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ALTERNOTES Rick Hilberg informs us that on September 22, 1967 a radio discussion on the AR theory took place during the Gary Short Program on WERE Radio, Cleveland, Ohio..... A considerable portion of Timothy Green Beckley's "On the Trail of the Flying Saucers" column in the October, 1967 issue of Flying Saucers Magazine is devoted to AR and your Editor. Beckley's published conclusion: ".... All too incredible for you, readers? We admit we were somewhat taken aback by all these thoughts, too. But the possibility, it would seem, of what Mr. Greenfield has suggested, if taken in the light of centuries of UFO sightings and reported contacts, remains a good one....." According to UAPRO head Gary Lesley, in a communication dated 24 August, 1967, these areas have experienced a minimum of two months of high saucer activity: Exeter, New Hampshire; Wanaque, New Jersey; Crestview, Florida; El Campo, Texas; Hartshorne, Oklahoma; Magnum, Oklahoma; White Sands, New Mexico; Pine-dale, Wyoming; Ephrata, Washington; Maury Island, Treasure Island, Mt. Vernon, Paine AFB and Sedro Woolley, all in Washington; Toledo, Oregon; Point Pleasant, Ohio;* Cartersville, Georgia; Piggott, Arkansas. All of these are since 1964, according to Lesley. From later communication with the UAPRO Director we are able to add Brooksville, Florida to this list..... AHG

ON THE SUBJECT OF IMPORTANCE

It only hits home occasionally. We go through life, in saucers as in other fields, with a feeling of remoteness most of the time. But sometimes it hits you right in the guts.

Sometimes (I have made reference to it in the past as the "sense of weirdness" that goes hand-in-hand with the saucer subject) it comes at twilight, looking at the sky and out at the world generally in this brief, surrealistic time of day. It is there, but difficult to put into coherent terms. Yet it is real; real in objective terms.

What is all this? This fantastic subject we are dealing with. How much of it is true, and what does it mean? Will we ever solve it? There are places where I have felt closer to a solution than I am sitting here at this typewriter.

But just what is this all about? We hear tales of the Hill family, of UFO all-ey in South America, of Mothman in West Virginia, of terror on Long Island. Some, no doubt, are bunk to one extent or another. But the others? What of the others?

Yet for the most part this doorway to the unknown remains unexplored. Few people, I venture to say, are even aware of more than a tiny fraction of all this. Of these, how many are really going out and working for a solution? It seems that there are damned few. The few that there are seem so isolated that what they are involved in is more of a personal search for truth, rather than an organized study. This, in itself, is severely hampered by the lack of org-

*Editors Note: We have reason to believe this should, in fact, be listed as Point Pleasant, West Virginia.

anized research, as opposed to individual saucer chasing. Here are some examples of things veritably crying out for investigation. How much work have you done?

(1) THE SAUCER CENTERS: Here in the United States (let alone elsewhere), there are at least several areas of the country where saucer phenomena and other ARish phenomena have manifested in what appears to be unusually high numbers. We have done work in Brooksville, Florida and Cartersville, Georgia, but our work has not been enough. We need others to go to these areas (that means GO, physically.....not read about it in Searchlight or Saucer News or the AHN, for that matter.)

(2) THE RECORDS OF STRANGE PHENOMENA: History, it seems, is crawling with reports of parapsychological, fortean and UFOlogical phenomena. One need only pick up a copy of a number of books published by University Books (not to say that there isn't a cornucopia of data from other sources as well) to find a treasury of ARish data. Why, oh, why isn't an effort being made to reduce this discordant information to easy-reference file cards or some orderly system where we might be able to come up with a sensible pattern to it all? All you need is a 75¢ paperback and a ball point pen and a pile of file cards. If you're not sure exactly how to do it, for Heaven's sake, write me and I'll tell you! I can't do it all myself, but I'll certainly support any honest effort to do what needs doing!

(3) THE 1897 FLAP: The scope of this wave may still be undetermined. Go to your public library, secure the microfilm records, and see if you can uncover any material related to this wave. Such material may be of immense value. In this, and in the above point (2) though, be careful of copyright restrictions.

(4) "IN DEPTH" STUDY: I don't know if there is one, repeat: ONE studygroup in this country (or in the world, as far as that goes) that is devoted to serious and informed "in depth" discussion of this subject. Sure there are public lecture groups that serve a good purpose. There are also groups that go into various aspects "in depth". There are also, I would guess, some groups investigating the total picture, but from a highly subjective standpoint. If there are two (repeat: TWO) people in a city or area that have enough "in depth" knowledge to discuss this subject in depth, then they should get together AND DO SO! Good Lord, in cities like New York or Cleveland, why hasn't something been done long ago?

(5) FIELD WORK: There have been field investigations in UFOlogy from the beginning. But how much has been done with some concept of the possible scope of the phenomena? How much has been done in the areas outlined (implied) in our "PNV Form" as published in AHN, Volume One, Number Six (sample form free from us on request)? We have opened the door by being the first (to our knowledge) to publish such a form. Now the doorway is open.

It's all there, waiting for action. For the scholar, there are projects two and three. For the joiner, there is project four. For the man of action (or woman of action) there are one and five. And there are combinations of some or all, according to taste, time and/ or whatever other factors there are in your personal situation. But help us. For God's sake, help us! We've been sitting still far too long already. These may quite seriously be dangers involved....men in black, or whatever. But the greatest danger may be doing nothing at all.

AHG

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by

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Probably no aspect of UFOlogy has provoked more discussion and argument than the contact claims. Since the early 1950's, well over 100 persons have claimed to be in contact with the UFO occupants, either mentally or in frequent physical contacts. To dismiss all contact claims out of hand, as is "standard operating procedure" for the more conservative UFO organizations, smacks of a close-minded attitude and an unwillingness to accept evidence and/or testimony in support of the more believable contact claims. However, rather than go into a lengthy discourse on contemporary "contactee" stories, let us look at a few examples of historical contacts.

If we disregard the Biblical accounts which read very much like our modern contactee stories, we may begin our search around the seventeenth century. In the Ace edition of ANATOMY OF A PHENOMENON, Jacques Vallee quotes the French astronomer Flammarion, who cited the case of one David Fabricius, who claimed to have been in contact with the inhabitants of the moon. Another contactee of the same period, Kircher, described the inhabitants of the planet Venus as being "young men of a wonderful beauty, whose clothes were as transparent as crystal...". Today, our contactees describe beings with an outer layer of clothing similar to cellophane.

In a speech before the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia in 1775, the prominent astronomer and physicist, David Rittenhouse, said, in answer to a question, that "extra-territorial" life did exist and through their infinite wisdom and power they would prevent earth people from doing anything detrimental which would effect those of outer space. In a similar vein, Benjamin Franklin, in his arguments against slave importation, asked, "Why darken ourselves in the eyes of supreme beings?".

One of the most reliable (probably the most reliable, in this writer's opinion) contactees has said that various historical personages were contacted by space beings, although their experiences were sometimes interpreted as "visions", etc. One of those listed was George Washington, who is reported to have had a vision wherein an "angel" showed him the future of the American nation. Another such person was supposedly Thomas Paine. In checking the works of Paine, one finds a reference which might indeed lend weight to the theory that he was contacted. We find this quotation in THE AGE OF REASON.

In the period of roughly 1870-1910, a good many books were written with what might be termed a "cosmic viewpoint". Some of the better known examples are the books of Madame Blavatsky, H.W. Percival, John Ballou Newbrough's OAH SPE, and many others. Among the lesser known volumes of this period are two which this writer has had the good fortune to read, and which have comments of interest to the UFOlogist.

The first of these would be THE MAN FROM MARS by Thomas Blot, an extremely interesting story of a man's visit with a Martian in the California mountains, supposedly sometime in the late 1800's. The page containing the date of publication was missing from the only copy we have seen. The contact did allegedly occur, however, during the time of a close approach of the planet Mars, so perhaps some of our more astronomically-minded readers will be able to tell us when the closest approach of Mars occurred in this approximate time period. The book is largely made up of the "Martian's" comments along philosophical and sociological lines, although the "airships" of Mars are mentioned

along with many things which could easily have come from the present-day writings of Adamski, for example.

The second book concerns itself with experiments in long-range wireless telegraphy, allegedly carried on between New Zealand and Mars! Its title is THE CERTAINTY OF A FUTURE LIFE IN MARS by L.P. Gratacap, and purports to be extracted from the posthumous papers of one Bradford Torrey Dodd. Briefly, it recounts messages received by Dodd's son from his father, who was reincarnated on Mars! Despite the rather "far-out" nature of the narrative, one passage in particular stands out, because it fits in so perfectly with many descriptions of today's "little men". Dodd, in company with other inhabitants of Mars, is sailing along one of the famed "canals". On reaching their destination, Dodd says:

"Here we landed, and a crowd of people hailed us, and amongst them were many of the prehistoric people, the short, sturdy brown or copper colored northerners who work in the quarries and mines. It was nightfall. Their day's work was over, and they crowded around us with interest. They were good-natured, but quiet, and dressed in a kind of overalls that was made in one garment from head to feet."

Lest it be thought that some "up-dating" has been done, the copyright on the above-quoted book is dated 1903.

The 1896-97 "airship" flap, although well-known to UFOlogists for years, has been publicized a great deal within the past year or so. Much light has been thrown on the contacts of that period, and we find they were almost as numerous then as today. The following example from the Texarkana, Arkansas, Daily Texarkanian of April 25, 1897, is representative:

JUDGE BYRNE ON THE AIRSHIP - - Yesterday as the reporter was passing the Ragland corner he was halted by Judge Lawrence A. Byrne, who is known here for his truthfulness by his fellowmen. The reporter stopped to listen to what the Judge had to say, and here is what he told us in the presence of E.A. Frost and W.B. Hamilton:

"I was down on McKinney bayou Friday looking after the surveying of a tract of land, and in passing through a thicket to an open space, saw a strange looking object anchored to the ground. On approaching I found it to be the "airship" I have read so much about of late. It was manned by three men who spoke a foreign language, but judging from their looks, would take them to be Japs. They saw my astonishment and beckoned me to follow them, and on complying, was shown through the ship."

Here the Judge explained to the reporter about the machinery being made of aluminum and the gas to raise and lower the monster was pumped into an aluminum tank when the ship was to be raised and let out when to be lowered. The Judge's description of the ship is a well studied one, and his story is so ingeniously wrought that we are almost tempted to believe what he told us, but just at this time, and we must say it is the first time we ever caught the Judge romancing, we can't swallow his airship story.

As we can see, a contactee's former truthfulness is not sufficient to enable his story to be believed, whether in 1897 or 70 years later in 1967!

Obviously, the contactee has always been with us, in one form or another, throughout history. What is THE ANSWER to the enigma of the UFO? Can it be found by examinations of the contact stories, or does one merely sink "deeper and deeper into the morass of confusion and contradictions", as one prominent researcher puts it? These are some of the questions every UFOlogist must face.