

5 a.m. They had expected to reach home by three

Two hours of their lives were unaccounted for—yet neither seemed aware of the loss at this time until it was pointed out to them months later.

Barney unloaded the car. Picking up the binoculars, he found that the leather strap that had been around his neck the night before was freshly broken in half.

During the silent drive, both Betty and Barney had looked to the sky at regular intervals, wondering if the strange object would appear again.

Even after they went into the house, they found themselves occasionally drifting to the windows to look up into the sky.

Inexplicably, each had a strange, clammy feeling. Barney went into the bathroom to examine his groin and lower abdomen which seemed to bother him.

After he came out, they reviewed what had happened and resolved not to discuss it with anyone.

AT NEARLY THREE that afternoon, when they awoke, Barney again began reviewing the experience of the night before.

He was baffled and confused by the total lack of sound during the extended encounter.

The figures he had seen aboard the craft he shunted out of his mind. He did not want to think about them.

As Betty awakened, one of her first acts—why she never fully knew—was to take the dress and shoes she had worn and pack them away in her wardrobe. She has never worn them since.

Barney went over to the clothes he had worn the night before and was surprised to discover that his best shoes were scuffed along the tops.

He wondered why only



'Check your car for radiation'

the tops were scuffed. He concluded that somewhere in that field he had dragged the tops of his shoes along some rocks.

The Hills' resolution to keep the experience quiet began to waver during the afternoon. Betty telephoned her sister, Janet Miller, and told her.

Janet confirmed Betty's feeling that the car might have been exposed to radiation.

Janet reminded Betty that a neighbour of theirs in Kingston was a physicist and said she would check with him.

In a few moments Janet rang back to tell Betty that the physicist said any ordinary compass might show evidence of radiation.

Barney's scepticism stiffened, but he finally relented and got a compass for his wife. She ran it along the sides of the car.

Her attention was drawn to a dozen or more shiny circles scattered on the boot's surface. Each was about the size of a five shilling piece. They looked as though they had been buffed on through a circular stencil.

Carefully, Betty placed the compass on one of the spots. The needle immediately began spinning. She then moved the compass on the side of the car, where none of the shiny spots appeared. The needle reacted normally.

Barney reluctantly

agreed to take a look while Betty called her sister again.

Janet had talked to the former chief of police of Newton, N.H. He had suggested that the Hills notify the Pease Air Force Base in Portsmouth, a Strategic Air Force Command installation.

"How did the compass act for you?" Betty asked, when Barney returned.

"Just like any compass," he said. "Oh, it might have jumped around a little when it got near the tyre in the boot. Things like that."

"What about the shiny spots?" Betty asked. "Did you see those?"

"Yes," said Barney. "Probably something dropped on the boot."

BETTY called the air police at the base and gave an officer the facts.

When she mentioned the fins, which apparently separated at the sides of the craft, with the two red lights on either side, the officer suddenly seemed more interested.

The officer asked to speak with Barney, who avoided mentioning the figures he had observed or the shiny spots.

But from the officer he learned of other reports, some similar to his, and he no longer felt so concerned about the possibility of being considered irrational.

Barney suggested to Betty that they each draw a sketch of their impressions of the object. Sitting in separate rooms, they roughed out two sketches which, when compared, were remarkably similar.

SOME ten days after the sighting, Betty began having a series of nightmares. They dominated her waking life during that week and continued to plague her with anxiety afterwards.

But the dreams stopped after five days and never returned.

Years later, under hypnosis she recalled the dreams:

She had encountered a strange road block on a lonely New Hampshire road. A group of men approached the car, and when they reached it she slipped into unconsciousness.

She awoke to find herself and Barney being taken aboard a wholly strange craft, where she was given a complete physical examination by intelligent humanoid beings.

Barney was taken away, apparently for the same purpose. They were assured no harm would come to them, and that they would be released without any conscious memory of the strange happening. At that point, the dreams ended.

JOURNEY INTO FEAR



THIS is Highway U.S.3, the route Barney and Betty Hill took on their journey into fear. It was just south of Lancaster that Betty first noticed the celestial glow.

The lost hours . .

THIS is the 35-mile stretch from Indian Head to Ashland where the Hills "lost" two hours from their lives. Just south of Indian Head, when they had fled in terror from the mystery object, a beep-beeping lulled them into a daze. They regained their senses near Ashland.



NEXT SUNDAY Pilgrimage into the unknown