

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

Encounter at Buff Ledge

A Case History

This chapter is based on a report by Walter N. Webb in a book with the above title, published by the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, Chicago, 1994 (EBL). His research was done in 1978 through 1980 for an episode that took place on August 7, 1969. He said this about himself:

EBL(Back Cover): My interest having been sparked by a personal sighting in 1951, I have researched and investigated UFO sighting reports for 42 years (since 1952). I am perhaps best known as the initial investigator of the first widely publicized UFO abduction case, that of Barney and Betty Hill of New Hampshire. (See John G. Fuller's *The Interrupted Journey*, Dial Press, 1966.)

Professionally I served under the late J. Allen Hynek (founder of the Center for UFO Studies) at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory's Optical Satellite Tracking Program in 1957-58. After my duties there, I spent 32 years at Boston's Charles Hayden Planetarium at the Museum of Science as senior lecturer, assistant director, and operations manager. I wrote more than 100 show scripts and also articles for the *Museum of Science Magazine/ Newsletter*.

Over the years I have served four national UFO organizations, three of them as an astronomy consultant. Currently I am Astronomy Consultant for the Mutual UFO Network and a Columnist ("The Night Sky") for the *MUFON UFO Journal*, as well as a Senior Research Associate and Field Investigator for the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies. I have contributed many articles and case reports to UFO periodicals and other publications, including a chapter in Coral and Jim Lorenzen's *Encounters with UFO Occupants* (Berkley, 1976), six articles for Ron Story's *The Encyclopedia of UFOs* (Doubleday, 1980), and a paper in the MUFON 1988 UFO Symposium Proceedings.

Among my most recent activities, I appeared in MPI Home Video's *Contact UFO: Allen Abductions* (released in 1991) and was a member of the Conference Committee for the Abduction Study Conference held at MIT in June 1992. An article by me on the role of sleep paralysis in bedroom encounters appears in an early 1993 issue of *UFO magazine*.

Webb's report is helpful in many respects, especially for its detail and technical content. In contrast to the accounts offered by Budd Hopkins, who is an artist, or David Jacobs, who is a history professor, or John Mack, who is a psychiatrist, Webb was trained as a scientist and astronomer. Therefore he offers details the other reporters might not recognize as important to a case history. Even more, the account offers elements of revelation which permits insight into the extreme world crisis of today. Therefore, I shall consider it in some depth. While many such reports exist, practical demands limit choices in my presentation.

The case involved two teenagers who were counselors at a girl's private summer camp along the shores of Lake Champlain in Vermont. The case is unique in that it involved a double simultaneous abduction, one male and one female.

The male (pseudonym Michael) consciously remembered early details of the event, but most of the experience on board the celestial craft was buried in his unconscious memory. The female (pseudonym Janet) had only a hazy notion that something unusual had taken place. She did not consciously recall any of the events beyond the initial strange lights and distant object. Webb later elicited the details through a series of hypnotic regression sessions, five for Michael and three for Janet.

After the event the two did not discuss the episode with one another, (they were both terribly confused and upset), except for a passing mention, and within the next few days parted from one another when they left camp. They were not in touch again until the time Webb began his investigation ten years later. Neither was aware of the details of the report from the other during the hypnotic regression.

Opening Events

The following is edited down from Webb's report. This section in his book was a summary combined from the conscious memory of Michael, with some elements elicited under hypnosis. I felt the account carried importance as an illustration of an unusual experience.

The episode began with the two observing a glowing long cigar-shaped object low in the sky over Lake Champlain.

EBL7: Michael noticed a bright starlike object he thought was the planet Venus in the southwest sky. Suddenly the object swung in an enormous arc down to the right, becoming a much larger, elongated object and stopping abruptly at a low elevation in the sky.

He exclaimed: "Wow! Venus is falling!"

The object appeared cigar-shaped, white, and incandescent, as if glowing by its own light rather than reflecting sunlight.

Refer to the reports on the incandescence of the objects in later chapters.

EBL8: Just after the object halted, three bright, white, tiny lights emerged from below the “cigar” near its right end, one at a time. The large object then followed its original trajectory in reverse, grew smaller, and disappeared in seconds.

Refer to other reports for disk objects emerging from the mother ship.

EBL8: The trio of small objects proceeded to maneuver about the western sky, executing zigzag patterns, upward spirals, fluttering motions, descents like falling leaves, and stop-and-go activity. These antics were performed generally in unison and in close formation.

Refer to Jonathan Swift’s description of the “tacking” motion of the Flying Island. Similar impressive acrobatics have been captured by home video cameras, and published on the cable TV networks.

EBL8: Watching with amazement, Michael said the objects gradually moved closer, showing circular shapes. While the objects went through their unbelievable acrobatics, they constantly tilted back and forth and oscillated while in motion. A dome on top and an edge around the middle of each object were alternately exposed and hidden as the objects tilted.

After possibly five minutes of this astounding aerial display, the objects formed a horizontal triangle. The right-hand object appeared largest and nearest the viewers; the left-hand one was farther back; and the middle object was in the rear. At this point the object on the right abruptly departed northward up the lake (to the right) on a straight horizontal path, seemed to slow slightly, curved toward the eastern shore, and vanished behind obscuring trees. Then the one on the left took off southward in level flight, disappearing in about five seconds.

As each disc departed, Michael heard a complex sound like “thousands of different tuning forks” combined with the “squeaking of a helicopter’s rotor detectable at close range.”

The single object left behind hovered around the middle of the lake. Suddenly it started moving in the direction of the witnesses, emitting wavering, vibratory sound composed of various tones and pitches. At that point Michael’s curiosity and awe turned to foreboding. He asked Janet to touch his face to see if the experience could in fact be a dream. They both touched each other. It was not a dream! Michael was becoming frightened because the thing out there “seemed like it was stalking us.”

He said to Janet, “I think we should go.”

Janet’s response was something like, “I don’t know . . . I don’t know . . . I think we should stay.”

The object stopped again for about a minute. Michael noted that the disc’s edge was a pulsating band of colored light, moving left to right as if rotating. The band pulsed in synchronization with the sounds and changed color across the spectrum — from purples to blues to greens to reds — but only one hue was visible at a time.

Refer to the following descriptions by Villas-Boas. The change in color is due to the change in energy state of the object, emitting different wavelength light as it shifts energy.

FSO57: After visiting the front of the machine we turned back to the back of it that jutted out more than the front. But before doing this we stood still for a few seconds while the man pointed up to where the enormous saucer-shaped cupola rotated. It turned slowly round and round and was lit up by a greenish fluorescent light which came from I know not where. Despite the fact that it rotated slowly, a noise could be heard as that of a vacuum cleaner sucking in air, a kind of whistle (just like air passing through a lot of little holes, though I did not see any, and am only making a comparison). Later on, when the machine began to take off from the ground, the rotating saucer turned round and round so quickly that it became invisible, so much that only the light could be seen and the brightness increased so that the color changed too, turning from the original shade to a bright red. At the same time there was more noise, showing that there was some relationship between the saucer’s speed of rotation and the noise itself, that soon grew into a strong buzz or squeak. I could not make out the reason for such changes, nor can I even now understand what the bright rotating saucer was for but it never stopped turning. Obviously, though, there was some reason for it to be where it was.

Walking to the back of the machine we went by the door once more and, going ahead followed the curve to the back. Right behind, where the tail of an airplane would naturally emerge, there was an oblong piece of metal standing up back to front, crossing the platform. But it was low, no higher than my knee. It was quite easy for me to step over it to get to the other side, and then come back again. As I was doing this. I noticed that there were two reddish lights embedded one on each side of it, at ground level looking like two thick, slanting-out jutting lines. They looked like the head spotlights of a plane, though they didn’t twinkle. I believe that the metal slab must have been a kind of rudder to change the ship’s direction with. At least that was what I noticed, seeing the thing moving to one side at the very moment the ship which had already stopped still in midair at some height after taking off, suddenly changed direction, just before heading up at a fantastic speed.

The visit to the back of the machine being over, we walked back to the door. My guide pointed to the metal stair and signaled to me to go down it. I obeyed and when I got down I looked up to see if he was coming too, but he was still there. He then pointed to himself, then to the ground, and then in a southerly direction to the sky; he again signaled me to step back, and forthwith disappeared inside the machine. The metal ladder began to shrink, each step fitting into the other like a pile of boards. When it reached the top, the door (which, when open, was part of the floor) began to lift until it fitted right into the wall and so rendered itself invisible. The lights from the metal spurs, the head lights, and those of the rotating saucer got brighter, and this last kept turning round faster and faster. The machine began to lift slowly straight up. At the same time the three legs of the tripod began to lift sideways so that the lower part of each (which tapered, was round and ended in a broader foot) began to fit, or telescope, into the upper part (which was thicker and square). When this was over, the top contrivance entered the bottom of the machine. Finally nothing was to be seen of the legs, and the bottom looked as smooth and polished as if that tripod had never been there at all in the first place. I couldn't see any sign of where the legs had disappeared. These people really knew their business.

The machine kept rising slowly into space till it was a little over 35 meters above the ground. It stopped for a few moments then, while it grew increasingly brighter. The buzz formed by the dislocation of air grew louder and the revolving saucer began to rotate at a terrific speed, while the light turned to many different shades of color, finally settling on a bright red. As this appeared the machine abruptly changed direction by turning unexpectedly and producing a yet larger noise, a kind of 'shock,' and it was then that I noticed what I have called the 'rudder' turn to one side. When this was over, the strange airship darted off suddenly like a bullet southward, holding itself slightly askew, at such a heady speed that it disappeared from sight in a few seconds.

To continue with the description of Michael.

EBL9: Next the object took off straight up, its sound fading as it dwindled to a dot, and then disappeared, all in about three seconds. Michael remembered feeling a sense of relief that at last this incomprehensible spectacle had come to an end. Once again he told Janet: "Let's go." But she was reluctant to leave yet and thought they should wait.

Almost immediately the object reappeared and in another three seconds descended vertically to the same spot over the lake. After stopping momentarily it plunged into the water broadside. Michael said he both saw and heard the resulting splash, which seemed strangely small for such an impact.

The acrobatics and sudden changes in position and velocity seem intended to impress the witnesses. Refer to Daniel Fry's discussion of acceleration and why the occupants would feel no effect. Other reports exist on the entry of disk objects into water. I speculate that they were retrieving water species for transport to a distant world.

EBL9: Instantaneously a steady gale buffeted the dock and three-foot white-capped waves sprang up out of nowhere all over the calm lake surface. At the same time, dogs and cats howled and screamed up and down the lake as if the animals were in pain. The wild scene was unreal and unearthly. Michael recalled hearing the trees behind him on the bluff creaking and branches breaking from the force of the wind, and in order to maintain his own footing on the dock, he said he had to really "lean into it."

Michael turned to Janet and uttered something like, "Did you see that? Do you hear all that? Isn't that amazing? Janet, touch my face. We have to remember this." Touching faces was the only way he could think of to establish some sort of coherent reality in the midst of such a bizarre, dreamlike happening.

After perhaps two or three minutes, the disc emerged with another splash in the same level attitude and hovered momentarily. Instantly, all the disturbances ceased: the wind, waves, and animal noises all stopped at once. The lake was calm again.

The intense energy state of the object would have caused the molecules of the lake water to "explosively separate" as the object entered. The resulting force would have produced perturbations extending far out from the object, similar to the effects of a lightning discharge. In lightning the high energy of the electric current well-nigh instantaneously "explodes" the surrounding atmospheric gas molecules, which are then forced out in bands of energy, producing thunder. This model would explain the excited physical state of the lake, and the creation of wind in the atmosphere. The forces may have produced atmospheric disturbances which hurt the sensitive ears of the animals. The wind probably was due to air pulled down directly above the location of the object and then being forced outward from that location along the surface of the water. (This detail could be helpful to technical analysts attempting to understand the power mechanisms of the objects.)

EBL10: Now the white, glowing object began moving once more and continued its course directly toward the dock. Michael could hear its varied sounds. They seemed to be a vibratory rhythm of low-to-high-pitched noises, with another audible component indicative of something revolving.

Gliding steadily closer, the object executed a little step-like descent without halting and at the same time the sound seemed to lower its pitch. The object crossed the water somewhat above eye level, closing the gap in what Michael estimated was about 15 seconds. "It was unnervingly quick," he said. By now, the witness was really frightened. Looking at Janet, he discovered that she was staring ahead transfixed, unable to speak, "spaced out" in his words.

As the thing neared the dock, its noises decreased still further and the color band rotated at a slower rate. Meanwhile, the bright white luminescence surrounding the entire object weakened so that the translucent dome on top now appeared wholly transparent. At this point two figures "popped up" behind the dome. He could see their arms moving as if controlling something.

The disc came to a stop in front of the stunned observers and hovered within an estimated 60 feet from the end of the dock and roughly 15 to 20 feet above the surface of the lake. The device appeared clear, distinct, and solid against the twilight sky. Possibly 40 to 50 feet across — "as big as a small house," the object's shape was the classic, traditional form, like two curved saucers placed face to face, one on top of the other. Michael could detect rows of square, tile-like plates covering the metallic upper surface. The band of light encircling the object's circumference was now seen to be enclosed within a grass-like, transparent chamber that possessed vertically spaced furrows or indentations, giving the rim a corrugated look. The color band within reminded him of a glowing plasma (electrically charged rarified gas, as in a neon sign).

Michael squinted intently at the two figures peering down at him and Janet. Standing side by side and visible down to their waists, the occupants appeared small. A smooth, hairless head seemed unusually large in proportion to the body and greenish blue in color, while the slightly built humanoid body appeared garbed, from the neck down, in a skintight grayish or silver uniform. The oval, frog like eyes were large and extended, protruding from the sides of the head like goggles. In fact, it crossed the witness's mind that maybe the eyes *were* goggles and a dark area in the center of each might have been a sheen reflecting from the goggles rather than pupils. He thought the face and head, in that case, could have been hidden by a tight covering, part of a complete uniform. He discerned two holes where a nose should have been and a small rounded mouth. The disproportionate head rested upon a rather long, thin neck, although it was impossible to judge the

actual height of the entities since their lower bodies were not visible. He said they looked shorter than he was — possibly about five feet tall. When the beings moved, they did so quickly, appearing "inquisitive . . . frivolous . . . childlike," according to Michael.

Compare with the reports by William Booth Gill, and Antonio Villas-Boas in later chapters. Villas-Boas used similar terminology for the head of the entities, which he thought was covered by a helmet.

EBL11: Once again Michael turned to Janet and exclaimed: "Janet, look at this! This is incredible!" But she did not respond and continued to stand still in an unnatural pose, her mouth open and her eyes riveted on the object. It was as if she were in some sort of trance or state of suspended animation.

Michael became truly alarmed. In desperation he addressed the entities: "What do you want? Where are you from? Are you going to hurt us?"

It was then that he said he heard a voice talking in his head. It stated in clear English: "We are not here to harm you."

Totally surprised, Michael blurted out: "What is this? I've never done this before."

The voice in his head replied: "This is what you call telepathy."

Webb note: At the time the witness was unfamiliar with the word.

Compare with the report by Barney Hill in his description of the entities within the object.

EBL12: Michael looked at his silent companion and asked her: Janet, did you hear that?"

This time she answered by asking Michael if the figures were speaking to them. And then she "spaced out" again, as if she were far away from herself.

The strange conversation between Michael and one of the Visitors continued for several minutes. Michael generally verbalized his questions, and the entity somehow projected a clearly understood voice into his mind.

Michael queried: What are you doing here?"

The voice again reassured the witness that he would not be harmed and should not worry. It explained that their race returned after the first atomic bomb exploded, implying earlier visits to earth and an interest in our atomic tests.

Webb note: This theme was further elaborated during Michael's hypnosis. The concept of alien concern over nuclear explosions recurs many times in messages going back to the 1950s.

My note: The idea of a “race” returning has two possible explanations: one, answers by the Visitors styled in terms familiar to us or, two, Webb’s interpretation of the remarks made by Michael. Our celestial Visitors are NOT a returning race. They are entities created and employed by a universe administration and have been in existence since the dawn of time. Michael was told that they have been coming here since the beginning of the world.

I shall go into details on their concern over nuclear warfare in a following chapter. I shall also consider other items which come out of this incident.

EBL13: Where are you from?” Michael asked.

The alien answered that they were from far away, and it uttered the name of their home planet or system — a multisyllabic word that Michael could not remember. Apparently, the distance to their system was also mentioned.

When I asked him to describe the mental voice, he told me it spoke in perfect English, was slow and distinct, and possessed a “feminine quality.” At various times during the conversation, Michael said he heard both aliens talking with each other or to others in the background. These exchanges were high-pitched, rapid, and unintelligible. He also had the definite impression the figure on the left in front of him was the one communicating with him.

Suddenly, Michael’s mind could no longer grasp the improbable event before him, and he began to resist. A protective, comfortable feeling of calm and relief descended over him. He remembered thinking at this point he would never believe himself even if he recalled this experience. The whole thing was “totally absurd.” Spontaneously slapping his knee and laughing, Michael thought: “I still don’t believe this.”

At that precise instant, the figure on the left slapped his knee and laughed, tossing his head in the same way! A hand was seen for the first time. The fingers, which may or may not have been gloved, were thick and tapered to pointed tips; the exact number of digits could not be detected.

For a moment Michael thought the mimicry was only his own shadow cast onto the grasslike dome and there really was no one inside the craft after all. But then he recognized that the form had those enormous eyes, and he knew it was not a shadow. He realized it was a little demonstration to prove that the entity was not only physically in front of him but in his mind as well. Meanwhile, the figure on the right was standing still in front of Janet and staring at her constantly, either mimicking her frozen expression or in contact with her mind.

Still, Michael felt the experience was too incredible to accept. Touching his own face, however, brought him back to his senses. He was compelled now to believe this was something real even though he

couldn’t explain it. He resigned himself to it and felt peace returning as he and the entity gazed at each other in silence. There was nothing more to say

The two alien figures suddenly dropped out of sight, and within seconds the object advanced to a point very near the dock — perhaps within ten feet — and stopped at a level somewhat above the witnesses’ heads.

The beings reappeared in the dome.

Now, as Michael marveled at the sight before him, a strange, gnawing curiosity dominated his thoughts. He wondered what it would be like to be on board, to see what was inside, and to see his visitors more clearly.

These two elements, a) Michael’s “protective, comfortable feeling of calm and relief descended over him,” and b) the curiosity which suddenly rose within him, probably were induced by the Visitors. Such influence certainly would be a kindness to help him endure the entire experience.

EBL14: As if in response, the entities immediately went below again and, like a shot, the disc darted directly overhead.

Looking up at the bottom of the craft, the witness said he perceived a circular, metallic surface emitting a white glow and covered with the same intersecting seams that divided the object’s upper surface. He recalled that the plates slightly overlapped each other and along the edge of each plate were little round indentations, regularly spaced, as if indicating the locations of hidden rivets or points of attachment. As the concentric rows of plates reached the perimeter of the disc, they curved around the edge, becoming smaller in apparent size due to perspective.

This description appears in other reports. The idea of “plates riveted together” is strictly a human interpretation. The flow of high energy electrons or other charged particles in the skin of the craft would require smooth surfaces and prohibit irregularities in the construction.

EBL14: There could be no question, Michael thought, that this mysterious device was constructed. It was no illusion. In a final effort to confirm his opinion, he jumped up to touch the glowing surface, which he estimated was only about ten feet above the dock. But even his six-foot height didn’t quite allow his fingers to reach the object. At the peak of Michael’s jump, a brilliant, conical beam of white light snapped on in the center of the object. Startled, he dropped back toward the dock. He grabbed Janet by the shoulders and fell on the dock with her. The light shone down on the two prone forms. He lay protectively with his arm across Janet’s shoulders.

Refer to similar phrasing by Villas-Boas in his descriptions of the construction of the craft.

EBL14: Once again Michael's newly found courage began to fail him. The bright illumination was unexpected and threatening, and for the first time he entertained the thought that he and Janet were about to be kidnapped. Terrified, he shouted: "We don't want to go!"

He described the beam as "the brightest light . . . and the whitest white I've ever seen." The character of the beam was strange, almost palpable: It seemed like a "mass of liquid light . . . almost physical stuff." Everything stood out in stark detail under the glaring radiance and yet, curiously, when he gazed directly into the source of the light, he could do so without squinting or looking away. Michael added that he could detect no warmth or odor in connection with the illumination.

The beam continued to bathe the witnesses in its brilliance for what seemed to Michael about 10 to 20 seconds, although he was uncertain how long this interval lasted. He began to feel "sort of silly" that nothing was happening and his would-be captors had taken no further action. Michael looked at his hand in the intense light, all the color bleached white from the skin by the bright illumination. Turning the hand over and over, he remembered the light penetrating the skin around the edge of the fingers and hand, silhouetting the bone structure. (This was *not* an x-ray effect but similar to holding the hand in front of a nearby bright light source.) To Michael, it seemed totally incongruous that he could look directly at the source of the illumination without his eyes hurting and yet the light was bright enough to penetrate his skin.

In an effort to shut out the enveloping brilliance, the witness closed his eyes tightly and placed his hands over them. But he could still see, or sense, the light *inside* his head.

Presently, Michael said he perceived a swirling sensation and felt himself losing consciousness. He also experienced impressions of floating upward, "soft lights in a dark place," and hearing various strange, machinelike noises and alien voices conversing among themselves inside his mind.

When Michael became fully aware of his surroundings once again, the object was still hovering overhead, its beam directed downward on the dock as before. Had he actually been unconscious for a few minutes? Or had it been longer? It was now totally dark outside. Janet was lying next to him, still in a daze.

Next he heard car doors slamming and familiar voices, which meant the swimmers and coaches had returned from the swim meet. While most of the campers moved toward their cabins oblivious to the event

occurring below the bluff, Michael stated that he recognized the voices of two 15-year-old swimmers, Susan Middleton and Barbara Bryant (pseudonyms), who had already run down to the bluff, apparently attracted by the object's glow. According to Michael, he heard the girls call out something like, "Who's here? What's happening? Wow, look at that!"

Report Details

I shall now list separate items described by Michael and Janet observed while on board the disc and cigar shaped crafts. I shall list each item, with a page reference number. I shall quote phrases or offer descriptive statements. I present other evidence and discussion in later chapters.

Interior of the Disk

EBL99: Using both hands to describe the UFO's interior (but with eyes still closed), Michael proceeded to trace out his darkened surroundings. He and his alien guide — the same being who had communicated with him near the dock — stood next to a large console on an upper deck and just under one edge of the dome. Steps led down to a central lower level that was encircled by a protruding ring of consoles with blinking lights and switches. Once more Michael took note of the glowing band of light in motion around the outer edge of the ship.

Webb did not ask about the central pillar, nor about other items which would have helped us to understand the structure of the craft. Clearly he was unaware of them. Rather he concentrated on details of personal clothing and appearance, seemingly pursuing the beings as creatures from other worlds, again not recognizing that they may have been highly sophisticated and intelligent machines with supernatural powers.

Material and Lighting

EBL58: The curved metal walls glowed with a silvery light.

EBL82: She was lying on a table in a circular, domed, white room that reminded her of an operating room or laboratory. The dome overhead appeared something like a glowing, transparent "skylight."

EBL118: The walls and floors resembled "white stone" and emitted a pale glow.

The "skylight" is due to the transparency of the dome of the craft.

The walls are composed of morontia substances. Refer to Swift's use of the word "adamant."

Wall Openings

EBL116: A portion of the floor “opened before we touched it — just disappeared.”

EBL118: Michael said he and the entity passed through another wall.

EBL118: The guide led Michael through yet another wall into another room.

EBL145: The door appeared to be a flat section of the wall that somehow just opened and closed.

Panels and Displays

EBL103: “. . . there’s this huge board on one of the walls and it’s feeding them back all these numbers and things, not numbers we know, but figures and things. I could see a pulse beat like and lines on a graph.”

“. . . it had one of these things on it that was part graph, part lights . . . all these different curved lines on it moving ‘cross it, different graphs and lights blinking.”

EBL105: Two of the screens displayed moving wave forms; a third, a pattern of blinking lights; another, a grid pattern; and a fifth appears to be similar to a television screen.

EBL117: He described being in the “biggest room I’ve ever seen” with “huge grids of lights and screens at the bottom.”

Note: This may have been the huge control room on the cigar-shaped craft described by Adamski. Adamski gave this description:

ISS46: At the bottom of the steps we entered a large control room, rectangular in shape but with rounded corners. This room, I should say, was about thirty-five by forty-five feet, and something like forty feet in height. Except for two door openings, the walls were entirely covered with colored graphs and charts like those in the Scout, but on a larger scale and more numerous.

Extending along all four sides of the room were three tiers of platforms from which the many instruments could be observed and studied. A master telescope stood on the top platform, and another on the bottom platform. From both of these were electronic extensions to many instruments in other parts of the ship, making it possible, I was told, for these two telescopes to be used from many locations on the ship.

Michael also described multiple tiers of platforms.

Adamski gave this description of a large Scout craft:

ISS89: As I looked around, I saw the familiar bluish-white or dif-fused light and the same kind of glassy translucently metal walls.

. . . Ahead, a corridor of the same apparent width, with high walls that reached up into the dome, ran straight forward for about one-third of the ship’s diameter. Beyond this there seemed to be a central chamber in which I could see a large magnetic pole placed through the center of the ship.

. . . In plan, the ship resembled a wheel. The four corridors were like four spokes leading to the hub or central chamber in which we now stood. The walls ranged twenty to thirty feet from floor to ceiling. They were covered almost entirely by illuminated graphs and charts, over which lines and geometric shapes wove the intricate patterns in continually changing colors that had fascinated me in the small Scout. Beautiful to watch, these held me equally enthralled, although I could understand them no better.

. . . About halfway up around the circular walls ran a delicate metal balcony, reached by a ladder. Above the walls was the translucent dome itself, surmounted by an enormous telescopic lens. Almost the entire floor space was taken up by an equally gigantic lens, at least twice the diameter of the one in the small ship. Around this were four curved benches on which observers could sit and gaze down through space at the planet beneath. But the central magnetic pole, running from floor to dome, dominated the entire chamber. This huge silent rod of power, passing through the two great lenses, contained the secrets we yearn for -- the secrets of interplanetary flight.

The *Urantia Papers* describe the supermortal techniques of communication and concept preservation used in the heavenly realms:

UP289 - The Intelligence Co-ordinators. By virtue of personal contacts with the broadcasters and the reflectors, these “living newspapers” of Havona are instantly conversant with all information passing over the vast news circuits of the central universe. They secure intelligence by the Havona graph method, which enables them automatically to assimilate as much information in one hour of Urantia time as would require a thousand years for your most rapid telegraphic technique to record.

UP503 - 2. Concept recorders. This second group of recorders are concerned with the preservation of concept pictures, idea patterns. This is a form of permanent recording unknown on the material realms, and by this method I could gain more knowledge in one hour of your time than you could gain in one hundred years of perusing ordinary written language.

Elevators

EBL103: Nudged along by the guide's shoulder, Michael said they both got into a "tube," were whisked upward, and then entered a corridor.

EBL119: Michael explained how they got from the small craft to the "elevator" inside the large vessel.

Adamski described an elevator on a very large interplanetary transport:

ISS96: The platform beside which we had stopped (I say "platform," but actually it proved to be a magnetic elevator some fifty feet square) carried people and freight from the bottom to the top of this gigantic carrier ship through an enormous shaft two hundred feet or more in depth. A magnetic pole rose the full height of this shaft, passing through the center of the elevator and, I learned, provided the power and means by which it operated.

This was the first thing -- this and the great shaft rising upward -- that struck me on alighting from the Saucer. Ahead of us was a kind of bridge with side rails that connected the elevator platform to the deck where our Saucer had stopped, for the fifty-foot platform did not completely fill the width of the shaft.

I turned and gazed around me, awed by the majesty and superb construction of this colossal ship. Looking back, I could see, high up above and beyond the dome of our Saucer, the ceiling of the immense chamber through which we had descended. A large set of rails sloped upward and through this ceiling, continuing somewhere in the heights above where the air locks must have been. I could look straight on up to the opening in the mother ship through which we had just come.

As we reached the platform I saw three more floors or deck levels above, and three below, making a total of seven.

Betty Andreasson also described an elevator:

AA43: I'm standing there, and we are slowly, slowly being lowered through a tube. It looks like a -- silvery tube . . . slowly lowering down. We are going down. We are stopping. And one of the beings tells me to get in back of him again. I'm getting in back of him, and the other one's in back of me. And the door is lifting up -- couldn't see the door before.

. . . we went through the door again and into that same area where there's that big round elevator.

I shall now go on to use Webb's report as a basis for discussion of some of the purposes behind their activity.