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Dear Mrs. Scully,

Enclosed is a copy of a paper I recently presented to the MUFON International Symposium on UFOs in St. Louis, Missouri. It represents the result of several years research and, I hope, presents the facts as impartially as possible.

Any comments you may have would be most appreciated.

Yours,

William Moore.

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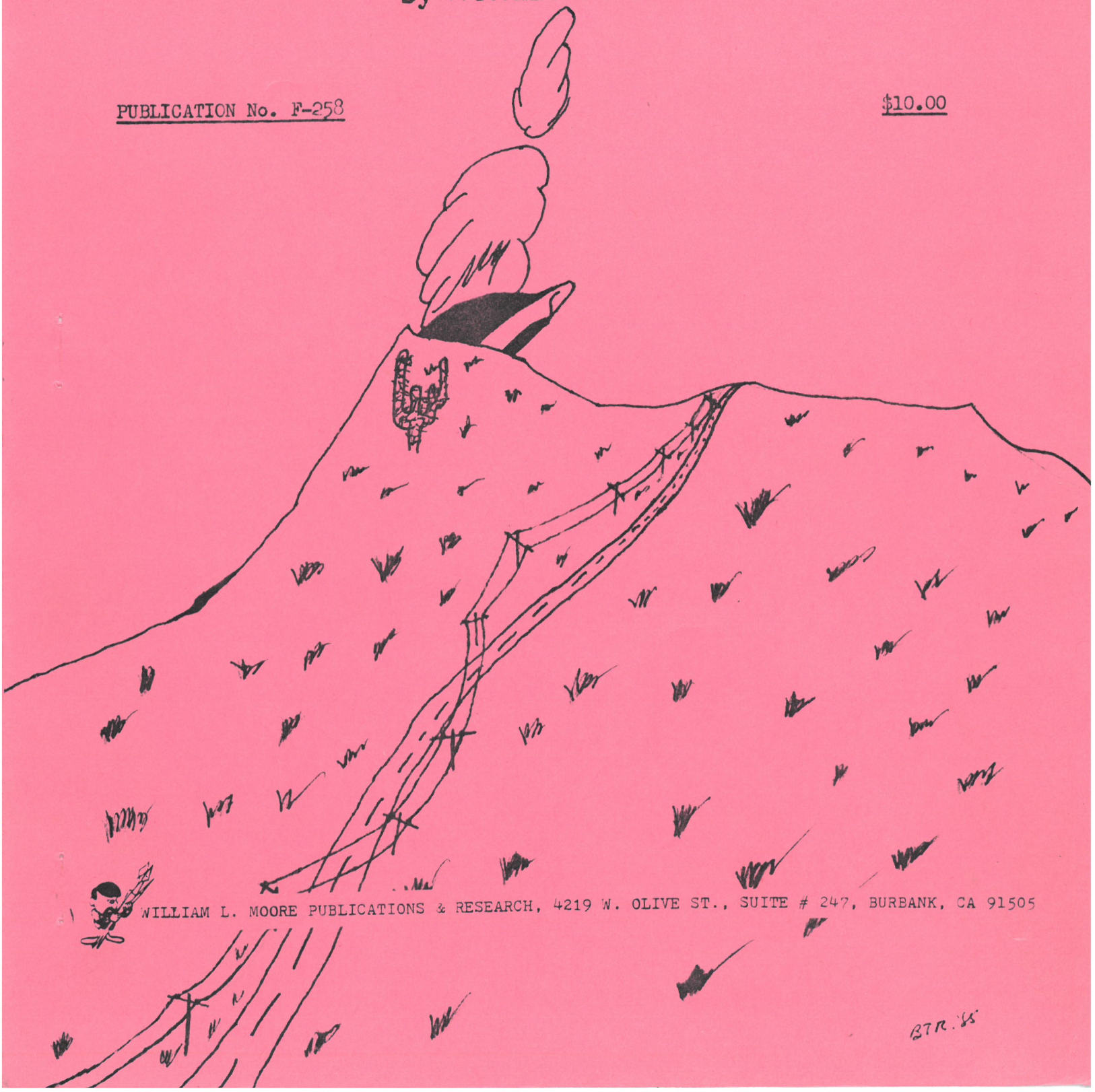
CRASHED UFOs:

EVIDENCE IN THE SEARCH FOR PROOF

by William Moore

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CRASHED SAUCERS: EVIDENCE IN THE SEARCH FOR PROOF

by WILLIAM L. MOORE

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- ABSTRACT -

In the nebulous world of what has loosely come to be known as UFOlogy, there are literally hundreds of stories of UFO crash landings wherein both the wreckage and the bodies of dead alien creatures were removed by military units and spirited away never to be seen again. Allegations of above-top-secret operations, massive cover-up, and all sorts of covert operations against UFO researchers who "got too close to the truth", abound. It is the intention of this paper to try to shed a little light on the confusion by presenting pertinent facts resulting from in-depth investigations of two of the most prominent of these stories.

- THE NATURE OF PROOF -

A single event, whether as common as a bank robbery or as unusual as the crash landing of a UFO, occurs only once in the flow of time. Failing the invention of some form of time travel capable of whisking the curious and the skeptical back into the past to observe the event "in progress", so to speak, the only way we in the present have of discovering what actually occurred is to rely upon the memories of those still living who were there at the time. These eyewitness accounts, coupled with whatever physical evidence can be uncovered in support of them (finger prints, or the murder weapon itself, for example) can ultimately be woven together to present a compelling case which is sufficient to constitute "proof beyond reasonable doubt" in a court of law.

This legal, or journalistic "proof" is quite different from what constitutes acceptable proof in a truly scientific sense. In science, the memories of eyewitnesses take a back seat to the scientist's ability to recreate or demonstrate a given effect or principle time and again in a laboratory under rigidly controlled conditions.

In the case of an alleged crash landing of a UFO, quite obviously the event cannot be recreated in a laboratory. And when bodies and actual pieces of wreckage remain unavailable for public examination, any researcher interested in trying to prove the case is faced with an enormous challenge-- that of trying to produce evidence sufficient enough in both quantity and quality to overcome the natural skepticism engendered by the highly unusual nature of the event itself. It all comes down to the old but often repeated concept that extraordinary evidence is required to prove extraordinary events. In this light, it goes without saying that the crash landing of a UFO and the subsequent recovery of both the wreckage and the bodies of dead alien creatures by the U.S. government is an extraordinary event indeed-- if, in fact, such an event ever occurred at all. This paper casts you, the reader, as both judge and jury. It is now up to you to examine such evidence as there is, and then to make your decision accordingly.

- RUMORS & STORIES: WHERE TO BEGIN? -

Since the late 1940s, rumors have abounded to the effect that one or more saucers have crash landed somewhere in the U.S., usually in the Southwest. The inability of UFO researchers to get to the bottom of these stories is generally attributed to a well-orchestrated government cover-up fueled by reasons of national security and a fear of public panic if the truth were to be made known. The result is a persistent unrest in the UFO field, at times bordering upon paranoia, to the effect that something is definitely "going on", but at a level far beyond the average researcher's ability to get a handle on it. In such a scenario, it is usually the black forces of secrecy and cover-up coupled in an unholy alliance with a small group of evil, self-annointed skeptics, versus the UFO researchers (read "good guys") on white horses. In the barrage of charges and counter-charges, in-fighting, accusations and inuendo that follow on the heels of frustration, the quest for truth about crashed saucers is, unfortunately, often relegated to a back seat position. Even worse is the fact that the few researchers who do attempt to conduct an in-depth pursuit of these stories often discover much to their dismay that their greatest critics are the very people in the field who ought to be giving them the most support. Yet the search goes on.

Among the most prominent of the crashed saucer researchers is author Leonard Stringfield of Cincinnati, Ohio, who has accumulated an impressive list of dozens of such stories from all parts of the U.S. and several foreign countries.(1) Stringfield's work has been useful, at times even inspiring, but in the final analysis, fails to present a truly significant body of evidence in support of even a single one of his accounts. Part of the problem remains Stringfield's decision to withhold specific facts such as names, dates and places which would enable independent verification of his claims by other researchers and perhaps, ultimately, the addition of more data to what he has already accumulated. Even so, Stringfield has largely managed to remain above the credibility problem that has plagued so many other crashed saucer "researchers" who, either out of inability to provide significant data, or out of pure zeal, have unfortunately seen fit to invent or grossly misrepresent "facts" in order to make themselves appear to be more important than they really are. (Such individuals shall remain nameless here in the interests of avoiding unnecessary lawsuits.)

In any case, out of the numerous rumors, stories and outright fabrications that have come to make up the world of crashed saucerdom, two cases have emerged as sufficiently interesting to be worthy of consideration here on the basis of the evidence pertaining thereto. These are the so-called Roswell Incident of July, 1947, and the alleged Aztec, New Mexico, saucer crash of 1948 (or '49) which was made famous by Frank Scully's book Behind the Flying Saucers in 1950. In the final analysis, both will be shown to have wider implications than it would at first appear.

(NOTE: Serious researchers should read both Scully's Behind the Flying Saucers (NY: Henry Holt & Co., 1950) and J.P. Cahn's "Flying Saucers and the Mysterious Little Men" (True magazine, September, 1952) and "Flying Saucer Swindlers" (True magazine, June, 1955) to obtain proper background and perspective on this story. Used copies of Scully's book are obtainable from Arcturus Book Service, 263 N. Ballston Ave., Scotia, NY, 12302. Reprints of the two Cahn articles can be obtained from W.L. Moore Publications, 4219 W. Olive St., Suite 247, Burbank, CA 91505. Ask for item No. F-204: price $4.50.)

- THE AZTEC, N.M. CASE: AN OVERVIEW -

The principal source of information on this case is author Frank X. Scully who, in the late '40s and early '50s, was a well-known columnist for the Hollywood Weekly Variety. In his 1950 bestseller Behind the Flying Saucers, Scully alleged that there had been four flying saucer "landings" on earth prior to that time, and that three of these had been crashes from which had been recovered no less than thirty-four bodies of dead "men" measuring between 36" and 40" in height.(2.) Scully, whose style leans more towards the sensational than the factual and alternates between overly chatty and mildly sarcastic, passes over two of these crashes with only a few comments and devotes most of his time to what he describes as "the first saucer to land on this earth", which, he says, was found east of Aztec, New Mexico, on a high rocky plateau. The ship was virtually intact, with only a broken porthole to account for the deaths of the sixteen aliens inside. It was 99' in diameter, with all other measurements being based upon a system of nines rather than tens.

Scully claimes he had received his information from one Silas M. Newton, described as "an oil millionaire", and an associate of Newton's identified only as "Dr. Gee"-- a prominent "magnetic scientist" with a string of academic degrees.

The release of the book created quite an uproar at the time even though it soon became apparent that Scully's story relied solely upon information supplied to him by Newton and "Dr. Gee", blended with a great deal of speculation and a smattering of tid-bits and hearsay picked up from a variety of sources along the way. Scully, it turned out, had written the book in only seventy-two days and rushed to press after conducting only minimal research into the matter on his own.

Two years later, in 1952, Scully and his two informants, Silas Newton and Dr. Gee (identified as one Leo A. GeBauer) were badly discredited in a True magazine exposé written by J.P. Cahn, a former investigative reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle. According to Cahn, both Newton and GeBauer were experienced confidence men whose activities had taken in a goodly number of investors in connection with a scheme involving a "doodlebug" device said

to be capable of locating underground oil deposits by means of microwaves. As a result of Cahn's activities, both Newton and GeBauer were brought to trial in Denver in 1952 and subsequently convicted of defrauding one Herman Flader of a sum in excess of $75,000. Although Scully maintained throughout that the story was true and that both men were honorable, his reputation suffered considerably because of the case, and as far as most people were concerned, the crashed saucer matter died with it.

Not so, however; for stories of this sort have a way of refusing to die. Even after a second exposé by Cahn, also in True, in 1955 (op. cit.), there were those who continued to insist that oil fraud was not necessarily saucer fraud, and that ultimately there had to be some truth in the tale. Scully, in his autobiographical In Armour Bright(3.) continued to assert his belief in the reality of "little men", and Newton, who died in Los Angeles in 1972, aged between 82 and 87, continued to tell the tale to anyone who would listen.

Yet, while the story continued to circulate amongst UFO researchers and was even resurrected with some changes in 1974 by one Robert Spencer Carr of Clearwater, Florida, who made headlines with it that year by claiming intimate knowledge of the circumstances, amazingly not a single UFO researcher made any significant effort to pursue it to its ultimate conclusion. None, that is, until about 1980, when William Steinman of La Mirada, California,(4.) got interested and began looking into it. Steinman is a persistent researcher who is capable of doing excellent work. Had Steinman not reopened the case, it is doubtful that this paper ever would have been written-- for which he is owed a debt of gratitude. Steinman, however, made one mistake: that of believing in the Aztec story unequivocally, and of consequently pursuing his investigations from the standpoint of a believer. It was, and continues to be Steinman's position that nothing should be published on this case unless it is supportive of it. Facts to the contrary should be ignored or surpressed. Too bad. Research must properly be pursued with an open mind, not a closed one. Let the evidence lead where it may. Which leads us to the meat of this section of the paper.

- AZTEC ON EVIDENCE -

The evidence in this case is often extremely confusing. There is consider-

able overlap in the times, individuals and events involved, as well as a number of blank spots wherein logic becomes the only bridge in the absence of testimony or documentary evidence. Yet the question of whether there is any truth to the Scully-Newton-GeBauer tale of a saucer crash in Aztec, or anywhere else for that matter, hinges ultimately on the credibility of the persons involved in telling it, as well as such circumstances as can be uncovered concerning its initial origin. Here, then, as chronologically as possible, and with an eye toward brevity and precision, are the facts as they are now known.

- THE PEOPLE -

As near as can be determined, the story of the Aztec saucer crash began at some point during the summer of 1949. The key person in the affair was Silas Mason Newton who, while he may not have actually originated the entire story per-se, was largely responsible for its dissemenation to a large number of people and hence, ultimately, for the legend that continues to this day. What makes the problem even more confusing is that along the way, Newton added a considerable variety of ad hoc embellishments so as to make the story more palatable to whomever happened to be on the receiving end of it.

Newton was the type of character best avoided by anyone with money in his pocket. Born in Shelbyville, Kentucky, on July 19th, 1890 (or possibly 1887 or 1892-- he used all three dates), he was the son of John D. Newton, a railroad construction worker who moved about a great deal because of the nature of his job.(5.) Much of his early life was apparently spent in Texas, where he attended Baylor University and was graduated in 1908. He is said to have done graduate work at Yale in 1909-1910, but received no advanced degree. In 1911, he married Patricia Morfa but divorced her several years later following the birth of a son, Frederick D. Newton (d.1983). The marriage was stormy and Fred harbored a grudge against his father all his life for the way his mother had been treated by Newton.

Following the break-up of his marriage, Newton moved to New York City where he bacome a fairly well-known broker of securities and real estate, specializing in oil and gas properties. The business, although quite successful, was marred

by a series of increasingly questionable dealings with a variety of investors.(6.) Newton, for his part, lived like a millionaire and gained quite a reputation as an amateur golf champion. On October 30, 1930(7.), he married Nan O'Reilly, a wealthy and well-known woman editor, author and sports columnist for the New York Evening Journal (and subsequently for other N.Y. newspapers as well). The new Mrs. Newton continued to use her maiden name for professional purposes and many of her fans remained unaware that she was married at all.

Nan O'Reilly Newton died on February 27, 1937 after a two day intestinal ailment (see, however, Scully, Saucers, p.32!). During the six years of their marriage, both she and Newton had managed to acquire considerable reputations for involvement in a variety of shady activities of one sort or another-- she for questionable political activities within the murky world of republican ward politics, and he for increasingly unethical conduct in his securities transactions. By the time of his wife's death, Newton had already been arrested four times and had been called to testify before the New York State Bureau of Securities by order of the State Supreme Court-- all on charges of having bilked investors through fraudulent dealings of one sort or another.(8.) In addition, he was wanted in Kansas (1935), and faced numerous civil suits. In 1939, he was the subject of a federal Securities and Exchange Commission investigation in California with respect to phoney stock transactions. Newton's tactic in every case was to suck in additional investors and pay off the complaining party with the money raised-- in exchange, of course, for the dropping of charges against him. It was a technique that was to serve him well until the day he died.

Indeed, at the time of his death, in Los Angeles in December, 1972, there were no fewer than 140 claims filed against his estate by individuals who in most instances claimed Newton had "borrowed" money from them in order to exploit a variety of oil or mining claims. Numerous others inquired, but when they discovered that Newton's estate totalled only about $16,000 (and that based mostly on arbitrary valuations of an assortment of mining leases), they did not pursue the matter. The total of the claims that were filed exceeded $1,350,000.00, with many of the accompanying affidavits alleging salted mining claims or oil having been pumped into the ground by night in order to be pumped back out by day for the benefit of investors. As late as 1970, he was under indictment in Los Angeles on two counts of grand theft, and civil lawsuits came

and went with considerable regularity.(9.) What Newton ultimately did with his money-- assuming there was any left when he died-- remains a mystery to this day.

In any case, Newton was a fast talker, a "high pressure promoter"(10.), a pathological liar and an all-round excellent confidence man. He was good at assessing potential investors and telling them just what they wanted to hear-- which was usually a fantastic tale of potential wealth just credible enough to win their confidence and allow Newton the opportunity of emptying their wallet. Paper corporations came and went like the seasonal snows. Research has uncovered no less than twelve of these for which legal papers were actually filed, but there were probably many more. Of course, being able to circulate freely as a result of his golfing prowess in country clubs catering to the upper crust of society and high finance was of considerable assistance to him in fingering "marks" who possessed more money than brains along with sufficient greed to suit his purposes. It's the sort of thing that's done all the time; but Newton was better at it than most.

Ultimately, this is the man Frank Scully came to know in 1944. By 1949, when Newton began talking about crashed saucers, Scully had already become entangled in his web and had complete confidence in him-- although it seems doubtful that Scully ever made any investments or was even remotely aware of Newton's background or modus operandi. Newton's use for Scully lay along social, not financial lines.

By 1949, Newton was no stranger to the subject of flying saucers. His interest stemmed from a sighting he had experienced in 1947 while drilling for oil in Wyoming and which led him to follow the subject wherever he could in headlines and magazines. Even so, there was no talk of crashed saucers and little men until after he had met one Leo Arnold Julius GeBauer through a mutual friend in the summer of 1949. GeBauer was the sort of unfortunate individual who was easily manipulated by fast talk and starry promises-- just the sort of person Newton knew how to use.

GeBauer was no stranger to shady operations in his own right, although

when compared to Newton he definitely came off a distant second. In Newton's plans, GeBauer was to become a famous government scientist whose "reputation" could be used, anonymously, of course, much to their mutual advantage.

GeBauer, born in Nebraska on February 25th of either 1901 or 1903(11.) was something of a radio electronics expert in the days when such people were more often self-taught than formally educated. The term "inventor" would be a more accurate term for him than "scientist". By the time he met Newton, he was already well known to the FBI, whose files list no less than eleven different aliases under his name.(12.)

In August, 1938, he was the subject of an investigation for possible violation of the White Slave Traffic Act, but charges were declined by the U.S. attorney due to lack of aggravating circumstances. In June, 1941, an extensive investigation was launched into allegations that GeBauer was vociferously pro-Nazi, with the result that a Custodial Detention Memorandum was submitted on him to J. Edgar Hoover. Numerous pro-Nazi, anti-American statements were cited therein, including the allegation that GeBauer had stated in April, 1941, that "the guy who shoots (President) Roosevelt should be given a gold medal", and on May 10, 1941, "What this country needs is a man like Hitler...." Although he was not detained, this investigation resulted in his dismissal on August 31, 1942, from his position as civilian junior radio operator with the U.S. Signal Corps in Chicago. He had been hired for the position on May 8, 1942.

On November 6, 1942, GeBauer was arrested at Omaha by federal agents on a fugitive warrant from Tucson, Arizona, alleging two counts of willfully making false statements on a loan application to the Federal Housing Administration. He was sentenced to one year in prison on February 24, 1944,on a plea of nolo contendere, but the sentence was suspended and he served the year on probation.

It was during this same time frame that GeBauer went to work for the Air Research Manufacturing Co. of Phoenix as a "testing engineer" in charge of equipment maintenance at their Phoenix and Los Angeles labs. This employment began on January 26, 1944,and lasted until November 11, 1947,when GeBauer resigned to devote full time to a family radio (and later TV) parts business

known as Western Radio & Engineering, Inc., which he had incorporated in January, 1945. During his term of employment at Air Research, he held no security clearances and did not work on any classified programs. His job was strictly limited to maintenance of machinery.

According to Mrs. Louise P. GeBauer, Leo's widow (he died in 1982), GeBauer's involvement with flying saucers began in 1949 when he met Newton.(13.) It was Newton who concocted stories of flying saucer crashes in Aztec and elsewhere, and it was Newton who lured GeBauer so inextricably into his web that there could be no escape. GeBauer, a shrewd operator in his own right, but possessed only of average intelligence and quite rough around the edges, became a helpless puppet on a string to be manipulated and out-maneuvered by the glib, smooth operating, highly intelligent Newton who was once characterized by Cahn as "the kind of salesman who could peddle a steam calliope to a funeral parlor."(14.) Also involved at this point was one George Koehler, at the time a fast-talking advertising salesman for Denver radio station KMYR and, in 1949, a friend to both Newton and one Herman Flader, a wealthy Denver industrialist and inventor.

GeBauer, for his part, had invented an electronic device which, he claimed, was capable of detecting both oil and water under ground. The principle, he said, was based on the fact that large deposits of both liquids would disrupt the natural flow of the earth's magnetic lines of force. These disruptions, and hence the presence of underground deposits, could easily be detected by simply measuring the earth's magnetism at given points and charting the measurements on a flow chart. The machine, known as a "doodlebug", could also measure the state of a person's health using the same principles. To add credibility to his theories and to the capabilities of his machine, GeBauer was prone to exaggerate both his academic credentials and his background as a "government scientist" during the war. At one point, representing himself as "Dr.", he claimed no less than "six or seven degrees in physics and electronics"(15.) and often referred to having an extensive background in heading up numerous government Top Secret research projects.(16.) The whole scenario was, of course, tailor made for someone like Newton who could see nothing but dollar signs in it.

In March, 1949, GeBauer was introduced to Flader through some small-time

oil operators. Flader, who himself had invented an electronic device which he believed beneficial in the treatment of arthritis, was interested in GeBauer's doodlebug. Although he was somewhat skeptical of it at first, he became convinced of its capabilities after GeBauer was able to accurately measure the depth of several water wells which Flader had recently dug on his property. It apparently never occurred to Flader that GeBauer could have discovered their depths beforehand by talking to the drilling crews; but in any case, Flader was hooked. The result was a 50-50 partnership between Flader and GeBauer known as Colorado Geophysics Inc., and which was legally incorporated in May, 1950. The set-up was a good one. Flader put up most of the money ($28,552.30, for example, to buy a 1/2 interest in three more doodlebugs), and GeBauer managed to find ways to spend it as soon as it came in. Virtually all of the company's clients were friends of Flader who had known and trusted him for many years.(17.)

Meanwhile, in April, 1949, Flader was introduced to Newton by their mutual acquaintance George Koehler. Koehler knew of Flader's arthritis treatment device and thought that Newton, who suffered from the disease, might be interested.

It was through Flader that Newton first met GeBauer. Within a month the two were good friends. Newton, realizing that he had stumbled onto a good thing and that GeBauer could be easily manipulated, soon took control of the events. By October, the two of them had taken Flader for a total of $231,452.30.(18.)

There was no talk of flying saucers in all of this, however, until August, 1949. After that, there was talk of nothing but. Newton, as has already been noted, had been interested in saucers since he had seen one in Wyoming in 1947. Somewhere, somehow, it occurred to him that it might enhance the potential value of GeBauer's doodlebugs to hint that they probably operated on the same magnetic principles as the saucers. From there, stories of crashed discs and borrowed alien technology (in the form of strange metals and miniature radio devices-- see Scully & Cahn, both op. cit.) were only a short step away. But where, in fact, had he gotten the idea to begin with? According to the best evidence available, it originated in the same place as have so many other fantastic tales over the years-- amidst the tinsel and glitter of Hollywood.

And from there, it spread like wildfire.

Newton had a penchant for telling whoppers in such a way that people believed him. He also, according to Mrs. GeBauer, was quite adept at adding embellishments to real-life people and situations so as to make it appear that there was far more to a particular person or event than there actually was. And, of course, Newton's skilled manipulations and exaggerations were inevitably designed to enhance his own position with respect to whatever confidence scheme he had going at the time. So it was with Frank Scully, who was to become a naïve and unwitting pawn in yet another Newton game designed by Newton to tailor events to his own benefit. What Newton needed was publicity— something to put his name and "reputation" (i.e. the carefully cultivated and cultured image Scully had been groomed to believe was the real Newton) before the public in an effort to attract new investment capital to his fraudulent mining and oil stock schemes. Scully was perfect: a trusting writer of some reputation who did a column in a journal (Variety) which was read by anybody who was anyone in Hollywood, a land of glitter where quick fortunes were often recklessly invested in all sorts of speculative, get-rich-quicker, fly-by-night investment deals. Newton, who had known Scully since 1944, knew Scully wouldn't check his facts. He also knew that GeBauer could be built up to the Hollywood folks as an important, impressively credentialed government scientist without anyone being the wiser. If someone said they had never heard of "Dr. Gee", Newton had only to respond that the man's work had been so highly classified that everything had been kept low-profile out of necessity. In any case, Newton cleverly amalgamated several contemporary but largely unrelated events into what eventually became the crashed saucer tale he told to Scully— and, with variations, ultimately to many, many others. The chronology, as best it can be pieced together, is as follows:

-Summer, 1948: Newton takes Scully on "long rides through Wyoming, Colorado (and) California".(20.) The two get to know each other very well, with Newton doing most of the talking. Circa August 15, 1948, Scully, Newton and three others go off on a prospecting trip into the Mojave where Newton allegedly uses one of his own "doodlebug" type devices to find gold.(21.) Scully is duly impressed.

-GeBauer meets Herman Flader, March, 1949 (see above); Flader meets Newton through George Koehler, a mutual friend, April, 1949; and Newton meets GeBauer in late June or early July, 1949, with the two quickly becoming friends. Their friendship is at least partly due to their mutual interest in potential uses of electronic-type devices to locate underground oil and mineral deposits. In early August, 1949, Newton sends GeBauer to Aztec, New Mexico, to see about some oil properties in "a deep cañon east of town" (very probably Hart Cañon), talk to some people there, and demonstrate his doodlebug device.(22.) According to Mrs. GeBauer, this was the only time either she or her husband were ever in Aztec, and that the only reason they had gone there at all was as a favor to Newton who had set up the whole trip.

-Circa August 15, 1949: Newton, returning from Denver, meets with GeBauer in Phoenix to discuss the results of the Aztec trip. Flying saucers were considerably in the news at that time and the subject was very probably discussed by the two of them. Newton and GeBauer then leave Phoenix together and drive to Los Angeles by way of Las Vegas, Death Valley and Mojave, California, where Newton wanted to check on arrangements for drilling a test well there as well as to show GeBauer some mining properties in the area.

-August 19, 1949 (news report): Two desert prospectors identified only as "Fitzgerald and Garney" allegedly watch a saucer spin out of control and plow into a sand dune somewhere in Death Valley.(23.) The "pilots" of the disc, two diminutive bipeds, were said to have emerged from the object in a panic and quickly fled the scene, managing to elude the two prospectors who gave pursuit. Upon giving up the chase and returning to the crash site to inspect the downed craft, the two discovered that it had apparently taken off again and had vanished without a trace.

There can be no doubt that Newton either read or heard the story on his trip through Mojave, as we shall see later.

-Circa August 21-23, 1949: Newton and Scully have dinner at the Sportsmens' Lodge in North Hollywood, California. Scully reports that Newton "had just come from Arizona", and had "just about decided to drill some test wells" in the

Mojave Desert.[24.] He goes on to say that Newton "seemed all on edge and finally let us in on a secret. He had talked only the day before to some scientists who had been called in by the defense arm to check on a grounded flying saucer in the area of Aztec, New Mexico."[25.] Scully, obviously impressed, asked if he could meet one of these scientists.

-September 8, 1949: Scully, Newton and a friend, Pevernell Marley, go off on another expedition into the Mojave. GeBauer accompanies them on the trip and is introduced as "Dr. Gee", with appropriate embellishment of credentials and qualifications (i.e. "[a] geophysicist who was the top man in magnetic research").[26.]

Why GeBauer went along with Newton on the crashed saucer scam has never been clear, except to say that Newton was obviously in control of the situation from start to finish and GeBauer was the type who could easily be manipulated into anything that smelled like money. In any case, according to FBI records, "the three (later) agreed to publish GeBauer's story, but because of GeBauer's connection with the matter, he was to be identified only as 'Dr. Gee'."[27.] Scully, for his part, was completely taken in, and (as has already been noted) took only seventy-two days to complete his book.[28.] There is no evidence to indicate that he even bothered to try to check out anything the two men told him-- a serious error which later caused considerable damage to his reputation.

Meanwhile, back in Hollywood, yet another con game was in progress-- one which Newton does not appear to have been connected with directly, but which he did not hesitate to make use of once he learned of it.

- HOLLYWOOD HYPE -

At some point during the winter of 1948-49, "B" grade actor Mikel Conrad[29.] got the idea for a sci-fi thriller film plot while on location in Alaska during the filming of "Arctic Manhunt" (United Artists). Upon his return to Hollywood, he and two other of Hollywood's lesser-knowns, Howard I. Young and Morris Wein, formed Colonial Productions, a small independent production company organized solely for the purpose of exploiting Conrad's idea-- a pot boiler which he called "The Secret of the Flying Saucers" (later shortened to simply "The Flying

Saucer"). Conrad was to be no less than producer, director, writer and star of the piece, the plot of which in a nutshell centered around an American agent who is sent to Alaska to discover the origin of flying saucers and encounters soviets and a real alien saucer in the process.

Conrad, in order to create interest in his project, began circulating a series of rumors around Hollywood beginning in August, 1949, to the effect that the picture was to contain actual close-up footage of a real flying saucer.(30.) Finally, on September 13, the same day that a twenty-eight day shooting schedule began at the Hal Roach Studios to complete the picture, Conrad went public in a press conference during which he stated that he had found a real saucer and that he had "scenes of the saucer landing, taking off, flying and doing tricks", and that "the saucer (was) not created in miniature or by trick photography...." The story, carried by United Press International, made headlines around the country.(31.) The headlines, in turn, piqued the interest of the Air Force, which immediately launched an investigation to determine just what sort of film he did have.(32.)

Conrad, unaware of the investigation, and undaunted, continued to escalate his rumors, all of which were nothing more than a part of his elaborate scheme to generate a load of free publicity. Both Newton and Scully paid close attention to the developments, with Scully ultimately making reference to them in his Weekly Variety column of October 12, 1949. Not to be outdone by mere rumors, Scully crowed that he was privy to "all there is to know about flying saucers"(33.), and proceeded to dump on his unsuspecting public the Newton-GeBauer tale that had been dropped in his lap during his trip into the Mojave with the two of them just over a month before.

The next day, October 13, 1949, Ezra Goodman wrote a column on the film for The Daily News, quoting Conrad as saying that he had "obtained the flying saucer footage with the coöperation of United States government authorities", that he possessed 900 feet of saucer film shot outside Juneau, and that "everything is top secret." Beset upon by a veritable storm of demands to justify his claims, not the least of which came from his press agents Jules Fox and Jo Brooks, Conrad responded on Friday, October 14th, by introducing into the

mêlée one Mr. "William McKnight", purportedly an FBI agent but in reality a paid actor clandestinely hired by Conrad to play the role. "McKnight" quietly "confirmed" to Fox and Brooks, and to several reporters also present (including one Mr. Bahn, editor of Film Daily), that Conrad actually did possess footage of a captured saucer, that the FBI had examined same and found it to be genuine, and that all was locked up in a safe awaiting official sanction to proceed with its release.

The performance was good, but not good enough. Fox, Brooks and Bahn, after considering the matter over the weekend, decided to launch an inquiry designed to determine whether McKnight was in fact an FBI agent, or if not, who he really was.(34.)

The result was that Conrad received a visit a few days later from OSI Special Agent James B. Shiley, who was most anxious to learn what it was all about. Realizing the jig was up, Conrad invited Shiley to a special screening of his film on October 26th, and confessed all. According to Shiley's report:(35.)

> "Conrad, after the showing, indicated that the 'flying saucer' was a figment of his imagination and stated that he had released the story to (the media) in order to advertise his picture. He admitted that the observation of, location of, and motion picture of 'the flying saucer' in various flight stages and maneuvers was not a reality....
>
> "Conrad apologised for the story and said he was sorry that he had misled the USAF, and admitted that the article was purely for enhancing interest in his coming picture. He requested that the USAF not furnish any newspaper correspondent or other persons making inquiries with the fact that the saucer is a hoax. He was advised that OSI would not (do so)...."

The next day, October 27th, Fox and Brooks issued a press release stating that they had resigned as Conrad's press agents and that while they "may have been guilty of naïve belief in the claims of a client, they (had) not knowingly given out any false stories."(36.)

- NEWTON TAKES THE BALL -

Newton, who had no way of knowing of Conrad's admission to OSI, must have

taken great interest in the publicity Conrad received. In any case, he continued to build his own (and GeBauer's) story to Scully while at the same time having no compunctions about repeating the tale, with slight alterations, to anyone he thought might be interested. The technique was enhanced by Newton's weaving in additional information either invented by himself or created by carefully altering already published material to suit his own purposes.

For example, his own cleverly tailored version of the Death Valley prospectors' tale of August 19th (see page 13) was whispered to Scully to make it appear as if Newton had actually received it from the participants. To make the story more believable, Newton changed the site to "not far from Phoenix, Arizona", while the prospectors became "scientists" who had detected the saucer's presence with sophisticated instrumentation. The basic story, however, is one and the same with the alleged Death Valley encounter. Scully, completely taken in, reprinted the tale in a second Weekly Variety column which appeared on November 23, 1949.(37.) The saucers, Scully stated, were known to have come from Venus.

On November 24, 1949, the day after the second Variety article appeared, Newton wove both Scully's article and the Mikel Conrad hoax together with a few more of his own tricks in an effort to gain the confidence of well-known actor Bruce Cabot ("King Kong", etc.) at the exclusive Lakeside Country Club in Toluca Lake (North Hollywood). Upon examination, Newton's carefully laid plan can have been nothing more than an attempt to interest Cabot in putting up a large sum of investment money for his oil schemes. Cabot,to Newton, was just another fish. How many other well-heeled individuals were ultimately approached by Newton in a similar manner is unknown, but knowledge of his modus operandi over the years suggests a large number.(38.) In any case, the approach to Cabot and the matters discussed by Newton therein, became part of the record after Cabot became suspicious of Newton and contacted the FBI regarding the matter. The FBI passed the matter to OSI on December 1st, which resulted in the following report of the affair:(39.)

"1. On 30 November, 1949, this office received a letter from the Los Angeles Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation which reads

as follows:

"On November 24, 1949, Bruce Cabot, motion picture actor, telephonically advised this office that on the previous afternoon he had been playing golf at the Lakeside Country Club with Silas Newton and overheard Newton talking about a magnetic radio the latter had in his possession and which he claimed had come from a flying disc which had crashed in New Mexico. Newton, who claimed to be in the oil business, had the radio with him at the golf course. Cabot described the radio as being about 7x2x2 inches.

"Newton further advised Cabot that he and an unnamed scientist were using the radio as a "doodle-bug" to find oil deposits in the ground. Newton stated that several of the flying discs had recently crashed in New Mexico, Arizona, and Maine.(A new twist. ed.) He also told Cabot that the discs had contained men and that he had bits of cloth at home from the clothing of these men. In addition, Newton claimed to have pieces of metal from the gears of the disc.

"Newton told Cabot that Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio is making a 'hush-hush' picture which could very well concern the matter of flying discs inasmuch as the whole story would break soon any way (sic.)...." (Note that MGM studios were right down the street, so to speak, from the Hal Roach lot where Mikel Conrad was shooting his picture. ed.)

"...Cabot explained that he had never met Newton until their golfing engagement and further pointed out that Newton was sober at the time the above allegations were made...."

- A SEED ONCE PLANTED... -

Scully, Cabot, Howard Hill, Pevernell Marley, and however many others Newton talked to in Hollywood were only part of the picture, however. The key thing for crashed saucer researchers here is that Newton told his story, with variations to suit the particular ear he was bending, to large numbers of people all over the West. And many of these people freely repeated it to others, either without naming the original source, or in painting Newton (and, of course, GeBauer) with labels of unquestionable respectability. The story, now third hand and embellished accordingly, went heaven knows where from that point. How many of the literally hundreds of crashed saucer stories circulating today (and cited or repeated by Leonard Stringfield and others) originated with the Scully-Newton-GeBauer machinations of more than three-and-one-half decades ago can only be guessed at, but the evidence at hand would appear to suggest a very significant percentage. Many of these, due to the degree of removal from the original source, the passage of time, and the death or unknown whereabouts of individuals whose

testimony would be necessary to identify the original source, are simply untraceable dead-ends today and hence serve only to add to the confusion. One case in particular provides an excellent example of just such a scenario: (40.)

- EIGHT ROUNDS, AND COUNTING... -

Some time during September or October, 1949, Newton began telling his crashed saucer stories to his close friend in Denver, George Koehler (see pg. 10). The central theme in his story to Koehler was that a saucer had crashed in the vicinity of a high-powered radar site on the New Mexico-Arizona border, that the dead aliens were all about three feet in height, were dressed in garments made of metallic cloth, and that they wore no undergarments but rather had their bodies wrapped or taped. (These four points are important to remember: (1) High-powered radar site in Ariz.-N.M.; (2) 3' in height; (3) metallic cloth; &(4) taped bodies.) The die had been cast.

Koehler, who evidently believed Newton without question, repeated the tale during early October, 1949, to a number of his friends including Morley P. Davies, a field representative for the Walter J. Thompson Co. in Denver. Davies, in turn, repeated the story to at least two of his associates, Jack M. Murphy and L.J. van Horn, who were manager and assistant manager of a local Ford Motor agency there. In mid-December, Murphy and van Horn in their turn told the tale, now fourth hand, to Kansas City, Kansas, auto dealer Rudy Fick who was passing through Denver on his way home from Ogden, Utah. Back home in Kansas City, Fick passed along the now fifth-hand tale to the editor of the Wyandotte Echo, a weekly newspaper published in Kansas City. In the telling, the name "Koehler" had now become "Coulter", and the number of flying saucers in possession of the U.S. government had grown from three or four to "around fifty", forty of which were under study "in the United States Research Bureau in Los Angeles." The bit about the high-powered radar site on the N.M.-Ariz. border remained in the story, as did the alleged three foot height of the aliens and the manner of their dress. Fick implied that "Coulter" had actually seen the disc himself.

The story, attributed to Fick, his friends in Denver, and ultimately

"Coulter", appeared in the January 6, 1950 edition of the Wyandotte Echo, and from there was picked up by a number of other papers around the country. This attracted the interest of both the FBI and OSI, the latter of which began investigating it as an adjunct to their case already in progress on Mikel Conrad.(41.) By early March, a whole series of communications pertaining to the matter had passed between OSI headquarters in Washington, D.C., and various field units, one of which, dated 14 March, 1950,(42.) stated that Newton's November 24, 1949, conversation with Cabot at the Lakeside Country Club had been witnessed by a "local KFI radio news commentator (name officially deleted) who, on a morning program, announced in effect that a party at a Hollywood country club had stated that he had information on flying discs and that the discussion took place over a round of drinks at the 'nineteenth hole' (bar)... and that the 'story got better with each drink'." (OSI had attempted to interview Newton at the time, but without success in that Newton had apparently gone off to Wyoming shortly thereafter.)

In any case, one of the agents at OSI headquarters in Washington, passed the Fick story, now seventh-hand, along to Special Agent Guy Hottel, one of his contacts in the Washington office of the FBI (with whom OSI often worked quite closely), who in turn, on March 22, 1950, generated a memo on it to J. Edgar Hoover himself. Hottel's memo, repeating a now eighth hand story but still retaining the four key points of the original Newton story (i.e. High-powered radar site in New Mexico /but now without mention of Arizona/, three foot tall aliens, metallic cloth, and wrapped bodies), has been cited out of context again and again by an entire array of UFO researchers as conclusive evidence that the U.S. government is in possession of a crashed saucer. Had any of them bothered to research the matter before jumping to conclusions, they would have realized the memo is essentially useless in that the origin of the information cited therein can be traced directly to Silas M. Newton himself. So that there can be no question as to which memo is referred to, it is reproduced herewith in its entirity: (See following page.)

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: March 22, 1950

FROM : GUY HOTTEL, SAC, WASHINGTON

SUBJECT: FLYING SAUCERS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

The following information was furnished to SA [redacted] by [redacted]

An investigator for the Air Forces stated that three so-called flying saucers had been recovered in New Mexico. They were described as being circular in shape with raised centers, approximately 50 feet in diameter. Each one was occupied by three bodies of human shape but only 3 feet tall, dressed in metallic cloth of a very fine texture. Each body was bandaged in a manner similar to the blackout suits used by speed flyers and jet pilots.

According to Mr. [redacted] informant, the saucers were found in New Mexico due to the fact that the Government has a very high-powered radar set-up in that area and it is believed the radar interferes with the controling mechanism of the saucers.

No further evaluation was attempted by SA [redacted] concerning the above.

REX:VIM

RECORDED - 3
INDEXED - 3

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MAR 28 1950

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RECEIVED

MAR 29 1950

- THE NON-EXISTENT CORONET -

Yet another example of a case traceable directly to Newton-Scully is the following item cited by Leonard Stringfield in his 1982 report UFO Crash/ Retrievals: Amassing the Evidence (Status Report III).(43.) Labelling the matter as "Case A-4", Stringfield attributes the story to one Captain Virgil A. Postlethwait, formerly with 82nd Airborne, etc., whom he describes as possessing good credentials. Stringfield goes on to write up Postlethwait's story as follows:

> "As a Captain in G-2 Air, he was cleared to see a TOP SECRET message coming in by TWX, as he recalls, from the 3rd Army Headquarters, Atlanta. Directed to the Commanding General (with copy to G-2) the message described the crash of an alien saucer-shaped craft 100 ft. in diameter, 30 feet high with one portal window blown (Note: See Scully, Saucers, p.26; ed.), causing suffocation to the five occupants. Among other items cited, as Posty recalls, the bodies, which had turned blue, were about 4 feet tall with oversized heads by human standards and that the metallic skin of the craft was as thin as newspaper, but too tough to penetrate by conventional tools....
>
> "Posty said the full story beyond what he had heard at the base, was published in an article appearing in a 1948 issue of Coronet magazine. When the issue was released, he heard that authorities had confiscated all copies at the Coronet office and most that reached the newstands. A few survived, a copy of which he had seen years ago...."

Unfortunately, neither Postlethwait nor his story emerge as credible after investigation. Postlethwait, using the name "Virgil Armstrong", is a frequent guest on the Bill Jenkins "Open Mind" talk program on KABC radio, Los Angeles. His "good credentials" include frequent claims of having personally visited undersea alien bases beneath the Bermuda Triangle, and conducting public UFO-spotting sessions in the Mojave Desert for anywhere from $15.00 up. He is also an associate of Wendelle Stevens and an advocate of both the Billy Meier and George Adamski contactee cases, among others.

As for the Coronet story, had Stringfield researched the matter before reporting the story, he would have discovered that there is no missing issue of Coronet for either 1948, 1949 or 1950, nor do any of them contain a story even remotely similar to that claimed by Postlethwait.(44.) There was, however, a magazine called Pageant which was published during the same time frame and was very similar in size, format and content to Coronet. Curiously, Pageant featured a condensed version of Scully's Behind the Flying Saucers in its

October, 1950, issue; complete with the bit about a broken portal and the skin of the craft being too tough to penetrate by conventional means.

- AZTEC AS A CRASH SITE -

Moving back to the central issue of whether there was ever a saucer crash in or near Aztec, New Mexico, the final nail in the coffin is provided by an investigation of the area and its people. Aztec is a small town (pop. 5512) in extreme northwestern New Mexico not far from the Four Corners area where New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Utah all come together. The town is a close-knit community and many of its residents have been there a long time. If there was ever a saucer crash in the area, it seems reasonable to assume that the local old-timers in the area would know something about it. (Note that in the case of the alleged Roswell saucer crash which follows, the locals have been able to supply all sorts of information concerning it.) Efforts to locate crash witnesses in the Aztec area, however, have been essentially fruitless. While there are locals who recall rumors of a crash in the area, not one can be traced with reliability to before the release of the Scully articles in 1949.(45.) Indeed, several local residents became interested in the matter over the years and conducted their own investigations. For example:

-Sheriff Dan Sullivan of Aztec was interviewed by Coral Lorenzen of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) of Tucson, Arizona, in 1974.(46.) According to Mrs. Lorenzen, Sullivan, whose father had been sheriff before him, spent considerable time looking into the matter and could uncover absolutely nothing which would indicate there was ever any truth to the tale. In addition, Sullivan's father "had no recollection of a crash, aircraft in the area, or anything (else)" that would support such a rumor.

-Bruce Sullivan, Dan's brother, was a high school student in Aztec at the time and has lived there all his life. He knows nothing of any such incident, nor can he recall his father ever having mentioned it.(47.)

-Local Aztec resident and former businessman Lyle McWilliams, who was in his early 30s in 1948-49, "recalls nothing of the original incident except for

the original claim" which he has always treated as a joke.(48.)

-Marguerite Knowlton has lived near Hart Cañon since 1946. She also recalls nothing that would lend credence to such an event.(49.)

-George Bowra, former owner of the Aztec newspaper, has lived in Aztec since 1905, and ran the paper for 44 years. He claims to have spoken to over 100 cowboys, indians, ranchers and lawmen about this story and has never found a single one who recalls either a saucer crash or subsequent military movements.(50.)

-There are no records or even hints of any such event in either the Aztec Review, the nearby Farmington Daily Times, or even the Denver Post which is subscribed to by many of the local residents. Debi Yeager, reporter for the Daily Times, looked into the story in January, 1982, and also concluded that the matter was a hoax.(51.) She did, however, interview one H.F. Thatcher, formerly of Farmington, who recalled the crash of a military aircraft near Fruitland, N.M., (about 25 miles west of Aztec) in 1948. Thatcher is of the opinion that the subsequent excitement and recovery of the wreckage of that craft gave rise to the UFO crash story.

Thus ends, save for a few loose-ends, the first part of this paper. The loose-ends, largely irrelevant, follow for informational purposes only. Was there a UFO crash near Aztec, New Mexico, in 1948 or '49 as reported by Scully? The evidence is in. You decide.

- LOOSE ENDS -

-The Scully-Newton-GeBauer saucer bubble continued until October, 1952, when, as has already been noted (see p. 5) both Newton and GeBauer were indicted in Denver District Court on two counts of conspiracy to commit confidence game. After a 32-day trial in late 1953, both were convicted, given suspended sentences, and ordered to make restitution. Newton escaped from the affair largely unscathed and went on to involve himself in an impressive list of equally questionable practices. On February 7, 1955, for example, less than a year after he received

probation in the Flader affair, Newton was back in court in Denver to answer for another phoney stock transaction-- this time for about $15,000 worth of worthless securities in a Utah uranium claim known as the Tennessee Queen. Newton's escapades continued until his death in Los Angeles in December, 1972.

-Leo GeBauer lost his business in Phoenix following the Denver indictment, but continued to live there until 1967 when, plagued by a series of lawsuits centered around questionable real estate dealings, he moved to Colorado. He died there in late 1982, aged, according to his widow, 81 years.

-Frank Scully died in California in 1964, aged 72 years. To the last, he defended Newton as an honorable man caught in a web of unfortunate circumstances. His widow, Alice, still lives as of this writing, and continues to be a strong advocate of her late husband's integrity and honesty.

-J.P. Cahn, writer of the two True magazine exposés of Newton and GeBauer, still lives in California. He was located and interviewed by this writer in July, 1980.

-George Koehler, the only direct participant in the Newton-Scully affair who is still alive, lives at 2744 Union St., San Francisco, CA 94123. Aside from stating that "everything (he) ever knew about saucers came from Newton", he has consistently refused to be interviewed on the matter.

-Adamski apologist Richard Ogden, in a privately published paper(52.) offers up the conclusion that Scully's Dr. Gee was really none other than Denver scientist Dr. Carl August Heiland, who died in 1956. Upon investigation, however, it turns out that Newton only knew of Heiland, was certainly familiar with Heiland's work in magnetics, and had even, perhaps met him socially upon occasion. Name dropper that he was, Newton certainly used Heiland's name to Scully whenever convenient(53.) and most likely referred to the man's work whenever he felt he might gain some advantage from doing so. Even so, there is absolutely no evidence whatsoever which would indicate that Dr. Heiland was really Dr. Gee, or that Newton was ever associated with him in any way beyond that already stated. Ogden's contention, it seems, is based solely

upon the circumstance that Heiland was a reputable "magnetic scientist" with a strong background in geophysics and oil exploration techniques, that he lived in Denver at the right time, and that Scully refused to deny that Heiland was Dr. Gee when asked by Ogden in a letter.

-A well-known (amongst UFO researchers) crash-retrieval story of an alleged saucer crash in Mexico in 1949 which was made famous by one Mr. Roy Dimmick of Glendale, California during March, 1950, may or may not have been inspired by Newton. Dimmick's story is an area which was not investigated during the research that went into this paper, and remains open turf for subsequent inquiry. Dimmick was 68 years old in 1950, and is undoubtedly dead by now.

-A former Phoenix business associate of Leo GeBauer who knew him quite well through the latter part of 1947,has stated that during the time he knew GeBauer, the man displayed little interest in the subject of flying saucers. The business arrangement between this informant (who has asked to remain anonymous) and GeBauer terminated in the fall of '47, and he knew little of GeBauer's activities after that point.

-Material concerning Silas Newton and crashed saucers which appears in Dr. Berthold Schwartz' recently published book UFO Dynamics (54.) appears largely unreliable in that its source was primarily Newton himself.

- END OF PART ONE -