

# Ancient Astronauts Modern Mysteries

By John A. Keel

## FATHER OF UFOLOGY

Several years ago the late Frederic Brown wrote a short story describing how flying saucers arrive on Earth and their pilots quickly win us over with their wisdom and kindness. They even offer to transport large numbers of earthlings to another planet and a new, more fruitful life. Millions of people clamor to make the trip. Huge space-ships arrive to collect these willing emigrants.

In the course of the story, a book discarded by one of the spacemen falls into the hands of a scholar who laboriously translates it. The book is titled *How to Serve Man*.

The story ends with the revelation that it is a *cookbook*!

While Brown's little tale was pure fantasy it revived the earlier warning of Charles Fort. Fort collected and published four books of strange events and scientific anomalies in the 1920s. He was actually the father of modern ufology . . . the study of unidentified flying objects. Although he died in 1932, the International Fortean Organization (Box 367, Arlington, Va. 22210) continues to plod along in his maverick footsteps.

Fort wrote that he suspected this planet was *owned* by something or somebody; that we were all property.

The late Ivan T. Sanderson, a great Fortean thinker, reached a similar conclusion. He suggested that the Earth was a gigantic farm and that we—mankind—are only the crop.

## THE MYSTERIOUS PROPHECY

In 1966-67, Ivan Sanderson and I appeared together on many speakers' platforms in the northeast. Wherever we went someone in the audience invariably asked us the same bizarre question, and always in grim seriousness. We heard it mostly on college campuses. So far as we could determine, the question has never been published anywhere. It was just a rumor that had somehow spread over the entire country in those years.

Here it is: was it true, the questioner

would ask earnestly, that flying saucers were landing on college campuses and kidnapping hundreds of students, mostly females, who were never to be seen again? Was it also true that all the relatives, friends and teachers of the kidnapped students were then brainwashed in some mysterious manner so that all memory of the missing students was erased? In short, the kidnappings were carried out in such a way that it was as if the victims had never existed. No one who knew them could remember them.

Sometimes our questioners would credit this incredible idea to Jeanne Dixon, the famous Washington seeress. Eventually the rumor reached her, and in 1968 she issued an emphatic denial to the press. She had *never* said . . . or even thought about . . . such a thing.

Apparently the kidnap rumor alarmed and worried a great many people coming, as it did, at a time when many college UFO sightings were occurring.

In 1966, we didn't know very much about flying saucers. Only a handful of people were following the UFO situation closely and relatively few books on the subject were available to the general public. Very few people knew that amnesia often seized UFO witnesses. And fewer still were aware that a number of people had apparently been kidnapped by UFOs. So the rumor was remarkably sophisticated considering the scarcity of UFO information.

In 1967, a writer named John Fuller published a book based on the transcribed testimony of Betty and Barney Hill while under hypnosis. They had been treated by a psychiatrist for emotional problems suffered after a strange encounter with a UFO in 1961. The actual recordings of their recollections under hypnosis are hours long and when Fuller condensed the tapes for his book he left out many important details.

But Fuller's book on the Hill case was a bombshell. Among other things, it implied that the flying saucer aliens were, in fact, capable of inducing amnesia (the Hills had no conscious memory of the story they related under hypnosis). An even more condensed version appeared in a national magazine, supporting the rumor.

In summary, the Hills recalled being taken aboard a flying saucer in the

mountains of New Hampshire and being subjected to a medical examination there. They were then told they would remember nothing. And they didn't . . . until recurrent nightmares drove them to the psychiatrist.

## CURIOUS BACKLASH

Although the authenticity of the Hill story can be seriously questioned, it did produce a curious backlash. Other people came forward with similar stories, some dating back to the 1940s. These people had remained silent for years, fearing ridicule. Essentially they all recalled being stopped on lonely highways and taken into some kind of a structure (not always a flying saucer) where they were thoroughly examined medically. Characteristically, their memories of these episodes were as vague as the Hills'.

But similar personal experiences are in historical records covering the past 2,000 years! Earthlings have been suffering strange distortions of reality since the dawn of record keeping. Occult and religious lore, and the widespread fairy tales of the Middle Ages, all recount the same thing. Mrs. Hill recalled some kind of long needle being thrust into her abdomen. But this needle theme is found in stories dating back 500 years.

When you view all these tales *in toto* it sounds as if someone has been periodically collecting human beings and inspecting them as we might inspect livestock.

The flying saucer believers of the 1960s tried to find all kinds of meaning in Fuller's account of the Hill case. They saw it as proof that curious visitors from another planet were merely studying a sample of life here. But there is really much more to it. *Much more.*

Someone from somewhere has been keeping close tabs on us for *thousands* of years.

## THE MEMORY BENDERS

In the past seven years a number of psychiatrists, doctors, and scientists have quietly gathered empirical evidence that some force whose origin and

purpose remain unknown to us has the power to produce amnesia . . . and other even more horrendous effects. Usually we only hear about these incidents by accident. *There is no way of knowing how many thousands or millions of people may have been temporarily abducted and examined in recent years.* It could happen to you on the way home from a party. You would wake up the next morning in your own bed, puzzled because you couldn't remember anything that happened after you left the party. But you would naturally decide you probably had too much to drink and dismiss it.

The historical record indicates this inspection process is a continuing one. Also, from what we now know—which is admittedly very little—it seems to be hereditary. If your great grandfather had an experience of this type during the great UFO wave of 1897 you are likely to have had a similar encounter in 1967. Persons with Indian blood are more likely to have some form of UFO experience than anyone else, except for gypsies. The phenomenon is selective, and a study of UFO records suggests that certain groups are selected more often than others. The phenomenon is more intense in Catholic countries (i.e., Brazil, France, Spain, etc.) than in others. Barney Hill was black, and black witnesses are a rarity.

Finally, studies by Dr. Jacques Vallee and others demonstrate that age is often an important factor in the selection process. A 20-year-old is more apt to undergo a UFO experience than a 50-year-old.

But maybe *everyone* in the selected groups undergo these experiences when they are in their late teens or early twenties . . . even though very few remember anything about it.

## ARE UFOS TO BLAME?

We now know that this phenomenon operates in many ways, on many levels, using many different frames of reference. The flying saucer concept may be just a frame of reference, like the secret caverns of the fairies in an earlier epoch.

For the past 25 years or so a small clique of evangelistic types have served as unwitting propagandists for the phenomenon by trying to convince the rest of the world that flying saucers are real spaceships from another planet. Yet there is no more hard evidence today for the reality of UFOs than there was back in 1947. But now there is a considerable body of lore, a modern mythology based on questionable observations and enthusiastic speculation.

People who indulge in spiritualistic beliefs, witchcraft, and black magic, and a dozen other frames of reference

also experience these medical-type "dreams" and spells of amnesia. They blame evil spirits, the devil, and other chimerical entities for these events . . . and just as convincingly as the UFO enthusiasts who are stumping for extraterrestrial visitors.

The true source of these phenomena has concealed itself behind all these frames of reference by creating manifestations aimed at supporting them and advancing each particular set of beliefs. The source is thus able to go about its mysterious business unimpeded while we all search vainly for wonderful visitors from space.

## THE NINE-POINTED STAR

All religious and occult beliefs are based on the claims of prophets who appear in every generation. Most of these prophets simply hear voices which relay prophecies. But some also have meetings with strange supernatural entities in remote places . . . deserts, forests, lonely mountaintops. These entities identify themselves as messengers in some cases. In others they claim to be actual gods. In modern times they have often posed as Venusians, Martians, and inhabitants from even more distant planets. But throughout history they have conveyed the same basic message to us . . . a promise that the world is going to end soon and that only a selected few will be saved.

Back in 1844 there was a worldwide wave of prophets and prophecies. The world was supposed to end that year and millions of people believed and prepared for it.

In December 1967 there was another worldwide wave of prophecies of doom. Spacemen, angels, demons, and even Ouija boards informed their followers that the end would come on December 24th of that year.

Interestingly, completely isolated tribes in the Pacific, Africa, and South America cherish beliefs identical to those of the more "sophisticated" civilized world.

These messengers, gods, and spacemen always make one basic promise—they will return one day. The modern spacemen say they will come back to evacuate the chosen few to a safer planet when the final catastrophe strikes our world. The Hopi Indians have long called this promised event "Purification Day." Other tribes have labeled it "The Harvest." The Harvest?

Ancient Navajo legends state that the first sign of the approaching end will be the appearance of a nine-pointed star in the sky. The Toltecs, Mayas, and Aztecs of South America worked out an elaborate calendar which calculated the end would come in 1844.

The Bible tells us the end will come suddenly, unexpectedly. At that time man and all his works will be destroyed. Theologians have managed to interpret this warning as salvation.

## HAS IT HAPPENED ?

Regular SAGA readers know there is now much archaeological evidence indicating that our planet has sustained large civilizations in the distant past. These civilizations vanished abruptly or were destroyed by some great natural calamity. Were those ancient peoples also warned generation after generation as we have been? Is this whole process cyclical?

The Earth is at least 3 billion years old. Man's history can only be traced back about 5,000 years. We know almost nothing of what happened before that. It is possible that *many* great civilizations rose and fell during those 3 billion years?

Perhaps, once the planet is heavily populated, those mysterious forces will carry out their promise, swoop down and remove almost the entire population. Then the cycle begins again. The few survivors struggle in the ruins, obeying the command of the messengers and spacemen to "multiply and replenish the Earth." Like farm animals, we breed and expand even though our ultimate fate is not kept secret from us. Rather, we are told to expect terrible, sudden destruction, and we are even groomed to look forward to it as some kind of glorious experience!

This is why Ivan Sanderson, a famous zoologist, referred to the Earth as a farm. He saw us as breeding stock in some awesome cosmic game, just as Charles Fort saw us as property.

The world didn't end in 1844 or 1967. But each year the spacemen, angels, and messengers visit thousands of people all over the world and repeat their warnings again and again. In the 1950s their warnings centered around the threat of the atomic bomb. Perhaps they didn't want us to destroy ourselves because they have another fate planned for us.

Nine-pointed UFOs *have* been seen in recent years. Many of the ancient prophecies have come to pass. Mankind has been busy building arks . . . spaceships . . . like Noah. Are we going to escape our promised fate this time? Will a few of us manage to fly off to another planet before the end comes?

Or is this just another cycle? Will we share the mysterious fate of all those who have gone before us? Will Frederic Brown's space ships arrive one day at the turn of the century, kindly offering to evacuate us to a safer place?

Would you volunteer to go with them? ★ THE END