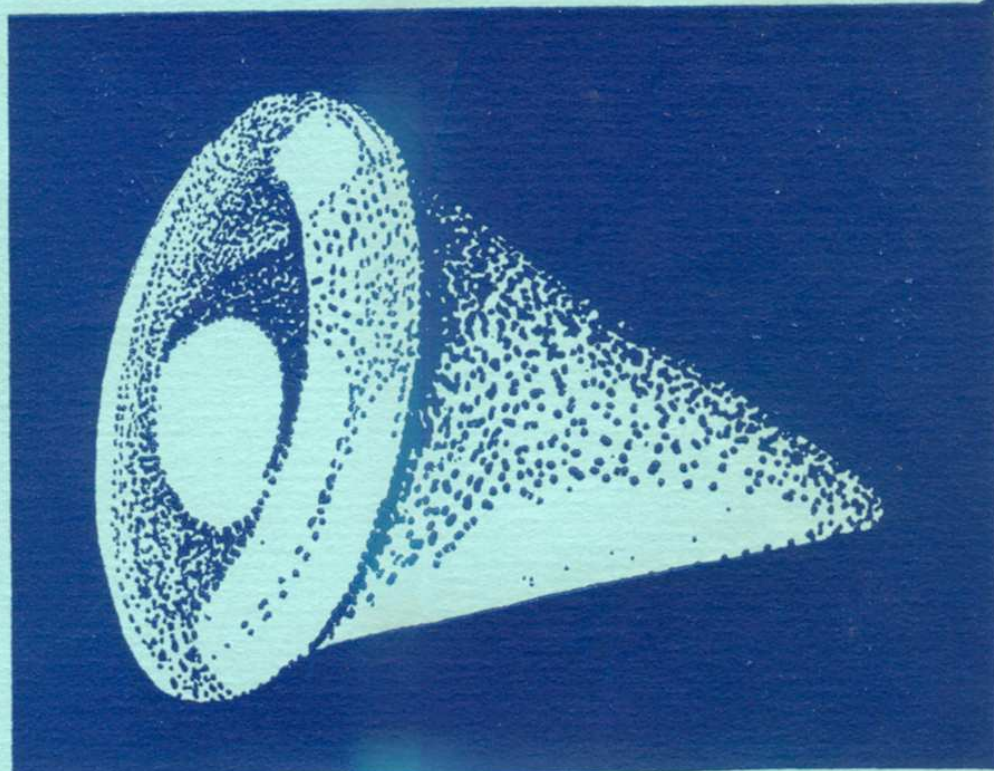


# FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1966

VOLUME 12, No. 5

12th YEAR OF PUBLICATION



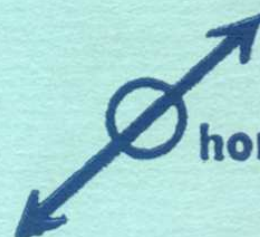
HARWELL  
SCIENTISTS'  
OBSERVATION

*see World Round-Up*

westward  
drift



SUN



horizon

also

**A TEN POINT RESEARCH PROPOSAL by Jacques Vallée**



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1966

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# FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

The bi-monthly Journal of SPACE

INCORPORATING FLYING SAUCER NEWS

Vol 12 No. 5

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

## Official Investigations

**B**ACKED by the United States Air Force to the extent of \$1,000,000 for 1966, the establishment at a large American University of a team of civilian scientists to investigate the UFO mystery, is now under way. FLYING SAUCER REVIEW gave this news in the July/August issue.

In the leader of the July/August issue it was suggested that no scientist involved in an official investigation on the subject should be expected to make categorical statements as to whether or not the UFOs, or alien aeroforms (AAs) are extra-terrestrial spaceships. Unhappily such a situation arose at the recent Hearing on UFOs by the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., and we can only hope that despite this, the new project gets off on the right foot. We presume the scientists will be "new" to the subject, and trust they will be free to base their findings on the evidence alone. We hope furthermore, that they will be presented not only with the evidence of current events and Dr. J. Allen Hynek's chosen twenty cases, but also with all the reliable records amassed by both the Air Force and responsible civilian researchers. This evidence has prompted many researchers both to consider and to adhere to the extra-terrestrial hypothesis: it will be interesting to see what the team of scientists makes of it.

While we await the outcome of this brave new venture, it will be as well to put on record our idea of a workable scheme for official investigations, a proposal which, we feel, offers a feasible solution to the problems outlined in this, and the previous issue.

It should be borne in mind that it is desirable that no one person involved in the research should be saddled with the responsibility of making a decision, or of uttering statements that could have important repercussions and yet be of no scientific significance. Accordingly, it would be necessary to have on-the-spot investigators available in all districts. Ready-made for this task are the police, who are competent in the matter of investigations. The police, however, are not competent in the matter of coming to conclusions, and this would be the task of experts in all fields of science. Consequently it would be necessary to have a number of consultants, or counsellors, who would advise the police on matters relating to investigation, and who would be empowered to call in scientists and other advisors as and when their particular talents were required.

The counsellor, who would correlate the reports, would be the liaison between the investigators and the experts: it would be he who

would be responsible to the government department concerned, which would foot the bill.

In this way only the facts would be examined, and the government department would not be committed to saying that the "visitors" do, or do not, come from Venus, or Mars, or from the back of

beyond. Instead, they would pass on to the public the reports on the real facts—not dogmatic statements. The public would then be able to judge the position for themselves. They would then be no need for instruction—or non-instruction—for fear of panic.

## Policy

That excellent book *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*, by Jacques Vallée, has now reached the American bookstalls in paperback form, revised and augmented. The section on the journals and research groups now presents a far better picture of the best of them.

As far as this journal is concerned, Mr. Vallée has been very kind. Also, in this new edition, it is acknowledged that both before and after October 1964 the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW is the "official journal of UFO controversy". Nevertheless we confess to being more than a little puzzled by Mr. Vallée's statement that our attitude regarding "contactees" and our discrimination between meteors and "true UFOs" has not always been clear.

This is surprising, for never at any time has our policy been a closely guarded secret. We believe, quite simply, that any case must be examined and judged on its merits. Our task is to present all available evidence for examination, and by so doing to provoke thought and discussion, and, if necessary, further investigations. Any "contactee" case considered to be worthy of attention will find space for discussion in this journal in just the same way as cases of "landings with operators", spectacular fly-overs, and those allied subjects which may have a bearing on the flying saucer mystery. And if some readers can have no truck with the

contactee claim, they may still find the sociological and psychological aspect of the case to be of interest.

We believe that every aspect of the AA (alien aerofoil), or UFO, problem must be investigated—not the same thing as believing everything we are told—for some of these cases may have implications we do not comprehend. The *Beliefs* editorial of the November/December 1965 edition stated our position very clearly.

"Spectacular fly-overs" may be presumed to embrace the matter of our lack of discrimination between meteors and "true UFOs". Surely Mr. Vallée realises that our World Round-up columns, where this type of sighting is usually recorded, consist either of newspaper reports, or personal accounts presented invariably without comment. Certainly some of the reports may be shown to be misidentifications of natural phenomena, but what if they happened to be of UFOs (AAs) and we had omitted them because we thought they were meteors? Experience with "explanations" has underlined the fact that it is very easy to misidentify AAs (UFOs) as meteors. So rather than fall into the trap, we record the more spectacular claims and trust that investigations will show either that they are meteors, or new instances of an alien aeroforms.

## HAVE YOU SEEN...

the important announcement about the forthcoming SPECIAL NUMBER ?

Full details will be found on the inside front cover.

# THE CONISBOROUGH PHOTOGRAPH

THE photograph which appears on this page caused something of a stir when it appeared on *Granada TV* on the evening of April 12, 1966, and in the Manchester edition of the national daily newspaper, the *Sun* on April 13.

We have seen the negative, which was kindly lent to us by Stephen Pratt (aged 15) who "snapped" the object at Conisborough, Yorkshire on March 28, 1966. It is the left-hand frame of a strip of four, and has been examined by a professional photographer, and by our own colleague, C. Maxwell Cade, who is an Associate of the Institute of Photographers. The verdict is that the negative appears genuine enough, that the strange images have not been dubbed-in, and that the perspective is as would be expected of distant objects rather than of small models' thrown up, or suspended in the air close to the photographer. Says Mr. Cade: "... the photograph is neither better nor worse than similar ones. The negative appears to be untouched, but the 'saucers' have the usual 'woolly' look. I do not think this is due to movement, since the more distant objects are more hazy. This suggests that they are seen through mist or cloud, and since the visibility is obviously fairly good, but with cloud base appearing to be lowish they are at a fair height and some way off. This again means that they are large objects since they subtend a small angle."

At present we can make no suggestion as to what the objects could have been.

We are indebted to reader Jack Ibson who obtained both the first copies of the prints for us, and also a report by Messrs F. Malcolm Bull and John M. Stear of the Halifax Branch of B.U.F.O.R.A.

From the report we learn that it was approximately 8.30 p.m. when Stephen was returning home with his mother from a 'fish and chip' shop. They were in Leslie Avenue, Conisborough, near their home, when they noticed a single bright light in the twilight sky to the north-east. They watched the light for a few minutes before arriving outside their house: it was orange-coloured, slightly deeper than the colour of the nearby sodium light, but of the same brightness.

[*British Summer Time commenced on March 20. In Yorkshire on March 28, sunset was at approximately 7.40 p.m. It must have been very nearly dark by 8.30 p.m., although the sighting time,*



*Stephen Pratt's remarkable photograph.*

*governed by the word 'approximately' might well have been before 8.30 p.m.—EDITOR].*

The witnesses went on to tell the investigators that the light seemed to be throbbing as it moved towards the west, at slow speed. Stephen went indoors to tell his father and brother, and at the same time fetched his camera. All three rejoined Mrs. Pratt, and Stephen took his photograph (one exposure only) of the light which was proceeding on the same course, though "occasionally hovering". It disappeared from view a few minutes later.

Stephen's brother claimed to have heard a "whurring" sound, whilst their father says he saw two lights. The film when developed, revealed three unusual objects in the sky. At the time of the sighting the family thought they were watching the lights of a helicopter. Messrs Bull and Stear report that the duration of the sighting was 10 minutes or thereabouts.

When the film and prints were collected from the local chemist's shop, the Pratts found that there was no print of the exposure of the 'lights': the processor had not thought it worthwhile. When Stephen saw a cine film of an alleged UFO on *Granada TV* he sent the negative to Granada,



asking if they could explain the objects that were recorded. Granada technicians made the first prints.

Details :

Camera—Kodak Instamatic—cartridge loaded.

Aperture—set for 'cloudy'.

Speed—fixed.

Focus—fixed.

Film—Black and white. Double exposure not possible.

It is interesting to note that in the report carried by the *Sun*, Stephen is said to have spotted the three 'saucers' and to have watched them for 40 minutes. "They were plain to see, and I watched them for quite a time" he is reported to have said.

Finally, the objects bear a remarkable resemblance to those in the Nigel Birch photograph (see FLYING SAUCER REVIEW : September/October 1962, November/December 1962, and April 1963) which were dismissed as 'ice crystals' by the Air Ministry. We re-publish the Birch photograph for



*The Nigel Birch photograph of 1962*

comparison with the Pratt photograph. When told that the objects in the Birch picture had been explained as the images of ice crystals, an acquaintance of Gordon Creighton's exclaimed : "Ice crystals ? More like flying icebergs !"

## SUCCESS WITH A UFO DETECTOR

*by Gordon Creighton*

THE Chiltern Hills, a beautiful area only forty miles to the north-west of London, have often been mentioned in reports of strange objects seen or strange noises heard,<sup>1</sup> and more than ten years ago I read what seemed a very convincing account about a schoolboy who saw a flying saucer land on Berkhamsted Common, but closer enquiries seem to have ended at the usual blank wall.

Throughout the past two years the number of strange things seen in the sky over the Chilterns and over the area lying between these hills and Watford has run to several dozen.<sup>2</sup> Always silent, the objects have frequently been seen at night, when observers have spoken of circular things with coloured lights moving around the rim.<sup>3</sup> When seen by day, the objects have, on several occasions, been "metallic-looking" or silvery balloon-like things, often appearing to be stationary over one area for long periods.

At 10.30 a.m. on Friday April 29 of this year, the weather being fine and the sky very clear, FLYING SAUCER REVIEW reader Mrs. Sheila Forbes and her daughter and their home-help were astonished to see one of these objects high in the sky in a north-easterly direction from their house, which is at Chipperfield right in the centre of this zone between Watford and the Chilterns. (Chipperfield,

be it noted, has figured persistently in the reports over the past two years).

As the three ladies watched the stationary, shining object, which appeared to be metallic and, so far as they could judge, either "pear-shaped", or plum-shaped" they saw a much smaller silvery object, "like a star", fall out of the bottom of it and drop like a stone for a considerable distance, then suddenly coming to a halt "as though at the end of its cable". It too hung there, and then out came four more small shining objects. These "shot out", apparently from different points (see sketch) and after a while the "parent object" and five smaller objects drifted away higher and higher in the sky and vanished behind clouds. It was now 10.45 a.m.

It was not until May 13 that Mrs. Forbes discovered from the *Watford Observer* of that date that she and the members of her household had not been the only witnesses. The larger object and the release of some of its "satellites" had been seen by two housewives, Mrs. Jean Jupe and Mrs. Margaret Hossack, who are next-door neighbours at Holland Gardens, Garston, Watford, and therefore only two or three miles from Chipperfield. Both ladies were in their gardens in conversation when Mrs Hossack noticed a "strange bright

light" in the sky. The sun was shining and the sky very blue, and at first they thought it was either a high-flying aircraft or a balloon. But when they had watched it for twenty minutes, it dawned on them that neither aircraft nor balloons would remain so motionless for so long. Mrs. Jupe therefore telephoned at once to the Meteorological Office in London. They told her that they had no weather balloons in the sky over her area and advised her to contact the Ministry of Defence. The Ministry of Defence official to whom she spoke was very interested, and asked her to go back into the garden to see if the object had changed position at all and also to try to estimate its height. A third lady who came in to drink coffee with her at the time, happened to be the wife of a pilot, and this lady suggested its possible height as 40,000 feet.

But meanwhile, as Mrs. Jupe was looking to see whether the object had moved at all, she was amazed to see three other smaller objects fall from it. These seemed to her and to Mrs. Hossack to be "cigar-shaped". Parent-object and the smaller "cigars" then all vanished.

Mrs. Jupe ran back to the telephone and reported this to the waiting official at the Ministry of Defence. According to the *Watford Observer* account, the official told Mrs. Jupe that "he would get in touch with the nearest radar station and ask them to check if there were any unusual aircraft about". However, he rang back about fifteen minutes later and told Mrs. Jupe that "they could not track it".

The *Watford Observer* concluded the story with a remark by Mrs. Hossack that "she had seen similar craft when she lived in the United States".

The next press report noticed by me was in the *Watford and West Herts Post* of May 19. According to this paper a reader had received two separate accounts of an object seen in the sky in the direction of Chipperfield between 10.30 p.m. and 10.45 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17. The object was described as being "composed of four red lights fusing together to form some sort of lighted object, half the size of the Moon as we see it. This object moved slowly across the sky with a red tail of light and apparently without sound". (Incidentally this may be taken as a very representative example of the sort of thing that people have been seeing. On one occasion, in 1965, a schoolboy claimed to have watched something very bright and silent, with coloured moving lights around it, flying quite low over Watford Town Hall, in the very centre of the built-up area.)

By the end of July the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects, the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, *BUFORA*, and the *NICAP Report*, were receiving a good deal of publicity in the two Watford weekly papers. But the object seen by Mrs. Forbes,

Mrs. Jupe, and Mrs. Hossack had been quite firmly explained away by one expert as "ice-crystals", and public opinion seemed to prefer this explanation, as calling for less thought than any other theory.

In the meantime Mr. Ian Forbes at Chipperfield had ordered from Monsieur Perrin in Switzerland one of his magnetic UFO detectors, as advertised in *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*.

The detector duly arrived by the morning post on Friday July 1, and Mr. Forbes set it immediately, before leaving for his office in London. Then, at precisely 9.45 a.m. (less than one hour after they had unpacked it!) Mrs. Forbes telephoned me in great excitement to say that the detector had gone off, and that she and her family had rushed out of the house and there was the same kind of object right overhead, but this time rather higher than on Friday, April 29.

I at once advised her to telephone to the Meteorological Office and Ministry of Defence in London, just as Mrs. Jupe had done on April 29, and see what happened this time. She did so, and received precisely the same replies, namely that it was nothing to do with the Meteorological Office and nothing for which the Ministry of Defence could account. The Ministry official suggested however that the object might be a cosmic ray research balloon released by the Cosmic Ray Research Unit of the Imperial College of Science London University, and he offered (very helpfully, I thought) to find out if this were so and telephone back to Mrs. Forbes.

In the meantime, I had telephoned to Mrs. Jupe at Garston and asked her to run out into the garden to see if she could spot the object. She could not do so at first, but telephoned to me five minutes later to say that she and Mrs. Hossack could now both see it.

The Ministry of Defence official telephoned to Mrs. Forbes an hour or so later, to say that it was definitely *not* a cosmic ray research balloon from the Imperial College of Science.

The next moment of excitement was at 12.30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 6, just as Mr. and Mrs. Forbes had gone off to sleep. The UFO detector sounded the alarm, and they tumbled out of bed and rushed into the garden to peer at the sky, but it was overcast and so nothing was visible.

The next occurrence was on Friday (note the number of *Fridays*) July 22. The Forbes were away from home from 2.15 p.m. to 5.45 p.m., and on their return they found that the UFO detector had gone off slightly in their absence, as though something had perhaps skirted its field of action.

At this point I would mention that although obviously quite effective the Swiss detector (by



no means cheap at \$10.00)<sup>1</sup> can certainly be improved upon. Our Australian friend, UFO researcher Colin McCarthy, is an expert in all these technical matters, and produced what may have been the first model of such a detector a good many years ago. He went with me to inspect the Forbes' Swiss detector, and since then he and my son have been working on a greatly improved model.

Colin McCarthy lives in N.W. London, at a point which, we estimate, is no more than fifteen miles, as the crow flies, from the charming rural scenery of Chipperfield and he tells us that he thinks his model has at least this range, so that any further objects appearing over that village might very well be detected by it.

Indeed, it is possible that he has already had his first success. At 1.55 p.m. on Saturday, July 30, I was taking my dog for a run in the park at Rickmansworth. Rickmansworth is about seventeen miles north-west of London, and is roughly mid-way on the road to the Chilterns. I was sitting in the park, looking idly at the sky towards the N.E. when, in a break between two large areas of cumulus cloud, I saw, for about one minute, a black stationary object obviously at a very considerable distance, its apparant size being no greater than a match-head held at arm's length. The object then vanished behind cloud but appeared again a few seconds later and seemed to have

moved. Its shape was oval, so that it could well be linked to a tiny black "plum" standing upright in the sky. It must have been quite low and over an area to the north of London and I only record it here because Colin McCarthy told me, when he visited me the next day, that his own detector had registered something, very briefly indeed, just about the time in question, namely 2.00 p.m. on Saturday, July 30.

From the foregoing it will be seen that a UFO detector seems to be a very useful piece of apparatus, and it is hoped that other people will be encouraged to buy or build one.

#### NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> See, *inter alia*, Harold T. Wilkins. *Flying Saucers Uncensored* (1955), P. 155.
- <sup>2</sup> For a few recent cases, see (a) *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, November/December 1964, *World Round-up*; bright blue object over Dunstable area on night of July 27, 1964. (b) *FSR* January/February 1965, *World Round-up*; "red diamond" over Rickmansworth, April 27, 1964; interruption of lights in a Watford-St Albans train when bright red object passed overhead; reports of interruption in TV and radio reception, etc. (c) *FSR* March/April 1966, *World Round-up*. Large pale blue object with elongating arms or antennae seen over Abbots Langley, near Chipperfield, on October 22, 1965.
- <sup>3</sup> In an article (*UFO Probe Pushed*) about Dr. J. Allen Hynek's testimony before the Armed Services Committee in April last, the *Christian Science Monitor* of May 3, 1966, (London edition) mentioned that American weather balloons rise up to 100,000 ft, often at night, and "are covered with running lights". I accordingly wrote to the British Meteorological Office and enquired whether they had weather balloons with running lights, and they wrote back recently to say that they had not. They stated that they likewise have no balloons that affect the compass.
- <sup>4</sup> [In fairness to the manufacturer it must be realised that the indications were that only a limited number of detectors would be required. "Tooling-up" is an expensive business, and this probably explains the price—EDITOR].

## A Recent UFO Report from Finland

Taken from a letter of May 13, 1966, from Joel Rehnström to Gordon Creighton

THE following case occurred in Finland last winter, and was reported in various Finnish newspapers.

A farmer's wife was having a cup of tea late one evening, and sitting by a window in her home in Central Finland, when suddenly she observed a great light coming down from the sky and illuminating the whole area around for several hundred metres. The light seemed to be elliptical in form, like a leaf, but did not seem to be of any material substance. It hovered for a while above the farmer's cowshed, which was visible from the window where the wife was sitting. Then, glowing and changing colour (a whole series of changes) it shot away at an angle into the sky.

The other members of the family were all asleep, so she did not call them. (She had indeed seen a UFO fly over two years before and had been laughed at when she told the family about it).

She did not tell her husband, therefore, until next morning, when, coming back from the yard, he told her, with great astonishment, that whereas the snow was still thick on the ground, it had totally disappeared during the night from the roof of the cowshed. (There had been at least half a metre of snow on the roof, tightly packed).

The farmer then telephoned to the Police and asked them to send somebody over to view this remarkable sight. It would have been remarkable enough during any winter in Finland, and especially so this past winter, for the amount of snow has been quite unusually heavy.

The policeman who came over in due course to the farm was able to see for himself that whereas there was a thick layer of snow everywhere, there was none on the roof of the cowshed. Mr. Rehnström later spoke to this policeman and received his confirmation of the matter.

Meanwhile, the farmer's wife recalled that, on awakening that morning, she had had a terrible headache—a most uncommon thing for her to experience.

And then she and her husband noticed another very strange thing. There was a dog which (it being winter) used to visit the farm daily for food. The animal turned up this day, as usual, but would not venture near the farm. Instead, it kept patrolling round the premises, but always at a distance.

Nor was that the end of the strange affair. For

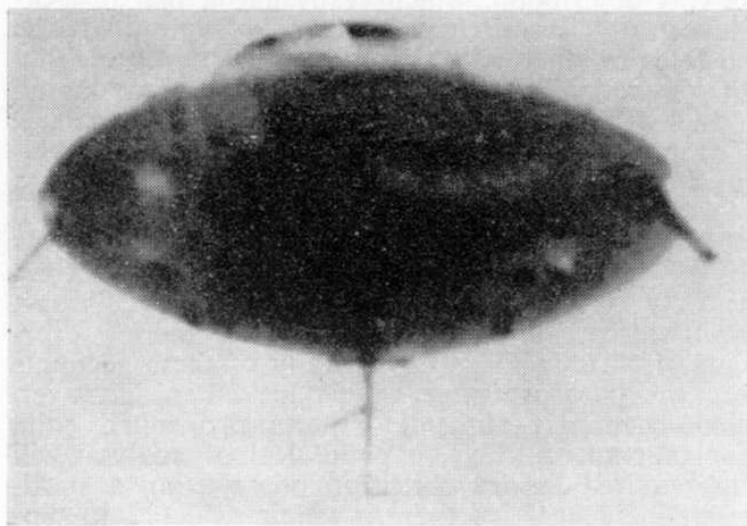
when the farmer had taken his sauna bath that night, he walked back to the house in his bare feet, this being a common practice in Finland, and as he did so he felt a prickling sensation on the soles of his feet. Back in the farmhouse, he examined his feet shortly after this, and found strange blisters and wounds on the soles.

Mr. Rehnström heard about the case next day (the second day after the occurrence) and investigated it. He tried to have the farm premises checked for radioactivity, but was unable to get anybody to the spot until some time had elapsed.

## A HOAX EXPOSED

IN the January/February 1959 edition of the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* (pages 6 and 7) there appeared a photograph of an alleged UFO which, so it now transpires, fooled a lot of people for more than seven years.

Readers were told how Radio Officer T. Fogl of the *SS Ramsay*, sailing from Vancouver to Port Elizabeth by way of the Panama Canal, was called by the first officer to see a strange disc. It was early in December 1957 and the ship was off the Californian coast. Fogl claimed to have taken two photographs of the object.



The photograph was later discussed by Dr. Bernard Finch in his article *The Under-Carriage* in the *REVIEW* for March/April 1961.

A print of this photograph was loaned to *Illustrated London News*, and was used in support of an article about the Cappelquin sighting in their issue of February 5, 1966.

At about this time we heard a rumour that some committee members of BUFORA suspected that the photograph was a fake. It was decided that at

the first opportunity we would try to establish whether or not there was any truth in the rumour, but before anything more could be done about it the photograph made yet another appearance, this time in *Life* magazine of April 1 (April 18, International edition).

NICAP of Washington D.C. had also accepted the photograph as genuine (see *The UFO Evidence* pages 87 and 90), with reservations. NICAP evaluation was: "Print reviewed, complete analysis not possible because of lack of data or lack of reference points or details in photographs." The *REVIEW*'s account was quoted, with the rider: "NICAP's adviser in England was unable to contact Mr. Fogl, and nothing is known of his character."

We had just taken steps to locate Mr. Fogl, when we were approached by the United States Air Force for the loan of the negative for scientific evaluation. Presumably the U.S. Air Force had been informed that the negative was our property.

This step was an outcome of the Hearing on UFOs by the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives (reported in the July/August issue of the *REVIEW*).

As the negative has never been in our possession, our efforts to get in touch with Mr. Fogl were redoubled. After protracted discussions, the outcome was a letter to Mr. Creighton, signed by the former radio officer, in which he disclosed:

"The faked UFO was made at sea. I used two plastic cones for model aeroplanes 4 inches diameter, and stuck them together. A few alterations and a good high gloss silver paint did the rest. I used a yellow filter and a F. 3.4 lens. Thus—no sign of a fine white twine."

We are determined to search for the truth in our studies of the UFO phenomenon. It is a pity a blow was not struck for that cause when the first doubts arose.



# TEXAS ODYSSEY OF 1897

by Donald B. Hanlon

BY now, readers of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW will be aware that a wave of sightings occurred throughout the United States in the years 1896-7. Contributions to this journal by Jerome Clark<sup>1</sup>, a pioneer researcher in this area, and the data contained in Vallée's *Anatomy of a Phenomenon* (the LeRoy sighting) have brought this period into focus. The results of my own researches<sup>2</sup> into these early observations are partially indicated in Figure 1. Briefly they have convinced me that a wave of **major proportions** occurred, marked by a rather erratic, coast to coast, eastward progression. An interesting characteristic of this wave is that a great many sightings were made over large urban areas, in some instances hovering objects created panic in the city streets (today, of course, we have anti-aircraft facilities for such nuisances). Preliminary investigations (now over 170 reports) encourage me to predict that when all the data has been uncovered, this wave will rival the French wave of the autumn of 1954.

Although far from being an area where a maximum density of these early sightings have as yet been recorded, Texas has produced some of the most important. The following account of a landing appeared in the *Dallas News* of April 28, 1897. The witness was a lawyer who wished to remain unnamed:

"I had been up to old 'Uncle Billy' Gathings to write his will and was driving homeward thinking of the old man and his useful career, and the reward that doubtless awaited him in the good hereafter, when I was astonished by a brilliant flash from an electric searchlight which passed directly over my buggy. I want to tell you also that I was almost frightened to death by it, for it made the space around me as light as day. My horse was also frightened and came near overturning the buggy. He snorted, reared, and plunged madly, trembling meantime like a leaf. My hair stood straight up and I was almost too excited to pay attention to the horse. Fortunately the light rested on us scarcely a second, but glided over the fields and the country till it was suddenly turned upward toward the heavens. Then following it with my eyes, I beheld about 1,000 ft. above me I judge, a huge, black monster, from which the light emanated. It was in shape something like a cigar, but underneath there appeared to be a body similar to the body of a ship, which was attached to the object and from which the light originated. The searchlight was presently shut off, and a number of incandescent lights flashed around the lower edge of the body of the vessel or whatever it was. When I first saw it, it was going very slowly in a southerly direction. The lights were soon entirely extinguished and it glided about three miles this side of the town of Aquila. The vessel or ship steered for the hill, and as it approached it all the lights were again extinguished and the ship disappeared from my sight. I think it may have stopped on the hill.

"I never had anything to so thoroughly work me up, and I resumed my journey home, considering in my mind the strange adventures of the night. I have read and heard much of the airships, but I never expected to see one. I had never seriously thought of them as possible, but in a few minutes I recalled the many stories I have recently seen in the papers about airships and decided that what I had seen was an airship.

"When I was within a mile of Hillsboro, about an hour later, I saw the same object rise from the locality where it disappeared. It ascended till it looked like a mere dark cloud in the skies, when it started in a north-easterly direction and went at a terrific rate of speed. It must have gone at the rate of 100 miles an hour or more. It was headed as near as I can judge toward Dallas, or near there. Every few seconds it would send out brilliant flashes and sparkles, but it travelled most of the time in darkness. Now, gentlemen, I am not prepared by my profession to believe everything I see and hear, but I saw that object and my horse saw it. It almost made both of us frantic. So there is no denying the fact of its existence. The question is, what is it? Man has conquered the ocean, but we are told that the devil is the prince of the air. Again, the scriptures say the devil shall be turned loose for a season. Who knows but what the scripture is being fulfilled right here before our very eyes. It is possible I admit, for man to get up a flying machine, but still, for all that I have seen, I feel curious as to what it was, and can't help it."

This description, which reads like a bad turn-of-the-century novel, gives some indication of the sociological factors which were at work throughout the wave. The appearance of "unknown aerial vehicles" had a profound effect upon the populace. The ramifications have not as yet been fully distinguished. The Wright Brothers were six years away.

One unfortunate factor which must be taken into consideration in these early reports is that journalists of the time were quite prepared to construct an entirely mythical account for publication. This trait was widespread, and considered as a literary exercise of sorts in those days. Many of these accounts are easily recognisable as blatant fakes. However, since seemingly authentic reports also sound quite fantastic to us today, a good deal of analysis will be required before accepting or rejecting a particular incident. Also there is ample evidence to support the belief that there were a considerable number of hoaxes perpetrated by practical jokers of the day, much in the same manner as adolescents and college students staged hoaxes during recent flaps in the United States.

There were a number of humorous accounts in the 1897 reports. For instance, on April 19, an object passed over Farmersville, Texas causing much local comment. One individual claimed to have detected three men on board the craft who were passing out temperance tracts and singing "Nearer My God to Thee"! (Human voices from the airship were

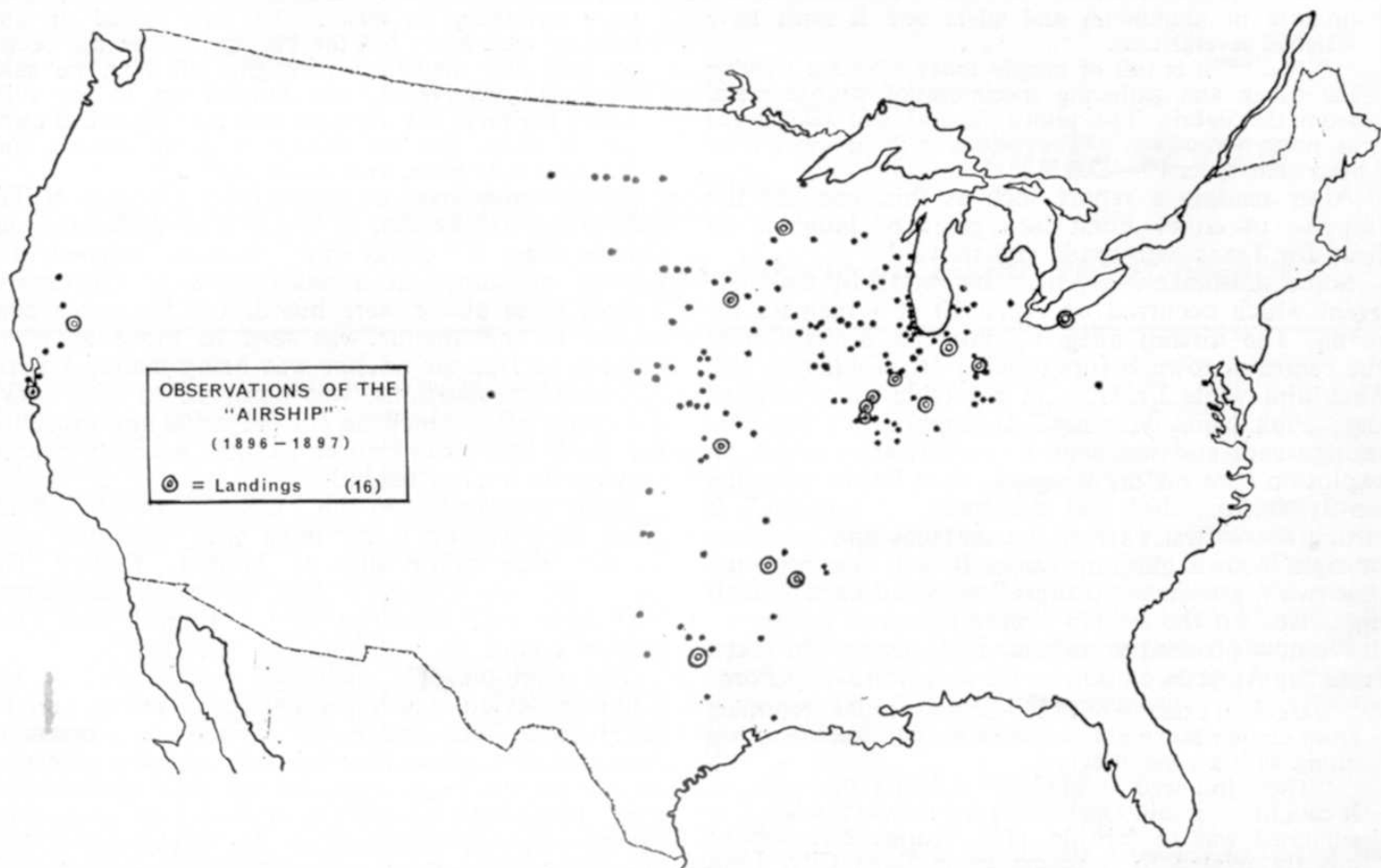


Fig. 1

Based on a sketch by J. Vallée and D. B. Harbo

supposedly heard at Galesburg, Michigan, on April 3, and also at Vermillion, South Dakota on April 17. Both accounts are mentioned by Clark.<sup>1)</sup> The following appeared in the *Chicago Chronicle* of April 13, 1897, under the headline AIRSHIP SEEN IN IOWA :

"Fontanelle, Iowa—April 12—The airship was seen here at 8.30 tonight, and was viewed by the whole population. It came from the south-east, and was not over 200 feet above the tree tops and moved very slowly, not to exceed ten miles an hour. The machine could be plainly seen, and is described as being sixty feet in length, and the vibration of the wings could be plainly seen. It carried the usual coloured lights, and the working of the machinery could be heard, as also could the **strains of music, as from an orchestra**. It was hailed, but passed on to the north, seeming to increase its speed, and disappeared. There is no doubt in Fontanelle that it was the real thing, and is testified to by the most prominent citizens among whom are: J. H. Hulbert, S. Shoemaker, J. I. McCampbell, ex-mayor Dr. D. B. Scott, Editor McClure and others. The weather was very cloudy, and it has been raining lightly all evening, so it could not possibly have been a star."

When reviewed collectively these curious incidents begin to lose some of their humour and assume a weird quality.

Taking into consideration the various negative and positive factors inherent in the 1897 reports, we cautiously present the following, taken from the April 19 edition of the *Dallas Morning News* :

"Aurora, Wise County, April 17—About 6 o'clock this morning the early risers of Aurora were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship which has been sailing throughout the country.

"It was travelling due north and much nearer the earth than before. Evidently some of the machinery was out of order, for it was making a speed of only 10 or 12 miles an hour and gradually settling toward the earth.

"It sailed directly over the public square, and when it reached the north part of town collided with the tower of Judge Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a terrific explosion, scattering debris over several acres of ground, wrecking the windmill and water tank, and destroying the judge's flower garden.

"The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one aboard, and while his remains are badly disfigured, enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world.

"Mr. J. T. Weems, the U.S. Signal Service Officer at this place and an authority on astronomy, gives it as his opinion that he (the pilot) was a native of the Planet Mars.

"Papers found on his person—evidently the records of his travels—are written in some unknown hieroglyphics and cannot be deciphered. (A distinct resemblance here to the "1864 Martian Hoax" discussed by Vallée in the revised Ace edition of *Anatomy* p. 174, and more recently the Brooksville "hoax" discussed by Charles Bowen, *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* July/August 1965 p. 6.—D.B.H.)

"This ship was badly wrecked to form any conclusion as to its construction or motive power. It was built of an unknown metal, resembling somewhat a



mixture of aluminium and silver and it must have weighed several tons.

"The town is full of people today who are viewing the wreck and gathering specimens of strange metal from the debris. The pilot's funeral will take place at noon tomorrow." (The pilot's epitaph must have been quite special!—D.B.H.)

After reading a report such as this, one has the impulse to either burst into gales of laughter or head for Texas with spade and shovel!

Some substance is given to this report by a similar event which occurred on April 10 at Winemac, Indiana. The airship allegedly hovered directly over the centre of town before moving off, displaying red, blue, and white lights, with a terrific lunge toward the "Pink Mink Marshes." It stopped directly over the marshes and was seen to quiver, after which an explosion tore off the wings. It then began to settle, slowly at first, then "at the speed of a bullet." It struck the softest part of the marshes and sank out of sight with a gurgling noise. It was also reported that two mysterious "tramps" who had been "stealing a ride on the airship" were killed.

We now proceed to another fantastic report, taken from the April 28 edition of the *Houston Daily Post*:

"Merkel, Texas, April 26—Some parties returning from church last night noticed a heavy object dragging along with a rope attached.

"They followed it until, in crossing the railroad, it caught on a rail. On looking up they saw what they supposed was the airship. (This feature seems to be directly related to a report from Sioux City, Iowa on March 29, 1897, in which a farmer, Robert Hibbard, was pulled several rods distance after being hooked by a grapnel which was attached to a drag rope dangling from the rear of 'an airship'. The grapnel finally ripped through his trousers depositing him in a cow lot.—Just fishing, I suppose.—D.B.H.)

"It was not near enough to get an idea of the dimensions. A light could be seen protruding from several windows; one bright light in front like the headlight of a locomotive.

"After some ten minutes, a man was seen descending the rope; he came near enough to be plainly seen; he wore a *light blue sailor suit and was small in size.* (My italics.—D.B.H.)

"He stopped when he discovered parties at the anchor, and *cut the rope* below him and sailed off in a north-east direction. The anchor is now on exhibition at the blacksmith shop of Elliot and Miller and is attracting the attention of hundreds of people."

This account sounds much too familiar to be taken lightly.

Drake<sup>3</sup> and Wilkins<sup>4</sup> relate rather garbled accounts of "cloud ships" whose "anchors" allegedly caught on some terrestrial snag in either Kent or Ireland (ca. AD 1211 or earlier) according to which account you prefer. The Irish account runs as follows:

"There happened in the borough of Cloera, one Sunday, while the people were at Mass, a marvel. In this town is a church dedicated to St. Kinarus. It befell that an anchor was dropped from the sky, with a rope attached to it, and one of the flukes caught in the arch above the church door. The people rushed out of the church and saw in the sky a ship with men on board, floating before the anchor cable, and they saw a man leap overboard and jump down to the anchor, as if to release it. He looked as if he

were swimming in water. The folk rushed up and tried to seize him; but the bishop forbade the people to hold the man, for it might kill him, he said. The man was freed, and hurried up to the ship, where the crew cut the rope and the ship sailed away out of sight. But the anchor is in the church, and has been ever since, as a testimony."

The Kentish account comes from Gervase of Tilbury's *Otis Imperialia*, in which it is related that an anchor from a "cloud ship" became fastened in a mound of stones in a churchyard at Gravesend. Voices from above were heard, and the cable connected to the anchor was seen to move as if an attempt to free the anchor was being made. A man, of human proportions, was observed to slide down the cable, after which he cut the cable and ascended (or died from suffocation as one account has it) leaving the anchor behind.

What connection do the "celestial sailor" of ancient Eire and/or Kent, have with the little man in the blue sailor suit of Merkel, Texas? The similarities are strange, in fact, downright suspicious. The dates and locations of the English and Irish stories could, and should, be clarified.

The mention of "anchors" remind one of the Gulliver device, developed by G. V. Levan and N. H. Horwitz. This device was designed as a means to secure and analyse Martian soil samples when an instrument package is landed on that planet's surface. Projectiles which are shot out to a distance of 25 feet, are attached to the device by strings coated with an adhesive material. The projectiles are

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then reeled back, and any material adhering to the string is analysed in the device.<sup>5</sup> One could speculate that the "anchors" of the cloud-and-air ships may have served a similar purpose.

Mr. Frank Masquelette of the *Houston Post* has done an admirable job in researching the 1897 reports from Texas. In following up the Merkel account Mr. Masquelette states:

"Recent enquiries among old-timers in Merkel have turned up no one who could remember anything about the incident, if indeed there was one.

"Several people, though, readily recognised the name of Elliot and Miller. The blacksmith shop occupied a building facing the railroad track. The building is now used by an International Harvester Company dealer as a warehouse.

Mrs. Elaine Brumbeau, editor of the *Merkel Mail* recently ran an item asking if anyone knew anything about the airship incident. There have been 'no replies.'"

And for the Aurora incident:

"Gene Carter publisher of the *Wise County Messenger*, learned that there was a Judge Proctor who

used to live in the Aurora area. But that is the only part of the story that anyone recognised.

"Two life-long residents of the Aurora area—Miss Mag Morris and Mrs. Lou Inman (88 and 93 respectively)—scoffed at the story."<sup>6</sup>

If the link with present day UFO sightings is as strong as it would seem, then, by comparison, the Phenomenon itself was in primitive state. This consideration has led those of us researching the period to believe that the "key" to the UFO Phenomenon may well be found among these reports. Oddly enough it may be that we are closer to "proving something" with the 1896-7 Airship Phenomenon than with the post 1945 UFO Phenomenon!

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> FLYING SAUCER REVIEW: January/ February 1965 and July/ August 1966.

<sup>2</sup> *Enigma of the Airship* by Donald B. Hanlon—to be published.

<sup>3</sup> *Spacemen in the Middle Ages* by W. R. Drake—FLYING SAUCER REVIEW May/June 1964.

<sup>4</sup> *Flying Saucers on the Attack* by H. T. Winkins, p. 160-3.

<sup>5</sup> *Sourcebook on the Space Sciences* by Samuel Glasstone, p. 721.

<sup>6</sup> *Claims made of UFO Evidence* by Frank Masquelette—*The Houston Post* June 13, 1966.

#### Advanced Life on the Planet Earth?

Although the Mariner IV space probe which took photographs of the surface of Mars was designed for geological and not biological reconnaissance, it has been suggested that the absence of signs of advanced life in the 22 photographs (whose resolution was a few kilometres) tends to confirm that such life does not exist. S. D. Kilston and his colleagues, at Harvard College and the Goddard Space Flight Centre have tried examining photographs of the Earth for signs of our own civilisation (*Icarus*, Vol. 5, No. 1, p. 79).

Although several hundred thousand suitable photographs of the Earth have been taken by the Tiros and Nimbus meteorological satellites, only three of the high resolution pictures showed signs which were indicative of an advanced civilisation on Earth: a recently completed inter-state highway could be seen on one; another photograph showed the condensation trail left by a jet aircraft; and a third showed a rectilinear grid pattern, subsequently found to be due to the activities of Canadian lumber men, which was thought by Kilston to be a clear indication of advanced life. A fourth photograph, however, contained what appeared to be the most convincing sign of advanced civilisation—a long straight breakwater on the Moroccan coast which in fact proved to be a natural peninsular.

\* \* \* \*

(Our thanks to Peter Haythornthwaite for drawing our attention to this item in the *New Scientist* of April 21, 1966.)



# A TEN POINT RESEARCH PROPOSAL

## An Open Letter to UFO Researchers

by Jacques Vallée

**E**XACTLY twenty years ago, in the Summer of 1946, the first massive series of observations was made, over Sweden, of what has become known as the UFO Phenomenon. For two decades we have witnessed its development, and our puzzlement has received no answer. Every attempt at interpretation has been caught between two extremes: the belief that the objects, unusual as they may seem in behaviour and in appearance, must be conventional in nature, and the belief that the phenomena are controlled by an intelligence from outer space. The first theory is said to be true *a priori* because it is unthinkable that extra-terrestrial civilisations could travel to our planet. The second, to be "evident" from the observations. Presented in such terms, both theories are extremely distasteful to the rational mind. The first one, because it fails to represent the observed facts; the second one, because it is only a hastily conceived and superficial answer designed to conceal our ignorance, and meets none of the criteria for a scientific theory.

It is time for us all to come to a clear realisation of the fact that **there is no substitute for science**. For twenty years, because official science has remained silent on the problem, or has chosen to ignore its potential impact on human progress, we have had to develop our own terminology, to design new methods, to establish a data-gathering network which covers the whole planet. Some of us have applied to the problem the techniques of the historian, of the archaeologist, of the philosopher, of the mathematician: not because this was their job, but simply because they felt "somebody had to do it". Today we can look critically at what has been produced: because we have worked without official support, we have been free of the censorship and of the pressures which are commonly exerted, in all countries, on scientific researchers. But we have never had at our disposal the full power of the scientific apparatus. Today, as our efforts are close to obtaining official recognition, we are still unable to present a coherent theory of UFO Phenomena. Our results are fragmentary and many potentially rich fields of research have remained unexplored.

I submit that this situation is typical of any

new field of science whose development is due to the work of enlightened amateurs. The word "amateur", here, should not be misinterpreted. The development of Aviation, of Radioastronomy, of Electromagnetism, of Rocket Technology, has been the work of amateurs. We should realise, however, that the efforts of these pioneers have come to be recognised as important contributions only because they have known **how to integrate their knowledge in the main stream of science at the proper time**. I believe UFO research, imperfect as it is, stands precisely at that same point; and that it is time for us to see that there is no such thing as "our science" as opposed to "science" in general. There is only thing known as science, and **it is the exclusive property of no chosen group of men**. Science belongs to everybody. What professional scientists say and write does not necessarily bear the stamp of Science. And what non-scientists like Edison, Tsiolkovski, Gramme or the Wright Brothers say and make, often does.

For far too long have most of the contributors to this publication looked at science as outsiders. Too long have they accused the scientists for their ignorance and their inertia in dealing with UFO phenomena. Those who have the data also bear the responsibility for studying them and presenting them. And we have data, dormant in our files, which are far better than those any observatory, or any Air Force, has ever had on the UFO phenomenon. Therefore it is our responsibility, and **that of no other group**, to undertake active research on these data, and we have no reason to await word of official approval. The Wright Brothers did not apply for a flying licence; Edison asked no special permission. They just did what they felt was right, and only they could do it.

In order to support my proposition that UFO Research has become nothing more and nothing less than an ordinary field of science, I have listed ten problems which can be expected to find complete solution by application of conventional scientific techniques (i.e., problems which do not require the development of new methods and do not pre-suppose new discoveries in other fields of knowledge). These ten points do not include the very difficult and intricate questions such as the analysis of the landing reports or the estimate of

possible correlations between UFO phenomena and the martian cycle : I have chosen only basic technical problems in the area of observation, data-gathering, classification and retrieval. The solution of these ten simple problems is essential for the future development of UFO research on a solid basis. And our past failures have largely come from insufficient preparation and *documentation* in these ten areas. I also want to emphasise that no theory of the UFO phenomena can be anything but a fancy of the imagination unless these ten basic problems are solved first.

**Problem 1.** Develop an information-retrieval system for UFO data. That is, some system which permits swift and accurate acquisition of the circumstances of any observation, and will serve as a basis for statistical studies of the reports.

**Problem 2.** Discuss and improve the existing codification/classification systems for speedy indexing of large quantities of sightings. Reduce all American observations (including the Air Force files) to an homogenous format, with the objective of producing within two years a catalogue of approximately three thousand sightings in machine-readable form.

**Problem 3.** Compile a serious, exhaustive bibliography of observations of unusual aerial phenomena published by professional scientists in the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

**Problem 4.** Reprint in *extenso* and *without comments* other than bibliographical information, and in *straight chronological order* all accounts of popular observations of UFOs prior to September, 1939, beginning of the Second World War.

**Problem 5.** Gather precise accounts of "foofighters" observed over Germany and the Pacific during the Second World War. The only efficient method to obtain these data is to contact War veterans, either through personal acquaintance or through their organisations, in all countries.

**Problem 6.** Translate and reprint in straight chronological order all available documents pertaining to the 1946 Scandinavian wave which is very poorly known.

**Problem 7.** Organise networks of amateur stations equipped with short-wave radio transmitters whenever possible, for swift recognition of trajectories of unusual objects. In addition, these networks could play an important scientific role in tracking meteors and satellites, if their crews were properly trained. It would be advisable to design, experiment and possibly mass-produce simple recorders of electro-magnetic disturbances which could be distributed and operated by these

networks, in order to ascertain the frequency of unusual variations in the electromagnetic field, which may have highly significant scientific value, in addition to a possible link with UFO phenomena.

**Problem 8.** Analyse critically the reporting procedures and the questionnaires in current use in various nations. Compile observation on the best ways of interviewing witnesses of unusual aerial phenomena, and train teams of field investigators in the use of these techniques.

**Problem 9.** Conduct a serious study of sociological patterns linked with the UFO phenomenon, in an effort to ascertain the real or imaginary character of a danger of "panic" in the event of massive UFO activity. Make an estimate of the role that could be played by organised, responsible UFO groups, and by government authorities in the event of such socially disruptive movements.

**Problem 10.** Reorganise UFO Research on a local scale in countries where it has remained dormant, or where it has collapsed because of conflicts of personalities. Prepare a world-wide list of responsible organisations and journals that have demonstrated sincere motivation and a serious, scholarly and non-sensational approach in its study of the observations.

I am not unaware of the fact that all of these problems, at one time or another, in one country or another, have been studied by careful researchers and that some of them have even received preliminary solutions. These ten problems have been selected *precisely* because some experience was already obtained on the best way of approach. None of them, however, have been completely solved, although 1 and 2 are close to completion. Some, like 3, 4 or 6, would require only careful bibliographical work for a period of a few months; they involve essentially the centralisation and ordering of existing documents.

Others demand well-organised teams of specialists with access to data-processing machines, e.g., 1, 2, 9. Some, such as Problem 8, require access to official files and inside knowledge of reporting procedures. Problem 9 can be solved only through official support and funds, and an effort to obtain such support is now being made. But all other problems require no such official approval, and they could have been solved long ago by groups of amateurs seriously dedicated to research. Problems Nos. 5, 7 and 10 require not only individual action, but serious and deep organising effort, and they clearly pose a challenge to the existing UFO groups. Through this challenge, we will be for the first time in a position to test the



real efficiency of these groups.

In conclusion, I believe that UFO researchers have too long been barred from an objective and fruitful appraisal of the facts, not by official secrecy or the inertia of professional scientists, but by their own narrow theories and their lack of realism. They have been plagued by uncritically accepted rumours of crashed saucers and of military machiavelism, and they have wasted most of their energy in imagination instead of constructive analytical work, as if hard and steady pursuit of the facts could be avoided by the mere exercise of intuition; as if proof was unnecessary, as long as the gleaming illusion of "evidence" was available in shiny packages. They seem to have

thought: "surely, if I dream hard enough, I can find the key to this problem without going through all the hard work." And too often they have taken the initiative to reduce and narrow their activity to a mere debate of believers versus non-believers: no wonder it has attracted little attention from the public, and has been ignored by the scientific community!

A phenomenon exists which is unexplained. It must be studied. There are ten problems which need solution before any theory of UFO phenomena can be reasonably presented. The key to the mystery of the nature and origin of UFOs is not within reach at the present time. The solutions to these ten problems are.

# GRAVITY - AND THE QUASARS

by C. Maxwell Gade

WHEN radio astronomy first got seriously under way in the early 1950s, it was widely believed that "radio stars" were some new sort of object, like stars, but giving off no visible light. Later, it became clear that most of the radio sources were situated at such immense distances from the Solar System that they could only be seen as the faintest wisps of light even when they were, in fact, the size of a whole galaxy. The big difficulty in those days was the poor angular resolution of the available radio telescopes, which made it almost impossible in many cases to identify a radio source with any visible object. As radio astronomy developed, refinements in technique for the accurate location of the direction of radio sources, and for identifying objects seen on optical photographs with the sources of radio emission, not only enabled astronomers to locate with certainty many radio sources in our own Milky Way Galaxy, but even sources in other galaxies—many millions of light-years distant. Still more important, the observations led to a number of remarkable discoveries, of which the "Quasars", or quasi-stellar objects, are by far the most outstanding.

In 1961-1962, very accurate measurements made at the Cambridge Radio Astronomy Centre, and also at Owens Valley in California, led to the discovery that three of the very distant radio sources were associated with objects that looked more like stars than galaxies. These quasi-stars exhibited intense ultraviolet radiation, and peculiar optical spectra that astrophysicists simply could not understand at all. Observations made by the

"lunar occultation" method—observing the eclipse of a radio source by the Moon—which gives extremely accurate measurements of direction, were made at Parkes (Australia) in November 1962. These measurements showed that the source known by the catalogue number 3C273 had two emitting regions, each smaller than 1 second of arc, and separated by about 20 seconds of arc. One of these regions coincided with a faint star, which also showed intense ultraviolet emission and an incomprehensible optical spectrum. Eventually, Dr. M. Schmidt, at Mount Palomar, showed that the spectrum could be recognised if one applied a red-shift corresponding to a distance of fifteen hundred million light-years. Still unexplained, was the fact that this "star" was at least 100 times too bright for even an entire galaxy at such a vast distance.

Up to August 1965, a total of 44 of these strange objects had been discovered, and they produced a revolution in astronomical thinking. The intensity of radiation from these sources is far too great to be accountable for in terms of thermonuclear energy, and no really satisfactory explanation is yet in sight.

At the Royal Institution, on April 29, 1966, Fred Hoyle gave an account of the Quasars and the effect which they have had upon our ideas of cosmology. He pointed out that there are four possible explanations of the extraordinary red shift:—

1. A true Doppler Shift, due to a genuine velocity of recession in a universe of Euclidian geometry.

2. A Cosmological Effect, due to an apparent velocity of recession in a universe of non-Euclidian geometry : i.e., partly a true Doppler effect, and partly an effect of space-curvature.
3. Gravitational Effects, a reddening of the emitted light due to loss of energy in overcoming the pull of enormous gravitational forces.
4. Hoyle's Favourite. The true answer could be, and Professor Hoyle considered it quite likely to be, some as yet unknown factors.

Regarding explanation No. 3, Professor Hoyle pointed out that it is quite clear that the Quasars, and the more recently discovered Quasi-Stellar Galaxies, involve gravitational forces of a previously unimagined order. All our knowledge of physics, built up painfully over hundreds of years on Earth, are the physics which hold good in **extremely feeble** gravitational fields. In the extra-terrestrial universe, where gravitational forces attain enormous values, the laws of physics could be quite different. Here, at last, from an astronomer of World fame, is the recognition of a possibility which lesser minds have puzzled over for many years : the possibility that gravity, as we know it on Earth, is only part of a more complex phenomenon.

It was probably Kurd Lasswitz who, in 1887, first proposed a substance "opaque to gravity". In his story, *Concerning two Planets*, the German professor created spherical Martian spaceships made of this wonderful material—an idea which was also used (in 1901) by H. G. Wells in his splendid story *The First Men on the Moon*. The anti-gravity screen, as suggested by Lasswitz and Wells, is, of course, an absurdity. Since the interposition of the anti-gravity substance between any object and the Earth would free the object from the Earth's gravitational pull, it would be equivalent to removing the object to an infinite distance ; it would therefore involve the same amount of work as would the removal of the object to an infinite distance, and the screen would offer no practical advantage. This does not, however, mean that it is impossible to discover some other way in which gravity can be overcome or employed for the purpose of spaceflight.

Seven or eight years ago, hopes were raised high when the serious American journal, *Interavia*, published an account of the discovery of an electrical method for the annulment of gravity, and described the performance of saucer-like flying models using "gravitational propulsion." It turned out, of course, to be a clever hoax.

There is, however, a great deal to be learnt

concerning gravity. Even as recently as May 1964, an American team of scientists, Professors R. H. Dicke and P. G. Roll of Princeton University and Professor J. Weber of Maryland University, said : "... gravitation still offers all the exploratory challenge of a field that's just beginning." These researchers are experimenting with ways to detect the presence and properties of gravitational waves. They have pointed out that a rapidly revolving binary system having two stars of the same mass as our Sun, might radiate as much as 2 million, million, million, million, megawatts of energy in the form of gravitational waves, and that it should be possible to detect such waves in the laboratory. They conclude, nevertheless, that these techniques are as yet "... nowhere nearly good enough even to consider gravity waves for communications ...". The following month, June 1964, Dr. J. V. Narlikar of King's College, Cambridge, put the gravitational problem this way : "... gravitation remains, to this day, one of the least understood phenomena in physics."

Professor Maurice Allais, Director of Research of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris, published, in 1959, a remarkable paper with the title : *Should the Laws of Gravitation be Re-considered ?* (Aero-Space Engineering, 18 : No. 9, 46-52 and 18 : No. 10, 51-55). The Professor had at that time been working on gravitational experiments for five years, and had just received an award from the American Gravity Research Foundation. Professor Allais claimed that "... an abnormal lunar and solar influence ... became apparent in the form of a remarkable disturbance of the motions of the paraconical pendulum (which gave the very definite impression of a screen effect) during the total solar eclipse of June 30, 1954." Summarising his results, the French scientist wrote : "In the present status of the discussion, the abnormalities can be accounted for only by considering the existence of a new field ...".

There are many other accounts of gravitational researches which, like the above, suggest that we may be missing some large vital factor in our attempted explanations. Taken in conjunction with the discovery of the Quasars—a whole new class of celestial objects exhibiting energy-exchanges of a hitherto unguessed-at order of magnitude—it is not unreasonable to hope that the next few years may see some fundamental changes in the existing limitations of physics. We have too long been hamstrung by the unimaginative mechanistic explanations of the Nineteenth century, and the problems set by the Quasars are going to require thinking of a broader and bolder kind. It is just



possible that physicists of a future generation will consider as "gullible", not those bold souls who have speculated about gravitational propulsion,

but the conformists who have timidly swallowed Newton's apple.

# CROSS-COUNTRY COG WHEELS

by Charles Bowen

WHEN my friend Jean Latappy wrote to me from Paris to tell me about the case of *La Roue Crantée* of Attignéville, he suggested that this unusual happening presented a possible explanation of a strange event which has puzzled many people for more than a century. While neither the historic event nor the more recent incident can with certainty be labelled as flying saucer stories, I have a strong hunch that the phenomena are connected somewhere along the line.

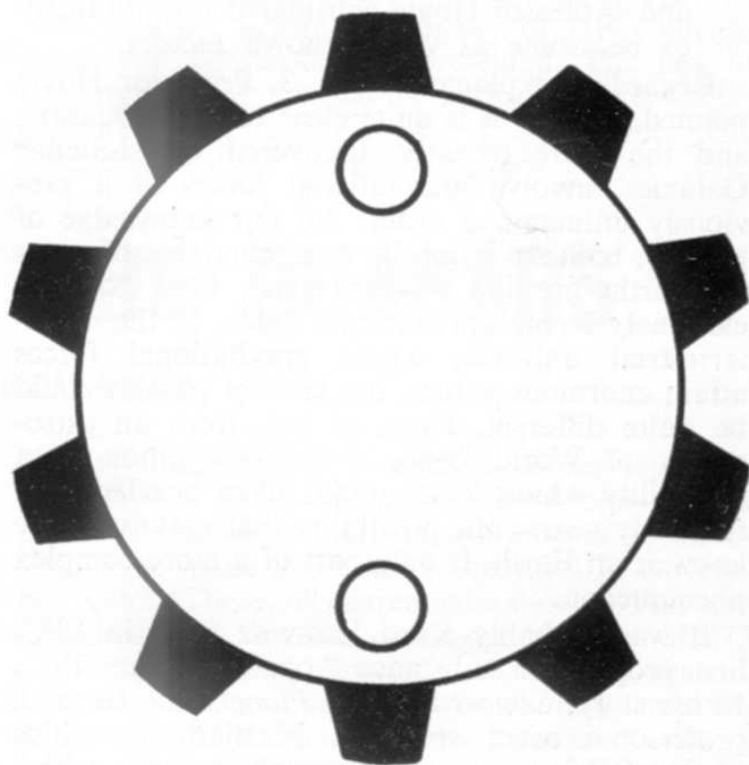
From the *France-Soir* of March 31, 1966, M. Latappy sent me a cutting which told of the strange happening in the Vosges on Saturday March 26. It ran...

"Here from another world, a sonde device designed to record the details of the relief of the Earth was possibly strolling around in the Vosges last week-end. This extraordinary hypothesis is offered by the investigators who led the job of explaining the presence of a mysterious "wheel" near the village of Tranqueville-Graux.

"The machine was seen by a shepherd, M. Jean Voilquin, aged 54, a serious, well-balanced man incapable of perpetrating a hoax, so say not only the gendarmes but also his employer, M. Mangeot.

"On Saturday at 13.30 hrs." said the shepherd, "I was watching the sheep at a place about two kilometres from the farm. Suddenly I saw a sort of vertical wheel coming towards me. It was 100 metres away when I first saw it. It approached rapidly at a speed of 25-30 km.p.h. When it passed level with where I was, it was fifteen metres from me. It measured about 80 cms. in thickness. Its circumference was red and had cogs. It followed the terrain perfectly: each time a cog touched the ground there was a slight sound. I tried to follow it, thinking it would stop. My two dogs set off after it, but its speed was absolutely constant and did not vary when it crossed a slight dip in the ground. It was about 600 metres from me when it disappeared."

"Last night the enquiries had still not been explored. The hypothesis of the 'sonde from another world' would perhaps explain the external cogged effect similar to a caterpillar tread and registering on a seismographic sheet all the changes in level



Artist's impression of the cogwheel

encountered, however tiny.<sup>1</sup> A similar sighting took place at Puy-Saint-Galmier (Puy de Dôme) on May 31, 1955."

M. Latappy points out that such objective reporting is not the usual style of *France-Soir* when dealing with such unusual phenomena, especially UFOs. In general, in such cases, the newspaper prefers a disdainful irony.

I had already discussed the implications of this incident with Gordon Creighton, when the June 1966 copy of *Phénomènes Spatiaux* came to hand.<sup>2</sup> As would be expected, the GEPA magazine contained an articles on the "wheel", and I am grateful to Mr. Creighton for saving me a lot of work by providing one of his 'instant translations'. From the report of the GEPA 'investigator we learn that in the Vosges, March 26 was a very windy day. Furthermore, as it approached M. Voilquin, the 'cog wheel' was seen to be "milky white in colour, not dazzling white", and it was rolling over a ploughed field. As it approached the sheep, the animals huddled in fear of it. It was "about the size of an 80 centimetre tyre, about 15-20 cms.

thick and it had a small bulge in its central part." We learn too that the cog teeth were vivid red, and that there were probably ten or twelve of them.

Once the object had passed him, M. Voilquin could see that it did not seem to be really running on the ground as a proper wheel would do, but was brushing the ground, or contouring it. Later when checking with his employer, the shepherd calculated that he had watched the wheel over a distance of at least 700 metres, and that in all that distance there was not the slightest wobble or deviation. It should be noted too that it was running towards the north, across the path of the gusty south westerly wind. Furthermore,—and this is important—along the whole of the object's course, the farmer and the shepherd were unable to find the slightest mark or indentation anywhere in the ground, which was wet and muddy. Neither were any marks found by a road and two ditches which the cog wheel must have crossed before entering the ploughed field, nor in the hedge at the end of the meadow beyond the field.

The object reported in the case at Puy-Saint-Galmier on May 31, 1955 was seen at 11 a.m. by a M. Collanges.<sup>3</sup> This gentleman was in a meadow when he saw a stationary disc, or wheel, some three metres distant from him poised at a height of about 30 cms. above the grass. This particular object was "very luminous white, but not dazzling" and its diameter was estimated at about 1 metre to 1 m. 20 cms. It was standing vertically like a wheel, and around its edge were a number of projections of varying length. The projections were white, or yellowish, or blue, and were in movement around the rim of the wheel. Those on the lower edge were touching the grass and causing it to flutter.

So much for the present day cases, and now, let us indulge in a little speculation. What if the ground at Tranqueville-Graux had been covered with snow on March 26? Is it conceivable that there might have been some marks left by the vivid red cog teeth? This is what Jean Latappy had in mind when he asked in his letter if this could be an explanation of the case of the "Beast of Devonshire".

On the morning of February 8, 1855, a large portion of the population of Devonshire were amazed when they awoke to find an incredible line of marks running for forty miles across the snow-clad countryside. This famous case which has never been explained, has come to be known as the "Devil's Footprints",<sup>4</sup> for the marks were shaped precisely like the hoof-prints of a small "one-legged donkey". There was an interval of precisely eight inches between the marks and they

were about two inches wide, and ran over hill and dale, across fields and gardens, across roofs and walls all the way from Teignmouth via Dawlish, Lymphstone and Exmouth to Topsham.

What a scratching of heads there was, and what theorising. Perhaps the strangest theory of all was reported in *The Times* of February 16, 1855, and from this we learn that a Devonshire parson, the Reverend Musgrave, dealt with the incident in a sermon. The worthy cleric delivered his considered opinion that the cause of the marks was probable a kangaroo! A kangaroo must have been rare enough in the England of 1855, but if there could have been a measure of truth in the parson's theory then this remarkable animal made its pilgrimage on only one hoof, and with prissy little hops of precisely eight inches. But wait, I forgot the one big hop, because the 'footprints' ran down to the bank of the estuary of the River Exe, and continued in exactly the same way on the other side—two miles away.

We make no staggering claims, but desire only to present a juxtaposition of interesting facts. As stated, the intervals between the footmarks of the one-legged mystery animal of 1855 are on record as being uniformly eight inches, and as Gordon Creighton points out, that equals 20 cms—as near as makes no odds—which was the shepherd's estimate of the space between the cog teeth of the wheel of Attignéville on March 26, 1966.

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> For cases where flying saucers have seemed to be mapping the Earth, see pp. 7-9 of *The Great Flying Saucer Hoax* by Coral Lorenzen. (Obtainable from APRO, 3910 E. Kleindale Rd., Tucson, Arizona 85716, U.S.A.)

<sup>2</sup> For: *Phénomènes Spatiaux*, with the full account by Robert Roussel, apply M. René Fouéré, 69 Rue de la Tombe Issoire, Paris 14e, France.

<sup>3</sup> Michel Carrouges: *Les Apparitions de Martiens* (Paris, 1963) p. 242.

<sup>4</sup> *The Books of Charles Fort*, pp. 305-310. (Henry Holt and Co., New York.)

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### OTHER WORLDS THAN OURS

by C. Maxwell Cade

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# MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

## Superconductivity and high purity metals

Sir,—I found Mr. Luis Schön-herr's article on Superconductivity and the UFO in the March/April 1966 issue very interesting.

I wonder if Mr. Schön-herr or any other readers have thought of another connection with superconductivity and the UFO, namely that of high purity metals. There have been several occurrences of pure and high purity metals in connection with UFO residue and/or accident.

Experiments in the "Josephson Effect", high magnetic build-ups, stress-corrosion factors, indicate that metals with a low impurity count and a structure relatively free of imperfections, are amply good for experiments in superconductivity and magnetic flux build-up. Many metallic elements are now being looked into, as well as semi-conductors.

There is also the stress-corrosion factor of those high purity metals which present much lower failure and breakdown in aircraft and missile structure. Something that we are just beginning to look into today—as well as we were first beginning to look into the question of the microscopic origin and nature of superconductivity, high purity metals, as late as 1957 in the studies of John Bardeen, Cooper, and Schrieffer of the University of Illinois.

1957 incidentally was the year of the finding of high purity magnesium fragments over the Sao Paulo, Ubatuba Beach, Brazil, South America, after the explosion of a disc-like UFO.

Anyone wishing to exchange data on this subject please contact me at given address. Thank you.—Steve Erdmann, 6418 Idaho Ave., Saint Louis, Missouri 63111, U.S.A.

## Radio Signals from UFO

Sir,—I am making a study of those sighting reports of unidentified flying objects that contain references to Radio emissions accompanying the object reported. I realise that there are very many reports of radio blackouts of various types, but very

few of these contain any reference to the frequencies of wavelengths that were effected. So far I have gathered three reports that refer to actual signals being picked up from possible UFO, but none of them give details of the important facts, i.e. frequency or wavelength, and the type of signal received.

I would be most grateful if any of your readers can assist me in this study by sending me details of any reports that they might have of this type of phenomenon. Further information on the three sightings already on record and referred to below would be particularly welcome.

—S. L. Smith, B.A., Hill House, Melton Road, Edwalton, Nottingham.

## The three reports :

- (1) During the period August 1952 to February, 1953 a Mr. Lyman Streeter, a radio operator for the Santa Fe Railroad, claims to have received messages from space. Unfortunately no further details known as yet.
- (2) On November 6, 1957, at 9 p.m. near Lake Baskatong, 100 miles North of Ottawa, Mr. J. Jacobsen and three witnesses observed a UFO and a simultaneous radio blackout on all frequencies but one. On this unnamed frequency one of the witnesses, a radio engineer, picked up a very strong, rapidly modulated signal, not very unlike Morse code. The report is referred to in *Anatomy of a Phenomenon* by J. Vallee (p.136) as being from the United States version of A. Michel's second book, in Mebane's addition.
- (3) On February 6, 1966, at 8 p.m. the radio receivers at Barajas Airport recorded unusual static on several particular frequencies registered at the control centre. Reference to case in *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, Vol. 12, No. 3, p.31.

## Beware over-enthusiasm

Sir,—I would refer to the article by Signor Roberto Pinotti published in your May/June issue.

One would hardly expect the pro-

geny of the "Watchers" (200 fallen angels) and the "Daughters of men" (Gen. VI. 4.) to have been good. The progeny may have ruled the earth, but this is a rather pointless remark when the next verse (Gen. VI. 5.) tells us that "God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth." So He sends the Deluge. This should be a warning that dealings with *spacemen* far from 'saving' us may land us into worse trouble.

The same article quotes "Josephus contra Apion, lib. 1, p.932.", where we are told that according to Josephus, Manetho says that "Horus was admitted to the sight of the Gods." I have been through Book 1 and there are not 932 pages, or even 932 verses in it! The Greek is divided into 320 verses, after the manner of the Bible. If one assumes that the 'nine' in 932 is a misprint, then there is a verse 232 which may seem connected with Horus. It is the only one I could find. It says : "Thus after admitting that all those years had elapsed since our forefathers left Egypt, he now interpolates this fictitious Amenophis.

This king, he states, wishing to be granted, like Or<sup>1</sup>... a vision of the gods...

Josephus has this to say (v. 105) "His (Manetho's) additional statements, which he derived not from the Egyptian records, but as he admits himself, from fables of unknown authorship, I shall refute in detail later on and show the improbability of these lying stories."

The reference to the *flying wheels*, Ezekiel 1 : 16, is misleading, for they are associated with angels, each having four faces and four wings. Their wings were joined one to another and each angel had the faces of a lion, an ox, an eagle and of a man. (It reminds me of Pnom Penh.) Now some queer *space-beings* have been reported, but none so extraordinary as these. Why should they need wings? It must be said however that Ezekiel specifically calls what he saw a vision.

Now examine the photo of the ancient statue of Horus at Edfu. It is claimed that the man in front was not a king because he has no serpent upon his brow. That a king is not

always shown wearing the *uraeus* (serpent) is proved by the photographic frontispiece to "The Mountains of Pharaoh"<sup>3</sup> which shows the statue of Chephren without the *uraeus*. From the picture we note that the statue is in an excellent state of preservation and that nothing has been knocked off. On the picture in the article, however, there is a slight shadow on the forehead of the man, this might be caused by what is left of a broken-off *uraeus*, which is quite likely to have happened since the breast of the bird seems to have suffered damage at some time. There are examples of this elsewhere, see the head of the king where Amun is placing his hand on his head-dress: "Tutankhamen" p. 175.

Again the photo is not clear enough to suggest that the head-gear is helmet-like except in so far as it is a high-hat. The number of head-dresses worn by the kings of Egypt are many and various: see PLATE XLII<sup>2</sup> *Head of a dummy of young Tutankhamen wearing a compromise between the crown of the kings of Lower Egypt and the head-dress of Nefertiti*. See also, Illustrations 58 and 121<sup>2</sup>, also "Ancient Times" figs. 52 and 53<sup>4</sup> for different ones again.

Finally we are told that "the man" is "seemingly coming out of a door"—I like the use of that word 'Seemingly'!—It appears to have been an old Egyptian custom to show gods protecting their 'sons' (kings) e.g. Tutankhamen standing before the knees of Amen: see Illus.4.<sup>2</sup> If one studies the photo under discussion it is reasonable to conclude that the frame of the 'door' is in reality the outline of the belly and legs of the bird. Hence that Horus stands to the man, as Amen to Tutankhamen in the other picture. The notion then that we have here some representation of a car celestial must therefore be rejected.

Space does not allow me to write anything on the beginning or end of the article. Perhaps an opportunity may occur at a later date. However one gross inconsistency may be pointed out. I quote: "Boat of Nu(n) (the boundless dark void in which everything was created. . .)" is in the next paragraph, equated with the "huge interplanetary spacecraft carrier orbiting round the earth." Could contradiction go further?

All this is "Enthusiasm", not research. The conclusion that seems to emerge is that data on UFO

should be shared out among persons who are expert each in one sphere. If experts are not available, then each researcher should cultivate a branch of knowledge, such as Egyptology, North, Central or South America, botany, biology, and scientific subject, electricity, electronics, astro-physics and so on.

S. A. Paris, Brooklands, Upholland, Lanes.

#### NOTES

- 1 Orus, 9th king of XVIII Dynasty, probably confused with the god Horus.
- 2 Tutankhamen. by C. Desroches Noble Court.
- 3 Mountains of Pharaoh, by L. Cottevill. Robert Hale Ltd.
- 4 Ancient Times by J. H. Breasted. Ginn and Co.

#### That Marsh Gas

Sir,—Dr. J. Allen Hynek's statement on the Dexter and Hillsdale sightings leave me somewhat bewildered. Undoubtedly the Marsh Gas phenomenon does happen, but to happen at the same time and to such a degree with so many sightings in the same area seems *too* coincidental.

He goes on to give us a very impressive account on the decomposition of vegetable matter into various gases to understand which people like myself would need to take a course in chemistry.

The facts that stick in my mind are that he claims that no one was within 500 yards of the sighting he was concerned with, and the only sound was that of the marsh gas popping. Well at a distance of 500 yards all I can say is: "Some gas, Some pop. . ."

—P. Cope, 115 Braybrooke Road, Desborough, Northants.

#### A Plea for human-type 'visitors' and contactees

Sir,—I would like to point out to Mr. Jerome Clark [see MAIL BAG, May/June 1966] that, according to a statement made by Radio Moscow on August 31, 1963 Soviet scientists believe that Venus may be populated by human beings. The full text of this statement, as reported in *Le Soir* September 1, 1963, under the headline **Venus could be peopled by human beings similar to earthlings**, is: "This discovery may modify the space programme of 'The Big Two.'"

"Radio Moscow has announced that the planet Venus has an atmosphere containing oxygen and that it will, therefore, be susceptible to being peopled by beings similar to earthlings. Soviet scientists, declares Radio Moscow, have established, by

analysing the spectrum of light obtained as a result of observations made of the Venusian atmosphere, that oxygen is present in this atmosphere. The scientists have estimated, continued the radio, that because of this fact the atmospheric conditions of Venus are closely similar to those that exist around the earth.

It is estimated here that this discovery may have an important repercussion on the cosmic research programme of the United States and the Soviet Union, in urging the two space powers to renounce their projects of implantation upon the dead or supposedly dead planets, such as the Moon and Mars, and to intensify their efforts to pierce the secret of a 'inhabitable' planet."

Mr. Clark may as yet be blinded by the outdated ideas of some of our unscientific scientists, but I would suggest that he check up on some of the facts before assuming that all astronomers hold the same opinions as he. The noted Soviet astronomer, Nikolai Kozyrev, long ago stated that Soviet studies have indicated that both Venus and Mars have atmospheres similar to earth's both in composition and density. Kozyrev's report appeared in this REVIEW back in July/August, 1962, and in other publications. Another Russian astronomer, F. Zigel, wrote a long and detailed article *There is Intelligent Life on Mars* in September 1961 ("Space World") and it is well known that most Soviet scientists now consider the Martian satellites to be artificial. Recently we find that Dr. William Pickering and Professor Clyde Tombaugh have admitted that the Martian 'canals' do appear in several of the Mariner IV photographs and that they conform exactly to the 'canals' as mapped telescopically by Tombaugh and others.

So where is the sound basis for Mr. Clark's idea that astronomers scoff at the suggestion of a populated solar system? Professor H. Bruck, the Astronomer Royal for Scotland, doesn't think it is nonsense. He said, in a B.B.C. interview on April 28, 1964, that the planets in our system are likely to have humans similar to ourselves, whom we shall meet very soon. He even added that it was very likely they are visiting us now.

Not all the earth's scientists are as backward as Mr. Clark would like to believe. I might also add that scientists do not share Mr. Clark's certainty that our solar system has only nine planets. I have a press report from last month



which states that Soviet astronomers have calculated that the solar system could be 5,000 times as large in diameter as is at present known, and that there might be a whole string of planets out beyond Pluto, or there might be just dust particles. In other words, the question is wide open, and no reputable astronomer would emphatically claim that there are no more planets beyond Pluto. He just wouldn't know.

I am sorry to read that Mr. Clark considers the philosophy of Adamski's space contacts as "something a not overly-bright junior high-school student might suggest" but it is a fact that this philosophy is too profoundly simple, too basic in its recognition of Cosmic law and principles which govern the universe to be understood by minds conditioned to the false concepts and impractical beliefs of this present era of earthly civilisation. How extra-ordinary it is for Mr. Clark to contend that people who live by such a philosophy could not have developed interplanetary travel! By what strange reasoning does he arrive at this idea? I put it to Mr. Clark that those who have developed a real understanding of natural law and its operation and thereby live in true peace and harmony with themselves *can* devote their time to pursuing wider horizons—in contrast to the earth-bound slave whose spirit is weighed down by the struggle for survival and subsistence in a bloodthirsty society whose values are basically materialistic and immoral. How many earth men can even imagine what it is like to live in a world where people are free and have no fear?

I grant Mr. Clark that not *all* interplanetary craft come from within our system, and I do not believe that *all* inhabited planets are advanced beyond ours in development. But there is no valid reason to doubt the evidence of men like Adamski, Allingham, Salvador Villanueva de Medina, Professor Joao de Freitas Guimaraes, and a number of other lesser-known but reliable persons who have been contacted by some of the visitors from our neighbouring planets.

If we started taking a little more notice of what they have told us we would soon find ourselves much farther advanced in space travel, and better able to learn at first hand what a wiser race can teach us. But earthman is notorious for his inability to see the wood for the trees, and his propensity for throwing the baby out with the bathwater,

if I may be forgiven for resorting to some well-worn but valid aphorisms.

Mr. Clark has the idea that the *ufonauts* as he calls them, are lying to those they contact in order to 'cover up' their real purpose. I can see his reasons for thinking this way, but I believe it is unjustified by the facts of the matter. Evidence shows that we are being visited by *at least two different categories* of interplanetary beings. Those, presumably from another system, or systems, who are obviously exploring what is to them a new and strange world, taking samples and beating a hasty retreat when approached, seem to have little interest in making friends with any of us. On the other hand, we have more than enough evidence of the people, so like ourselves in appearance, who have made so many deliberate physical contacts with various individuals throughout the world, with whom they have talked at length, expressing a real concern for what we are doing and showing tremendous interest in us.

These people say they come from our neighbouring planets—why on earth should we refuse to believe them? What reason could they have for deceiving us? We *have* to accept that their technology is superior to ours when we watch the performance of their craft—why then should we doubt the validity of their 'philosophy' which has made it possible for them to be so far ahead?

For some peculiar reason, the 'philosophy' upheld by these space visitors is automatically looked upon with suspicion by many people, even UFO researchers, because it is identical with the philosophy expounded by all the great teachers throughout our earth's history. How in Heaven's name, could it be otherwise? The Law is the Law, unchanging and unchangeable, and the same rules must apply throughout all creation. What seems to hurt each man most is the fact that these space visitors present him with a living example of what is achieved when man co-operates with nature's laws and actually *lives* what we only talk about. So rather than recognise that they have succeeded where we have failed, we shut our eyes tight and call them liars. What really amazes me is the fact that they keep on coming, despite our pig-headedness. —Brenda M. Hinfelaar, New Zealand Scientific Space Research, Henderson, N.Z.

## To and fro object

Sir,—On Saturday, May 28, while looking out of the window of our flat (I live on the 6th floor) I observed a bright orange star-like object moving towards the North. At first I thought it to be a satellite, until it suddenly stopped and slowly faded from view. Three minutes later it re-appeared, this time moving south back along its previous course.

To cut a long story short, the object moved backwards and forwards over the Hampstead, Golders Green and Hendon areas for no less than 50 minutes (11.55 p.m. Saturday to 12.45 a.m. Sunday). Every four or five minutes it would disappear from view, only to re-appear going in the opposite direction. I finally saw the object heading north and watched it until it disappeared into the distance.—C. Bodimead, 40 Prospect Ring, East Finchley, London N.2.

## Points on Valensole

Sir,—It seems that the true facts of the Valensole landing are still veiled behind a curtain of contradictions on the part of the witness, M. Masse. Moreover, the questionnaire of Luis Schönherr, and the subsequent replies from Monsieur G. C. and Aimé Michel don't seem to have clarified matters much.

Apart from the variable routes which M. Masse seems to have taken to reach a point from which to observe the vehicle, and the equally variable distance from which his observations were made, there comes to light yet another contradiction in the statements of M. G. C. and Aimé Michel, concerning the 'weapon' with which the witness was 'paralysed'.

According to M. Masse, in his statement to Aimé Michel, the being took the weapon from its **right-hand** side; according to M. Masse, in statement to M.G.C., it was **definitely** a case on the being's **left-hand** side to which the weapon was returned. (As the two cases strapped to either side of this, and the other, being, were of different sizes, I naturally assume that the weapon was returned to the same case from which it was drawn).

The report in the *Dauphine Libéré*, in which M. Masse is said to have seen one being inside the vehicle, and one standing outside, is, as Luis Schönherr points out, a direct contradiction to the later statement of the witness that he observed two beings, both standing **outside** the

vehicle. Mons, G. C. explains that, as M. Masse had admitted concealing the whole truth in his first statement for fear he should be branded a madman, he also twisted the facts for the same reason. It is surely ridiculous, however, for us to believe that M. Masse was afraid to admit that he saw *two* beings outside the vehicle, for fear of his sanity be questioned, but be quite happy to tell of *one* being inside the vehicle and *one* outside, this statement it seems, being quite acceptable!

It is of course, quite probable that the real explanation for the conflicting statements was nothing more than mis-quotation on the part of the *Dauphine Libéré*.

The reason for my being prompted to mention these various contradictions is that I feel that they must not be passed over too lightly when considering the Valensole Affair. I am not being sceptical . . . merely

objective. It is important to remember that these conflicting statements come from **one** witness, not several. Perhaps a better picture of the whole affair could be put together if M. Masse were approached again and we started from scratch.

—Noel Ford, 14 Clement St.  
Nuneaton.

### The January 1965 Flap

Sir,—Several comments are in order concerning D. B. Hanlon's article *Virginia 1965 Flap* in the March/April 1966 *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*.

Mr. Hanlon lists a number of sightings (14/12/64, Needham, Massachusetts; 20/1/65 Long Beach, Mississippi; 25/1/65 Bedford, Virginia; etc.) with "personal communication" as the only documentation given. In these cases additional information would facilitate a meaningful independent analysis. The Needham case would be especially interesting when one considers the

great number of UFO reports in Massachusetts traced to NASA test aircraft and advertising airplanes.

Any discussion of the Virginia flap should also include the official explanations put forth to explain specific sightings. For example, the Patuxent Naval Air Station radar report of two objects (not three as Hanlon states) was "explained" as false radar returns by the Air Force. In addition Major H. Quintanilla in the April 1, 1966, issue of *Life* magazine and before the House Committee on Armed Services denied any unexplained radar UFO cases existed.

The January 4, 1965, Bethel, Vermont sighting by Dr. Woodruff and others was evaluated by the USAF as meteors from the Quadrantids meteor shower. Mr. R. E. Fowler, chairman of the Massachusetts NICAP Sub-committee, who investigated the sighting ob-

(Continued on page 4 of cover)

### DUE SHORTLY . . .

a new book by engineer Leonard G. Cramp (author of *Space, Gravity and the Flying Saucer*). A study of saucer landing reports, and experiments with a centrifuge leads to remarkable conclusions. **PIECES FOR A JIGSAW** will be published soon by Somerton Publishing Co., Ltd., Newport Road, Somerton, West Cowes, Isle of Wight.

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# EVEN MORE AMAZING . . . Part 2

## The A.V.B. Case continued

We here present the second instalment of the statement by Antônio Villas Boas (the "Adhemar" of the *The most Amazing Case of All* in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW Jan./Feb. 1965) given to **Dr. Olavo Fontes** and **Sr. Joao Martins** at Rio de Janeiro on February 22, 1958.

Translated from the Portuguese, and presented by **Gordon Creighton**

MY pursuer was a short individual (reaching to my shoulder) and dressed in strange clothing. In my desperation I swung round sharply and gave him a hefty push which threw him off balance. This forced him to let go of me and he fell on his back to the ground about two metres away from me. I tried to use the advantage gained to continue my flight, but I was promptly attacked simultaneously by three other individuals from the sides and the rear. They grabbed me by the arms and legs and lifted me off the ground, thus robbing me of any possibility of defence. I could only struggle and twist, but their grip on me was firm and they did not let go. I started to yell loudly for help, and to curse them, demanding to be released. I noticed that as they were dragging me towards the machine my speech seemed to arouse their surprise or curiosity, for they stopped and peered attentively at my face every time I spoke, though without loosening their firm grip on me. This relieved me a little as to their intentions, but I still did not stop struggling.

In this manner they carried me towards their machine, which was standing at a height of about two metres above the ground, on the three metal supports which I have already mentioned. There was an open door in the rear half of the craft. This door opened out from top to bottom, forming as it were a bridge, at the end of which a metal ladder was fixed, made of the same silvery metal that was on the walls of the machine. This ladder was unrolled to the ground. I was hoisted up on to it, a job that was not easy for them. The ladder was narrow, hardly giving enough room for two persons side by side. Furthermore, it was moveable and flexible, swinging from side to side with my efforts to free myself. There was also a round metal rail on each side of the ladder, of perhaps the thickness of a broomstick, for aid in mounting. I grabbed on to it several times, trying to stop them from hauling me up, and this made them keep stopping in order to unclasp my hands. This rail was flexible too (I had the impression later, when coming down the ladder, that the rail was not of one piece but made of small pieces of metal linked together).

Once inside the machine, I saw that we had entered a small square room. Its polished metal walls glittered with the reflections of the fluorescent light coming from the metal ceiling and given off by lots of small square lamps set in the metal of the ceiling and running all round the edge of it, near the

tops of the walls. I could not count how many of these lamps there were, for they now lowered my feet to the floor, and the outer door came up and closed, with the ladder rolled up and fastened to it. The lighting was so good that it seemed like daylight. But, even in that fluorescent white light, it was impossible to make out any longer where the outer door had been, for in closing, it seemed to have turned into part of the wall. I could only tell where it had been because of the metal ladder attached to the wall. I was unable to observe further details because one of the men—they were five in all—signed to me with his hand to go towards another room that could be glimpsed through an open door on the side opposite to the outer entrance. I do not know whether this second door was already open when I entered the craft, for I had not looked in that direction till then. I decided to obey him, for the men were still holding me tightly and I was now shut in there with them and had no other choice.

We left the little room, in which I saw no furniture or instruments, and entered a much larger one, semi-oval in shape, and in the same manner as the other compartment and with the same silvery polished metal walls. I believe that this room was in the centre of the machine for, in the middle of the room, there was a metal column running from ceiling to floor, wide at the top and bottom and quite a bit narrower in the middle. It was round and seemed solid. I do not believe it was there only for decoration; it must have served to support the weight of the ceiling. The only furniture that I could see was a strangely shaped table that stood on one side of the room, surrounded by several backless swivel-chairs (like the round stools used in bars). They were all made of the same white metal. The table and also the stools all tapered off, down below, into one single leg which—in the case of the table—was fixed to the floor, or linked to a moveable ring held fast by three supports that stuck out on each side and were set into the floor (this latter was the case with the stools, permitting those who sat on them to turn in any direction).

For what seemed an interminable period I remained standing in that room, still gripped by the arms (by two men), while those strange people watched me and talked about me. I say "talked" only as a way of putting it, for in truth what I was hearing bore no resemblance whatever to human speech. It

was a series of barks, slightly resembling the sounds made by a dog. This resemblance was very slight, but it is the only one I can give in an attempt to describe those sounds which were so totally different from anything that I have ever heard till now. They were slow barks and yelps, neither very clear nor very hoarse, some longer, some shorter, at times containing several different sounds all at once, and at other times ending in a quaver. But they were simply sounds, animal barks, and nothing could be distinguished that could be taken as the sound of a syllable or a word in a foreign language. Not a thing! To me it all sounded alike, so that I am unable to retain a word of it. I can't explain how it is that those folk could understand each other in that way. I still shudder when I think of those sounds. I can't reproduce them for you gentlemen to hear . . . my voice just isn't made for that.

When the barking stopped, it seemed that they had settled everything, for they grabbed me again—the five of them—and started forcibly undressing me. Again we struggled. I resisting and trying to make it as hard as possible for them. I protested and yelled and swore. They obviously could not understand me, but stopped and looked at me as though trying to make me understand that they were polite people. Besides, although using force, they never at any moment hurt me badly, and they did not even tear my clothes—except perhaps my shirt (which was already torn before, so that I cannot be certain on that point).

Finally they had me totally naked, and I was again worried to death, not knowing what would happen next. Then one of the men approached me with something in his hand. It seemed to be a sort of wet sponge, and with it he began to spread a liquid all over my skin. It could not have been one of those rubber sponges, for it was far softer. The liquid was as clear as water, but quite thick, and without smell. I thought it was some sort of oil, but was wrong, for my skin did not become greasy or oily. They spread this liquid all over my body. I was cold, for the night temperature (outside) was already cold, and it was markedly colder still inside those two rooms in the machine. When they undressed me I began to shiver, and now there was this liquid to make matters worse. But it seems that it dried quickly, and in the end I did not feel much difference.

I was then led by three of the men towards a closed door that was on the side opposite to where we had come in. Making signs with their hands that I should accompany them, and barking to each other from time to time, they moved in that direction with me in the middle. The man in front pushed something in the middle of the door (I couldn't see what it was, maybe a handle or a button which made it open inwards, in two halves, like a bar-room door). When closed, this door ran from the ceiling to the floor, and, on the top part of it, it bore a sort of luminous inscription—or something similar—traced out in red symbols which, owing to an effect of the light, seemed to stand out about two inches in front of the metal of the door. This

inscription was the only thing of its kind that I saw in the machine. The signs were scrawls completely different from what we know as lettering. I tried to memorise their shapes, and that was what I sketched down in the letter that I sent to Senhor Joao Martins. At the present time I no longer remember how they looked.

But, returning to the events, the door in question led into a smaller room, squarish, and lit in the same way as the others. After we had entered (I and two of the men) the door closed again behind us. I glanced back then, and saw something that I don't know how to explain. There was no door at all there any more. All that could be seen was a wall like the other walls. I do not know how that was done. Unless, when the door closed, some sort of screen came down that hid it from view. I could not understand it. What is certain is that shortly afterwards the wall opened, and it was a door again; I saw no screen.

This time two more men came in, carrying in their hands two pretty thick red rubber tubes each over a metre long. I cannot say whether there was anything inside them, but I do know that they were hollow. One of these tubes was fixed at one of its end to a chalice-shaped glass flask. The other end of the tube had a nozzle, shaped like a cupping-glass which was applied to the skin of my chin, here, where you can see this dark mark which has remained as a scar. Before that, however, the man who was doing the job squeezed the tube with his hands, as though driving the air out of it. I felt no pain or pricking at the time—merely the sensation that my skin was being sucked in or drawn in. But later the spot began to burn and itch (and subsequently I discovered that the skin had been torn and grazed). The rubber tube having been applied to me, I saw my blood slowly entering the chalice, till it was half full. Then the thing was stopped and the tube withdrawn, and replaced by the other tube which was in reserve. Then I was bled once again on the chin, from this other side, here where you gentlemen can see this other dark mark like the first one. This time the chalice was filled to the brim and then the cupping-glass was withdrawn. The skin was grazed at this place too, burning and itching just as on the other side. Then the men went out, the door closed behind them, and I was left alone.

I was left there for a long time, perhaps over half an hour. The room was empty, except only for a large couch in the middle of it—a sort of bed maybe, but without head-board or rim, and a bit uncomfortable for lying on, being very high in the middle, where there was quite a hump. But it was soft, as though made of foam rubber, and was covered with a thick grey material, also soft.

I sat down on it, as I was tired after such a struggle and so much emotion. It was then that I noticed a strange smell and began to feel sick. It was as though I was breathing a thick smoke that was suffocating me, and it gave the effect of painted cloth burning. Perhaps that is what it really was, for, examining the walls, I now noticed for the first time the existence of a number of small metallic



tubes sticking out on a level with my head, with closed ends but pricked full of holes (as in a shower-bath), from which was coming a grey smoke that dissolved in the air. This smoke was the cause of the smell. I cannot say whether the smoke was already coming out when the men were taking the blood from me in the other room, as I had not noticed it before. Perhaps, with the door being opened and closed, the air had been circulating better in there and so gave me no reason to notice anything. But now, at any rate, I did not feel well and the nausea increased so much that I ended up by vomiting. When the desire to do so came upon me, I ran over to a corner of the room, where I was violently sick and brought up everything. After that, the difficulty in breathing left me, but I was still rather nauseated from the smell of that smoke. After that I was very dispirited, waiting there for something to happen.

I must explain that, up to this time I still had not the slightest idea of the physical appearance or the features of those strange men. All five were dressed in very tight-fitting overalls made of a thick but soft cloth, grey in colour, with black bands here and there. This garment went right up to the neck, where it joined a sort of helmet made of a material (I don't know what it was) of the same colour, which seemed stiffer and was reinforced at the back in front by strips of thin metal, one of them being triangular and on a level with the nose. These helmets hid everything, leaving visible only the eyes of the people—through two round windows similar to the lenses used in spectacles. Through these windows the men gazed at me with their eyes, which appeared quite a bit smaller than ours—but I think this was an effect produced by the windows. They all had light-coloured eyes, which appeared to me to be blue, but I cannot guarantee this. Above the eyes, the height of their helmets must have corresponded to double the size of a normal head. It is probable that there was something else as well in the helmets, on top of the heads, but nothing could be seen from the outside. But on the top, from the centre of the head, three round silvery tubes emerged (I cannot say whether they were made of rubber or were metallic) which were a little thinner than a garden hose-pipe. These tubes, one in the centre and one on each side, were smooth and they ran backwards and downwards, curving in towards the ribs. There they entered the clothing, into which they were fitted in a way that I don't know how to explain. The one in the centre entered on the line of the spine. The other two were fixed in, one on each side, below the shoulders, at a point about four inches below the armpits—almost at the sides, where the ribs start. I noticed nothing, no protuberance or lump that would indicate that these tubes were connected to some box or instrument hidden under the clothing.<sup>1</sup>

The sleeves of the overalls were long and tight-fitting, running as far as the wrists, where they were continued by thick gloves of the same colour, with five fingers, which must have hindered somewhat their hand-movements. I observed in this connection

that the men could not bend the fingers completely to the extent of touching their palms with the tips of their fingers. This difficulty however did not prevent them from gripping me firmly, nor from deftly handling the rubber tubes for extracting my blood.

The clothing must have been a sort of uniform, for all the members of the crew wore, at breast level, a sort of round red shield of the size of a slice of pineapple, which from time to time gave off luminous reflections. There were no lights from the shields themselves, but reflections like those of the pieces of red glass that are above the rear-lights of automobiles, which reflect the headlights of another car just as though they contained lights themselves. From this shield on the centre of the breast came a strip of silvery cloth (or laminated metal) which joined on to a broad tight-fitting claspless belt, the colour of which I do not remember. No pockets were visible on any of the overalls, nor did I see any buttons.

The trousers were also tight-fitting over the seat, thighs, and legs, without any visible wrinkle or crease in the cloth. There was no clear separation at the ankle, between trousers and shoes, which were a continuation of each other, being part of one whole.<sup>2</sup> The soles of the feet however had a detail different from ours. They were very thick, two or three inches thick, and quite turned up (or arched up) in front—so that the ends of the shoes, which looked like tennis-shoes, were quite curved up in front—but without ending in a point like the shoes in the history books of olden times. From what I saw afterwards, those shoes must have been a lot bigger than the feet inside them. Despite this, the men's gait was quite free and easy and they were quite nimble in their movements. Nevertheless that completely closed overall no doubt did perhaps interfere somewhat in their movements for they were always a bit stiff in their walk.

They were all of the same height as myself (perhaps a bit shorter in view of the helmets)—except for just one of them, namely the one who had first caught hold of me outside. This one did <sup>not</sup> come up to my chin. They all seemed to be strong, but not so strong that I should have been afraid of being beaten by them had I fought them one at a time. I think that in the open I could have faced any one of them on equal terms.

But this had no bearing on the situation in which I now found myself . . .

After an immense interval, a noise at the door made me jump up with a start. I turned in that direction and had a tremendous surprise. The door was open and a **woman** was entering, walking in my direction. She came slowly, unhurriedly, perhaps amused at the surprise that must have been written on my face. I was flabbergasted, and not without good reason. The woman was stark naked, as naked as I was, and barefoot too.

#### NOTES (by Dr. Olavo Fontes)

(<sup>1</sup>) This statement gave rise to a question from me. I told Villas Boas that I did not understand how the

members of the crew could breathe the whole time inside those closed uniforms and helmets, since they apparently had no portable tanks, like those of divers and deep-sea swimmers, to supply the air necessary for them to be able to breathe inside that closed system. He replied: "I had not thought of that. I don't know how to explain it. I noticed nothing, no protuberance or bulge that might indicate that those tubes were linked to some box or instrument hidden under the clothing."

(2) This description of the uniform was made during a comparison with the clothing of Adamski's "Venusian". The principal differences pointed out by Villas Boas were in the tight-fitting clothing, clinging to the body, chiefly the trousers (which in Adamski's sketch are loose, with quite a lot of superfluous cloth); in the shape and thickness of the soles of the shoes; and in the absence of a clear separation between the trouser and the shoe, which were a continuation of each other.

### Comment by Gordon Creighton

Antônio's captors held him horizontally as they

carried him towards their machine. Some readers may recall the Swedish case of Styg Rydberg and Hans Gustavsson, alleged to have occurred late at night on December 20, 1958. The two men were seized by "four lead-grey creatures about four feet tall", which tried to drag them into their craft. (See FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, November/December 1959, page 5).

Great efforts were made by the Swedish authorities to show that the two men were lying or suffering from hallucinations; indeed so thorough were these efforts that one can only conclude that the story was true.

The report in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW does not give all details about how the entities tried to hold the two Swedes, but I was told a few years ago that the creatures tried very hard to get both men off their feet, so as to be able to carry them *horizontally*.

## The Cappoquin Photograph

For the account of the Cappoquin Sighting and photograph, see the article by Charles H. Gibbs-Smith, M.A., F.M.A., in *Flying Saucer Review* for March/April, 1966.

by Dr. Bernard E. Finch

SEVERAL interesting points can be gleaned by a study of the photograph of the Cappoquin sighting, and these give a clue to the identity of the object and to its energy system.

Examination of the efflux behind the object shows that the area of intense activity is at the centre, and that the minimal activity is at the periphery, where there is a remarkable coarse grain effect.

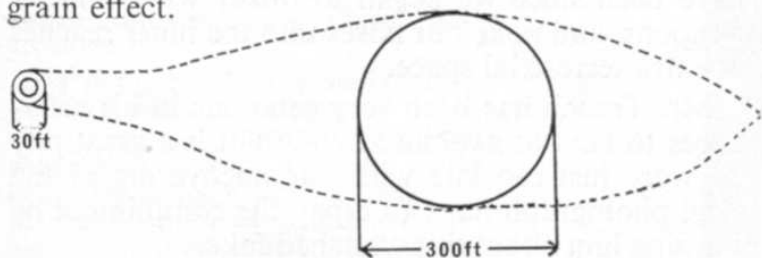


Fig. 1

This activity or effect falls off with the distance from the centre of the efflux, probably being inversely proportional to the square of the distance from the centre of the efflux i.e. maximum effect at the centre equals no grain; minimal effect at the periphery equals coarse grain.

This effect is observed when UFOs are stationary in the air, and it has been photographed on many occasions, the surrounding effect being approximately spherical (there must be some occasional

perturbations due to wind, etc.) around the saucer for a variable distance. Having examined many photographs, I find this effect to be ten times the size of the saucer, so, for a saucer of 30 feet average diameter, this would produce efflux effect 300 feet in diameter.

Now, if the saucer moves, the efflux or area of activity will move with it, maintaining its spherical form until the saucer reaches a certain speed, when the efflux will be drawn out to an elliptical form.\* And as the speed is increased so the ellipse becomes flatter. These measurements can be verified in the Cappoquin sighting photograph and many others.

It can be seen that, in the Cappoquin sighting, the efflux has been spread out to about 1,000 feet assuming the object, if it were a disc, to be the standard 30 feet diameter, and the saucer, about 400 feet from the periphery of the efflux, being connected by an area of weak effect, i.e. coarse grain.

Photographic emulsion is affected by a small part of the electro-magnetic spectrum, i.e., visible and near ultra-violet light—however, ionized gas produces a coarse grain effect when photographed with ordinary film. It appears therefore that we can deduce that a moving object has been photographed, and this object is associated with an



area of intense ionization of the air. This ionization is maximum at its centre, and falls off at its periphery, so that the object, as it moves along, produces the activity which follows behind it.

The object is moving very fast, for, as soon as it produces its sphere of ionization, it has travelled something like 1,000 feet at the click of a camera (1/50 sec.).

This is equal to 50,000 feet per second or approximately 35,000 miles per hour.

If however the camera exposure was 1/25th sec., this would be approximately 17,500 miles per hour.

So here we are dealing with a fast moving object, propelled by energy that produces ionization of the air, and that moves from 17,500 to 35,000 miles per hour.

Quite apart from the fact that the object bears no resemblance to "sun-dogs", and that examination of the lighting in the photograph shows it to be in the wrong part of the sky in relation to the

Sun, the evident high speed removes the object from any known category of meteorological phenomenon.

**\*Editor's postscript.** I discussed this article with C. Maxwell Cade, our science consultant, and he had this point to make: "The efflux in the wake of an ordinary jet aircraft is **Conical**. I do not see any reason why the efflux of a UFO should be different. The elliptical effect is what one would expect from the decay of illumination which results as ions recombine to form neutral molecules. Those in the centre of the cone remain hotter longest, because those on the outside can lose energy by radiation to the cold surrounding atmosphere. The efflux is conical, but appears elliptical, because at some distance behind the vehicle the outer portions become non-luminous. **As speed increases, the angle of the cone becomes more acute**, because the ratio of forward speed to lateral spread is changing."

## BOOK REVIEW

### *Saucer Saga*

IN HIS new book *The Flying Saucer Story* Neville Spearman Ltd., 112 Whitfield Street, London W.1), Brinsley le Poer Trench has produced a concise recapitulation of the major events in the "wonderful saga" of the mysterious objects from the skies. Of late Brinsley Trench has received a deal of publicity, mostly on account of his recent visit to Japan. Readers will know that he is chairman of the International Sky Scouts organisation, which has evolved from the Japanese "Flying Saucer for Junior" movement. Here then is a clue to the basic idea of the book: to present the build-up of the history of the visitations of the alien aeroforms in a straightforward, easy-to-read manner, which will appeal to those who are new to the subject, particularly the younger ones.

So it is that the reader is introduced to many of the great and well-authenticated cases which are the background of the flying saucer story. Now and again a case is not followed through to the

bitter end—Valensole is a case in point—and some of the more puzzling incidents are neglected altogether, but this is not absolutely surprising as it is impossible to condense into 200 pages the immense volume of evidence that has been collected over 20 years. Also, it should be noted that the underlying theme of the book is that we on this planet are under benevolent alien surveillance, and have been since we began to tinker with monster weapons, and poke our noses into the inner reaches of extra-terrestrial space.

Mr. Trench has been very generous in his references to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW: it is a great pity we were just too late with our uncovering of the Fogl photograph hoax to repay the compliment by warning him about this wretched fake.

There is little doubt this most attractive book will encourage many who would otherwise know little or nothing at all about the subject, to devote a lot more time to its study.

C.B.

THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST CHANCE . . .

to order your copy of the Special Issue on landings and occupants of UFOs.  
See details on the inside front cover.

# World round-up

of news and comment  
about recent sightings

## ENGLAND

### Cranleigh object

A sighting made on Friday June 17 was reported in the *Guildford and Godalming Times* of June 25 :

Mr. D. Broomfield, of Coldharbour Farm, Cranleigh, was in his garden at about 11 p.m. on Friday last week, when he saw a "very brilliant" object very high in the sky. He presumes that it was very high up because it was glowing a brilliant orange, as though it was reflected by the sun.

"This 'thing' said Mr. Broomfield was moving very slowly in a southerly direction... then suddenly it changed course, and I have never seen anything move so fast in all my life. It moved rapidly in an easterly direction—it literally shot away."

In the same column, there was a report of a sighting of two objects by Review reader Richard Beet, who was waiting at Worplesdon for the last bus to Guildford. The time was 10.55 p.m. :

"Mr. Beet is convinced they were not aircraft as, unlike the jet, they emitted no noise and flashing lights were not visible. The two white objects were in view for about three minutes, after which they appeared to blend into one, became a little dimmer and then disappeared behind a tree."

The *Surrey Advertiser* of June 25 carried similar accounts, plus one from Mr. A. C. Edwards of Chilworth who saw the object and reported :

"I noticed it was travelling in a north-to-south direction.

"To me this object was of wide shape at the front with the lights at the front, for when it passed over the lights appeared to dim and disappear to show a red glow at the rear, and when almost out of sight the red glow flickered on and off consistently.. There was definitely no sound at all."

(Credit : R. C. Beet, Guildford.)

### Parliamentary question

From the *Daily Telegraph* of July 20, we learn that in the House of Commons on Tuesday July 19 :

"Sir John Langford-Holt (C), Shrewsbury) asked the Prime Minister whether, since the Defence Secretary was responsible only for the

air defence implications of reports of unidentified flying objects, he would allocate to a department the assessing of their wider implications.

"Mr. Wilson said he would not.

"Sir John said an enormous number of reports were coming in to the Government from people who were not all cranks. It would be proper for someone in the Government to take a serious interest in them.

"Mr. Wilson said they were taken sufficiently seriously when there was adequate information. Many reports were of natural phenomena, and those that were not, were balloons and so on."

On July 27 The Daily Telegraph published a letter from the Editor of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW pointing out that the Prime Minister's reply indicated that Britain must be well behind the times. Mention was made in the letter of the Armed Services Committee Hearing on UFOs, and of the \$1 million Air Force allocation for a study of the problem by a team of civilian scientists. (See F.S.R. for July/August, 1966.)

As far as can be ascertained this was at that time the first mention of this important news item in the British national newspapers. There

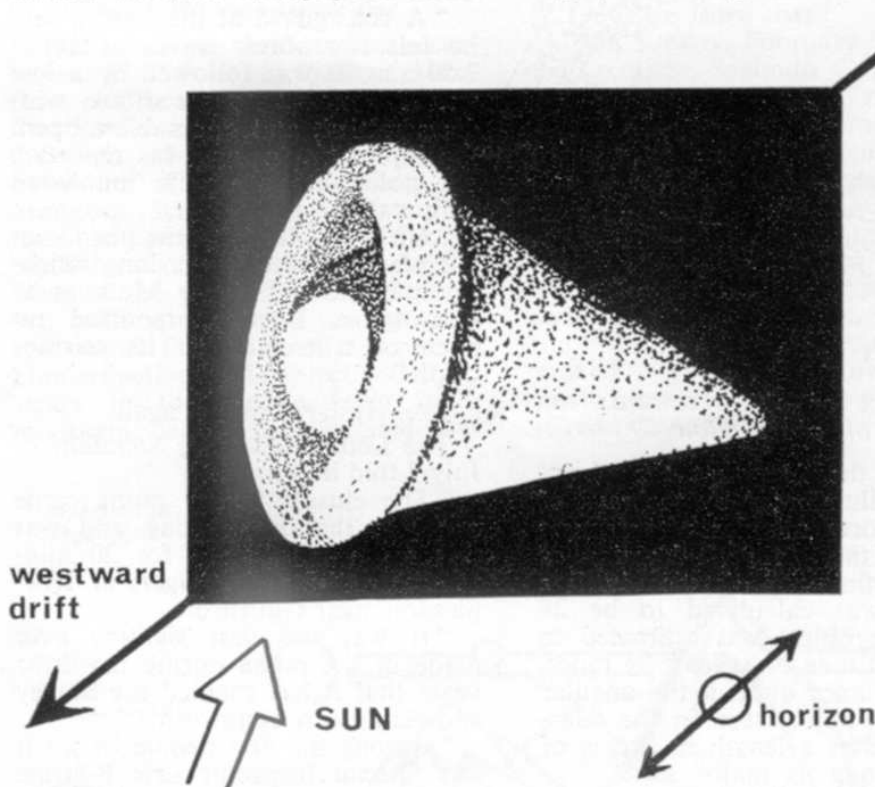
have since been a number of reports of a \$300,000 allocation.

### Harwell scientists' sighting

On June 19, 1966, *The Observer* carried the story of an unusual UFO sighting by two nuclear scientists. An account of the incident was forwarded to Dr. Bernard Finch by one of the scientists involved, Mr. Peter D. Wroath, and this we record herewith :

"Unusual object observed by P. D. Wroath and Dr. R. S. Gilmore at sunset on Friday 17th June, 1966 from Abingdon, Berkshire.

"The object was first seen as a very bright yellow spot above a bank of low-lying cloud on the Western horizon. The object was at first moving slowly, it then accelerated and disappeared behind a tall bank of cloud near the Northern horizon. After about ten minutes, what appeared to be the same object reappeared travelling in the opposite direction until it reached a position intermediate between North and West when its apparent motion stopped and it remained stationary for about half an hour. Thereafter, it receded approximately in line of sight, decreasing in size until half an



Sketch based on drawings by P. D. Wroath and Dr. R. S. Gilmore



hour later it was finally hidden in the low bank of clouds near the horizon.

"The object was first observed at 20.50 hours B.S.T. and was observed continuously (except for the short period when it was obscured by cloud) for almost one and a half hours.

"Viewed through 10 x 60 binoculars the object appeared to have a triangular shape and to be very bright. When observed through a 6in. Newtonian reflector telescope, the object looked like a shining cone of light. Its appearance resembled the shape of a bell with the 'mouth' inclined towards the observer, presenting an elliptical appearance with a central domelike structure. The periphery of the 'mouth' looked to be toroidal with three equally spaced headlights. The object was evidently reflecting sunlight as it showed shadow and contrast much as a solid body would.

"Taking into account the inverted view of a reflector telescope, the 'mouth' of the bell shaped object pointed upwards with the top tapering down towards the Earth. Eyepieces to give magnifications of eighty and two hundred times were used.



Appearance of object towards end of observation

"From the fact that the object was still illuminated by the rays of the sun forty minutes after sunset and from the angle of elevation of 25°, its minimum distance in line of sight was calculated to be 28 miles. The object was estimated to have an altitude of at least 7½ miles. At the distance quoted, the angular size of the object seen in the telescope indicates a length in excess of 60 feet along its major axis.

"These observations were made from Abingdon, Berkshire on Fri-

day, 17th June, 1966, by P. D. Wroath and Dr. R. S. Gilmore. Five other people in the vicinity were invited to observe the object because of its extraordinary appearance.

"The telescope used for the observation is owned by P. D. Wroath, an amateur astronomer and member of the British Astronomical Association. The calculations were made by Dr. R. S. Gilmore, a physicist at the Science Research Council, Harwell."

In a letter to Gordon Creighton, Dr. Gilmore said that "the object appeared to be brightly sunlit some 40 minutes after sunset. From this fact, and its observed position, one may estimate a minimum distance which will keep it out of the Earth's shadow. I estimate this as 28 miles off, with an altitude greater than 7½ miles. The angle subtended by the object was estimated in the telescope to be some 4 milliradians, suggesting a minimum length of 60 feet.

[In a letter to the Editor dated August 25, Dr. Gilmore advised that the distances originally calculated have been revised. The new figures are incorporated in the above article.]

#### Tremor and Swish

Just for the record, The *Guardian* of Monday, July 25 told how:

"A tremor which was felt in Cornwall early on Saturday from Padstow in the east to the Scilly Isles, is still unexplained.

"A coastguard at the Lizard said he felt two shock waves at about 2.50 a.m. It was followed by a low rumbling noise, houses shook, windows rattled, and doors blew open. No injury or damage was reported, but police stations were inundated with calls.

"On the Scilly Isles, the phenomenon was followed by 'a long swishing noise.' The Science Museum at Kensington, London, reported no trace of a tremor on its seismograph."

#### Mystery Animal again

The *London Evening Standard* of July 7 told how:

"The elusive Surrey puma came out into the open today and was watched and followed for 20 minutes by police and villagers at Worplesdon, near Guildford.

"It was the best sighting ever made of the puma during the three years that it has roamed the Surrey and Hampshire countryside.

"Among the first people to see it was Special Inspector Eric Bourne.

"Then motor-cycle patrol officer P.C. Robin Young, from Guildford,

arrived on the scene. He said: It was in sight for 20 minutes and there was no doubt that it was a puma. I got a good look at it through binoculars. We watched it stalking round a meadow. We followed it from a distance of about 60 yards.

"One of the people who were there had a shot gun with him and he took a pot shot at it. [Why, oh why?—EDITOR] After that it made off and we lost it when it reached a road."

For an article on "Mystery Animals", see F.S.R. November/December 1964.

#### ITALY

##### 'Gnomes reported'

This report came to us by way of Brazil through the Sao Paulo newspaper *Ultima Hora*. The report is date-lined "Pisa, 14", presumably July:

"I saw two gnomes emerge from a flying saucer amid blinding light." Such was the statement made to the Police by a road-worker of Pontedera (Pisa). He said that the machine landed yesterday evening on a small island. Various motorists who were in the vicinity confirmed that they saw a mysterious luminous object in the sky at the time in question."

(Credit: Nigel Rimes.)

#### Bizarre Moon

This account is taken from the *Rome Daily American* of June 17, 1966:

"Thousands of Romans were mystified early last night by a series of unidentified lights in the Southern sky... The first evidence of the phenomenon was a moon-shaped-object... radiating all colours of the rainbow around its rim.

"Apparently there were at least three separate appearances of the 'artificial moon,' following within seconds of each other, each time diminishing in size and intensity and dropping lower towards the horizon.

"Following the three bursts of light, a 'pinkish-tinged' cloud reportedly formed in the general area of the phenomena. Some callers reported that the cloud seemed to assume a general mushroom shape, although not so clearly defined as the immediate aftermath of an atomic explosion.

"About ten minutes after the final 'burst' one observer reported a bright light arcing through the sky from the west. 'About the same time it came under the cloud,' he reported 'it suddenly seemed to change direction and head directly out into space.'"

## ARGENTINA

### UFO with vari-coloured lights

From *El Heraldo*, Concordia, of November 23, 1965 : "A boy, Jorge Bravard, a fourth grade student at State School No. 210 in Colonia Adela (Province of Entre Ríos), stated that on Sunday, November 21 at 8.30 p.m. he saw a round object of some 4 metres diameter, brilliant with yellow light and having small windows from which shone lights of different colours. The object appeared over a shed close to his house and afterwards disappeared in the sky. The phenomenon was also observed by the boy's grandmother and aunts who live in the city of Concordia, but who were visiting the boy's home. The aunts maintained that the object did not stop over the shed, but gave this impression by reason for the low altitude at which it was moving.

Again, from *El Sol*, Concordia, of November 25, 1965, we learn how :

"Miguel and Marcos Roisman, 14 and 13 years of age, living at 825 Laprida Street, observed on Tuesday, November 23, at exactly 5 minutes past ten in the evening, the presence of a strange object in the sky. Miguel was the first to see it and then Marcos. Afterwards, several neighbours living in Urdinarrain Street between Laprida and Brown Streets stated that it was a round object that appeared to be some 4 metres in diameter, and that it gave off lights of all colours. It appeared to remain motionless in the sky, and after about 15 minutes, disappeared." (Credit : C. A. Schang, Buenos Aires.)

### On the Salta-Trancas road

The Buenos Aires newspaper *La Razón*, of December 1, 1965, carried the following account : "Two businessmen, Francisco Jaldo, 39 years of age, and Raúl F. Romano, living in Tafi Viejo, Province of Tucumán, stated that as they were coming from Salta they observed close to the locality of Campo Mogotes a brilliant light which they calculated to be at a distance of 3 to 4 Kms. and at a height of 500 metres. They explained that it was a strange object of elliptical form that gave off red lights and had a black circle. Immediately beneath the object was another object that resembled a 'plate', on the uppermost part of which was something very much like the top of a hat. They further stated that both objects, without being separated one from the other, went in a south-west-erly direction at a moderate speed.

Since a thunder-storm was in progress that night each time the lightning flashed they saw the flying objects with perfect visibility and when the objects were covered by the clouds, the clouds were illuminated completely. They observed the objects for some minutes after which they disappeared behind the mountains. It should be noted that before this occurrence both these persons were sceptical in all matters concerning this question. On arriving at the locality of Trancas, some lorry drivers corroborated having seen a brilliant light behind the mountains as if it were the lights of an important city."

(Credit : C. A. Schang.)

### UFO follows postmaster

The *Río Negro* of the Province of Río Negro, tells how : "Sr. Juan Ramirez, postmaster of Sañicó, in a letter sent to this newspaper stated that on December 12 at about 11 p.m., while travelling from Piedra del Aguila to Sañicó, he was followed for some 20 minutes by a UFO that on two occasions went ahead of him and returned. The object gave off a strong light, which frequently changed colour, and on occasions shone downwards. He stated that the experience was very unnerving."

(Credit C. A. Schang.)

### Power House spectacular

The following incident was recorded in *El Tiempo de Cuyo* of Mendoza on December 28, 1965 : "Bal-four Benjamín Chehan, employed for the past 15 years in the power house of Cacheuta, Province of Mendoza, stated to this newspaper that on December 19 at 5.25 a.m. while he was in the loading department of the power house, he observed with stupefaction an intensely red object that gave off an orange blue reflection. This object was stationary in the sky in front of a mountain peak. He calculated that

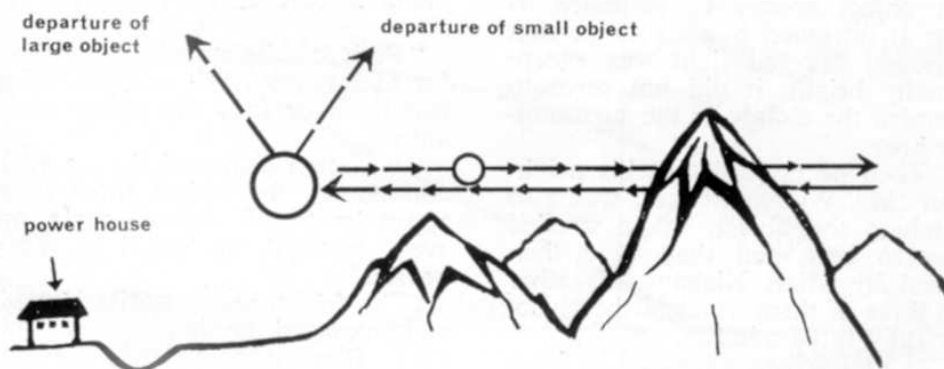
it was at some 1,800 metres distance, and that it could have a diameter of some 15 metres. From the round object there emerged another similar object that slowly moved in a straight line until it was behind a mountain peak situated a great distance away, being lost to sight for a time. After some minutes it returned to the larger round object which it entered. Recovering from his surprise Sr. Chehan telephoned to the chief of the power house, Sr. Antonio Vera, and together they were able to see the following : the small object again parted from the larger object and moved away straight upwards until it was lost in the sky. The larger object meanwhile moved off towards the East, its size becoming smaller and smaller until it was lost to sight. The phenomenon had lasted some 12 to 13 minutes, and the movements of the small object some 8 minutes. It should be noted that by reason of his work Sr. Chehan has to look upwards towards the sky to control the flow of water into the power house from above : in the years in which he has worked for the power house he has many times observed space phenomena but never before has he been present at a spectacle such as this."

(Credit : C. A. Schang.)

### Mushroom shapes

From *Los Principios* of Córdoba (reprinted in *La Razón* of February 9, 1966) we learn that :

"On Sunday, February 6 at about 2.30 p.m. Sr. Segundo Gutierrez, 60 years of age, hairdresser, resident of Obispo Trejo, and four members of his family, were surprised by what appeared to be loud thunder. Looking upwards they saw two brightly shining objects in the forms of mushrooms approaching from the west. Alternating their positions at the same time as they appeared to contract and expand their size, they moved very rapidly towards the north west, leaving a shining trail." (Credit C. A. Schang.)





## Travellers follow UFO

From *La Razón* of April 28, 1966, we learn how—"Sr. Albereo Asayag who, with his wife and Sr. Mario Montenegro was travelling by car from Buenos Aires to Resistencia, saw an intensely luminous object shortly after passing a place named Basail. At an estimated distance of 500 metres it appeared to be the size of the full moon. The UFO appeared in an intermittent form and the observers followed it for almost 60 kms. until they lost sight of it shortly before they arrived at Resistencia."

(Credit to Mr. C. A. Schang, to whom we are indebted not only for this and the foregoing news items, but also the welcome translations.)

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Fireball or UFO ?

From *Sondagstem* (Johannesburg) of June 5, we learn how :

"A mysterious red fireball has made its appearance above Wellington (Cape) during the past week, and everybody is asking if this was perhaps a flying saucer. The mysterious object first appeared on Tuesday and was watched by at least four persons. A similar object was observed on Thursday evening by a farmer in the district as it appeared above his farmstead.

"Mr. Hennie Germishuys of Bain Street told me that as he passed through the front door of his house at 7 o'clock on Tuesday evening, a bright red object, hanging motionless above his house, immediately drew his attention. At first he thought it was the red light of an aircraft flicking on and off, but when he noticed that the object was hovering, he realised that it could not have been a conventional craft. There was no sound at all.

"The object was about the size of a soccer ball with a bright red centre, but at regular intervals this red section seemed to grow in intensity and the sudden flashes of red made the object appear to be twice its size. It intrigued him to notice that although the red light was exceptionally bright, it did not seem to illumine the clouds or the surrounding area.

"Then he noticed that his neighbour, Mr. Willem Beukes, was also watching the object, so he strolled over to him, and they were then joined by Miss Niehaus. Together the three of them watched the object for fully three minutes.

"A cloud then appeared in front

of the object obscuring it completely, but when it had passed, there was no sign of the 'flying saucer'.

"It wasn't only three people who had witnessed this phenomenon. Mrs. Louw, matron of a hostel, had also seen this strange fireball and had watched it until it disappeared.

"On Thursday night the object was again seen in this district. A well-known farmer, who wishes to remain anonymous, has told me that late the same night he also had noticed a bright red light hovering above his farmstead. He watched it for some considerable time until it suddenly diminished in size and vanished altogether. The impression was that it shot straight up into the sky at fantastic speed."

(Credit : Phillipp Human (who also translated from the Afrikaans).)

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### Motorist 'buzzed'

An unusual UFO encounter was reported in the *Boston Traveller* of June 13, 1966 :

"State Police and Air Force intelligence officers joined today in probing the weird story of a New Bedford motorist who claimed his auto was 'buzzed' at treetop level by a UFO. Officials to whom Ronald Petit, 24, of 50 Westview St., told his unusual tale described him as rational and intelligent.

"The episode occurred at 3.45 a.m. on Saturday when Petit was driving south on Route 88, between Hix Bridge Rd. and Drift Rd., in suburban Westport.

"Related Petit: 'An object whose illumination seemed to vary between an amber-green and a bluish yellow, came up from behind and I gradually became aware of it hovering over my auto. Then it moved ahead and I could see it quite clearly. I slowed my car and the object appeared to stop. I drove to within perhaps 100 feet, stopped, got out and took a close look, remaining careful to leave my car door open.

"Petit said he stared at the 'thing' for at least two full minutes before leaping back into the safety of his auto.

"When I slammed the door,' he continued, 'the object tilted to an approximate 45 degree angle and went straight up until it disappeared.'

"The frightened motorist immediately reported the sighting to Patrolman Elmer Brevik of Westport

Police who in turn notified State Police.

(Credit : Clement W. Crowell, Yarmouth Co., Nova Scotia).

## Apollo Project man sees UFO

The *Christian Science Monitor* of July 11 published the following story reported from Albuquerque, New Mexico :

"A recent sighting of a weird unidentified flying object in the Southwest was reported by a flight engineer associated with the Apollo Space Project, no less.

"Julian Sandoval of Inglewood, California, said while visiting here that he spotted the UFO from the northwestern part of town about 3.45 p.m. Thursday, June 23, and maintained a watch on the object for about an hour and a half. Part of this time he received the glowing object through a pair of binoculars, and he said later 'It's like nothing we (the United States) have.'

"Mr. Sandoval said the UFO appeared suspended about 12,000 feet above Placitas—a small community about 18 miles north of here—that its main body had a blunt end and was 'incandescent' like a regular light bulb.

"He said that at its tail end there was a series of four lights which varied a brilliant greenish colour to a tinge of blue.

"When it would change position it would glow brighter,' Mr. Sandoval said, 'Its movement led me to believe it used a type of propulsion.'

"Mr. Sandoval said he first saw the object while driving east en route to Bernalillo, where his mother, Mrs. Josefita Sandoval, lives. His daughter, Juliana, was with him at the time.

"The UFO finally disappeared in a north-easterly direction, he said, after making a vertical climb and increasing its speed to a high velocity. This acceleration in speed lasted about 12 seconds before it was out of sight.

"Mr. Sandoval is a pilot and navigator who has logged 7,000 hours of flying time. He is employed by North American Aviation and is in charge of electrical power and environmental control with the Apollo Project. He now is taking a course in higher mathematics at West Coast University and has attended the University of New Mexico and Air Force navigation training schools.

"He estimated the size of the UFO as about 300 feet 'from stem to stern.'"

(Credit : Jeanne Farrar, Leicester.)

# ARGENTINE ASTRONOMER OBSERVES UFO 'BUZZING' ECHO II

Our correspondent is the representative of *Flying Saucer Review* in Argentina.

by *Oscar A. Galindez*

THE distinguished Argentine astronomer and scientist, the Jesuit priest Father Segundo Benito Reyna, who is director of the Adhara Observatory at San Miguel, Province of Buenos Aires, has control of a powerful telescope, and has written to me privately to say that on numerous occasions he has observed flying saucers from his Observatory.

The most remarkable case seems to be the following one, which took place on the evening of November 14, 1964.

At the time in question, Father Reyna and several assistants were working with the telescope.

At 8.37 p.m. the satellite Echo II appeared in the north, on almost precisely the same meridian as the Observatory.

At 8.45 p.m. there appeared, coming from the west, near Pegasus, a UFO on a plane perpendicular to the plane of the satellite. When the UFO was close to Echo II, and unquestionably at the same altitude, the UFO made a 180 degree turn and proceeded off towards the east, disappearing below the horizon very near to Orion which was just coming up. (See sketch).

At 8.52 p.m., a second UFO, or perhaps the

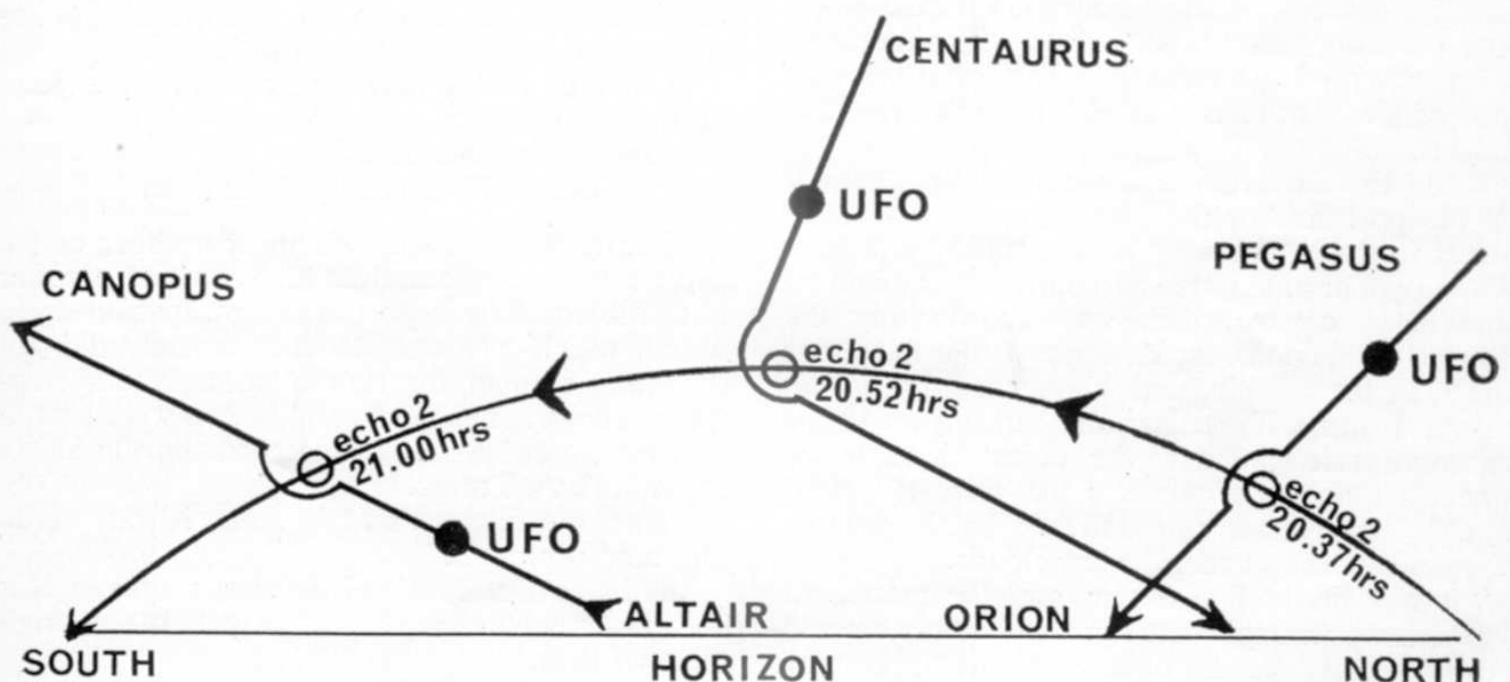
same one, emerged from the neighbourhood of Centaurus, shot round Echo II, and then vanished in the neighbourhood of Andromeda.

At 9.00 p.m., when Echo II was near the south, the UFO appeared from the east, near the star Altair, and appeared to have the form of a cigar. Then it became circular, shot round Echo II stopped momentarily when moving towards Canopus, and then moved down towards the horizon almost together with Echo II.

In order to watch all this, the telescope and the dome had to be moved very quickly, but fortunately this was easy, as there were people outside watching to warn the astronomer each time the UFO made its appearance.

At certain moments, the UFO filled the field of vision of the telescope, appearing larger than a full Moon. When it was down near the horizon, it could be seen perfectly. According to Father Reyna there was a central cupola, greenish, like a mercury lamp; a pale yellow nucleus, and blue edges. By all accounts it was a marvellous spectacle.

This is possibly the only time that a UFO has been followed through a telescope and with such a degree of magnification.





## 'CIGAR' PASSES A FEW HUNDRED FEET

### ABOVE NORWEGIAN SHIP

ONE of the most interesting sightings of 1965 occurred at the island of Santa Maria in the Azores on July 9th when a cigar shaped object flew over at 20,000 ft. and stopped all the electric clocks at the airport for a period of 45 minutes. (See FLYING SAUCER REVIEW September/October 1965, page 24. Also *Daily Express* of July 12 and *Fate Magazine* of February 1966).

Gordon Creighton has translated from the Norwegian newspaper *Moss Dagblad* of December 27, 1965, the following remarkable account of another sighting which took place not many miles S.W. of the Azores three days before and may indeed relate to the self-same UFO.

Chief Mate Torgrim Lien of the *T.T. Jawesta*, owned by the Jahr Shipping Company, had a curious experience while his ship was *en route* last summer from Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela, to the Canary Islands. Lien saw a so-called 'flying saucer' only 200.4 metres above the ship. The incident took place in the North Atlantic on July 6, and a report on it was sent to various authorities, including the Geophysical Institute in Bergen. This report has never been published in any newspaper until now . . . The report is considered to be a very good one.

#### THE REPORT (from Ship's Log)

*T.T. Jawesta*. North Atlantic. July 8, 1965. Report Regarding Unidentified Flying Object. On Tuesday July 6 1965, while *en route* from Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela, to Santa Cruz de Tenerife in the Canary Islands, at 2152 hours GMT, the ship's position being 24°40' N 31° 15' W, with wind from N.E., strength 5. Low cloud ceiling travelling with the wind. Barometer 1023. Temperature 23° Celsius.

"At 2152 GMT (1852 ship's time), the look-out on the port side of the bridge reported a bright object in the sky moving in a northerly direction. When I got around to the port side I saw an intense blue fiery tongue which was approaching the ship at tremendous speed. I ran to the telephone and rang the captain and without waiting for an answer I seized binoculars and ran out on to the starboard side and saw the object through the binoculars as it passed over the ship. It passed straight abaft of the ship and at a height of from 200 to 400 metres, under the low clouds.

"It was bright like a star, and the moonlight was shining through between the low clouds and I could clearly see the outlines of the upper part

of it. Its shape was that of a cigar, and I could clearly see a row of square windows and the faint golden-orange coloured light from inside it. There was no sign of wings or rudder. The object had a bluish tongue of fire behind it, which was most concentrated near the tail, fanning out a little further back.

"A little farther back still, behind the body, I could see a tremendous number of globes, and from every globe there was streaming out a blue beam, away from the body.

"The length of the fiery tongue would, I should think, have been about 100 metres. The object seemed to be far bigger than any aircraft known up to the present day.

"Its speed was tremendous and it was visible for about 30 to 40 seconds. It was moving at the time in N-S direction, its approximate course being 180°.

"Despite its enormous speed and the closeness of its passage, we could not hear the least sound from it.

"The look-out on the port side seaman Hernandez Ambrosio, maintained that it seemed as though the object had come up out of the sea, and that it was travelling northwards and then suddenly changed course towards us.

"The helmsman, ordinary seaman Narciso Guillén, saw the object just after it had passed over the ship. And on the poop, fitter Juan Hernandez and mess-hand Ignacio Suarez also saw it. Their accounts tally with mine.

"I can say with complete certainty that it was no question of an aircraft of conventional type, or rocket, or meteor, or ball lightning.

"I shall be glad to hear the opinion of an expert on this phenomenon.

(Signed Torgrim Lien.

Chief Mate, on duty at the time.

"The report is confirmed by a number of the ship's crew who themselves also saw the peculiar flying object. The report was accompanied by a sketch, which however we unfortunately did not find clear enough for reproduction in our newspaper. The original report and sketch were sent to the Geophysical Institute at Bergen by the Ship's Captain, H. A. Trovik.

"What the Institute's reply about it was, we do not know at present."

Credits to Dr. P. M. H. Edwards and to Nils J. Jacobsen who each supplied a copy of the original news item.

(Continued from page 21)

jected to the USAF explanation in a detailed rebuttal. Soon after that a request for further information was received by Mr. Fowler from Dr. Hynek, USAF scientific consultant on UFOs. Dr. Hynek proposed a phenomenon similar to the Canadian fireball procession of February 9, 1933 as a possible answer

In answer to a query on conditions on the night of the sighting,

the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory stated that no meteor reports had been received and that no orbiting object was due to decay. Mr. W. N. Webb, NICAP astronomy advisor, when asked about this sighting, pointed out the discrepancies in the time and duration reported by the different witnesses which makes it difficult to prove or disprove the meteor hypothesis. Mr. Webb believed that the meteor answer was a good possible expla-

nation and that the report had received more publicity than was its due. (ABC radio network broadcasted a dramatisation of the sighting).

It is hoped that the foregoing will help clarify some of the sightings recounted by Mr. Hanlon. I look forward to further interesting articles by Mr. Hanlon.

—J. L. Aldrich, 602 East Main Street, Meriden, Conn., U.S.A.

### Not So Cool Comfort...

It appears that some more evidence of high temperatures on the surface of Venus has been collected by Clark of the Owen Valley Radio Observatory, Pasadena and by Kuz'min of the Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow. Their observations published in the *Astrophysical Journal*, 142, 23, would seem to contradict the report in the *New Scientist* of December 23, 1965, quoted in the March/April FLYING SAUCER REVIEW on page 2, and add to the already picture of Cytherean weather.

Clark and Kuz'min used the Owens Valley interferometer, which has a pair of movable 90-foot paraboloidaerials, to observe Venus' brightness and degree of polarisation when "seen" at the radio wavelength of 10.6 cm. Among the numerous interesting results obtained were the following: the poles of Venus seem to be about 25 per cent cooler than the equator; the temperature of the antisolar point is estimated to be  $630 \pm 70$  °K (between 550°F and 800°F) with the dawn and dusk temperatures slightly hotter; the inclination of the equator of Venus to the ecliptic seems to be in the region of 20°.

None of the above observations render Venus a place in any way conducive to the evolution of life, let alone intelligent beings.

—Stephen Smith, B.A.

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# THE BENT BEAMS CASE

by Stephen L. Smith, B.A.

**Y**ET again the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW has come up with another astonishing report of unidentified flying object activity, this time in Australia.

I do not doubt that motorist Ronald Sullivan received a very nasty shock when he nearly crashed off the road between Bendigo and St. Arnaud, in Victoria State; but the far greater shock comes when we learn of the means by which his life was endangered. Sullivan reports that his car headlight beams suddenly appeared to bend off to the right, whereupon he managed to stop the car in time to see a display of gaseous flames in a nearby field out of which rose an undescribed object. It would seem from the evidence found by the police in the field that an object of some sort had rested on the ploughed soil before April 8, and this fact corroborates Sullivan's story.

With the reality of the object established we can examine the other startling item in the report . . . the bending of the car headlights. It has unfortunately not been stated at what point along the headlight beams the bending took place, otherwise a more definite conclusion about the cause of the phenomenon could be arrived at. There are three possibilities: the beams were bent at source; they appeared bent to the observer through illusion or hallucination; they were bent somewhere along the beams.

In considering the first possibility we are hampered by the lack of details in the reports. We are not told what type of car the motorist was driving. With this knowledge it would not be difficult to find out what sort of dipping mechanism was fitted to the car and thus to decide on the possible mechanisms by which the lights could have been dipped out of line. However I feel that the spontaneous action of the dipping mechanism is not a good enough explanation to cover the facts, unless subsequent information states that the beams were bent at source.

The illusion/hallucination theory is perhaps to some the easy way out in trying to explain the phenomenon, but it is a distinct possibility, as possible as the object's being an alien spacecraft. Further I would like to point out to those readers who will try to argue against the hallucination idea, that the subject of hallucinations is not generally aware that he has been suffering from them, and also is usually indignant when it is suggested that he has suffered. What illusion though could account for the apparent bending of the beams? The Cambridge University Group have suggested to me that the illusion could be brought about by the sudden extinguishing of half, the left half, of the beam, which, through its divergent character, would then seem to have been bent to the right. The mechanism by which this could occur is not clear but would probably be in the nature of a freak of reflection caused by the absence of dust particles by which car headlight beams are normally seen. Again the lack of data in the report is to be regretted. The possibility of half the beam's being

obscured depends on the beam's being bent through only a small angle, and we just do not know how far the beams were bent. Further information on this point would be most welcome, and it is to be hoped that the *Australian Flying Saucer Review* do not cease their investigations before they are really complete, a habit into which many investigators seem to have lapsed of late.

If hallucination be the explanation, and as yet there does not seem to be any arguments against the idea in contrast to the other theories here presented, then there ought to be a cause for the hallucination. Either the delusion was generated spontaneously in Sullivan's brain or it was caused by some outside agency. The former explanation is not supported by the reports that say that Sullivan is "an intelligent and highly respected business-man". The latter course is open to any amount of speculation, one line of which can be followed with some support from other reports of alien spacecraft. This line suggests that the hallucination was brought about by the effects on Sullivan of the strong magnetic or other fields generated by the alien craft. Readers should refer to the several articles and notes by Dr. Bernard Finch for further ideas along these lines.

There is another unlikely though not impossible explanation and this is that after swerving very badly through falling asleep or some other cause, Sullivan made up the whole incident to cover his anonymity at being such a bad driver. An ingenious idea but as I say rather an unlikely explanation of the facts.

The last category of explanations covers the possibility that the beams were bent somewhere along their path from the headlights into the distance. It has been casually suggested that this bending could have been caused by some sort of "force field" generated by the object in the field. This suggestion does not take into account any of the other facts reported. For a start the only thing affected by the force field, if any, were the two head-light beams. This means that the field would have had to have a very selective effect on the many lightwaves passing through the space in front of the vehicle; such an explanation raises more difficulties than it overcomes. If no selective effect occurred then all lightwaves from the beams, the road, the surrounding countryside would have been equally bent and no observer, however, perceptive, in Sullivan's position would have noticed any change in his surroundings. Further, to add to the difficulties we would have to justify the existence of another field other than the three already known, i.e. electric, magnetic and gravitational, because each of these would have other effects on the car besides bending its headlights beams; unless of course the highly unlikely selective effect occurred.

So the facts of the sighting remain inexplicable except through the agency of imposed hallucination either caused accidentally or purposely by the craft, if that is what the object was.

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