

SAUCER NEWS

Combined with THE SAUCERIAN BULLETIN

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A STRANGE VISIT WITH GRAY BARKER: Recently, while on a brief vacation in Florida, your Editor and his wife received a rather disturbing telegram from Gray Barker, urging that we visit him in Clarksburg on our return trip north. Your Editor had already completed his business dealings with Barker in regard to purchase of The Saucerian Bulletin, and we were reluctant to drive out of our way in order to see him again.

Yet, the evening of May 2nd found us in Clarksburg, West Virginia. The Gray Barker who greeted us there was taciturn and frightened, much as Al Bender is said to have been after his "hush up" ten years ago. The Barker we had known before was arrogant, carefree, and apparently well off financially. He had had a comfortable office downtown and a pleasant apartment on Mulberry St., in a nearby residential area. Now the big office and apartment were gone, and Barker was living in a run-down old house on a high hill near the edge of town. Barker asked us to be his guests rather than stay at a hotel. It was obvious that his new generosity was not altruism, but some sort of deep-rooted fear of being alone at night. We nevertheless declined his offer.

When we saw Barker the next morning, he looked pale and nervous. He had obviously lost weight since our last visit. His forehead bore a small scar, which he said had been caused by a thug who assaulted him shortly before he moved out of his former apartment. His new quarters were in a terrible state of disorder, with books and papers scattered around haphazardly. We noticed that the printing press appeared to be damaged. Barker informed us that it had been sabotaged by the above-mentioned thug, whom he refused to describe in any further detail. He did say, however, that the press was again in working order, after a considerable expenditure of time and money in fixing it.

Barker further stated that he had decided to dismiss his four employees "for their own protection," and was planning to go on alone with his book publishing business. He would not tell us why he had moved to new premises, nor why his former cheerfulness had turned to gloom and despair. Apparently selling The Saucerian Bulletin had been a huge let-down to him, - but it was obvious that something more than that was wrong. Although the term "Silence Group" was never used in our conversation, it was quite obvious that Barker felt there was some organized force behind the various attacks and persecutions which he has been suffering during the past several months. (Some of Barker's earlier problems were described in an article by him in the June 1962 issue of SAUCER NEWS, now out of print.)

Though your Editor has never been close friends with Gray Barker, we left Clarksburg with a feeling of sympathy for the man, - sensing that he is undergoing something which he is unable or unwilling to discuss with anyone. He seemed pleased and even grateful that we had come by. In the final moments before we parted, he cautioned us to be careful in our future saucer research, though he absolutely refused to specify how or why this should be done. He wished us well with SAUCER NEWS, and then said, rather cryptically, "I shall go on publishing books no matter what happens, - because I believe."

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These Newsletters are non-scheduled, and are published only as often as worthwhile material is available. Most issues, like this one, contain information that we consider "too hot to handle" in our regular issues of SAUCER NEWS.