

Larry Warren, an unscheduled symposium speaker

A close encounter of the third kind

BY LINDA BRUDER

While skeptics and eye witnesses at last weekend's "UFO Symposium" strained to hear scheduled speakers over a Brewster school's vibrating P.A. system, a young man with pale blue eyes and a ready wit held court on the lawn outside.

Throughout the afternoon, Larry Warren of Connecticut enthralled his impromptu audience with an extraordinary tale of a "close encounter of the third kind."

Pausing only for a sip of a soda offered by a bystander, he repeated his story at the request of each new arrival despite a growing case of laryngitis:

On a December night in 1980, he explained, he was on duty with the Air Force's 81st Tactical Combat Support Group at a base the U.S. leased in Bentwaters, England.

He and others in his unit were driven to a forest where they were sent into the woods in four-man groups.

The first thing he saw after entering a clearing was a round foot-high stage he describes as "aspirin-shaped."

"There were movie cameras and people taking pictures. A red light in the distance kept getting bigger until I heard someone say, 'Here it comes,' and a red ball dropped on the 'aspirin.'"

Underneath the red ball, he says, was a triangular-shaped metallic object, 15 feet high and 20 feet across. As he watched "red balls of light whizzed over people's heads and around the forest, buzzing back and forth."

His first thought after that was, "Why are these kids here?" He describes the "kids" as dressed in silver suits and about three feet height, although "they floated and this brought them up higher."

"They stood like 'The Three Stooges' in front of the base commander for half an hour. Their heads went back and their arms went up. That's when I think they communicated with him."

Although he and others had removed

their weapons, there was one tense moment, he told his audience. "When there was a loud noise like a tree falling in the forest, the things backed up instantly, their arms up and eyes really big."

"The government has been face to face with them—I can say this for sure," said Warren, adding to the amusement of his audience. "They seemed quite nice. I'd have them to the house for tea."

But his humor faded when someone questioned his motivation in telling his story. Observing that many of the 200 plus personnel who were on duty that night have been threatened, ridiculed and interrogated, he noted, "I'm not doing this for a book or a movie, this is for all the other guys who went through hell."

Since the incident, Warren claims to have suffered mental strain as well as physiological symptoms. Doctors at New Britain General Hospital were mystified, he said, when he began bleeding from the back of the neck without apparent cause: "They gave me a band-aid and asked if I'd ever been around radiation."

Warren claims his former commander, now General Gordon Williams of Washington state, refuses to talk about the incident, but that a Lieutenant Colonel Charles Holt has tapes and photographs of the encounter.

He also claims the base was on full-scale alert that day due to events in Poland, and that a UFO that was recorded traveling at 24,000 mph across Europe dropped off the radar screen in the area of the encounter.

UFO investigator Lawrence Fawcett has investigated Warren's story and claims to have located a document that supports it.

"We're going into court on the Bentwaters incident," said Fawcett, "with nine other witnesses besides Larry."