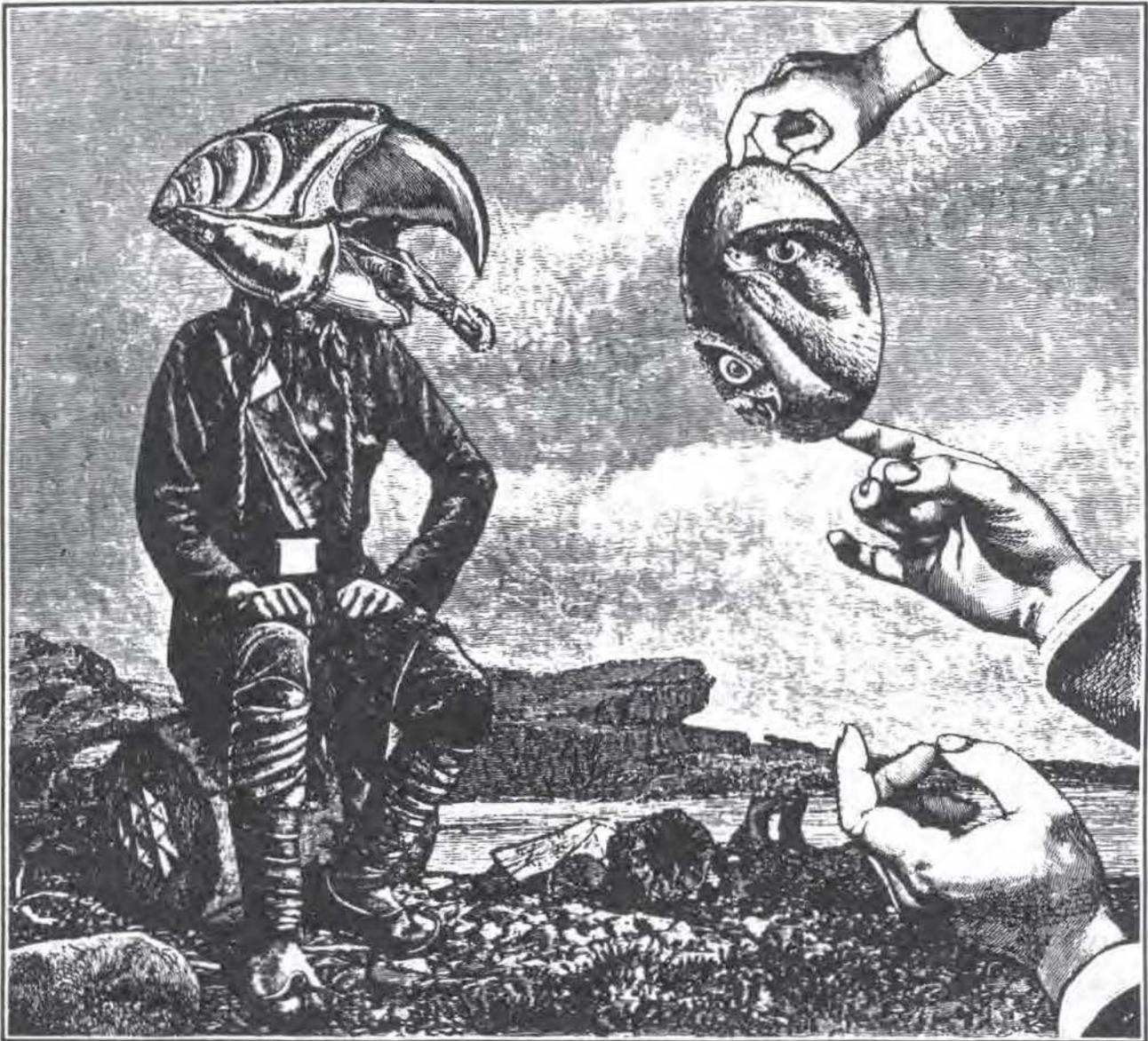

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NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

IN MEMORIAM

J. Allen Hynek, 75, NU professor and international expert on UFOs

By Kenan Heise

J. Allen Hynek, 75, international UFO expert and Northwestern University professor emeritus of astronomy, coined the phrase, "close encounters of the third kind" to describe contact with unidentified flying objects or alien beings. He did research for 20 years on UFOs as a consultant for the U.S. Air Force and in 1973 established the Center for UFO Studies.

Services for Mr. Hynek, of Scottsdale, Ariz., will be private. He died Sunday in Scottsdale Memorial Hospital.

In the introduction to his 1977 book, "The UFO Report," he wrote: "We know so little about the vast universe poised as we are on our tiny vantage point, the Earth. Things far beyond our imagination may be possible. In the meantime, we must satisfy ourselves by studying UFO reports, not UFOs."

He added, somewhat skeptically, "Reports by people often make mistakes about what we observe."

But Mr. Hynek, in his book and frequent lectures, demonstrated he was not a pure skeptic on extraterrestrial visitations. A convincing

case, he said, was the story of two Mississippi fishermen who said they had been taken aboard a spaceship.

"At first," he said in a 1977 speech, "I thought this was a cock-and-bull story, but after talking with one of the fishermen, I believe him."

Mr. Hynek for many years published the International UFO Reporter. He also maintained a UFO hot line at the Center for UFO Studies, which was at Northwestern for 12 years until he moved it to Scottsdale in 1985.

From 1952 to 1972, he was a consultant to the Air Force on UFOs and helped put together Project Blue Book, a secret account of UFO sightings.

In his 1974 book, "The UFO Experience," he distinguished a "close encounter of the first kind" as a sighting of a UFO. One of the second kind referred to a sighting within 500 feet that left behind physical traces. The third kind includes physical contact with a UFO or an alien being.

Mr. Hynek was born Josef Allen Hynek in Chicago on May 1, 1910. He received a bachelor of science degree in physics and as-

tronomy from the University of Chicago in 1931 and a doctorate in these fields from the U. of C. in 1935. From 1931 to 1935, he was a fellow of the Yerkes Observatory in Williams Bay, Wis.

From 1936 to 1941, he was an instructor and assistant professor of physics and astronomy at Ohio State University. From 1942 to 1946, he supervised technical reports in applied physics at Johns Hopkins University. From 1946 to 1960, he was associate and professor of physics and astronomy at Ohio State. He was also director of the McMillin Observatory there

From 1956 to 1960, on leave from Ohio State, he was associate director of the Smithsonian Institution's Astrophysics Observatory in Cambridge, Mass. He was head of the optical satellite tracking program. While there, he also lectured at Harvard University.

In 1960, he went to Northwestern as chairman of the astronomy department. He also was director of the Dearborn Observatory, built in 1888 on the Evans-ton campus with what was then the most powerful telescope.

"His specialty in astronomy was



J. Allen Hynek

the chemical composition of the stellar atmosphere," Northwestern professor William Buscombe said. "His great contribution was his conviction that the school needed a modern astronomical telescope so that students could study here and not have to face interstate travel to do research."

"His enthusiasm for a facility here was controversial, but his point of view has been borne out."

Survivors include his wife, Miriam; a daughter, Roxanne; four sons Scott, Ross, Joel and Paul; and five grandchildren.

J. Allen Hynek Dies; Led AF Investigation of UFOs

By BURT A. FOLKART,
Times Staff Writer

J. Allen Hynek, the astronomer who took on what he described as a sprawling collection of "kooks, nuts, ding-a-lings and cultists" when he agreed to head a U.S. Air Force investigation of unidentified flying objects years ago, has died.

The scientist and author who coined the phrase "close encounters of the third kind" to describe supposed confrontations with aliens from other worlds, was 75 and died at Memorial Hospital in Scottsdale, Ariz., on Sunday. Hynek had moved his Center for UFO Studies from Illinois to Arizona last year.

He was an esteemed scientist chosen in the late 1950s to head Operation Moonwatch, a volunteer network of astronomers around the world who were to undertake the tracking of American satellites yet to be launched. When the Soviet Union orbited Sputnik I on Oct. 4, 1957, a surprised Hynek managed to quickly mobilize his dozens of tracking stations around the world, and visual sightings of the tiny satellite's third stage rocket began to be reported.

His network also led to the first, little-known American-Soviet co-



J. Allen Hynek

operation in space. The Soviets had not prepared a visual tracking network of their own and asked Hynek's team for help as Sputnik's radio signals began quickly to fade.

By February, 1958, after the Soviet achievement put an end to the intermilitary rivalry that contributed to the United States becoming the second and not the first nation in space, Hynek's crews were able to report accurate sight-

ings of Explorer I, the 80-inch-by-6-inch satellite that marked the beginning of the U.S. satellite program.

Thus Hynek became an obvious choice to head Project Blue Book, an outgrowth of the hundreds of reports of UFO sightings that had been trickling into the Pentagon since 1947 when the Air Force began keeping records.

Hynek started his investigation by charting both the "kooks" who often confused gaseous clouds with interterrestrial travelers and the scientific community for not taking some of those reports seriously enough.

A small, bearded man, Hynek led the investigation until 1963, concluding that more than 80% of the reported UFO sightings were explainable as natural phenomena but that the remaining 20% required further study.

The Air Force, however, concluded that there was no evidence to support the existence of any of the mysterious objects.

Disagreeing, Hynek founded his UFO studies center. He had not been active recently because of failing health, said Tina Choate, the center's administrative director. She did not elaborate on the nature of his illnesses.

In his 1972 book, "The UFO Experience," Hynek first used the phrase "close encounters of the third kind" to describe some of the investigations he had conducted into reports of creatures from other planets that supposedly had visited

earthlings.

Steven Spielberg, who used Hynek's dramatic words in 1977 as the title of his \$20-million film, said Wednesday through a spokesman that he had used the retired Northwestern University professor as a technical adviser on the picture and had even cast him in a cameo role. Hynek remained a good friend over the years, Spielberg said.

Asked in 1980 if he had personally seen a UFO, Hynek said that he had not. But even if he had, he added, "I wouldn't report it unless I had witnesses. People would probably think I'd been involved in this so long it finally got to me."

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is good to be back with the second issue of our Journal. Our organization hopes that you enjoyed the premier issue, and we will try only to improve with each subsequent effort.

As many of you are aware, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, founder of the Center for UFO Studies died on April 27. The field of Ufology, and indeed all aspects of research into the unexplained will sorely miss this great mind, and I will miss a friend. Our condolences and heartfelt sympathy go to his wife Mimi, and his children. This issue of the Journal is dedicated to Dr. Hynek, and his enormous contributions to mankind's store of knowledge.

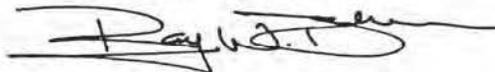
I would like to provide an open invitation to all readers of the Journal to submit manuscripts to be considered for publication in the Journal. Let us know your thoughts on whatever aspect of the unexplained interests you most.

I hope you will enjoy the articles contained in this issue. I feel we have something which should be of interest to everyone. And by the way, just so know one else gets the blame, all articles are written by myself, unless otherwise by-lined.

Next issue, we will try to bring you a section of pertinent book reviews, and get you up to date on what's currently available in the field of the unexplained.

Until next time, take care, and let me know how you like our effort so far.

All the best,



Ray W. Boeche

LATE INFORMATION

As we were completing work on this issue, we received word from the Defense Intelligence Agency that more documents on PROJECT MOON DUST may be released to us in a short time.

The DIA indicated that they were waiting for final release of some documents by one branch of their organization. With any luck, we will be able to bring you this information in the next issue.

Wish us luck, and we will keep you updated on our progress. Slowly but surely, the truth will come out.

YOU MAY BE ON FILE

Abduction cases are rapidly becoming standard fare in Ufology. The abduction of an individual, or individuals, and the subsequent "medical examination" which have been related countless times are familiar to most researchers. However, we may have a new twist to add to the old story.

In 1984, a Lincoln, Nebraska woman we will call simply "Joan", mentioned that she had experienced a recurring dream since childhood. In this dream, someone appears outside her bedroom window, and attempts to coax her to come with them. This subject arose during a casual conversation, and over the next few days, I made a decision to explore this dream with Joan, if she were willing to pursue it.

Joan (whose full name is on file and available to qualified researchers with her permission) holds a position of some authority with a state governmental agency. An extremely intelligent and engaging woman, Joan had almost no prior knowledge of the UFO subject, and, in fact, was uninterested in it. She did, however, agree to explore this recurring dream through the use of regressive hypnosis.

On April 11, 1984, Joan was hypnotically regressed to the point in time when the dream had first occurred. This, we discovered, was October 7, 1955, when Joan was 12 years old. The hypnosis was performed by Stacey Vornbrock, a psychological social worker, and a skilled hypnotist.

The story which unfolded was for the most part very similar to that of other abductees. She was awakened in her bedroom by a figure standing outside her window, who asked her to come with him. This entity was described as about four feet in height, dressed in a white tight-fitting suit.

This entity conducts Joan to a "craft" which is resting on the ground in a large vacant lot next to her home. After entering, she is given the well-known medical exam described by others (sampling of skin tissue, blood, hair, etc.) and is returned to her home, and subsequently her bedroom.

The entity who escorted her from the bedroom, and subsequently performed the examination, was assisted by 5 other similar beings, who were described as identical, but slightly smaller, than the "leader". The leader, who Joan had originally met, was the only one who communicated with her. However, she indicated that she was able to discern what he was telling his apparent subordinates. This is where the totally new dimension enters.

According to Joan's testimony under hypnosis, the subordinates were quite worried about being caught, that it was too obvious a location with too many people nearby, and that they shouldn't take chances and endanger themselves. The leader told them apparently quite sternly that plans had changed, they had to make up time, and that's why Joan was chosen.

The leader then indicated to Joan that they had intended to examine someone else, a man who was out driving in his automobile, but he had returned home, (apparently an unexpected turn of events to the entities) and they were unable to pick him up then. The leader then indicated to the others not to be concerned, that he had done this many times before.

He then indicated to Joan that she was, quoting now, "very far back in the files", and they hadn't intended to choose her, but the change in plans necessitated it. This being then begins the examination, Joan having been instructed to lie on a smooth, metallic table. Clamps emerge from the table, holding her

ankles, wrists, and head immobile. Again, without going into great detail, the examination which follows is quite similar to that related by many others.

However, throughout this examination, the leader apparently had to reassure the others that it was quite alright for this to be going on, and made mention several times again of Joan being "back in the files". This presents a novel idea, which could conceivably tie in with Budd Hopkin's work on abductions.

Hopkins had found that (as chronicled in his book Missing Time) many of the abductees he has worked with have had multiple experiences—first as a child, and then again later as an adult. Making the great assumption that what all of these people have experienced is exactly what they have described, is it not conceivable that the individuals abducted may indeed be "on file"—genetically, by random chance, or by some deliberative process which we could not begin to fathom? This appears to add an entirely new dimension to the entire abduction question.

One other startling fact emerged at the end of the abduction experience. The following information is so coincidentally strange, that I was quite literally shocked when it came out during the session. Joan was describing being back in her room, and the leader was reassuring her that she was alright, and she wouldn't remember the event in the morning. We asked Joan to recall this conversation exactly, word for word, much as if she were watching herself and this entity carry on a conversation. Here is the transcription of that conversation.

JOAN: I want to talk.

ENTITY: About what?

JOAN: What went on?

ENTITY: Nothing.

JOAN: Who are you?

ENTITY: An explorer.

JOAN: An explorer of what?

ENTITY: An explorer of all.

J: Like who?

E: Like your Christopher Columbus.

J: Should I be afraid?

E: Not of us.

J: Who should I be afraid of?

E: The men in black.

J: You mean the priests?

E: No, no, the men in black.

J: What men in black?

E: You don't have to be afraid.

J: What do they look like?

E: They're your people (Joan described a mental picture of men dressed in black clothing—suits, overcoats, hats, sunglasses, gloves, which she said was the way the entity communicated this description to her)

- J: What do they do?
- E: They scare people.
- J: Like ghosts?
- E: No, like bad people scare others.
- J: Like J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI?
- E: No.
- J: What will they do?
- E: They don't want people to know we explorers won't hurt them.
- J: Are you going to help us?
- E: No, we're just explorers, but we watch.
- J: What will they do?
- E: You like animals.
- J: Yes.
- E: What if I tell you that they killed someone's dog because he saw some explorers.
- J: *Joan then goes on to describe a "mental motion picture", in which she is shown a man walking in the woods with his dog, when he stumbles on a landed UFO. Later that same night, she witnesses the men in black clothing come to his home, kill his dog, and question the man about what he had seen. She is then made aware of these men in black calling the man's work place, discrediting him, causing the loss of his job. After suffering further harassment from friends and family, Joan is shown the man back in his home, placing a gun in his mouth, and pulling the trigger.
- J: What else?
- E: You're afraid-I don't want to tell you any more because I don't want you to be afraid. I've only told you this much because you are a child, and curious. Just know they are bad. You are safe.
- J: Can you keep me safe?
- E: No, when we are gone, we can do nothing more. The men in black won't know, you are too far back in our files.
- J: Who should I tell?
- E: You won't remember.
- J: Who will know?
- E: No one-they aren't watching you, not like the man in Maine. Don't be afraid, goodbye.

As I mentioned earlier, I was shocked to hear this portion of the session. Also, the first question which Joan asked upon awakening from the hypnotic state was "Have you ever heard of these men in black?" She literally had no concept that a term such as this even existed.

I am well aware of the doubts expressed by many researchers as to the validity

of abduction cases as a whole. I feel, however, that the whole abduction question is one for serious consideration, and I doubt highly that they are all the products of the imagination, or the oft-touted "birth-trauma" memories. In short, I believe a great many of these people experienced something exceedingly strange, and which took place substantially as they claim it did.

I am also aware of the highly skeptical attitude taken by many researchers toward the question of the notorious men in black, or MIB reports. I have a great interest in this aspect of Ufology, and for approximately the last 3 years, I have been collecting as much substantiated information as possible for a serious, book-length work on this subject. I am also certain that the question of the MIB phenomenon is not one to be taken lightly.

Let me make some comments relative to this, since these two controversial topics are woven together in this instance. People in great numbers are having these experiences, both abductions, and MIB events. Of that there can be no doubt. Before criticizing this attitude however, you must realize that we still have no firm, concrete proof of what the causal factor in these events might be.

At this point in time, we can see only the effect—the descriptions of these events as given to us by the percipients. We don't know the cause. Is it a psychological phenomenon? If so, then what is triggering it? Budd Hopkins and Dr. Aphrodite Clamar have shown that the psychological profiles of many abduction victims show no abnormalities, but suggest that they have suffered a psychological trauma—like an abduction. So, if the cause is psychological, what is the intrusive factor which "tickles" the psyche into constructing this event. I cannot accept at this time, with the available facts, that it is either an overactive imagination, or a memory of the birth trauma.

The same can be said of MIB experiences. What is the causal factor? I quite honestly don't know. And before anyone attempts to dismiss these events as being hoaxes, delusions, or plays for publicity, they had better be able to explain the many legitimate cases of MIB activity; the cases which have lain silent until, with much effort I have been able to ferret them out. No plays for publicity, no hoaxes, just a good many genuinely frightened people who have no idea why they experienced what they did.

At any rate, here is an abduction case which raises a good many questions—many of which are rather uncomfortable to face. As a matter of fact, it was quite uncomfortable to make the decision to publish this report. However, unless we can look at all of the evidence with unbiased eyes, we will never be able to make any headway toward understanding these problems.

I would greatly appreciate any comments on this rather unique case, and especially any information on cases which might have similar aspects. Your input is greatly desired, and greatly appreciated. Let me know what you have, way back in your files.

THE STRANGEST THING IN THE UNIVERSE IS THE MIND WHICH CANNOT ACCEPT
THE CONCEPT THAT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE...

AND

EVERYTHING IS PROBABLE.

THE ULTIMATE SCARECROW

by Dale Bacon

In early April, 1986, I was told of an unusual "collection" of dead birds-hanging from trees in an area on the north edge of Lincoln, Nebraska. This area, near the corner of Superior and 44th streets, is known locally as the home of two legends. One is known as the story of 'Bloody Mary', the other concerns itself with an individual called the 'Pig Man'. Stories have circulated for years about strange events which have allegedly occurred at this location. It is simply one of those spots which every town has-a 'spooky place' to go on a slow night. Because of this, the report was met with curiosity and skepticism.

The story initially came from M.D. (all names on file with the Fortean Research Center) a friend of mine. He and two others had been out looking for old collectible bottles on the site of the farm (no buildings remain standing), when they stumbled onto the bizarre scene. The other two witnesses, S.T. and D.L. each told the same story, of dead birds - crows - dangling by strings from the trees.

Weather conditions prevented access to the area for several days, rain making the entire area a virtual swamp. Further discussion with the witnesses deepened my curiosity. They stated that the area where the birds hung surrounded a natural clearing. Also, the number of birds observed sounded significant. In my dealings with events such as these, I've come to learn that numbers can be significant, and the three witnesses had each confirmed seven carcasses.

On April 22nd, the ground was dry enough to enter the area on S.T.'s motor-cycle (a car simply can't make due to the inaccessability of the area). The birds were still present, and the remoteness of the site made a rather macabre scene.

A narrow path led through the woods to the clearing. Approximately forty or fifty feet down this path was the first bird, hanging exactly the way it had been described - upside down, feet tied together with string, which was then tied to a stick and thrown into the trees until it caught on a branch and remained in place. About twenty feet further inward and to the north were the second and third birds. The fourth lay on the ground, string and attached stick still intact. A fifth was directly across the clearing, and the sixth one was strewn about on the ground, an obvious victim of predators.

All three witnesses attested to the presence of a seventh bird, located on the south side of the clearing, however, neither S.T. or myself could find this one. This is not particularly odd when one considers the way in which they had been placed into the trees, and the large number of animals which would have access to this area.

I collected one of the specimens and examined it to try and find any apparent cause of death. This was fruitless, as exposure and natural decay processes left little more than the shell of the bird. No bullet wounds were found, and in fact, for the length of time the bird had been exposed, it was quite intact.

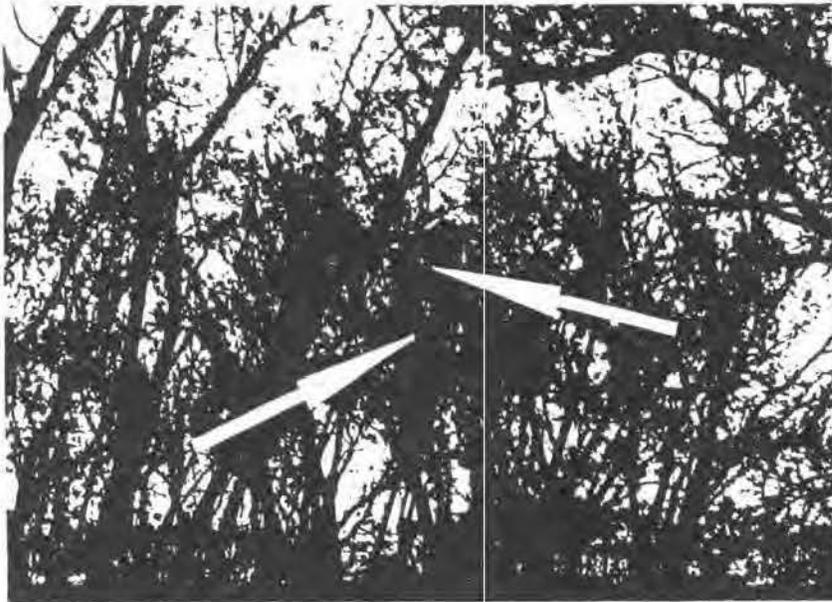
Speculation as to why they were present presents many possibilities. One suggestion offered was that they had been placed there to frighten away other crows. This makes little sense, in that there is nothing present to keep other birds away from. Sadistic pranksters? Possibly, but the remoteness of the spot would prevent the pranksters from enjoying their laugh.

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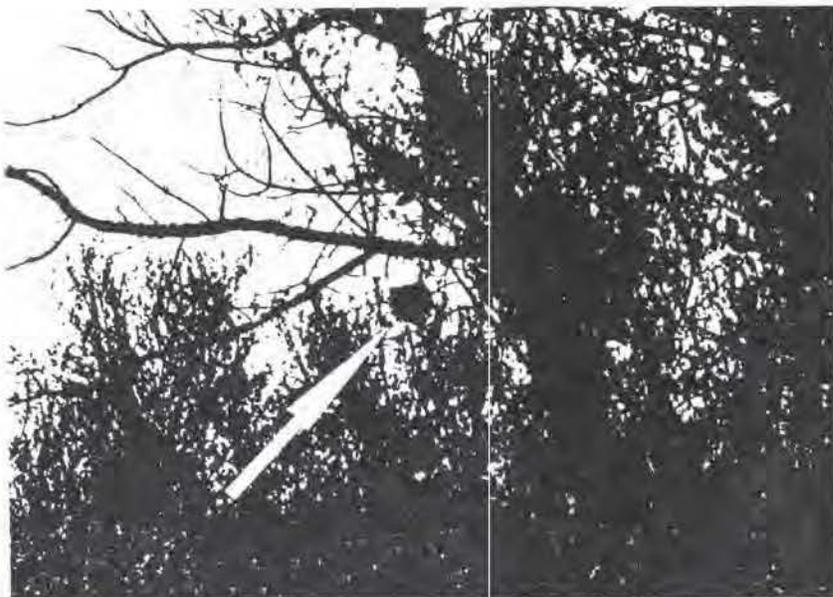
Cultists? If one considers the evidence - a natural clearing, possibly regarded by our speculated cult as being of significance, that is, 'holy' or 'sacred' ground; the number of birds, seven, in numerology the number of mystery, knowledge, and perfection, it causes me to wonder.

Crows, a relative to the raven, have been associated with occultism since time immemorial. Native Americans regarded the crow as the messenger of the Great Spirit. Crows are as closely related to European witchcraft as cats. Asiatic tradition regards the crow as a symbol of the sun and is still seen as an important omen when they appear at certain times. Even the Bible makes numerous references to crows and ravens being of divine importance.

It will probably never be known if the birds were used for some type of ceremony or someone's idea of a sick joke. With the available facts, it remains just another one of those strange events that makes us wonder.



Though difficult to reproduce well, here are two photos taken of the birds as they were found hanging in the branches of the trees. The birds are indicated by white arrows.



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RELEASES UFO DOCUMENTS

On April 29, 1986, I received a package of 34 documents related to UFOs from the Department of Energy. This was in response to a Freedom of Information request which had been submitted to this agency in February. Their original response was merely a suggestion that the Department of Defense would be a "more appropriate agency concerning UFOs."

After appealing this response, which totally disregarded my request for UFO related information generated or held by DOE, the agency processed my request, and eventually released the above mentioned 34 items. The items released include a few related to the Kirtland Air Force Base documents, regarding incidents which occurred in 1980, and the rest, some 175 pages, deal with a phenomenon which was quite active in the late 1940s over Los Alamos. This phenomenon has been known as "green fireballs".

The documents go into quite a bit of depth concerning sightings of green fireballs over this area, and the many attempts to explain them away as bolides, meteors, or just poor observations of common natural phenomena. The green fireball phenomenon is fascinating in itself, but one reference in the documents is quite curious.

On February 16, 1949, a meeting was held at Los Alamos laboratories to discuss the phenomena of the green fireballs. In attendance at this meeting were many members of the military community, FBI agents, and some of the finest scientific minds of the day, including Dr. Lincoln LaPaz, Dr. Edward Teller, Dr. Fred Reines, and Dr. N.E. Bradbury, then Director of Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory.

A transcript of this meeting was released, and after endless discussion concerning the observations which had been made by various personnel, and the way in which the facts of the observations did not square with what was known about the science of meteoritics, Dr. LaPaz made mention of information which had been generated by scientists in Europe who were concerned with the study of meteoritics.

Sidney Newburger, Chief of Security for Los Alamos asked, "Were the Germans experimenting in any phase that was possibly connected with it?"

Dr. LaPaz replied, "Well, they had the so-called stations in space might have some attachment to it."

This is the first mention of any pre-World War II space experiments, with of course the exception of the German's V-1 and V-2 rockets, which I have seen mentioned in any official fashion. I am attempting to uncover any further information about this through some contacts I have who are avid aviation historians, but if any of the readers know anything about this, particularly Dr. LaPaz's reference to the "so-called stations in space", I would be most grateful for the information.

Dr. LaPaz may have been referring to something quite different than it would seem, or he may have been referring to a project which has given rise to all of the "UFOs are Nazi secret weapons from their secret base in Antarctica" tripe which surfaces occasionally. If you can provide any clarification, please do.

For those interested, the entire set of documents may be obtained for our cost of photocopying and postage, by sending a check or money order to the Fortean Research Center for the amount of \$18.00

MAY I SEE SOME IDENTIFICATION?

On April 24, 1986, a man who claimed to be a utility meter reader gained entrance to the home of a 38 year old Lincoln woman, about 3:10 pm. The woman let the man in without checking for identification, and as they walked towards the basement door, the man grabbed her.

The woman kicked the man in the groin, and then chased him from the house while brandishing a kitchen knife. The man, described as black, with a medium build and wearing dark clothing, escaped, and police were unable to locate him.

On April 21, two women posing as employees of the Child Protective Service attempted to take away the 1 year old daughter of Lincoln mother Kim Beetem. Beetem said both women "looked official", carrying writing pads, and a tape recorder. They went so far as to phone Beetem's boyfriend at work, and told him they would be contacting other friends and relatives.

The two women contacted Beetem once Monday morning, the 21st, and then returned later in the day to "inspect" her apartment. They phoned Beetem on Tuesday to tell her they were coming to remove the child, but Beetem grew suspicious and called the Nebraska Department of Social Services, who advised her to notify the police.

The women did not return to the apartment, and police had no leads as to their identity.

"The baffling thing about this is the lack of a motive," said Tom Casady of the Lincoln Police Department.

About two weeks prior to these incidents, O'Neill, Nebraska authorities were dealing with the same type of situation. Holt County Sheriff's Deputy Alan Rowse said that one family had been approached by impersonators, and that the landlord of another O'Neill woman had been contacted by impersonators, all claiming to be from various Social Service agencies.

Coincidentally (?) on April 24, Scott Colborn and I were doing a morning radio show on KLIN radio, here in Lincoln, and had been discussing the impersonation stories with the show's hosts. We had taken a great number of questions from listeners, when a call came in for one of the show's co-hosts.

The caller wanted to know when they were going to air the interviews he had done with students at Clinton Elementary school here in Lincoln. Baffled, he told the caller he had done no such interviews.

He was rather surprised to learn that someone claiming to be him had appeared at the school the day before, and was interviewing children there. It never rains, but it pours. Perhaps some of the readers are aware of other incidents of impersonation during this general period of time. If so, let us know.

FORTEAN NEWS FLASHES

Santa Cruz, California police said a pregnant woman knocked over a 20-foot cliff by a speeding car was saved by a "one-in-a-million lucky break" when she landed on a junked couch. Heidi Geoghegan and her boyfriend were strolling along a cliff at lighthouse Point when a speeding car struck them, and they plunged over the cliff. Geoghegan's fall was cushioned by an old, broken couch on the rocks

below. Police Sgt. Tom Watson said the couch she landed on was "pretty well beat up by the waves. It was broken apart, but she landed on the cushioned part. I guess it's one of those one-in-a-million lucky breaks." (Lincoln Nebraska STAR, April 4, 1986)

W.L. Spears was working on the ground at a construction site when a three-quarter inch drill bit fell 40 feet and imbedded in his skull. Surgeons removed the 12-inch long object on April 1. Spears was in stable condition, awake and alert when rescue workers arrived and loaded him into the ambulance. What an April Fool's joke to play on someone! (Lincoln, Nebraska JOURNAL, April 2, 1986)

About 20 dead sea turtles have washed ashore along the Gulf Coast, said wildlife officials in Houston. Some of the turtles were mutilated, with their heads and flippers chopped off. Officials speculate the chopping was done by fishermen who caught them in their nets. (Lincoln, Nebraska STAR, April 4, 1986)

A man admitted in court Thursday that he bit his dog in the ear after it made a mess in his house. Stuart Smale of Bristol, said in magistrate's court that he became angry after his dog Jade misbehaved. The court barred Smale from keeping the dog for the next year and ordered him to pay \$33 in court costs. (London, England, TIMES, April 6, 1986)

Carole Anderson, a psychologist at the state-operated Lincoln Regional Center was suspended April 30, in connection with the alleged exorcism of a patient in the mentally disorderd sex offender program. Anderson indicated that she felt she had done nothing improper, and that this could be an appropriate form of treatment. (Lincoln, Nebraska JOURNAL, May 12, 1986)

Thousands of pilgrims have flocked to the Church of St. Demiana - a small church in a northern Cairo, Egypt suburb - since the apparition of the Virgin Mary was first reported above the church's domes on March 25. A fact-finding committee of five clergymen from the Coptic Orthodox Church has also reported seeing the Virgin Mary. The newspaper WATANI said the reports on these appearances of the Virgin Mary indicated a mysterious light floods the area. The apparition is seen in a period ranging from a few seconds to up to 20 minutes in duration. On one occasion, the apparition was seen despite a power failure which left the entire area in darkness. (Lincoln, Nebraska JOURNAL, April 14, 1986)

A despondent Lincoln man stole a double-barrel shotgun, and a handful of shells in order to commit suicide. He loaded a single shell into the chamber and pulled the trigger - the wrong one. He was so unnerved by his narrow escape that he couldn't try again. Police arrested him later for burglary. (Lincoln, Nebraska STAR, June 5, 1986)

A baby plunged 17 stories from a New York City window ledge, but survived after his fall was broken by an apple tree. The infant, whose mother was sewing in another room, climbed onto a couch, then crawled out the window onto the sleeve of an airconditioner. The baby's fall was broken by a limb, about six inches in diameter, of an apple tree that was 8 to 10 feet tall. The baby's mother went to find him, looked out the window, and realized something was wrong when she saw a crowd of the street below. (New York TIMES, June 3, 1986)

The Fortean Research Center received dozens of calls concerning a huge fireball seen in the night sky over eastern Nebraska about 11:00 pm on June 24, 1986. All of the witnesses described it as being very large, very bright, and trailing a tail of sparks of considerable size. Confirmation concerning reentry of space junk is being awaited at this time (June 27, 1986).

AND GUESS WHAT ELSE HAPPENED AT BENTWATERS?

In December, 1980, a UFO allegedly landed at RAF Bentwaters, a U.S. Air force installation in Great Britain. Contact was supposedly made by the base commander and the occupants of this craft, and the entire incident was witnessed by a great many Air Force personnel. The incident did occur, and the search for more factual, detailed information continues. As one of the leading researchers in this quest, I have encountered a great number of rumors regarding the case.

The inevitable rumor mill has, in fact, been working overtime. Many of these stories have allegedly had as their source reputable individuals who would, because of their positions, be privy to this sort of information. As with any rumor, one can neither prove nor disprove its accuracy. Consequently, I can only present the stories for your evaluation. Any further information on any of the stories would be most appreciated.

The first rumor we will consider came to my attention on in May of 1985 when it was passed along to me by another prominent researcher. This individual had received the story from another leading figure in the field, who allegedly had confirmation of it through military sources. As the story goes, it is fantastic, to say the least.

The UFO which is said to have landed in Rendelsham Forest, just outside the back gate of RAF Bentwaters, is supposed to have made contact with the air traffic control tower at the base, indicating to the personnel there that it was in some kind of mechanical distress. It then landed.

After contact was made with the tower, high-ranking personnel allegedly made contact with a group in the government known as MJ-12 (MJ-12 is a code name for a supposedly top-secret government research group dealing with UFOs—the name has appeared in several un-authenticated documents sent anonymously to various researchers). MJ-12 in turn, are said to have somehow contacted a group of aliens which they have previously communicated with, and were told by these aliens that the craft was not "one of theirs"; that is, the 'typical' large-headed, gray skinned, spindly creatures so often reported in the literature. However, our government's "friendly aliens" indicated they would send help to deal with these other beings.

These particular entities were described as being red-skinned, grotesque in appearance, with fangs and tails. As the story goes, the government's real reason for refusing to disclose information on this case is their desire for the existence of these red-skinned entities to remain secret. Naturally, another whole series of rumors have developed as to why the government wants to keep their existence a secret.

Another story making the rounds concerns the Cable News Network broadcast, "UFO: The Bentwaters Incidents", aired in January, 1985. According to this story, Col. John Douglas, a member of the National Security Council, sought a private, pre-broadcast viewing of the series.

He watched the tapes, so the story has it, took copious notes, and left the studio with no comment to anyone present. The clear implication in this story being that the government was afraid of what may have been discovered by CNN concerning the Bentwaters landing.

Since this is a rumor that could be tracked down, I wrote a Freedom of Information request to the NSC on May 7, 1985, seeking any documents generated by this visit. On September 20, 1985 I received a reply from the NSC which stated that "...we found no records meeting your description."

Not satisfied with this response, I spoke directly with Col. Douglas by telephone on December 9, 1985. He told me that, "I'm an Air Force officer, and my area of expertise is, generally speaking, technology. I advise the President on various ways in which technology affects national security."

"A friend of mine saw it [the CNN broadcast], and said, 'Gee, you should see it', so another member of our staff knew the people down at CNN, and so I went down there and viewed it."

Douglas stressed that he had seen it after the original broadcast date, and that he did not understand why the whole thing had been so blown out of proportion. He also stressed that it was not an official visit, but because of his position, he viewed it as a courtesy which CNN granted him, because he had not seen the segments when originally broadcast.

Of course, the response many people will have is that Col. Douglas was not being honest about his role in the affair. However, he appeared quite surprised that his viewing of the tape had been so grossly misconstrued. At this point I have no reason to doubt his word, and feel that this story can be disposed of. It pays to go to the source whenever possible.

The last major rumor I'll discuss concerns a link between the Bentwaters landing and the arms race. In the April 20, 1985 issue of SAUCER SMEAR, long time UFO researcher and "gossip columnist" James Moseley, reported that a "usually reliable source in Washington, D.C." had stated that the President's Star Wars defense program was being developed jointly by both the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The reason for this joint effort? Star Wars was an attempt to develop an effective defense against UFOs. And, to top it all off, this effort was sparked by the incident at Bentwaters.

An interesting idea to say the least, but one which stretches credibility to its furthest limits. Or so I thought until the following appeared: Fallston, Maryland, (AP) - President Reagan revealed Wednesday that his discussions with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev touched not only on "Star Wars," but the extra-terrestrial. In an address to students at Fallston High School, Reagan departed from his prepared remarks to say, "I couldn't help but say to him, just think how easy his task and mine might be in these meetings that we held if suddenly there was a threat to this world from some other species from another planet outside in the universe." (Lincoln, Nebraska STAR, December 5, 1985)

Things get curioiser and curioiser. Is this a partial confirmation of the story from SAUCER SMEAR, or just an odd coincidence? My opinion favors the latter, but one cannot dismiss the possibility out of hand. This is the frustrating part of research into matters of this nature. Life would be much simpler all the way 'round if we could only get all the facts anytime we wanted them.

There are many additional rumors concerning the Bentwaters case which have surfaced, and I believe I can say with some certainty that they will go on rearing their ugly heads far into the future. This is, unfortunately, something which we simply have to deal with in an investigation of this nature. As I stated earlier, it is extremely foolish to dismiss even the wildest rumors without attempting to check them. The time and effort to do this, is however, enormous. Too many people neglect to put this effort forth, but believe me, it is better to be disappointed by a mundane explanation than to base your statements on completely unfounded fantasy.

Let's all keep plugging away to try and get "the facts, Ma'am, just the facts."

FORTEAN RESEARCH JOURNAL

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