

18 August 1967

Miss Beverly Brunson
Box 296
Baxter Springs, Kansas 66713

Dear Miss Brunson,

Yes, my name is pronounced "Marr," although I answer to almost any variation thereof...Your impatience to read my book is very gratifying. I am enclosing a descriptive page from the fall catalogue, with the publisher's address. The tentative timetable calls for copies to be in the shops sometime in November, but I am bold that this is contingent on the printers, binders, shippers, etc., any or all of whom could fail to fulfill specifications and thus delay release of the book. However, everything has been prompt thus far, or even ahead of schedule; so I am encouraged to hope that there will be no hitch. There should be some advance (review) copies in October, but I don't know how many or if the publisher would fill a mail order from that supply.

Many of the critics shared your apprehension that Garrison was part of a gambit to revive the Castro-managed assassination conspiracy which was being promoted in the first days, to counteract the disintegration of the lone assassin myth. However, they converted to Garrison's cause, ardently and even fiercely, as soon as it became apparent that he was pursuing a different hypothesis, postulating anti-Castro Cuban exiles and their CIA protectors. There are legitimate grounds for such a theory but the ultimate ^{effect} of Garrison's hit-or-miss tactics and his preoccupation with a collection of petty twilight-world characters who are almost certainly irrelevant to the assassination (whatever other sordid activities they may have undertaken) may be to discredit the authentic evidence for such a hypothesis. According to the New York Times, the fact that Dean Andrews has been convicted of perjury will harm, not help, Shaw: Andrews will not be able to testify at the Shaw trial (if and when it is held) that Shaw is not Clay Bertrand. Although my fellow-critics are rejoicing at Garrison's "success" in prosecuting Andrews, I am on his side, for several reasons. One is that he was among the first to insist that Oswald was not the assassin, if only because he did not qualify as a marksman, and that he continues to state unequivocally that Oswald was a mere patsy and decoy "as any half-intelligent person can see at once" (or words to that effect). Another is that I believe his version of the conversation in which Garrison persuaded him to stay on the fence on the issue of Shaw's use of the alias Clay Bertrand instead of denying this, as Andrews wished to do; and that Garrison then double-crossed Andrews for the very reason that he wanted to disqualify him from testifying on Shaw's behalf when Shaw came to trial. My third reason is probably irrelevant, immaterial, and even ~~improper~~—but I am enchanted with Andrews' original, fresh, and delightful gift for language, his hip-talk. I even used his delicious expression "the Feebees" as a chapter title in my book. *Trivial*

I am extremely interested in hearing your further UFO stories and especially your own observations. If it is not an imposition, I would be glad if you would write me about them, with as many details (date, hour, location, size, shape, noise or silence, etc.) as you can recall. The Barney/Betty Hill affair leaves me as perplexed as most other people. I do not feel that they are hoaxers or liars. I think that they had some kind of encounter, and that they themselves are convinced of their own story. The book (The Interrupted Journey) by some unnecessary miracle managed to make the whole story rather dull; I had to prod myself to get through it. And it left me somehow unconvinced...though not sceptical of the Hills' good faith.

I have mixed feelings also about Coral Lorenzen, who takes some fragmentary and dubious "evidence" and constructs a highly implausible thesis of hostility and imminent invasion and take-over by an alien species. Everything which is inconsistent with or inimical to this theory is more or less ignored. She makes the usual error of thinking in anthropomorphic terms; she is also jealous of her prerogatives as the organizer of the first quasi-serious UFO research group, and therefore extremely competitive and hostile to NICAP---by and large a much more reliable and effective organization than APRO. Dick Hall, who is the associate director of NICAP under Keyhoe (who is rather inactive these days) has done a first-class study of the contemporary UFO phenomenon and issues at fairly regular intervals a newsletter or magazine for NICAP members. If you do not belong already, I recommend that you join. NICAP is at 1536 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Before 11/22/63, Hall and sometimes even Hynek would visit at my apartment occasionally, mainly to confer with some of my friends (myself not included) who are experts on the subject. I suppose I am somewhat predisposed to my NICAP friends, but I do think they are far more level-headed than Lorenzen. Keyhoe hasn't done any books recently but his earlier works (four or five books) are worth reading, although with a grain or two of salt. There is also a more recent book by Jacques Vallee; some by Aime Michel, of eight or ten years ago; and an interesting one by Edward Ruppelt. I will look in the back of my closet, where I may have some spare copies of these books, and if I do, I will send them to you. I take it for granted that you are already aware of The Books of Charles Fort--a unique and classical compendium of the whole range of paranormal and occult phenomena, including UFOs.

I am rambling on too long. But I won't close without thanking you warmly for laughing at the Wesleyan ode. Alas, I can't send you more--I don't have anything else. Please be sure that I am most interested in anything you care to write about UFO sightings, and of course about the case. Yes, UFOs may well be more important, in the last analysis--but they are elusive, while there is seemingly endless work to be done on the assassination before we destroy the Warren Report fiction finally and completely, and then dig out the truth about what happened in Dallas.

With warm thanks,

Yours faithfully,

302 West 12 Street NYC NY 10014

① Found - should be
4th class - be patient -
Keep them, daylong