

STILL NO ANSWER

by
FREDERICK JOHN

We continued down the highway,
and the light in the sky followed us. . . .
It was a bright yellow light—a fantastically bright yellow light.

Officially, flying saucers do not exist—despite what you have read in the newspapers lately. Unofficially, it is a different story. Flying saucers have been “landing” here, there, and just about everywhere else. It is almost impossible to turn a page in your daily newspaper without bumping into a flying-saucer yarn. Watching for flying saucers in the sky has become America’s favorite nighttime activity—next to watching television, of course.

Flying-saucer experts (and every second American happens to be one) have gone so far as to claim that in biblical times flying saucers were dropping by regularly for visits on this planet. The theory has even been advanced that the fabled gods of ancient Greece were actually visitors from outer space who flew back to wherever they

came from once they realized that the planet Earth was somewhat of a hopeless case.

In modern times, experienced pilots have claimed their planes were chased by interplanetary flying machines. And responsible citizens, almost always sober, keep insisting they saw something unearthly up there in the sky one day.

All of which makes one wonder if flying saucers are as nonsensical as government officials make out.

America’s most celebrated flying saucer adventure took place in New England. On the night of September 19, 1961, Barney and Betty Hill of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, were captured by space visitors and taken aboard a flying saucer—or so they claimed. Barney Hill is dead now. Betty, who is superintendent of referrals for the

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New Hampshire Department of Public Welfare in Portsmouth, still claims the story is true.

At the outset, it should be pointed out that no psychiatrist, psychologist, scientist, or government official has been able to discredit the story told by the Hills. There is a specific reason for this, which will be disclosed.

"There are quite a few people around who think I'm crazy," said Betty Hill. "I know that. I've learned to live with this fact since 1961. I'll tell you one thing though: I've probably been examined by more psychiatrists than any other woman in history in recent years. And each and every one of them has certified me as being sane."

Betty's husband suffered a stroke and died on February 25, 1969. He was a postal worker.

"It's been lonely without Barney," she said. "I miss him very much. Still, we had a happy married life together. I have many wonderful memories."

Betty's voice is on the husky side. She is a University of New Hampshire graduate and a constant reader. Her small, comfortable apartment is filled with reading material. She attends church regularly. A sincere woman, she is certainly not the type one would expect to become involved with creatures from outer space.

"Barney and I had been away to Canada on a vacation trip," she recalled.

"We actually didn't plan to return home to New Hampshire on that night in 1961. We read the traffic signs wrong and ended up on a bridge leading to New Hampshire, so we decided to head home or keep going along Route 3 until we got tired enough to stop at a motel. Our pet dog Delsey was with us in the car. I remember it was close to midnight as we crossed the border from Canada into our home state.

"We had gone about seventy miles down Route 3 when we saw the bright light. It was in the town of Lancaster. I spotted it first. Barney was driving at the time. I remember I thought it was a star. Then I noticed the thing was moving. When I noticed that, I changed my mind. I thought it might be a satellite of some sort. Barney stopped the car, and we got out. My husband took out a pair of binoculars and tried to get a good look at the light. While he was studying it, the thing changed direction."

At this point, the Hills were convinced the light in the sky was either an airplane out of Pease Air Force Base, located near Portsmouth, or a commercial flight.

Betty continued: "I remember traffic was very light that night. We continued down the highway, and the light in the sky followed us. It came close to us. It was a bright yellow light—a fantastically bright yellow light. I never saw anything like it before.

"We continued along the highway for

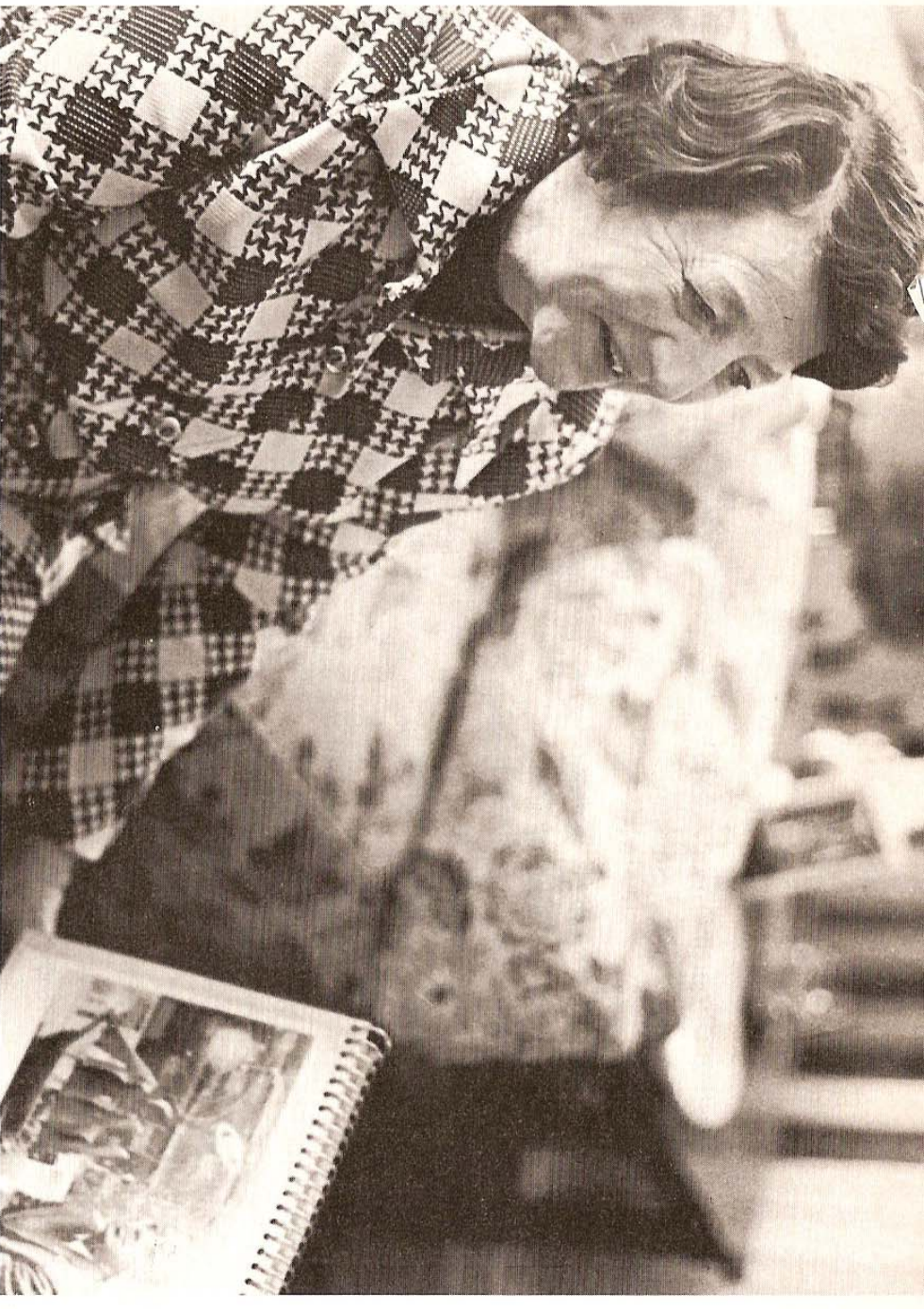


Photo by Barbara Craig.

another thirty miles or so, until we arrived at what they call the Indian Head area.

That's where the Old Man of the Mountain¹ is located, and I remember that the light seemed to dance directly in front of it.

"Barney and I kept going. Naturally, we were nervous. Then a few minutes after we passed the Old Man of the Mountain, the craft, which had been following an erratic flight pattern, stopped and hovered directly over the highway.

"My husband got out of the car to see if he could get a good look at the thing. I stayed by the car, as he went

1. *Old Man of the Mountain*, a natural rock sculpture which looks like the profile of a human being, located in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

down the road. Delsey was locked in the back of our old Chevy.

"Suddenly, Barney came running back. 'Let's get out of here,' he called out. 'We're going to be captured.'

"We both leaped into the Chevy and took off. Barney said it was a flying saucer. He said there was a double row of windows on the front of it, and there were people visible inside. He said there were six of them, and that one of them acted like he was the leader of the group.

"We raced off down the road trying to get away from the light. The thing remained directly above us though. We couldn't get away from it. Then there were three beeping sounds, and the car started to vibrate."

According to Betty, what happened next can best be described as “a brown study.” Simply stated, there was a blank period during which neither Betty nor Barney could recall what happened.

“The next thing I remember was hearing three more beeping sounds. That’s the only way I can describe them. And I said to Barney: ‘Do you believe in flying saucers?’

“He laughed and said, ‘Don’t be ridiculous.’”

At this point, the Hills were in a town called Ashland, which is about thirty miles beyond where they first heard the original three beeping sounds.

“Barney and I went home,” declared Betty, “and spent most of the day asleep in bed. It was the twentieth of September by then. When we woke up, after talking matters over, we decided to notify authorities at Pease Air Force Base about the sightings, and we did. After that, Barney and I decided to do our best to forget about the entire matter.”

However, the couple made several trips back to the area in the vicinity of the Old Man of the Mountain. Betty started having nightmares, but they went away after a while.

“We were bothered about the time element. We didn’t reach Portsmouth until dawn. That was two hours longer than normal for such a trip. Barney and I couldn’t figure out what happened to those extra two hours.”

Two years later, in 1963, Barney developed an ulcer. “Medication did not work,” said Betty, “so it was decided that Barney should see a psychiatrist to determine if the ulcer was caused by emotional problems.”

On December 14, 1963, Barney Hill went to the office of distinguished Boston psychiatrist Benjamin Simon. Under hypnosis and during sessions that were tape-recorded, Barney cleared up the mystery of the lost two hours. “After some sessions with Barney,” said Betty, “Dr. Simon asked permission to place me under hypnosis. He said it would help him to understand Barney’s problem better. So I agreed to allow him to hypnotize me.” Her account of what had happened during the missing two hours was exactly like Barney’s.

Let it be clear that the Hills were hypnotized in separate sessions, and that neither was aware of what the other had said. When conscious, they had no idea what they had revealed under hypnosis. Later, Dr. Simon played the tapes for them, and for the first time they were finally aware of what had happened to them during the lost hours.

“After we heard the original three beeping sounds, and our car started to vibrate, Barney and I left Route 3 in an effort to get away from the thing flying above us. We went down a side road. Up ahead, we saw a group of men in the road; I think there were six of them.

Barney applied the brakes, and our motor went dead. The men separated, half on each side of the car. Then I fell into a deep trance.

"When I revived, we were walking along a path in the woods. Three of the men were helping me. The other three were holding Barney up. We went to some kind of space ship. The best way to describe it is to say it looked like a typical UFO. They took Barney and me inside and put us in different rooms.

"Let me describe the men aboard that aircraft. They were all about five feet tall. They were small men, and their features were vaguely Oriental, but their eyes were more to the side. They were unlike any men I ever met before. They gave me some kind of physical examination. They scraped the skin on my arms and legs, and took some of my hair—things of that sort.

"This examination took place in a wedge-shaped room. It was cool and well-lit. After they were done with the examination, the leader came in. He spoke English. I was surprised by that. He indicated they were going to let us go. I told him people would never believe what had happened to us. Then I saw a book on the table, and asked him for it. I said it was my proof.

"He smiled and gave me the book. The writing was up and down in it—similar

to Japanese writing. I couldn't understand it.

"Finally, the leader told me Barney was ready, and that we could go to the car. However, as I started to leave with the book, some of the other men aboard got upset and spoke to the leader. He came over and took the book away. He said the others did not want me to keep the book. He said it would be best if I forgot about what had happened. Then he told me to stand by the car with Barney and watch them take off.

"I went out to the car with Barney. He also had been examined. Our dog Delsey was still inside the Chevy and was happy to see us. We watched that UFO vanish into the sky. It looked like a red moon.

"Then we got into the car," concluded Betty, "and started driving. After a while we heard three beeps and started talking. That's when I asked Barney, 'Do you believe in flying saucers?'"

Three facts seem to support their story. The first is that on the night of September 19, 1961, several other reliable witnesses reported seeing an unidentified flying object in the same area where the Hills encountered their space visitors.

Secondly, the tapes made by the Hills are presently stored in the Library of Congress.³ According to Betty,

2. UFO, unidentified flying object.

3. *Library of Congress*, the national library of the United States in Washington, D.C.

they have a restricted classification.⁴

Finally, no one seems to be able to come up with a logical explanation for the duplicate stories told by Betty and Barney Hill while in hypnotic trances. The experts

might have been able to explain away one person. But two people with the same story while mesmerized just can't be ignored.

⁴ *restricted classification*. Only those individuals specially authorized by the government may have access to the tapes.

All of which would seem to indicate that Barney and Betty Hill were actually trapped aboard a flying saucer back in 1961.



Comment

1. a. What factual evidence exists to support Mrs. Hill's claim that she and her husband were taken aboard a flying saucer?
 - b. Do you believe Mrs. Hill's story? Why or why not?
 - c. What reasons might someone have for making up a story about flying saucers or meeting creatures from another planet?
2. Why might creatures from another planet visit the earth?
3. Consider the possibility of creatures from another planet actually visiting us with a plan for sharing their ideas and scientific discoveries with all nations. Do you think such an event would cause different nations of the earth to be more cooperative with each other? Explain.

In Other Words

The five words below appear in the selection you have just read. All of the words are *derivatives*—they are formed or derived from a root word. Write the words on a sheet of paper. Beside each derivative write the root word. The first one is done for you.

discredit	government—govern	nonsensical
interplanetary		biblical