

1982

A Remarkable Double Encounter

by J. Allen Hynek

TYPE: CE-I
DATE: March 30, 1982
 April 1, 1982
TIME: 11:15 P.M.
 11:30 P.M.
DURATION: 15-20 min.
 2 min.
WITNESSES: The same two each time
PLACE: Charlottesville, VA.
 Charlottesville, VA.

by J. Allen Hynek

One of the remarkable features of these sightings, though possibly attributable to coincidence (the witnesses definitely do not agree), is not only that the second occurred just two days after the first (and there have been none since) but that it happened just a half-hour after I had finished an hour-long telephone interview with the principal witness. In any event, this is the closest I have personally come to a CE-I event.

Although we were apprised of this case immediately by the local police, who had been quickly notified by the witnesses, we have delayed publication to allow for further study and follow-up. It is often desir-

able to wait for a period, then while re-doing some of the investigation, to note to what extent the witnesses accounts have changed during the interval. In this case there has been virtually no change in their accounts. Past experience has shown us that it would appear that when a sufficiently traumatic or very unusual event occurs, its imprint on the memory tends to be indelible.

Furthermore, the experienced investigator learns that the original UFO event may be only the initial part of the total case. What comes after should also form a part of its proper study. This is particularly true when one is working with intelligent and articulate witnesses who themselves want to get to the bottom of things as much as possible. The present witnesses fulfill this condition. The principal witness, Nanette Morrison (who has given permission to use her name, writes: "Fortunately, I have never been afraid of a little ridicule") is administrative coordinator of the Neuroscience Program at the University of Virginia Medical School. Her mother, the second witness, has been a schoolteacher in Charlottesville for some 20 years.

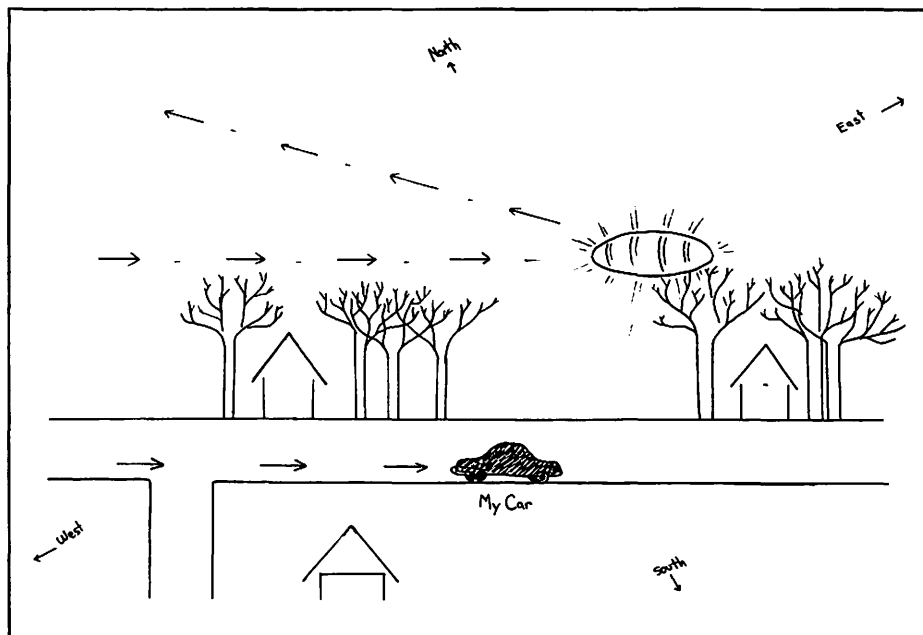
Here is the story of the first event, told largely in the words of the witness: "After a very pleasant dinner I continued my trip home alone, traveling a route that was very familiar to me and one that was ordinarily quite busy. This evening, however, there was no other automobile in sight during the entire way home. I was approaching the subdivision where I live with my parents when I suddenly spotted a large, brilliant light in the sky several hundred feet above the ground and probably a quarter of a mile directly in front of my car.

"My initial impression was that it was a large airplane with its landing lights on, traveling directly toward me; this could make it seem motionless. I turned off the car radio and rolled down my window to listen for sound. There was none whatsoever.

"Continuing down the road, I seemed to be drawing near to the craft. Then I realized that it was not moving at all; it was hovering over the road in front of me. I was the one that was doing the moving. At this point, I reached the intersection where I would turn left onto another street. My anxiety mounted further as the craft suddenly disappeared from my view as I made the turn. It flew right over the top of my car.

"It swung itself around to the left side of my car, and positioned itself well in my view outside the window on the driver's side. It remained easily visible in the top corner of my open window, and paced my car for the remaining 15 blocks to my house. I covered the curving, winding streets in approximately 10 minutes, my visitor staying with my car, making each turn just as I did. I made a mental note that the vehicle's movements, its lighting, and the lack of sound reminded me of a submarine, its brilliant light illuminating the gloomy void around it.

"During this interlude, many different emotions were hitting me all at once. Fear, curiosity, excitement...all coursed through me simultaneously. Curiosity finally won out over the others. I had slowed my car to a snail's pace, barely moving, just enough



This drawing shows the 'submarine-like' UFO, which first flew over the witness' car, then swung to the left side, pacing the car for the remaining 15 blocks to her home.

Despite financial difficulties, the Center has an enviable publication record, unequaled in scope and extent by any other civilian UFO investigative organization in the world, to the best of my knowledge. There have been the monographs, edited by Mimi Hynek, which include: *Physical Traces Associated with UFO Sightings* (Phillips), *A Helicopter-UFO Encounter over Ohio* (Zeidman), *The Lumberton Report* (Zeidman), the *UFOCAT Codebook* (Saunders), the many printouts from *UFOCAT* (Saunders and Merritt), *1973—Year of the Humanoids* (Webb), *UFO Reports Involving Vehicle Interference* (Rodeghier), and many shorter papers and bulletins. Center publications and much other UFO related material have been made available through the *UFO Information Service*, operated by the Center.

In all honesty, we must also recognize where the Center has failed to achieve its aims. Perhaps we were too optimistic; admittedly, we have fallen short of our goal of bringing the UFO phenomenon to the serious attention of the scientific community. We have not even been able to enlist much active aid of recognized scientists in conducting research into this field, as we had hoped we could do. Nor have we attracted, with certain notable exceptions, the overall quality of UFO field investigators we had anticipated and needed.

Many, though not all, of our tribulations would have vanished had there been a sufficiency of operating funds, but lack of such is faced by every UFO organization we know of around the world. This, for example, made it necessary for the Center to discontinue its *Police UFO Hotline* (1982) and to relinquish rented office space.

From these tribulations the Center has, in my opinion, learned that it had best substitute modest and attainable goals for the presently unattainable great but distant goals. The study of the UFO phenomenon has now reached the point where no UFO organization can be all things to all people, to do single-handedly all that is required toward the eventual solution of the problem. In physics, for example, no one research facility supports research in relativity, solid state physics, quantum mechanics, high energy physics, cryogenics, and so on. Rather, each specializes to a large extent. It is by that principle that the future work of the Center should be guided. Perhaps such cooperation can be guided through the new *North American UFO Federation (NAUFOF)* and, on the international scene, by *ICUR (International Committee for UFO Research)*.

If anything has been learned over the past decade it is that the UFO phenomenon is far more complex than many had thought originally. None of the "simple" solutions have borne fruit. Perhaps the answer lies in several directions, or perhaps in one as yet unexplored. The many facets of the UFO phenomenon: claims of abduction, of missing time, of seemingly impossible maneuvers by UFOs, plus the many reported types of physical effects, of physiological and psychological damage perpetrated by UFOs, and many more, including the growing evidence that the governments of the world may know much more about the subject than has been admitted, all of these have demonstrated the innate complexity of the UFO subject, and certainly have precluded the adoption, at this time, of any one theory for UFOs.

It has been relatively easy for me to reflect upon the first ten years of the Center's existence, but as for the future... There is an old Chinese proverb that says it succinctly: "To prophesy is extremely difficult, especially with respect to the future." One could, perhaps, hope that there will be no 20th anniversary of the Center, that the whole problem will be solved by 1993. Yet, even if that should be the case, the Center or its equivalent would still be necessary because it has always been the case in science that answers have always led to more questions, requiring more rather than less research. Such may well be the case with UFOs.

Whatever the future brings, we at the Center fully intend to insure that the Center remains viable; there is even more need for such a research organization, working cooperatively with others, than there was in 1973. Cooperation may well be the keyword for the next decade because it would seem that the destiny of the Center and other organizations is inextricably intertwined with that of the bizarre and presently inexplicable phenomenon we call UFOs.

An Apology from Us (and from Our Printer, too)

The last issue of the *REPORTER* was not only late but contained a very glaring "typo." The delay was due largely to a mixup at the printers, and one which was well beyond our control. The typo, lest you think that our editors can't read big print, was plainly marked when the galleys went back to the printer. It was the printer who apparently couldn't read big type. The typo itself, in case you haven't found it for yourselves, seems impossible to miss! It's on page 8, at the very top in very big print. Please substitute "BOOMERANG" for "BOOMERING." What is a Boomerang, anyway... something one should use on printers?

IF YOU WISH TO HELP...

There are ways in which you can be of real assistance to the Center, besides by giving your financial support.

You can deliver personally to the Marketing Managers of enclosed Shopping Malls in your area our mailing regarding the *CUFOS UFO PHOTO EXHIBIT*. The exhibit will inform the public, encourage the reporting of valuable sightings and help pay the costs of their careful investigation.

You can telephone the Program Directors of radio stations in your area and ask them to request a free tape of public service announcements which inform the public about the nature of the UFO phenomenon and how to report a possible sighting for investigation.

You can notify your local service clubs of the availability of half-hour programs of slide photographs and recorded narration by Dr. Hynek on the subjects of UFOs.

Write to our Business Office, P. O. Box 1621, Lima, OH 45802 for details □

A Timely Last-Minute Gift Suggestion

A number of readers have told us that an Associateship (of the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Kinds) has made an excellent gift, especially for those people "who have everything." Perhaps you have someone on your list who is interested in UFOs. If he or she is, such a gift might hit the spot; if they aren't, maybe the gift will get them interested! Worth a try!

to keep it from stalling; I was not prepared to stop completely.

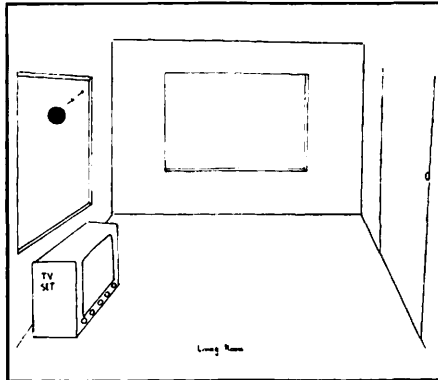
"My gaze was transfixed on the light. Too brilliant for me to be able to ascertain a shape, the space craft did, however, seem to have at least five distinct compartments from which the brilliant white light was emitted. Straining my senses, I still couldn't hear any sound, nor had I yet encountered any other moving automobiles.

"Finally, I approached my house. Instead of pulling into the driveway, I stopped my car on the edge of the street in front of the house. I was frantic with excitement! Would my visitors wait long enough for someone else to see? I turned off the ignition but left my lights on. The craft ceased moving as soon as my car did; it was hovering, motionless over the house across the street! This was its closest approach to me...less than 400 feet. I was so fascinated that I could hardly move. I was torn between just sitting there watching or getting someone else to see it. Suddenly, I burst open the car door and bolted across the front lawn. Once on the front porch, I ventured a peek behind me. My companions slowly reversed their direction and began to leave. The vehicle did not turn or bank as most aircraft would noticeably do. While watching their departure, I rang the doorbell and banged on the door. Seconds later my mother opened the door and greeted my shouts; I was hardly even coherent: 'Come here, look, quick, see what followed me home!'

"Mom immediately looked down the street at my car which still had its lights on. "Well, I don't see anything!"

"Exasperated and jumping up and down, I pointed at the sky, 'No, not down there...look up at the sky!' The visitors were gently gliding away behind the tall pines that line our street. Nevertheless, Mom saw enough to understand my excitement. [Ed note: All this was confirmed in my separate interview with the mother.]

"At this point, we were running into the street to get a better view. Every nerve in my entire body seemed to be wired in high gear, as my hair was raised and my skin



Two nights later, the witness spotted the UFO through her living room window.

prickled into huge goose bumps. Such an experience takes a little while to recover from. I found myself standing around in the street shaking my head in amazement. 'I just can't believe it happened to me!' I kept repeating."

Thus ended the first encounter. Two nights later, Nanette was on the phone with me for a full hour, as we went over the details of her sighting. The call concluded at 11 p.m. and she went to watch MASH on the local TV. One half hour later...

"I gathered myself up from the floor in front of the television; 11:30 p.m.... MASH was going off the air. On a whim I looked out the window to see if my friends would return. [Ed note: When I asked her why she referred to "them" as her friends, she replied that she did so because she wasn't afraid.] Never in a million years could I effectively describe the jolt in my stomach and to my nervous system as my eyes focused on the bright, fluorescent light in the sky, hovering only a relatively short distance outside the window. The huge object was soundlessly suspended a few hundred feet above the tree-line horizon.

"I stared in complete wonder for several seconds before I recovered my voice. 'Mom, Mom, come here, look!' She was dialing a long distance call to her sister in West Virginia and the imperativeness of my shouts hadn't registered with her.

"Mom, come see this! They're back!" On this second effort I resorted to stomping my foot to punctuate my excitement.

"What's wrong? What're you looking at? She finally put the phone down and came to the rescue of her exasperated daughter. [In a separate interview Mrs. Morrison, the mother, explained that she had just succeeded in dialing the long distance call and was very reluctant to drop it merely to come to the window. But she did, and confirmed the sighting; a very important point, for otherwise one might be tempted to ascribe the daughter's sighting to wishful thinking!

"Amazingly enough, throughout this exchange, the UFO remained stationary, but just as soon as my mother saw the object, it flared up suddenly, brighter than ever, as if in signal to me. It then zipped away at an incredible speed.

"My mother and I made a mad dash across the short distance to the front door (see diagram) and out to the porch. There was absolutely nothing to be seen, nor was there any sound. Had it been any type of our aircraft it would have had to be still visible and/or leaving some sound behind it. Stunned, we just stared at each other. I spoke first: 'Can you believe that? Two times in two days [actually, three]. Hard enough to believe the first sighting, but this second...it's really incredible!'

"Mom just shook her head in disbelief. 'I wouldn't believe it...but I saw it both times, too.' We both realized that this must be the same space craft that had followed me home only two nights previously [Ed note: This does not necessarily follow, but the witnesses feel strongly on this point]. We scanned the skies for several more minutes but to no avail. That was it, and we have had no sighting since then. We ventured back into the house and I rehashed my telephone conversation with you. Barely 30 minutes had elapsed since I had hung up the phone with you!"

(Continued on Page 15)

Project Hessdalen:



This is the Hessdalen Valley in central Norway, site of numerous 'lights in the sky.'

A major new mystery has been catapulted into ufology (not that all of ufology isn't a mystery!) It concerns NL's (Nocturnal Lights) or, if you wish, LITS (Lights in the Sky) which have captured the attention of Norwegian ufologists and their associates in neighboring countries. While such lights may be explainable as "earthlights" or lights generated by electromagnetic fields associated with geologic faults (an explanation that is growing in popularity) the question is left open as to why these lights have only recently appeared in these locations in relative profusion and why there appear to be associated with the sightings of lights, also sightings of "craft" with definitely outlined shapes.

These lights have been photographed and a few of these came to my attention over a year ago but, I must confess, that I set them aside, pending further information. After all, what can be done about lights in the sky? Although they are the most frequently reported class of UFOs, little can be done about them unless one has expensive spectrographic and other equipment and knows where to place it so as to be ready for the next nocturnal light that shows up.

Now we have more information, thanks to the work of a small but active group of Scandinavian ufologists who have organized "Project Hessdalen" with the purpose of deploying such equipment to an area where for months the lights have been localized: the Hessdalen Valley, some 80 miles from Trondheim, in central Norway. Earlier, virtually identical lights were

observed near the town of Arendal, in southern Norway, some 400 miles to the south of Hessdalen. As they were ceasing in the Arendal area they apparently transferred their attention to the northern theater of operations.

It was not until I met and conferred with members of Project Hessdalen, and accepted their kind invitation to become a member of their Advisory Committee, that I recognized the potential importance of "the colored lights of Norway" whose study (if they continue and if Project Hessdalen continues with the enthusiasm with which it has started) is almost certain to yield results of outstanding scientific value.

A bi-weekly newsletter has been initiated, funds are being collected, and a scientific program is taking form. It is of interest to quote from a recent Project Hessdalen Newsletter:

"Leif Havik will arrange a meeting at the University of Trondheim...and will resume his contact with the Seismological Observatory.

"Owe Lewitzki has made a short list of suitable cameras for movies and still shots. All cameras have to withstand rough winter climate. [See accompanying photos of the observing site and some photos of the lights obtained in the past, taken with the shutter open for 5-10 seconds]. Havik will

get detailed geologic maps of Hessdalen... for Paul Devereaux, asking him to propose proper geological instrumentation [Devereaux is the author of *Earthlights* and one of the chief proponents of the geological school of (UFO origin) for use at the site."

Now please note this ambitious plan! "We are going to send a letter to every household in Holtalen [of which Hessdalen is a part...but lest the reader becomes alarmed, there are but 1083 households in Holtalen and in Mitre Gauldal 2179 households]. These areas had the most UFO reports last year. We will describe the project and ask them to write down every UFO sighting they have had. We will enclose prepaid, self-addressed envelopes...a meeting with the people of Hessdalen will be arranged for November this year."

We salute their enthusiasm, and if it continues, I plan to visit Norway in 1984. In this I have been "scooped" by Hilary Evans in England, whose account of his summer 1983 visit can be found in the MUFON Journal, July 1983. His description of the Norwegian scenery may well move some readers to use Hessdalen as an excuse to visit Norway.

Lief Havik, a member of Project Hessdalen, has kindly sent us some material on the Hessdalen sightings of some time ago and on the history of these Norwegian Lights. His article, abbreviated in the interests of space, follows below.

The Colored Lights of Norway

A Remarkable Double Encounter — continued

ANALYSIS:

We are confronted once again with the essence of the UFO phenomenon: intelligent and responsible people who perceive a light or a craft, often near the ground, for which no ordinary viable explanation is at hand. In this case, on two separate nights. Though utterly strange, the phenomenon has been so repetitive over the past decades as to be boring. It's like having no new TV programs, only constant reruns.

The primary article of faith in science, and it comes down to faith, is that we live in a rational world and that there are rational explanations for all phenomena; this includes UFOs. The scientist clings to this faith for otherwise he is adrift in a chaotic universe. He becomes very uncomfortable in the face of something like the UFO phenomenon which continues to defy rational explanation; he would dearly love to say it just doesn't exist, that all these witnesses over the past decades have been

deluded. We may ask, is he sure who is being deluded?

As ufologists we must work toward a theory of the UFO phenomenon no matter how "far out" it may seem to conventional science at the moment. Several things stand out in the present case and are found in common with many other Close Encounter cases. The evidence for intelligent action of the UFO is obvious. The witness was openly followed, as though the UFO was intent on calling attention to itself; the brilliance of the light obscuring the shape of its source; the deliberate tracking of the car which in this case involved making the same turns as the car did; the "isolation effect" ...its appearance during the absence of other traffic as though it had "chosen" its time for appearance; the non-banking glide in changing direction of motion and, the second instance, its totally unaccountable disappearance in an instant; and its soundlessness.

Also in common with many other Close Encounter cases, but this time from the standpoint of the witnesses: intelligence and responsibility as indicated both by the nature of their daily occupation and by the coherent and articulate presentation of their testimony; familiarity with the territory of occurrence; in this case 23 years residence in the area; and finally, the common denominator in virtually all UFO cases, the total bewilderment on realizing that they have in some way made contact with something outside their common everyday world.

These commonalities in both the UFO behavior and the witness' capabilities and reactions make it tough for the skeptic who demands in all these cases an acceptable commonplace explanation. In this case in particular, the fact that during the 23 year residence of the witnesses in that area nothing similar was reported argues strongly against a natural event which might be expected to happen more than once in 23 years. □



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International UFO Congress — continued

Hynek attempted an overview of the status of ufology, stressing the strong move away from the simplistic hypothesis of visitors from outer space coming here over vast astronomical distances and the growing prominence of the more "esoteric" theories. Tracing the changing attitudes of the public and of ufologists over the years, largely in terms of his own involvement in the subject, he pointed out that the main stumbling block to obtaining serious attention from the scientific community and from policy making and funding groups in society was indeed the extraterrestrial hypothesis which, for reasons considered entirely valid, it rejected out of hand, having confused the UFO phenomenon with that particular interpretation of the phenomenon. Hynek feels, with Vallee, that the solution to the UFO problem will prove to be far more exciting than merely space travel!

PICUR Becomes ICUR

The day before the formal opening of the Third International UFO Congress (see above), an event of great potential significance for ufology occurred: the International Committee for UFO Research was born, its formal constitution was adopted, officers were elected and aims and objectives were set forth. In actuality, however, this Committee had been conceived some four years earlier and was known as PICUR, or the Provisional International Committee for UFO Research.

During those four years of gestation, the concept of international cooperation took form and member organizations from more than a dozen countries were re-

cruited. Now, after these four years, it was felt that the Committee was sufficiently well established to be able to dispense with the "P" for "Provisional" and to get down to the real business of the Committee. In an all-day meeting, and running well into the night, the Constitution of ICUR was hammered out and officers were elected. Bertil Kuhlemann from Sweden was named Chairman and Hynek, President (honorary). Robert Digby, of BUFORA, was elected Treasurer and Bjorne Haakensson, Secretary.

Kuhlemann, a business computer executive, is well known in ufological circles as forthright and energetic, and fully-dedicated to the serious study of the UFO phenomenon. In his address to the Committee he reviewed the recommendations of several working groups which earlier in the day had met to select, from a great many suggestions, those three or four they felt had the greatest immediate relevance. Those finally chosen were: the initiation of translation services, the adoption of classification and investigative procedural standards, and the establishment of communication links between UFO organizations in member countries.

Representatives of several member organizations from various countries pointed out that their organizations received publications in many languages which they were hard pressed to translate. [Here at the Center the problem is acute; we simply do not have the means to have the many magazines, books, letters we receive, written in at least a dozen different

languages, properly translated.] Clearly much valuable information is lost when we can't read what our colleagues are saying. One immediate step was taken to help this situation. The Committee voted to ask member organizations to provide a brief abstract in English to head each article published under their auspices. This, of course, is a well-recognized procedure in many scientific publications.

PICUR had already begun the publication of UFO INTERNATIONAL, a modest quarterly off-set magazine primarily for circulation to member organizations. This, plus a suggested frequent short newsletter, represents a step toward establishing viable communication links between ufologists in various countries.

The organization of ICUR is this: Membership is by countries, but each country can be represented by more than one qualified UFO organization in that country. Kuhlemann also pointed out that ICUR, being composed of countries and organizations rather than individuals, could work very well with the newly formed World Ufological Association (WUA) which is composed solely of individuals, as individuals, quite apart from their organizational affiliation, if any. The same would apply to the recently formed North American UFO Federation (NAUFOF) which is likewise composed of organizations, and thus there should be no obstacle in the way of cooperation between ICUR and NAUFOF, and WUA. □

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INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER, NOV./DEC. 1983
ISSN: # 0730-174X

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