

# BEGINNING OUR 25th YEAR!

## the apro bulletin

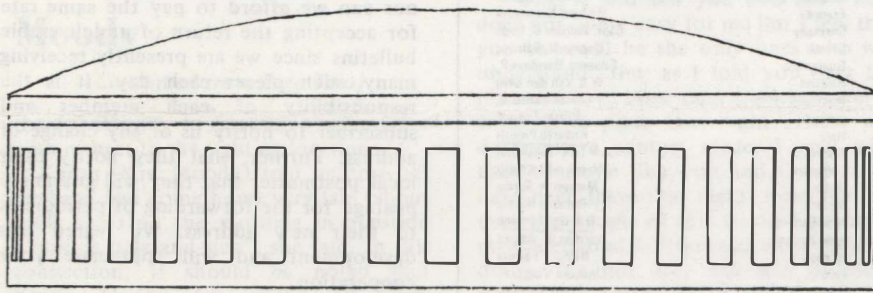
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VOL. 25, NO. 1

TUCSON, ARIZONA

JULY 1976

## MORE NEW JERSEY UFOs



*What George O'Barski saw*

*by James D. White*

The continuing investigation of the George O'Barski encounter with a UFO in January, 1975, across the Hudson River from New York City in New Jersey (see the *Bulletin* for February, 1976) has turned up several other sightings in the same area.

They range in time from three years before the O'Barski incident to early this year and tend to reinforce the suggestion in O'Barski's encounter of a less surreptitious, somewhat bolder pattern of UFO behavior in a metropolitan region.

The most interesting of these newly-discovered cases involves a family of five who saw an object at fairly close range only about six hours before O'Barski's sighting. Their descriptions of its appearance and behavior agree closely with one another on details and supplement the main features of O'Barski's account. Investigator Gerard Stoehrer interviewed Joseph Wamsley, 44; his wife Alice, 37; daughter Debbie, 13, and two sons, Robert, 12, and Joseph Jr., 16. The family lives in the New Jersey community of West New York, about a mile south of North Hudson Park where O'Barski's encounter took place.

The chief difference between their account and that of O'Barski is that they saw no landing and no occupants. (It will be recalled that O'Barski, 72, told interviewers that he saw the UFO land in the park and nearly a dozen small humanoids debark for soil samples before taking off. He returned in daylight and found holes in the ground where they had removed dirt, he said.)

The Wamsley family was waiting for the beginning of a certain Saturday night television show when the younger son, Robert, looked out a north window and saw a large circular object hovering over a three-story building across the street, only about 30 yards away. He called the others, who later agreed in recollecting that the object was flat-bottomed with circling lights underneath, a domed top

### The Walton-Klass Controversy

Phil Klass has issued an "expose" of the Travis Walton case claiming that it is a hoax. He also claims that APRO has withheld, from its members and the public, information that indicated that the case was a hoax. His claims are without substance. It should be remembered here that Philip Klass, with his two financially successful anti-UFO books and his \$10,000 offer has "boxed himself in" with respect to the UFO mystery and must therefore view every good case as a threat. In this respect his expose is a perverse sort of endorsement.

His 17 page copyrighted report arrived at our office on July 10, 1976 forwarded by a member. News media in the area received their copies well in advance of that date, APRO has received no copy directly from Klass at this writing.

According to Phil, APRO's great sin was withholding information on a polygraph (he insists on calling it a "lie detector") test which Travis took on Nov. 15, 1975 and failed. What he does not report is that three psychiatrists who examined Travis on the same occasion declared the test to be meaningless because of Waltons state of mind and the circumstances under which it was given.

One of them, Dr. Jean Rosenbaum, released a statement to the press on that date in which he declared his certainty that Travis was not lying and that there

*(See Walton - Page Four)*

### A Road Hazard Down Under?

*by Bill Chalker, B.Sc. Honours*

A report on a bizarre UFO encounter near Tamworth, NSW in March, 1976, in which a car was covered by a strange white material and the headlights failed.

#### Introduction

Australia has had many incidents in which unknown aerial objects have followed cars, and in a considerable number have presented a considerable danger factor to the driving ability of the percipients of these events.

A casual examination of Australian close encounter cases brings several cases of this type to the surface. These include the Pimble Station event (W.A. 27-7-65). (1) the Bourke's Flat case of 4-4-66 which involved the bending of headlight beams and a possibly related road fatality; (2) the Wadonga occupant event (24-8-67); (3) the north-west W.A. case of November, 1969; (4) the Penrith to Windsor car chase (5-1-72); (5) the Mooraduc road car stop case of July 25, 1972; (6) the central Australian long distance car pacing event of August, 1972; (7) and the Tayene case of September 22, 1975.

In most of these cases, the presence of the UFO has required the car driver to make sudden efforts to maintain control

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months ago William Thornton also made a similar donation and APRO's burgeoning library continues to grow. We're sure all the members join the staff in thanking Mrs. Ashwell, and we would like to encourage others who want to make a little shelf space for other books, to send UFO-oriented volumes to APRO.

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The Post Office has recently increased the fee for Address Correction Notification from 13¢ to 25¢ per piece. We can not continue to absorb this cost, nor can we afford to pay the same rate for accepting the return of undeliverable bulletins since we are presently receiving many such pieces each day. It is the responsibility of each member and subscriber to notify us of any change of address. Further, that they notify their local postmaster that they will guarantee postage for the forwarding of periodicals to their new address. We regret this development and will appreciate your cooperation.

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**The Moody Case**

by *L. J. Lorenzen*  
*Conclusion*

Plans were made for a personal interview with Sergeant Moody. I arranged to fly to Alamogordo with APRO Field Investigator W. C. Stevens in his private plane. On September 2, we landed at Alamogordo and were met at the airport by Sergeant Moody. He took us to the site and we checked it out but found no physical evidence of any kind. When questioned at the site Moody became quite agitated and admitted to feelings of apprehension and fear. These feelings were not nearly so pronounced when he was questioned away from the site, he said.

Several times during the Alamogordo interview, Chuck pointed out that he had commando training and was not afraid of any man but when probing questions were directed at him concerning the incident he felt an urge to run away from the questioners. (Mr. Stevens and me.) Moody also confessed to being very embarrassed by the fact that previous to his experience he had been the first to ridicule anybody who said they saw a flying saucer with remarks like "What had you been drinking?", etc.

Our trip to Alamogordo enabled us to evaluate Sergeant Moody and his family in their home surroundings and provided

(See Moody - Page Five)

**National Enquirer  
 Increases Award**

The weekly tabloid, "The National Enquirer" has increased its "proof of UFOs from outer space award" from \$50,000 to \$1,000,000 (one million dollars).

Reports will continue to be screened by APRO and NICAP, and the "Blue Ribbon Panel", but final judgement will be made by former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Tom C. Clark and former New York state Court of Appeals Judge Francis Bergan.

Of course, with such a rich sum at stake, the Enquirer will probably be inundated with claims, counter-claims and just plain crackpot offerings. But

congratulations are in order to a publication and its owner-publisher who dare to sponsor such a contest.

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**Book Donations**

We gratefully acknowledge the arrival of two cartons containing 29 hardback books, 34 paperbacks and pamphlets, over 58 magazines and periodicals as well as a large number of clippings donated by Mrs. Dorothy Ashwell of Los Gatos, California. These books are valuable because if we have more than two of any given issue, the excess can be used as "loaners" to people who are not able to purchase out-of-print books. Some



# More

(Continued from Page One)

that glowed and a row of very bright oblong windows set vertically around the side.

Within two minutes the UFO moved north beyond their view from the window, so they all hurried down to the street where they watched it "coast" northward deliberately and disappear behind a large apartment complex, the Stonehenge, near North Hudson Park. Both the Wamsley parents referred to its movement as if it were about to land, but they did not see it land.

From the television show the Wamsleys missed, it was established that the sighting had to have been on a Saturday shortly before 9:30 p.m. Mrs. Wamsley

in most other important respects their description dovetails with that of O'Barski about the object he saw some six hours later a mile to the north.

Still another sighting, earlier in the same area, that has come to light was reported by Howard Averall, a 32-year-old artist-photographer from Bellville, N.J. He told Stoehrer that on Oct. 14, 1972, at about 9 p.m. he was driving south along a New Jersey riverside boulevard just north of North Hudson Park when he saw a string of lights off to his left which he thought at first was some kind of aerial advertising display.

Deciding it was not, he stopped his car, got out and watched it for about 15 minutes as it moved slowly northward until it passed above the George Washington Bridge, after which it faded to orange and dark pink and disappeared.

an object about 60 feet in diameter with a red light on top, and "blocks" of white light on the sides which later began to rotate around the circular side "like a bicycle chain going around the middle of the thing."

(Aguilar ran to a nearby office to alert two supervisors, by which time the object had moved away some 100 feet and up to about the same elevation. The circling lights were moving very rapidly now, and the witnesses saw the object shift over the river and then dart off to the east and disappear.)

Two other sightings that have occurred since the O'Barski-Wamsley combination have been reported and are being checked by investigator Ted Bloecher in the same area.

Last Jan. 29, at about 7 p.m., Mrs. Ann Carr, a New York City psychologist, was in her apartment at 23rd Street and 9th Avenue when she saw an object to the northwest, over the Hudson in the direction of Weehawken. She described a brightly-lit, top-shaped mass hanging motionless about halfway to zenith. As she watched, the bottom of the object began to separate like a root descending from a tooth. At this point she left the window momentarily, and did not see it again. This coincides roughly in time with an unconfirmed report of a "landing" in North Hudson Park by an unidentified 7-year-old boy, as reported in the Hudson Dispatch of Feb. 27 this year. Police Chief Patrick McGee of Jersey City said he kept no record of the child's report or other elementary information such as name and address.

On March 5, a doorman at the Stonehenge Apartments (the same building near North Hudson Park where the Wamsleys saw their UFO go out of sight) reported that a woman living in an upper floor had glanced out her window on March 1 at 9:30 p.m. to see a small sparkling object darting through the park near the ground. She told the doorman that it ran wildly in all directions over the grass - the park was empty of people at that hour - throwing off red and yellow sparks. But she would not provide further information for a report.

As all these recent incidents suggest a pattern that may be new and different, investigation is continuing.

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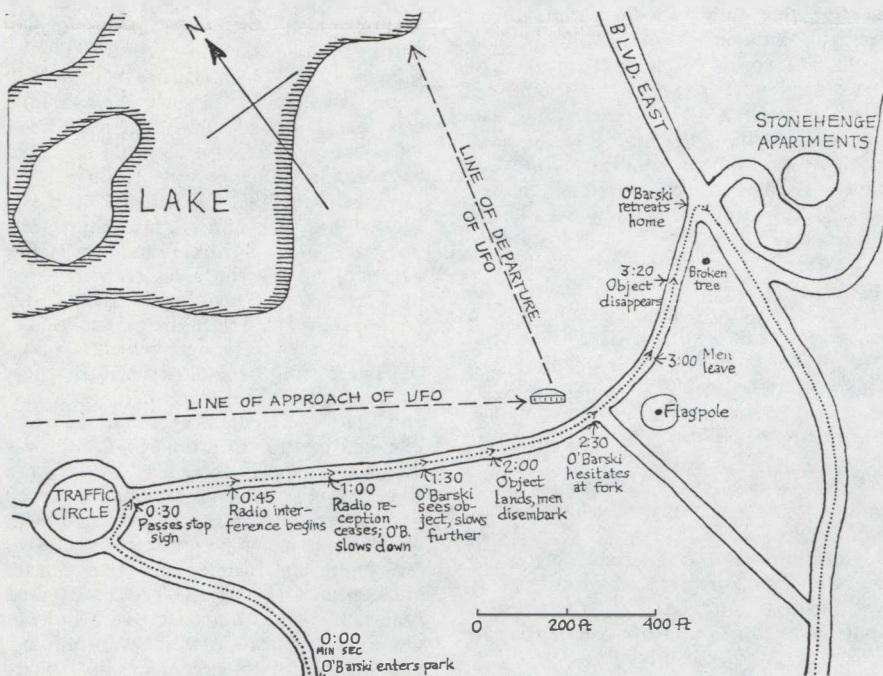
## Hazard

(Continued from Page One)

of the car, and often the event leads to the vehicle leaving the road. Only the Bourkes Flat case of 1966 is suggestive of a fatality related to the presence of a UFO.

The incident which is the subject of this report, perhaps represents a variation

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Map depicting the "Stonehenge Incident"

recalled that in her haste to get to the street she had dashed out barefoot and clad only in a bathrobe - and still was not cold. Weather records show that the 11th was the only warm Saturday night in January, 1975, so if O'Barski saw the same object about six hours later in North Hudson Park, the Wamsley information serves also to establish a date for his encounter.

A synthesis of the Wamsley impressions of the object produces a strong sense of its slow, deliberate movement, as if "looking in the windows" of buildings, a certain awe of the brilliant light from the object's own vertical oblong ports, and a spontaneous wondering at the unusual beauty of the varicolored lights circling underneath. Most of the family recalled they could hear a hum when the object was near, and

He estimated the length of the string to be about six inches long at arm's length and said the lights pulsated and flashed in such a manner that they appeared to move rapidly from front to back of what he finally decided was an oblong-shaped object.

(This sighting is reminiscent of the Robert Aguilar incident of August 23, 1971, which was investigated by APRO by Hal Redner and was published in the Bulletin of January-February, 1972.

(Aguilar was a security guard at the Penn Central railway yards at Weehawken, about a mile south of where the Wamsleys live. He looked out of his sentry-box that night at 9:10 p.m. to see a string of lights pulsating and flashing only 20 feet away and about 15 feet above the ground. A truck driver, Douglas Harrell, also saw it, and the two made out



## Walton

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was no drug usage involved in his experience. Klass ignores this entirely and chooses instead to quote Rosenbaum's speculations concerning the Walton's alleged previous preoccupation with the UFO subject.

Rosenbaum's opinion is particularly important with respect to Polygraph validity since he has been accepted in several court cases as an expert in this very area. He can by no means be considered prejudiced in favor of the UFO abduction theory since he has personally expressed the opinion that Walton was not abducted but had a psychotic experience.

The Polygraph operator was only one of several experts consulted by the National Enquirer to help them decide on the validity of the Walton case. The operator, McCarthy, was recommended by an APRO member who lives in Phoenix who knew only that Mc Carthy had long experience in the field. Mr. Lorenzen made the initial call to McCarthy to determine his willingness to participate. On his affirmative response, Lorenzen turned the phone over to Dr. Harder who discussed at length the agitated state of mind that Travis was in and expressed his doubts concerning Travis' testability. McCarthy promised to take this into consideration, and promised complete confidentiality. "The information will never leak out of this office", he said "you can rest assured of that." Subsequently, Dr. Harder turned the phone over to Paul Jenkins of the Enquirer who then made arrangements for the test.

Initially, the Enquirer's insistence on confidentiality was tied to their interest in protecting their story and the agreement was made between McCarthy and the Enquirer that results of the test would be their property. The Enquirer in turn promised Travis that they would not reveal the results of the test without Travis' permission. APRO, represented by Dr. Harder, was to be made aware of the test results on the understanding that it was privileged information. When the validity of the test results were over-ruled by the other experts consulted, there was, of course, no point in requesting its release since it had then become useless information from a scientific standpoint. Another very important point (now that the constraint of confidentiality is removed) is that the test conducted by McCarthy on Nov. 15, 1975 was unbelievably incompetent. In his pre-test interview with Travis and in the framing of questions he broke some of the most elementary rules of the polygraphic profession. Specifically (1) two significant questions were posed in terms that forced Travis to answer on the basis

of assumption rather than experience. (2) To a third question in the test, McCarthy, during the pre-test interview, created a deliberate association with an event in Travis' past of which he is ashamed.

Polygraph test questions must be phrased in such a way that they can be answered with a simple "yes" or "no", thus they must be phrased so that the subject can answer from his own experience or knowledge. McCarthy's first test question violated these simple concepts. It was as follows:

1. Were you actually taken aboard a spacecraft on Nov. 5th?

Travis was "boxed in". The question forced him to speculate since the information required to answer the question was not in his memory. Experienced polygraph operators know that this situation will produce the stress reaction that they call deception. In the pretest interview Travis had just explained to McCarthy that he had blacked out after experiencing something like a physical blow after he had approached the UFO and that his next memory was of being on his back in what he first thought was a hospital and he had no idea how much time had passed in the interim.

McCarthy's next question is no better. It reads:

2. Were you actually aboard a spacecraft from the 5th of Nov. to the 10th of Nov.?

Travis has repeatedly emphasized that he did not know where he was and that, of the five day period, he remembers at the most, two hours.

There is no way that Travis, whether he said "yes" or "no" could have passed these first two questions.

Describing this test as meaningless as we have done is really being too kind. It was badly botched by the tester. Sometimes long years of experience can serve to crystallize bad habits.

In the course of any scientific study those involved will acquire test results that are inconclusive. The obvious course in such a case is to retest in a manner that will be conclusive. This is what APRO did. We felt that it would be advisable and appropriate to call on Dr. R. Leo Sprinkle, head of the dept. of counselling and testing at the University of Wyoming for help in this matter. Dr. Sprinkle agreed but it was not until Feb. 7, 1976 that his busy schedule allowed him to come to Phoenix where he would meet with Mr. Lorenzen and Duane and Travis Walton.

Meanwhile, Dr. Cahn (APRO Consultant) had made preliminary contact with Tom Ezell of Ezell and Associates and ascertained his willingness to conduct the desired testing. Mr. Lorenzen called Mr. Ezell approximately a week in advance of Dr. Sprinkle's planned visit and made a tentative

appointment to test Duane Walton at 1:00 p.m. Travis had to make the 160 mi. trip from Snowflake and since he had been having trouble with his car the time of his arrival was indefinite so no appointment was made for him. When Mr. Lorenzen called Mr. Ezell on Friday Feb. 6, to confirm the appointment Mr. Ezell asked if it would be OK if his associate Mr. George Pfeifer conducted the test. Mr. Lorenzen inquired as to Mr. Pfeifer's competence and was told "He's as qualified as I am. He's up on all the latest methods." Mr. Lorenzen then agreed to accept George Pfeifer as the tester.

On Saturday Feb. 7, Dr. Sprinkle, Dr. Cahn, Hal Starr and Jim Lorenzen met with Mr. Pfeifer and outlined the areas to be covered in Duane's test. A set of tentative questions formulated by Dr. Sprinkle was submitted. Mr. Pfeifer looked them over and made a few wording changes. These questions were then reviewed with Duane Walton and Duane went in for his test. While Duane was being tested Travis arrived from Snowflake and asked if he could be tested as soon as Duane was through. Mr. Lorenzen said "it's OK with APRO if Mr. Pfeifer has the time." Mr. Starr, Mr. Lorenzen, Dr. Sprinkle and Dr. Cahn began discussing the areas to be covered in Travis' test. Travis, with friends who had accompanied him from Snowflake, took a stroll in the park which is across the street from Ezell & Associates' office.

Duane emerged from taking his test and left immediately since he had personal matters to attend to. Pfeifer was asked to test Travis and agreed. By the time Travis and friends returned from the park the questions for his test had been worked out. When he reviewed them with Mr. Pfeifer he pointed out that certain areas where accusations had been made against him were not covered in the test. Questions were then formulated following forms suggested by Mr. Pfeifer. Unfortunately, in his formal report Pfeifer refers to these questions as having been "dictated" by Travis Walton. He says that "suggested" would be a more accurate representation of the facts.

However, in no case is there a justification of Klass' claim, attributed to Ezell, that Travis came in with questions that he wanted asked.

Tom Ezell is quoted by Klass as saying that the Travis-Pfeifer test should be invalidated because Travis furnished some ("some" is expanded to "all" in the Klass Account) of his own questions. Other operators say that it is common practice to accept help from the subject - providing his suggestions are valid with respect to the test area.

We apologize for taking up so much Bulletin space in explanation. Klass' hoax theory will be dealt with in the next

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## Walton

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issue. Suffice it to say that the Forest Service people did not "buy" the hoax theory. Mike Rogers is back at work for them on another contract at this writing.

Also, Rogers, Walton and the other wood-cutters have challenged Klass: they will each take another test with an expert that Klass finds acceptable if he will pay for it providing they pass — otherwise it will cost him nothing. Klass is still equivocating on this one.

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## Moody

(Continued from Page Two)

the opportunity to establish a perspective with respect to the sighting locations.

Karon (Mrs. Moody) told us how her husband had come home very late (about 3:00 a.m.) on the morning in question "looking pale and sick", she said. In this connection, it should be noted that Karon Moody has about 10 years experience as a nurse.

Our impression of Chuck Moody was that he was a responsible and conscientious person who had experienced something, that he could not relate to previously held concepts and he found the fact very unsettling.

During the Alamogordo visit I advised Chuck to only call me from a "safe" phone and never from the Air Force Base but during the next few weeks he became careless and called me from the Base several times during slack periods (he was still working the swing shift).

In phone calls made during September Chuck reported that he had heard from an "old fishin' buddy", Dr. Abraham Goldman, formerly a flight surgeon in the U.S.A.F., now a consultant in neurosurgery. He had confided in Dr. Goldman with respect to his experience, he said. Dr. Goldman had advised him of a method of practicing meditation or self-hypnosis which he felt might restore the lost memory. It appeared to work. But after recalling some of the missing period Chuck remembered being told that he would not remember for a couple of months. The suggestion here is that his was a programmed recall.

He told me of Abe Goldman's advice in a phone conversation on September 29th; also he broke the news that he had suddenly been ordered overseas. Originally his superiors had wanted him to leave immediately but he said he would not leave until he could dispose of his house and get the family ready to accompany him. The plans were then laid for him and his family to leave on November 29th.

On October sixth Chuck called to say that he now had full recall of the incident — that he had been aboard the craft and would write me full details. Questioning disclosed that his recall was by no means total. He still was interested in hypnotic regression. We tentatively planned to arrange for it during November "before he had to go overseas." This plan was thwarted by his shipping date suddenly being moved ahead to October 29th.

I spent November 13 and 14 in Phoenix with Travis Walton. On the morning of the 15th I checked through my mail. A letter from Chuck Moody received the day before read in part as follows:

"What I will tell you two folks now does not come easy for me but I feel that you two will be the only ones who will understand. Jim, as I told you over the phone, I have been remembering some of what took place that night. There was definitely a contact made. I only wish that someone like you and Coral could have been there that night. I can tell you that the people of this world have really misunderstood UFOers and what they are doing. It's not only just one advanced race that is studying this planet earth but a group of them and within three years from now they will make themselves known to all mankind. It may be as early as midsummer 1976. I can also say that it will not be a pleasant type of meeting for there will be warnings made to the people of this world. Their plan is for only limited contact and after 20 years of further study and only after deeper consideration will there be any type of closer contact. They also fear for their own lives and will protect themselves at all costs. Their intent is a peaceful one and if the leaders of this world will only heed their warnings we will find ourselves a lot better off than before, and at this time it's not up to us to accept them, but for them to *accept us!*

"My dear friends Jim and Coral, what I saw that night aboard their craft were things I cannot explain but I can only try. The beings were about 5 feet tall and very much like us except their heads were larger and no hair, ears very small, eyes a little larger than ours, nose small and the mouth had very thin lips. I would say their weight was maybe between 110-130 pounds. There was speech but their lips did not move. Their type of clothing was skin-tight. I could not see any zippers or buttons on their clothing at all. The color of their clothes was black except for one of them that had on a silver-white looking suit. There were no names said but they knew who I was and called me by my proper name — Charles, and did not use my nickname, Chuck. It was like they could read my mind and I believe they did because the elder or leader would speak sometimes before I would ask something.

"I was taken to a room and the elder or leader touched my back and legs with a rod-looking device and when I asked what he was doing he said there had been a scuffle when they first made contact with me and he only wanted to correct any misplacement that might have happened. I do not remember any type of scuffle or fight but I do know my back hurt the next day.

"The inside of the craft was as clean as an operating room. I cannot say if the fixtures were metal or plastic. The lighting was indirect. I did not see any source of light but there was light. I was thinking to myself 'If I could only see the drive unit of the craft, how wonderful that would be.' The elder or leader put his hand on my shoulder and said to follow him. We went to a small room that had no fixtures in it and was dimly lit and stood on the side of the room. The floor seemed to give way like an elevator. I guess we went down about 6 feet and what I saw then was a room about 25 feet across and in the center was what looked like a huge carbon rod going through the roof of the room; around the rod were 3 what looked like holes covered with glass. Inside the glass-covered holes or balls were what looked like large crystals with two rods, one on each side of the crystal. One rod came to a ball-like top, the other one came to a "T" type top. I was told that this was the drive unit and that I could understand it if I tried. There were no wires or cables. I then saw what looked like a large black box on the side of the room. I asked about it and was told what it was but then was told not to ever reveal what the black box was for. I have really tried to remember but I can't remember about the black box, only that it was there.

"I guess I was there about half an hour looking at the drive unit. I was then taken back up through the same way we came down — the part of the floor just went up with us. The elder or leader then told me that this was not their main craft, but only used for observing, and that their main craft was about 400 of our miles above the earth. And the drive unit on it was different to the one of their craft. I asked if I could go to the main craft and I was told no, that their time was short but they could find me any time they desired and that in a short time they would see me again.

"I then asked the elder or leader why was I so sluggish and clumsy and he told me that I was quite hostile at the first contact and that they had to use a type of sound or light on me to calm me down and that the effect would go away in a short time. The elder or leader then put both his hands on the sides of my head and told me it was time for them to leave and asked me not to remember what had been said or what I had seen for at least two weeks. I don't know why the two weeks

(See Moody - Page Six)



# Moody

*(Continued from Page Five)*

but I guess there was a reason because it was about two weeks later that you came to Alamogordo and shortly after that it started coming back to me – what had happened to me. I asked him if we would meet again and he said yes, in a short time. And he then told me to be sure and visit a doctor soon. And I did – I guess there was a reason for that, too. I then asked why they had talked to me and why was I taken on board their craft. He only said that in time ‘you will understand’. The next thing I knew I was sitting in my car watching a strange object lift into the sky and trying to start my car – the rest you know about.

“By the way, I am still remembering more parts of our talk but some parts are still foggy and hazey. I am working on a drawing of the drive unit. When I have completed it I will send you a copy. I have a feeling I could build one if I tried.”

Checking with Dr. James Harder, our Research Director, who was still in Phoenix with Travis Walton and had by this time taken him through regressive hypnosis, I learned that Moody and Walton were obviously describing the same type of alien – and neither one was aware of the other’s account.

That fact, when mentioned to a National Enquirer reporter, triggered their interest to the point where they eventually arranged to fly me overseas to introduce one of their reporters to him. Moody, up to that point, had asked us to keep his identity secret and we had obliged. Fortunately this resulted in his case and Walton’s corroborating each other in a rather striking manner.

Obviously, there is much more material to be obtained from Moody, which will be accomplished at the first opportunity. He retains a certain amount of anonymity, for there are no less than 24 Sergeant Charles L. Moodys in the U.S. Air Force. APRO is currently in touch with the sergeant and will continue to work with him.

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# Hazard

*(Continued from Page Four)*

upon this theme, and as far as I am able to ascertain is apparently unique. Some cases in the literature provide some interesting similarities, but if the reader is aware of cases in which the phenomenon to be described has occurred, I would hope they could bring these to my attention.

## The Incident

Early on Monday morning, March 22,

1976, a Murrurundi couple were returning from their holidays. Nearing the outskirts of Tamworth (population ca. 25,000), the couple stopped at Nemingha, a small settlement about four and a half miles from Tamworth proper (See Figure 1).

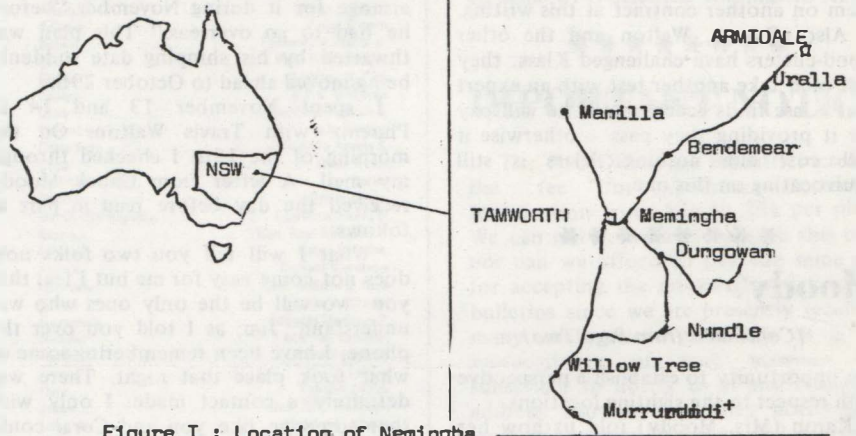


Figure 1 : Location of Nemingha.

Nemingha, situated on the New England Highway, consists of scattered houses, centered around a road intersection and a railway station. The New England Highway leads to Tamworth, 4½ miles (or 7.25 kms) approximately to the west, and approximately 65 miles (or 104 kms) to the northeast it leads to Armidale. The minor road at Nemingha leads to Nundle, some 32 miles (or 50 kms) to the south-southeast.

In Nemingha itself, at the intersection, there is a post office-service station, the Nemingha Hotel and some houses. Powerlines run parallel to the eastern side of the highway, and a street light is situated adjacent to the road, in front of the post office-service station (See Figure 2).

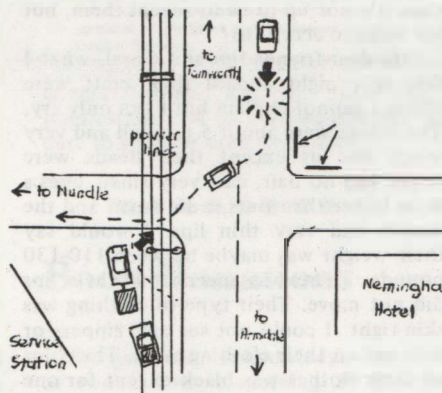


Figure 2 : Nemingha and plan of incident

The Murrurundi couple were towing a caravan, and they parked opposite the Nemingha Hotel, under the street light (in front of the petrol service station). They were studying a road map, trying to decide whether to take the road to the left (which would take them over a

partially bitumened road to Murrurundi, via Nundle), or continue through Tamworth. The time was about 5.45 a.m.

All of a sudden, a small white car with headlights on, appeared on the road ahead (evidently coming from Tamworth). The couple stepped from

their car, hoping to ask the driver for directions.

Then suddenly, a bright greenish-yellow light descended from above, and completely enveloped the small car. The light apparently disappeared, and as the car started to drift on to the wrong side (its right) of the road, it became enveloped in a thick ball of white haze. The car then stopped on its wrong side of the road.

The Murrurundi couple described the events that followed:

“It seemed like two minutes had passed before the white haze disappeared (I assume at this point the car lights are out – B.C.). A lady dressed in blue stepped from the car and with a yellow cloth proceeded to wipe the windscreen which seemed to be covered in a white substance.

“After a few minutes she was about to get into the car when its lights came back on (apparently by themselves ? – B.C.) She stared (as we did) then she threw the yellow cloth on the roadside, got back into the car and proceeded towards us.

“We watched as the cloth she threw away, burst into flames . . .” (9)

A driver of a utility truck pulled up beside the Murrurundi couple, evidently having observed the weird phenomenon. He appeared to be very frightened according to the couple.

The small car, now being driven very slowly, came towards the witnesses, then turned (to its right) taking the road to Nundle. The Murrurundi couple noticed that when the small car passed them that it was covered in “a thick white substance not unlike white paint. The only part of the car not covered was where the windscreen wipers were working.” (10)

*(To be concluded in the August Issue)*