

INJURED, BURNED, BLINDED—BY FLYING SAUCERS. . . John A. Keel 30

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WARNING! NEW

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UFO MENACE

By JOHN A. KEEL

ON a deserted back road in the hills east of Ravenswood, W. Va., a young couple sprawled in the back seat of an old jalopy. It was a starlit, moonless night in the spring of 1967, warm enough so that the pair had stripped to the buff. Suddenly, at about 10:30 p.m., a blinding bluish light poured in through the windows of the parked car.

"At first, I thought it was the cops," the young man said later. "We both felt a funny tingling sensa-

Ray Fired From UFO Knocks Youth to Ground as Hundreds Watch in Horror



I was too scared to go closer. I put down my binoculars and stood there looking at the saucer for about 15 minutes. Then I heard the others shouting for me. That's when I got hit with the

tion that scared us half out of our wits. I jump-up and stared into the light. It wasn't a flashlight or spotlight. It was more like a big ball of

bluish fire hovering a couple of feet off the ground, directly in front of the car.

There was a kind of funny sound, too, like a low hum."

His girlfriend screamed, he reported, and the light seemed to back away slightly (Continued on page 68)



Air Force major points to clawlike print in Erie, Pa., field near UFO sighting . . .

UFO's On The Prowl

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while the humming increased in volume.

"The next thing we knew," the young man continued. "It was gone. Just like that. We dressed and got the hell out of there. Another funny thing: When we got into town it was 12:30. We couldn't figure it out. It seemed like we only looked at that light for a couple of seconds. But somehow it must have taken two hours."

Their first inclination was to run to the police but they decided against it, fearing no one would believe them even though "flying saucer" sightings were common throughout that section of the Ohio River Valley. The next day both the boy and girl woke up to find themselves "sunburned" from head to foot. The boy's eyes were almost swollen shut and bothered him for about two weeks afterwards.

This was only one of the many hundreds of little-known, seldom-reported incidents in which unidentified flying objects have actually burned witnesses. An impressive body of medical evidence and documentation has now been collected on these cases and they reveal a number of interesting *proven facts* about the nature of the UFO phenomenon.

Not only can UFOs blind and burn human beings and animals, but they can also produce peculiar mental aberrations, amnesia and distortions of the time sense.

For some unknown reason, the UFOs often zero in on lovers in parked cars. A more recent incident took place on Wednesday, January 1, 1969, near Key West, Florida. Manuel Lopez and Kay Russell were parked near the Lopez home around 11:15 p.m. when they heard an eerie sound and something like hail began to pound at the windshield of Manuel's station wagon. A strange tingling sensation engulfed them and they felt "frozen" in their seats while some kind of force tugged at their brains. A kind of mental "blankness" overcame them, they told UFO researcher Joseph Ule, and they had the feeling that they were staring into some kind of tunnel which extended into deep space. They couldn't even estimate how long they remained in this condition. When the force finally released them they headed home in a hurry and Miss Russell was reportedly in a dazed, trance-like state for most of the following day. The windshield of the station wagon was covered with small pits from that mysterious "hail" (there had been no hailstorm that night).

Florida has been the site of considerable UFO activity in recent years. At 9 p.m. on the night of January 5, 1969, hundreds of residents in the Jacksonville area saw strange lights and glowing disk-shaped objects in the skies and at 9:30

p.m. a series of widespread power failures blacked out several small communities surrounding Jacksonville. Power failures frequently seem to accompany UFO activities.

A family near Mahomet, Ill. had an encounter with a UFO in October 1967, which produced a strange aftermath. Their lights didn't go out but their electric bill for the following month went crazy, jumping from a normal \$14 to an incredible \$72. Whatever the thing was, it kept coming back to the Kelly homestead and apparently made their electric meter run wild. Then, at 4 a.m. on the morning of Tuesday, December 19, 1967, Mrs. Maryellen Kelly looked outside to see what was agitating her dog. There, hovering directly above some nearby trees, she saw what she described as a great glowing, orange-yellowish "thing." It rose to the northeast and zipped away.

"The next day," she said afterwards, "my face started to get red, my eyes were bloodshot, my hands, too, were red and the exposed area between my short slacks and boots I had been wearing turned red. My left ear hurt and when I blew my nose it bled."

ALL of these things are common UFO "symptoms." In December 1966, Mrs. Mary Mallette began to bleed profusely from the right ear as she stood with a crowd of people in a field in Point Pleasant, W. Va. Others in the crowd had felt an oppressive heaviness in the air and a very high frequency hum as strange lights cavorted overhead. Animals—dogs, cows, horses, and rabbits—have been found dead in many UFO "flap" areas, with blood running from their ears, noses and mouths. This is almost a sure sign of concussion: a sudden increase in air pressure. An ordinary explosion can cause this, of course, but in many of these cases no explosion was heard. There are cases of unexplained deaths by concussion going all the way back to 1946.

The majority of all UFO sightings are of unusual aerial lights, often of blinding intensity. When one of these lights appeared over the Wanaque Reservoir in New Jersey on the night of October 11, 1967, police sergeant Ben Thompson got a very close look at it. Too close, in fact.

"When I got out of the police car, this thing was so bright that it blinded me so bad I couldn't find the car," he reported to Dr. Berthold Schwarz. "It was all white, like looking into a bulb and trying to see the socket, which you can't do. I signed out of the service (to the Ringwood police) for twenty minutes because I couldn't see—neither the fingers of my hands nor the lights of my jeep. It really shook me up. I was totally blinded after the light. It took away my voice and I was hoarse for two weeks after that."

Whatever "flying saucers" might be, the hundreds of documented cases of "eyeburn" provide conclusive evidence that they emit what doctors call "actinic rays"—ultraviolet radiation. When these rays come from the sun they produce sunburn. If you lay on the beach on a sunny day without protecting your eyes you risk burning your corneas. Overexposure to ultraviolet radiation can sear

your eyeballs beyond repair and produce blindness. A milder dose creates swollen orbs accompanied by a painful itching sensation. These are exactly the symptoms of the people who stare too long at a low-flying UFO at night.

Mrs. Kelly in Illinois apparently received a sizable dose of ultraviolet rays from the "thing" that buzzed her house at 4 a.m. in 1967. It burned her flesh as well as her eyes.

Among the many other recent incidents of UFO burns were the injuries suffered by 19-year-old Tiago Machado on February 7, 1969, near Pirassununga, Brazil. Brazil has had quite an outbreak of "flying saucer" sightings in recent years. (In fact, all of South America has been unundated with the objects. Back in June 1968, the tragic death of Senator Robert Kennedy was relegated to the back pages of the newspapers in Argentina because their front pages were filled with reports of UFO sightings and landings.)

Hundreds of people in the Pirassununga area saw the strange circular machine that swooped low over the town and settled in a nearby valley on tripod legs. Young Machado was closest to it and he headed for it cautiously.

"It seemed made of a material similar to aluminum, but it was luminous," he explained to doctors and reporters afterwards. "The saucer's rim was spinning around the center. It never stopped whirling. The center section was stationary and appeared to be made of a transparent substance. I could see what seemed to be shadowy figures in the cabin, gathered around what looked like an instrument panel."

He crept to within 30 feet of the object while scores of people gathered on the more distant hills to watch. Suddenly a bright beam of light shot from the disk, striking him in the legs. He fell over, partially stunned and paralyzed. The object leaped into the air and disappeared into the sky with amazing speed.

Machado was rushed to a hospital where Dr. Henrique Reis noted, "There were no visible wounds or marks. At first I thought it could be snakebite, but it was not."

The youth's legs turned bright red and became painfully swollen. Some of the witnesses compared his injuries to electrical burns.

"Flying Saucers" can be very dangerous. Still, people try to touch them. The stories of UFO injuries are rarely widely circulated, so most witnesses don't realize that approaching a glowing saucer-shaped machine can be a harmful experience.

BACK in April 1950, a 12-year-old boy named David Lightfoot was playing outside Amarillo, Texas, when he and a friend saw a flying object about the size of an automobile tire. It dropped out of the sky and hovered nearby. David walked over to it and boldly touched it.

"It was slick like a snake and hot," he reported.

The bluish-gray thing suddenly released some kind of gas or spray which turned his arms and his face bright red, even raising welts. Then it zipped off in-

to the sky. Doctors and other adults took the boys' story seriously and it was reported by the United Press on April 9, 1950.

Still another boy, Charles Cozzens, 13, of Hamilton, Ontario, allegedly touched an "electrode" on a UFO in March 1966, and received a curved burn on his hand for his trouble. While walking home from a music lesson he said he saw two glowing objects come down and hover in a field behind a police station. He walked over to them, curious and unafraid. They were about eight feet long, four feet wide, and three feet high with red, blue and green lights set into the rim, flickering "like a computer." One of the objects had an "antenna" on it which was "thicker at the base and narrowed to the size of a nickel at the top." He bravely touched the machine and found it to be hard and smooth, neither hot nor cold but about body temperature. Then he ran his hand along the "antenna" and when he reached the tip of it he received a shock which burned his hand.

He claimed he ran towards the police station to tell someone but, looking back, he saw that the objects were suddenly gone.

"I thought the police wouldn't believe me," he explained, "so I ran home to tell my parents.

His father questioned him closely and was convinced the boy was telling the truth. Forty-eight hours passed, however, before his parents took him to the family doctor and the story leaked out.

Charles was described as "a serious hard-working kid, not the type to look for attention." Several other people in the immediate area reported a pair of glowing objects in the sky around the same time.

In MALE, December 1968, we discussed several other cases of UFO burns and injuries, including some of those in which nasty-smelling gases apparently came from unidentified flying objects. Witnesses usually describe this gas as being "like rotten eggs." To chemists this description means hydrogen sulfide, a potent gas which can sear the throat and lungs and produce nausea, loss of smell, and crippling stomach pains.

For many years now mysterious "gas attacks" have been plaguing this planet. Not all of them involve direct sightings of UFOs but the symptoms usually described fit the symptoms suffered by the known UFO victims. Since the early part of this century, these "attacks" have shown a strange preference for schools and school children, just as many of the UFO incidents now coming to light involve small children. The manifestations rule out ordinary explanations such as "stink bombs" and tear gas. There is also a weird malady associated with UFOs that causes fainting spells.

THE little island of Barra de Tijuca, off the coast of Brazil, has a long history of UFO sightings, some with mass witnesses. At high noon on April 29, 1967, five people in five different sections all suddenly fainted and had to be rushed

to the hospital. A UFO was seen in the area at the time. That same month, 60 children at the Ocean View elementary school in Norfolk, Virginia, also passed out suddenly. Doctors and police investigators could find no leaking gas or other possible causes. Thirty-eight of the children required hospital treatment. Norfolk is another frequent UFO "flap" area.

In March 1968, "sleeping sickness" struck a class of children at the Upchurch school in Raeford, North Carolina. The children even fell asleep standing up. Authorities were baffled. No toxic gases were found and investigating psychologists ruled out possible psychological explanations. Then, on May 28, 1968, 60 students in a Baltimore, Md. school were stricken with the same odd malady in the school lunchroom at noon. Some passed out while others became hysterical ("They seemed to go mad," according to the wire service reports).

Dazzling burns, searing gases, mental blackouts and inexplicable fainting spells are all part and parcel of the UFO mystery. Whatever is happening, it's going on worldwide and the same strange manifestations are gripping whole populations of cities and villages in every country. Lovers in parked cars are suddenly hauled into a "twilight zone" by our enigmatic visitors.

UFO amnesia can also strike on city streets. On August 26, 1967, Mr. Tony Moracco was walking along Eastern Boulevard in Clifton Springs, New York. At 10:30 p.m. he saw a large object dip down from the sky, flashing orange and

green lights. He stopped and stared at it as it glided closer and closer.

Three hours later Patrolman Robert Haight found Moracco stumbling along a highway in a dazed condition. The time was 1:50 a.m. and he could not remember anything that had happened during those three hours.

"The subject was not intoxicated," Haight noted in his routine report.

Why don't you hear more about these things? The reports are frequently carried in local newspapers, often in great detail, but the wire services rarely carry them beyond the borders of the states in which they originate. The people in Omaha have no idea what is happening in Chicago, and the citizens of Ontario, Canada, don't hear about the bizarre events taking place in South America. The UFO buffs have been crying "Censorship!" for years but aside from the now-routine suppression of official Air Force reports, there doesn't seem to be much evidence that real UFO censorship exists.

From time to time, however, an especially startling case does seem to disappear under official wraps.

One such incident occurred in Canada on May 20, 1967. Steve Michalak, 52, was out prospecting near Falcon Lake, Manitoba, when he saw a large circular object land. It seemed to be made of glittering metal "like stainless steel," he reported. He approached it and thought he could hear voices mumbling from inside. He called out but received no answer. Instead, the object spewed out some kind of gas or flame which caught him full on the chest and sent him reeling backwards as it took off. Both his shirt and his chest were burned with an odd checkerboard pattern.

MICHALAK became extremely ill, suffering a week of blackouts, nausea, headaches and a weight loss of 22 pounds. It took him many weeks to return to normal. Then, on September 21, 1967, 124 days after the initial incident, the burns on his chest returned and his body began to swell. He was hospitalized and again returned to normal. But the malady returned every 109 to 124 days. He

was examined by American and Canadian doctors and scientists and his case became a cause celebre in Canada although not a word about it appeared in the American press. In August 1968, after a year of recurring illnesses, he visited the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota at his own expense. Doctors there told him that they had treated another patient from California who was suffering with the same thing. His problems stemmed from "a foreign substance" in his blood, he was told.

In November 1968, Mr. Barry Mather, a member of the Canadian Parliament asked that the reports on the Michalak case be made public. His request was denied. No reason was given.

The Air Force-financed UFO study conducted by Colorado University mentions the Michalak incident in their final report and subtly hints that he was not telling the truth. They do not attempt to explain, however, how a "liar" could inflict such a peculiar wound on himself, a wound which has forced him into retirement and a life of misery and pain.

Another, even more horrifying UFO "attack" took place at Pilar de Goias, Brazil on August 13, 1967. This one was fatal. It has been thoroughly investigated by Mr. Willi Wirz, managing editor of the *Brazil Herald*, and Mr. Nigel Rimes, a prominent and respected ufologist living in Brazil.

At 4 p.m. on that date, Inacio de Souza, 41, and his wife, Luiza de Souza, reportedly saw a strange "aircraft" resembling an "inverted wash-basin" hovering on the grounds of their plantation. Three "persons" were standing near the object. At first, Inacio thought they were stark naked but as the trio moved towards him it appeared they were wearing skin-tight yellow coveralls. Sr. Souza was carrying a .44 caliber rifle at the time and the appearance of these individuals was so alarming that he raised his weapon, took aim and fired at one of them. A "beam of green light" instantly shot out of the hovering object, striking him about the head and shoulders and knocking him unconscious. As his wife ran to his aid, she saw the three "persons" enter the object and it took off vertically

at high speed, making a noise like "the humming of bees."

"On the first and second days," Rimes reported, "Inacio had complained of numbness and tingling of the body, and of headaches. He also experienced severe nausea. On the third day the same symptoms were present, plus continuous tremors of the hands and head . . . His doctor discovered burns on the trunk and head, such as might have been caused by some poisonous plant, and indeed tried to establish whether or not the patient had eaten any poisonous plants.

"The burn marks were in the form of a perfect circle 15 centimeters in diameter . . . The doctor thought Inacio had suffered an hallucination, and was suffering from some disease, for he had no time for flying saucer stories, did not believe Inacio's story, and advised all concerned to 'keep silent on the matter'."

After four days treatment, Sr. Souza was released. The diagnosis was "leukemia" (cancer of the blood). He quickly wasted away to skin and bone and was covered with yellowish-white blotches. He died on October 11, 1967, after undergoing considerable pain.

In reviewing this incredible sequence of events in Britain's esteemed *Flying Saucer Review*, Charles Bowen remarks: "We do know that excessive exposure to radiation can cause leukemia. And if the beam of green light focused on Inacio de Souza was the cause of the onset of the killer disease, then it must have been a very intense radiation, for I have never heard of a victim being carried away so quickly after exhibiting the first symptoms of the disease.

"Finally, if this account is to be believed—and I do not think it should be dismissed out of hand—then the warning inherent in the story is that if anyone is unfortunate enough to come within striking range of one of these objects and its attendant entities, then they should not take any offensive action."

Wirz and Rimes heard about this incident almost by accident. The Michalak case, which is almost identical in many of the medical details, has received very little publicity outside of ufological circles. We can only guess at how many other events of this type may have occurred within the muffled atmosphere of silence, secrecy and ridicule which surrounds the subject of "flying saucers." All this raises a rather unhappy question: How many more people must be burned, blinded, gassed, and even killed before the governments and the scientific establishment adopt a more responsible position and face up to the fact that there's something else out there besides "swamp gas"?

If you should have an encounter with one of these non-existent hallucinations, take warning from all this. Don't shoot at it. Don't stare if it is very bright and very close. If you should become one of the growing legions of witnesses present at an actual UFO landing, don't get too close to the object. Stand back at a safe distance and don't try any heroics. Independent scientists, doctors and experienced ufologists all over the world are trying to solve this enigma. They don't need any more medical statistics. ***