

Widow describes 'sheer terror' of capture by alien beings

The Associated Press

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. - It was 20 years ago that time stood still for Barney and Betty Hill, two hours of terror recalled through hypnosis as a close encounter with alien beings in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

On Sept. 19, 1961, the postman and his wife said they arrived home from a drive through the mountains puzzled by stains and rips on her dress, scuffs on his shoes, and marks on their car. Their watches had stopped.

Neither could remember what

had happened during two hours of the trip. That blank would not be filled in until four years later when the two submitted to hypnosis and their story made headlines.

The Hills told of being captured by creatures resembling short, bald humans, with big eyes, no ears and high foreheads. They said they were taken into a spacecraft, examined with strange instruments and released.

Hill died in 1969 and Mrs. Hill, now 62, who retired as a social worker in 1975, often lectures on

UFOs and her "capture." She marked the anniversary Sept. 19 with a talk at Pease Air Force Base.

In an interview last week, she described her experience as "sheer terror."

"I must have had a very strong heart," she said. "I survived it."

For four years, the couple said they could remember being chased by some kind of aircraft and getting home late, but nothing else. Then Hill's health began to fail, and when he did not respond to medication, a doctor suggested

hypnosis.

Under hypnosis, Hill mentioned being captured by strange beings. His wife began hypnosis treatments and the story unfolded.

Near Campton, south of Franconia Notch, after being followed by the UFO about 30 miles, their car stalled.

"The car was standing in the road and they started coming toward us," Mrs. Hill said. "Barney kept trying to start the car and it wouldn't start, and when they separated and came up in two groups on either side of the car,

that was it.

"I was going to try to outrun them, but I had just gotten the door open and was ready to get out and there were five of them standing right there."

On board the craft, she said, "They put a needle-like instrument in my navel, which was unheard of here then, but now doctors do it every day."

Mrs. Hill says the aliens removed her dress, and apparently got something on it, leaving pink stains that have defied analysis.

She points to the torn lining of the dress as evidence of a struggle, saying: "You can see that I did a little bit of fighting all the way to the craft."

The Hills became celebrities in 1965 when *The Boston Traveler* obtained transcripts of the hypnosis sessions. "A UFO Chiller," the headline said. "Did THEY Seize Couple?" Their story became the theme for a movie and a popular book, "Interrupted Journey."

Being a celebrity has advantages. Mrs. Hill says.

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