

VERDICT

WHAT really happened to Barney and Betty Hill as they drove through the White Mountains of New Hampshire, USA, on the night of September 9, 1961?

They claimed they saw a flying saucer . . . then they went into a daze and, on coming round, found themselves 35 miles away—and two hours had passed which they could not account for.

There were radioactive spots on their car, a pain in Barney's groin, and both felt that something shattering had happened.

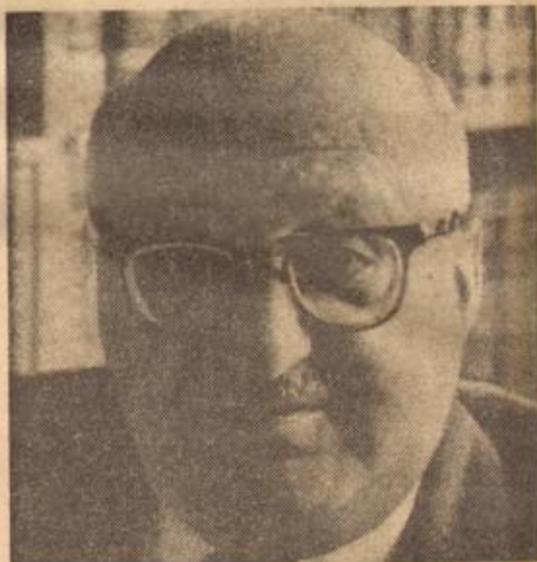
After keeping their story secret for fear of ridicule, they eventually told it to the authorities. Under hypnosis, their story was probed by a leading US psychiatrist, Dr. Benjamin Simon.

They told him how they were taken aboard the Saucer and medically examined.

Yet, though their stories tallied with each other, they could remember nothing of the kidnapping when out of hypnosis.

After studying the tape-recordings of the interviews, Dr. Simon tentatively began to consider possible explanations.

But to form any firm conclusion, he would have to probe their subconscious even further. . . .



DR. SIMON: "They saw SOMETHING . . ."

'THEY WERE —but was it

THE explanation that would most easily explain the Hills' amazing story was that they were lying.

But early on in his probing of their minds under hypnosis, Dr. Simon decided that they were speaking the truth as they saw it.

He also felt it highly improbable that both Barney and Betty could be suffering so markedly similar hallucinations.

He wanted to explore in detail the possibility that their experience was an illusion.

After the first session with Barney, the doctor had assumed that Barney had all the illusions, and that Betty had absorbed them from him.

But after examining Betty under hypnosis, the doctor felt the reverse of his initial assumption might be true. Dr. Simon

reasoned that most of the things Barney told of experiencing in the "abduction" portion of the incident were also included in Betty's story.

His recall of being taken through the woods was vaguer than hers. Betty's story of the examination aboard the craft was much more detailed than his.

If Dr. Simon's assumptions were correct, the question of how Betty's dreams were absorbed by Barney would have to be carefully examined.

AS BEFORE he kept a taped record of his cross-examination of the couple under hypnosis . . .

DOCTOR: Betty had been troubled with dreams and nightmares?

BARNEY: Yes. She said that she had a dream and that she had been taken aboard a UFO (unidentified flying object). And that I was also in her dream and was taken aboard.

DOCTOR: How about the other things you described to me, about what happened to you when they were examining you.

Did she tell you about that?

BARNEY: No. She never told me that. I was lying on the table, and I felt them examining me.

DOCTOR: Is this part of Betty's dream?

BARNEY: I am telling you what happened.

DOCTOR: Now, what about these men on the road? Are you sure they were there? Did you dream this?

BARNEY: No. I did not dream it.

DOCTOR: You mean these men actually stopped you?

BARNEY: Yes.

DOCTOR: All right. Go on from there.

BARNEY: And I started to get out of my car. And I felt myself supported by two men, and my eyes were closed.

It was obvious to the doctor that Barney was going to stick to his previous story.

DOCTOR: Just a minute. Didn't Betty tell this to you while you were asleep?

BARNEY: No. Betty never told me this.

DOCTOR: How do you account for this? Do you think really happened?

BARNEY: It did hap-

pen. I did not know about what happened to Betty but I never believed her dreams.

DOCTOR: If you don't believe her dreams, why do you believe yours?

BARNEY: This is the first time I have ever dreamed of UFO's.

DOCTOR: You told me some time ago that you felt disassociated when you saw this UFO.

BARNEY: I felt as if I had my body moving, and yet my thinking was separate from it.

DOCTOR: Did these men speak to you?

BARNEY: Only the leader. He did not speak by word. I was told what to do by his thoughts.

DOCTOR: Was this some kind of mental telepathy?

BARNEY: I could understand his thoughts.

DOCTOR: Do you often sense Betty's thoughts?

BARNEY: Yes. We sometimes do this. . . . We sometimes try to sense what the other is thinking. It's not too effective.

Betty was brought back and put in a trance.

DOCTOR: Didn't all these things that you feel