

# THE KIDNAPPERS FROM OUTER SPACE

## God! What is

ON THE night of Sept. 9, 1961, Barney and Betty Hill were driving along the Highway US 3 to their home at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, after a holiday in Canada. Passing through the White Mountains they saw what they thought was a star or a strange plane.

Then, at Indian Head, Barney stopped the car and they both realized that the object was a flying saucer.

Terrified, they felt a tingling sensation—and were overcome by a daze. When they came round they were 35 miles away at Ashland—and two hours had passed.

Two hours that were unaccounted for.

The after-effects: a pain in Barney's groin, radioactive blotches on their car—and the nagging feeling that "something more had occurred." Something they could not recall. But they were too ashamed and embarrassed to talk about it—until desperation drove Betty to write to Washington. . . .

by JOHN G. FULLER

**WALTER WEBB**, lecturer on the staff of the Hayden Planetarium in Boston, received a letter from Richard Hall, now assistant director of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena in Washington.

The date was October 19, 1961.

Webb, a scientific adviser to NICAP, occasionally investigated the more serious and puzzling Unidentified Flying Object reports in the New England area.

Hall's letter included a copy of a letter Betty Hill had written him. He suggested that Webb might want to investigate the Hill case.

Webb was not im-

pressed because the case involved a report of the movement of beings on a craft. He was extremely sceptical of this type of sighting.

There had been a rash of similar "sightings" in the past from highly irresponsible people, none of whom had provided any kind of rational documentation.

Webb drove to Portsmouth on October 21, 1961, with his sceptical attitude unchanged. He thought that the Hills might be seeking publicity, perpetrating a hoax, or suffering from a mental aberration.

His interview with the Hills began shortly after noon and continued with only occasional interruptions until after eight that evening.

"I was so amazed, impressed by both the Hills and their accounts," Webb said later, "that we skipped lunch and went right through the afternoon and early evening.

"During that time, I cross-examined them together, separately, together, re-questioned them again and again.

"I tried to make them slip up somewhere, and

I couldn't. I simply couldn't. There was an ironclad story."

**FIVE DAYS LATER**, Webb prepared his report for NICAP. He reviewed the incident in the minutest detail, including compass directions, position of the moon and planets, weather and detailed description of the object, including the sketches the Hills had given him.

He concluded his lengthy report:

"It is the opinion of this investigator, after questioning these people for over six hours and studying their reactions and personalities during that time, that they were telling the truth, and the incident occurred exactly as reported except for some minor uncertainties and technicalities that must be tolerated in any such observation where human judgment is involved.

"I was impressed by their intelligence, apparent honesty and obvious desire to get at the facts and to underplay the more sensational aspects of the sighting."

**BARNEY'S** daily commuting drive from Ports-

mouth to his job in Boston, his night work schedule, the gnawing doubts about the Indian Head experience, the discomfort of an ulcer all began to take their toll.

He also had a recurrence of high blood pressure. Then, another disturbing symptom appeared, contributing to his general distress.

In January, 1962, a series of warts developed in an almost geometrically-perfect circular ring in the area of his groin.

By the summer of 1962, Barney's exhaustion and general physical illness prompted him to seek medical aid, entirely aside from the traumatic experience in the White Mountains.

The physician treated him for high blood pressure and ulcers, and finally recommended the possible need for psychiatric assistance.

Barney agreed, and a long process of therapy began during the summer of 1962, under Dr. Duncan Stephens, of Exeter, New Hampshire.

After a year Dr. Stephens suggested that it would be advisable at this point to have the opinion of Dr. Benjamin Simon, the eminent Boston psychiatrist and neurologist.

ON DECEMBER 14, 1963, Barney Hill, and his wife, arrived for a consultation.

Dr. Simon's attitude toward the subject of UFO's was neutral.

After this first consultation he decided that one of his objectives was to open up the amnesia—if this was what the condition turned out to be—and so find out what happened during the two "missing hours."

He planned to begin with an attempt to penetrate the amnesia, through hypnosis, and to proceed from there.

Dr. Simon also decided to tape-record the therapeutic sessions to preserve an accurate record.

As the Hills were to discover, they were in cautious, medically conservative hands. They were to run into a stiff test of whatever beliefs they now had as a result

In the ship... a creature with