



THE FAMOUS PASCAGOULA "UFO ABDUCTION" CASE AND DR. J. ALLEN HYNEK

One of the most famous and potentially important UFO cases is the one involving Charles Hickson and Calvin Parker who claim that on the night of Oct. 11, 1973, while fishing near down-town Pascagoula, they were abducted and taken aboard a flying saucer by three strange-looking creatures.

If this UFO case is true, it demonstrates beyond any doubt that the Earth is being visited by extraterrestrials. So it is not surprising that two very experienced and famous UFOlogists hurried to Pascagoula for a first-hand investigation: Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Director of the Center For UFO Studies; and Dr. James Harder, director of research for the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO).

After their investigation in Pascagoula, the two famous UFOlogists made the following pronouncements at a press conference:

HYNEK: *"There is no question in my mind that these two men have had a very terrifying experience."*

HARDER: *"There was definitely something here that was not terrestrial... Where they come from and why they were here is a matter of conjecture, but the fact that they are here is true, beyond a reasonable doubt."*

A few days later, when Hynek and Harder were interviewed on the Tom Snyder "Tomorrow" show on NBC television, the two UFOlogists made similar statements:

HYNEK: *"As far as I'm concerned these men had a very real, terrifying experience...I do not think the men were perpetrating a hoax."*

HARDER: *"It certainly was an authentic report and they were telling the truth. There's no doubt whatsoever about that."*

Despite Hynek's unqualified endorsements in late October, we now know that he had some reservations. When Hynek was invited to appear with Charlie Hickson on the Dick Cavett TV show in early November, he refused unless Hickson first took, and passed, a polygraph ("lie-detector") test, according to an interview with Hynek published in the Nov. 4, 1973, edition of "The Palm Beach Post Times."

Also, when Hynek was interviewed over Dallas radio station WFAA on May 2, 1975, by Ed Busch, Hynek said: *"I was the one who insisted that he [Hickson] have a polygraph test before I would go on the Dick Cavett show with him. I was the one who felt it should be done."*

A good idea, but equally important was the matter of who would give the test because unless the polygraph operator is very skilled and experienced, the test results are meaningless. "The Palm Beach Post Times" article said that Hynek *"still had some reservations about the administration of the test [that Hickson took, and passed] preferring someone he knows to give the polygraph examination."*

[OVER]

Since Hynek had sufficient reservations about the Hickson/Parker story in the fall of 1973 to insist upon a lie-detector test, and subsequent reservations over the qualifications of the polygraph operator who had given the test, he ought to have become very concerned when he read my book "UFOs Explained," published in early 1975.

The book reveals that the polygraph test was given to Hickson by a young operator, just out of school, who had not completed his formal training, who had not been certified by his own school and who had not taken a state licensing examination. Furthermore, that the lawyer for Hickson and Parker--who also was acting as their "booking agent"--had turned down the chance to have his clients tested WITHOUT CHARGE by the very experienced Capt. Charles Wimberly, chief polygraph operator from the nearby Mobile Police Dept. Also, that the lawyer did not contact other experienced polygraph operators close to Pascagoula. Instead, the lawyer had imported from New Orleans--more than 100 miles away--the young, inexperienced, uncertified, unlicensed operator who, by a curious coincidence, worked for a friend of the lawyer!

It is not known when Hynek first read "UFOs Explained." But by the time he was interviewed on WFAA on May 2, 1975, Hynek said he had already written his review of the book which would be published several weeks later in "Fate" magazine. Even if Hynek had not had time to read the entire book, one would expect him to carefully study the 19-page chapter on the very famous, and potentially significant, Pascagoula case which Hynek himself had personally investigated.

The following transcript of Hynek's discussion of the Pascagoula case on WFAA with moderator Ed Busch is very revealing:

HYNEK: "And what did our dear friend Phil say it [Pascagoula case] was?"

BUSCH: "He says one of the strengths of this case is that Hickson is the first person to ever take a lie-detector test and pass it -- in dealing with contact with beings from UFOs. Now he said that almost anywhere in the area of Pascagoula, or Mississippi, or nearby Alabama, any number of polygraph or lie detector testers were available. However, the attorney of Charlie Hickson, or agent as he referred to him, took him [Hickson] to a polygraph operator in Louisiana where you don't have to pass any state examination to have knowledge to run a polygraph, and secondly this young man hadn't even completed the course he had taken."

HYNEK: "Well, I don't know where he got his information. But certainly the polygraph expert was sufficient for the Dick Cavett show. And Dick Cavett examined the certificate. [NOTE: Cavett examined only the statement by the operator so far as is known.] And the man was a licensed man -- and, it was, however, he had not, I guess, taken his final course in the thing, but he had--I guess you would call it, a temporary license. But it apparently satisfied Dick Cavett. He looked into it."

BUSCH: "OK, but I think the thrust of what Klass is saying though even if we can say that the man was to some degree qualified, that why did he [the lawyer] go to Louisiana to the friend of a friend when, Phil Klass says, he had already inquired through the [Pascagoula] sheriff to set up another one [Capt. Wimberly at Mobile], but the other one stated some conditions. For instance, that he would give him [Hickson] the full spectrum of testing on lying and telling the truth."

HYNEK: "Yes, well, also, as I understand it, polygraph tests by professionals are rather expensive and maybe they chose a local one that would be less expensive, I don't know."

BUSCH: "The [Pascagoula] sheriff offered to have it done for free."

HYNEK: "Who offered to do it?"

BUSCH: "The sheriff's department."

HYNEK: "Well, that's what Phil Klass says. I don't know that he did."

BUSCH: "Well, I was just trying to answer your point. He [Klass] said that the sheriff told him [lawyer] that he [Wimberly] would do it for free."

HYNEK: "Phil has a way of saying things which are not sometimes substantiated."

Judging from Hynek's questions, and the fact that he thought that the polygraph operator might have come from Pascagoula, when my book stresses that he was imported from New Orleans--more than 100 miles away--it is hard to believe that Hynek had read my book. Yet he had already written his review of it for "FATE".

When I had the opportunity to hear a tape recording of Hynek's interview, and heard him question my veracity on this key issue, I wrote to him on May 10, 1975, quoting the above exchange. Then I added:

"Allen, I invite you, I urge you, to check with Capt. Charles Wimberly, chief polygraph operator of the Mobile Police Department, to see if he confirms what I wrote in my book: that he had been approached by the Pascagoula sheriff's office about giving a polygraph test to Hickson and Parker, that he had agreed to do so without charge. But his offer was not accepted.

"You can reach Wimberly at his home in Mobile at [phone number given in original]. To encourage you to check this point, I shall be delighted to underwrite the full cost of your telephone call to Wimberly. I presume that you will promptly inform me, and Ed Busch, on the results of your investigation on this matter."

Because of the great potential significance of the Pascagoula case, and the crucial importance of whether the lie-detector test taken by Hickson was a "carefully arranged one," I expected that Hynek would immediately call Wimberly as well as checking out other facts indicating a hoax which were revealed in my book.

But when six weeks had elapsed without hearing from Hynek on this matter, I wrote to him again on June 29, 1975, again urging him to check this key point. It has now been three months since my first letter to Hynek and he has yet to respond on this important issue.

Philip J. Klass
Washington D.C.
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