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science that eliminates in one generation the need for oil, fossil fuels and the related pollution and establishes a truly sustainable world civilisation exempt from poverty as we know it. The relentless ridicule associated with the UFO subject matter is deliberate and staged: It hides a profound body of knowledge dwarfing the changes that have transpired from the industrial revolution until today by several orders of magnitude. In a letter to Congress, first CIA Director Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter had this to say:

It is time for the truth to be brought out. Behind the scenes, high-ranking Air Force officers are soberly concerned about the UFOs. But through official secrecy and ridicule, many citizens are led to believe the unknown flying objects are nonsense. I urge immediate Congressional action to reduce the dangers from secrecy about unidentified flying objects. We have identified nearly 500 military, corporate, intelligence and laborato-

ry witnesses to events and programmes connected with these matters. The body of evidence is overwhelming and definitive. In May 2001, we held a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, DC at which more than 20 such witnesses provided testimony and documents regarding their direct, first-hand involvement in the subject.

It was the most-watched webcast in history, and ultimately over a million people viewed the event over the Internet. The event was reported by CNN, ABC, NBC, International, major networks like the BBC, the Voice of America, Ravda, the Chinese News Agency, Telemundo, The Washington Times and other media around the world. Tens of thousands of people wrote to the press and members of Congress asking for an investigation of the subject and a general declassification of information.

More in the next issue of FSR

Close encounter in 1923: Veteran Teacher Remembered When UFO Visited

By Len Wells Courier & Press (USA) correspondent

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22-8-4. Norman Massie died last week at the hospital in Carmi (Illinois, USA) He was 91. The Mount Erie native had taught school in Wayne County for 37 years and once served as principal of the Geff Grade School.

Many Wayne County residents remembered him simply as "Coach Massie." For years, he taught basketball skills to grade schoolers at Center Street School in Fairfield. Even more residents around Southern Illinois remember Norman as a sales representative for World Book Encyclopedia, a job he held for more than 20 years until computers and the Internet came along, reducing an entire set of books to a few mouse clicks or a couple of CDs. While the folks in Southern Illinois will remember Coach Massie for his many years in education, perhaps the world will remember him for what he witnessed 81 years ago - when he was just 10 years old.

It was a warm day in June 1923 when Norman led a team of horses into a pasture near his Mount Erie home, looked up and saw what he was convinced until his last days was a spaceship.

In a 1998 interview with Norman, he told me, "I opened the gate to let the horses into the pasture. I let them through, and as I was closing the gate, I looked back down the field and there was an object with lights all around it," Massie said. "I kept walking closer to the object until I got about 50 feet away. I stood there and watched the five men who were on board."

I've heard Norman tell this story many times, and it was always the same - never embellished from one time to the next. "The machine was metallic and stood on three legs. The top was a dome with holes in it. The best way

I could describe the top was it looked like melted glass," Massie said.

"I got close enough that I could hear them talking. A guy sat in a chair and the others called him the commander. Four others made trips back and forth in the ship. I didn't know what was going on until the ship landed. Then, one of the crew members told the commander the repairs had been made." Massie said the whole experience lasted about five minutes. In a matter of minutes, he said, it came to a hovering position; the tripod telescoped up into the belly of the thing, went straight up about 200 feet and whizzed off to the west like a bullet. Norman's mom and dad tried to convince him that he really hadn't seen anything - that he had made the whole thing up. Then, in 1990, he got up the nerve and told his son who served as a colonel in the Air Force about the incident. "He told me there was nothing wrong with it. He said the Air Force files are full of pictures of UFOs. He accepted my story as the truth."

Norman Massie was never afraid that people might think he was a crazy old man for what he had seen. In his own mind and my own heart, it existed and I saw it with my own two eyes."

Norman is gone now. He leaves his wife, four children, seven grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and a remarkable story from his childhood. His story has traveled around the globe, and is still shared by those who remain convinced we've received visitors from other planets. **Footnote by FSR: note the striking similarity in Norman's description of the ufo that he saw to the recently produced biblical ufo representations on the front cover of this issue of FSR.**

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