EVANSVILLE PRESS,

took him seriously enough to go out to the gully and check his story.

The object described by Taylor, and as drawn from his description by Mr. Ledwith, was a very conventional UFO, of a type reported in hundreds of other cases. He also said it was a "big ball of fire" (probably indicating that it was self-luminous, since it was too low to reflect the rays of the sun, which was then below the horizon), as "all lit up like a streak of fire," as "an egg-shaped washtub all lit up" (the washtub comparison refers to its apparent size). The only specific embellishment he added in talking to Pfc. Hodson was a strip of brighter light around the rim of the disk.

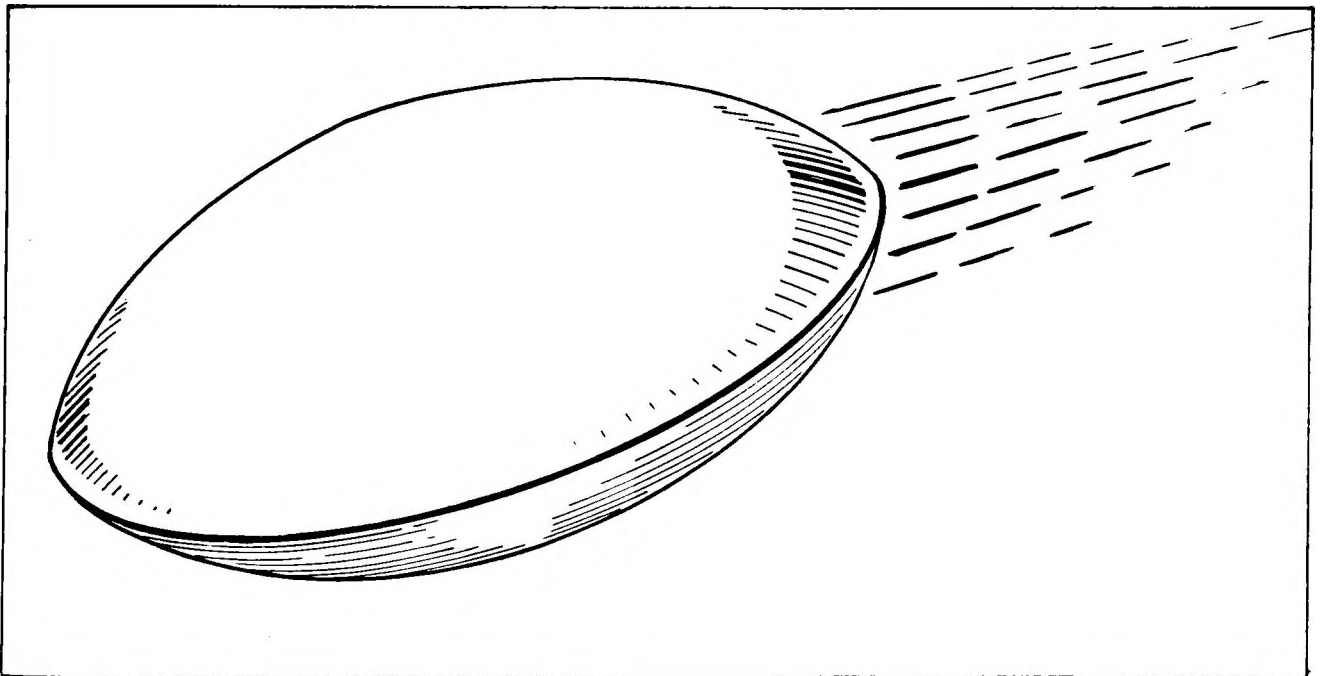


Figure 14. THE "SPACESHIP" AS DRAWN BY LEDWITH FROM TAYLOR'S DESCRIPTION

We must also take into account several curious reports of lights or fireballs or meteors seen in the sky that night by others. The Evansville Press of August 22 had two reports:

Police said residents of a farm area about half a mile from Kelly reported the rocket ship or flying saucer landed in a field about half a mile from Kelly. The residents told officers they saw a flash coming out of

the sky. The glowing missile swooped down on a field near the Sutton farm.

.

About 4 a.m. today neighbors entered the scene for the first time after Mrs. Lola Fletcher, a neighbor, saw a red streak like a meteorite before dawn.

The Madisonville Messenger said (August 22):

While the officers were on the scene investigating the report they noticed two objects--presumably meteorites--flashing across the sky.

A Mr. Ernest Long, who lived south of the Suttons, reported seeing a light or a fireball pass over his house, going north, about 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Lankford told Mr. Andre that a State Trooper, traveling south on the main highway (U.S. 41) about 6:30 p.m., had seen a fireball going north; and that one of the Fort Campbell investigators had told her that "a UFO" had been sighted going north over the base, also at 6:30 p.m.

Finally, there is the report already mentioned (page 33) of "meteors" seen and heard by one of the State Troopers near the Shady Oaks restaurant, about the beginning of the night investigation; these may be the same objects referred to by the Messenger. Several of the people I talked to mentioned this incident, but no one seems to have followed it up.

Perhaps none of these objects--those reported going north at 6:30 p.m. and those reported by the State Trooper--have any connection with the Kelly landing report. They may have been very belated Perseids (the peak of this four-night shower is usually about August 12), or they may have been random meteors or fireballs that by a mere coincidence traversed western Kentucky on that particular night.

Investigators who tried to follow up reports of the object or objects found that the neighbors would not talk. They had taken warning by what had happened to the Suttons as a result of the publicity, and they were not about to invite the same harassment for themselves.

But one statement by a neighbor, though it comes to us fourth-hand, is interesting. It was made to the friend with whom Taylor went hunting Monday morning. The friend told Taylor who repeated it to Mr. Ledwith. This witness lived about a quarter-mile north of the Suttons. Early Sunday evening he had noticed lights moving in the fields behind the farmhouse, and thought the Suttons' pigs had gotten loose and were being rounded up. "I thought maybe I ought to go and help them. But I'm glad I didn't--I might have been shot." What is interesting is the time of the observation: the man was certain he saw the lights between 7:30 and 8 o'clock--that is, between the time of the "landing" and the time when the creatures first approached the farmhouse.

REFERENCES, CHAPTER II

1. The Messenger, Madisonville, KY, August 24, 1955.
2. Ibid.
3. "Panic in Kentucky," by Jacqueline Sanders, in The Saucerian Review, Jan 1956, pp 19-23.
4. The Messenger, Madison ville, KY, August 22, 1955.

CHAPTER IV
WEIGHING THE EVIDENCE

You cannot blame the skeptics. Everything was against the story. There was the complete and baffling absence of "evidence"--those tangible souvenirs of the occasion which all skeptics everywhere declare to be the sine qua non of proof. There was also the low social status of the family in the eyes of the townspeople, which seemed to lend more plausibility to imputations of hoax or hallucination, plus the underlying human incredulity toward the idea of intelligence existing elsewhere in alien forms. And finally, there was a total ignorance of other reports of UFOs and creatures which might have suggested a possible explanation for some of the missing evidence. Apparently none of the local investigators had this background information.

Therefore the investigators and the public at Hopkinsville--with the exceptions of Chief Greenwell and Bud Ledwith--rationalized the "impossible" by simply rejecting the story. They rejected it almost automatically, without considering where their arguments were leading, or perceiving that some of their theories implied events more incredible than the story they sought to explain.

But those who want to form a deliberate judgment on the Kelly report cannot gloss over such difficulties. We must look more closely at these "explanations" of the skeptics to see how well they and their logical consequences can be reconciled with known facts.

The Skeptics' Criticisms

I asked each skeptic to whom I talked what his or her specific reasons were for disbelieving the story. Each one mentioned one or more of the following "missing" items which he or she felt the investigators should have found if the story were true.

The Lack of Physical Evidence

The most obvious criticism was that there were no physical traces of any kind to back up the Suttons' story.

There were no footprints on the ground. This criticism has no force when we consider that the ground was extremely hard and dry and the "little men" were reportedly almost weightless. Mr. Ledwith and his companion, going down into the gully specifically to look for tracks of the creatures or craft, tried to dent the soil with their shoes, "stomping" as hard as they could, but found it was impossible to make any impression. If they did not leave footprints, it was unlikely that creatures whose weight seemed to be negligible would leave any, even if the ground had been less rigid than it was.

There were no marks on the roof. The same considerations apply here as in the matter of recognizable footprints on the ground. The noises on the roof were described as "tapping," "scratching," or "dragging." Presumably they originated with the creatures moving about up there; but whether such movements would necessarily scratch the metal, or disturb the dust in a recognizable way, is much less certain. The officers who examined the roof by daylight would certainly have identified footprints or other marks made by familiar animals of normal weight; but the faint line that might be left by lightly dragging a "talon" across the roof is of another order of visibility. The slight traces left by the passage of virtually weightless creatures might well have been missed.

There was no blood. None was to be expected, since the witnesses described repeated occasions when the creatures were

struck by shots with no apparent damage. The only possible example of a result from a "wound" was the oddly luminous patch of grass observed by Chief Greenwell and other investigators that night (see pages 35 and 36).

No little men were seen by the investigators. The Suttons themselves suggested the answer to this point: the creatures' marked sensitivity to light may have driven them into the woods and bushes, to get away from it. The lights used by the Suttons were the few single low-power bulbs in and outside of the house, and flashlights. If even these were sufficiently painful or annoying to drive the creatures off, the much stronger illumination provided by the headlights and searchlights of the investigators would have bothered the creatures much more, and presumably could be expected to keep them far from the scene. (Note that the huge eyes had no pupils [see sketches on pp. 44, 48, 51] and no eyelids, possibly indicating no power of accommodation to a change in the quantity of light entering the eye. Their eyes never moved to follow a human being, and their heads never turned. With fixed eyes and heads, their only method of escaping from light would be to turn their whole bodies and retreat from it.) They might easily have "floated" up into the thick branches of a tree where they would not have been seen from the ground at all. To be sure, if there had been ten or fifteen of them, as was reported, then chances that all of them could escape detection would have been diminished; but we cannot be sure that there were more than three, and perhaps only two (see page 27), and these could have concealed themselves without any difficulty during the whole of the night investigation. No doubt the search was fairly exhaustive over the area that it covered, but it had to stop somewhere, and beyond its boundaries there must have been many places of concealment quickly accessible to the creatures.

It is also conceivable that the creatures retreated into their "spaceship" at the approach of the investigators. This is discussed below in connection with the whereabouts of the ship itself.

Note that all the above items of "missing" evidence are entirely consistent with the details given by the Suttons before the fruitless search. The creatures were averse to light and moved rapidly, they were weightless, and they were invulnerable; accordingly, they made themselves scarce while the investigators were using powerful lights, they left no obvious footprints or other marks, and they left no "blood."

The "spaceship" was not found. Where was the "spaceship," assuming that it existed, during the night investigations? The obvious speculation is that, being ex hypothesi a sky-navigating craft, it was in the sky. It had landed at 7 p.m. or thereabouts, but no search had been made for it then. At any time between then and the arrival of the investigators at the gully, it could have risen silently into the sky again, to hover beyond vision during the entire night search. It may have taken its "passengers" on board just before rising, relanding them after the lights and noises had gone, so that they could indulge their persistent "curiosity" a while longer, until the approach of sunrise. If its passengers hid in the woods to escape the night investigators, their vehicle may have remained in the air all night, or it may even have gone away entirely, returning to re-embark them only as daylight approached.

If, on the other hand, we assume that Taylor's "object" was a complete invention by him, then the investigators' failure to find anything in the gully would mean that the creatures arrived and departed by some other means, which was never seen at all unless one of the other rumors of objects in the sky that night is more significant than we were able to prove during the inquiries.

There was no sign that any object had landed. The investigators discovered no depression, no crushed or burned vegetation, either in the gully or anywhere else. However, the operative word in this argument is "landed." For what it may be worth, there are many reports by eyewitnesses to close encounters with UFOs stating that the object did not touch the ground at all,

but hovered in the air a few feet above it. This hovering behavior was mentioned in the South American occupant reports (see page ix), all of which include a saucer-like object floating a few feet above the ground; when entering or leaving these objects, the small hairy humanoids were said to leap several feet--indicating either powerful muscles or very light weight. If the Kelly object hovered over the ground, of course, it would not leave a depression in the earth or any crushed grass.

As for the absence of scorched vegetation, this is significant only if it is assumed that a hovering object must heat the ground below it. Of course there is no reason to assume this. Even without invoking such speculative power sources as anti-gravity or "magnetic propulsion," heat need not be present; the Navy's "Flying Platform," for example, hovers on a motor-created current of air.

It would be of great interest, naturally, to know whether the ground in the gully was radioactive after the alleged landing. Unfortunately, none of the investigators used a radiation detection instrument unless it was the military, about whose methods and results we have only limited information (see Chapter V).

These two arguments--the fact that the "spaceship" was not seen and the fact that there was no sign of its landing--indicate that the Hopkinsville skeptics were unfamiliar with other UFO landing cases. They were not in a position to realize that the Suttons' story, fantastic though it was, was at least not unprecedented: that it had support--for what that may be worth--in the form of other stories that the Suttons certainly knew nothing about.

Before leaving these questions of the "missing" spaceship and the "missing" little men, let us recall with disappointment the report of the neighbor who saw "lights moving about in the Sutton fields" between 7 and 8 o'clock (see page 63). Much as we regret the family's failure to investigate Billy Ray Taylor's

report, we must regret even more the inactivity of the man who might have made himself the most valuable witness of all.

Only a few shotgun shells were found. The first investigator on the scene noticed "two or three" around the front door; Mr. Ledwith's friend Mr. Lackey found one in the living room the next day; and Chief Greenwell dug shotgun pellets out of the frame of the window next to the fireplace (see page 73). This meager harvest is compared with a widely-quoted statement by J.C. Sutton that he used up four boxes of ammunition (200 shells) and the skeptics draw the conclusion that the whole thing was greatly exaggerated.

However, the fact that some shells were found seems of considerably more significance than the exact number accounted for, since no effort seems ever to have been made to collect them systematically in the first place or to establish the number of shots fired by each man, with which gun. Souvenir-hunters among the crowds of sightseers were apparently free to pick up any they might have noticed.

It is at any rate verified that at least four or five shots were fired; Mr. Ledwith established the sequence of these (page 27). He also obtained from the McCords a reliable statement about the guns in the farmhouse that night, and which of the men used each one (page 21). He did not attempt to go further in checking the tangled subject of the shots (the total fired by each man, the number heard, etc.) because there is nothing of critical significance about the exact figures involved.

To sum up this major skeptical argument of "missing evidence," it is found on examination that, of the various items of physical evidence demanded,

- 1) some, such as a larger number of shotgun shells, might have been found if the investigations had been more systematically conducted,

- 2) some, such as traces left by the "spaceship," were not necessarily to be expected in the light of other UFO landing reports; and
- 3) some, such as blood and footprints, should not have been found if the witnesses were telling the truth.

Thus nothing that has yet been cited is in any way inconsistent with the hypothesis that the Suttons' story was true.

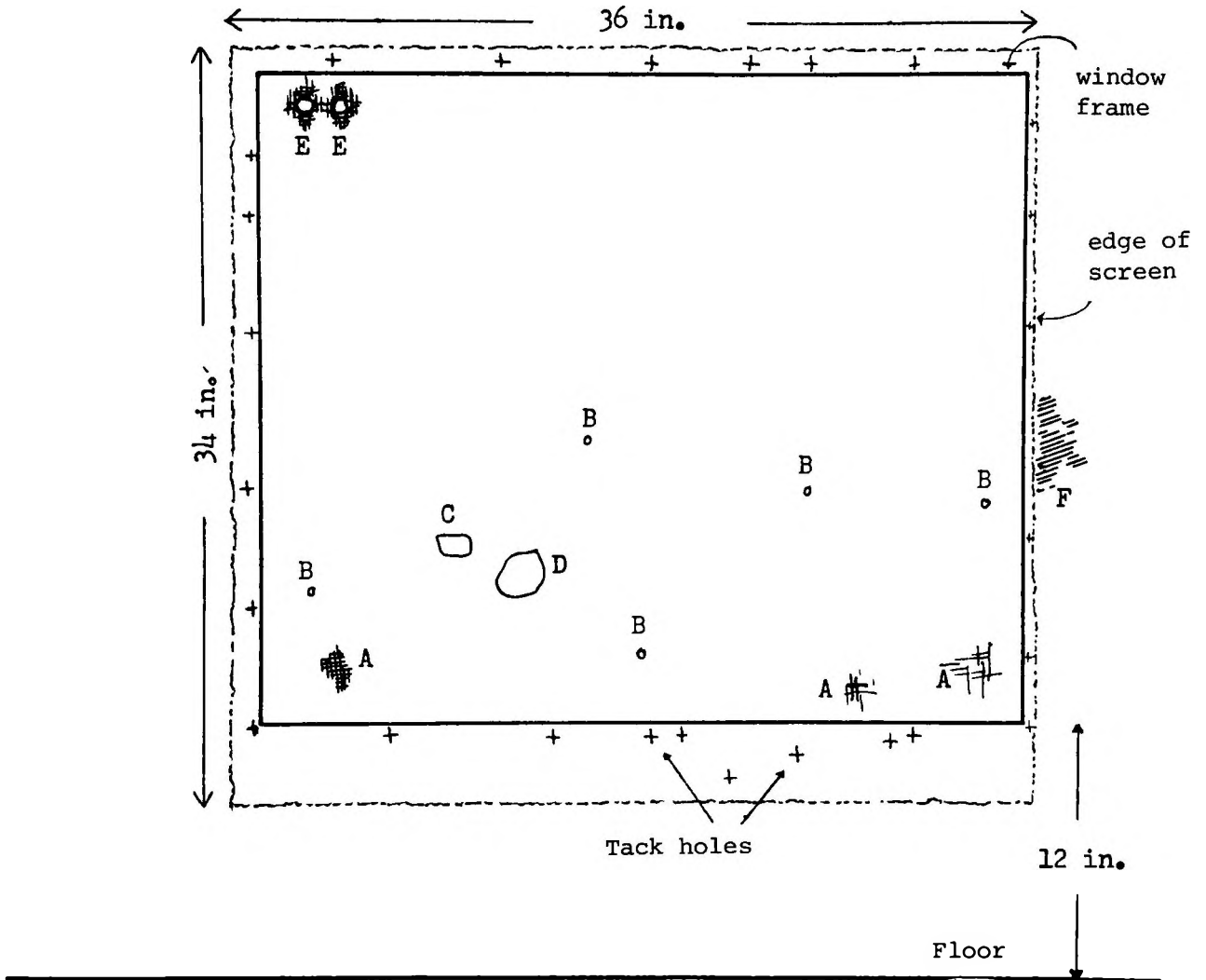
The Holes in the Screen

The object most often mentioned by the Hopkinsville skeptics in justification of their disbelief was the screen in the living room window, through which shots were said to have been fired at the little men on at least two occasions during the night. In August 1956, Mr. Ledwith obtained this screen from the McCords, the current occupants of the farmhouse. He examined it himself and sent it to New York for further study and preservation.

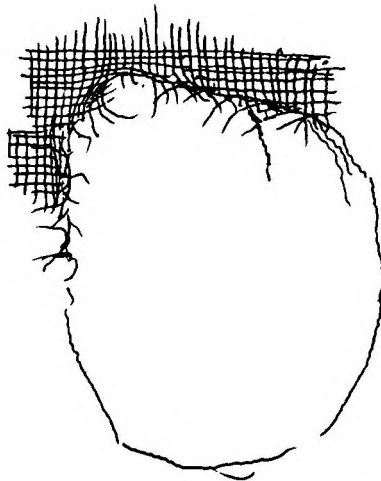
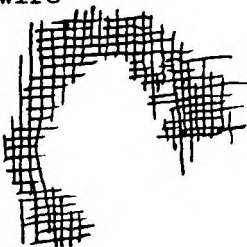
Page 71 shows the screen as it would appear from inside the room, looking out. The broken line is the screen margin, and the solid line represents the window-frame to which it was tacked. Five types of holes are now in the screen:

- 1) Tack holes around the edge, indicated by the small crosses.
- 2) Although most of the wire was sound, three places where it had rusted out, making small holes, are shown by the cross-hatchings marked A.
- 3) There are five small perforations, each with a diameter of about one-half inch or slightly less. These are marked B.
- 4) There are two holes larger than those above. That marked C is generally rectangular in shape and measures about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch by $\frac{7}{8}$ inch; the opening marked D is about two inches in diameter.

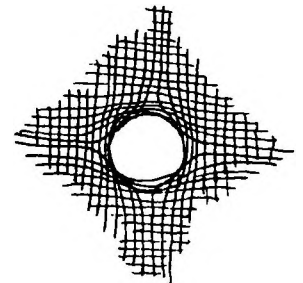
Figure 15. Diagram of Screen, with Detail of Holes



Detail of holes A - weathered wire



Detail of wires around edges of holes D, C, B



Detail of wires around holes E, made with pencil



MRS. JUANITA McCORD AT THE LIVING ROOM WINDOW

Figure 16.

PHOTO BY ISABEL DAVIS

5) The two holes marked E were made with a pencil, as described below.

The area marked F shows where the wood was splintered on the window-frame; Chief Greenwell found shotgun pellets imbedded here.

The five holes marked B and the two larger holes C and D have certain features in common. They are not crossed by any crumbling wire, as are the weathered holes, and at their edge the broken ends of the wires are directed outwards. The screening surrounding these perforations is intact and level.

The five small holes, B, appear to have been made by bullets from a .22 rifle. The two larger ones were apparently made by shotgun fire. C was to all appearances made by a 20-gauge shotgun, D by a 12-gauge. The outward bending of the wires indicates that all the shots were fired from inside the room.

According to the best reconstruction now possible of the events of that night, the officers found hole C when they first entered the living room of the farmhouse (unaccompanied by any member of the family, it will be recalled, since the Suttons refused to go into the house again until it had been searched). The investigators immediately found the shape and size of hole C suspicious: it was "square," and it seemed too small to have been made by a shotgun. When the Suttons came into the house, they were met by already established skepticism. They could offer no explanation, of course, but angrily insisted that they had fired through the screen at the little men.

The skeptics' theory was that the Suttons, to support their story, had faked this hole by poking a tobacco stick through the screen. (A tobacco stick is a stake an inch or two square, used to support the growing plants--a common object in Kentucky farmhouses, of course.)

Hole D was not present at the time of the night investigation, but was in the screen when the investigators returned in the morning. (It was probably caused by Lucky's shot at the

little man described on page 38.) The skeptics considered this hole likewise too small to have been made by a shotgun blast. According to their view, when the Suttons realized, from the jokes about "square-shooters" made by the night investigators, that their first attempt at fraud was not successful, they later manufactured hole D (method not specified), which was suitably round but was still too small. One of the small holes, B, is also known to have been new that morning; the time of origin of the others is not known, except that one was made by Taylor (see page 21).

The skeptics argue that since these holes were obviously faked, the entire story must have been false.

The answer to this is that, in actual fact, the holes B, C, and D must have been produced by firing through the screen. Compare these holes' appearance on page 71 with those marked E, which were made by forcing a pencil through the wires: the difference is obvious. It is not possible to punch out a hole in the tough screen-wire fabric (as has been done at B, C, and D) with any hand-held tool. Trying to push a tobacco stick or anything of the sort through the screen would simply have torn it loose from the window-frame entirely before much of a hole resulted, and any hole produced in that way would resemble E rather than C and D.

The astonishing thing is that no one at Hopkinsville seemed to have the least acquaintance with what actually happens when you try to push a stick through a wire screen. Despite the importance of the "square holes" to the skeptics, and despite their frequent mention of a tobacco stick as the causative agent, nobody undertook the experiment of demonstrating that such a stick would in fact produce such a hole.

The small size of holes C and D, which seemed so suspicious to the first investigators is, in fact, perfectly consistent with the area of a shot-pattern at so short a distance from the

gun muzzle. The rectangular shape of C is obviously a consequence of the rectangular weave of the screen.

As for area F, the splintered section of window-frame from which Chief Greenwell dug shot, he suggested that it might have been made by a shot which was meant to go through the screen at a little man moving toward the back of the house, but which was "led" too far. He did not mention checking on this possibility with any of the Sutton men, but it seems reasonable. No one suggested that this was inflicted with a tobacco stick.

One more fact about the screen may be of interest to the readers. In August 1956, in New York, it was tested for radioactivity with a Geiger counter, on the infinitesimally slim chance that it still might show some detectable trace of the "little clawy hands" that Mrs. Lankford had spoke of (pages 19 and 37). No radiation above background was recorded.

Status, Reputation, and Character of the Family

The Sutton family were working farmers on a small farm, with a low cash income. They lived in an unpainted three-room frame house, without running water, telephone, radio, television, books, or much furniture. Probably none of them had gone beyond the fourth grade in school. Probably they did not see a newspaper once a month.

To be sure, they were neither paupers nor hillbillies. They were buying the farm at the time of the landing, and they had bought and paid for farm equipment on the installment plan. The children, whom I saw when I was in Hopkinsville, looked healthy and well cared for. They had links with Hopkinsville: Mrs. J.C. Sutton was working there, Mrs. Lankford's other two sons lived in town, Mrs. Lankford belonged to a Hopkinsville church.

Nevertheless their economic, educational, and social level was lower than that of most of the investigators and many of the



SERGEANT MALCOLM PRITCHARD OF THE HOPKINSVILLE POLICE
AT THE LIVING ROOM WINDOW

Figure 17.

PHOTO BY ISABEL DAVIS

townspeople, and it was hard for these substantial citizens to avoid a priori bias against these "country people." This bias was revealed in statements like the following: "Country people are ignorant, uneducated, easily frightened"; "they're the class of people I wouldn't believe anything they said"; "people like that can dream up anything."

One fact was considered by the skeptics to weigh particularly heavily in favor of the hoax theory--that Billy Ray Taylor and Lucky Sutton worked for a traveling carnival. They had come to the farm from the carnival some time that summer (though they did not arrive together), and rejoined it when they left, early in October. The assumption is that their occupation, with its strong aroma of trickery, would have taught them how to swindle the public and given them a taste for doing so. This speculation might have some force if the hoax explanation could be taken as a serious possibility. But, as we shall see further on in this chapter, all the logic of the situation points to its inadmissibility. Furthermore, at precisely the points where any mountebankery would be expected to betray itself, it strikingly fails to appear.

Other Arguments

The skeptics and the disbelievers came up with other reasons why the Suttons' story could not possibly be true.

"They started to charge admission." The admission signs, the first of which went up on the Tuesday after the landing, disturbed and alienated several people who had been sympathetic with the Suttons because of the plague of sightseers, and some who until then had felt that "there might be something to it" now felt justified in sinking back into a comfortable cynicism. The signs were held to prove that the whole thing was only a money-making scheme after all; some newspapers broadly hinted as much (see page 56).

But these signs were not put up until other means of discouraging the crowds had failed. Their purpose may just as well have been to keep the people away as to bring money in. As previously mentioned, they failed to serve either purpose: no money was collected, and the unwelcome visitors continued to arrive.

If the story was originally devised to make money, then the signs should have been in evidence at the crack of dawn on Monday, and the men would most certainly have stayed at home to collect the money instead of dashing off to Evansville, leaving the women to attempt to deal with the paying customers. It is quite obvious that the signs represented an afterthought, a belated attempt to capitalize on an existing situation; and this afterthought hardly invalidates the original story. I must confess that I cannot work up much moral indignation over the family's attempt to extract some benefit from their tormentors. It would be interesting to know whose idea the signs were, and who agreed or disagreed with it.

"They changed their stories later." Since neither of the two skeptics who brought up this argument could give me an example of these changes, I am unable to say whether the alterations were significant ones. Some changes, however, did undoubtedly take place. Short of a narrative that has been memorized and is recited by rote, any story changes its shape somewhat with much repetition. For this reason it is most fortunate that Mr. Ledwith interviewed the witnesses so promptly after the event.

"Why at Kelly?" This skeptic sounded aggrieved. "If these creatures are smart enough for space travel, they must know that we have important scientists. Why land behind the Sutton's house in Kelly, Kentucky?"

This is hardly a weighty argument, but the question is a natural one. There are two possible answers to it. In the first place, it cannot necessarily be assumed that "they" know any more about us than we know about them. Their great technological

skill does not necessarily imply an equally great knowledge of human society: the two things do not always go together, as we know to our cost here on earth. Sending a spaceship to an alien planet is one kind of achievement; understanding the occupants of that planet is a different kind of achievement entirely, and far more difficult. Extraterrestrial visitors may be just as ignorant about our lives and psychology as we are about theirs. To say "They should not have called on the Suttons, therefore they did not call on the Suttons" is a naive, almost comical extension of human notions of protocol. If extraterrestrial visitors must conform to our ideas of correct behavior before we accept their existence, it is likely to be a long time till that happens.

Whatever they may know about us, it is certain that we know nothing about them. We can interpret their behavior only in terms of our own interests and motives, and that may be completely wrong. It can be argued that if we were visiting an alien planet, we too might decide to come down in a sparsely populated area, where our aircraft could land not too conspicuously, where the natives were present but not in great numbers, and from which we could get away quickly if need be. But of course this is a rationalization in our own terms, and it may have nothing to do with the way they regard the situation.

Or again, we might say that the little men's slow approach with hands in the air, their unaggressive staring in at doors and windows, appeared to indicate--if this behavior meant what ours would mean in the circumstances--curiosity and a desire to reassure the natives. But we cannot be sure of this either. For all we know, where they come from such actions may be deplorably rude or anti-social: Kelly may have been visited by extraterrestrial boors or juvenile delinquents. Even if it was curiosity that they displayed, we do not know what kind--scientific, feminine, or idle. Then again, perhaps their visit was not planned at all: perhaps their vehicle had developed engine trouble,

and their inspection of the farmhouse was merely to pass the time while repairs were made.

To their foreign eyes, and for their unknown purposes, the Sutton farm may have been just as interesting as Los Alamos-- and considerably more practical to study. As long as their purposes remain unknown to us, there is no reason to feel that it is incredible that so many important people should have been snubbed in favor of some rather insignificant citizens.

Later whereabouts of the family. I heard two arguments basing skepticism on this point--offered, incidentally, by the same two skeptics who gave me the opposing statements about the number of shots the neighbors heard (pages 29-30). The first one said: "Why, the whole family cleared out right afterwards. It seems to me that proves that they had been up to something." The second one said: "If anything like that had happened to me, I certainly wouldn't have wanted to stick around. But what did the family do? They stayed right there!"

The Skeptics' Theories

If the Suttons did not actually see little men, then what did really happen? Some theory or other is obviously needed to account for their arrival at the police station in extreme terror. I asked each skeptic what he or she thought had really occurred. Although there was much overlapping and vagueness in their answers, three general types of theory seemed to be distinguishable. One, which I have called for convenience the "error" theories, postulated some kind of mistaken identification; a second sought the explanation in hallucination or imaginative delusion; while the "hoax" theories wrote everything off as a deliberate fabrication.

Theories of Error

"I think they firmly believed it. I think they saw something but then began to enlarge on it." What was this "something"--presumably an ordinary something--that set things off?

One person suggested that it might have been some metal that was piled up behind the house: the beam of a flashlight had been reflected from this and was seen as a little man. For the rest of the night the family, none of them ever identifying this pile of metal, imagined they saw it moving around the house and yard, running into the weeds, floating through the air, and peering into the windows.

I have already mentioned (pages 54 and 55) the piece of aluminum foil noticed by the photographer on Tuesday morning, after a day and a night when sightseers had been all over the yard. Apart from the fact that the night search of the premises should have revealed this foil if it had been in the yard then, what must we assume if we want to assume that it was responsible for the whole episode? That this piece of foil seemed to move toward the house from the fields under its own power on a windless night? That it was fired at repeatedly, several times at very close range, without being recognized and apparently without being perforated? (To be sure, the photographer did not examine it for bullet holes.) It flashed into the bushes at will, and it rose from the ground repeatedly to waft itself toward a door or window, clinging there and being misinterpreted there, again and again, as "a little man with brightly luminous eyes"?

Perhaps this skeptic himself did not feel that the foil explanation was entirely satisfactory, for he immediately offered another: "Besides, there were monkeys half a mile away all night."

The facts are these. "Late on Sunday" (the time is not specified) a group of trucks belonging to the King Circus went west through Hopkinsville on U.S. 68, and a few miles west of town (distance not specified) the trucks stopped to exercise the camels and horses.

The theory is as follows. One truck, containing monkeys, is supposed by the theorists to have got lost in town and failed

to accompany the others westward on U.S. 68. Instead, it turned north on U.S. 41. Somewhere between Hopkinsville and Kelly this truck stopped to let the monkeys out for exercise (on leashes?). One or more monkeys got loose and found their way to the Sutton property, where they remained all night to be shot at and to terrify the family, until daybreak, when they decided to go somewhere else.

In fact there is no evidence that the circus went through Hopkinsville at the proper time to fit this story. There is no evidence that any truck turned off onto U.S. 41 by mistake. There is no evidence that monkeys were let out of such a truck, either accidentally or deliberately. There is no evidence that any monkeys escaped. There is no evidence that any monkeys were asked for, advertised for, or found in any condition--dead, wounded, or intact--by anybody.

Even the skeptic who first mentioned this idea said that it was "pure theory." But let us grant that this hypothetical sequence of events did in fact take place: our troubles with the monkey explanation have only begun. For monkeys are hairy creatures, monkeys have long tails, monkeys are notorious chatter-boxes, and monkeys struck by bullets bleed and die. Yet this theory asks us to believe that seven adults, some of whom must have seen monkeys at one time or another (we recall that two of them worked for a carnival), persisted, for three hours, in mistaking hairy, long-tailed, noisy, vulnerable creatures for silvery, silent creatures with no tails, that were not injured by bullets fired at them at point-blank range. The investigators saw no more monkeys, or blood of monkeys, than they saw little men; but when they had gone, back came the monkeys, looking and behaving just as non-simian as before. No amount of "optical illusion" can explain a mistake of this magnitude. (It has been suggested to me that I should try to find out from the King Circus just where its trucks were in Kentucky that night, but this circus went out of business in July, 1956.

Theories of "Hallucination"

Some skeptics thought that the "little men" were purely products of the imagination; the Suttons were hallucinating. Then the question is, what caused them to create imaginary figures? Hallucinations are internally induced by alcohol and many drugs, but there is no evidence of these at the farmhouse that night. (Alcohol had been ruled out early by all the official investigators, though not by the public, to judge by the way the accusation still rankled in Mrs. Lankford's mind when I talked to her.)

As for externally induced hallucinations, these occur only when there is a complete absence of sights and sound--minimal or total sensory deprivation; obviously those were not the conditions at the farmhouse that night.

The skeptics I talked to, however, suggested other causes of the hallucinations. One man had thought of religious hysteria; he checked the possibility that "some kind of religious meeting" had been in progress at the farmhouse, but found that this was not so. Another idea was expressed as follows:

"A good story-teller can tell the right kind of story, and people will actually see things that aren't there."

However, it is not enough to speak in general terms of "a" story-teller. Just who among the farmhouse group was this Svengali-spellbinder who persuaded so many people to "see things that weren't there" on so large a scale?

I will do what the skeptics did not: reject generalization and examine members of the farmhouse group briefly one by one to judge whether any of them could, in fact, have qualified for the position of such a Pied Piper.

The obvious candidate, of course, is Billy Ray Taylor; in fact, those skeptics who did name someone specific usually pointed to him as in some way the instigator of the night's events. He was said to have been talking about a saucer sighting that he himself had heard of. (Several newspaper stories said that Taylor lived in Pennsylvania, where a saucer had been seen. Actually he came from West Virginia, the locale of the famous "Flatwoods monster" landing case of 1952. However, the Flatwoods report and the Kelly report differ so radically that the Kelly case clearly could not have been inspired by the Flatwoods case, or even influenced by it.) He was said to have had newspaper clippings about it. Chief Greenwell, who conducted the search of the house, stated positively that he had seen no such clippings. Billy Ray talked, he embroidered, he enjoyed the limelight, and he managed to arouse suspicions of his reliability in everyone he talked to.

But to suppose that Taylor exercised any spellbinding influence over the rest of the Sutton group is flatly contradicted by the facts in our possession. Twice in Mr. Ledwith's narrative Billy Ray stands out from the others, and both times as he who gets slapped down: first when he reported the object's landing and no one believed him, and again during Mr. Ledwith's Monday evening interview with the three men just back from Evansville, when Billy Ray was insisting on a nose for the creatures; Lucky gave him a "disdainful" look, and Billy Ray hedged his way back into uncertainty.

This is no magnetic personality, able to lure others into emotional collapse by "telling the right kind of story." In fact, it seems that the reverse was true--an idea would have had less likelihood of acceptance coming from him than from anyone else. Undoubtedly Billy Ray would have dearly loved to be masterful and compelling; but no one who can tell the difference between

a would-be spellbinder and a successful one will appoint him as the mesmerist at Kelly.

Was Lucky Sutton the good story-teller? He was forceful enough, in all conscience, but that is just the trouble: force was his method, it is impossible to imagine him using the spells and passes of language to weave a bogey-tale to enmesh his hearers.

Was it J.C. Sutton? His mother said that "at first the whole thing was some kind of a joke"--not exactly the attitude of a man who was trying to manipulate the rest of them into accepting the "joke" as a terrifying reality.

Was it O.P. Baker--he of the ruminant face, "tall and unimpressive" in Mr. Ledwith's description, to whom not a single distinctive word, gesture, or action is attributed all night? No, not Mr. Baker; the case is incredible enough already, as one listener commented, without casting him in the role of Lorelei.

One of the younger women? There is no hint in the narrative that any of them possessed this kind of personality. Mrs. Lankford herself? Such a performance could not be more out of key with her character. She not only remained the calmest person herself, she tried to control the mounting hysteria of the others as the evening wore on. By what logic are we to suppose that she originated it in the first place?

We have exhausted the list of those present in the farmhouse that night, and no candidate for hypnotist appears--unless someone demands that we consider the children. If no identifiable member of the group seems likely to have frightened the others into terror, and if nothing better can be suggested in the way of a misidentification than those we have mentioned, it would seem that we have yet to discover what initiated the night's events at Kelly.

Not only has no solid reason been offered as to why the mistake or hallucination got started in the first place, but why

it continued poses an even greater mystery: with the people moving about, the shots and the talking, the going in and out of the house, and with the creatures themselves moving, appearing in different places, under different lights, it seems strange indeed that the illusion never cracked or shattered. How could it persist under such circumstances?

And why did it recur? When the family left for the Hopkinsville police station, they were then, unquestionably, in a condition approaching "mass hysteria." But after the night investigators had been at the farm for at least two hours, after they had searched house, yard, outbuildings, fields, and woods, after the Suttons had had ample time to calm down, to feel reassured by the presence of people and the absence of non-people--after all this, when the investigators had gone, the "delusion" started up again in exactly the same form as before.

Furthermore, as the psychologists often remind us, excited people under emotional stress usually give quite different reports of the same event. But all these frightened adults saw virtually the same panic-producing objects and experienced practically the same sequence of events. If this was a shared hallucination, it was surely one of the most unanimous, consistent, and durable examples on record.

The Suttons stuck to their story. Stubbornly, angrily, they insisted that they were telling the truth. Neither adults nor children ever so much as hinted at the possibility of an exaggeration or a mistake--neither in public nor to relatives: there was no trace of a retraction in any of Mrs. McCord's information. The publicity, the questioning, the ridicule, the insinuations that they were "flighty" or weak-minded, had no effect. Eventually, unable to cope with the situation, they took refuge in angry silence--but this is not the same thing as a recantation. Their refusal to concede an inch to skepticism may not prove anything about the truth of their story, but it does tell us something about them.

Theories of Hoax

For many skeptics the whole thing was simply a hoax of some sort. The family had not been deluded at all, they were trying to delude the public; but the public was too smart for them and saw through the story.

As the illusion theories require a "trigger," so the hoax theories require a motive--some adequate reason why the family took the trouble to plan this elaborate lie and took the risks of carrying it out. Several motives were in fact suggested.

Self-protection. The most startling theory was that the men had been engaged that night in a gun battle, the climax of a personal feud with a neighboring family; that they became terrified for fear they had killed or wounded one of their opponents, because this would mean at least prison if the body were discovered; that they "cooked up" the story about battling with little men from a spaceship as an excuse for the gunfire and for a corpse if one were found; and that their fright sprang from the nerve-racking battle and from their knowledge of the danger of discovery.

The skeptic who offered this theory stated that he did not know who the opponents were; but he was indignant over the dangerous situation that the Suttons had created for the investigators. "They deserved to go to the penitentiary for it. It's a wonder no one got killed out there. The guns could easily have gone off, with everyone so jumpy."

There are, to say the least, a number of serious objections to this reconstruction of the night's events. Who were the hypothetical opponents, and why was nothing ever heard of them? What were they doing while the Suttons were shooting at them? Did they linger passively around the farmhouse all night, or did they return the fire? No evidence of any incoming shots was ever noticed by anyone. Why did their trampling of the weeds, their empty cartridge cases, their bloodstains go unperceived by all investigators?

Second, why was this particular story concocted as a cover-up? It would seem far simpler and more in character for the Sutton men to have claimed they were shooting at rabbits or prowling foxes or some other familiar local animal. The invention of little glowing men carried the red-herring principle to excessive lengths.

Third, according to the theory that the hoax was a protective device, the entire elaborate fantasy was constructed, thoroughly memorized by eight adults, and indelibly impressed on the minds and tongues of three young children, all in the midst of a running gun battle with the enemy, and in an atmosphere of growing terror caused by the fight and the thought of its possible consequences.

Remarkable as their achievement was so far, however, somebody thought up the final touch of brilliant audacity. They would take the bull by the horns: they would go to the police and beg for protection from these creatures of their own invention. They would not wait for daylight, to find out whether there was a dead or wounded man lying somewhere in their fields; they would let the police find him instead. In a remarkable state of feigned terror masking real bravado, they were off to Hopkinsville to beseech the police to search their property.

Nor did their self-confidence desert them after they had aroused the curiosity and suspicion of city, county, and state law-enforcement officers, and had heard all of them promise to return early in the morning for a search by daylight. Instead of staying at home to safeguard the dangerous story, the three men were off early for Evansville, to be gone all day, leaving in the house only Billy Ray Taylor, the least convincing raconteur of them all.

One can only say that, if that is the way it really happened, the Suttons displayed an effrontery rare in the annals of crime.

Publicity or Profit

Another suggested motive for the hoax was "publicity," but it stands up no better than the first. If attention was what the Suttons were seeking, they behaved very strangely when they got it. Instead of staying home to enjoy the company of reporters and sightseers, off went the men to Evansville; and Lucky's manner when he returned that night was not exactly one of gratified welcome. Mrs. Lankford begged people to go away and stay away. The State Troopers were repeatedly appealed to to get rid of the crowds. A "No Trespassing" sign was posted. The family grew more and more short-tempered and unwilling to talk. All the evidence unmistakably indicates that the publicity their adventure received took the Suttons completely by surprise, and that they very quickly began to dislike and resent it.

Was the hoax dreamed up for profit? The same evidence applies here, as was pointed out in discussing the signs charging admission (page 78). That mystifying trip to Evansville stands in the way of any interpretation of the story as a calculated scheme of any sort. Of the two carnival workers, one spent Monday going to Indiana and back, and the other spent it hunting and working in the fields. One of the women went to her regular job in Hopkinsville. The only people left at home to carry out the supposed purpose--to get money from gullible visitors--were the children and three of the women--none of whom made any attempt to do anything of the kind.

Furthermore, one of those women was Mrs. Lankford. She herself constitutes a major obstacle to any of the hoax theories, not only by reason of her temperament and character, but more particularly because of her position as mother of the children. Those who would like to subscribe to a hoax theory should ask themselves whether they really believe that in any circumstances or for any reasons the children's mother--leaving out of consideration the other women--would take part in or countenance anything that reduced the children to screaming terror.

Amusement

According to this odd explanation of the Kelly report, "Country folks like to fool people, like to tell tall stories that they don't believe themselves." There is certainly some truth in this generalization, but to whom do country folks tell tall tales? To the summer resident, the tourist, the city man condescending to the yokels, yes, for the later relish of contemplating their appetite for misinformation. Or perhaps even to a local fellow-citizen, if in this way they can shrewdly get the better of him on his own terms.

But do country people stir up the massed forces of local law and order just for a joke--especially local law and order with which they are reported to be on somewhat cool terms? Considering their temperaments, I think that the farmhouse group would have looked blankly at any person who suggested such a hoax as "fun"; but even if they themselves could be sold on its amusing possibilities, it might occur to them that officers of the law might find it not so funny--might in fact refuse to feel playful at all about having their legs pulled.

Failure of the Skeptics' Theories

I have now presented the principal theories that I have heard from those who reject the Kelly story. Can any of them be called convincing? Not, it seems to me, by any normal logic. Do they supply any acceptable "rational" explanation of what happened? In my opinion, none that is even remotely sensible.

The hoax theories conspicuously lack an essential ingredient of a hoax--a plausible motive. They involve Mrs. Lankford as a participant, which seems inadmissible, and they fail to account for the convincingly real fright of the supposed hoaxers. The psychological theories entirely fail to account for the origin, continuance, unanimity, and recurrence of the supposed hallucinations; and the error theories are equally at a loss to suggest what ordinary objects could possibly be mistaken for metallic gnomes.

If there is any other theory, unmentioned here, that might escape these fatal objections, I should be glad to be told of it. I can think of none.

The only possible notion remaining is that the Suttons' behavior was completely senseless, without rhyme or reason, without excuse and without purpose. But if that is the answer to the riddle, they must all have been mad as hatters. Now, in point of fact, the Kelly witnesses were not lunatics running distracted with straws in their hair. Within their limitations they were functioning members of society who conversed intelligibly, held jobs, worked a farm, and led a fairly prosaic existence not very different from that of thousands of other people. They had never before been associated with any preposterous allegations.

To sum up: The generalizations invoked by the skeptical theories turn out to be inapplicable to the facts of the Kelly case. Any attempt to reconstruct events according to any of these hypotheses involves one in a morass of inconsistencies and contradictions.

The Hypothesis of Truth

It is time to review briefly the major arguments in support of the substantial truth of the Kelly landing story, as these have come up in the course of the preceding discussions.

1. The story shows no internal inconsistencies: the details of the appearance and behavior of the "little men" do not contradict each other. For example, their running away from light is consistent with the observation that their eyes apparently had no pupils or eyelids, and hence, presumably no power to shut out unwanted light.
2. The story parallels in several significant respects other reports of encounters with "little men" or

humanoid creatures, with which the witnesses could not have been familiar.

3. The absence of physical evidence is not an indication that the story is false; in view of the reported behavior of the creatures, there should have been no evidence of their presence, and other UFO sightings give warrant for supposing that the "spaceship" might well have been so constructed and operated as to leave no traces. There is proof, at any rate, that both shotguns and rifles were repeatedly fired from inside the house, in agreement with the Suttons' statements.
4. The report is one of the fullest and best-observed on record, making any kind of misidentification extremely unlikely. We are not dealing here with something seen for a few seconds, but with repeated sightings of the same objects during most of an entire night. We are not dealing with one person's impressions, but with experiences reported by seven people. We are not dealing with objects seen at a distance, but with objects or beings seen in different positions from only a few feet away--sometimes close enough to have been touched by the witnesses.
5. Nothing known about the background or training of any of the farmhouse group qualified them to invent a story of this strikingly peculiar nature.
6. Mrs. Lankford's known character and temperament, and her position as the mother of the children, make it highly improbable that she would lend herself to a hoax, or that she would be swept into hysteria. It seems equally unlikely, for different but just as cogent reasons, that Lucky Sutton, the dominant personality of the household, would have had the patience for an elaborate hoax or the suggestibility to be the victim of hallucination. Taylor, the only witness

who was considered obviously unreliable, seems to have had little influence with the others.

7. As we have seen from our detailed examination, it seems impossible to find any alternative theory that permits a reasonable reconstruction of events. All of them conflict seriously with the evidence at one point or another.

What these points add up to is that only the "truth" theory makes sense. The skeptical "explanations" involve us in paradoxes and incongruities that call for further explanation. They make the witnesses' actions appear enigmatic and even irrational. Only on the assumption that the story was true does everything fall into a natural perspective.

In view of the nature of the story, this is not an easy assumption to make. But on the hypothesis of truth, and only on this hypothesis, no one does anything out of character: we are not required to postulate mysterious motives, secret stores of little-known information, subtleties of purpose and temperament that are not only incongruous but ludicrous for such a family. Their behavior is consistent at every point with what else we know about their background, their individual personalities, and the situations in which they found themselves.

Their genuine, extreme terror is explained and fully justified. They were frightened beyond reason because what they had seen was beyond reason: weird, unearthly, invulnerable creatures. Their appeal to the police for help was the only thing they could have done in a situation in which they found themselves defenseless and afraid.

The trip to Evansville by the three men, foolhardy under any other theory, becomes reasonable. They had planned to go; and having nothing to conceal, they did not stay at home to conceal it. There being no conspiracy, there was no reason to stay at home to support their fellow-conspirators. They left

early in the morning because they had no foresight of the onrush of sightseers soon to come--perhaps also to make sure of getting home soon after dark, in case the "creatures" came back a second time.

They became sullen and resentful when they found themselves deluged with ridicule and with accusations of feeble-mindedness or fraud; but they never retracted their story.

Questions and riddles still remain--but they are questions about the "little men," their origin, their nature, their motivation. If the story was true, the behavior of these beings was indeed incomprehensible; but if the story was false, then the behavior of the human beings was twice as incredible. It seems to me that it is much easier to believe that the "spacemen" acted as weirdly as the Suttons say they did than to believe that the Suttons acted as weirdly as the skeptics say they did. We certainly do not know everything about the farmhouse group, but we do know more about them than we do about "little men," and everything that we know clashes violently with the skeptical theories.

In weighing the evidence for and against the truth of the Suttons' strange tale, there is one consideration that ought to be irrelevant. Whether or not we want the story to be true--whether or not we like the idea of "little men"--should not weigh the scales one way or the other. In reality, of course, this illegitimate weight has outweighed all the others. Were it not for this universal determination to disbelieve a story of this nature, it is probable that the "explanations" we have examined would never have been given serious consideration. But perhaps it is unreasonable to expect the human race, which for so many thousands of years has considered itself unique in the universe, to judge without bias a report that we might have had a visit from the neighbors.

CHAPTER V
BLUE BOOK DOCUMENTS

For many years it was difficult to obtain access to the files of Project Blue Book, the Air Force agency officially responsible for investigating UFOs. Even after the Air Force announced in 1969 that it would no longer be in charge of investigations, and the files were transferred from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio to Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, it was not easy to consult them.

In 1975, however, it became possible to get Xerox copies of material from Maxwell. The file on the Kelly landing was then requested, and the following documents were supplied:

Document A. Letter from the Commander, Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, to the Commander, Campbell AFB, dated 29 August 1957, requesting information on the Hopkinsville (Kelly) incident of 21 August 1955.

Document B. Reply to this request, from Lt. Kirk, Adjutant, Campbell AFB, dated 1 October 1957, including six enclosures.

Document C. Enclosure 1 of the above reply, letter to Lt. Kirk dated 17 September 1957 from Capt. Hertell, Campbell AFB adjutant at the time of the Kelly incident.

Document D. Enclosure 5 of the above reply, statement given to Lt. Kirk on 26 September 1957 by Maj. Albert, at the time of the incident a reserve officer in training at Campbell AFB who visited the Sutton farm on Monday morning, 22 August 1957.

Document E. Enclosure 2 of the above reply; statement to Maj. Albert dated 22 August 1955, signed by Mrs. Lankford.

Document F. Memorandum dated September 10, 1956, to Captain Gregory from J.A. Hynek.

Document G. Unsigned and undated sketch of "little man."

Document H. Probably a memorandum; known to have been written by Captain Gregory, but with no addressee's name. Undated, but later than the enclosure of September 10, 1956.

As will be noted in the comments, a number of the enclosures that are mentioned in these documents were not attached when the file was received from Maxwell AFB in 1975.

A few of the documents in the file have not been reproduced here, as too illegible, fragmentary, or irrelevant to warrant inclusion.

AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE
OHIO

AFCIN-4E4

29 AUG 1957

SUBJECT: (U) Request for Information - Hopkinsville Incident
21 August 1955

TO: Commander
Campbell Air Force Base
ATTN: Intelligence Section
Ft. Campbell, Kentucky

1. This Center requests any factual data, together with pertinent comments regarding an unusual incident reported to have taken place six miles north of Hopkinsville, Kentucky on subject date. Briefly, the incident involved an all night attack on a family named Sutton by goblin-like creatures reported to have emerged from a so-called "flying saucer."

1) 2. The Air Force has been informed by reliable sources that an article on this incident may soon appear in a magazine publication, and that the Air Force will be queried regarding its opinion or explanation.

3) 3. Lacking factual, confirming data, no credence can be given this almost fantastic report. As the incident has never been officially reported to the Air Force, it has not taken official cognizance of the matter. However, two important factors prompt this request:

1) a. Previous experience with sensational articles of this type show that almost invariably a large amount of inquiries and allegations against the Air Force soon follow, from both the press and public, and

2) b. An unconfirmed report stated that the affair was investigated and reported upon by two Air Force officers from Campbell Air Force Base. This Center, which is responsible for resolving incidents of this nature under provisions of AFR 200-2 "Unidentified Aerial Objects," has no knowledge of such reports.

4. To assist you with respect to any inquiries or investigations, the incident was investigated by the Kentucky State Patrol, the Sheriff's Office, and the Hopkinsville Police Department. The Chief of Police at that time was a Russel Greenwall, and is believed to still be in office.

FOR THE COMMANDER

/S/ William T. Thomas, CWO, USAF
for
Wallace W. Elwood
Captain, USAF
Assistant Adjutant

Comment on Document A

This request for "factual data with pertinent comments," dated August 29, 1957, was addressed by ATIC, Wright-Patterson AFB, headquarters of Project Blue Book, to Fort Campbell AFB, the nearest base to Hopkinsville and Kelly.

- 1) The request was prompted by information received by Blue Book from "reliable sources" that a magazine article on the Kelly incident would soon be published, and Air Force expectations that the article would lead to "a large amount of inquiries and allegations" from the press and public.

The "magazine article" referred to may be the present report, which was originally expected to appear in late 1957.

- 2) It is also stated that the incident was never officially reported to the Air Force (although, according to Document D, it was unofficially reported by Major John E. Albert); that the Air Force had never "taken official cognizance of the matter"; and that "this Center" (ATIC) "has no knowledge" of any report(s) of an investigation made by two officers from Fort Campbell, despite an unconfirmed report to that effect which ATIC also wishes to investigate.

It is certain that Fort Campbell officers were present at Kelly. Mr. Ledwith twice offered his sketches to them. Major Albert made his investigation, however unofficial (Document D). Chief Greenwell was certain that he talked to officers from Fort Campbell. Capt. Robert J. Hertell (Document C) gives the names of several officers who might have gone to Kelly on their own. It is not strange that reports should have circulated that the brass was taking an official interest in the case.

- 3) In view of the repeated emphatic protestations that the Air Force did not recognize, officially investigate, or report on the Kelly case, and thus made no effort to obtain "factual, confirming data" about the case at the time it happened, one wonders on what basis they could announce, emphatically, two

years later, that "no credence can be given to this almost fantastic report." Is a report proved false by the very failure to pay any attention to it?

B/L fr Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, dtd
29 Aug 57, Subj: Req for Info - Hopkinsville Incident 21 Aug 55

BA (29 Sug 57)

1st Ind

OCT 1, 1957

4002d Air Base Squadron, Campbell Air Force Base, Fort Campbell, Kentucky

TO: Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

1. In reference to your request, the following information is submitted:

a. Captain Robert J. Hertell, former base adjutant, was contacted. He stated that to his knowledge, an official investigation was never ordered. A copy of his informal reply to the present base adjutant is enclosed. Captain Bennett was unable to give any additional information.

b. A statement given to the base adjutant by Major Albert is inclosed. Inclosures 2 and 6 are referred to in this statement. Major John E. Albert is a reservist who participates in reserve training periods at this station.

c. A copy of a newspaper article that appeared in the Hopkinsville paper on the day following this incident is attached. Subsequent articles that were published by this newspaper added little, if any, information to that contained in the first article. Another article that was recently published by the same newspaper is inclosed.

d. The Sheriff's Office and the Hopkinsville Police Department were contacted. Neither had a report of investigation on file; however, Chief Greenwell had an informal file of newspaper articles and letters on this incident.

e. A search of base files failed to produce any record of correspondence regarding this matter.

2. Any future information that is secured on this incident will be forwarded to your headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

6 Incls:

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Ltr fr Capt Hertell | /S/ Charles N. Kirk |
| 2. Statement (G. Lankford) | CHARLES N. KIRK |
| 3. Copy of article in Hopkinsville Newspaper (22 Aug 55) | 1st Lt, USAF |
| 4. Copy of article in Hopkinsville Newspaper (11 Sep 57) | Adjutant |
| 5. Statement given to Lt Kirk by Maj Albert | |
| 6. Copy of writing on Mrs Lankford's article | |

Comment on Document B

This is the reply, signed by Lt. Charles N. Kirk, to Document A. It is dated October 21, 1957, indicating that it required over a month for Lt. Kirk to assemble the listed enclosures.

Negative results of Lt. Kirk's inquiries are reported: Capt. Hertell (author of Document C) is quoted as saying that an official investigation was never, to his knowledge, ordered. Capt. Bennett (mentioned by Capt. Hertell as a possible source) was unable to give any additional information. A search of base files produced no record of correspondence regarding the matter.

Enclosures 3, 4, and 6 were not attached to this memorandum when the file was received from Maxwell AFB in 1975.

COPY

COPY

3928TH AIR BASE SQUADRON (SAC)
United States Air Force
APO 237, New York, New York

17 September 1957

Dear Kirk:

I just returned from TDY today, and found your letter regarding the alleged "flying saucer" incident that occurred in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, on or about 21 August 1955.

I do remember this incident vaguely, but I'm afraid I can't help you much since I was not directly connected with it. That being the case, I am therefore answering your request in this informal manner and the following is, to the best of my knowledge, all that I know about the incident.

- 1) Prior to the above incident- several months earlier I believe - we had another "flying saucer" report emanating from the Hopkinsville area. This earlier incident took place on the farm, (just south of Hopkinsville), of a Mr. White, (I think his name was).

Briefly, Mr. White and a negro handy-man employed by him had observed an unidentified object streak across the sky, perform several abrupt changes of course, and finally disappear in the direction of Bowling Green, Kentucky. They observed this object for several minutes. I think that there was another witness or two present that were guests of Mr. White at the time. Since Mr. White was a very prominent citizen of the area, and the senior member of the largest local law-firm, and since the description of the object and its maneuvers was very accurate, some credence was lent to the story. We therefore reported this incident in accordance with AFR 200-2, by Confidential Message.

- 2) I mention the above preceding incident, (of which I have personal knowledge since I personally investigated it), because it preceded, to the best of my knowledge, the Sutton incident. It was not long after the White incident that we heard of the Sutton incident- perhaps the power of suggestion?

- 3) To my knowledge, the Sutton incident was first investigated, and thoroughly so, by the State Highway Patrol, and later by the Sheriff's Office. The incident was never officially reported to the Air Force. In fact, the first I remember hearing about it is when several persons at Campbell brought to my attention an article about the incident which appeared in the local Hopkinsville paper.

COPY

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- 4) It should be an easy task to look back through the newspaper's files covering that period and find the article. The story was altogether too fantastic for even the newspaper to swallow, and they never did give it a very big play as I remember. It died a natural death a few days later. It never did reach national proportions, and
- 5) for that matter, it did not, as far as I know, even receive state-wide coverage. Furthermore, the story became more exaggerated and
- 6) more distorted with each new interview of the farmer and his family.

- 7) An interesting sidelight was the fact, told to me by several of the local authorities, that the farmer put up signs at the entrance to his property and was charging \$1.00 per head, "to see where the Mars-Men landed".

- 8) As for the report that the affair was investigated and reported upon by two Air Force Officers from Campbell Air Force Base, I don't believe that there is any fact in this. I believe that a couple of our officers may have gone down-on their own- to view the place, as I heard some talk of this at the time, but Colonel Donald McPherson, the Base Commander certainly never ordered any official investigation, to the best of my knowledge.

I seem to remember Captain Benjamin Bennett saying something about going down to see the spot, but since he is still stationed there, surely you have already questioned him regarding this matter.

- 9) The only other officer who may have looked into this matter was the Deputy Base Commander, Major Ziba B. Ogden, now stationed at Westover Air Force Base. I remember the two of us talking about the incident, and he could possibly have been sent to the scene by Col. McPherson, in an unofficial capacity, without my knowing about it.

- 10) That's about all I recall of the incident. At the time, Col. McPherson figured that there wasn't anything to it, and we all followed suit so to speak. There seemed to be nothing at all in the story that would in any way lend credance to it, so we all promptly forgot it.

- 11) In closing, I'd like to point out, that out of all the cases that I investigated for the commander and out of all the incidents that happened around Campbell during my three and a half years there, this incident impressed me the least, and furthermore, I was never even remotely connected with it. It follows then, that my memory concerning this incident is rather faulty and I am not even sure exactly when it took place. Therefore I'm afraid I haven't been of much help, and for this I apologize.

Sincerely,

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

/S/ Charles N. Kirk
CHARLES N. KIRK
1st Lt, USAF

/S/ Robert J. Hertell
/t/ ROBERT J. HERTELL
Captain, USAF

Comment on Document C (Enclosure 1 of Document B)

This letter of September 17, 1957, to Lt. Kirk is from the Capt. Hertell mentioned in paragraph 1a of Document B.

- 1) The third, fourth, and fifth paragraphs describe an earlier UFO report from the Hopkinsville area. In UFOCAT, the comprehensive computer listing of reports compiled by Dr. David Saunders, this case is located at Bowling Green, Kentucky, and is dated February 18, 1955.
- 2) Capt. Hertell offers "the power of suggestion" arising from the Bowling Green case as a possible cause of the Kelly report. Since the Bowling Green report preceded the Kelly report by more than six months, and since in any event the Suttons were not newspaper readers and had no radio, the idea is far-fetched.
- 3) Another statement that the incident was never officially reported to the Air Force. Capt. Hertell mentions the State Highway Patrol and the Sheriff's Office as "thoroughly investigating" the incident, but does not mention the inquiries made by Chief Greenwell and the Hopkinsville police.
- 4) Although it is true that the newspaper (the Hopkinsville Kentucky New Era) was highly skeptical of the report, it is far
- 5) from correct to say that the story "never did reach national proportions, and . . . even state-wide coverage." Newspapers in California, Texas, Louisiana, and New York, besides Kentucky, Tennessee, and Indiana, carried the story. No check of radio coverage at the time was made, but a listener in New Orleans, Louisiana, heard about the case on three stations there. If the story "died a natural death a few days later," it was not for lack of previous interest on the part of the news media (see pp. 1,2,(15,40),41).
- 6) Since Hertell has said (second paragraph of his letter) that he "was not directly connected with" the incident, the basis for this statement was information from others. He does not consider that the exaggeration and distortion "with each new

interview with the farmer and his family" might have been supplied by the interviewer. Readers of the previous chapters of this report will be able to judge the accuracy of this allegation.

- 7) The question of the significance of the signs attempting to charge admission has been discussed on pp. 55 and 89.
- 8) The report that an official investigation was made is again rejected. "A couple of our officers" (i.e., from Fort Campbell) "may have gone down--on their own--to view the place, as there was talk of this at the time." Capt. Bennett said something about going down to see the spot. Major Ziba B. Ogden, Deputy Base Commander, discussed the incident with Hertell, and "might have been sent to the scene by Col. McPherson" (Base Commander) "in an unofficial capacity, without my knowing about it."

Nevertheless, the Base Commander "certainly never ordered any official investigation, to the best of my knowledge."

- 9) Mr. Ledwith is almost certain that the first AF officer he talked to on Monday, August 22, and offered his sketches to (see p. 46) bore the unusual name of "Ziba." This indicates that Major Ogden did indeed go to Kelly to "look into this matter." The following item indicates that he was not sent "officially" by Col. McPherson.

Because Capt. Hertell's first knowledge of the Kelly case came from the Hopkinsville newspaper, which appears in mid-afternoon, his talks with Major Ogden about the case must have taken place after the latter had been to Kelly, where Mr. Ledwith met him earlier in the afternoon.

- 10) From item (8) above it seems clear that there was a good deal of interest in the events at Kelly among the personnel at Fort Campbell. What happened to that interest is stated unequivocally: "Col. McPherson figured that there was nothing to it, and we all followed suit so to speak . . . we all

promptly forgot it." On the reports of whatever unofficial investigators, the Base Commander rejected the story, and the lower ranks were not about to dispute him.

- 11) In closing, Capt. Hertell presents us with the following bit of logical juggling: "Out of all the cases that I investigated for the commander and out of all the incidents that happened around Campbell during my three and a half years there, this incident impressed me the least, and furthermore, I was never even remotely connected with it."

COPY

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4002D AIR BASE SQUADRON
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
CAMPBELL AIR FORCE BASE
FORT CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY

The following statement was given to me by Major John E. Albert on 26 September 1957:

1) On about August 22, 1955, about 8 A.M., I heard a news broadcast
2) concerning an incident at Kelly Station, approximately six miles North of
Hopkinsville. At the time I heard this news broadcast, I was at Gracey,
3) Kentucky on my way to Campbell Air Force Base, where I am assigned for
reserve training. I called the Air Base and asked them if they had heard
4) anything about an alleged flying saucer report. They stated that they had
not and it was suggested that as long as I was close to the area, that I
5) should determine if there was anything to this report. I immediately drove
to the scene at Kelly Station and located the home belonging to a Mrs.
Glennie Lankford, who is the one who first reported the incident. (A copy
of Mrs. Lankford's statement is attached to this report.)

6) Deputy Sheriff Batts was at the scene where this supposedly flying
saucer had landed and he could not show any evidence that any object had
landed in the vicinity. There was nothing to show that there was anything
to prove this incident.

Mrs. Glennie Lankford was an impoverished widow woman who had
grown up in this small community just outside of Hopkinsville, with very
7) little education. She belonged to the Holy Roller Church and the night and
8) evening of this occurrence, had gone to a religious meeting and she indicated
that the members of the congregation and her two sons and their wives and
some friends of her sons, were also at this religious meeting and were worked
9) up into a frenzy, becoming very emotionally unbalanced and that after the
religious meeting, they had discussed this article which she had heard about
10) over the radio and had sent for from the Kingdom Publishers, Fort Worth 1,
Texas and they had sent her this article with a picture which appeared to be
a little man when it actually was a monkey, painted silver. This article had
to be returned to Mrs. Lankford as she stated it was her property. However,
11) a copy of the writing is attached to this statement and if it is necessary, a
12) photograph can be obtained from the above mentioned publishers.

13) It is my opinion that the report of Mrs. Lankford or her son, Elmer Sutton,
was caused by one of two reasons. Either they actually did see what they
thought was a little man and at the time, there was a circus in the area and a
monkey might have escaped, giving the appearance of a small man. Two,

being emotionally upset, and discussing the article and showing pictures of this little monkey, that appeared like a man, their imaginations ran away with them and they really did believe what they saw, which they thought was a little man.

The home that Mrs. Lankford lived in was in a very run down condition and there were about eight people sleeping in two rooms. The window that was pointed out to be the one that she saw the small silver shining object about two and a half feet tall, that had its hands on the screen looking in, was a very low window and a small monkey could put his hands on the top of it while standing on the ground.

- 14) It is felt that the report cannot be substantiated as far as any actual object appearing in the vicinity at that time.

/S/ Charles N. Kirk
CHARLES N. KIRK
1st Lt., USAF
Adjutant

Comment on Document D (Enclosure 5 of Document B)

The document itself is undated, but a covering statement by Lt. Kirk says that it was given to him by Major Albert on September 26, 1957. There is no information as to when Major Albert wrote his account, but the use of the past tense suggests that it was written in 1957, two years after the events at Kelly. Nor does Major Albert say whether he made written notes at the time of his visit to Kelly and used them to prepare this account, or whether he relied on his recollections. Presumably it was the latter, since he would hardly have failed to mention using notes if he had them.

- 1) The broadcasts over Station WHOP took place at 7:15 and 9:25 a.m.
- 2) Gracey, Kentucky, is about 10 miles west of Hopkinsville. There is no road joining Gracey and Kelly directly.
- 3) This sounds as if Major Albert's telephone call was the first time that Fort Campbell had heard about the happenings at Kelly; it seems strange that no one had heard the WHOP broadcast at 7:15 a.m.

Major Albert does not say who made the suggestion that he should determine if there was anything to this "alleged flying saucer report."

Although his visit to the farmhouse obviously did not rate the designation "official investigation," nevertheless he did go there not on his own but at a suggestion from the base, and to that extent was an authorized, if not an official, investigator.

- 4) Mrs. Glennie Lankford was not the one who first reported the incident; the entire farmhouse group had gone to the police station.
- 5) Mrs. Lankford's statement is Document E.

- 6) Deputy Sheriff Batts seems to have been Major Albert's first and only informant; there is no evidence that he talked to anyone else, except presumably Mrs. Lankford. Batts "was at the scene . . . and he could not show any evidence that any object had landed in the vicinity." Accepting this at once, Major Albert deserts the "object" to relate something about the witnesses and the "little men."
- 7) Mrs. Lankford did not belong to the Holy Roller Church but to the Trinity Pentecostal, whose services are conventional.
- 8) There is no evidence whatever that she or any of her family had gone to a religious meeting on the "night and evening" of August 21, and the assertion that they and the congregation had been "worked into a frenzy, becoming very emotionally unbalanced" must be pure invention.
- 9) There was no radio at the farmhouse.
- 10) The Kingdom Press of Ft. Worth, Texas, may have published an article "with a picture which appeared to be a little man but was actually a monkey painted silver." But that Mrs. Lankford had sent for it, or even that she had it at all, is far from established by this confused account. No one else I interviewed made any reference to this interesting item.
- 11) The "copy of the writing on the article" is now missing from the Blue Book file.
- 12) If the picture as described did exist, it can be tentatively identified as a photograph published April 1, 1950, in the Neue Illustrierte newspaper of Cologne, West Germany. It shows two men in trench coats holding between them, suspended by the arms, a small silvery figure resembling an artist's manikin. This notorious picture has surfaced repeatedly in sensational UFO literature over the years.

There is no evidence that Major Albert attempted to check with anyone else at the farmhouse any of these statements which he later reported to Captain Kirk as fact.

- 13) Major Albert ends by being completely sold on the monkey explanation: Mrs. Lankford and her son were either carried away into imaginative hysteria by seeing a real monkey, escaped from the circus, or--even more remarkably--they were carried away by a picture of what they thought was a little man though it was really a monkey.
- 14) Returning belatedly, in the last paragraph, to the UFO itself, the object that he had originally gone to Kelly to investigate, Major Albert repeats Deputy Sheriff Batt's original opinion that "the report cannot be substantiated," and apparently felt that nothing more specific was needed.

/handwritten/

C O P Y

8/22/55

My name is Glennie Lankford age 50 and I live at Kelly Station, Hopkinsville Route 6, Kentucky.

On Sunday night Aug 21, 55 about 10:30 P.M. I was walking through the hallway which is located in the middle of my house and I looked out the back door / & saw a bright silver object about two and a half feet tall appearing round. I became excited and did not look at it long enough to see if it had any eyes or move. I was about 15 or 20 feet from it. I fell backward, and then was carried into the bedroom.

My two sons Elmer Sutton age 25 and his wife Vera age 29, J.C. Sutton age 21 and his wife Aline age 27 and their friends Billy Taylor age 21 and his wife June, 18 were all in the house and saw this little man that looked like a monkey.

About 3:30 A.M. I was in my bedroom and looked out the north window and saw a small silver shinning object about 2½ feet tall that had its hands on the screen looking in. I called for my sons and they shot at it and it left. I was about 60 feet from it at this time. I did not see it anymore.

I have read the above statement and it is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

s/ John E. Albert

s/Glennie Lankford

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

s/Charles N. Kirk
CHARLES N. KIRK
1ST LT., USAF
Adjutant

Comment on Document E (Enclosure 2 of Document B)

Mr. Ledwith thinks that this statement may not have been written by Mrs. Lankford, who says only that she read it. It is an interesting point, but cannot be settled without the original handwritten document, now missing, which would show whether the text and signature are in the same hand. This typed copy of the original, endorsed as a "Certified True Copy" by Lt. Kirk, is what is now in the file.

In any event, it would have been drawn up on Monday morning, sometime between Major Albert's arrival from Gracey and Mr. Ledwith's arrival from Hopkinsville. Mr. Ledwith did not know of this document until he saw it in 1975 after the Blue Book file had been obtained.

Except for the approximate time of the document's composition, we know too little about the circumstances to judge the contents; whether, for instance, Major Albert took the statement before or after talking to Deputy Sheriff Batts, and whether that suggested any of the contents. This lack of information is unfortunate, because it is not clear what Mrs. Lankford meant by some of her statements, and one or two of them--like the 60-foot distance between her and the creature she saw at 3:30 a.m.--must be inadvertent mistakes.

When Mrs. Lankford read the statement and vouched for its truth (last paragraph), she must have missed that mistake. Its presence leads to the unavoidable conclusion that Major Albert, for his part, did not check the statement or attempt to clarify its ambiguities.

Again, it would be useful to know what Mrs. Lankford meant when she said that the other members of the family "saw this little man that looked like a monkey," since she did not compare either of the creatures that she herself saw to a monkey. Did the family members make the comparison, or did someone else make it for them?

Mrs. Lankford was probably not accustomed to communicating exact detail in written form, and when she made the statement she was certainly exhausted and already annoyed by the sight-seers. She would try to write as briefly as possible. If Major Albert's attitude was suspicious or hostile, this would increase her desire to have done with the interview as soon as she could.

With these factors in mind, it is not strange that Mrs. Lankford's statement is not a definitive document for the later researcher.

1) Captain Gregory

September 10, 1953

J. A. Hynek

Hopkinsville Case

The Chief of Police in Hopkinsville is Russell Greenwell. It was he who stated that the affair was investigated by Air Force officers from Fort Campbell. I understand that MP's and a Pfc from Fort Campbell investigated at the farmhouse on late Monday afternoon. The Pfc was a Mr. Hodson and his account and pictures were published in the Clarksville Tennessee Leaf Chronicle.

Chief Greenwell also stated that the affair had been investigated by two men from an unidentified agency at Standiford Field in Louisville, a commercial field. The Kentucky State Police investigated the case and their report and available sketches are on file with Trooper Riley's case report at Frankfort, Kentucky. Attached is a list of all people concerned in the case.

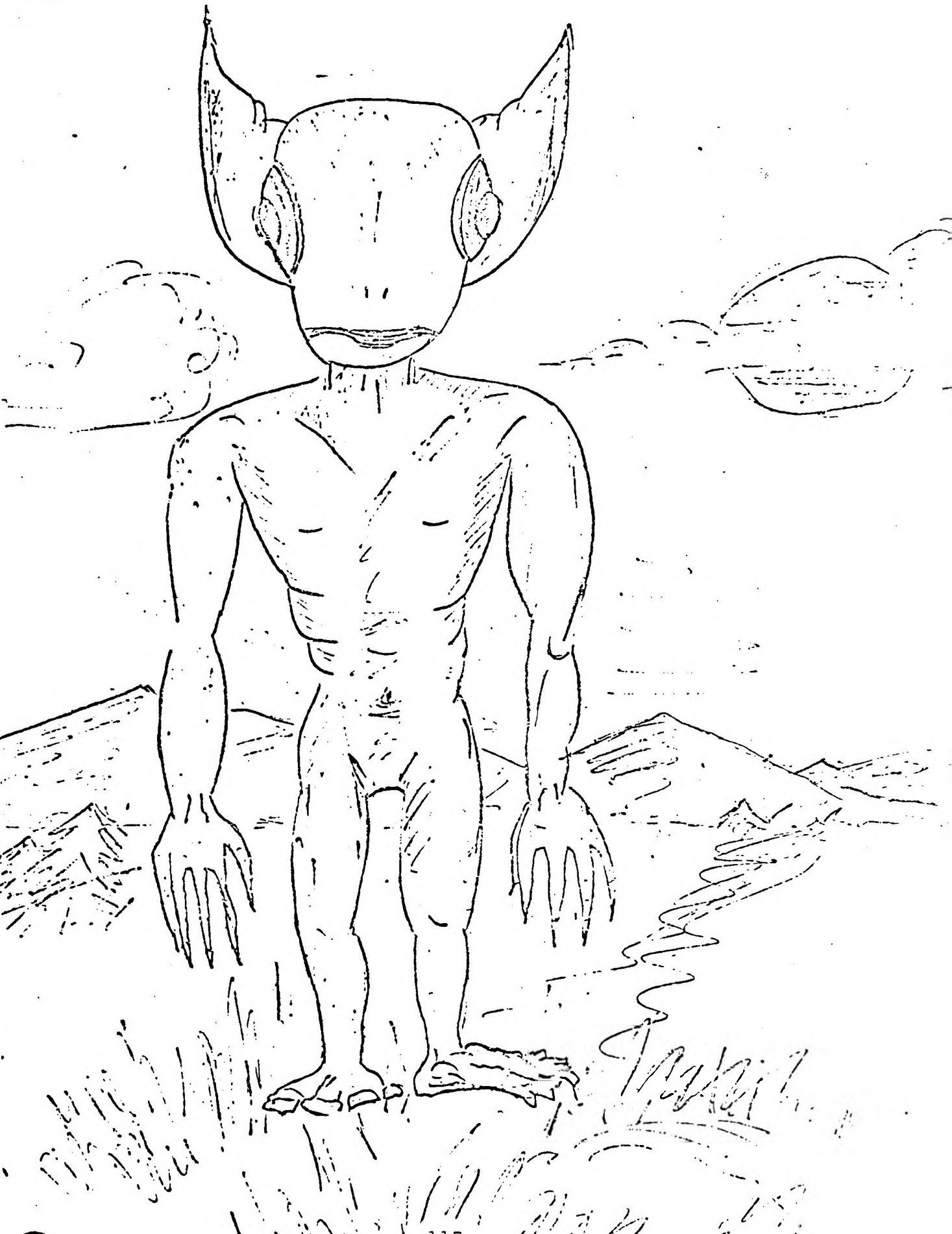
A Miss Isabelle Davis is preparing a full-scaled report, of which I shall receive a copy, after it has been cross-checked by the people involved.

6) Dr. Hynek will submit a detailed report

GTG
13

Comment on Document F

- 1) In 1956 Capt. George Gregory became head of Project Blue Book, succeeding Capt. Charles A. Hardin, who had replaced Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt (author of The Report On Unidentified Flying Objects).
- 2) MP's from Fort Campbell were at the farmhouse early in the first investigation; some rode out there with Chief Greenwell's men.
- 3) Pfs. Hodson's drawing appears on page 57.
- 4) It was not possible to obtain a copy of the State Trooper report.
- 5) This list was not attached to Dr. Hynek's memo when the file was obtained from Maxwell AFB.
- 6) The file does not contain a "detailed report" from Dr. Hynek, who believes that no such report was prepared.



Comment on Document G

Nothing is known about who drew this sketch of a little man or how it happened to reach the Blue Book file.

Comparing it with the sketches drawn by Mr. Ledwith, the following details are incorrect: the presence of a neck, a navel, "thumbs" on the hands, and detailed feet; heavily muscled legs rather than "spindly" ones, and a suggestion of a nose.

Hopkinsville Case

This case which has not yet been brought to the "official" attention of the Air Force, may cause some embarrassment if suddenly submitted "cold" to ATIC. Preparatory countermeasures are considered warranted. It is for this reason all possible information is being collected on this sighting. See Inclosure #1 for details of this bizarre sighting as written by Frank Edwards, noted TV and radio broadcaster. Every effort was made through the discreet efforts of our informant to either initiate some discreet investigative action or determine what had been done officially without directly involving the Air Force. See attached Office Memo dated 10 September 1956 (Inclosure #2), and a list of numerous principles [sic] involved in this case (Inclosure #4). It has been reported that a native in the area stated there was a circus train near town a day or two before. However, this cannot be confirmed, and in the opinion of Dr. Hynek and the undersigned, if so, it is possible that some monkeys or apes escaped during the night. (Note: the undersigned recalls reading a few years ago in the New York Herald that circus owners seldom report escaping animals to the local police, until all efforts by circus crews to recapture them had failed. In many instances the animals return on their own.)

Comment on Document H

- 1) It is particularly regrettable that this document lacks the date to tell us at what time Captain Gregory (see Comment 8) expected (a) that the Kelly case would soon be submitted to Air Technical Intelligence Command "officially" for the first time, and (b) that it would be an embarrassment (for reasons not stated). We know only that the document was written after September 10, 1956 (see Comment 5). There is no clue to why or how the case was expected to surface.
- 2) The document does not include a list of enclosures/attachments nor the enclosures themselves. This one may be the text of a talk given to VSI of New York by Mr. Edwards on April 28, 1956.
- 3) "Our informant" is not identified.
- 4) The instructions to the informant are difficult to understand, especially the words "determine what had been done officially"; is this: "done officially by agencies other than the Air Force," since the Air Force had not even acknowledged the case officially (see first sentence of the document)?
- 5) This Inclosure #2 is Document F. No Inclosure #3 is mentioned; possibly there were only three inclosures and "#4" is a typing error for #3).
- 6) This list is presumably the same list of all people concerned in the case that is the missing attachment to Document F.
- 7) The "lost monkey theory" is discussed on pages 81-82.
- 8) Although the document does not now contain a signature, it is known to have been written by Captain Gregory.

Part Two

OTHER ENCOUNTERS, 1955

by
Ted Bloecher

Part Two
INTRODUCTION

Spectacular as it was, the Kelly "invasion" of August 21-22 was not the first encounter with strange creatures in the United States in 1955 nor was it the last. Similar events had already taken place in the suburbs of Cincinnati, Ohio and elsewhere, but received little or no publicity. UFO researchers learned of these humanoid cases only through the UFO publication, CRIFO (Civilian Research, Interplanetary Flying Objects) Newsletter (1).

A week after the Kelly encounter, I spent a weekend with Leonard and Dell Stringfield at their home in suburban Cincinnati. The Cincinnati area was then experiencing a wave of UFO sightings, and we compared the events of the previous week at Hopkinsville with the local UFO sightings and "encounters." The key question, it seemed to us, was the possible relationship between the humanoid reports and the object sightings. But my visit was too brief for any systematic inquiry, and Len had his hands too full with UFO reports and publication deadlines to give his full attention to the encounter cases. We agreed that these reports required further examination, but the opportunity for a comprehensive investigation did not come until the next year.

Meanwhile, interest in these strange diminutive beings was further stimulated by the striking results of Isabel Davis' investigation of the Kelly encounter. Her report reinforced our belief that further inquiries into the Ohio reports might provide equally valuable details about them. I was therefore very glad to be able to return to Cincinnati to spend the last week of August 1956 with the Stringfields. Len introduced me to many

of his colleagues, who provided useful leads, and Len took an active part himself in the investigations.

We started out to gather more details on three specific reports of special interest: 1) the Loveland, Ohio "bridge case," where small humanoids were observed under a bridge; 2) the encounter of a Cincinnati woman with small beings on a highway near Stockton, Georgia; and 3) a report of a "little green man" in Greenhills (near Cincinnati) by four teenagers. We attempted without success to pin down rumors of other cases. However, in pursuing the Loveland "bridge case," we uncovered an earlier Loveland area humanoid encounter which had not been previously reported--the curious Hunnicutt case. Similarly, follow-up investigations of the Stockton, Georgia incident revealed two other encounters with "creatures" in southwestern Georgia within a month of the Stockton incident. We found the Greenhills case, the only report with multiple witnesses, to have compelling evidence of a hoax, so it is not included.

Although the results of the 1956 Ohio inquiries were indeed interesting, they were not entirely satisfactory, lacking the clearcut and definitive quality that had emerged from the Hopkinsville investigation. All the cases were single-witness encounters. Since the stories were somewhat elusive and fragmentary, the findings did not warrant a formal presentation at that time, although the highlights were included in Stringfield's book, Inside Saucer Post . . . 3-0 Blue (2). But additional information, uncovered later, has eliminated some of the earlier uncertainties; other stories as strange as those in 1955 and even stranger, have continued to be reported both in this country and abroad. In the light of these more recent reports, it is instructive to look back at some earlier accounts of humanoid and creature encounters with a perspective not available at the time they occurred.

Although the authors conducted no personal inquiries, first-hand information is available for several of the reports,

and we have summarized these cases in the concluding section of Chapter XI.

REFERENCES

INTRODUCTION

1. Published monthly by Leonard Stringfield, the CRIFO Newsletter began circulation in March, 1954; the name was changed to CRIFO Orbit with the issue of July, 1955. Publication was discontinued in April, 1957.
2. Leonard Stringfield, Inside Saucer Post . . . 3-0 Blue, pp. 63-69. Published privately in 1957 by CRIFO, 4412 Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45227. Copies may be obtained by writing the author at that address. The title refers to Stringfield's code designation, "Fox Trot Kilo 3-0 Blue," used in his special association with the Air Filter Center of the Air Defense Command, in screening and reporting local UFO sightings to the United States Air Force (Project Blue Book).

CHAPTER VI
THE LOVELAND BRIDGE CASE

July, 1955

Whitecotton's Account

In the CRIFO Orbit for September 2, 1955, Leonard Stringfield described the humanoid encounter referred to as "the bridge case" as follows:

. . . We should like to cite a case involving a prominent businessman, living in Loveland. Occurring several weeks ago, this person, who is a non-drinker and church-goer . . . saw four "strange little men about three feet tall" under a certain bridge. He reported the bizarre affair to the police and we understand that an armed guard was placed there. A similar event supposedly had taken place near Batavia east of Cincinnati.

Following publication of this story in Orbit, Stringfield received information from a source in Loveland concerning alleged F.B.I. involvement in the bridge case. This aspect made the case doubly interesting and we hoped to learn much more during our August 1956 inquiries.

On Sunday evening, August 26, Len arranged a meeting at his home with one of his associates, Frank Whitecotton, chief coordinator for Civil Defense in Hamilton County and surrounding areas (the Cincinnati area), and head of the nearby Loveland Ground Observer Corps (GOC) post. Frank Whitecotton was an impressive man--authoritative, serious, with a craggy face and a shock of white hair. He had a great deal of information regarding local UFO sightings. His staff at the Loveland GOC post was an

active and interested group who had themselves made several UFO observations.

During this meeting we asked the Civil Defense chief if he could provide more information about the bridge case. His response was neither enthusiastic nor informative. He corrected an error in the Orbit summary; the central figure was not a "prominent businessman" of Loveland, but a young volunteer policeman for the Loveland Civil Defense, and therefore known to Mr. Whitecotton, the area's chief Civil Defense co-ordinator. But there was little else Frank Whitecotton was willing to say, claiming that while he was "familiar" with the case, he was "privy to no details." However, he indicated that Police Chief John Fritz of Loveland, the observer's immediate supervisor, should know more about the report. According to Mr. Whitecotton, Chief Fritz had ordered a cordon thrown up around the bridge when he received news of the reported encounter. But Whitecotton warned us that Fritz might not be willing to discuss the case, and he suggested that if we asked him about it, it would be helpful if we did not mention Whitecotton's name.

At this point in our conversation, it was quite obvious that Frank Whitecotton would prefer to change the subject--which he did by introducing another "little man" report that had come to his attention through one of his GOC spotters, Mrs. Emily Magnone, of Loveland Heights.

The "Smelly Little Man" of Loveland Heights

On a warm summer night, about the same time as the bridge case, Mrs. Emily Magnone and her husband were awakened by the continued barking of their dog outside, who was "setting up a terrible fuss." They got up and went to the window to check for prowlers, but saw nothing. They did, however, smell an extremely strong and penetrating odor, "like a swamp." The dog continued to bark and the odor persisted; it was so foul and overpowering, in fact, that the Magnones closed their windows, hot as it was,

in an effort to keep the smell out. But it continued to permeate the house; they went back to bed, the dog continued to bark, and the odor lingered.

The next morning Mrs. Magnone's next-door neighbor (who was not identified in Mr. Whitecotton's account) told her a strange story. The barking dog had also awakened the neighbor and her husband and she, too, had gotten up to see what was wrong. Going to her back porch she saw, in the yard about fifteen feet from the porch, a "little man" of very strange appearance standing motionless. She watched the little being briefly from the porch, then went back inside to turn the porch light on. When she returned to the porch, the creature had vanished. She then turned the light off and checked the yard again; the "thing" had returned to its original spot on the lawn. Again she turned the light on, with the same results: each time the light was turned on, the creature seemed to disappear.

The neighbor described the diminutive prowler as about three feet high, and apparently entirely covered with what looked like twigs or foliage. Mr. Whitecotton could add no further details about eyes, claws, or any reported luminosity.

Taking this third-hand report at face value, we find elements that are familiar. The dog's reaction and the penetrating smell are features that have been reported in other cases involving small entities associated with close encounters of UFOs. The being's reported reaction to light and darkness is also a detail recurring in cases such as the Kelly encounter. The covering of what appeared to be foliage or twigs (assuming that the witness was not mistaking a shrub in her back yard for a creature) is a detail new to us, but perhaps there is a case with a similar description on record.

Unfortunately, we were unable to interview the witness directly. Mr. Whitecotton tried to arrange a meeting with the neighbor through Mrs. Magnone, but repeated attempts to reach Mrs. Magnone by phone suggested that she was probably away on vacation at that

time. We did not feel it appropriate, under the circumstances, to go directly to the neighbor with a request for an interview. The above summary therefore remains unconfirmed.

Although Mr. Whitecotton was unable to give us any substantive information about the bridge case, he did provide us with the name of an important source of information, Loveland Police Chief John K. Fritz. A meeting with Chief Fritz was arranged for Friday afternoon, August 31, with the hope that he could supply us with the details Frank Whitecotton would not.

Chief Fritz's Account of the Bridge Case

When I met Chief Fritz in his office, he was cordial, cooperative and businesslike. But like Mr. Whitecotton, when the subject of the bridge case was brought up, the police chief seemed unwilling to discuss it. The details of the report had come to him second-hand, he told me. From whom? You guessed it, from the local C.D. chief, Frank Whitecotton! This was a fascinating statement, considering what Mr. Whitecotton himself had already told us. I kept the contradiction to myself, in view of Whitecotton's warning that it might not be helpful to mention his name.

When I asked Chief Fritz about the rumor of F.B.I. involvement in the case, his reaction was unmistakable: he began fiddling with his keys and coins on the desk, and shuffling papers. My notes on this detail are explicit: "Fritz is not the sort of man who ordinarily fiddles with keys and papers on his desk." He denied any knowledge of the rumored F.B.I. involvement and as if to change the subject, introduced the Hunnicutt case (see Chapter VIII). It was obvious that he, as well as Frank Whitecotton, would prefer not to discuss the matter.

On the other hand, Chief Fritz was naturally curious about my own interest in the case. I told him about my association with Civilian Saucer Intelligence (CSI) of New York, and of my inquiries with Stringfield into the "little men" reports in the

Cincinnati area. I referred to Isabel Davis's report of her Hopkinsville investigations, and showed Fritz some copies of the Hopkinsville drawings made by Bud Ledwith during his investigations there. Fritz found this information of interest, and after examining some of the material carefully, seemed somewhat less reluctant to discuss the bridge case. But he continued to insist that he'd had nothing to do with it personally, although he did admit knowing the witness rather well.

The witness, who will be referred to only as C.F., had been 19 years old at the time, and served as an auxiliary policeman with Civil Defense, in which capacity he was directly associated with Chief Fritz. According to the police chief, the incident occurred one evening early in July, 1955, or possibly late in June; however, Fritz made no attempt to locate the police report, as he had previously done in discussing the Hunnicutt case. The witness, C.F., was driving a Civil Defense truck at the time and as he was crossing a bridge in the Loveland area (there is one vehicular bridge into Loveland over the Little Miami River from Clermont County), he noticed four small figures on the river bank beneath the bridge. A terrible smell hung over the area. C.F. immediately drove to police headquarters in Loveland and reported the incident. Chief Fritz was not in his office at the time, and those present greeted C.F.'s story with considerable derision and skepticism.

Fritz disclaimed any knowledge of a police cordon being thrown around the bridge; he said that if such an order had been given, it could have come from Civil Defense authorities, although he certainly should have known about it. I once again gently raised the question of F.B.I. involvement and Fritz agreed that it would be interesting to know why the F.B.I. should concern itself with something of this sort, but again he emphasized that he had no direct knowledge of any such official investigation.

Toward the end of our interview, Chief Fritz caught me by surprise by offering to drive me out to C.F.'s home. Although he warned me that the young man might not want to discuss the incident because of the ridicule he had encountered upon reporting it at the time, I found his offer to introduce me to the witness

in marked contrast to his earlier resistance to discussion of the case. I quickly accepted his invitation and we left the police station immediately.

A Visit With the Witness

C.F. lived in a farmhouse out on Ridge Road with his wife and her family. Chief Fritz and I arrived at an inopportune time--the family was just getting ready to sit down to dinner. Those present were C.F., his parents-in-law, a baby, and later, his brother-in-law. We spent no more than ten minutes with them since it was apparent that our visit was not welcome. C.F.'s discomfort, as a matter of fact, was painfully evident. I made every effort to reassure him that my reason for being there was not to embarrass him in any way, but merely to obtain any factual information he might be able to provide. He was willing to part with precious little.

C.F. stated at the outset, and in no uncertain terms, that he would not discuss the incident with anyone, at any time, period. He said he had been ridiculed and abused as a result of his report, and it was quite clear that the young man was very bitter about it. He said that because of his report, he had been forced to quit his job with the Civil Defense. (Chief Fritz told me later that C.F. had resigned because he wanted more responsibility, and Fritz had felt that he lacked sufficient experience; his report of the little men had had nothing to do with it.)

In an effort to elicit some degree of cooperation, I showed C.F. the drawings of the Kelly, Kentucky humanoids. He looked at them with some interest and then volunteered the useful information that the beings he had seen bore no resemblance to the ones in the drawings. When asked if he'd noticed details such as large eyes or claws, C.F. merely remarked that he'd seen "four more-or-less human-looking little men about three feet high," that they had been "moving about oddly" under the bridge, and that there had been "a terrible smell" about the place. He had seen them, he said, for a matter of only ten seconds or so. But more he would not say. He suggested that if I wanted further

details, I would be able to find them in a newspaper account of the incident. I failed to ask either him or Chief Fritz the name and date of the paper that had carried the report--an oversight I find myself still regretting nearly twenty years later. Repeated attempts to find this account have been fruitless.

While the sum total of information gleaned from C.F. was meager, I did leave with more than I had when I arrived. C.F.'s determination not to discuss the case--even more emphatic than either Fritz's or Whitecotton's--was of particular interest. Had the negative reaction to his report been so strong that he harbored a grudge more than a year later? I had given him no reason to expect ridicule or abuse from me; on the contrary, I made my reason for being there quite clear. Then why such a determined wall of resistance? Perhaps it was not his idea.

Was the F.B.I. Involved at Loveland?

It is almost impossible not to speculate about the reluctance of everyone involved in the bridge case to talk about it. Both Chief Fritz and Frank Whitecotton spoke openly of other cases at least as strange as the bridge case. It is my guarded opinion, based upon the impressions drawn from my visits, that C.F. had probably been told to keep quiet about his report, and that Frank Whitecotton and Chief Fritz may also have been asked to say nothing about it. Who might have made such a request?

In his book, Inside Saucer Post . . . 3-0 Blue, Len Stringfield wrote: "I did learn from a member of the school board of that community that the incident [the Loveland bridge case--Ed.] had been investigated by the F.B.I." (1) A request by that agency for silence from citizens in "sensitive" situations (in the interests of "national security," of course) would not be inconsistent with what we already know of its procedural policies. And it would not be the first time, nor the last, that the F.B.I. has been said to figure in UFO cases and humanoid reports.

The first reported instance of alleged F.B.I. involvement in a UFO case was in the William Rhodes sighting at Phoenix, Arizona, on July 7, 1947. In that incident F.B.I. agents are said to have taken the witness's two photographs of the UFO. In this case, the final disposition of these photographs is known. (2) F.B.I. agents were also reported to have been among the witnesses to the green fireball display over New Mexico on December 8, 1948. (3) There was F.B.I. involvement in the Lelah Stoker sighting of an object and occupant in Chicago, Illinois on April 8, 1954, according to the Air Force report (see page vii for a summary of this report.) Again according to the Air Force case file, an F.B.I. agent was present at the first official interview of Patrolman Lonnie Zamora, following his object-occupant sighting at Socorro, New Mexico, on April 24, 1964. Government agents of an unspecified agency quickly stepped in and silenced William Blackburn following his encounter with some humanoids at Brands Flats, Virginia, on January 19, 1965. The Air Force case files on at least six other humanoid reports disclose the same kind of participation by the F.B.I.--and this could be just the tip of the iceberg. There is no hard evidence that the F.B.I. was indeed involved with the bridge case; however, the above-cited precedents could help explain the consistent attitude of the participants in the incident.

Would this theory be invalidated by the fact that Chief Fritz went out of his way to introduce me to the witness, though he had been asked not to discuss the case? Not at all. Even though he might have agreed not to talk about it, it's unlikely that he ever agreed not to introduce C.F. to inquiring UFO investigators. After all, a good, first-hand impression is not the same thing as discussing the matter!

There are other examples of Chief Fritz's willingness to assist me wherever possible. With regard to the Hunnicut encounter at Branch Hill (Chapter VIII), he not only volunteered information about a previously unknown case, but described his own part in it fully and freely. When I told him of my third-

hand information concerning the report of Mrs. Magnone's neighbor, who had seen the "smelly little man" in her Loveland Heights back yard, he volunteered to drive me around to the address listed in the telephone directory for Mrs. Magnone, on the chance that she might be at home. She was not, but this side trip does illustrate that Chief Fritz was quite willing to cooperate in every way he could. (That side trip also provided me with some idea of Mrs. Magnone's neighborhood; it was a newly-developed section of town and I saw no swampy areas nearby that could have accounted for the unusual odor that she and her neighbor had described.)

There is one more important point that should be mentioned. At the peak of press publicity about Hopkinsville and attendant reports, the Air Force, in an obvious effort to counteract and defuse these reports, issued a statement about "flying saucers" and their pilots. Captain Robert White, of the Air Force Office of Information in Washington, told a Scripps-Howard reporter that "the consensus of Americans who've reported seeing invaders from outer space in the past four years is that the space visitors are little guys less than four feet tall, they're greenish, they usually glow, especially if excited, and often they smell bad." (4) The interesting point is that not one of any of the publicized reports of occupants had described odors. On the other hand, odors were associated with unpublished reports from the Loveland area, which might suggest that the Air Force knew something about flying saucer occupants that the public did not.

Regarding C.F.'s story, little can be said about a report in which the only witness has refused to provide essential details. Is this an admission that the story may be false? Whatever C.F.'s reasons were for remaining silent, there was nothing in the information he did provide that would suggest this was the case--quite the contrary. Nor was there anything in what Frank Whitecotton or Chief Fritz said that might suggest either man considered the report to be untrue. It is not likely that

Chief Fritz would have wasted his time driving me out to meet C.F. if he had believed the witness was a liar--had this been the case, he would have told me so in his office. Nor would Mr. Whitecotton have referred us to Chief Fritz in the first place if he had believed C.F.'s story were false.

Based on everything I could learn about the bridge case, I am reasonably satisfied that it probably took place as generally outlined above; that C.F.'s report of it may have created a minor flap at police headquarters that probably resulted in some jurisdictional differences among the various local authorities in charge of such matters; and that the F.B.I. could have been brought into the case through Frank Whitecotton's connection with Civil Defense. It is also possible that a report of the incident lies buried somewhere in the archives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

With this possibility in mind, I wrote a letter to the local F.B.I. office inquiring about such a record. In a letter dated January 21, 1975 (see page 136), Special Agent Palmer M. Baken, Jr., of the Cincinnati office of the Bureau, replied curtly, "Although I would like to be of assistance in connection with your research, this office does not have the information you desire." He regretted being unable to help me, he said. Technically speaking, it may be the truth.

It is more likely that there is some newspaper account of the bridge case buried in a local library or newspaper morgue, or perhaps in someone's personal UFO clipping files, that would substantiate the event, provide a precise date of occurrence, and perhaps add a few more details to the meager few already on record. In the absence of such a reference, the bridge case must be considered inconclusive, lacking sufficient information to make a satisfactory judgment.



*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Post Office Box 1277
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201
January 21, 1975

Mr. Ted Bloecher
317 East 83rd Street
New York, New York 10028

Dear Mr. Bloecher:

Your letter of January 12, 1975, has been received. Although I would like to be of assistance in connection with your research, this office does not have the information you desire.

I regret being unable to be of help in this instance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Palmer M. Baken, Jr.", is written over the typed name.

PALMER M. BAKEN, JR.
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

POST OFFICE BOX 1277
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45201

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

REFERENCES

CHAPTER VI

1. Stringfield, Inside Saucer Post, . . . 3-0, Blue, p. 66.
2. See Ted Bloecher, Report on the UFO Wave of 1947, p. IV-5.
(Published privately by the author, 1967.)
3. See Major Donald E. Keyhoe, Flying Saucers From Outer Space
(Henry Holt and Company, New York, 1953), p. 211.
4. See, for example, Albert Colgrove's syndicated article in
The Cincinnati Post, August 25, 1955, and The New York World
Telegram and Sun, August 25, 1955.

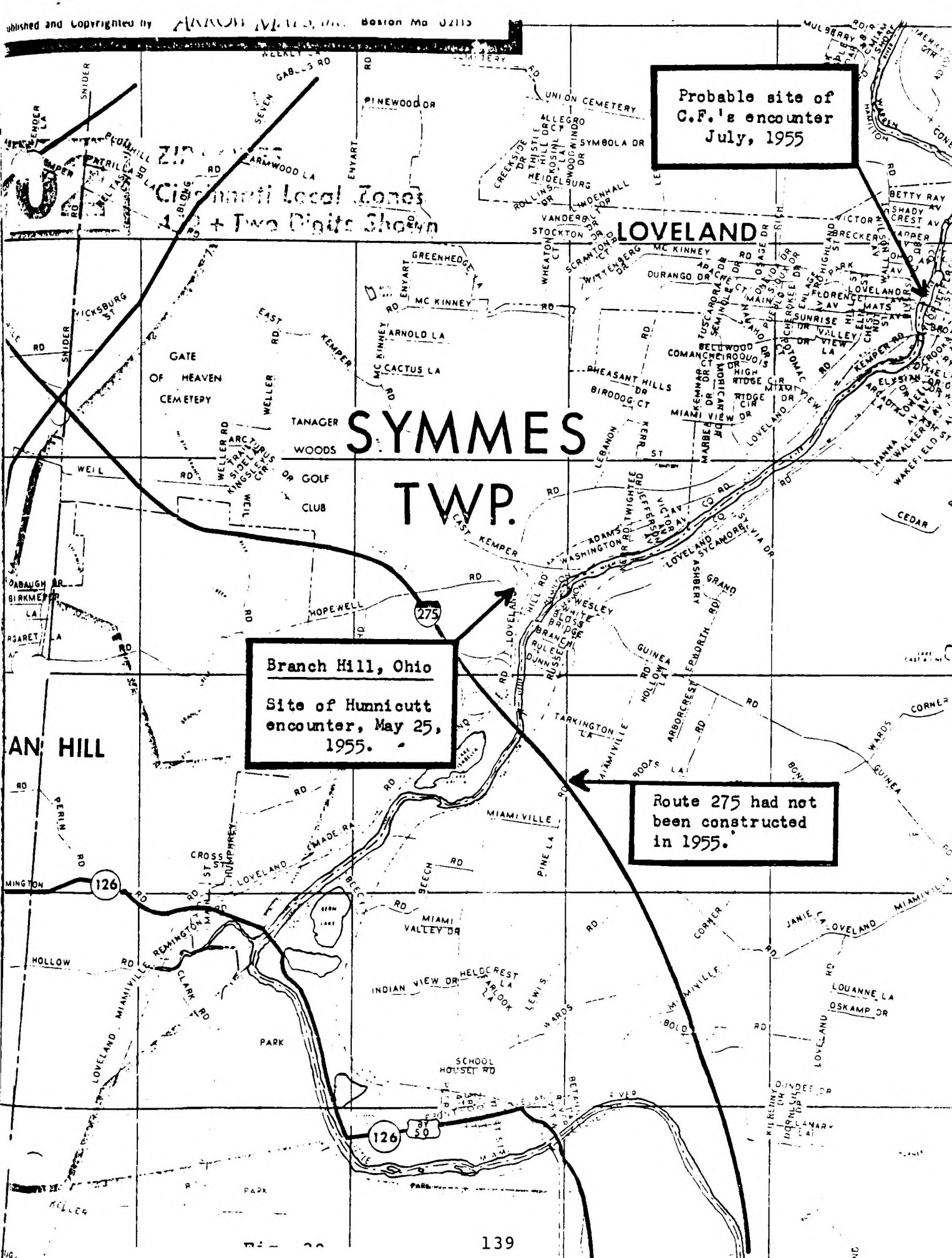
CHAPTER VII

THE HUNNICUTT ENCOUNTER AT BRANCH HILL

May 25, 1955

The Branch Hill encounter was unknown, prior to August 1956, beyond the actual participants. The story came to light during my interview with Loveland Police Chief John K. Fritz on August 31. The meeting had been arranged so that I could inquire about the Loveland bridge case (see Chapter VI). But when I asked him about this at the outset of our interview, Chief Fritz appeared reluctant to discuss it. In what seemed a diversionary tactic, he changed the subject to another humanoid encounter that had occurred near Loveland some months before the bridge case. He showed no hesitation in discussing this case, and freely provided all the details he could recall. He could not remember the exact date but believed it had been in March or April, 1955. He searched his files for the police report on the case, but since he was looking under the wrong date, he was unable to find it.

Chief Fritz told me that this was the kind of a report that "would make your hair stand on end." The back of my neck did tingle perceptibly. He recounted how he had been awakened by someone pounding on his front door about four o'clock in the morning. Upon answering, he found a somewhat shaken man named Robert Hunnicutt standing in the doorway. "He looked as if he'd seen a ghost," Fritz said. Hunnicutt, a short-order chef in a newly-opened Loveland area restaurant, told the police chief that while he was driving northeast through Branch Hill (in Symmes Township) on the Madeira-Loveland Pike, he had seen a



Probable site of
C.F.'s encounter
July, 1955

Cincinnati Local Zones
1 + Two Digits Shown

SYMMES TWP.

Branch Hill, Ohio
Site of Hunnicutt
encounter, May 25,
1955.

Route 275 had not
been constructed
in 1955.

group of "strange little men" along the side of the road with "their backs to the bushes." Curious, he had stopped the car and gotten out. According to Fritz, the witness claimed he had seen "fire coming out of their hands," and that a "terrible odor" permeated the place. When Hunnicutt realized he was looking at something quite out of the ordinary he became frightened; jumping back into his car, he had driven directly to the police chief's home.

Fritz, who knew Hunnicutt, found it difficult to believe the story "straight out," but he said there was no question in his mind that Hunnicutt was "scared to death. . . . The man had seen something, and there's no argument to that." By getting close enough to smell his breath, Fritz was satisfied that there was no question of Hunnicutt's having been drinking. He agreed to check the area and told Hunnicutt to go on home.

Chief Fritz dressed, got his gun and loaded his camera, and drove to the area indicated by Hunnicutt. He made four or five passes along the road looking for signs of something unusual but saw nothing out of the ordinary. Alone, with the details of Hunnicutt's strange story fresh in his mind, Fritz acknowledged that he indeed "felt peculiar." He also felt, he said, like he might be "the biggest fool in Loveland."

Asked why he had taken a camera, Fritz said he wanted evidence in the form of photographs if he came upon anything unusual. Asked what he would have done had he encountered the strange beings, he replied that he would have gotten out of his car "and tried to talk to them, to find out where they come from." He added that "someone has to do it sooner or later."

While Hunnicutt had not reported seeing a UFO, Chief Fritz said that there had been a sighting earlier that same night by members of the local GOC. The UFO sighting was later reported in the local newspaper, the Loveland Herald, but Fritz did not have a copy of the press story. This proved an important reference, however, serving to date Hunnicutt's encounter precisely. Chief Fritz willingly provided the current address of the witness

who, at the time of the inquiry, resided in Avondale. He was contacted immediately upon my return from Loveland, and agreed to meet with the Stringfields and me on the following evening.

Hunnicut's Strange Story

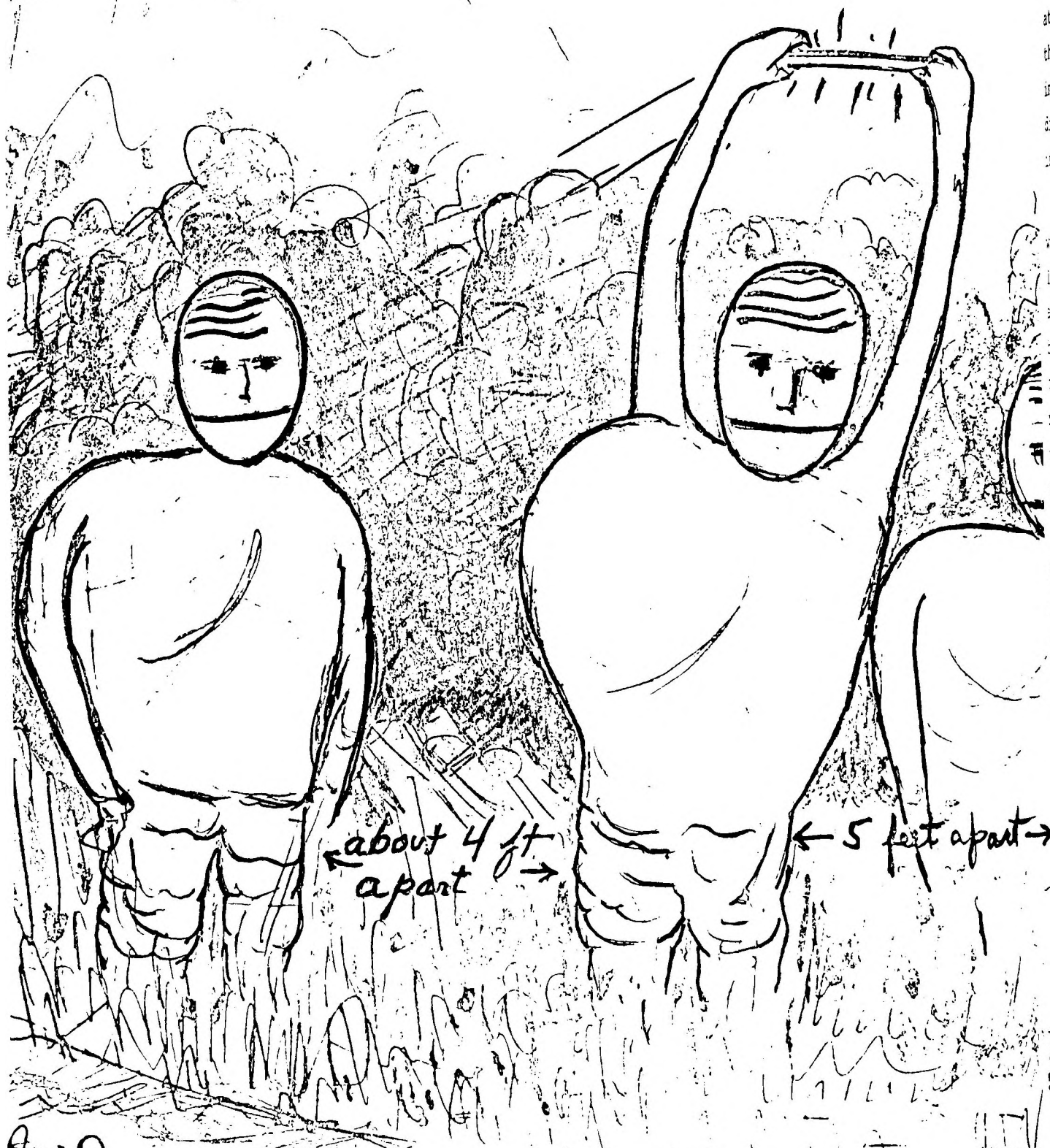
At the time of our interview on September 1, 1956, Robert Hunnicut was the maitre d' of a restaurant in downtown Cincinnati. We met him early in the evening, before he was scheduled to go on duty, and spent more than an hour with him going over the details of his strange experience. Extensive notes were taken and Stringfield made a drawing of the "little men" under the careful supervision of the witness. Hunnicutt was cooperative in responding to our many questions, and impressed us with the cautious manner in which he reconstructed all those details he could accurately recall.

As did Chief Fritz, Hunnicutt placed the date in either March or April, 1955. He was returning home from work on that morning at about 3:30 a.m., driving north on the Madeira-Loveland Pike, in the vicinity of Hopewell Road at Branch Hill in Symmes Township. As he topped a rise in the road and was coming down a slight grade, his car lights fell on what he first thought were three men kneeling down in the grass on the right side of the road, just inside the berm.

"My first impression," he told us, "was that there were three crazy guys praying by the side of the road." Hunnicutt brought his car to a stop "to see what gives," with the car lights illuminating the scene. It was at this point that he realized these were not three kneeling men: a sense of something quite extraordinary came over him as he saw that the figures before him were not even men.

The figures were short, about three and a half feet in height, and they stood in a roughly triangular position facing the opposite side of the road. One was forward and closer to the shoulder, and to the witness, while the other two stood in flank positions to the rear. The forward figure held his arms

creatures about 3½ ft. tall.
witnessed by Robert Hunnicott
May 25, 1955



ROAD

Drawn by Len Stringfield
Sept. 1-'56 under direction

a foot or so above his head and it appeared to Hunnicutt as though he were holding a rod, or a chain, in this upraised position. (This detail of upraised arms was described in both the Stockton, Georgia, encounter (See Chapter VIII) and in the Kelly case (Part One)). Sparks, blue-white in color and two or three at a time, were seen jumping back and forth from one hand to the other, just above and below the "rod." It was Hunnicutt's impression that the beings were concentrating on some spot directly across the road, although he could see nothing unusual in the woods to the west of the Pike.

As Hunnicutt got out of the left side of his car, the forward figure lowered his arms and near his feet appeared to release whatever he had been holding. To the witness, "it looked as if he tied it around his ankles." Then, as Hunnicutt stood by the left side of the car, all three figures simultaneously turned slightly toward their left so that they now faced the witness. Motionless, and without sound or change of expression, they stared directly at him. In the car lights Hunnicutt was able to observe a number of details.

This most extraordinary trio was made up of three humanoid figures of a greyish color--approximately the same shade of grey for their heads as for their "garments." "Fairly ugly" were the words Hunnicutt used to describe them. A large, straight mouth, without any apparent lip muscles, crossed nearly the entire lower portion of their faces--an effect which reminded the witness of a frog. The nose was indistinct, with no unusual feature that the witness could discern. The eyes seemed to be more or less normal, except that no eyebrows could be seen. The pate was bald and appeared to have rolls of fat running horizontally across the top, rather like the corrugated effect of a doll's painted-on hair--except that there was no difference in color.

The most remarkable feature was the upper torso: the chest was decidedly lopsided. On the right side it swelled out in an unusually large bulge that began under the armpit and extended down to the waist, giving the figures a markedly asymmetrical

appearance. The arms seemed to be of uneven length, the right being longer than the left, as though to accommodate this unusual feature. (The lopsided torso seems to be a detail unique among humanoid reports; no other example has yet been found that matches it.) Hunnicutt saw nothing unusual about the hands, although he could not say how many fingers they had.

If the beings wore garments above their waists, they were tight-fitting and of the same grey color as the rest of the body. There was no line of demarcation to be detected between a garment and the skin itself. Below the waist, however, there seemed to be a loose-fitting garment of the same grey color, but Hunnicutt was unable to recall any details other than that the hips and waist appeared to be "heavy." He could see no feet, but the figures stood in six-inch high grass.

Hunnicutt's car was parked about 10 feet away from the humanoids. After standing next to the left-hand door for perhaps a minute or a minute and a half, his curiosity overcame whatever fear he may have felt and he started to walk around the left front of the car toward the beings. As he reached the front fender, the little humanoids simultaneously moved slightly forward and toward the witness--a "peculiar" motion that was quite "definite and graceful." Hunnicutt had the distinct impression that he should approach no closer--he said that no words were needed to convey this message. He stood by the front fender for perhaps two or three minutes more, too amazed by this bizarre spectacle to be frightened.

Hunnicutt said that when he finally left, it was merely to get someone else to see these outlandish figures. Getting back into his car, he was suddenly aware of an extremely strong and penetrating odor; it was most noticeable as he drove off. He compared it to a combination of "fresh-cut alfalfa, with a slight trace of almonds." Only as he drove away, past these three grotesques, did the frightening implications of what he had seen begin to sink in. Although it was nearly four o'clock in the morning, he drove directly to the home of Loveland Police Chief John K. Fritz.

Hunnicuttt said he had an impression that he may have intruded upon some kind of an "operation." Asked to explain, he said that when he realized the figures weren't praying, he got the distinct feeling that the forward figure was using the implement in his hands as a signal to someone, or some thing, in the woods on the opposite side of the road, although he could see nothing in the darkness along this sparsely settled section of Branch Hill.

Regarding the odor, Hunnicutt said that several months later (in July or August), he was driving along the same road with a girl friend late at night. When he passed the site of his earlier encounter, both he and the girl noticed the same strong odor he had smelled before. He stopped the car, looked around and seeing nothing unusual, drove on.

Hunnicuttt also confirmed that there had been a UFO sighting at the Loveland GOC post earlier on the same night he encountered the "little men." He said that an account of this observation had been published in the next edition of the local paper.

UFO Sighting at Loveland GOC

During our August 26 interview with Frank Whitecotton at the Stringfield's home, Mr. Whitecotton had mentioned several UFO sightings by members of the Loveland GOC post. One sighting in particular he described in great detail. His wife and another woman were manning the post one evening in the spring of 1955 when several objects were spotted. An official report was made to the filter center of Columbus, and jets were scrambled to investigate. One of the UFO's buzzed the GOC tower and so frightened Mrs. Whitecotton and her colleague that they fled the post, leaving the door to the tower wide open.

Mr. Whitecotton considered this particular incident important, and because of its official status, asked us not to take notes. Not yet having heard of the Hunnicutt encounter at Branch Hill on the same night as a GOC sighting at Loveland, we were unaware of the significance of Mr. Whitecotton's account. Neither Len nor I tried to commit the details of his story to paper after he had left.

Several years later, however, on a subsequent visit to Cincinnati, I had an opportunity to go through the newspaper morgue of the Loveland Herald in search of the press reference to the GOC sighting mentioned by both Chief Fritz and Robert Hunnicutt. The story had been published on Thursday, June 2, 1955.

FOUR 'FLYING SAUCERS' SIGHTED BY LOVELAND GOC TOWER

Planes Sent Up to Check Object Reported by Observer
With Long Service

On Tuesday, May 24, at 7:48 p.m., according to the log which is kept of the flights of planes reported at the Ground Observer Tower on Lebanon Road, four flying saucers flying in formation passed over and were reported to Columbus by the observer on duty.

They were flying in a northerly direction and when reported to Columbus planes were sent out to identify them. No public report came back to the tower, but this is regular practice and none was expected.

The observer on duty at the time was Mrs. Frank Whitecotton. She had served more hours in the observation tower than any other person and was said to be thoroughly qualified in plane identification and reporting.

"This may come as somewhat of a surprise to some of the skeptics, but now that flying saucers have been identified here by one of our own workers, let us not be lulled into complacency," a C.D. official said.

"Keep the watch tower occupied at all times. The very moment it is left unmanned may be the time the enemy will strike. Join the GOC today. It will be a pleasant place to spend a few hours each week this summer."

It was not until this important reference was found that a connection could be made between Frank Whitecotton's report of the Loveland GOC sighting and the news account mentioned by Chief Fritz and Robert Hunnicutt. Although the news item abounds in non sequiturs and promotional "hype" for the local GOC, it unfortunately lacks any of the dramatic details regarding the UFO sighting that were described by Mr. Whitecotton. It does serve

the vital purpose, on the other hand, of providing the correct date for the Hunnicutt encounter at Branch Hill.

A Credible Account of an Incredible Encounter

Although this report involves only a single witness, there are other points that argue favorably for its credibility. Robert Hunnicutt was straightforward and cooperative in answering all our questions about his experience, and in helping Stringfield prepare a sketch of the humanoids. His manner was quiet and cautious, given to understatement in recounting the details. If he was uncertain about a particular point, he said so. Nothing in his presentation suggested that he was elaborating or lying. Internally, there was nothing in his story that was inconsistent with what Chief Fritz had already reported to me. Hunnicutt's reconstruction of his encounter impressed us as being a careful recollection of his observation of strange and unidentifiable beings--beings certainly not native to Ohio, nor to any other part of the world with which we are familiar.

Hunnicutt's initial response to the situation is also significant. He responded by reporting it immediately to the Chief of Police. This would hardly have been the case, and particularly at that hour of the morning, if Hunnicutt had not been quite certain about what he had seen. Chief Fritz's account of his own involvement supports Hunnicutt's report: it was evident that Fritz took the story seriously enough to get dressed and go out to the site to investigate. Finally, the news story about the UFO sighting at the Loveland GOC post earlier in the evening, to which both men referred, lends additional weight to the report. (The relationship--if any--of the UFO sighting to Hunnicutt's encounter, remains uncertain.)

Hunnicutt never sought publicity as a result of his encounter. The report came to our attention by chance, and it was Stringfield and I who sought the witness out. Once contacted, he asked only that his name not be associated with any published account of the incident. (Unfortunately, this request was

ignored by others and his name has been part of the published record for a number of years.)

The temptation to dismiss Hunnicutt's story because it is so strange is understandable. But such encounters with strange and unidentifiable life-forms continue to be reported in great volume. Only by carefully examining these accounts, and those who make them, can we find the clues to the nature of the phenomenon.

CHAPTER VIII
MRS. SYMMONDS AT STOCKTON
July 3, 1955

The News Account

On August 22 and 23, 1955, newspapers all over the country were publishing stories from Hopkinsville, Kentucky, about the farmhouse "siege" by that infamous "army of little green men." The attendant publicity brought to light still another encounter with diminutive humanoids that had occurred in southern Georgia seven weeks earlier. The single witness was a Cincinnati-area resident who had been en route to Florida for a vacation with her husband. On August 23, the Cincinnati Post printed the following account, which was picked up by the wire services and carried in a number of national daily newspapers.

CINCINNATIANS SAW LITTLE GREEN MEN, TOO

Woman Tried to Keep Experience Quiet; She Feared No
One Would Believe Her

By Charles Doctor

Mrs. Margaret Symmonds, 52, of 5133 Highview Drive, never told anybody but her closest friends because she was positive no one would believe her. But the story got out.

She saw the little green men.

It happened while she was driving late one night near Stockton, Ga. Her husband knew of it and so did a few others. But Mrs. Symmonds never said a word publicly until The Post told the story Monday of the Hopkinsville, Ky., farm family which reported an all-night battle with the "green men from outer space."

Mrs. Symmonds told the story of her experience Tuesday. She said:

"It happened about 3:30 a.m. July 3, near Stockton, Ga. My husband Wesley and I were driving through the night for a summer vacation in Florida. I was at the wheel. Wesley was in the back sleeping.

"Suddenly, there in the middle of the road were four little men about three feet tall wearing greenish-gray coats. They had little sticks and looked like they were digging in the road.

"I screamed and turned the car towards the side of the road to avoid them. Then I stepped on the gas. I was petrified.

"Wesley woke up. I told him what happened. He wanted to go back and see them. But not me!!"

When Mrs. Symmonds got to Miami, Fla., she met a good friend, Mrs. Bart Mangini, of 2069 Fanwood Avenue. She told Mrs. Mangini about her encounter with the little green men. Mrs. Mangini cautioned her against telling anyone else about it. Mrs. Symmonds took the advice.

Mrs. Symmonds says the green creatures reminded her of the witch on the broom. She admits, "It does sound like a strange story when you tell it. But it isn't when you see it. It scares you."

Accompanying this article was a photograph of Mr. and Mrs. Symmonds standing by the Post cartoonist's desk, on which an imaginative drawing (see Figure 22) could be seen. Two days later, this drawing was carried by the wire services along with the Air Force public relations statement by Captain Robert White on "flying saucers" and "little green men." Printed as a representation of the "little men" reported by Mrs. Symmonds, there was no explanation that this cartoon had been prepared before Mrs. Symmonds told her story to Charles Doctor of the Post, and that it was not, in fact, an accurate depiction of the creatures she saw.

Len Stringfield summarized Mrs. Symmonds' story in the September 3, 1955 issue of his CRIFO Orbit. Since this was one of the humanoid reports about which we sought additional first-



Figure 22. SINGLE FIGURE SKETCHED BY CINCINNATI POST ARTIST
FROM MRS. SYMONDS'S DESCRIPTION

hand information a year later, he arranged a meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Symmonds at his home while I was visiting in Cincinnati. This August 28 meeting gave us the opportunity to check carefully all the details of Mrs. Symmonds' encounter.

Mrs. Symmonds' Deposition

Besides giving us her first-hand account of the Stockton encounter, Mrs. Symmonds provided a most valuable reference--a transcript of a deposition she had made on September 5, 1955 for Calvin W. Prem, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Hamilton County, as follows:

State of Ohio
County of Hamilton } S.S.

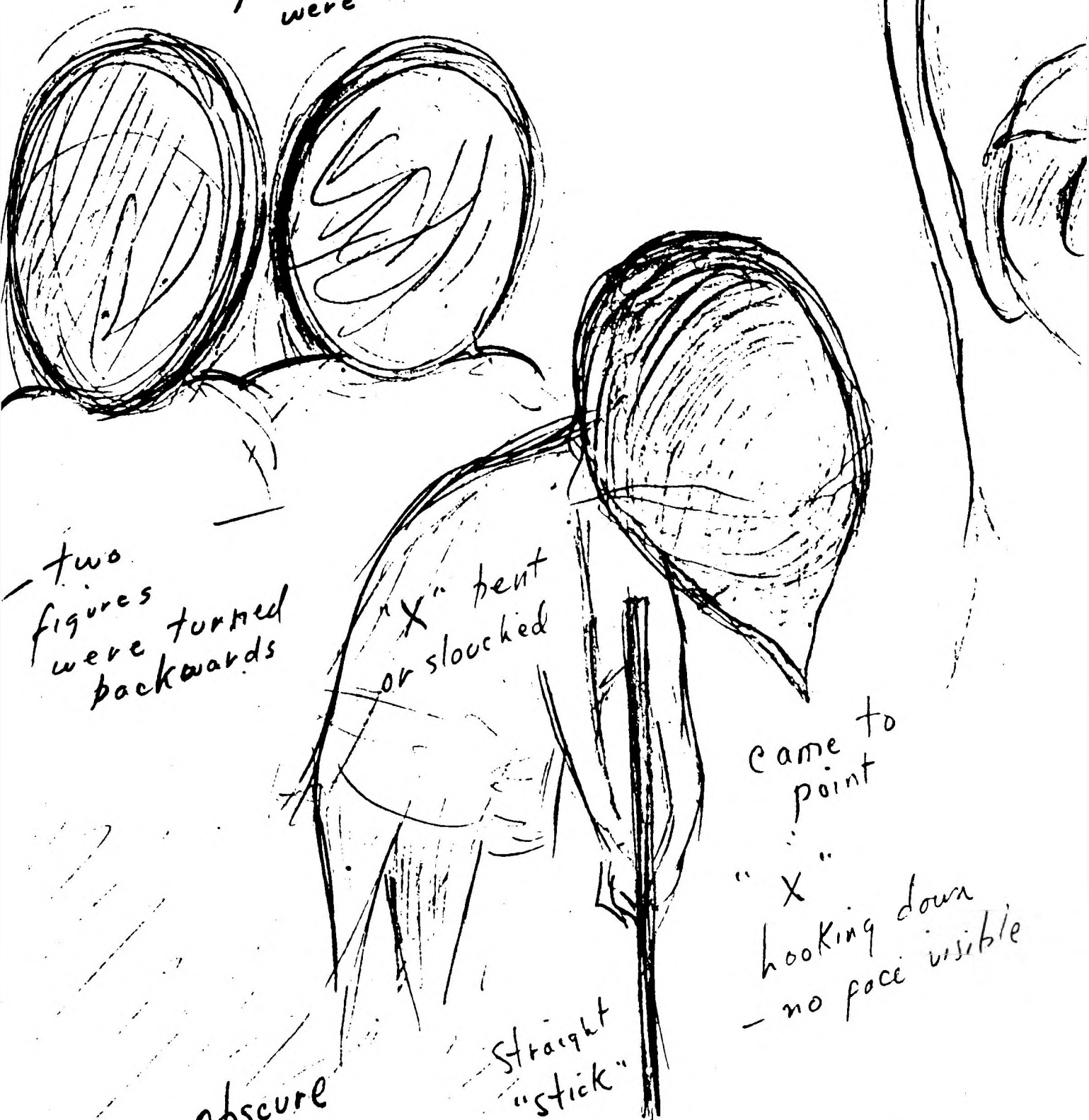
Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, personally appeared Margaret Symmonds, of 5133 Highway Avenue, Covedale, Hamilton County, Ohio, and states that she and her husband were driving to Florida on Saturday and Sunday, July 2nd-3rd, 1955, in their brand new Oldsmobile; that she left Cincinnati 7:30 a.m. Saturday and drove straight through, stopping regularly along the way; that she and her husband alternated driving; that she was driving about 3:30 a.m. on highway 129 just south of Stockton, Georgia; that Mr. Symmonds was dozing on the rear seat; and makes the following statement, to wit:

It was a clear night, the moon was shining, there were no houses, you could see for quite a way, the road was straight and good--it was a two (2) lane highway with flat shoulders on each side. I was driving at about 60 mph. I first noticed something in the center of the road when my headlights, which were on the upper beam, shone on four objects that I first thought were animals--maybe hogs or something. As I drove closer I reduced speed because I didn't want to hit them. Then, as I got almost up to them, I could see that they were wearing some kind of clothing--what appeared to be capes--grey-greenish

Fig. 23. FIGURES DESCRIBED

BY MRS. SYMMONDS

Two background figures were indistinct



two figures were turned backwards

"X" bent or slouched

came to point

"X" hooking down - no face visible

Obscure

Straight "stick"

no waver

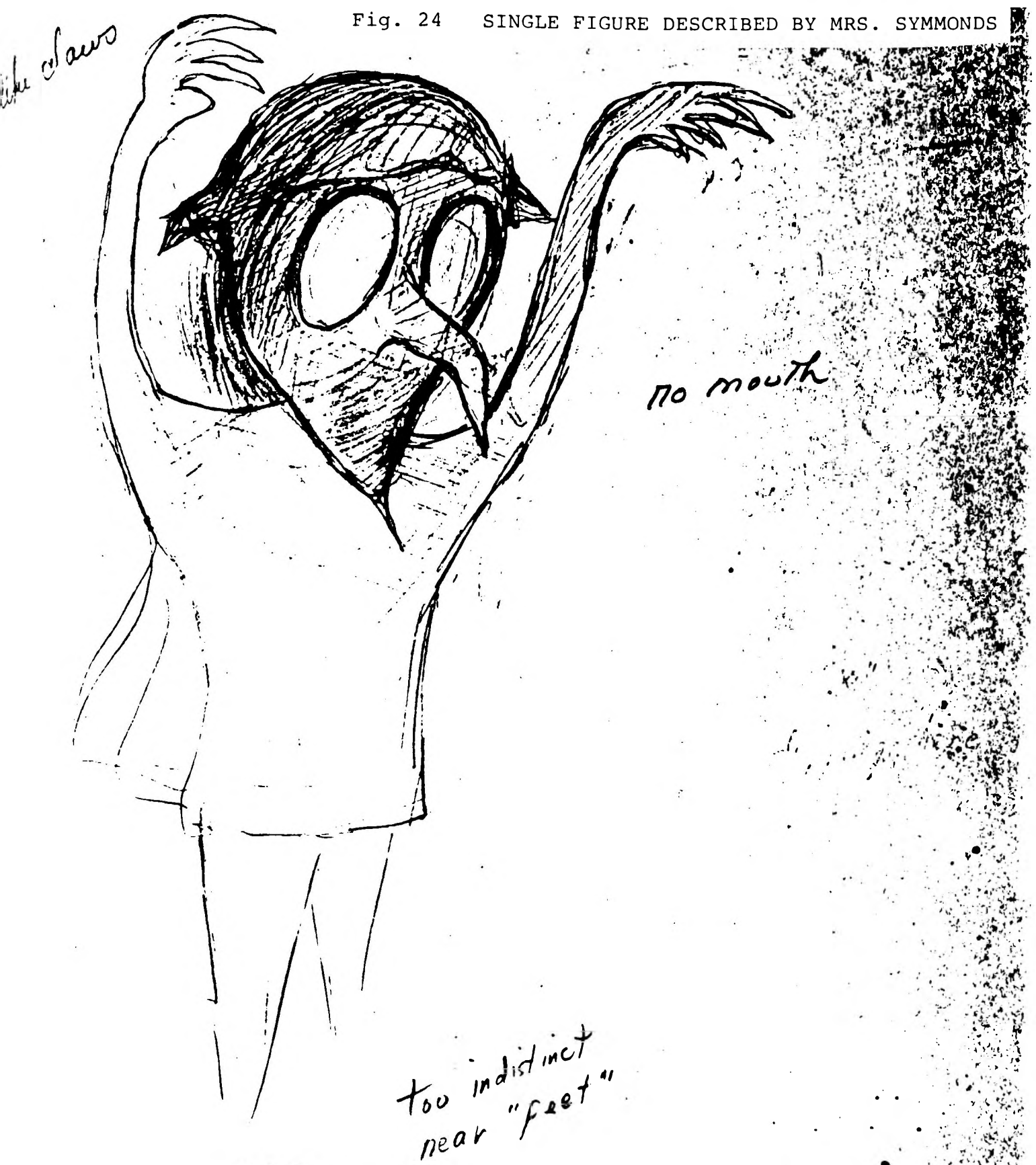
Drawn by L.H Stringfield Aug 28, 1956

in color. One of them had what looked like a stick and they were huddled together in the center of the road as though they were about to dig in the road.

As I drove up, I had slowed down to about 40 mph. One of the things stepped to the side about a foot to get out of my way, and looked right at me. He had the stick in his hand. His arms looked longer than would be proportionate for the size of the body. The head looked to be of approximately normal size, only roundish. (Mrs. Symmonds explained to us that a normal-sized human head on a body the size of these beings appeared out of proportion.) It had what looked like a slouch hat on turned down all around. I had never seen anything like them before and I had never seen any clothes or material like that, either. The eyes, there were two of them, were big, like saucers, and they reflected a reddish light. I saw no pupils. I was terrified. As I drove close, I swerved to the right side of the road, but I didn't lose control of the car. I passed close enough to reach out and touch them. I speeded up right away and kept driving. I screamed and my husband woke up. He wanted to go back and see what it was, but I was afraid.

The nose was long--real long--and pointed. It reminded me of a witch. I heard no noise. And I smelled nothing peculiar. I was told since I came back and told what I saw that these things are supposed to smell, but I didn't smell anything.

The mouth seemed small to me. I didn't notice any lips. The lights didn't seem to bother them any. And except for that one step that the one took sideways, that was the only movement. The others didn't look up. I would say that they were all about the same size and about up to the bottom of my car window. Maybe about 3½ or 4 feet high. Their legs appeared to be short. I couldn't see too much about their bodies because of the cape. I didn't see any button on the front of the thing. That was drawn there by the Post's artist. By the way, he drew



Mrs. Symmonds - Stockton, GA

Drawn by L. H. Stringfield

Aug 29 1956

two pictures before I got there, then had me pick one out and made several changes as I told him about what I saw. When I told him about the slouch hat, the artist drew one on and a photographer took my picture. That's the one that was in the paper last week (the Cincinnati Post, August 23, 1955).

The hands had claws on them, real long claws. I don't know how many fingers or if one was short like a thumb. And I didn't pay too much attention to the feet. It seems to me that they were not of unusual size or shape. The skin seemed to be a dark color and very rough or coarse. I don't know if it was scaly or not. The legs seemed to be very short for the size of the body, and the arms seemed long. The one holding the stick held it in his right hand (in describing this detail to us, Mrs. Symmonds was certain that the figure holding the stick used both "hands" to grasp it) and although I don't know what kind of a stick it was, it was short and as he held his arms in a hanging position, the stick touched the ground. When I first saw them, the one with the stick had his back to me. His shoulders were very square and seemed unusually strong-looking for that size body.

This is exactly, as clearly as I can recall and describe, what I saw. I was not drinking or groggy from driving. My head was clear--I was chewing gum. I told my friends in Florida about what I saw and, since I returned to Cincinnati, only a few close friends and members of the family. Most people laugh at me and think that I'm crazy, but I know what I saw. I was not seeing things.

I was going to call the Post as soon as I got back, but because almost everybody laughed at me, I decided not to. Then last week, when I read about that story about those people in Hopkinsville, Ky., seeing "little green men," I called the Post--Charlie Doctor is who I talked to--and reported what I saw in Georgia. They took a description over the phone. It was later when I went there and saw the two drawings they had.

I have read this statement, consisting of four (4) pages, each one initialed by me, and, being duly cautioned and sworn, say that it was written in my presence, and in the presence of my husband, Wesley Symmonds, by Calvin W. Prem, a Notary; that it is true and correct.

(signed) Margaret Symmonds

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 5th day of September, 1955.

(signed) Calvin W. Prem
Notary Public in and
for the State of Ohio.
My commission expires
10/26/57.

Witness

(signed) Wesley Symmonds

Additional Details

In addition to going over each point of the deposition in detail with us, Mrs. Symmonds assisted Len in preparing an accurate drawing of the creatures she had seen (see pages 151, 153 and 155 for drawings by Cincinnati Post and by Leonard Stringfield). While she was doing this, she realized for the first time that her sworn statement was incorrect in one detail: it was not the figure closest to her that had held the stick, but the figure to its right, standing in the center of the highway, "poking" at the road. When she recalled that the figure standing closest to her--the one that had stepped to the side as she passed--was standing with its arms upraised above its head, she suddenly realized, "Why, he couldn't have been holding the stick, he had his arms up!" Mrs. Symmonds told us that she saw no evidence of an elbow joint on the figure with upraised arms.

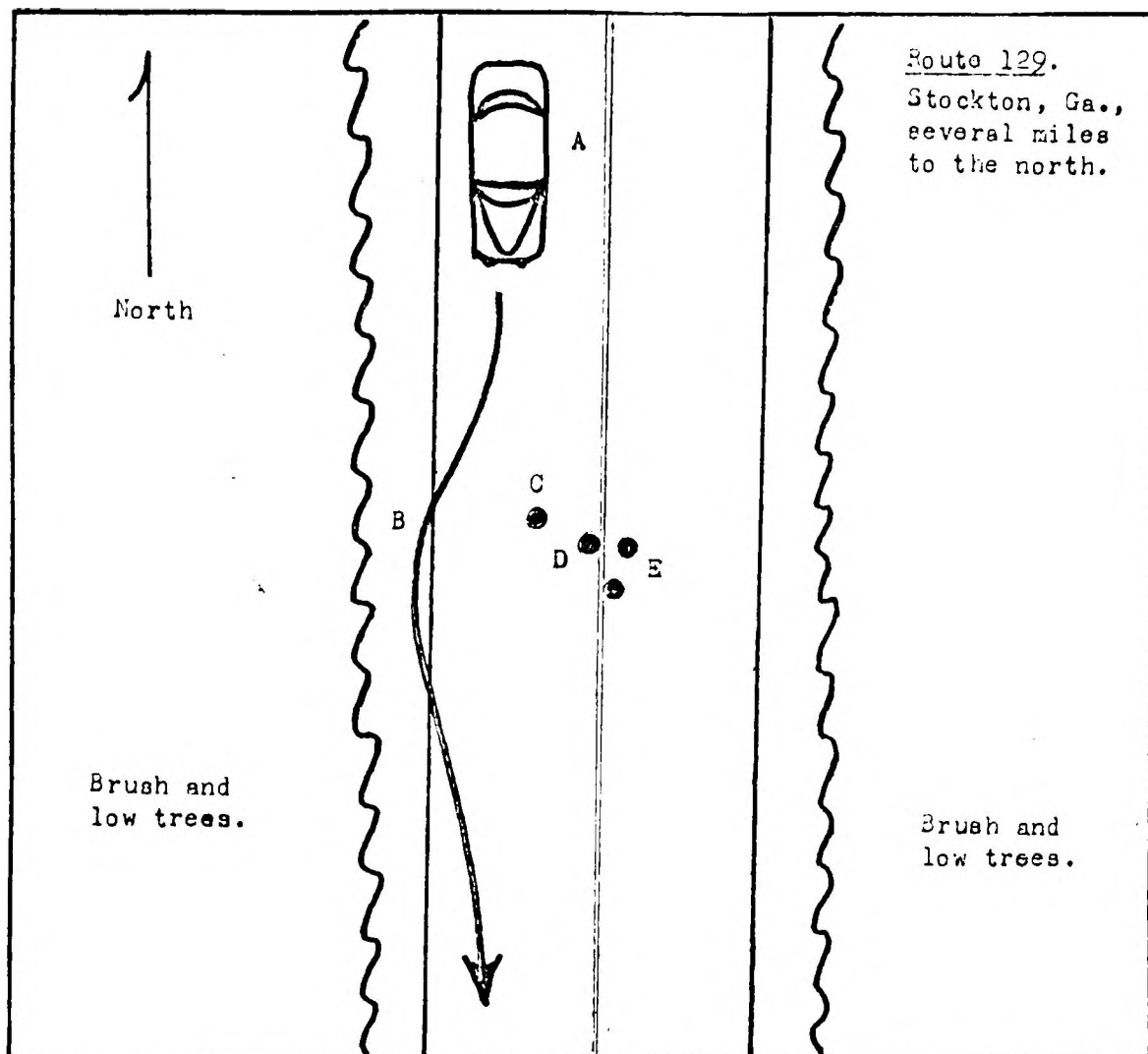
Mrs. Symmonds made one other important correction: in her deposition, the figures are described as "grey-greenish" in color. She said emphatically that the beings were grey, not green, and she could not account for this error in her statement. Interestingly, the same mistake occurred in the news report of the incident, as it did in most of the press accounts of the Hopkinsville encounter. At the time, "little green men" had jokingly become the generic title of "flying saucer" occupants. Not only the press, but the Air Force as well, found the term appropriate for use in their public pronouncements on the subject, carrying, as it did, the taint of the ridiculous. Possibly even notary publics found the word "green" irresistible, despite the lack of justification for its use.

Mrs. Symmonds recalled one particular aspect of her observation that stuck in her mind as most unusual: as she drove by the group of figures, the three in the center of the road "didn't move a muscle"; the only movement of any kind was the "little step backward" by the figure nearest to the car. Otherwise, she said, the group appeared to be entirely oblivious of her presence.

The entire incident took place in less than 30 seconds, according to Mrs. Symmonds. A duration of half that time would probably be more accurate, since the distance involved was certainly no more than several hundred feet; a car traveling at 40 miles per hour would cover the distance in a matter of seconds. Although she had seen no sign of a UFO near the site, Mrs. Symmonds passed through the area very quickly, and as she pointed out, "anything could have been hidden in the bushes to the side of the road."

Mrs. Symmonds told us that she and her husband had driven over the same route on the annual Florida vacation in 1956, and they had paid close attention to the area several miles south of Stockton on Route 129. It was desolate country, Mrs. Symmonds said, devoid of any houses or signs of human habitation. The highway is lined on both sides with low trees and scrub brush.

Fig. 25 DIAGRAM OF HIGHWAY SHOWING LOCATION OF SMALL FIGURES AND CAR



Mrs. Margaret Symmonds, driving south in car (A) on Route 129, several miles south of Stockton, Georgia, saw four creatures (C, D, & E) ahead of her in the middle of the road. As she approached, she slowed down and swerved to the right on the shoulder of the highway (B) to avoid hitting creature standing in her lane (C). Creature in the center (D) was "poking at the road" with a stick-like object. Two creatures in the rear (E) had their backs to the witness.

Just as she swerved to avoid hitting creature (C), he stepped to the side, away from the car. The others did not look up, and the one with the stick (D) held the stick in two hands. Mrs. Symmonds passed to the right of them within three or four feet, but close enough to (C) to reach out and touch him. The entire episode took less than 30 seconds, from the moment she first spotted them until she drove past them and, screaming, woke up her husband, who had been sleeping in back.

It is the sort of isolated landscape where "anything might happen and there would be no one within miles to know of it," she told us.

In our interview with the witness, Mrs. Symmonds gave us a clear and detailed account of her experience in Georgia. Straightforward and cooperative, there was nothing in her manner or presentation to suggest that she was elaborating on the facts or lying. The two corrections in her deposition regarding the figure holding the stick and the color of the creatures were called to our attention at once, and the points were properly cleared up. She was quite certain that what she described to us was a true and accurate recollection of the event, and she gave us no reason to doubt her.

Because there was no UFO associated with Mrs. Symmond's encounter, a search of various newspaper sources was made to see if there were any reports of aerial phenomena in the Stockton area at that time. None was found, but in spite of the absence of any associated UFO activity, it is possible to compare certain features of the Stockton humanoids with those of reported UFO occupants--the large, luminous eyes, the clawed hands, and the size of the beings, for example. Lacking specific evidence of related UFO activity, however, it is reasonable to conclude that whatever it was that Mrs. Symmonds saw on this isolated stretch of Georgia highway, it was certainly not native to that area--nor to any other part of the world we know. For this reason, Mrs. Symmonds' encounter must be classified as unexplained.

CHAPTER IX
THE HAIRY LITTLE MAN OF EDISON
July 20-25, 1955

Within three weeks of Margaret Symmonds' encounter near Stockton, a series of incidents involving a "little man" occurred near Edison, in Calhoun County, Georgia, 100 miles west-northwest of Stockton. These encounters extended over a six-day period, were contained within an area of several square miles, involved at least four primary witnesses (two of them children) and produced certain physical evidence that lent credence to the testimonies of the adult observers. Unlike the incident at Stockton, which had no local news coverage in Georgia, the Edison encounters generated considerable local interest as well as state newspaper coverage.

The stories did not receive national press attention until a similar incident on August 1 was picked up by the wire services. Brief mention was then made of the earlier reports at Edison, although the references lacked any substantial detail.

In preparing this report on the Georgia creatures, it was necessary to fill in the gaps in the Edison references, and a library search of available Georgia newspapers was undertaken. Written requests for information were sent to more than a dozen local newspapers and libraries in southern Georgia; only one responded with definite references. Atlanta newspapers on file at the Library of Congress, in Washington, D.C., were then consulted, and these accounts provided some of the information on the Edison incidents (1).

Summary of the News Reports

The first encounter, according to press accounts, took place on Wednesday, July 20, around midday on the Three Springs ranch of Wayne Dozier, a local farmer and vocational agriculture teacher at Edison high school. Tant King, one of Dozier's farm hands, was mowing alfalfa when he saw a strange little figure emerge from the woods adjoining the field and walk upright along the fence that enclosed the field. According to King, the creature was about three and a half feet tall, "a hairy little grey man without clothes." Although he admitted being frightened by this weird apparition, King remained at his job in the field and watched the creature for about 25 minutes, when it finally wandered back into the woods.

Later in the afternoon, King told Dozier about his odd encounter and the rancher made a thorough search of the field. He found fresh tracks, presumably left by the little creature: these were described as "being about the size of a hand with four claws turned out sideways." On the following day, July 21, Dozier made another examination of the field and this time, besides finding fresh tracks, he found a "tuft of white hair" snagged on the barbed-wire fence running along the field. The strands of hair were curly and about two and a half inches long. Dozier sent the sample to the crime laboratory of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, in Atlanta, for analysis. On Saturday, July 23, more fresh footprints of the same description were found in the area. By this time the report was circulating locally that Wayne Dozier's farm was haunted by "a hairy little ghost."

The next appearance of the creature occurred on Sunday, July 24, within a few miles of the Dozier ranch. "Oh, it ain't no ghost," said Mrs. Alberta Donnell, the second person to see the little man. "They said they seen his tracks, and ghosts don't leave tracks," she explained.

Mrs. Donnell, mother of five children, saw the creature "wading across the pasture" during the afternoon. "I seen all the

cattle runnin' up this way and I wondered what was after 'em," she said. "Directly, we seen this thing walkin' up this way." She described the "thing" as "shaggy, about four feet high," and "mole-colored." With her at the time was her small son Toby, and together they watched it approach the house from the pasture. It finally "disappeared behind a gum tree" about 400 yards away. Mrs. Donnell said that following its appearance, the cows refused to go near the spot where the "thing" had come out of the woods. "I got a heap o' cotton down yonder by the woods that needs pickin' bad," she complained, "and it's gonna rot if they don't hurry up and find that thing."

The next day, Monday, July 25, Mrs. Donnell's daughter, Martha, spotted the creature in another part of the same field. She described it as walking upright, about "shoulder-high," hairy and "brownish in color." On July 27, more fresh tracks were found on the Dozier farm, and small melon-like citrons nearby were found partially eaten, with an animal's toothprints in the rind. A neighboring farmer named Julian Lane also reported that some of his canteloupes had been found partially eaten.

On July 28, Dozier and a group of friends waited in the field for four hours, hoping in vain to catch sight of the little creature. On the same day, Calhoun County Sheriff Ivan Jones pledged the full cooperation of his county department in a search for "the thing"--although no one was quite certain of what it was they were looking for. Dozier wished that, whatever "it" was, "it" would either be caught or shot as soon as possible; he was getting fed up with being teased about his "little grey ghost."

On August 2, the Atlanta Journal released the findings of Dr. Herman Jones, director of the GBI crime laboratory, on the sample of hair submitted by Wayne Dozier. Jones identified the hair "as of human origin." Jones emphasized that "there was no proof" that the hair came from "the thing"; he said "the hair could have been deposited there by a human climbing over the fence." Mrs. Herman Jones, the director's wife and herself a toxicologist in her husband's laboratory, suggested that "a person

mending a fence" could have left the strand of hair, but there was no confirmation from Dozier that this had been the case. Her offer of the return of the sample to the appropriate owner went unanswered.

On the same day that Dr. Jones released his finding, Sheriff Ivan Jones called "the thing" of Calhoun County "more of a mystery than ever." Said Sheriff Jones: "It's spooky. Those who say they have seen it declare it walks on two legs like a human. I haven't seen it. So far I've been unable to find any of its tracks."

On August 3, the Atlanta Constitution quoted an anonymous source as claiming that the creature was one of two coyotes that had been brought to Early County (just southwest of Calhoun County) two years before. One of these coyotes had recently disappeared, and this was now put forth as an explanation for the creature encounters at Edison. The source did not say who had taught the coyote to walk on its hind legs "like a human."

Not having met any of the participants in the series of encounters at Edison, I cannot judge their individual reliability. The central figure, Wayne Dozier, although himself not a witness, seems from press accounts to be an honest and responsible citizen, not only in the running of his farm but as a teacher of vocational agriculture in the local school. He appears to have taken Tant King's report of the little man seriously, conducting a number of investigations at the sites and discovering definite traces. Furthermore, upon finding the hair sample, he immediately submitted it to authorities for analysis.

In 1968, in response to a request for information about the event from Loren Coleman, Mr. Dozier wrote the following letter:

Dear Sir,

In answer to your letter requesting information on a certain incident that happened on my farm in 1956, I will try to give you an accurate account of what happened.

I had this young Colored boy mowing a pasture with a tractor and mowed in a field near a dense wooded area. When I went to pick him up late in the afternoon, he was quite alarmed and told me he had seen a little naked hairy man, about three feet high, walk out of the woods and walk along the edge of a fence. My reaction to this was that he had been seeing things. I asked him why he did not go up to him and take a look. He said that he thought he was a ghost, and did not want to crowd him. I saw some tracks where Tant said he crossed the field-road. The next day I mentioned the incident in town and two or three men came out to the place to look at its tracks. The white curly hair about 3 inches long was found in the fence, at the place Tant said it came out of the woods. This hair was sent off to the Crime Lab and pronounced to be human hair. A young, eager reporter got hold of this, and the next day in the newspaper was a fantastic article about some thing eight feet high jumping fences and running all over the place. If you need any more information, I will supply it. What type of research are you doing?

Sincerely,

/s/ Wayne Dozier

We know little about Tant King or Mrs. Donnell, but nothing in their reports is contradictory and interestingly, there are striking similarities in their accounts with more recent reports of hairy, hominid-like creatures seen elsewhere in the United States.

Hominids and Humanoids

How does the "little man" of Edison compare with the humanoids seen at Stockton three weeks earlier? Both of these incidents involve small, grey beings three and a half to four feet tall. But the similarities end there. The beings at Stockton were dressed in clothing described in some detail, while at Edison the creature was unclothed and appeared shaggy, or covered with hair. At Stockton the beings were decidedly non-human in appearance, with distinct and outstanding facial features: Mrs. Symmonds was explicit in her description of the humanoids' unusually large and reflective eyes, their most striking feature; she also described an unusual nose, "long and pointed like a witch's." No such features were associated with the Edison

creature who was, in fact, specifically compared to a "little man" of near-human appearance, although hairy and unclothed.

Both specimens apparently had claws, but at Stockton the claws were on the hands, while at Edison, on the feet. The Edison creature left tracks and other evidence of its presence and appeared repeatedly in the same locality. There is no indication from available news sources that the Stockton incident was ever repeated. At Edison, these repeated encounters involved just one being, but at Stockton there was a group of four. (The presence of more than one being distinguishes many of the humanoid encounters of this period, as at Branch Hill and Loveland, Ohio, and at Kelly, Kentucky.)

The reports at Edison and Stockton appear to represent different types of encounters involving two distinct types of beings--humanoids at Stockton, and at Edison a primate-like species that may be called a "hominid." The descriptions of the Edison creature are strikingly similar to many reports of an unknown North American primate, or hominid, of the "Bigfoot" or Sasquatch variety. Although the Edison hominid was smaller than most reported Bigfoot creatures, it could have been a younger specimen, or a smaller species; in all other respects, the similarities are consistent.

In Bigfoot, by anthropologist John Napier (2), the author presents a comprehensive study of the evidence for the existence of one or more as yet unidentified species of primates throughout the world. Most of the cases he cited in his section on North America describe a species of large montane hominids inhabiting the Pacific northwest, from the coastal ranges of northern California to British Columbia.

This normally shy, unusually large animal (from six to eight or nine feet in height) is indigenous not only to the Pacific northwest but to other parts of the country. Persuasive evidence has been presented for its existence in the bottomland regions of the eastern and midwestern sections of the United States (3).

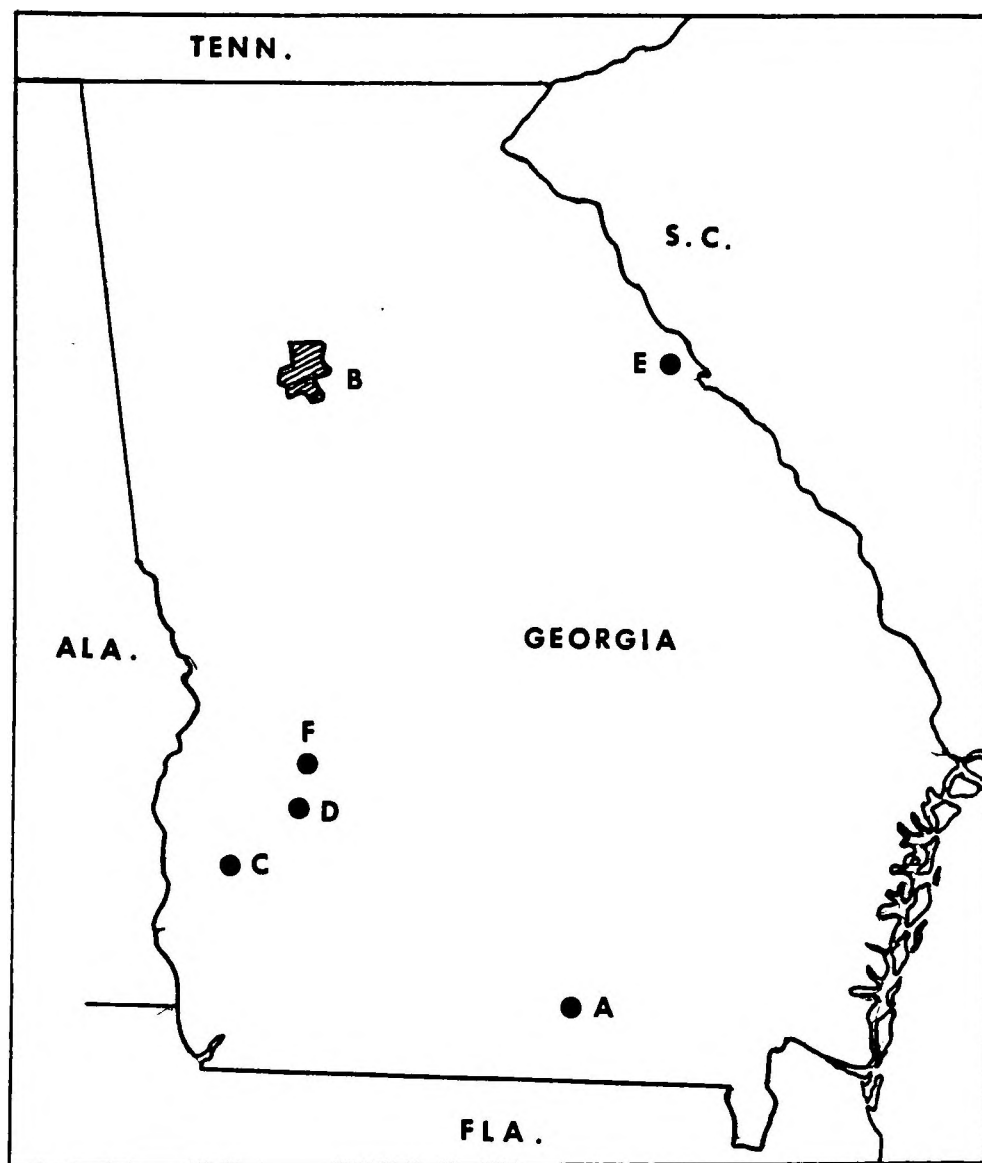
In addition, newspaper clippings going back many years describe hominid-like creatures appearing from Florida to Maine, and from the east coast to the west. My own files contain well over a hundred such references; the files of INFO (International Fortean Organization) are even more comprehensive. The reported creatures are consistent in all essential details with the hominids reported in Georgia in 1955.

Few, if any, of these hominid reports are associated with unidentified flying objects. Recently, creature encounters have occurred in areas where UFO activity was high and certain researchers have claimed a relationship between these two phenomena (4). Some even suggest that this hairy hominid is another variety of UFO occupant. The term "UFO occupant" derives from the large number of reports in which a being has been observed inside of, getting into, or emerging from an unidentified object. In the many hundreds of available references that describe encounters with a Bigfoot species, there is not a single case in which the creature is reported seen inside of, emerging from, or entering what might be termed a UFO. (Some confusion may have sprung from the fact that the humanoid encounters in Venezuela in November and December, 1954, involved small beings described as "hairy." All were directly associated with UFOs; furthermore, while "hairy" in appearance, they could in no other way be confused with a species of the Bigfoot variety.) Researchers must weight these assumptions and conclusions carefully and report them for what they are, not as fact.

Unlike the Edison and Bronwood creatures, the beings seen by Mrs. Symmonds at Stockton, although humanoid in appearance, cannot be related to any known terrestrial species. In the absence of any reported UFO at Stockton, an association between these humanoids and unidentified objects is purely speculative. Nevertheless, the humanoids do have distinctive features closely resembling those of many of the beings associated with UFOs, and in this case, only the unidentified object is missing.

Fig. 26

MAP OF GEORGIA SHOWING LOCATIONS OF SIGHTINGS AND ENCOUNTERS, 1955



KEY:

- | | |
|---|--|
| A. Stockton, site of Mrs. Symmonds' encounter, July 3, 1955. | D. Kinchafoonee Creek (near Bronwood), site of the Whaley encounter on August 1. |
| B. Atlanta, site of multiple-witness reports (probably meteor), July 21. | E. Lincolnton area, where several encounters with puma-like creatures were reported in early August. |
| C. Edison, site of multiple-witness sightings of "little grey man," July 20-25. | F. Plains, home of a prominent American. |

REFERENCES

Chapter IX, "The Hairy Little Man of Edison"

1. Newspaper sources include: The Atlanta Constitution, July 28 and August 3-6; The Atlanta Journal, July 29 and August 2; the Americus Times-Recorder, August 3; and The Newark Star-Ledger, August 4 (United Press account from Dawson, Ga., August 3). The only other known published reference to these incidents is in John Keel's Strange Creatures from Time and Space (Gold Medal, 1970, pp. 104-105). This brief account contains a number of inaccuracies.
2. Napier, John. Bigfoot: The Yeti and Sasquatch in Myth and Reality (E.P. Dutton and Co., New York City, 1973). Available also in paperback by Berkley Medallion Books in 1974, with a revised--and more sensational--cover title, "Startling Evidence of Another Form of Life on Earth Now!"
3. Coleman, Loren. The Occurrence of Wild Apes in North America, paper presented at the first annual INFO Convention in Silver Spring, Md., August 10-12, 1973. INFO is the International Fortean Organization, P.O. Box 367, Arlington, Va. 22210.
4. Gordon, Stan. "UFO's, In Relation to Creature Sightings in Pennsylvania," published in MUFON's 1974 UFO Symposium Proceedings, pp. 132-154.

CHAPTER X
THE GREY GHOST OF THE KINCHAFOONEE
August 1, 1955

Following the release on August 2 of Dr. Jones' findings on the sample of hair from Edison, press attention shifted abruptly to Terrell County, northeast of Edison, where another incident was reported in which an unidentified, hairy hominid was involved. This daytime encounter occurred on August 1, on the Bronwood-Smithville highway (Route 118) just northeast of Bronwood, near the Kinchafoonee Creek. Unlike the Edison creature, this one was at least six feet tall, and somewhat more sinister, reportedly attacking and superficially wounding the single witness, a young forestry worker for the State of Georgia.

Accounts of the incident were published in three newspapers, one of which printed three stories in as many days (1). Each newspaper report contained certain information not found in the others and all are combined in the following summary of these press accounts. The news stories illustrate particular points of view about the subject that are especially interesting--particularly those from the one paper whose accounts over a three-day period present a fascinating decline of credibility: the denouement, by The Atlanta Constitution, is as remarkable as the creature report itself, and it is presented in full in the final section of this chapter.

The swift demise of press interest in this reported creature encounter resulted not only from the nature of its treatment by a large and influential Georgia newspaper. An apparent

lack of interest and proper investigative procedures by the Terrell county law enforcement agency--in contrast to the reactions of the Calhoun County officials--also had its effect in reducing the story to an absurdity.

Summary of the Newspaper Stories

Joseph Whaley, a 20-year-old Dawson resident, was employed by the Georgia State Forestry Commission at the time of his unusual encounter in 1955. On Monday, August 1, at an unspecified time of day, he was working alone on the Bronwood-Smithville highway near the Kinchafoonee Creek community, cutting tall grass and bushes with a scythe. New signs had been erected along the road and his job was to make sure they were not obscured by weeds along the highway.

As he was cutting the grass not far from the road, he heard a "strange noise" in a thicket near the creek. "I walked to the edge of the woods and heard the bushes rattle," Whaley told newsmen later. He went into the woods to investigate and suddenly saw an extraordinary creature coming towards him. It was at least six feet tall, covered with "shaggy grey hair," and was "grunting like a wild pig." The young forestry worker said the creature had "tusk-like teeth and pointed ears." Its arms were "heavy but its hands not very large." He added that it was "built something on the order of a man," but that "it reminded me of a gorilla." Whaley said the creature was "hairy all over, like a wire-haired terrier dog."

"The creature walked towards me," Whaley later told newsmen. "I still had my scythe," he said, and alarmed by the frightening apparition, "I took a couple of swings at him and struck him on the arms and the chest. But he kept coming at me." Whaley saw that his attack on the creature "wasn't doing any good," so he broke and ran back to his Jeep, which was parked in the grass by the side of the highway. He tried to get the ranger tower on the radio in the Jeep, but couldn't raise them. Then, before he could get the motor started, he said the beast was "upon him"

and struck him. Before he could get out of the Jeep, the creature had ripped his shirt and had left several scratches on his arm and shoulder.

Whaley said he then jumped out of the other side of the vehicle and ran around it to keep space between him and his hairy pursuer. He then ran down into the woods with the beast lumbering after him and circled back to his Jeep when he had gained enough distance to allow him to start the motor and get away. He said the "thing" moved in "a lumbering and slow-moving" manner.

Whaley escaped with minor scratches on his shoulder and arm. He reported the incident immediately to his supervisor, Forest Ranger Jim Bowen, and repeated his story under oath. Later, as evidence of his terrifying encounter, he displayed the scratches on his left arm to newsmen. Ranger Bowen told United Press representatives in Dawson that he had gone back to the scene of the encounter and found traces at the site. "Very definitely something was there that looked like a large object," Bowen told the newsmen. He said that he found "very definitely a trail there." But when Whaley himself returned to the site later, with friends, he said he was unable to find any evidence of his encounter.

Olin Witherington, District Forester in Americus, was advised of the report and he issued a story to the Times-Recorder, which was published on Wednesday, August 3. In it Terrell County Sheriff Zeke Matthews was reported to have said that an investigation would be conducted by his county department.

In Atlanta, the report by Dr. Jones on the Edison hair sample was linked to the reports of the Bronwood creature, and GBI Director Major Delmar Jones announced on Thursday, August 4, that he had sent GBI Agent T.E. Faircloth to Dawson to look into these reports. He said he had been following "with interest" accounts of the strange appearances at Edison and Bronwood.

On the other hand, Sheriff Matthews was growing increasingly skeptical; on the same day, he announced he was through with his

investigation of Whaley's report. "If I believed there was anything to it," he told the Constitution, "I would be out looking for it."

The Atlanta Constitution added a new element to its account of the Bronwood beast in its August 4 edition. A different mysterious creature had been reported earlier in the week in another part of the state, just northwest of Augusta.

Earlier (before Wednesday's report of the Bronwood incident), a long, slender puma-like creature was observed chasing a dog at Soap Creek Fishing Camp near Lincolnton (in Lincoln County). Pete Hall, of Washington, said he fired at "the thing" and added:

"It scampered away into the woods faster than any four-legged animal I've ever seen."

Still resembling a puma and snarling like a wolf, "the thing" was said to have been seen near Martinez, in Columbia County and at the forks of the Savannah and Little Rivers.

Any good student of Charles Fort will recognize the puma reports as genuine Fortean phenomena, but their connection with the hominid reports at the other end of the state is doubtful: the descriptions of the two species of creatures differ markedly.

The appearance of still another unidentified mystery beast in Georgia appears to have had an unsettling effect upon many people in nearby localities. Authorities, fearing a possible threat to public welfare in any further publicity about these strange creatures, apparently decided that it was time to issue reassuring statements to a worried citizenry. On Saturday, August 6, the Constitution quoted GBI director Major Jones as saying there was "nothing to the reports." In an "explanation" as extraordinary as the reported appearance of the creature itself, Jones said that it was "unfortunate that repeated reports of 'the monster' had frightened residents of south Georgia, particularly children." He said that the creature Whaley had encountered was nothing but a "hog bear--a little black bear not as large as a grizzly."

The Kinchafoonee creature, described as at least six feet tall, could hardly be confused with a "hog bear." The witness himself had compared it to a gorilla. While it was larger than the creature seen at Edison, both creatures appear to have a good deal in common. Both were described as grey, hairy and unclothed, and they walked upright. Traces were reported after both, although at Bronwood this evidence appears to be in some doubt, since the witness himself said he was unable to find any traces in a later visit to the site. As at Edison, the Bronwood encounter occurred in broad daylight. The size of the two creatures is different, but this may be accounted for if the Edison specimen was not fully grown, or if it belonged to a subspecies.

There was a major difference between the two creatures: the "belligerence" of the Kinchafoonee creature, which is unusual among reports of hominids in North America. Shyness and an aversion to human confrontation typifies their general behavior. But, except for the size and strange appearance of Whaley's creature, there seems to have been no explicit menace in the beast's initial approach to the witness. As Whaley himself described it in the United Press account, "I saw a strange creature coming toward me. I swung at him with the blade (of the scythe) and missed. I swung a second time and hit him on the right hand or paw. I hit him again on the hand and then on the chest. . . . Then something hit me on the left shoulder, tore my shirt and left three scratches on my shoulder." Clearly, it had been Whaley, by his own account, that struck out first. beast, I would probably have left more than three scratches and a torn shirt.

The news accounts of this incident are worth examining and comparing. The earliest account, from the Americus Times-Recorder, seems to be straightforward and detailed, as does the August 3 United Press account from Dawson. The latter included several details not in the Americus account: for example UP provides information about the traces discovered by Bowen, but the Americus account reports that Whaley had been unable to find any traces when he returned to the site with friends.

The Atlanta Constitution, a morning paper, published its first story on Thursday, August 4. This account includes new information as well as several specific errors. To begin with, it is wrong about the date of the event, referring to Wednesday, August 3, the day the story was first published, as the date of occurrence. In referring to the earlier reports at Edison, the Constitution stated that the creature there had "claw-like hands," when in fact the claws had been reported on the feet, as observed in the tracks; these footprints had been described as being about the size of a hand.

Other details seem to have been overstated or even distorted by the Constitution. For example, the creature's "pointed ears" were compared to those of a rabbit. In a cartoon accompanying the Constitution's story, these exaggerated ears make the beast look more like an ass than an ape. The "tusk-like teeth" were described as "savagely and gleaming" in the Constitution's story, while the cartoon depicted them as enormous, walrus-like tusks growing upward from the lower jaw--an interpretation almost certainly imaginative and unverified by the witness.

The Constitution did provide the precise site of the Whaley encounter as the Kinchafoonee Creek community three miles northeast of Bronwood; and the "weird sounds" mentioned in the Americus story were identified by the Constitution as "grunting like a wild pig." Whaley was also quoted in this account as describing the beast's movements as "lumbering and slow-moving." While United Press told how the witness had been chased around his Jeep by the creature, the Constitution reported that Whaley had run back into the woods "with the beast lumbering along in pursuit," to get enough distance between them so that he could return to his Jeep and make his escape. With this mixture of pluses and minuses, the Constitution had not yet quite finished with the story of Whaley's encounter.

On Friday, August 5, the Constitution reported that Terrell County Sheriff Zeke Matthews was unable to find any traces of the creature encounter at the site, and had announced the end to his

investigation. Since he was quoted as saying that if he believed the story, he'd be out looking for the thing, his disbelief may have had something to do with his not having found traces at the site. It was the beginning of the end for the grey ghost of the Kinchafoonee. The creature got its coup de grace by the Constitution in the August 6 edition on page 1.

"THE THING" UNMASKED AS "GOBLIN"

Georgia's monster had turned out to be just a pure, plain myth, Major Delmar Jones, director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, said Friday.

The whole thing began when a south Georgia farmer became fed up with fishermen taking over his private lake, the GBI head said.

Unable to post a constant guard over the lake, the farmer hit upon another idea. He wrapped himself in a sheet, borrowed a Halloween mask and set out to "haunt" the fishermen.

"He scared the pants off the trespassers," Jones laughed. "But he also fired the imagination of others until they began seeing 'monsters' everywhere."

Investigators went thoroughly into every reported appearance of "The Thing," Jones said. He said a Dawson forestry worker who reported something attacked him in a woods "probably saw a hog-bear--a little black bear not as large as a grizzly."

Jones said it was unfortunate that repeated reports of "the monster" had frightened residents of south Georgia, particularly children.

Although the imagination of the Bureau Director, as well as "monster sighters," seems to have been triggered by that anonymous southern farmer in sheet and mask, there were no more reports of the creature.

REFERENCES

Chapter X, "The Grey Ghost of the Kinchafoonee"

1. Newspaper references are: The Americus (Ga.) Times-Recorder, Wednesday, August 3, 1955 (pp. 1 and 6); The Newark (N.J.) Star-Ledger, Thursday, August 4, 1955 (United Press account from Dawson, Ga., August 3) (p. 1); and The Atlanta Constitution, Thursday, August 4, 1955 (pp. 1 and 6), Friday, August 5 (p. 37), and Saturday, August 6 (p. 1).

CHAPTER XI

A DOMESTIC "SILLY SEASON"

August 1955

In March, 1956, during the halcyon years of research by Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York, we received a newspaper clipping from a large influential Long Island daily paper, showing an object allegedly photographed over Ozone Park, Long Island, N.Y. Since the accompanying data were meager, we called the paper's editor to ask if he could provide additional detail. He replied that the picture had been published "merely as a lark;" that his paper received three or four calls a week about saucer sightings over Long Island, and routinely referred the callers to authorities at Mitchell Field.

He mentioned that he himself had seen three disc-like objects "playing tag" over Long Island a year earlier, but had published no account of his sighting, being convinced that the public no longer took "this kind of thing" seriously. He added, however, that he was expecting more calls of this type in the near future as the "silly season for flying saucers" would be starting soon and would continue through August.

We ended our conversation certain that the editorial "silly season on saucers" was indeed in full swing, but wouldn't end in August. Editorial hypocrisy and nonsense by newspapers in general seemed to be a year-round policy in the 1950's. As it happened, August 1955 was in fact a peak month for reports of weird incidents, and cynical newspaper editors could and did reap a "silly season" bumper harvest.

The August Flap in Ohio

Although the most spectacular headliner for August occurred near Hopkinsville, Kentucky, on the night of August 21-22, the state of Ohio experienced unusual UFO and humanoid activity throughout the month. Reports came in from all over the state, with the major portion of UFO activity apparently concentrated in the Cincinnati area.

A prelude to August's extravaganza occurred on July 22 in the heart of Cincinnati. Late that afternoon, Edward Mootz was mowing his lawn on Boal Street, not far from the center of the city. He bent over to pick up a hose lying near a peach tree and noticed some warm, reddish drops falling on his bare arms. Looking up, he saw directly above him, at an estimated altitude of 500 to 1000 feet, a strange pear-shaped cloud, red and green in color, moving slowly from west to east. The "rain" was coming from the "cloud" and seemed to be directed at the peach tree. Alarmed, Mootz backed away, suddenly aware of a burning sensation where the red liquid had hit him. He hurried indoors and washed, and the burning sensation stopped. When he returned to the yard, the strange cloud-like object had disappeared.

Next morning he found that the peach tree had withered and died overnight; its leaves, brown and dried, had fallen to the ground and even the trunk of the tree had atrophied. The peaches had shriveled to the size of prunes and were petrified, and the tree trunk was so hard it was difficult to drive a nail into it. The roots, as well as the grass around them, were also dead. Mootz notified authorities about the incident and a short time later he was visited by three officials, dressed in civilian clothes, from an agency he was asked not to name. (They were later identified as Air Force representatives from Wright-Paterson Field in Dayton.) The men removed the entire tree and took ground samples from around it, and they promised Mootz a report of their findings. Not surprisingly, that was the last Mootz ever heard about the matter (1), though there does exist a case file in the Blue Book archives on the Mootz report.

On August 1 the scene shifted to the opposite end of the state. William M. Sheneman, operator of a radio and television store near Willoughby, had been working late that day and pulled up to his driveway about 8:45 p.m. It was cloudy and already dark, and he stopped the car at the head of the driveway, leaving the motor running, to get out and pick up his mail from the mailbox. He suddenly noticed an object with a large red light rapidly approaching at an angle over a nearby field. His first thought was that a plane was going to crash into his yard. At the same moment, two bright beams of light suddenly came on and played straight down on the ground underneath the object, illuminating a wide area. Frightened, Sheneman raced up the driveway toward the house, leaving his idling car at the roadside. His wife, who had been waiting for him at the door, saw the object and its beams of light and shouted, "Turn on the outside lights and maybe it won't hit the house!" Her husband shouted back, "Hell, no, leave them off and maybe it'll miss!"

The object was round and flat, with what seemed to be windows around the edge. It was huge in size, 80 to 100 feet in diameter, with a red light in front and a green light aft, and small white lights across the top. Making a slight noise "like a fan," it hovered 50 to 100 feet over the garage. Sheneman's two children became hysterical, crying, "What is it, Daddy, what is it?" The object hovered with a slight rocking motion over the garage for about half a minute, then moved out over a woods behind the house where it remained in view another five minutes before finally drifting out of sight.

This occurrence received no newspaper publicity, but was investigated by the UFO Research Council of Cleveland (2), and by the Air Force in June, 1956 (3); NICAP's files contain a complete first-hand report by the witness (4). The Air Force classified the case as "unexplained."

On the night of August 6, a close encounter in the northern suburbs of Cincinnati was reported to Stringfield by a man who requested anonymity. Awakened by the barking of his

dog, this man looked outside to see a blinding white ovoid some 15 feet wide, resting in his driveway not 90 feet away. During the few seconds it remained in position, the object pulsed brilliantly, then silently ascended and streaked off in the direction of the Fernald atomic plant. Its brilliance had been so intense that the man's eyes became irritated, requiring him to consult a physician (5).

On the night preceding the above sighting, at about 8:40 p.m., a large spectacular fireball meteor traveled over sections of northern Kentucky and Ohio on a northerly path. This meteor was seen by thousands of people, including Len Stringfield and Mr. and Mrs. Symmonds (see Chapter IX), and reported in many Ohio newspapers (6). On August 14, at 9:40, a second fireball, bright green, was similarly observed from many parts of Ohio, and covered in the press. Reports of its direction varied, but its brief duration, wide range of visibility, and large number of viewers attest to the probability of its being a meteor (7).

On August 15, the Evansville (Ind.) Press ran a story about an incident that occurred on the Ohio River, near Dogtown, Ind., about 220 miles southwest of Cincinnati and 100 miles north of Hopkinsville. The day before, while two women were swimming in the river, Mrs. Darwin Johnson reported she was grabbed and pulled under the water by a large furry hand or claw. She screamed and struggled and reached desperately for her friend's inner tube. When she hit the inner tube with a loud thump, whatever was holding her let go. When the women had hurried out of the water, they discovered scratches on Mrs. Johnson's leg (8).

An excerpt from a letter to Loren Coleman, investigator of Fortean phenomena, deals with this incident:

Comment: I worked with Mr. Johnson at Craig's Modern Market for four years. He first mentioned the incident after I told him of my interest in UFOs. He is the meat department manager. He stated his wife required

sedatives as she became hysterical when he reached home after being called at work. A green stain just below the knee with a palm outline couldn't be removed and remained for several days. Several people told Darwin they observed a shiny oval at several hundred feet above the Ohio River and reported same to THE EVANSVILLE PRESS reporters. It wasn't published. Dogtown lies ~~10-miles-east-of-Evansville,-just-above-Newburgh,-Indiana~~ FEW MILES SOUTHWEST DOWNSTREAM.*

An Air Force colonel visited the Johnsons taking voluminous notes, but cautioning them against further telling of the happening. He subtly implied that ridicule would result from too much printed exposure.

These "facts" are correct to the best of my knowledge. The incident is very unique to fortian literature. Do you agree?

Terry W. Colvin
710 Olive Street
Evansville, IN 47713

*Portion crossed out on copy and substitute written in below.

During the next two weeks, UFO reports reached a crescendo. They were received from Reading, Mount Washington, and the Forestville GOC Post (8). On the evening of the 18th, Len Stringfield's wife, Dell, saw an unidentified light hovering in the sky outside the Stringfield home where no ordinary light should have been. Len was away from home, but Dell was able to alert a second witness, Len's mother, who was staying with them (9).

By this time, Stringfield was receiving calls every night, reporting lights and objects seen from many suburban Cincinnati localities. On August 21, the same night as the Hopkinsville report, Stringfield received a telephone call from an unidentified man in Anderson's Ferry in the southwest section of Cincinnati along the Ohio River. The caller was describing the

descent and landing of an object in his back yard; another voice cut in with urgency, shouting "something's coming out of the bottom--hurry!" The caller hung up, promising to call back, but if he made the attempt, he never got through, for Stringfield's telephone remained busy for the rest of the night. Stringfield was never able to discover what had happened at Anderson's Ferry (10).

Sightings were also occurring in other parts of Ohio in the nights of August 21 and 22, and "flying saucers" and "little green men" were becoming big news in the Cincinnati press (11). The story from Hopkinsville was followed by Mrs. Symmonds' report of her earlier encounter in Georgia. Reports of sightings at Woodlawn, Ohio, on the night of the 22nd were followed by explanations and refutations (12). UFO sightings were reported on August 22 at Akron, Ohio and at Saginaw and Grand Rapids, Michigan, and were carried the next day by the wire services (13).

Toward midnight on August 23, a UFO display around Cincinnati brought SAC jets from Columbus roaring in over the city in hot pursuit. For twelve minutes hundreds of Cincinnatians watched and heard the jets as they swooped low over the city. Ground observers had seen three luminous objects, which reportedly had been tracked on radar. According to Walter Paner, head of the Hamilton County GOC post atop Mount Healthy, the objects ranged from 24 miles south and 37 miles north of the city, and ten miles east of the Mount Healthy post. Forestville and Loveland GOC posts also confirmed the erratic flight of the objects, but low cloud cover in eastern Cincinnati prevented Stringfield from seeing them personally. The objects returned again the following evening, and additional reports came in from GOC posts at Forestville and Loveland, and from as far west as Vevay, Indiana (16). In Marysville, Ohio, a round flattened object with a reddish cast was reported (16).

A fascinating report from Bedford, Indiana, approximately 150 miles west of Cincinnati, described a sighting the following evening, August 25. Returning from Bedford around 8:30 p.m.,

Mrs. Lester Parsons and a friend saw a large white oval-shaped object hovering at the corner of Mrs. Parsons' home on Route 5. The object "seemed to contract and expand with regularity and as it did so, the lights which had been left on inside the house appeared to dim." The two frightened women, according to the newspaper account, drove away to fetch their husbands; when they returned, the object had departed, but impressions in the shape of half-circles an inch deep were found at the site (17). On August 29, at 3:15 p.m., a silvery disc was observed hovering over the Ohio River; it shot away at high speed on the approach of an airliner flying into Boone County Airport (18).

The public's interest was fanned by press attention to saucers and reports of little men, and the scene was set for more or less obvious hoaxes. One of the more obvious pranks was pulled by Albert Snapp, of South Cumminsville, Ohio, who was arrested for masquerading as a "Martian" in gas mask and green tights (19). A less obvious hoax was the report by four teen-agers of a little green man who had frightened them in Winton Woods, near Greenhills, Ohio. Discrepancies and internal inconsistencies led investigators to doubt that story, and some years later one of the participants confessed that it had been a hoax (20).

But on Sunday, August 28, the Cincinnati Enquirer abandoned accounts of monsters and "little green man" and printed a long straight feature on the July 22 experience of Ed Mootz and the peach tree (21). Things had once more wound down to "normal."

Mulberry Corners, Ohio: August 30

One interesting case not reported by the press was originally investigated by Allen Roush, of the UFO Research Council of Cleveland (22); the report of this investigation served as the basis for an official investigation by ATIC (Project Blue Book), conducted by M/Sgt. Oliver D. Hill, June 27-29, 1956 (23).

About 1:45 a.m. on the night of August 29-30, 21-year-old David Ankenbrandt was driving to his Cleveland home on Chardon Road (Rte. 6). Near Mulberry Corners (17 miles east northeast of Cleveland, and less than three miles east of Willoughby Hills), he saw a bright yellow light descend from the sky on his right. Thinking a meteorite had fallen, he stopped the car and walked back into the field to search for it. What he found there, instead, was "some kind of aircraft, about thirty feet in diameter, with a dome on top." Frightened, he began to run back to his car, but "a green light bolted out in front of me"; he turned around to see where the beam came from and suddenly found himself paralyzed. A door opened in the "aircraft," and there emerged a man more than six feet tall, clad in "something like a ski suit." This man then addressed Ankenbrandt in English; after telling him in a high-pitched voice not to be afraid, he directed Ankenbrandt to inform the government in Washington that "if there were any more wars here, 'they' would have to take over." Ankenbrandt, who retained the ability to speak, protested that "a kid like myself" bearing such a message would not be taken seriously. The reply was that he had a week to make an effort to deliver the message; and the Ufonaut re-entered his craft. Ankenbrandt, then released from his paralysis, returned to his car without seeing the vessel take off.

A remarkable feature of the story is that, 48 hours later, he said he returned to the spot and again met the UFO pilot, who reiterated that Ankenbrandt must convey the message to Washington. Three days after this, he returned with a friend, but nothing was seen on that occasion.

He told his story at first to only his foster mother and to his priest, but within a month it had come to the knowledge of the UFO Research Council of Cleveland, who in late October checked the site for landing marks, radioactivity, and magnetic anomalies, without finding anything of significance. In June of 1956, a Project Blue Book investigator, after talking to the witness's adoptive mother (Ankenbrandt was an orphan), gave it as his opin-

ion that the story was an invention, to be classified as "psychological"--a conclusion not even based upon an interview with the witness himself. This view was not shared by Ankenbrandt's associates nor by members of UFORC.

In December, 1955, Ankenbrandt was invited to attend a lecture in Cleveland by Desmond Leslie, an English writer on the subject of flying saucers and co-author of George Adamski's first book. Ankenbrandt chose not to attend; nor did he at any time, so far as is known, make any effort to exploit or publicize his "contact" with the message-bearing spaceman.

Riverside, California: August 29

This bizarre story had features that would seem to defy interpretation in terms of "space-ships," and call for assignment, instead, to the category of "psychic" phenomena. It was investigated by Bob Boden, a reporter for the Riverside newspaper (24), and by Mrs. Jean Rowlands and Mrs. Mary Starbuck, for Borderland Sciences Research Association (25). In addition, a compilation of several sources was published in Flying Saucer Review (26).

The witnesses were eight or nine children between the ages of four and fifteen years old, in Sonora Place, California. The "phenomena" began sometime after 2:00 o'clock and continued, on and off, throughout the afternoon until nearly 5:00. So far as is known, no adult witnesses observed them.

The first incident occurred while Kermit Douglas and another boy were wrestling on the lawn and noticed a hemispherical object in the sky (Figure 1). While they were looking at it, it became round (Figure 2), with radiating rays that trailed behind when it spun around. Soon the rest of the children saw it, as well as several other such objects, including shapes as shown in Figures 3 and 4, but mostly "round like basketballs." They were of various colors (red, blue, orange), but mostly silver. When visible, they were "semi-transparent," but they

Fig. 27 CREATURES REPORTED AT RIVERSIDE, CAL. SIGHTING AS DRAWN BY FSR FROM WITNESSES' DESCRIPTIONS

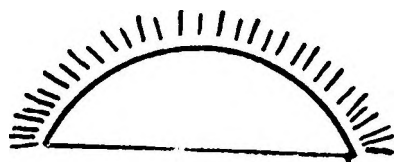


fig.1

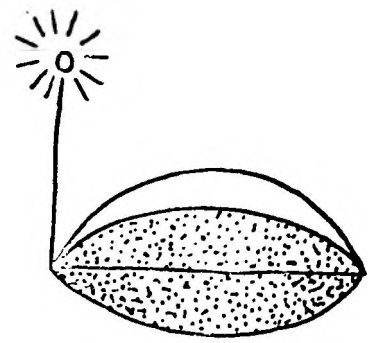


fig.3

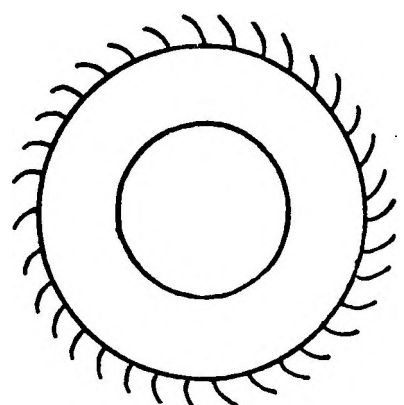


fig.2

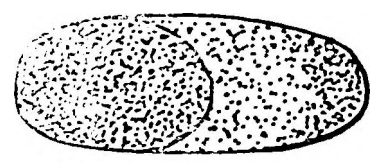


fig.4

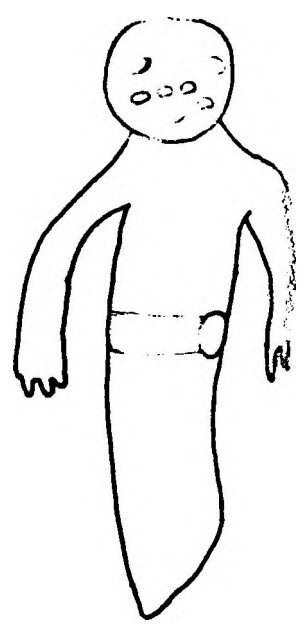


fig.5

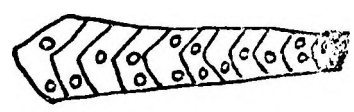


fig.6

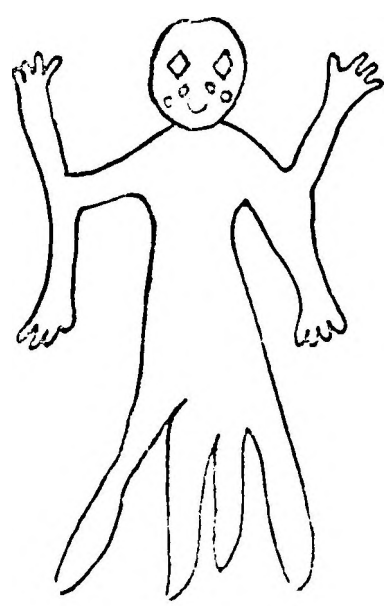


fig.7

continually appeared and disappeared, emitting a high musical "ping" at each appearance or disappearance.

This went on for some time, and the children began to feel frightened. But whenever a child brought one of his parents out to see the objects, they would disappear. On at least one such occasion, when Blanche Campbell called her mother out, the UFOs remained visible to the children, but could not be seen by the adult.

After a while, one of the "ships" came down in a football field about half a block away. "About as large as three houses put together," it hovered three feet off the ground; "it was very beautiful and colorful." Beside it, there appeared an entity three and a half feet tall, or about the size of a four-year-old child--which the children later described as shown in Figure 5. This being, which appeared transparent, had "a big red mouth and big red eyes." Instead of a nose, it had "four round objects that sparkled like diamonds"; also, there was a small disc on its belt of mirror-like, dazzling brightness (similar to the ship-borne bright object in Figure 3). It hovered above the ground, instead of standing on it. By this time the youngsters were becoming terrified, and broke into "shouts, screams, and floods of tears"; one nearly knocked down his mother as she dashed outside--to see nothing.

Other "space ships" also landed--Marvin Simms said they "sort of spiraled down, and when they took off they disappeared with a whirling motion." One landed on a housetop; another knocked a branch off a walnut tree.

A boy of seven started walking toward one of the objects, saying it was the most beautiful thing he had ever seen; two of the older boys had to use force, tripping him up, to stop him. Another boy saw an "arm," described as in Figure 6, and child-like in size, in the air about 20 feet away, beckoning to him.

A second and even more extraordinary creature (Figure 7) then appeared, wearing clothing that "looked like satin"; all

agreed that it had four arms, and one boy, Ronnie Strickland, said it also had four legs. It spoke to Ronnie, telling him to climb up into a nearby tree, from which he would be "picked up" in 15 minutes. He and one other boy, apparently hypnotized, did climb the tree, and a UFO did approach, with a stationary outer rim and a rotating central part; "little men" were seen riding on the rim, and it made a "swishing" sound. Terrified, the other children pleaded with the two boys to come down, but they sat in the tree "with a fixed stare"; the others ran and got a garden hose and turned the water on them to "bring them out of it." The one boy climbed down after being hosed, but Ronnie "sort of slid off" onto a nearby roof, and proceeded to walk right off its edges, landing on his head, unhurt. But he could recollect nothing of what had happened to him, and refused to believe it when told by the others. Blanche Campbell said he had "turned red before he jumped off the house."

After this, the objects, with their paranormal pilots, disappeared; but when the Riverside Press reporter arrived, about an hour later, one of the little boys was still crying. This extraordinary incident--manifestation may be a better word--lacks sufficient information to come to any final conclusions. Even so, available data are sufficient to conclude that something bizarre and inexplicable occurred that afternoon at Casa Blanca; that the children alone were able to perceive it; and that whatever it was, it appears to be directly related to an area of UFO phenomena suggestive of certain types of parapsychological experiences.

They Just Won't Go Away

More than 20 years have passed since the events described in this book, a period of time that allows us to view those experiences with a perspective we did not have when they were taking place. As we so well know, 1955 did not see the end of humanoid reports; nor did they end in 1969, with the publication of the Condon Report, whose purpose it had been to bury the UFO controversy once and for all. The Air Force's disengagement from the public relations aspect of the problem did not make it go away, and continued skepticism regarding UFOs by the scientific establishment in general (even though individual scientists are taking a fresh look at the subject) does not stem the flow of reports.

It is instructive to look at some comparative figures: for the ten-year period from 1946 to 1955 (the opening decade of the "flying saucer" controversy), there exist some 250 references to specific CE-III reports in the case files of the Humanoid Study Group (27). But in the five-year period 1973-1977, the total number of references approaches 450--nearly double the number for the first decade--and new reports are surfacing all the time.

But increased numbers are not the only change over the last 20 years: a significant escalation in the strangeness of the reports has taken place. The 1955 incidents at Kelly, Riverside and Mulberry Corners were certainly bizarre at that time, but compared to some later reports, they are almost routine. For example, we have no abduction reports among the dozen or so CE-III cases discussed in this book, nor indeed, for any date in 1955: if they occurred at all they have not yet come to our attention. But of some 80 CE-III cases in 1976, 20 were abduction reports or on-board experiences--one out of every four reports.

With high-strangeness events being catalogued in ever-increasing numbers, the question is raised as to why so many extraordinary events can take place with such relative "invisibility." Only a fraction of the reports are given media coverage;

one must conclude that if such reports do reach newspapers and broadcasting stations, they are automatically channeled out of the mainstream of news as too absurd for coverage. It is also probable that the witness involved in such an event has guaranteed the report's "invisibility" by withholding it in the belief that no one could possibly take it seriously. If this is so, how many of these unreported experiences must there be? Based on estimates Edward J. Ruppelt made for UFO reports in general, there may be as many as ten unreported cases for every reported one. With over 1200 CE-III cases since 1946 recorded in the HSG files, this suggests a possible total of 12,000 such events unreported during the 30 years.

However, we need not extrapolate. The case material already on hand confounds us. It is vast and it is diverse, and it shows no sign of abating. This "procession of the damned" continues to "pass and pass, and keep on and keep on coming." And it becomes increasingly difficult for us to account for it in any ordinary terms.

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CHAPTER XI

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4. Special NICAP Report, summarized in Major Donald E. Keyhoe's Flying Saucers: Top Secret (G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York City, 1960), pp. 236-239.
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10. Ibid.
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21. Cincinnati Enquirer, August 28, 1955, Section III, p. 1.
22. Copy of Roush's report attached to Air Force file on Project Blue Book investigation report.
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HUMANOID AND CREATURE REPORTS FOR 1955
(PRELIMINARY PRINT-OUT FROM HUMANOID CATALOG)

CASE NUMBER	DATE	TIME	COUNTRY	PROV/ STATE	TOWN CITY	WITNESS LOCATION	REPEAT ENCOUNTER	WITNESS(ES) NAME(S)	UFO-HUMANOID ASSOCIATION	INVESTIGATOR(S)
									TYPE	
A0361	550201	1200	USA	MD	MOUNTAIN VIEW	OUTSIDE HOUSE	+	1 NELSON	A	
A0362	=5503		SPA	BARC	NR LA ROCA			2 CORELLA	A	RIBERA
A0363	550305		USA	MD	MOUNTAIN VIEW	IN HOUSE	+	1 NELSON	D	
A0364	550322	N	USA	MD	MOUNTAIN VIEW	IN HOUSE	+	1 NELSON	D	
A0365	550514	0015	FRA	COTN	DINAN	IN HOUSE	+	1	B	CRESSON
A0366	550525	0330	USA	OH	BRANCH HILL	IN CAR		1 HUNNICUTT	D	BLOECHER/STRINGFIELD
A0367	5506	0100	SPA	LACO	MUROS	ABOARD SHIP		1 AGULLA RIVIERA	E	
A0368	5507	A EVE	USA	OH	LOVELAND	IN TRUCK		1 C.F.	E	BLOECHER/STRINGFIELD
A0369	5507	B N	USA	OH	LOVELAND HTS	OUTSIDE HOUSE	+	1	E	BLOECHER/STRINGFIELD
A0370	5507	C	USA	OH	NR BATAVIA					
A0371	550703	0330	USA	GA	NR STOCKTON	IN CAR		1 SYMONDS	E	BLOECHER/STRINGFIELD
A0372	550727	PM	USA	GA	EDISON	IN FIELD		1 KING	E	DOZIER/JONES
A0373	550724	PM	USA	GA	EDISON	FIELD	+	2 DONNELL	E	JONES
A0374	=55SUM	1500	FRA		COUDES		+	2 D.L.V.-	E	
A0375	5508	0300	USA	NY	CHAZY LANDING	IN CAR		1 RODDY	C	MCSHANE (FBI)
A0376	550801		USA	GA	BRONWOOD			1 WHALEY	E	MATTHEWS/FAIRCLOTH
A0377	550814		USA	IN	DOGTOWN	IN RIVER	+	1 JOHNSON	C	COLVIN/(A.F. COL.)
A0378	550816	0400	ENG	YORK	BRADFORD	IN LORRY		2 SUDDARDS-SUDDARDS	D	IBSON
A0379	550821A	EVE	USA	OH	ANDERSONS FERRY	IN HOUSE			B	
A0380	550821	2000	USA	KY	KELLY	IN HOUSE	+	8 TAYLOR-SUTTON-LANK	C	DAVIS/LEDWITH
A0381	550822	0200	USA	KY	KELLY	IN HOUSE	+	8 TAYLOR-SUTTON-LANK	D	DAVIS/LEDWITH
A0382	550825	2245	USA	OH	WINTON WOODS	IN CAR		4 WALLACE-MEIERS-2	D	BLOECHER/STRINGFIELD
A0383	550826		USA	OH	CHEVIOT					
A0384	550826A	EVE	USA	OH	CUMMINSVILLE			(HOAX BY SNAPP)		
A0385	550826B	EVE	USA	OH	CAMP WASHINGTON					
A0386	550826C	N	USA	OH	MT AIRY			1		
A0387	550829	1510	USA	CA	CASA BLANCA	YARDS + FIELD	+	8 DOUGLAS-SIMS-STRKLN	B	BODEN/ROWLANDS/ETC.
A0388	550830	0145	USA	OH	MULBERRY CRNRS	IN CAR	+	1 ANKENBRANDT	B	HILL/ROUSH
A0389	=5509	0400	USA	NY	PLATTSBURGH AFB			1	C	MCSHANE (FBI)
A0390	550916	1800	FRA	HLCI	ROISSIEUGES			1	B	
A0391	551018	1610	ENG	LOND	WEST HAMPSTEAD			1 PITT-KETHLY	A	CAPLAN
A0392	551216	1700			ANDES MTS		+	1 GENOVESE	B	
A0393	551221	2300	USA	ME	WASHBURN	IN HOUSE		1 JACOBS	A	(AF)

EXTENT OF ASSOCIATION OF THE UFO AND HUMANOID

- TYPE A. HUMANOID IS OBSERVED ONLY INSIDE THE UFO (THE TRUE "OCCUPANT" REPORT).
- TYPE B. HUMANOID IS OBSERVED ENTERING OR LEAVING A UFO.
- TYPE C. "INFERRED" ASSOCIATION: HUMANOID IS OBSERVED IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF A UFO SIGHTING, BUT IS NOT ACTUALLY OBSERVED ENTERING OR LEAVING THE OBJECT.
- TYPE D. "CIRCUMSTANTIAL" ASSOCIATION: HUMANOID IS OBSERVED DURING PERIOD OF GENERAL UFO ACTIVITY, BUT NO OBJECT IS ACTUALLY REPORTED BY THE WITNESS OF THE HUMANOID.
- TYPE E. NO ASSOCIATION CAN BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE HUMANOID AND UFO ACTIVITY.
- TYPE F. CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH AN OBJECT IN WHICH NO ENTITIES ARE ACTUALLY OBSERVED, BUT VOICES ARE HEARD AND MESSAGES OR OTHER INTELLIGIBLE COMMUNICATION ARE RECEIVED.

