

'THE BEDROOM

Frightening



DID you ever wake up in the middle of the night with the distinct feeling that someone or something was standing in your bedroom, staring at you in the darkness? Many people have had this uneasy experience, and those mysterious intruders have proven to be not burglars but bizarre entities who can appear and disappear like "ghosts." They are, in fact, the basis for many chilling ghost stories. But there is now mounting evidence which strongly suggests that such entities are in some way directly related to the flying saucer phenomenon.

Strange, unidentified persons of unusual stature and appearance have been popping up all over the United States—and all over the world—in recent years. Sheriffs' posses have pursued them without success. And many of the witnesses have been unwilling to discuss their encounters with these characters, fear-

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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JOHN A. KEEL (left) received plaque as "Ufologist of the Year" at Congress of Scientific Ufologists in New York City. . .

INVADERS

New UFO-Pilot Mystery

ing ridicule from friends, neighbors.

In many of these cases, these "mystery men" have been described as wearing capes and hoods, something like a monk's cowl. They are nearly always of unusual size, both in height and girth. At first, ufologists tended to dismiss these stories as being the work of pranksters, but now identical reports have come from nearly every state, and from overseas as well. These "prowlers" show a marked tendency for appearing consistently in UFO "flap" areas (areas where UFO sightings are numerous), while test studies in non-"flap" sectors have failed to turn up similar reports.

BIG, broad-shouldered men wearing capes and hoods have been seen all over the world, usually walking along desolate roads in thinly populated areas. In October, 1967, three men were driving along (Continued on page 94)

Pre-Publication
of the Shocking
NEW BOOK

By JOHN A. KEEL

SOON after this UFO was photographed in Southern Calif., reports began coming in of strange beings prowling near homes, roads, in fields . . .

Bedroom Invaders

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Route 2 in West Virginia when they saw a big, caped man walking beside the road, a most unusual sight in that area. They stopped their car and looked back, but he was gone. There were open fields on both sides of the road and no place for him to hide.

A group of eight men wearing thick black cowls startled motorists near Caterham, England on July 28, 1963, according to newspaper reports collected by the British journal, "Flying Saucer Review." Witnesses said that the mystery men departed by "running and leaping across the road . . . Their actions were silent and most odd." More than a century earlier, there were repeated appearances of a strange, caped man in England. He turned up during the 1830's and was able to run with amazing swiftness and leap great distances with ease. He became known as "Springheeled Jack," and extensive searches failed to locate him.

Caped and hooded men have occasionally been reported as the actual pilots of "flying saucers" and unidentified flying objects. Some of these cases go far back in history, long before the first heavily publicized "flying saucer scare" of 1947. One such pilot was seen by the crew of a Norwegian freighter in 1934.

Norway, Sweden and Finland had a massive wave of sightings of "ghost airplanes" and strange flying lights beginning in December 1933 and continuing through the spring of 1934. The Air Forces of all three countries tried in vain to track down and capture these "ghost-fliers," and the witnesses numbered in the thousands.

Late in January 1934, the freighter "Tordenskiold" was on a routine run along the Norwegian coast between Tromso and Kabelvag when a "great greyish machine" suddenly appeared in the sky and swooped down over the ship. As it passed low over the freighter a brilliant beam of light shot from the object and lit up the deck "like daylight." (Such "searchlights" are common in UFO reports from all over the world.) Captain Sigvard Olsen and his crew reported that the mysterious craft was so close that the pilot was clearly visible "in the cabin." They described the pilot as being dressed in some kind of cloak or cape with a hood covering his head. He also wore large glasses or goggles of some sort. (Again, be-goggled UFO pilots are mentioned in many reports.)

MR. Jerome Clark, a leading American ufologist, sent me the following report in March 1967: "I have been told of two similar cases in Minnesota. The first incident occurred last April. According to what the witness told me, he and a

friend had been driving along the highway about 11:30 p.m. They were miles from the nearest town and they could not see any other cars on the road; since the land in northwestern Minnesota is very flat, their visibility was almost unlimited. So they were understandably shocked and surprised when in their headlights they caught three large men walking abreast and toward them from the other lane of the highway. The men were dressed in black cowls that covered the upper half of their faces; there were slits for the eyes. The strangers, whoever or whatever they were, paid no attention to the car and continued on as if it had never passed.

"The second incident allegedly occurred in Canby, Minnesota, several years ago. An acquaintance of mine was taking a short cut home through an alley. He was not paying any particular attention to the direction he was going, and almost walked into another person in the alley. The stranger seemed quite startled and turned to stare in surprise. The man was very tall and massive and was dressed in a black cape that covered the top half of his face; he seemed to be carrying something that resembled a large black bag."

From Cape Cod to the tip of Florida we have heard of unidentified prowlers roaming the countryside at night. During the UFO "flap" around Point Pleasant, W. Va., in 1966-67, several witnesses told me that giant leering faces had peered into the windows of their homes. On inspection, some of these windows were too high for ordinary men to reach. They described the man's face as being "evil," with silver-gray hair. In the winter of 1966-67, an unusually tall (about 6'6") prowler in coveralls with silver-gray hair caused a turmoil among the residents of Provincetown, Mass. There had been numerous UFO sightings by fisherman in the area. More recently, isolated farmers in Delaware County in the upper part of New York state have been chasing a mysterious intruder who has appeared around their homes at night, peering into windows and grinning idiotically. Witnesses say that he has silver-gray hair and is dressed in some kind of coverall garment. As in so many other cases, this New York prowler has eluded pursuers by leaping easily over high obstacles and running faster than any of the rugged farmers. There is no known person in any of these areas who answers this basic description.

Our caped giant has also turned up frequently in the state of New Jersey. A family on Cape May, who had reported a number of interesting UFO sightings over the Coast Guard radio installation near their home, told me that a tall man in a long white cape had appeared around their home in January 1967. The next day they found fresh human-like footprints in the snow. These footprints led to a high wall (which would have been hard to climb, let alone jump over) and continued on the other side. They led to the wall of a nearby shed, where they stopped abruptly.

In the spring of 1966, an Air Force WAF returned to her ground floor apartment on the edge of the closely guarded

McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey one evening and heard a sound in her bedroom. She went to investigate and found her window open and a pair of very pale hands with extraordinarily long fingers resting on the window sill, as if a man were about to climb in. She screamed and the hands withdrew. She found the Air Police and they searched the area. Later they admitted they had seen and pursued the prowler—a very tall man "with his sweater pulled up over his head." Even in this uncomfortable state, the man was able to run and leap with incredible agility. This WAF, a master sergeant whom I have known for fifteen years, was puzzled by my interest in this "sweater" detail and in the long fingers. (Following journalistic tradition, it is my practice to tell witnesses as little as possible and never ask leading questions.) In the innumerable "contact" cases now being studied by ufologists, the witnesses have frequently described "unusually long fingers" on the Ufonauts. This is now such a common description that it is an accepted physical characteristic of one group of Ufonauts and they are termed "LFs" because of it. This "long fingered" factor is seldom mentioned in print so there is little chance that isolated witnesses would know of it.

I asked the WAF if she had had any comparable experiences and she recounted an incident which she had almost completely forgotten.

SEVERAL years previously, she said, she had been staying in a motel in Mexico when she woke up one night to find a giant cowed figure standing over her bed. It extended one arm above her and she reached out to touch it. The second her fingers touched the arm, the whole entity crumbled and disappeared.

"It felt powdery, like ashes," she explained.

What have powdery ghosts got to do with flying saucers?

Such stories are not unusual, they simply are not widely circulated, not even by the UFO fan magazines which are more preoccupied with "little men" than with allied monsters and melting forms. In several cases the objects themselves have reportedly disintegrated into metallic powder when struck.

A longtime UFO researcher in New Jersey, Mr. Michael J. Campione, thoroughly investigated a case involving a disintegrating UFO substance. On August 18, 1966, a disk-shaped object discharged some pieces of flaming metal directly over some telephone poles near Lions Lake, N.J. The witnesses retrieved some of this substance and it proved to be a honeycombed, aluminum-like casting with a strong sulfuric smell. Although they stored it carefully in a jewel box, it rapidly melted away into the air, shrinking to the size of a pea. Since a thorough chemical analysis can cost upwards of \$1,000, the metal has never been tested.

New Jersey has been a hotbed of UFO reports and strange incidents in recent years. Sergeant Benjamin Thompson, Patrolman Edward Wester, and several

others saw a blazing white object "as big as a car" moving slowly and at low level over Pompton Lakes and the Wanaque Reservoir in New Jersey about 9:45 on the night of October 10, 1966. (There have been many UFO sightings in that area.) Forty miles south of Wanaque, in Elizabeth, N.J., two 16-year-old boys had a frightening experience that same night, and about that same time. They encountered one of our giant, grinning men.

The boys, James Yanchitis and Martin Munov, were walking home along 4th Street and New Jersey Street in Elizabeth, when they reached a corner parallel to the New Jersey Turnpike. The Turnpike is elevated and there is a very steep incline dipping down from the busy highway to 4th Street. A very high wire fence runs along the street, making it impossible for anyone to scramble up the incline to the Turnpike. There are bright street lights on that particular corner. It was on this corner that the two young men noticed "the strangest guy we've ever seen."

Yanchitis spotted him first. "He was standing behind that fence," the youth told me later. "I don't know how he got there. He was the biggest man I ever saw."

"Jimmy nudged me," Martin reported, "and said, 'Who's that guy standing behind you?' I looked around and there he was, behind that fence. Just standing there. He pivoted around and looked right at us, and then he grinned a big old grin."

Three days later I visited Elizabeth, accompanied by James Moseley, then publisher of *Saucer News*, and Chuck McCann, an old friend. We interviewed the boys separately at length in the home of Mr. George Smythe and they both told the identical story. The man was well over 6 feet tall, they agreed, and was dressed in a "sparkling green" coverall garment that seemed to shimmer in the streetlights. There was a wide black belt around his waist. McCann,

who is a TV star and movie actor (he portrayed the deaf idiot in "*The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*"), is a very big man about 6'2" tall but both boys said the person they saw was bigger than Chuck and much broader. He had a dark complexion and "little round eyes . . . real beady . . . set far apart." They could not remember seeing any hair, ears, or nose on this figure, nor did they notice his hands. He was standing in the underbrush behind the fence and his feet were out of sight.

There had been some violent incidents in the neighborhood and the boys did not stop to study this character. They ran directly home. Later there were rumors in the area that "a tall green man" had chased a middle-aged resident down the same street that same night. We were unable to track down those rumors.

THE big mystery seemed to be: How did this man get behind that fence and what was he doing there? We considered the possibility that it might have been a driver whose car or truck was in trouble on the Turnpike overhead, but it seemed unlikely that he would have struggled down the steep embankment and then just stood fixedly behind the fence. He certainly would have called to the boys and asked them to make a phone call for him or get help. But the boys seemed convinced that he was just quietly watching a house across the street.

A giant grinning man standing behind a high fence on a street corner in Elizabeth, N.J. on the night of a "flap." It hardly proved anything, but I have heard about the "grinning man" over and over again in my travels.

Less than a month after that peculiar incident, a sewing machine salesman from Mineral Wells, W. Va., Woodrow Derenberger, 50, was driving home from Marietta, Ohio on the rainy Wednesday night of November 2, 1966, when an object "shaped like the chimney of a kerosene lamp" dropped out of the sky and landed on the highway directly in

front of his truck. Derenberger slammed on his brakes and stared in astonishment as a man clambered out of the object and strolled towards him, his lips fixed fixed in a broad, reassuring grin. Derenberger described him as being a little less than 6 feet tall, with a dark complexion and slightly elongated eyes. He wore a dark coat and blue trousers which were "quite shiny and had a glistening effect."

As the man neared the door of the truck, Derenberger heard a voice which asked him to roll down his window. The man stepped up to the door with his arms crossed over his chest and his hands hidden under his armpits (perhaps to conceal his fingers). He continued to grin at Derenberger and although his lips never moved, the salesman claims he distinctly heard a voice and conversed with this odd man through mental telepathy. Their discussion was brief and rather pointless, as is so often the case in initial UFO "contacts." The man said his name was "Cold" and that he was from "a country much less powerful" than the United States. He asked Derenberger who he was, where he was going, and a few other simple questions. Then he said he would be back, returned to the object and flew off.

Woodrow Derenberger, who had never read any UFO literature prior to this experience, thus entered the confusing and growing ranks of the "contactees."

Sixty miles south of Mineral Wells, hundreds of people were quietly and fearfully living in another part of the Twilight Zone around the little town of Point Pleasant. One family in particular, Mr. and Mrs. James Lilly and their children, have had the full range of inexplicable UFO activities around their home on the Camp Coneley Road. Brilliant flying lights appeared at tree-top level in the area almost nightly in March-April 1967, and hundreds viewed the objects from the Lilly's front yard. Their television set would act up every time one of the things flew over and their telephone went wild. Automobiles in the vicinity of the Lilly home began to display an odd tendency to stall without cause.

Their daughter-in-law, Mrs. Doris Lilly, who lived in the south end of Point Pleasant, began to receive strange phone calls early in March 1967. Each evening, around 5 p.m., her phone would ring and when she answered she heard only a bizarre metallic voice speaking in an incomprehensible language. It was guttural and rapid. These calls came only when she was alone.

"It was as if they knew when I came home," she noted.

This same kind of mysterious "hoax" phone call has been reported to me by witnesses in many other areas.

Part of my somewhat unorthodox investigative routine includes a discussion of the witnesses' dreams during the "flap" periods. And one of my carefully phrased key questions is: "Did you ever dream there was a stranger in the house in the middle of the night?" When I directed this question at the Lillys, Mrs. Lilly urged her quiet 16-year-old daughter, Linda, to tell me about the "nightmare" she'd had that March. Linda was reluc-

tant to discuss it, but with a little coaching from the sidelines she told how she woke up one night and saw a large figure towering over her bed.

"It was a man," she said. "A big man. Very broad. I couldn't see his face very well but I could see that he was grinning at me."

"Jim was working on the river (her husband is a riverboat captain on the Ohio)," Mrs. Lilly added. "And Linda woke me up with a terrible scream. She cried out there was a man in her room. I told her she was dreaming. But she screamed again."

"He walked around the bed and stood right over me," Linda declared. "I screamed again and hid under the covers. When I looked up again, he was gone."

"She came running into my room," Mrs. Lilly said. "She said, 'There is a man in my room! There is!' She's refused to sleep alone ever since."

WHEN I asked for a full description of this man, Linda said she thought he had been wearing "a checkered shirt." This was the one detail I wasn't anxious to hear. I gulped and tried to maintain my detached professional pose. The "man in the checkered shirt again," I thought to myself. I had heard a lot about "him" in recent months.

"He" turns up everywhere. A young lady in Florida wrote to me to tell me a very strange story about an ex-boy friend. She said that he had confided in her and told her he was a UFO "contactee." Her well-written, very literate letters reflected a fine, sensitive mind and a good education. I answered her in my usual cautious manner and asked her a couple of unexpected questions.

Had she ever awakened in the middle of the night and felt the presence of someone in the house?

She replied: "Did I ever!" Then she went on to explain how she had awakened one night a few weeks after breaking up with the young man, and found a very large man standing beside her bed. A man wearing a checkered shirt! She cried out and he backed quietly to the door and disappeared into the hall. Her door had been locked when she went to bed. She roused others in the house and they searched the premises. Nothing had been disturbed or stolen.

Occult literature is filled with references to "ghosts" wearing checkered shirts but the occultists tend to skip over this seemingly irrelevant detail.

Completely unknown to my female correspondent, the "man in the checkered shirt" had appeared frequently in the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Glines of Pensacola, Florida, starting in 1963. During a hurricane that year, Mr. Glines later reported, "I was lying on the couch in the living room with just one dim light on. I had the feeling that someone was in the room and looked up and saw a heavily built man about six feet tall wearing a plaid sports shirt.

"I got up and took a couple of steps toward him. As I did, it looked like he took a step backward and disappeared. I turned on the light and he was gone. I checked the doors, and they were all locked. I didn't mention it until my son-

in-law saw it, because I didn't want to upset my wife."

In the ensuing months, all the members of the family glimpsed the elusive intruder. Poltergeistic activity took place in the house and other witnesses, relatives and friends, heard knockings on the wall and footsteps when there was no one there. In May 1964, the home burned to the ground.

Burning houses and mysterious fires go hand-in-hand with the UFO mystery. The sudden destruction of UFO witnesses' homes has been so frequent that mere coincidence must be ruled out. In March 1966, a family on Long Island reported a UFO landing near their home. All kinds of eerie phenomena broke loose around them and "serious UFO researchers" dismissed them as "publicity-seeking nuts." A few months after all these things began, their home burned to the ground. Firemen were puzzled and could not determine the cause of the blaze. The lady in the family was part Indian. Her husband had been born in West Virginia.

A contactee in New Mexico, Paul Villa, also part Indian, had his little home burned to the ground soon after he released photographs he had allegedly taken of UFOs hovering low over his land. In West Virginia, an abandoned building a mile or so from the Lilly home burned to the ground in the midst of a pouring rain, much to the bewilderment of the local fire department. Grass fires often erupt in empty fields hours or days after a UFO has reportedly touched down there. Several barns and old, abandoned buildings have been destroyed by mysterious fires in New York's Delaware County since the "prowler" made his first appearance. There are scores of UFO-related fires on record.

This doesn't mean, of course, that everyone who sees the "man in the checkered shirt" is going to suffer a mysterious fire. But there are many uneasy correlations in the data now coming to light.

In their book, "UFOs Over the Americans," Mr. and Mrs. L.J. Lorenzen, heads of the *Aerial Phenomenon Research Organization* (APRO) in Tucson, Arizona, cited several heavily investigated South American cases in which Ufonauts have entered homes and been discovered by witnesses. In the majority of these, the intruders were described as "little men about three feet tall." So we wonder if this planet may be divided into zones of some kind, with "little men" dominating the South American reports while "silver-haired giants" are busy in North America.

MY numerous articles on these subjects have, of course, inspired a lot of mail. On May 25, 1968, a young man reported that he woke up in his girl friend's bedroom in Superior, Wisconsin and saw a huge shape standing over the bed. "It appeared to be almost 6'6" tall," he said. "A massive head with huge broad shoulders is the only way I can describe it. It moved from the right side of the bed to the left side and then disappeared."

Other reliable, non-demented people in New England and the Midwest have

told me of experiencing such night-time visitants. It is remarkable how the children of many UFO witnesses suddenly become obsessed with the notion that someone is lurking in their bedrooms late at night. Perhaps all of the UFO talk in the household merely produces a hysterical reaction. But such mundane explanations are hard to apply in many cases. UFO witnesses rarely relate their "prowlers" with their UFO experiences, and students of supernormal phenomena have always tended to separate and isolate the various fields of interest in the occult and the widely divergent manifestations.

Professional psychiatrists and psychologists have been hearing these "bogeymen" stories for years and pigeonhole them as symptoms of hysteria or schizophrenia. But psychiatry cannot pretend to explain the similarities and correlations in these accounts. The usual explanation for schizophrenia (which is actually a little-understood mental disorder) is that the subconscious somehow moves in and takes control of the conscious mind. However, as we dig deeper and deeper into the UFO mystery we must ask if it is not somehow possible for an outside influence to do the same thing.

Acute alcoholics sometimes suffer from "Korsakoff's psychosis," a disorientation of time and place, and the hallucinations of delirium tremens are well known. Usually in such cases, the patient thinks he sees small animals, bats and grotesque insects. Other kinds of hallucinations among the seriously disturbed might produce sexual symbols, not grinning men in checkered shirts and caped and hooded giants.

The mystery of the unidentified flying objects has been one of the most discussed and least adequately investigated phenomenon of our time. There are hundreds of little known, little reported aspects to the overall situation which demand close scrutiny not only by astronomers and physicists, but by psychiatrists, psychologists and students of the occult. Perhaps these mysterious gentlemen in capes and hoods are the same kind of entities who have historically been mistaken for "ghosts," and the nocturnal visitants may be part of the same bewildering package of surprises. Instead of leading us to the discovery of "an extraterrestrial intelligence with an advanced technology," the study of UFOs and the manifestations which accompany them may carry us forward into the unexpected, into a parallel world which has always coexisted with us but is separated from us by unknown laws of time and space. We may be experiencing random glimpses of that world and are merely struggling to fit it into the framework of our own environment.

In short, those hooded men walking along the barren plains of Minnesota and those grinning fellows standing behind fences in New Jersey, may merely be passing through—going from our world to theirs. Like tourists visiting a zoo, they occasionally step into bedrooms and darkened streets to get a closer look at the funny *homo sapiens* in their natural habitat. ***