

THE MAN-IN-BLACK SYNDROME...2

FOLLOW-UP ON THE MAINE UFO ENCOUNTER

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DOCTOR HERBERT HOPKINS is the medical man who was consulted by Mrs. Shirley Fickett and Brent Raynes when they were investigating the Maine teleportation/contact case involving witness David Stephens and a friend (see *Flying Saucer Review* Vol.22, No.2). It was he who hypnotically regressed Mr. Stephens and recorded the sessions.

In the first part of this present article an account was given of the bizarre man-in-black visitations that were experienced, first by Dr. Hopkins himself, and secondly by his son and daughter-in-law.

As a result of these weird encounters Dr. Hopkins, very disturbed, destroyed the tapes of the Stephens interviews. We now take a look at the doctor, and his experiences outside of this present case.

III. Possibly relevant background to the MIB visit

1. Brief Curriculum Vitae

The reader might understandably wonder about the credibility of a person who has been involved in an incredible encounter. Dr. Hopkins is a physician involved in the general practice of medicine, specializing in allergy. He is listed in *Who's Who in the East*, 10th Edition, 1966-1967. Besides belonging to several medical organizations, he is a graduate electronics engineer of the RCA Technical Institute, studied for — but did not apply for — ordination as a minister of the Christian Advent Church, as well as, more recently, an ordained Spiritualist minister. He has been involved in private research on electro-acoustic and electronic systems and is vice president of the General Sound Corporation, and President of Hopkins Sound Technology, Inc. He has many patents and has written his own applications for patents. His stereo speakers, which are listed in an authoritative text on the subject, are used by leading recording companies.

He was an honours student at the Christian Advent College of Aurora, Illinois. While there, he did research in physics. He later transferred to the University of Illinois Medical School on a scholarship (Ivy League Award). His more recent research activities have included a theory of anti-gravity and free energy. He has taken many courses through the years, including specialized techniques in hypnosis. Aside from a transient asthmatic condition, he has enjoyed good health throughout his life. He is of old English and German stock and is married, his wife acting also as his office nurse. They have two sons; one an accomplished and successful musician; and the other, a skilled auto mechanic. There has never been any

question of sociopathic difficulties, use of habit-forming, addictive, or hallucinogenic drugs, delirium, etc..

These facts and opinions are supported by examination of relevant documents and interviews of the doctor, of various members of his family, of Mrs. Fickett, and Mr. Raynes. Through coincidence of synchronicity, this data is further supported by the fact that Dr. Hopkins is a medical school classmate of my brother-in-law, George P. Balz, M.D., Clinical Professor of Rheumatology at the University of Cincinnati, who recalls HH fondly, as a brilliant, well-thought-of student. Coincidentally also, Dr. Hopkins is physician to the eminent Maine dowser, Henry Gross, who was written up by Kenneth Roberts^{12/14} as well as studied by me.^{15/16} Mr. Gross and his late wife Olive, as well as their daughter Clara, spoke highly of Dr. Hopkins. His intelligence, emotional stability, and inventiveness appear superior in all respects.

Possibly these manifold unique attributes give clues why Dr. Hopkins and not the others who were involved in the Stephens case were chosen for this MIB visit. He has proven expertise in physics, electronics, medicine, philosophy, religion, and apparently highly developed psi capacities. Possibly he could bring a better understanding to the Stephens experience, which might be undesirable to the UFO force, whatever that is. For, had he not destroyed his evidence, he might have given further thought to the Stephens experience, pursued the case, and tapped meanings that have eluded others. Could he, a highly developed sensitive, which made him open for this event (materialization?), have also posed a threat to the UFO forces and been the reason for their inducing his abrupt withdrawal? Certainly his MIB encounter succeeded in ending all publicity, but it also, fortunately, made it possible for me to prepare this report for the serious readers of FSR. Whatever the final interpretation of his experience, we are deeply in Dr. Hopkins' debt.

2. Developing awareness for Psi

Although my visit was too short to document various anecdotal paranormal events reported to me by Dr. Hopkins, it should be noted that in other psychiatric-psi surveys of people who claim close UFO, or UFO-related, encounters, the psychic aspects were often striking. In organizing and sketching some of these possible psi experiences, the writer is confronted with the problem of how to compress these accounts into readable form, while not omitting significant details, for psi is a continuum, and a cutoff point between people and events is hard to

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establish. However, possibly some of Dr. Hopkin's life experiences will throw some light on his MIB encounter.

Dr. Hopkins had no particular knowledge or interest in psychic phenomena until recent years. Having an inquisitive, philosophical-scientific type of mind, he enrolled in a Silva Mind Control course because it "was supposed to increase one's ability to concentrate, increase one's attention span, and make one more aware, etc." He was so impressed by it that his wife then took the course, and he repeated it five times. Once, after the course, a lady they met in class asked them if they had ever been to a Spiritualistic church. They said no, that they knew nothing about it. However, shortly afterwards, he and his wife attended out of curiosity. Although he was reared an Episcopalian, had attended a Christian Advent College in Illinois, and had converted to Catholicism when he married his wife, he felt that these teachings left him dissatisfied. He had many friends and patients among the clergy of these different denominations and others, but he never received satisfactory answers to his queries: "Why am I here? Where did I come from? Where am I going?"

At his first session at the Spiritualistic Church, although his wife and he "tried to blend in with the woodwork, because we didn't know what kind of kooky thing this was," they were surprised to hear the spirit messages and then were shocked when the minister recited a host of details about Mrs. Hopkin's background. The process was then repeated with Dr. Hopkins. The minister told the physician that he was a gifted sensitive himself. He then went on to predict a series of events including the Hopkinses attending many more meetings and finally Dr. Hopkins becoming an ordained Spiritualistic minister himself. Needless to say, Dr. Hopkins was astounded and protested that he had no intention of doing any of that. However, after various "happenstances" and unusual events intervened over a period of time, he became an ordained Spiritualistic minister. He even established his own church, which meets in his home and is attended by a handful of intellectuals.

Dr. Hopkins might have wondered if much of his previous life was in some way a preparation for these later developments, for he recalled with clarity two particularly outstanding possible psi events.

3. Veridical nightmare

The day before Thanksgiving, 1949, while in medical school in Chicago, the doctor and his wife went to Aurora, Illinois. That evening he had a nightmare: "I saw a black *Dodge* car. It was not a brand-new one. It was on fire and there were five people in it, screaming and trying to get out — unsuccessfully. I was horrified. I then found myself in back of the car looking at the license plate, and the numbers seemed to burn themselves indelibly into my hand. I awakened with a start, and Madeline asked me what was wrong. I told her of my dream. She said it was just a nightmare, and I should forget it. I tried to go back to sleep; then finally I got up and wrote down the license number and put it in my pocket. The next morning when we went down-

town for breakfast, we drove past a garage and there was a large towtruck with a chain and hook. Hooked onto the chain was a black *Dodge* car burnt to a crisp. I backed up so I could see the license plate. I compared it with the number written down on the paper in my pocket: it was identical! That spoiled our appetite for breakfast. My wife was shocked. That night there was a special edition of the paper, and we read that a *Dodge* car with five people in it had burned and all the occupants had died in the car. They gave the names of the people, but I did not know any of them. They meant nothing to me — they were total strangers. I thought that over for a couple of days and went back to school on Monday.

The nightmare was preceded by an episode in anatomy class where one of the students accidentally cut a ureter, which he should not have done, and he commented to the effect that it wouldn't make any difference to him (the deceased) now. However, another student said he wasn't so sure, and that led to a discussion. Dr. Hopkins said: "I was the most dogmatic of the group, for any psychic phenomena or seeing yourself after death and things like that were absolutely hogwash. I could not accept that under any circumstances because it could not be scientifically proven. It was quite a heated discussion. That is why I did not say anything about my dream to the other fellows. I didn't want to be embarrassed by telling them what had happened and having people say, 'See, I told you so!'"

4. Possible precognition

"Nothing happened for many years, and then in 1957 we bought this house and were living here. My wife's brother-in-law was recovering from a subtotal gastrectomy and was with us, also my wife's mother, my younger brother, and my wife's niece. There was no way I could get out of the house without being seen. They were all up that night, but I was dead tired from a rigorous schedule of surgery and house calls plus office work; so it must have been a little bit before eleven that I went to bed and had a dream. Because it was a dream filled with firm, unshifting, unquestionable detail, colours, sights, sounds, smell, everything complete, everything was just that real, I knew it wasn't a dream. There was a peculiar, all-pervading consciousness about it.

"I saw this car: a two-tone green 1956 *Buick* special. It ran into something that I did not see. There were three people in the car, two girls and a boy. Then I found myself looking at the license number of the car, and I noted it and remembered it. I also noted that the incident occurred in front of 70 East Grand Avenue. I awakened with a start. Madeline asked me what was wrong. 'I didn't hear any crash: what are you talking about? You must have been dreaming.' I said, 'No. This was real. A car hit something. I heard it. It happened right in front of 70 East Grand Avenue.' She said, quite correctly, 'Well, if it happened there, how could you possibly have heard it? All the way up here!' Again I tried to go back to sleep but I couldn't.

"Finally I wrote down the number that I had seen on the car and I fumed, fussed, squirmed, and

twisted, but I couldn't get to sleep. Finally, after 20 minutes my wife said, 'Well, if you are that concerned about it, I'll call Paul.' Paul Belrose was the man at the desk in police headquarters at night. He was a patient and a close friend of ours. If he had been a stranger, she would not have called. She asked Paul if there had been an accident on East Grand Avenue. And he said, 'Excuse me, please, there is a call coming in. Hold the phone while I take it, and I'll be right back to you.'

"A minute or so later he came back on the phone and said, 'Yes, Madeline, what was that you were telling me about? An accident?' And she said, 'Doc had a dream that there was an accident in front of 70 East Grand Avenue involving a two-tone green Buick. It hit something he couldn't quite see, but the car backed up and drove off.' Madeline continued, 'Doc's quite shaken up about it and can't put it out of his mind.' Paul said, 'Guess what? I'm shaking too. That was the call that just came in! (More than 20 minutes after HH's dream.) But I don't have all the details. A woman called from 70 East Grand Avenue and said she saw a green car hit a pole and she saw some young folks in it but she didn't know what kind of car it was and she didn't see the license plate.'

"So we provided the license number and the description of the car, and that there were two girls and a boy. We said that the car had driven off toward Pine Point and in the general direction of Portland and South Portland and that it would be picked up by the South Portland police and that the kids would be arrested. Madeline told him that and Paul said, 'I'm going to notify the South Portland police, and if I hear anything I'll call you back.'

"I felt relieved and went to sleep. About an hour later the phone rang and it was Paul Belrose from the police desk. He said, 'I have something to tell you that's going to shake you up. The South Portland police have called me and they stopped a 1956, two-tone green Buick, with that license number with a damaged front bumper and grill. There were two girls and a boy in it. The car had been taken without the owner's knowledge. They were under arrest. exact detail, detail for detail.'

"You know I witnessed the whole thing, well before it happened. Now, I have no knowledge of the time that the accident happened when the car burned in Aurora, Illinois. I don't know whether I dreamed that at the time it happened, before, or afterwards. I don't have that information because the time was not given in the newspaper write-up, and I really didn't notice the time that I awoke, so the information on that is uncertain." (It could have been telepathic.)¹⁷

5. Possible paranormal experiences with mother after her death

Dr. Hopkins could recall no psychic experiences for his mother or father. However, a series of events happened after his mother's death at age 82, three years ago. He was quite close to his mother, who was living with him and his wife. His father had died some years before. Both Mrs. Hopkins and the doctor re-

called how, after his mother's death, the lights would frequently go on in various parts of the house, and each would think that the other had turned them on, which was not the case.

On one occasion, out of habit as when his mother was alive, the doctor checked her room. Madeline had placed two pillows side by side when she had made up the bed. The doctor, as was his mother's custom, placed the pillows on top of each other and on the way out, smoothed out the cushion on his mother's rocking chair. The next morning Mrs. Hopkins asked him if he had disturbed the bed and he told her what he had done, explaining he didn't know why he did it other than that it just made him feel better. The wife then wanted him to look in his mother's bedroom because the bed was in disarray as if someone had slept in it, and there was a deep imprint on the top pillow with a profile of a head. Also, the cushion on the rocker appeared to have been sat on. They gave no more thought to this experience, but the following night when he glanced into the room he thought he could see his mother sitting in the chair. It faded away and he went to bed.

Then one evening, a week later, Mrs. Hopkins was watching the news on the television downstairs. At seven o'clock she shut off her TV and went upstairs to get her uniform for the evening office hours. She got part way up the stairs and heard the TV, but she was sure she had shut it off. So she went downstairs again and found that indeed the TV was shut off. Going upstairs again and looking through the bannister railings on her way up, she could look into her mother-in-law's room. Because of the way the TV in that room was tilted, she could clearly see the screen and it was on. She went downstairs again to ask if her husband had turned it on. The doctor said he had not been up there and did not turn it on himself, so they went up together and found that the TV was on and that it had been turned from Channel 13 to Channel 8, in time for his mother's favourite programme at seven o'clock, *What's My Line?*

The doctor was curious about how long the TV might have been on (thinking they might have left it on accidentally) and felt the set. It was stone cold. If it had been on even for five minutes, it would have built up some warmth in the enclosure of the cabinet. He turned off the set by pushing in the pull-out, push-in switch of the kind that precluded the possibility of the dog or cat brushing against the knob and accidentally turning the set on.

One Friday night, when the doctor had assembled a group of intellectuals interested in "picking up communications," his deceased mother's presence was not only "sensed" but the double latched doors to the meeting room suddenly opened wide, cool air came through, and when one of the group rose to close the doors, the doors closed and clicked shut spontaneously.

6. Potpourri, including possible paranormal tape from Dr. Hopkins's late father

Although Dr. Hopkins was familiar with alleged psychic photograph, he had never tried that himself. And when Henry Gross once said that he thought the

doctor could be a good dowser, he tried it with Henry and was successful. He never repeated the event. Another time as the mood hit him, he sat down and put his tape recorder on and said: "Please, Spirit, help us. Please guide me. Dear Spirit, soon help me. Dear helpful Spirits, dear guiding Spirit, spirits of the so-called dead, please help me. Please guide me. Please speak up that I may hear you clearly on this tape."

When he played the tape back, he was shocked to hear, as was confirmed by his wife, the voice of his late father, which came between and over his phrases. The voice said: "Please help me — please guide me. Help."¹⁸ He never repeated this event because, "I hadn't the time nor the inclination."¹⁹

Notes and References

12. Roberts, K.: *Henry Gross and His Devining Rod*, Doubleday & Co., New York, 1951.
13. Roberts, K.: *The Seventh Sense*, Doubleday & Co., New York, 1953.
14. Roberts, K.: *Water Unlimited*, Doubleday & Co., New York, 1957.
15. Schwarz, B.E.: Physiological Aspects of Henry Gross's Dowsing, *Parapsychology*, Vol. IV (No.2): 71-86, 1962-63.
16. Schwarz, B.E.: *Psychic Dynamics*, Pageant Press, Inc., New York, 1965.
17. Precognition, possibly the rarest of psi abilities, might be better understood if viewed as part of the psychic nexus. It is part of a continuum, as is well illustrated in the Hopkins case, with its long-standing and variegated manifestations of psi and synchronicity, possibly evolving into the explosive psi-laden UFO experience and MIB encounter. Further examples of the psychic nexus can be found in my "Precognition and Psychic Nexus," *Journal of the American Society of Psychosomatic Dentistry and Medicine*, Part I, Vol.18 (No.2): 52-59, 1971; Part II, Vol.18 (No.3): 83-93, 1971; and in "Psi and the Life Cycle," *ibid.*: Vol.21 (Nos. 2,3,4), and Vol. 22 (Nos. 1,2,3,4), 1974.
18. Discussion of some of UFO contactee Mrs. Stella Lansing's presumed paranormal tapes can be found in Commentary on the August Roberts Mystery, *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol.21 (No.6): 18-19, April, 1976. Interestingly enough, in comparison with Dr. Hopkins' plaintive voice on the paranormal tape Mrs. Lansing had a similar experience on November 8, 1975. I had been visiting her at the time, and although we attempted

various filming and recording projects, we did not immediately play back the tapes and did not know what was going on. However, the next morning she informed me that shortly after I left her home "I (S.L.) put the reel recorder in the rewind position and it stopped. The motor was 'on' but it wouldn't play. It took from 2.30 until 3.10 a.m. until it played. And then it didn't end until 4.00. I filmed to show that the switch was on and the extension cord plugged in. There were funny noises. Something like typewriters, or electrical switches. A voice from the speaker kept saying: 'Please believe me, please believe me.' I recorded this on the cassette machine which was next to the reel recorder."

It was hard to define the circumstances, but Mrs. Lansing filmed the machines, and it appeared that the jamming and the placement of the switches were as she described. She had the reel-to-reel on in the "play" position hoping to make a recording because of a recent case experience of mine which I had told her about and where some spectacular recordings were allegedly made in that paradoxical position. We tried this particular experiment also because the night before, when she was alone, she again taped a direct voice saying, "You believe," many times over. Later, when she edited the tape we made together, she heard interpolated between her speech and my talk various phrases that had no apparent relationship to our talk and which occurred apparently randomly: "My name is Melinda ... I'm from the Spirit world ... run out of film now ... run out ... energy gone ... I can't stand it any more." Although I heard the "Please believe me," and at one point, "Please believe me, Mrs. Lansing," in a deep, halting, doleful voice, I did not have an opportunity to check out the other statements. However it is of interest that at the early morning time when I left, perhaps with disappointment for not achieving results and also wearied by Mrs. Lansing's chain-smoking and night-owl vitality, that the voice said, "I can't stand it any more," might have clearly reflected my unexpressed feelings.

19. Perhaps unconscious resistance to psi is the key to developing an awareness for this ability. In many UFO reports the conscious — not alone unconscious — resistance to psi accounts for the omission of much relevant possible paranormal data. The subject of resistance to psi is brilliantly explored by Jule Eisenbud, M.D., in his *Psi and Psychoanalysis* (Grune and Stratton, Inc., New York, 1970), and J.A.M. Meerloo, M.D., in *Hidden Communication and Unobtrusive and Unconscious Communications* (Garrett Publications, Helix, New York, 1964).

NEW PLANET, OR SPACE-STATION?

Asking whether or not it could be a space-station, Mr. John Lade draws our attention to this news item in *The Christian Science Monitor* of November 21, 1977, which appeared under the signature of David F. Salisbury:—

"What may be the tenth planet in the solar system has been discovered by an astronomer here.

"Charles Kowal of the California Institute of Technology has announced the sighting of a peculiar object — apparently 100 to 400 miles in diameter — that orbits the sun between Uranus and Saturn.

"The newly discovered mini-planet is bound to cause problems for astronomers because it falls outside commonly accepted definitions for objects in the solar system. Mr. Kowal is resisting premature attempts to title his discovery a planet. From its brightness, the astronomer estimates that the object is the size of a large asteroid. If it is not a comet, meteorite, or satellite, this heavenly body fits the definition of a planet. Yet its small size does not fit at all with scientific conceptions of a planetary object. The astronomer does not think it is a comet because its image on the photographic plates taken with a small Palomar telescope are sharp, whereas the images of comets are fuzzy.

"Because the mini-planet lies in the same plane as the other planets (within four degrees of the ecliptic, the plane in which Earth's orbit lies) Mr. Kowal argues that it is not likely to have an origin outside the solar system.

"Members of the International Astronomers Union must decide whether the rubric 'planet' fits or whether a new classification must be devised for 'Object Kowal,' as the discovery now is being called."