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A REPORT ON OUR EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH "MR. ED" OF GULF BREEZE, FLORIDA:
ARE HIS PHOTOS HOAXES OR ARE THEY (Gasp, Shudder!) REAL???

(Part One of a Two-Part Series)

Well, after having commented in "Smear" for many months about the Gulf Breeze Case without really knowing much about it at all, we decided that in all fairness to ourselves and our many (?) readers, we should get the story straight from the horse's mouth, so to speak.

Accordingly, on Dec. 16th and 17th, your fearless editor traveled to Gulf Breeze by means of conventional aircraft and did about sixteen hours of interviews with Ed, who was sometimes joined by his wife (whose first and last names we have agreed to withhold). Ed also has a teen-aged daughter and son, the latter of whom is now attending an unmentionable college.

Obviously, Ed is very touchy about his privacy, which has been shattered almost ever since he first went to the weekly Gulf Breeze Sentinal with five photos which he had taken of a glowing object near tree-top level, on Nov. 11th, 1987.

(One of these is reproduced, in blow-up form, on Page 3.) In describing the sighting, he originally omitted his name as well as certain startling details, such as a "blue beam" from the craft that somehow lifted him several feet off the ground! He left this detail out in order to make the incident sound less weird, though of course his critics now say that he added in the "blue beam" later, to improve the story.

★ ★ ★
NBC thinks a horse is a horse, of course, of course, so they're bringing back that famous talking nag Mr. Ed in a two-hour movie next fall. If the flick clicks, Mr. Ed will be galloping back as a series quicker than you can say, whoo-oo-oo, Wilbur.
★ ★ ★

Ed tried valliantly, and still tries, to keep his last name out of the public eye (thus the "Mr. Ed" designation), but this has proven to be a losing battle, as many Gulf Breeze residents as well as UFO researchers have gradually learned who he is. The last straw was when critic Dr. Willy Smith, speaking at our NUFOC convention in Cleveland last September, revealed Ed's full name and picture to the assembled masses.

It turns out that in Ed's original communication with MUFON, he had asked that his name be withheld. This fact was not communicated to MUFON members, however, or at least not to your "Smear" editor, who as of this moment still remains Section Director for Monroe County, Fl. (= Key West and vicinity). In fact, the first we heard about the case was not from MUFON, but from two United Press articles that appeared on the front page of the Key West Citizen on Jan. 29th and Feb. 28th, 1988.

An ethical question arises: An investigator has a right to pry into a case in order to get to the truth, but how far does this right go? Extraordinary claims require extraordinary proof, but this fact can clash with the right to privacy. Ed admits, in hindsight, that he was naive to have believed he could keep his privacy indefinitely, in view of the sensational nature of the "Mr. Ed" photos. In fact, there have been a total of 16 sightings involving 36 photographs, starting on Nov. 11th, 1987, and ending on May 1st, 1988.

Worse than the lack of privacy, in Ed's opinion, is the fact that although some MUFON members have been very supportive, MUFON investigators Bob Boyd and Dr. Willy Smith have deliberately distorted facts about him and thus behaved in an unfair & unethical manner. Though Ed is a very pleasant, genial individual, his anger at Boyd and Smith was repeated to us many times during the course of our interview. Space prevents us from going into all of the many complexities here, but in at least one key instance, we believe Ed is absolutely right in saying he has been treated unfairly by his ufological critics.

"Smear" heard, and reported in a previous issue, that Ed was known among local teen-agers as a joker, who had bragged that he was going to come up with the "Ultimate Prank". Our statement was based on research by Boyd and/or Smith, which is explained in detail in a 2-page tract by Smith dated Aug. 31, 1988, and entitled "The Interview with Nick Mock". Mock is a teen-aged ex-friend of Ed's son.

The two main points are these: (1) Mock claims that Ed once took him aside and told him to "cease and desist" identifying Ed as the "ultimate prankster"; (2) Mock claims that Ed entertained his son's teen-aged friends by producing double-exposed pictures, in which a "devil's face" shows up in photos of various girls at a Hallowe'en party Ed held in his home. If this is true, it gives a strong hint that Ed's UFO photos are double-exposures also.

Ed answers that (1) His warning to Mock was not about pictures of any kind but about the fact that Mock had sabotaged Ed's son's car four times, the last time with the old sugar-in-the-gas-tank trick. (This might be called the "Ultimate Prank", and is certainly enough to drive any parent to distraction!) and (2) There was only one peculiar party photo, and it was an accident, and does not show any "devil's face" or any particular thing at all. (See Page 3.)

Ed's version of his relationship to Mock makes more sense than Willy Smith's. There are also sleazy, insulting letters written by Mock to Ed's son, which Ed showed us. Mock apparently is a neurotic sort, who was very upset because a girl he liked was fond of Ed's son but not of him. Also, he apparently was jealous because Ed's family is much more wealthy than his.

This brings us to the matter of Ed's standing in the tiny Gulf Breeze (population = about 3,000) community, a subject that has been all but ignored by his critics. Whereas a good background doesn't prove anything one way or another, character witnesses are allowed to testify in a court of law.

Ed has showed us letters of commendation from various local civic groups, basically in regard to his work in combatting juvenile delinquency in the community. Ed had a serious bout with delinquency, himself, when he was in college, years ago; and since Gulf Breeze does not offer any legitimate recreation for teen-agers, he has given time and money in this regard. He has also had teen-aged parties at his home at least once a month, for the same reason.

Ed is a licensed building contractor who, according to his account, has built dozens of houses in Gulf Breeze during the past few years. His own home is quite luxurious, and he seems to have a six-figure annual income, which, however, has been cut down severely since the UFO sightings began. Ed says that the community is so conservative that prospective clients shy away from him when they learn about his UFO involvement.

Ed has passed a polygraph (= lie detector) test, a voice stress analysis, and a detailed psychological examination. These facts do not prove that his photos are genuine, but it does make it harder to believe they are fakes!

We ask ourselves: If the pictures and the sightings behind them are hoaxes, what is Ed's motivation? He has no philosophy to preach, no ax to grind, and apparently no desire for fame. It has been said (in "Smear" and elsewhere) that he intends to write a book, but Ed tells us that he is only



TOP PHOTO: This is Photo #1 of the series of five pictures that Ed took of his first sighting, which occurred about 5 p.m. on Nov. 11, 1987. He says he first noticed a weird glow from behind the trees, then went out the front door of his house and took the pictures with his Polaroid camera; His son was at home at the time, but was not involved with the sighting. (Note: the saucer is the object at the upper left of the photo. The blob at the lower right is a street light.)



BOTTOM PHOTO: This is the famous "ghost", "demon", or "devil face" picture which made certain debunkers believe Ed is a hoaxter; He says his lawyer obtained this copy of the picture from a video as shown on a TV news cast. (Till then, Ed did not have a copy.) On Dec. 10, 1988, Ed released this photo to the UFO press & other media, with a page of explanation.

interested in setting the record straight and telling off his critics. He doesn't seem interested in doing the kind of book, for a major publisher, that would make Big Money, nor does he want to reveal his identity to the masses by going on the necessary publicity tours. As a matter of fact, Ed has just moved to another house (a few blocks from the old one, where some of the sightings took place) and gotten an unlisted phone number, in order to avoid curiosity-seekers.

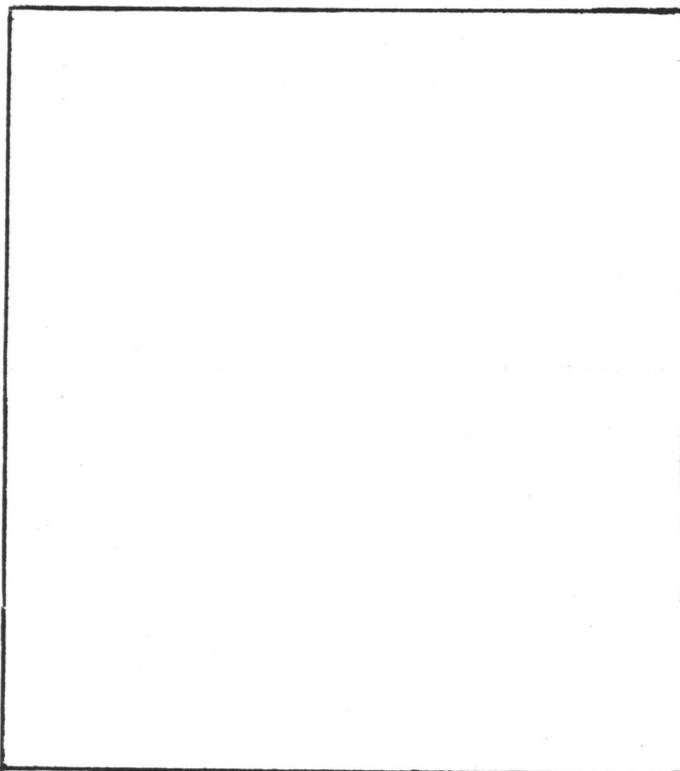
Now we come to the question of scientific opinion about the authenticity of the photographs. Dr. Willy Smith believes they are fake, though he admits he cannot prove it. Pro-UFO scientist Dr. Bruce Maccabee believes they are real, though he admits he cannot prove it. (See his letter further along in this issue.) And Dr. Robert Nathan of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory is quoted as having said publicly, "I would have liked to have said differently, but I'm afraid the Gulf Breeze photographs just don't check out". That's easy to say, but no one has yet come up with just how the al-

leged fakery was done. Where are Ed's models? Where is a neighbor or enemy who will come forward to say he saw Ed setting things up for a hoax photo? Until such evidence is forthcoming, Ed deserves the benefit of the doubt. (However, to say the pictures have not been proven fraudulent is not to say they are necessarily genuine!)

Ed believes that Dr. Maccabee is going to make computerized copies of all his photos, so that any scientist (even Willy Smith!) can tap in and make his own analysis. However, in talking by phone to Maccabee, we learned that this is an expensive and complex undertaking, which will probably be only partially accomplished. In the meanwhile, Ed refuses to allow his originals to be sent directly to Smith, and a stalemate exists in this regard.

There are apparently over one hundred people in and around Gulf Breeze who have made UFO sightings similar to Ed's, and much of this data has been studied by various MUFON investigators. At least two of these Gulf Breeze people have come up with clear UFO photos. Five pictures were taken around the time of Ed's first sighting, by someone who calls himself "Believer Bill", and two (very similar to some of Ed's photos) were taken by someone named Alice. Of course, since neither "Believer Bill" nor Alice have identified themselves publicly, either or both of them could in reality be Ed. Ed has had so much trouble because of his recent "fame" that he says he would advise them not to come forward publicly, if he knew who they are.

So - what does it all mean? Ed admits that he would have a lot of trouble believing his own story, if it were told to him by someone else. Says he, "The universe has some kind of secret, and for some reason I was



LEFT PHOTO: In this exciting picture, your "Smear" editor points out over the Gulf of Mexico to the spot where "Mr. Ed" allegedly saw a UFO, several months before our arrival on the scene. (Picture taken by Ed himself!)

RIGHT PHOTO: Ed and his entire family pose for this exclusive "Smear" family portrait. Note the worried look on Ed's face, caused by the strain of dealing with skeptics such as Boyd and Smith.

exposed to that secret. What it all means, I do not understand."

Nor do we!

Space prevents us from raving on any further in this issue, but we would like to sincerely thank Ed and his wife for their kind cooperation. Part Two of this series, to be published in our next glorious issue, will go into detail about some of Ed's most exciting sightings, including the final incident on May 1st, 1988, when he experienced Missing Time. So stay tuned for our next thrilling installment!

Note: We have several extra copies of a 5-page typewritten tract dated Nov. 30th, 1988, in which Ed attempts to answer various points that his critics have made. We of "Smear" will loan a copy of this tract to any readers who care to write in for it - just as we did awhile back with John Lear's strange material.

OUR USUAL OOZE OF NEWS, VIEWS, AND CLUES:

We still have for sale a very few copies of your editor's 1971 classic tome, "The Wright Field Story", published and ghost-written by the late Gray Barker. \$15 will get you a copy. Incidentally, Barker has now been Gone for a little over four years, and we miss him as much as ever....

Semi-cynic Martin Kottmeyer has kindly sent us a copy of an illustrated article by Dr. Donald Menzel, from the Sept. 1969 issue of Galaxy Science Fiction Magazine. Menzel writes tongue-in-cheek about his art work in the article, entitled "Martians and Venusians", and includes a liberal sprinkling of his other-worldly entities, as also seen in the paintings we discussed in our last "Smear". Again, we wonder how this could possibly be the work of a member of MJ-12!...

And, speaking of MJ-12, Bill Moore has issued an "open letter" dated Dec. 10th, 1988, in which he extends an olive branch to his many critics in the UFO field. Among other things, he admits: "Whether the MJ-12 and associated documents are authentic, and indeed, whether the entire MJ-12 story has any truth to it at all, remains an entirely open question." And, in the best tradition of Richard ("I am not a crook") Nixon, he denies being a forger, hoaxer, fabricator, counterfeiter, etc. Moore is currently pushing for Congressional hearings on the subject of MJ-12, and says that four of his ten informants are willing to testify....

Major Donald Keyhole, a long-retired Marine officer and UFO pioneer, died on Nov. 29th, 1988, at the age of over ninety. Although not the founder of NICAP, he headed that organization from 1956 until forced to resign, many years later. He was also the author of several UFO books including "Flying Saucers Are Real" in 1950, which was the first major popular book on the subject. Perhaps Keyhole's greatest accomplishment was his first, as publicist to Charles Lindburg on a 1928 publicity tour.....

FATE Magazine has been sold by the Fullers to Llewellyn Publications, and our friend Jerry Clark will move on shortly to other activities, from his present position as editor of FATE. He plans to leave the Chicago area with his new wife, and devote his time to free-lance writing & such....

Dr. Leo Sprinkle announces his resignation from the University of Wyoming, effective Sept. 1st, 1989. He plans to enter private practice as a counseling psychologist, "with special interests in hypnotherapy and past life therapy". Sprinkle, who has been regressing UFO abductees for quite some time, recently realized that he too is an abductee. Way to go, Leo!.....

Well, there are still a few days to go before George Bush takes office, but it seems pretty safe to predict that Ronald Reagan has succeeded in beating the "20 Year Curse", which killed Kennedy, Roosevelt, and five other presidents before that. Way to go, Ronald!....

Bigfootologist Erik Beckjord is finally opening his cryptozoological museum. Well, not exactly a museum. Actually, he has obtained permission from a restaurant in Malibu, California, to litter their walls with photos,

etc., of unknown animals & the like. The restaurant is called Trancas, and is located at 30765 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu. There is no charge for the "museum", but the restaurant is only for us rich folks....

The first issue of Gene Steinberg's "Caveat Emptor" Magazine, featuring a sizzling in-depth interview with your "Smear" editor, is finally out. We have not yet seen a copy, but it has been well received by those who have. Address: 8 Gate House Lane, Edison, N.J. 08820.

MISSIVES FROM THE MASSES:

DR. BRUCE MACCABEE of The Fund for UFO Research has kindly sent us a very long & informative letter about "Mr. Ed", of which Space allows us to print only a small part here:

"As a recent non-recipient of your 'National Enquirer of Ufology', I noted your report on the comments by Willy Smith. You state that the validity of the case 'obviously rests on the authenticity' of the photos and that these are 'subject to serious doubt according to the analysis of Dr. Smith'. I should point out that I had serious doubts about the authenticity of the photos from the very beginning. My initial impression, based on poor copies of copies, was that they (the first five photos) were hoax photos. However, in my further investigations I found reasons to question the hoax hypothesis. When I wrote my MUFON Symposium paper, I stated (at the end, two paragraphs before the Acknowledgements): 'I have emphasized the positive aspects of Ed's sightings so that he won't be written off prematurely (if he is to be written off at all).'

"....Dr. Smith admitted that he hasn't proven the case to be a hoax. This is a prudent admission on his part. Conversely, I cannot say that I can prove the case is true (it may not be possible to prove any UFO sighting is true without 'hard evidence', since almost anything can, in principle, be faked). However, having reviewed all the evidence of which I am aware, negative as well as positive, I have concluded that the weight of the evidence is on the positive side."

JERRY CLARK of CUFOS and FATE Magazine, writes:

"Though you have nothing of consequence to say about the UFO phenomenon as such anymore (if you ever did, after you exposed Adamski), you are still the Greatest Living Authority on the history of saucer fandom and the funniest writer around...."

CHUCK JINES writes as follows:

"....Quite honestly, I think that 'Smear' serves the UFO community in as great a capacity as any of the organizations. You provide an open forum, which some of the UFO organizations seem to avoid as a vampire avoids sunlight. While these organizations bitch about each other, rarely (if ever) is any self criticism...expressed.

"....I loved Jerry Clark's letter (in your Nov. 15th issue). This individual, in my warped and no doubt twisted opinion, comes across as pompous and overbearing. His opinions (which he seems to regard as Scripture) are fine, but he too often insults and ridicules other investigators. While lashing out at Vallee and Keel at the last MUFON symposium, he constantly praises Friedman and Moore. These two individuals, who are up to their necks in MJ-12 bullshit, need to either put up or shut up!...."

Woman's Right To Shed Denied Again

Famed contactee BETTY HILL writes as follows, regarding the Gulf Breeze photos:

"In my opinion, much of the controversy about these photos is the result of lack of knowledge regarding UFOs by our so-called scientific investigators. I saw Dr. Robert Nathan on TV, basing his thinking that the photos were a hoax because of fuzziness in the pictures. If he had any knowledge of filming UFOs, he would know this is one of the most important factors in their filming. I have seen hundreds, maybe thousands of pictures taken by the general public and never shared with UFO organizations, because of their attitudes and behavior.

"UFOs are a new science, and our science cannot explain them. We lack the basic knowledge. If the UFO field would concentrate on seeking knowledge, then in time they might have the necessary information to make valid judgments. Until that time, they are busy fighting each other, and will never have the cooperation of the public.

"Mr. Ed is a good example of the reasons the public ignores UFO organizations. He is caught in the middle of their infighting - an innocent victim."

CANDY JONES, New York City radio personality & widow of famed talk show host Long John Nebel, writes:

"I get such a kick out of 'Smear' & always fear I'll have an 'X' next to my name on the address label.

"I'm still at WMCA, doing features and sit-ins for Barry Gray- 11 a.m. to 3 p.m...."

"Hope you're well. Incidentally, we lost Fredrick Davies - psychic astrologer, & grand fellow, on October 26th...."

Davies was a great performer, who set records for phone calls to the studio the two or three times we were on the air with him. He was a relatively young man. - Editor.

DOUGLAS LABAT writes as follows:

"...I found your skeptical comments concerning Dr. Menzel's MJ-12 affiliation of merit, but I don't think you've considered the fact that we don't know, nor have any way of knowing, Menzel's psychological profile. Without this, we have no idea of how he would have reacted to the shocking (to him that is) knowledge that ET life forms truly exist. Social psychology has defined and documented the processes by which unsettling facts disrupt an individual's beliefs and values. The resulting behavior is unexpected, even to friends and family, and is often at variance to what an observer (you?) would reasonably assume. Also, I know from experience that government employees do keep quiet when they have to...."

Labat makes a good point. We knew Menzel in the 1950's and 1960's well enough to say that he was very opinionated, excitable, and egotistical. He also must have had some good qualities (obviously), to be in the position he was in. Perhaps his widow can shed further light. - Editor.

MONTY CANTSIN delights us with:

"...The furor over UFOs is so insistent and has been going on for so long, and yet the nay sayers are as much a part of it as anyone. Why? Because several of the leading 'skeptics' are themselves aliens in disguise, keeping up the controversy over whether or not UFOs exist, instead of arguing, as real scientists do, over what the masses of evidence tell us about extraterrestrial life. Dr. Menzel's ambiguous position in the controversy clearly indicates that he himself was an alien! Just as great

modern art does not seem beautiful to traditionalists, and great non-Western art seems crude, primitive, or child-like to unaccustomed Western eyes, so it is easy for earthlings to miss the profundity in the works of great alien artists such as the one who called himself Dr. Menzel.

"Still, you yourself do not fail to recognize the pagan joy of extra-terrestrial life expressed in 'Bridge Over a Martian Canal', which you find difficult to reconcile with the idea of the serious skeptic you thought you knew. Alien painters do not follow the naturalistic tradition of the earthling West. This painting resembles, in its subject matter and attitude toward life, some of the best hedonistic works of Matisse, and calls to mind his sensual ecstasies of the ancient Dionysian cults, during which animals and sometimes humans were joyfully torn into little pieces and eaten raw, much as the aliens have practiced upon cattle and perhaps even earthlings...."

ED BIEBEL of MUFON writes:

"...I can't see how you still believe that Menzel was not involved in MJ-12, based on the fact of his Martian paintings and the fact that he never informed his wife about his Intelligence activities. Were that the criteria, most of the Intelligence types could all be working for MJ-12. Are there a few sour grapes there, Jim, because Stanton (Friedman) found out about Menzel's secret life? And this on the heels of the Phillip Klass /William Tenn fiasco! You're going to have to re-examine your sources of information...."

The semi-mysterious BOB RENAUD writes:

"Illustrious, Esteemed and Noble Sir:

"As a Contactee Extraordinaire, I'm privy to information far beyond that possessed by mortal UFOlogists. It's time to settle the 'Mars Face' issue: It is that of Xelph-Xentrd, very late of Olympus Mons Vista (a suburb of Canal City), designer of the Free Energy Drive, and a past life of Philip Klass (with contact lenses). So there!

"Dennis Stillings of the Archaeus Project (?) brings up an interesting point re the ET's of 'UFO Cover-Up'. Perhaps he and other 'Smear' readers might tell us what ET's should be like - how they should think, what they should eat, how they should do #1/#2, - important stuff like that. That way, the aliens will know what's expected of them when they visit us. The floor is open for comments..."

PAUL FISHER writes as follows:

"Your 'Saucer Smear' is like a breath of fresh air. It is both informative and funny. The enclosed money order is for helping with your expenses...."

O Bless You, Paul Fisher! - Editor.

The formidable RICHARD HEIDEN writes:

"...It seems you have something against using my contributions in 'Saucer Smear'....not that I care, really. It isn't as though a mention in 'Saucer Smear' were anything worth writing home about...."

No, it isn't. - Editor.

**MAJESTIC. YOU HEARD IT
THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE....**