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phenomenon
above
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EARTH"

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HIGHBRIDGE INCIDENT

In SEARCHLIGHT #12 we hinted at a possible solution to many of the so-called contact claims, and in particular the claims of Howard Menger.

Menger wrote in his book, FROM OUTER SPACE TO YOU (Saucerian), that he had met people from outer space on his farm in Highbridge, N.J. Later, while appearing on the Long John Nebel TV show, he backed away from many of the statements presented in his book. As our readers know even though we attack the subject of contact claims with a completely open mind it doesn't take much to know that many of them leave a lot to be desired. We now seem to have some additional information which might shed some possible light on the Menger claim in particular and in "contact" cases in general.

The following are extracts drawn from an eight page letter sent by Menger on Sept. 18, 1965 to At. Jordan, Colonel, United States Army (Ret.) who is now the City Clerk of Sebastian, Fla. At the time this letter was written Menger was attempting to hold a three day space convention with the help of the City Council. But because of bad publicity received from NICAP and CSI the council refused to pledge their full support.

Because of the length of this letter we are not able to reproduce it here in full but a photo copy is in our files and is available for examination by anyone who is willing to visit our office

"...I wrote a book, 'FROM OUTER SPACE TO YOU' (Fact/Fiction 1958) based on an actual experience, which I accidentally stumbled upon in an isolated field to the rear of my property in Highbridge, N.J. These photographs I sent to a department in the Pentagon. It wasn't long afterward that I was contacted and asked if I would co-operate in an experiment based on what I had inadvertently seen and project into this experience an expanded futuristic view of 'things to come' with their help and information. (I supposed they must have figured the only way to obtain my silence and co-operation was to put me on the 'team') In other words, the 'Highbridge Incident'.

"Highbridge Incident was used as a gauge to indicate the people's reaction to alien contact. You will think this not so strange when you consider that our astronauts today are being thoroughly conditioned and trained to meet any and every strange condition or situation

they may face upon landing on an alien world! The psychology of human reaction to the strange and unknown, the utter desolation of hostile terrain, the complete isolation in the black void of space, and the awesome feeling of looking back at a dimly glowing globe called earth, so distant, so small....these are the feelings our astronauts must feel, conquer, control and cope with. Space Medicine is dealing with unknown factors and human reaction to them, and if our scientists sometimes obtain their much needed information in bizarre ways, it is because they have only one known quantity with which to work, namely: the human factor. Bearing this in mind, let us suppose they superimpose a hypothetical condition (based on truth) like a space craft landing in an obscure country town, and some alien creatures disembarking, giving messages of good will to a local yokel acting as "contactee"....This would be one way of getting an index of human reaction....

"I agreed to co-operate in the above experiment and when the press picked up the story of flying saucers over Highbridge (and they were there and the people did see them - don't ask me how or why) they really had a ball. They worked it up into a real sensation. However, all the publicity did not help me, my work, or my family as I had little or no privacy left. But this was all part of it, I had to meet and talk to people. At first, I was a little shy and more or less tongue-tied, but after many lectures I gained in confidence and with the material and suggestions handed to me, I was able to carry on.

"Yes I was handed a specimen that was claimed to be a potato from the Moon Base. It's the finest piece of dehydration you have ever seen on earth to date. There is no dehydration plant that can safely dehydrate a whole specimen....

"...I never said I married a Venusian. My wife never said that she came here in a space ship from Venus. She was born in Elizabeth, N.J. In my own UFO investigations I have come across many accounts of aliens claiming to be from Venus, and being des-

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cribed as fair complected, with long blond hair. In my own futuristic account of space I mentioned a blond Venusian woman, as does George Adamski in his book...I have remarked rather whimsically that my wife, who is small, fair and blond, is a 'Venusian type'...The press really went to town on that and made money turning out copy.

"After the 'Highbridge Incident' had been widely publicized and the experiment was considered finished, I completely withdrew from all activities in saucer research. I refused to give lectures, or show movies or speak to anyone about it, I had completed my mission. I wanted peace...."

"Whatever bizarre circumstances occasioned my entrance into the UFO field it was with proper motivations and the desire to help that so involved me...."

Perhaps you will say that this account, given above by Menger, will add more confusion to the saucer picture than it subtracts. And in all probability you are correct. Were all the various contactees put on the "team" as Menger now says he was. Or did they have actual experiences? Perhaps, as Dr. Davidson has suggested many times, they were hoaxed, unknowingly, by the C.I.A. or some other government agencies into believing that they were talking with friendly space people and then relaying the space people's message, of good will and brotherly love, to the general public. Perhaps Menger was smart enough to find out what was going on. But just the same how does one go about explaining the strange objects seen over Highbridge? Saucers were seen: We've talked to some of Menger's close associates who say they saw UFOs landing near Menger's home. One person even goes so far as to claim some sort of mental contact with the "visitors". Or perhaps as our own Staff Advisor, Harry Hoffman, suggests this is merely an attempt by Menger to somehow connect the past with the present. Perhaps things, as Menger indicates, got too hot for him and being unable to get one second of privacy he decided that he had better change his story. These are all questions which remain to this date unanswered. Menger's book (now out of print) has just been translated into French by Dr. J.P. Cruzet and has been published under the title of MY FRIENDS, THE MEN FROM SPACE in Paris by Dervy Livres Publishing Co. Presently Menger is working on a new book which he says "will drop a few bombs in certain places." But this may not be released for some time.

WHAT I BELIEVE

By Gray Barker: Publisher of FROM OUTER SPACE TO YOU.

After 10 years or more of saucering I'm afraid I'm a rather jaded individual when it comes to getting excited, but very frankly, this statement from Menger interests me greatly. Although no doubt there is much fiction in many of the contactee accounts I have always thought in my mind that SOMETHING actually happened to many of these "extremist"

saucerers. I cannot say in all certainty that Menger is telling everything when he talks about the Pentagon bit, but it certainly does ring a bell somewhere in the corner of my mind.

After Menger's book was published, you will recall that it was a source of some disappointment to me that, on a Long John TV appearance, Menger really backed down by saying that he wasn't sure about some of his contacts.

Although I knew this wouldn't help book sales, strangely enough here was the point where I began to take Menger more seriously than before. Especially after he had told me in a phone conversation that he was still contacting people, but that he wasn't quite sure whether they were from other planets or not!

You will also recall Leon Davidson and his many articles for SAUCER NEWS and FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. Although "Dr.D." had some pretty far out stuff he did come up with an interesting accusation -- that the CIA had set up some of Adamski's contacts. He also accused my publisher of having been subsidized by some government agency. Well like Palmer, I had a "fact" here: I knew that I wasn't working with any Government setup, and doubted very much that my publisher was. But Dr. Davidson did leave some suspicions in my mind.

In regard to Menger I do know that nobody subsidized me in any way in publishing his book (except the thousands of people who ordered the book in advance of printing). Although I had contact with the F.B.I. early in the Bender mystery days and several disquieting contacts during the Straith Letter matter (also from the State Department), I have never had any contacts with the Air Force on saucers, nor with any government agency which offered any sort of encouragement or subsidy.

And I still think that if you take Menger's experience, add either encouragement of a government agency, or some other party besides himself you will come up with a clearer picture of what may actually have happened. The same may well be true with Adamski.

Take Bender's book also. It could be an invention to cover up, as sort of a red herring, something that may have happened involving government intervention.

As a publisher of various saucer books however I have tried to retain a completely open mind, as you have done, and much of what I have expressed above is at best only speculation.

Charles Marcoux, who has been a student of UFO matters and a follower of the Shaver mystery since the very beginning, has some rather interesting comments regarding Menger which would tend to add some credibility to Menger's claim that he was an agent for the Pentagon. These observations are in a 7 page report written on April 28, 1957 at the time Menger was lecturing in Michigan. Since the report is most lengthy we will once again quote only it's most important sections.

"...At this lecture Menger played a tape recording of a saucer sound as it 'hovers and vibrates' before landing. The sound was sort of a high pitch whine which reminded me of the Atlantic communication system. It was also very similar to a hydro-electric generator. After this the tape seemed to change to a high pitch morse code effect...."

"Menger in his lecture claimed that there were no monsters coming here in space ships and any such things as Dero's and subsurface races were hoaxes. I thus proceeded to question Menger further about this since I am very familiar with the Shaver mystery and know that there is alot to it. He told me that if there were such things the space people would have informed him about them...."

"After I put the pressure on Menger he sort of shrugged his shoulders and asked me if I didn't think it better to be in contact with the higher forces than such low ones and proceeded to warn me to 'watch my step'...."

"But perhaps the most unusual thing was the two men who travelled constantly with Menger wherever he went. After I left the meeting one of the men (I believe his first name was Dave) asked me point blank "Don't you think that it would be better if you followed the higher contacts, than those lower ones, as Menger said?" To this I replied that I could have knocked loop holes in everything which Menger had stated but that it wouldn't be wise to do so on Menger's field of battle. To this the fellow agreed...."

"These two men watched Menger like a hawk, about to pounce on its unsuspecting prey, they were silent, and did not noise about too much, but instead remained in the background and let Menger hold the attention of the group. I knew that the money taken in from his lectures in the area did not cover the expense of the three persons and also keep up the cost of operating a five thousand dollar automobile...."

"A few weeks later I was threatened by 3 men who attempted to force their way into my home. I cannot say for certain wheather there was any connection between the two events but following the Menger lecture I also received a number of very strange notes and letters through the mail...."

"There is much more that I could tell you but think it not advisable at this time...."

COMMENTS BY SAUCER NEWS
EDITOR JAMES W. MOSELEY

"I think you will agree that it certainly does take courage for a contactee, or anyone else, to change his story. Although I tend to disbelieve all saucer contact stories we must admit that Menger is apparently sincere."

"I am almost ready to believe that the government DID put him up to his pseudo-contact stories, for reasons best known to themselves. Why should he, in effect, admit he was lying, when he could just as well stick to his old story or remain completely silent as he has done for a couple of years now? In other words, I really think he may have something."

"Long-time readers of SAUCER NEWS will recall that Dr. Leon Davidson has propounded the idea that UFOs are a hoax perpetrated by the Central Intelligence Agency. The letter from Menger to Col. Jordan sounds like he is expressing a view very similar to Dr. Davidson's."

"I do hope he writes another book, as it sounds like it might contain some very interesting material...."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Moseley is the editor of SAUCER NEWS which is by all means one of the best saucer publications being issued today. It is put out quarterly and any SEARCHLIGHT reader who is not already getting SAUCER NEWS is missing out on an awful lot of good reading. We are agents for this exciting, professionally printed publication, besides being Associate Editor, and would be happy to take your order. A subscription is only \$2.00 and worth every cent. Take our word for it!

DR. LEON DAVIDSON COMMENTS

"My earlier opinion on this matter still applies, without adding or subtracting a word, as indicated in my 'Open Letter to Saucer Researches' published in the March 1962 issue of 'FLYING SAUCERS', Ray Palmer's magazine...."

"My view of the C.I.A. involvement also remains exactly as expressed in my article "Why I Believe Adamski", as published in the British "FLYING SAUCER REVIEW", Jan.-Feb. 1960. The C.I.A. contact man in the Menger case was, I believe, the "electrical engineer" from Califon, N.J., whose identity is known to Richard Harpster, a reporter on a New Jersey paper."

"The recent activities of flying saucers may be linked to other and newer secret agencies than the C.I.A., such as the D.I.A. (Defense Intelligence Agency). As long as government money may be spent without public accountability, for reasons of 'military secrecy', we can expect continued 'psychological warfare' as represented in the Menger case and its aftermath."

Although Menger's letter has brought to light a new possibility for many of the contact stories this is not the first time that it has been suggested that the people contacted were in reality from this planet. In a NEW YORK DAILY NEWS column written by Ben Gross on April 4, 1957 noted Naturilist and author, Ivan T. Sanderson, suggests that agents from other nations may be in back of saucer contacts!

Ivan is quoted as saying: "Some of these who tell such stories can't be dismissed as liars, psychotics or conscious charlatans, Menger for instance appears to be utterly sincere."

"All of these stories have certain similarities: The alleged spacemen appear only at night; their craft land

in out of the way places; and they warn their contacts never to approach them while carrying any weapons even flash-lights.

"Furthermore, these space visitors preach doctrine of brotherly love, are reported to harp constantly on the suggestion that we abandon our experimentation with atom and hydrogen bombs. Also they are said to be giving secret instructions of some kind to their earth-people contacts.

"But most suspicious of all this: Persons who say they have had contacts insist that occasionally they recognize 'people from other planets' working in our factories and riding along our highways in cars. How do they identify these individuals as being from outer space?

"Well, they tell you that this is a secret. But some have gone so far as to say there are hidden means of identification, including 'code words' involved."

Sanderson goes on further to say he is beyond the point of dismissing all such stories as fiction since "There is now quite a considerable mass of such reports. Some of these alleged contacts have been witnessed by as many as six persons at a time, in one case even a Princeton University physicist..."

Bring this story up to date Ivan wrote us on February 4th, 1966:

"Ben Gross and Long John were at that time deeply intrigued by and concerned with the drive behind the new rash of contactees, from a purely news point of view. Put it this way: there were either UFOs or there were not; assuming there were, where did the contactees fit in; and, if all they said was make-believe, why did they do it? In view of certain things that were definitely recorded it was manifest that there must have been some very good reason for this 'drive' because, if for nothing else, the amount of money these people were able to spend...."

"As for Menger's claim that he was used or virtually employed by our Government, I am afraid I can have no comment. It amazes me that it should have been so claimed and I frankly don't believe it. If true, it would seem to me that Menger is behaving in a most improper manner in so disclosing without official permission, and he should therefore produce such permission.

"'Howie' Menger, whom I met at least fifteen years ago near here when he contracted to paint the road-signs for my zoo, is as everybody knows a most likable chap and I feel pretty confident in saying that he certainly never intended to harm anybody. Whether he was deluded, misguided, or frankly 'blackmailed' I don't know and nobody will ever know most probably; but, published stories (press clippings) show that he caused a tremendous disturbance for a couple of years, and there are those photographs. Both may have been pure 'games', but as more experienced newsmen than I (like Ben Gross), pointed out: Just how much money will you spend on games, and where in the heck do you get it?...."

RICHARD SILVER ON THE CONTACTEES

"Menger and the other contactees may well have had experiences. I have had similar conversations with ray people to about this subject. It is the custom of ray people to lie to us, especially to those of us who do not know a great deal about the subject.

"They lie because the truth itself is so complex and so old and so unacceptable to the individual like Menger, Adamski or Nelson that if they were told the truth they wouldn't accept it, because the truth is unpleasant, discouraging and often times frightening.

"So when I read of Menger's or Nelson's talks with space ship crews, I know pretty well what went on and just what sort of pleasant fol-de-rol they told him.

"If Menger were told the exact truth he would neither understand it nor grasp it, he would be frightened or worse, and the end result would be a sort of shock like insanity.

"Yes there are friendly beings in space ships. But they can't come to earth because their ships would be shot out of the skies by the ancient fortress rays of earth's underworld or ray weapons.

"Deros are horrible and deros lie. They tell people they are friendly while they are tripping us at the top of the stairs.

"Evil people always pretend to be nice, kind and friendly until they get the knife into your back. So do spies and thieves. You will do much better studying the stone pictures I have often talked about."

The above comments have been amply expressed by some of the most noted researchers in the UFO field. We would like to have comments from our readers as to their opinions regarding the various contacts. And MOST OF ALL we want to hear from you contactees reading this. This Editor just hasn't made up his mind yet!

BOOK NOTES (All titles are available from Timothy Green Beckley, 3 Courtland St. New Brunswick, N.J.)

TRUTH ABOUT FLYING SAUCERS by Hayden Hewes director IIOWFO \$2.00

Here is a nicely done booklet which is a very good beginner's reference to UFO research. It contains many photos and is nicely written by a most competent UFO authority.

Such chapters as: "Since Biblical Times" - "Saucers Viewing War Games" - "Many Claim to Have Met Spacemen" - "UFO Evidence Is Convincing".

We suggest that you buy this for a friend who is getting started in the field. Also a welcome addition to every veteran's library.

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