

MOORE/SHANDERA MJ-12 REPORT DEMONSTRATES PHOTOCOPY "HANKY PANKY"

The integrity and intellectual honesty of the recent William L. Moore and Jaime H. Shandera analysis of the "Top Secret/Eyes Only" MJ-12 documents which they and their former associate Stanton T. Friedman had released in the spring of 1987, can be judged by their treatment of the Harry Truman signature which appears on one of the MJ-12 documents--what purports to be a memorandum, dated Sept. 24, 1947, from President Truman to Defense Secretary James Forrestal, creating the Majestic 12 (MJ-12) committee. (Comments on other aspects of the Moore/Shandera MJ-12 report can be found in SUN #7.)

In the Winter 1990 issue of Skeptical Inquirer, I revealed the this MJ-12 Truman signature is "suspiciously like" the one on an authentic letter which Truman wrote to Dr. Vannevar Bush on Oct. 1, 1947. According to the book "Questioned Documents," by Albert S. Osborn, originally written before the advent of "signature machines" and the Xerox type of photocopier, "suspiciously alike" signatures are "very strong evidence of forgery." (Friedman had earlier noted the similarity of the two signatures in an article published in the fall of 1987 in International UFO Reporter, but erroneously claimed that this showed that the MJ-12 Truman signature was authentic!) When Truman signed the letter to Bush, the pen skidded slightly as he was writing the right-hand vertical stroke of the "H." A similar skid mark is found on the MJ-12 signature!

When I sent copies of the MJ-12 and genuine Oct. 1 Truman signatures to a highly respected document examiner in New York, who had earlier worked with Friedman and Moore on the MJ-12 papers, he said there was no doubt that the MJ-12 signature was a photocopy forgery. (I refer to this examiner as P.T. because he does not wish his name made public.)

PT's experienced eye spotted additional incriminating evidence of a photocopy forgery. In the genuine (Oct.1) letter, the top of the "T" cut through the bottom of the "s" and top of the comma in the "Sincerely yours,". This required the counterfeiter to use "white-out" correction fluid to "paint out" the "s" and comma because the typewriter used by the counterfeiter to type the contents of the bogus letter did not match the one used in the genuine (Oct. 1) letter. In performing this operation, the forger thinned down slightly that part of the top of the "T" that had cut across the "s" and comma. Fig. 1 (below) shows the genuine Oct. 1, 1947 Truman signature while Fig. 2 shows the MJ-12 signature, with arrows pointing to the "thinning" of the top of the "T".

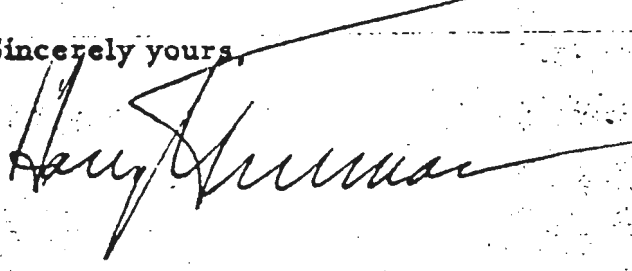
Sincerely yours,


Fig. 1 (Authentic)

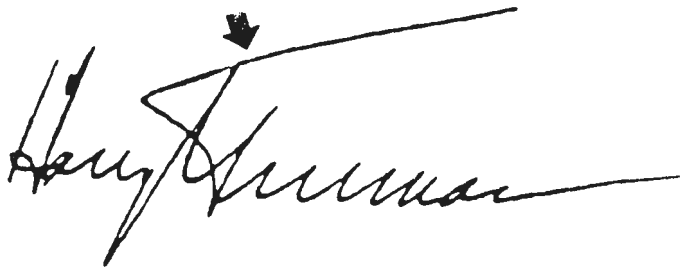
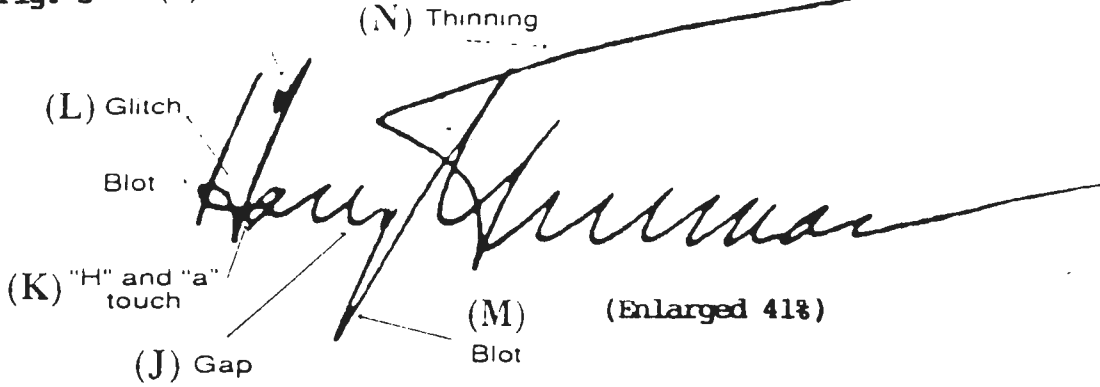


Fig. 2 (MJ-12)

But the Moore/Shandera MJ-12 report resorts to "misdirection." THE ARROW THEY USE TO POINT OUT THE THINNING IS AIMED AT A DIFFERENT PART OF THE TOP OF THE "T" WHERE NO THINNING EXISTS! (See Fig. 3, top of next page.)

Fig. 3 (I) Hook



Moore/Shandera arrows claim to point to suspicious "thinning" but they do not.

Moore/Shandera claim that the genuine (Oct. 1) Truman signature was written with a "finer pen" than the one used for the MJ-12 signature and the two illustrations used in their report (shown below) would seem to confirm this claim. But appearances can be deceiving.

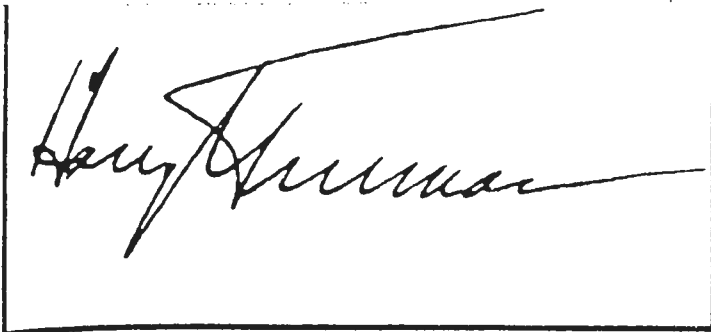


ILLUSTRATION "E"

Signature from Truman Memorandum ("TM")

Note wider pen point produces heavier lines with no skipping.

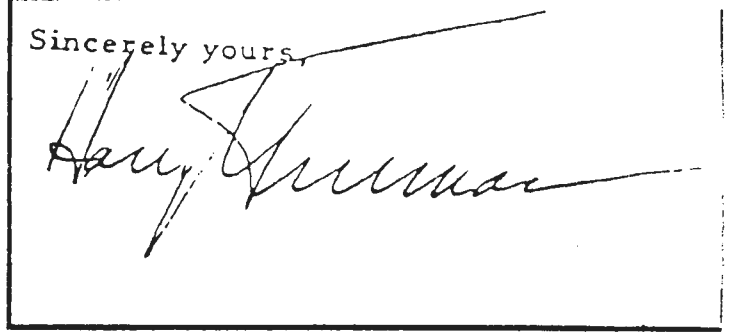


ILLUSTRATION "F"

Signature from Truman-Bush Letter ("T-B")

Note finer pen point produces thinner lines & frequent skips.



The genuine (Oct. 1) Truman signature published by Moore/Shandera is a "manipulated" version of a "darker" version known to be in Moore's possession (which more closely resembles the original in the Library of Congress). This is known because Moore earlier sent me a darker version, which is reproduced lower left (Fig. 4). IT IS EASY ENOUGH TO MAKE THE HEAVIER VERSION APPEAR FAINTER, WITH "SKIPPING"--SIMPLY BY SETTING THE XEROX MACHINE FOR "LIGHT CONTRAST." Fig. 5 shows a light-contrast version of the copy Moore sent me.

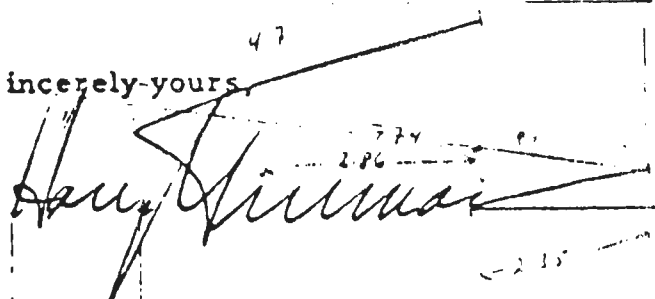


Fig. 4: Copy sent me by Moore

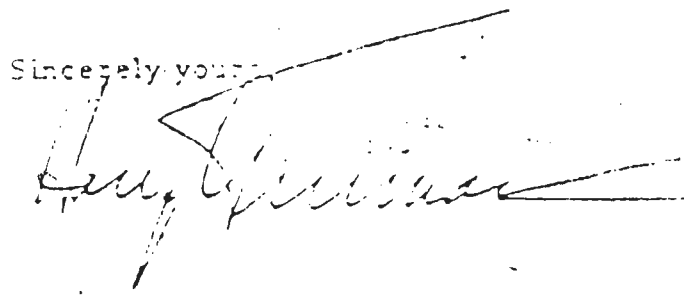


Fig. 5: Light-contrast photocopy of Fig. 4

Naturally the reverse process can be used to increase the darkness and heaviness of lines in the signature, and thereby fill in gaps, such as in the "skid marks" in the Oct. 1 signature.

Moore/Shandera admit that the MJ-12 signature bears a "marked similarity" to the genuine signature on Truman's Oct. 1, 1947, letter to Dr. Bush. But they attempt to prove the two signatures are not quite identical by showing that the lengths of certain features, such as the top of the "T", is 2-3% larger on the MJ-12 signature than on the genuine letter to Bush. But this is to be expected because the "original MJ-12" documents (allegedly) arrived on 35 mm. film, which had to be enlarged during printing, and underwent unknown numbers of photocopying operations each of which results in a slight enlargement which can be larger in the horizontal direction than in the vertical, or vice versa.

This shortcoming is acknowledged in a "Postscriptum" in the Moore/Shandera report, authored by Dr. Bruce Maccabee who heads the Fund for UFO Research (FUFOR) and has strongly endorsed the authenticity of Ed Walters' Gulf Breeze UFO photos. To overcome this weakness, Maccabee argues that one should calculate the ratio of a specific feature length in the MJ-12 signature to the same feature in the genuine Truman signature. Maccabee states that "if the signatures were the same and one [i.e. MJ-12] is magnified non-uniformly with respect to the other (e.g. vertical magnification slightly different from horizontal magnification) then all predominantly vertical ratios should equal or be very close to one value [i.e. the same] and all predominantly horizontal ratios should equal or be close to another value."

Using this approach, Maccabee's own measurements (which differ slightly from ones he made earlier) he calculates that the horizontal ratios vary from 1.012 to 1.036--a variation of less than 3%, while vertical ratios vary from 0.98 to 1.092--about 11%. ***THIS PROMPTS MACCABEE TO CONCLUDE: "THE DATA DO NOT SUPPORT THE CLAIM THAT THE SIGNATURES ARE IDENTICAL."***

But Maccabee's basic approach is challenged by Dr. Willy Smith, a long-time pro-UFOlogist who earlier challenged Maccabee's strong endorsement of the Walters' Gulf Breeze UFO photos. Smith notes that many of the feature dimensions used by Maccabee are not completely horizontal or vertical and that "slanted lines will be affected...(by) unknown vertical and horizontal magnifications," in turn dependent on their angles relative to the horizontal.

Instead, Smith suggests one should calculate the horizontal and vertical components of key feature dimensions and then calculate the ratios of one specific feature to another feature ON THE SAME SIGNATURE. Smith's rationale is that whatever magnifications/distortions exist in the signature being analyzed, the same magnifications/distortions occurred to ALL horizontal/vertical features of the same specimen.

BASED ON THIS MORE SCIENTIFIC APPROACH, SMITH CONCLUDES THAT THE MJ-12 TRUMAN SIGNATURE AND THE ONE ON THE GENUINE TRUMAN LETTER TO BUSH HAVE "A COMMON ANCESTRY." IN OTHER WORDS, THE MJ-12 TRUMAN MEMO IS A HOAX.

After devoting many pages to explaining away such criticisms of the MJ-12 Truman memo--some of which have come from skeptical pro-UFOlogists--at the end of the Moore/Shandera report they ADMIT THAT THEY NOW BELIEVE THERE IS A BETTER THAN 50% PROBABILITY THAT THE MJ-12 TRUMAN MEMO IS A FRAUD. BUT IF SO, MOORE/SHANDERA STATE IT "VERY PROBABLY [IS] OFFICIAL DISINFORMATION." THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE COUNTERFEIT DOCUMENTS WERE CREATED BY PERSON(S) TRYING TO PROMOTE PUBLIC BELIEF IN CRASHED SAUCERS IS NOT EVEN MENTIONED. SEEMINGLY THAT WOULD BE TOO FAR-FETCHED!

The other MJ-12 document--which purports to be a briefing paper by Rear Adm. R.H. Hillenkoetter intended for President-elect Eisenhower--*specifically refers to the Truman memo of Sept. 24 which Moore/Shandera now admit may be a counterfeit. Does this shake their confidence in the authenticity of the Hillenkoetter briefing document? NOT REALLY. If the Truman memo is a counterfeit, then obviously it was "substituted" for the authentic Truman memo as part of the Government's UFO disinformation effort.*

Moore/Shandera conclude on page 70 of their report that there is a 60-65% probability that the MJ-12 Truman memo is counterfeit, but only 25% that the Hillenkoetter briefing document is the same genre. In mid-1987, Shandera was quoting 90% probability that both documents were authentic, and Stanton Friedman was quoting 95%.

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Recall the reaction to the Moore/Shandera MJ-12 report by Jerry Clark, editor of the Hynek Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) publication, International UFO Reporter: "it looks as if Moore, Shandera and their associates have all but obliterated every skeptical argument todate." (Did Clark read page 70?)

Rumor has it that Clark is suffering "mixed emotions" over recent developments in the "Roswell crashed-saucer business." (Recall the old definition of "mixed emotions": Watching your mother-in-law drive over a steep cliff in your new Cadillac convertible.) Clark has long had close relationship with Moore, but open warfare has broken out between Moore/Shandera and Don Schmitt/Kevin Randle over the latter's upcoming new book on the "Roswell crashed-saucer" incident. Schmitt is director of special investigations for CUFOS, which has financially supported the Schmitt/Randle investigation. But Schmitt is sharply critical of the Ed Walters/Gulf Breeze photos, which Clark earlier embraced.

Adding to the confusing internecine crashed-saucer warfare, Stanton Friedman--Moore's long-time partner in the Roswell case--not only has broken with Moore/Shandera over their sharp criticism of Schmitt/Randle [See SUN #6], but Friedman reportedly has decided to write his own Roswell crashed-saucer book, in collaboration with Don Berliner. Berliner is a long-time hard-line pro-UFOlogist who was active in NICAP during the 1960s.

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UFOLOGICAL RIDDLE: What's the difference between Iraq's Saddam Hussein and MUFON's Walt Andrus (who continues to endorse the Gulf Breeze/Walters case)? The answer: Saddam is not so stubborn as to foreclose the possibility that he might some day admit his Gulf Goof!

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BUDD HOPKINS DISCOVERS THAT ET's ARE OBSESSED WITH SEXUAL ORGANS

After a decade of research into "UFO-abductions," Budd Hopkins has made a remarkable discovery. Despite many decades of (alleged) abductions and physical examinations, ET's continue to be interested only in the genitals of their subjects and show absolutely no interest in the human heart which we dum-dum Earthlings consider to be one of the key organs. Hopkins reveals his discovery in the second issue of his "Intruders Foundation" newsletter IF. (When Hopkins solicited subscriptions for the newsletter in mid-1989, he said it would be published quarterly. But during the intervening 18 months, only two issues have appeared. Hopkins explains the delay was caused by his "lack of computer literacy.")

The fact that none of the "abductees" report that the ETs showed any interest in examining "the organ [i.e. heart] we universally consider to be of supreme importance," according to Hopkins, "effectively demolishes the skeptics' mundane 'fantasy explanation' for the UFO abduction phenomenon." This obsessive ET interest in the genital areas of abductees seemingly shows that former Vice President Spiro Agnew's Law (slightly paraphrased) does not apply to ETs: "WHEN YOU'VE SEEN ONE GENITAL AREA YOU'VE SEEN THEM ALL." (A few SUN readers may have reason to take exception to Agnew's Law.)

Having thus demolished any prosaic explanation for UFO-abduction tales, Hopkins lashes out at skeptics for "clinging to their debunking theory at any cost (they) are doing violence not only to the truth itself but also to the psychological well-being of those who have suffered from these traumatic experiences...the skeptic's behavior to his fellow man may now truly deserve to be thought of as 'heartless,'" according to Hopkins. (*We suspect that Hopkins considers UFO-abduction skeptics as being even more heartless than Saddam Hussein.*)

Hopkins' newsletter reports highlights of his discussions with some of his subjects during a meeting of what he calls a "support group." One subject commented: "I feel basically like these guys [ETs] ruined my life...I was a very bright, very sincere religious kid, and I turned into a juvenile delinquent, and eventually a drug addict." [If Ed Walters, the famous Gulf Breeze UFO photographer reads this, he will have a convenient explanation for why he was convicted and jailed for forgery and car theft in his youth.]

Edward Bullard, whose Ph.D. is in folklore, is quite certain that UFO-abduction tales are not folklore/fantasy, as he explains in the same issue of IF. "If abductions were hypnotically enhanced fantasies, the products of fantasy-prone people, or yarns stitched together out of images borrowed from movies, the handiwork of imagination would be evident. In fact it is not. Instead of a kaleidoscopic variety of creative fantasy, we see the stubborn consistency more characteristic of actual experience." (Emphasis added.)

Bullard's claim is contradicted in the newsletter's opening article by Hopkins who describes "John's" tale of childhood abduction: "The beings were white, with glowing blue eyes. [*ETs are typically described as having gray-color skins and large black eyes.*] They did wear those cloaks, like black Halloween costumes [*ETs more typically are reported to wear aviator type jumpsuits or astronaut type spacesuits.*], not high-tech but loose-weave, so flimsy I could see their white surface through them. They [ETs] were streamlined, beautiful [*no mention of their being extremely short or having large bald heads*]...I thought they were soldiers." Hopkins accepts "John's" story despite it being so very atypical? Bullard ignores it, and others like it.

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS TO SPONSOR "UFO-ABDUCTION" CONFERENCE

Third conference on "Treatment and Research of Experienced Anomalous Trauma" (TREAT-III) will be held in Kansas City, Mar. 7-10, with a two-day pre-conference workshop on Mar. 5-6. Conference arranger is Dr. Rima E. Laibow, a Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. psychiatrist who was a close associate [dare we say "bosom buddy"] of Budd Hopkins until they split in late 1989 over whether "abduction victims" should be treated by trained psychotherapists (who would be paid for their services) or by "more understanding and experienced" UFO-abductionists like Hopkins and Jacobs, who would not charge for their services--but could use case files for a book. (Saucer Smear editor Jim Moseley has reported that Laibow believes she herself is a UFO-abduction victim and when I sought Laibow's response she did not categorically deny his claim.)

For Laibow's earlier TREAT-II conference, held Feb. 1-4, 1990, she invited six pro-UFOlogists, including Stanton Friedman, to speak but no experienced UFO-skeptic. Possibly

Laibow feared that having a single UFO-skeptic on the podium might make a conference on UFO-abductions seem a "bit kookie" or that it might poison the minds of the audience. Although Laibow and I have a cordial relationship, I've not been invited to speak at TREAT-III. (*But then would you invite a skunk to attend your garden party?*)

The upcoming pre-conference workshop will have two sessions: one "for clinicians" will offer an "intensive course in the manifestations, diagnosis, treatment and course of Experienced Anomalous Trauma." Completion of this course "will serve as part of the requirement for certification in the treatment of Experienced Anomalous Trauma."

For "non-clinicians"--a euphemistic reference to UFOlogists, abductees and the curious--the preconference workshop will offer an "intensive course in the full spectrum of Experienced Anomalous Trauma as seen within, and outside, our culture."

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HOPKINS, JACOBS HOLD OWN UFO-ABDUCTION CONFERENCE

In an effort to promote the UFOlogist's approach to dealing with "abductees," Hopkins and his principal disciple, David Jacobs, a history professor at Temple University, scheduled their own National Conference on Anomalous Experience, a "private, invitation-only event," for Jan. 18-20, near Philadelphia. According to a flyer promoting the event, the conference would feature "leading researchers from around the country," including Hopkins, Jacobs, Bullard, pro-UFOlogist Michael Swords and Dr. John Mack, professor of psychiatry at Harvard University.

Slightly more than 40 persons attended, including psychologist Richard Haines, a long-time pro-UFOlogist who has become a practicing "UFO-abductionist," and sociologist Ron Westrum, another pro-UFOlogist. Nine physicians who attended included Dr. David Gotlib, of Toronto, whose practice focuses on depression and anxiety disorders. Gotlib was a feature speaker at last summer's MUFON conference in Pensacola.

According to one participant, during the conference Budd Hopkins warned that when children tell their parents tales of UFO abduction, the parents should not tell the children that the incident was only a dream!

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WHITLEY STRIEBER SEEKS TO WITHDRAW FROM UFOLOGY--IF ETs WILL LET HIM

Whitley Strieber rejected an invitation to speak to an "Adult Continuing Education" course on UFOs, sponsored by the Mount Vernon (N.Y.) Public Schools, responding that "A UFO symposium is a complete waste of time. All you will do is aid the spread of lies and misinformation." Strieber noted that he had produced two books and a movie on his "visitor" experiences and made hundreds of media experiences. "The net result of all this is that I am a public laughingstock, a despised outsider both to the UFO and scientific communities, and still facing the visitors alone in the middle of the night with hardly a clue." (Emphasis added.)

Strieber, who earlier broke with his UFO-abduction mentor Budd Hopkins, adds: "The truth is, nobody knows the origin of the visitor perception, and few of the present 'experts' have anything approaching the combination of intelligence, imagination and education that will be necessary if understanding is ever to be advanced." (*These attributes are ones that Strieber believes he himself has in very abundant supply.*) Strieber said he "no longer make(s) public appearances" on UFOs

BLUM'S BOOK "OUT THERE" GENERATES NEW BOOK CATEGORY

Bookrak, a Jefferson City, Mo., mail-order house found it difficult to categorize Howard Blum's book "Out There" as either "fiction" or "non-fiction," though Blum and his publisher insist it is "non-fiction." In an advertisement for an audio-cassette version of "Out There," Bookrak characterizes it as "Non-Fiction?".

Blum's book (reviewed in SUN #5) claims the CIA and Pentagon successfully used "psychics" to pinpoint the locations of submerged U.S. and Soviet submarines. Why didn't the Pentagon consult these psychics when they were trying to locate Iraq's mobile Scud tactical missile launchers? Nor did Uri Geller, an Israeli, volunteer his alleged psychic powers to help defend his homeland by pinpointing the missile launchers? (One possible explanation for Geller is that not only did his psychic powers fail to alert him to the upcoming Gulf war, but he was unaware that his homeland was under attack.)

* * *

MUFON OFFICIAL OFFERS NEW THEORY TO EXPLAIN "UFO ABDUCTIONS"

Don Ware, a key MUFON investigator on the Ed Walters Gulf Breeze case, has a novel theory to explain why ETs are abducting Earthlings and why some ETs are reported to resemble Earthlings. During a panel discussion at the MUFON conference in Pensacola last July 8, Ware said: "I have recently acquired the view that we're not going to be able to figure out what's going on until we can learn to accept the idea of reincarnation."

Ware went on to say: "I suspect there are some beings that have been referred to in the literature as 'walk-ins'--that is a more highly evolved soul that has been reincarnated in a human body. I am starting to speculate...that the [ET] hybridization program has a definite purpose and that purpose may involve providing a suitable body, or vehicle, to house our souls in a future incarnation." Did the audience gasp? No, it applauded.

Later, in response to a question from the audience, Ware said: "There is indication that two different government agents have told us that 6,000,000 Americans have been on board [a UFO] whether they realize it or not." [*How sad to be privileged to go aboard an ET craft without being able to remember the remarkable event!*]

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NEW CRASHED SAUCER "WITNESS" IS HAILED BY STANTON FRIEDMAN

Gerald Anderson, a Springfield, Mo., resident who claims that as a child he and four other family members discovered a crashed saucer and four aliens 75 miles southwest of Albuquerque in early July, 1947, has been characterized as "potentially the most important" crashed-saucer witness yet uncovered, by Stanton Friedman. The Dec. 9, 1990, edition of the Springfield News-Leader quotes Friedman as saying: "There's no way he could know some of these things unless he had been there at the time."

Anderson's account seems--at least to Friedman--to confirm the less well known of two crashed-saucer tales, described in the book "The Roswell Incident," co-authored by William L. Moore and Charles Berlitz. This is the alleged crashed saucer, discovered on the San Agustin Plains, west of Socorro, by Barney Barnett--long deceased--according to Barnett's friend L.W. Maltais. According to Maltais, while Barnett was viewing the crashed-saucer, he was joined by a party of archaeologists from an eastern university. Later, military personnel arrived, ordered them to depart and swore them to secrecy.

According to the Springfield newspaper account, "Anderson says he was unaware of ongoing fascination and controversy over the strange episode from his childhood" until he chanced to see the TV program "Unsolved Mysteries" which featured the two alleged crashed-saucer incidents in New Mexico in mid-1947. According to Anderson, there were numerous errors in the TV account. He said "I figured that if people were still interested in this thing they might as well get it straight," so he called an 800 number that was shown on the screen and informed the operator of the errors.

Soon Anderson received a call from Friedman, who had been an advisor for the TV show. According to the newspaper, Friedman "was struck by correlations between Anderson's recollections and obscure details Friedman uncovered while sleuthing for a book to be published next year [1991]." According to Anderson, he was a child of five at the time and was accompanied by his father, uncle, brother and cousin. Regrettably, all of the other witnesses are now deceased. Anderson claims that two of the ETs were dead, one was dying and one was not injured.

One obvious discrepancy (which does not appear to bother Friedman). According to the Barnett account, he was the first to discover the crashed saucer and was soon joined by a group of archaeologists from an eastern university before the military arrived. Barnett did not mention seeing the five member Anderson family group. And Anderson's account--as reported in the Springfield newspaper--claims his family group was the first to discover the crashed saucer, and were soon joined by the archaeologists and later the military arrived. No mention of having seen Barnett, who reportedly resembled President Truman.

One possible explanation for this seeming discrepancy is that the Anderson family mistook Barnett for a surviving ET, and Barnett in turn concluded that the Andersons were an ET family.

UFO POTPOURRI:

* Gulf Breeze UFO photographer Ed Walters, who earlier announced plans to publish a UFO newsletter, failed to attract sufficient subscribers and has decided to abandon the project. But "Honest Ed" reports he is making refunds to those who sent him checks.

* Forecast of articles-to-come in the most recent issue (Autumn, 1990) of Whitley Strieber's newsletter ("The Communion Letter") included: "Tales of mysterious airships over Whitley Strieber's hometown in the 1890s." Were ETs looking for Whitley even before he was born?

* Dr. David Gotlib, Toronto M.D. who spoke on his work with "UFO-abductees" at last summer's MUFON conference in Pensacola, publishes a monthly newsletter titled "Bulletin of Anomalous Experience." The September issue, describing his experiences at the MUFON conference, reported on our brief corridor conversation after I complimented him on his talk. Gotlib commented that our discussion enabled him to "understand why people dislike him [Klass] so much." He added: "If integrity were money, he would be one of the truly needy." Clearly Gotlib is a very perceptive man.

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