

U.S.A.F. URGED TO WIDEN UFO STUDY

The following item, under the signature of Richard Lewis, the newspaper's Washington correspondent, appeared in the "Chicago Sun-Times" of April 12—

"Scientific consultants to the Air Force have urged it to beef up the investigation of flying saucers and tackle the mystery as a major challenge in science.

"The *Sun-Times* has learned that the consultants urged a full-scale investigation of sightings of unidentified flying objects by a team or several teams of qualified scientists, rather than simply by military personnel.

"An expanded UFO probe is now being considered by Dr. Harold Brown, secretary of the Air Force. It has attracted the interest of members of the House Armed Services Committee.

"Significantly, the recommendation has been made by two different consultants.

"While their investigative proposals differ, both agree that the UFO mystery has reached proportions where top scientific talent ought to be recruited to examine it. Both agree, also, that the mystery will not be solved so long as investigators approach UFO reports as the product of hallucinations, mass hysteria or mistaken identification of familiar objects.

"The principal consultant taking this view is Dr. J. Allen Hynek of Evanston. He has been Air Force adviser on UFO phenomena studies (Project Blue Book) since 1948.

"Hynek is head of the astronomy department at North-western University. He formerly directed the satellite tracking program of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory at Harvard University.

"In the years he has been evaluating UFO reports, Hynek has built up a file of UFO sightings which have defied explanation in terms of known phenomena. He said at least 20 these should be investigated by a panel of scientists.

"The Air Force has called in other consultants on the UFO problem. Among them are Dr. Brian O'Brien, physicist; Dr. Carl Sagan, astro-physicist of the University of California; Dr. Willis H. Ware of the RAND Corp., and Dr. Jesse Orlansky, nationally known psychologist and consultant to the Defense Department.

"While the Air Force has not made public the group's recommendations, it was learned they urged the recruitment of scientists at universities throughout the nation to investigate saucer reports in their areas. For this purpose, the group proposed a budget of about \$250,000 as a starter. The proposal has been taken under advisement.

"Hynek has been advising the Air Force since last year to round up an independent scientific

panel to probe UFO reports. He then suggested the Air Force enlist the aid of the National Academy of Sciences.

"Hynek proposed that instead of spreading the investigation out among a number of universities, it be handled by one cohesive group of scientists which would analyse every major case.

"Last week, Hynek was called here by the Air Force to appear as a witness before the House Armed Services Committee. The hearing was closed. However, Hynek's testimony later was made a part of the open record.

"The North-western astronomer maintained that many UFO sightings boil down to explainable natural phenomena. He cited two in Michigan recently, which he said were products of swamp gas. However, he added, many other sightings reported by numerous reliable witnesses cannot be explained. He said they fit no known pattern of natural phenomena.

"As a scientist, he told an attentive committee, 'I must be mindful of the lessons of the past. All too often it has happened that matters of great value to science were overlooked because the new phenomenon simply did not fit the accepted scientific outlook of the time.'

"As examples, Hynek cited fossils, which were overlooked as evidence of evolution, and meteorites. The French National Academy less than a century ago pronounced 'impossible' reports that stones (meteorites) fell from the sky.

"Hynek said he had set aside for further study 20 particularly well-reported UFO cases, which, despite the character, technical competence and number of witnesses, I have not been able to explain. I have done this to illustrate that neither I nor the Air Force hide the fact there are unexplained reports, and to illustrate also that the Air Force does not maintain, contrary to some public opinion, that reporters of UFOs are lacking in intelligence or are objects only for ridicule.'

"Of the 20 reports, he said, 10 are from scientists and highly trained individuals; five are from military and police personnel, and five are from reliable civilian observers who are not scientists.

"Hynek urged that all data accumulated by the Air Force on UFOs since 1948 be studied by a civilian panel of physical and social scientists.

"This panel should be asked to examine the UFO problem critically for the express purpose for determining whether a major problem really exists,' he said."

(Continued from p. 15)

whet their readers' appetites with an introductory survey of the great American wave of UFOs which started early in 1964. They then analyse many other significant cases, take a new look at old alignments, discuss various great waves and cycles, and, thanks to the co-operation of the U.S. Air Force, release for the first time the details of the surprising case at Lock Raven Dam in Maryland, U.S.A.

French students of UFOs, and others too, have already welcomed this new book. The English versions will be eagerly awaited.

(Continued from p. 31.)

Pueblo, February 8, denies the popular idea that the machine was a saucer.

Ya, February 8, an EFE Agency report of the landing. *Informaciones*, February 9, on-the-spot report, with photos of the marks left by the machine and a sketch drawn by J. L. Jordán.

Informaciones, February 12, further report on the case.

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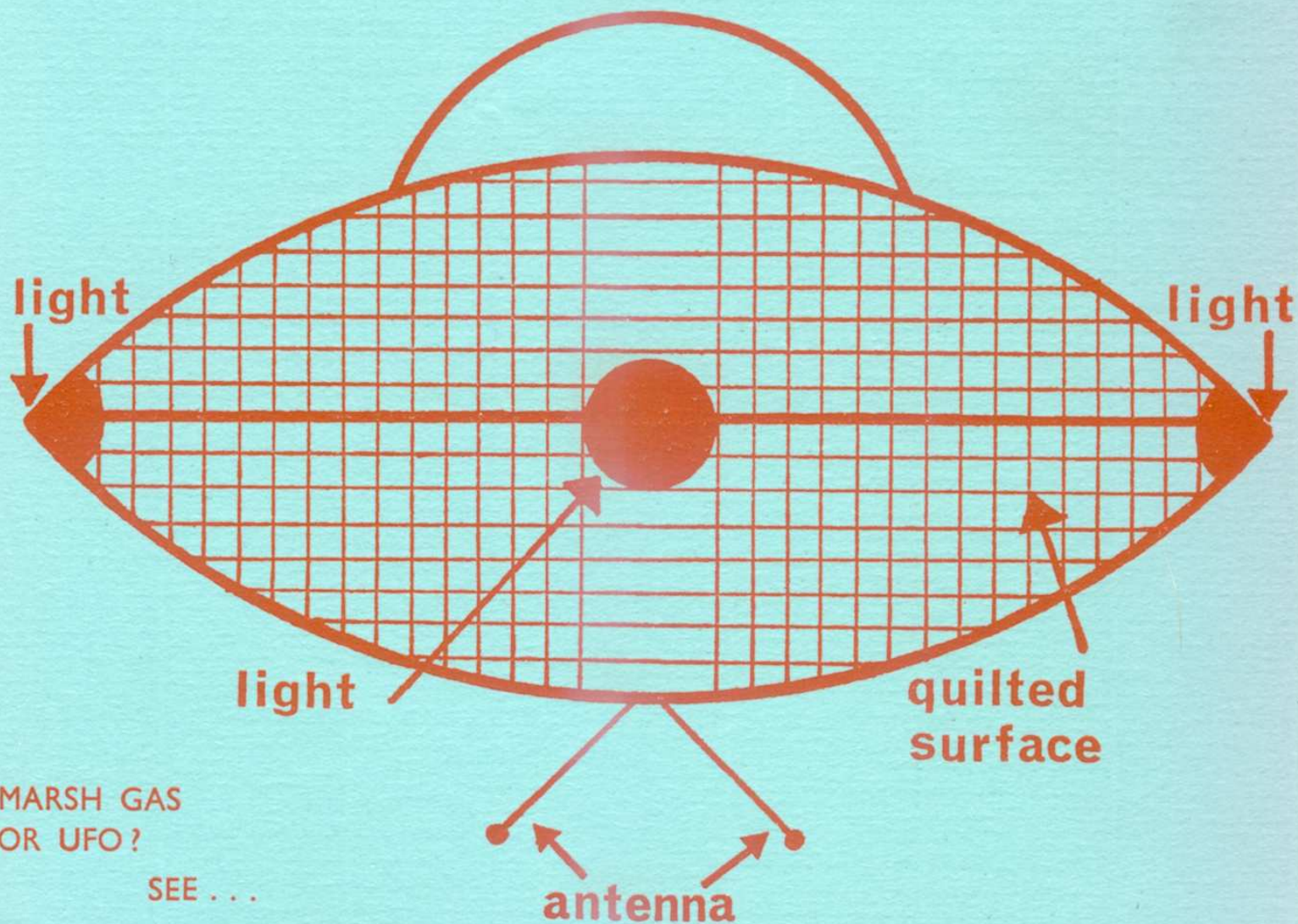
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MICHIGAN FURORE

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1966

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Realities

ON March 4, 1966 the BBC Light Programme's *Woman's Hour*, which claims one of the largest radio audiences of the day, produced a piece on flying saucers. For good measure the Corporation repeated the item on the Home Service on Saturday, April 2.

Was the repetition considered necessary in view of the sudden upsurge at that time of UFO reports from the United States, and because of the reaction in some quarters to the official explanation concerning some of these reports? It could well have been, for during the course of the programme, Professor Boyd of Mullard Laboratories, who was one of those taking part, disclosed that he and the rest of the scientific fraternity regard the subject as 'rather foolish'.

The stage was set for this revelation when Messrs Charles Gibbs-Smith and Gordon Creighton, and the Editor of the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* were invited to a series of interviews when questions and answers on the subject were recorded. It so happened that far too much material was recorded for a ten minute programme and the necessary editing left but a tiny rump of vaguely related remarks. These formed convenient 'aunt sallies' to be aimed at by Professor Boyd, the representative of the 'other side'.

What is interesting is the nature of the items edited out of the recordings. For example, the Editor's contribution included a brief statement of the policy of this *REVIEW*, and citing of significant and well-authenticated cases. Cases like that of the captain, crew and passengers of a BOAC airliner over the Atlantic Ocean in June 1954, the classic Socorro incident of April 1964 and the story of Valensole. All of these, for which no acceptable conventional explanations have been forthcoming, were cast aside. The only part of the Editor's interview which went out over the air was a collection of out-of-context phrases about the apparent dematerialisation of the object which had landed in M. Masse's lavender field.

One wonders if Professor Boyd's performance would have improved had he listened to the accounts of these major cases instead of to a few disjointed remarks. As it was, he was quoted by the interviewer as thinking that the sighting referred to by Mr. Gibbs-Smith—the object photographed at Cappoquin, Ireland, on December 26, 1965, while flying on an apparently horizontal course—was a rocket launched from Britain's Aberporth ranges. Note furthermore that this 'rocket', launched during the Christmas holiday, flew low enough and slowly enough to be observed while the witnesses stopped their car, got out, selected a camera, and took their photograph. An altogether too obliging rocket. One was inclined to think that the foolishness mentioned

by the professor is not entirely on our side of the fence. This feeling was confirmed by the B.B.C. reporter's statement that she had checked that no rocket had been launched that day from Aberporth.

For the rest, the professor suggested that we base our reasoning on 'hazy evidence' and 'clouds', and so on. For our part we suggest that the learned gentleman ignored the realities of the situation, and failed to do his homework on our subject before committing himself. Unhappily there are still for too many 'experts' whose methods, where UFOs are concerned, are completely unscientific. Without even considering the evidence, they label something the like of which they have never before encountered, with the first rationalisation that springs to mind. Small wonder some witnesses prefer anonymity when they see or hear die-hard non-expert 'experts' labelling as fools those who are so impressed by the unusual thing they have seen that they are innocent enough to report it.

It is only fair to state that we have one small area of agreement with our critic. We presume that Professor Boyd was referring to—and denying—Mr. Creighton's assertions that astronauts have seen UFOs when aloft, when he complained that no names are ever revealed. It is indeed a pity that this is so, but hardly surprising when one considers the vast amount of security involved in the field of astronautics. 'Keep mum, for there's no

knowing where either military or commercial security begins or ends' seems to be the motto.

Nevertheless, we would hazard a guess that there is no hurry to release the news of the surveillance of men's spacecraft by the unknowns, because the aerospace scientists themselves would dearly like to join the select band of astronauts and cosmonauts in orbit so that they could study the UFOs. Furthermore, it would not surprise us in the least if this proved to be the one (otherwise classified) field where the main, and opposing, Earth nations exchange information.

As far as we are concerned, there *are* signs that if the UFO pressure continues to mount as it has done since April 1964, closed minds will be forced to open. So as the wave rolls on, we must be on our guard against the dangers of over-enthusiasm. Most people who are interested in the subject are well aware that easy conventionalisations and rationalisations cannot be applied to every strange light or object that appears in the skies, on the land, or in the seas. Equally they should face up to realities, accept the fact that every unusual object or light is not a flying saucer, and so deny ammunition to the Professor Boyds of this world. A sane and responsible approach to the subject on our part will encourage the small band of open-minded scientists, and others, to join us in the search for the solution to this very real problem.

DELAYS IN PUBLICATION

The Editor wishes to apologise to readers for the very late appearance of the issue for March-April, 1966. Disastrous delays in production stages—which were beyond his control—were particularly frustrating for the Editor, as 'copy' for the number was ready during the first week in February.

Steps have now been taken to improve upon this state of affairs, and it is expected there will soon be a return to normal schedules.

CONGRATULATIONS...

... to the BBC *World of Tomorrow* team for producing on TV what seems to be a perfectly satisfactory filmed explanation of the purported UFO, filmed in colour by Mrs. J. Oldfield from an airliner over Staffordshire early in April. While one reader has reminded us of the late Waveney Girvan's well-aided dictum that "Even more than the sightings it is the explanations, that need to be investigated", we feel that there should be a degree of trust in these matters. Nevertheless, it *would* be reassuring to inspect the two *original* films side by side.

Car Headlight Beams reported 'Bent'

Australian Police discover possible UFO landing site

UNDER the headline FLYING SAUCER IN DEATH CRASH? the *Daily Express* of April 12 carried the following strange story from Melbourne, Australia :—

"Motorist Ronald Sullivan was cruising along in the moonlight when the beam of his headlights 'bent' inexplicably to the right.

"'Had I followed them I would have run off the road', he told police at Maryborough, near Melbourne. 'I managed to stop before I crashed. Just then I saw a display of gaseous lights in all the colours of the spectrum in a nearby field. An object rose about 10 ft. in the air—and disappeared'.

"Later, he returned to the scene and found 19-year-old motorist Gary Taylor had been killed the previous night in a crash at same spot. Police checked and found in a freshly ploughed field a circular depression from two to five inches in depth and about five feet in diameter.

"They regard 38-year-old Sullivan as an intelligent and highly respected business-man—who does not believe in flying saucers".

When Dr. Bernard Finch forwarded a copy of the relative *Associated Press* message (which he had obtained privately), we learned that Mr. Sullivan's frightening experience had taken place on April 4, that he had returned to the site on April 8, and that the fatal accident had occurred on April 7. The incident took place on the road between Bendigo and St. Arnaud, in Victoria.

A few days later we received a welcome selection of newspaper cuttings from our friends of the

Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society.* Among them was one from the *Melbourne Herald* of April 11, which gave additional details of the incident.

After the object which rose from the field had disappeared, Mr. Sullivan drove on to Wyche-proof, where he had his headlights checked. They were found to be in perfect order.

The depression discovered by the police in the newly ploughed field, was some 50 feet from the fence.

The scene of the sighting, and, three days later, of the death crash, was on a stretch of straight bitumen road about nine miles east of Bealiba, itself 120 miles north-west of Melbourne. No trace of alcohol was found after a blood test on the dead driver.

When Mr. Sullivan's headlights were deflected, it was a moonlit night : on the night of the fatality it was cloudy.

Police at Maryborough, Castlemaine, Bealiba and Newstead said that they had all heard reports of flying saucers seen in the area. They were non-committal on how seriously they regarded the (Sullivan) report.

[Was the light-bending caused accidentally by the car's proximity to the force-field of the UFO, or more sinisterly, was the bending caused by a deliberate act ?—EDITOR.]

NOTE—* This very active group publishes the AUSTRALIAN FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. Their address is : P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Victoria, Australia.

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MICHIGAN FURORE

by Charles Bowen

THE UFO sightings in the vicinity of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on and after March 20, 1966, aroused such a storm in a teacup that one can hardly be blamed for imagining that it would need a much larger earthenware receptacle to contain the tempest. Despite the fuss, the sightings were really quite minor ones, yet they earned the tag "Best verified UFO" in the *New York Herald-Tribune* of March 22, not only because of the number of people who witnessed them, but also because of the status and standing of those people.

The first newspaper item to reach me was a clipping from the *Houston Chronicle* of March 21. This was so interesting that it was immediately set aside for our World-Round-up columns. For a day or so little more happened until the London *Evening News* of March 30 put me on my guard with its headline NEW FLYING SAUCER SCARE SWEEPS THE U.S. Their report paid scant attention to the incidents that aroused the furore in Michigan, but it did mention circular indentations that had been discovered in the State, that charcoal-like granules had been found on this site, and that geiger counters had 'jumped' in the vicinity of the spots.

It was as well I was on my guard. Even while I was preparing to write to our correspondents for further material, we were deluged with items drawn, so it seemed, from almost every newspaper in the States.

Frank Mannor's experience

An early-comer was the *Detroit News* of March 21. From this, and the *Houston Chronicle*, we learned the story of Frank Mannor, a grizzled outdoor type of 47 years, father of ten, fond of hunting, fishing and shooting, who lives beyond the edge of the small community of Dexter, seven miles north-west from Ann Arbor.

At 7.30 p.m. on March 20, he saw lights approach the top of nearby trees, first red, then blue, then white. With his son Ronald, 19, he ran into nearby familiar swampland towards the light. His wife telephoned the police on their ten-party line—the story quickly got out!

Mannor stated that when he was some 500 yards from the thing (the name applied by some to our Warminster phenomenon seems to have caught on in America where it is now frequently used—and with a capital 'T') he saw that it was

pyramid-shaped. The length of a car, it had a hazy mist under it as it hung above ground level. There was 'a light here, and a light there, and what looked like a porthole', although it didn't resemble a flying saucer. It had a *coral-like surface*.

Young Ronald yelled to his father to "Look at that horrible thing", and at that point the lights went out.

Mrs. Mannor described how she saw the object 'rise from the ground and hit the tree-top awhile, and fall back to the ground'.

Mannor returned to the house, and he and the family heard a high-pitched screeching over the roof, rather like a bullet ricochet. Down in the swamp, however, the noise had been more like a siren.

Police witnesses

By now the police had responded to the call. Dexter police chief Robert R. Taylor and Patrolman N. G. Lee saw the sight from a nearby hill. They said that it was a pulsating red light, and when they arrived at the spot and proceeded on foot with flashlights, it disappeared. They heard a noise—'like an ambulance', said Lee. The time was 9.0 p.m.

Robert Taylor, 16, son of the police chief, claims he saw a red-lit vehicle in the sky, moving slowly in the east at 10.30 p.m. As he watched, it accelerated and sped off to the west, flashing red and white.

Washtenaw County Deputy Sheriff Bushroe, who had responded to the Mannor call, was returning towards Ann Arbor when, at 11.0 p.m., he too saw lights to the south; flashing bluish green, red and white. In his car, with other officers, he turned and followed the object which 'looked like an arc' and was 'round'. After a five-mile pursuit the police car gave up the chase. "We lost it in the trees. Either the lights went off, or it took off with a tremendous burst of speed. It was about 1,500 feet above the ground. It moved at about 100 mph. We were doing 70..." said Bushroe.

Frank Mannor said he and his son have good sight, that they couldn't both be wrong, and that he knows every inch of the ground.

At the police H.Q. at Ann Arbor a composite drawing of the object was prepared. A copy of this is displayed on our front cover.

It should be noted that in the *Houston Chronicle*

report the Mannors are quoted as favouring a (rugby, or American-type) **football shape**, made of 'waffled material, with blinking lights and antennas'. The original pyramid shape seems to have been discarded. They also described the object as like two elliptical bowls cupped together, with a globe on top, brownish in colour.

Hillsdale incident

While the *New York Herald-Tribune* told how the Air Force in Washington was stating that it had no report, and the Washtenaw County Sheriff was announcing that Air Force investigators were on the spot, a new incident hit the headlines. Among others, the *New York World Telegram and Sun* and the *Providence (Rhode Island) Journal* of March 22 told how an assistant dean of Hillside College, 87 'coeds', and a local Civil Defence Director, William van Horn, had watched a glowing object 'zip past a college dormitory . . . and hover over a swamp for hours' on March 21.

Mr. van Horn said the object 'dimmed its lights when the police cars approached, brightened again when they went away, and dodged an Air Force beacon light'.

The shape described by some of the students was roughly that of a (rugby) football.

From the same report we learned that the Air Force had despatched Professor J. Allen Hynek, director of Dearborn Observatory, Northwestern University, to investigate the two sighting claims which the *New York Daily News* chose to refer to as "Flying Oddballs . . .")

Oddities

The *Duluth News-Tribune* of March 23 records how hundreds of persons armed with cameras and binoculars braved the icy rain in the hope of catching repeat performances. They were doomed to disappointment, as also was the man who played a violin in the hope that visiting 'pilots' would hear and come to earth, and the man who sat in his car blinking his headlights in a code for the 'universal equation PI'—his explanation—which he claimed is known and understood throughout the Universe. Small wonder ridicule of our subject persists.

Doctor's diagnosis

On March 25, after a hurried investigation, Dr. Hynek held a news conference. We have been fortunate enough to obtain a transcript of his statement, and this will be found following this article. Briefly he was of the opinion that the witnesses had observed the spontaneous combustion of marsh gases—methane, etc.—and declared that

a 'dismal swamp (was) a most unlikely place for visitors from outer space' to land (*Christian Science Monitor* of March 28). It is hardly surprising to learn that this aroused a storm of protest. The Mannors and others declared roundly that they knew their marsh gases ('will-o-the-wisps') when they saw them. In fact, the Mannors stated categorically that they saw an object (*Duluth Herald* of March 28). Mr. van Horn claimed that he and the coeds saw a white and red object about 20 feet across.

Reader Robert E. Rymas of Warren, Michigan, asks "How can a cloud of gas give the distinct impression of a vehicular form such as that represented by the composite drawing . . . ?" All in all, Dr. Hynek seems to have had a bad press, with talk of white-washing, and covering-up for the Air Force, although some newspapers steered well clear of the rising note of hysteria. The *Denver Post* of March 27, for example, asks whether methane glows, and answered its own question with a note from a Dr. W. McKinnell of Marathon Oil Company, who said that it doesn't, unless enough heat is applied. The same scientist was also puzzled as to how such ignition happened so widely in the Michigan swamp areas, although he himself had seen swamp gas flares—in Michigan. The *Denver Post* stated sensibly that the whole UFO business is a fascinating scientific problem that deserves much research, a line also taken by the *Christian Science Monitor* of March 30. This great newspaper is glad that Dr. Hynek, a distinguished astronomer, carried out the investigation, because unlike many of his colleagues he takes these studies seriously. I feel we must echo these sentiments, (although not always in agreement with him, as will be seen later), for he has been studying the problem in his present capacity, we are told, for some 18 years. If he had no time for UFOs he would have lost interest long ago: it must be remembered that he has investigated many interesting cases, among them Socorro (April 1964)¹, and Damon, Texas (Deputies Goode and McCoy)², and has declared that objects involved in those cases were definitely unknowns. And if one takes a close look at the Hynek press statement, one cannot fail to notice that he says: "In my capacity as Scientific Consultant, I have recommended that competent scientists quietly study such cases when evidence from responsible people appears to warrant such study". I do not think the Air Force Scientific Consultant has been deliberately covering up. He has been very strict in his investigation, and this does not go down too well with those folk who are inclined to see more in some incidents than is warranted by the evidence.

Reactions

On the other side of the fence, the Mannors must be given credit for knowing the swamp and its habits and they claim to have seen something solid. Everyone, including Dr. Hynek, acknowledges that Frank Mannor, poor but proud, is a solid type of citizen. *Life* magazine of April 1 (*Life International* of April 18) carried an article summarising the incidents. Mannor is quoted as declaring "I seen what I seen and nobody's going to tell me different. That wasn't no old foxfire or hullabillusion. It was an object". The same issue of *Life* also ran articles with superb colour photographs of UFOs.

As for the object, Aimé Michel has drawn my attention to the similarity between the composite drawing of the Dexter object and the Valensole object,³ which in itself betokens a similarity to the Socorro UFO.

The view expressed by Dr. Hynek that a swamp is an unlikely place for an extraterrestrial ship to land is open to dispute. There have been several reports of landings in such areas, none more recent than that at Tully, Queensland⁴—unverified I agree, but with plenty of evidence to support the view that something very strange went on in a swamp even nastier than those in Michigan. Swamps are usually lonely, out-of-the-way places, and just the location for uninterrupted landings. If the UFO techniques are as good as we think they are, then swamps can be but minor hazards to them. Also, what about the mass of reports of UFO comings and goings in the oceans⁵ of the world? Can anything be nastier, or wetter, than our storm-swept seas?

Final round-up

I note that at his news conference, Dr. Hynek held up a copy of the first Adamski photograph, and declared that it was a picture of a 'chicken feeder' (*Christian Science Monitor* of March 28). Presumably the professor has not read the statements of the photographic expert reported by the late Waveney Girvan in his *Flying Saucers and Common Sense*, and I doubt whether he would change his opinion if he had. Reader W. J. MacLean of Edinburgh writes to ask if Dr. Hynek can produce a chicken feeder of 1952 vintage

resembling an Adamski saucer, and he wonders what chickens could want with portholes! Mr. MacLean also produced a newspaper photograph (*The News* of Adelaide, South Australia, January 27, 1966) in which a similar object was snapped as it passed over a flock of sheep in Queensland. Which forces him, and me too, to the conclusion that Australians keep chickens as well as sheep.

While headlines throughout the United States proclaimed further sightings, and questions in the House by Congressman Ford, and new demands for Congressional enquiries by Major Donald Keyhoe, the *Duluth Herald* of March 30 reported that the U.S. Air Force denies "squelching reports" (a lovely description!) of UFOs. From the *New York Journal American* I see that Major Quintanella of Project Blue Book states "Our files are open to any accredited newspaperman, or anybody writing a book", which seems to be borne out by the fact that Jacques Vallée has drawn considerably on that source for material for his two books *Anatomy of a Phenomenon* and *Les Phénomènes Insolites de l'Espace*.

Finally, the *New York Journal American* of March 29 reports the investigation, by Mr. van Horn of Hillsdale, of circular indentations found in a gravel pit—which is where I came in with my copy of the *Evening News*.

Acknowledgments for newspaper clippings to: Louise Amsden, New York City: 'K.W.B.', Houston Texas: Luther C. Conant, Moorestown, N.J.: W. P. Farrow, Waterville, Maine: Peter J. Kelly, Southampton: F. K. Letteney, Lexington, Mass.: R. Lloyd-Taylor, Brighton: Mrs. I. M. Loman, Isle of Man: W. J. MacLean, Edinburgh: Gary S. Matthams, Cloquet, Minn.: John Ogilvy, Forfar: R. E. Rymas, Warren, Mich.: A. J. Van Cleave, Taos, New Mexico: Roman Forostyna, Brooklyn, N.Y.

NOTES

¹ FLYING SAUCER REVIEW Vol. 10, No. 6 (November/December 1964): *The Socorro Classic* (reprint from NICAP's *UFO Investigator*).

² Jerome Clark: *The Greatest Flap Yet? Part III*. (See page 13).

³ Aimé Michel: *The Valensole Affair*. FSR Vol. 11, No. 6. (November/December 1965).

⁴ Judith Magee: *Queensland Again*, FSR Vol. 12, No. 2 (March/April 1966).

⁵ Antonio Ribera: *UFOs and the Sea*, FSR Vol. 10, No. 6 (November/December 1964).

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FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

STATEMENT ON THE DEXTER AND HILLSDALE UFO SIGHTINGS

made to the Press by **Dr. J. Allen Hynek**, Scientific Consultant
to Project Blue Book, on March 25, 1966

THE Air Force has asked me to make a statement on my findings to date. This I am happy to do, provided it is clearly understood that my statement will refer to the two principal events as reported to me: the event near Dexter, Michigan, on March 20, and a similar one at Hillsdale, Michigan, on March 21. It does not cover the hundreds of unexplained reports as opposed to the thousands of explained cases made not only to Project Blue Book, but those from other countries, over the past several years, as described in recent books and articles. I have not investigated those—such as the one near Exeter, New Hampshire and those in the western states last year, nor the puzzling foreign cases, such as that at Cuernavaca, Mexico, last fall. **I have recommended in my capacity as Scientific Consultant, that competent scientists quietly study such cases when evidence from responsible people appears to warrant such study. There may be much of potential value to science in such events.** We know a very great deal more about the physical world in 1966 than we did in 1866—but, by the same token, the people in the year 2066 may regard us as very incomplete in our scientific knowledge. We must not, in our haste to have answers, be Frederick Smiths.

If then, it is understood **I am not making a blanket statement to cover the entire UFO phenomenon** over the past 20 years in this and other countries, I am prepared to discuss the Dexter and Hillsdale sightings.

Now, in addition to these two specific cases, there has been a flood of other reports from this area, both before and after last Sunday and Monday, and I could not possibly have had the time to investigate all of these. I have had time, however, to determine that in Hillsdale, *over and above* the sincere and honest reporting by the young ladies at Hillsdale College of a very puzzling sighting, certain young men have played pranks with flares. And, I have also determined that the pictures released yesterday to the press **were taken on March 17**, near Milan, Michigan, and have no reference whatever to the sightings of March 20 or 21, and are without any question a time exposure of the rising crescent moon and the planet Venus. I emphasise that this explanation refers

to those specific pictures and not to the two cases now in question.

At long last now, the Dexter and Hillsdale cases: Here are the hard facts, the residue, the common denominator after sifting out as much of the subjective, peripheral, and inconsistent statements as I have been able to do in this short time.

The majority of observers in both cases reported only lights—red, yellow and green, silent glowing lights, near the ground. They have not described an object. Even the only two observers who did describe an object have stated that they were no closer than 500 yards—better than a quarter of a mile away—a distance which does not allow details to be determined. Witnesses have described glowing lights—lights that seemed to move but never far from a definite locale, or which suddenly disappeared and popped up at another place. Now what was that locale in both instances? In both cases, a swamp. In both cases the location of the glow was pin-pointed: in Dexter it was seen between two distant groups of people, and at Hillsdale it was seen in a swampy depression between the girls and distant trees. It was in both cases a very localised phenomenon. I think that this is a most significant point.

A dismal swamp is a *most unlikely* place for a visit from outer space! It is not a place where a helicopter would hover for several hours, or where a soundless, secret device would likely be tested.

Now what is a swamp? It is a place of rotting vegetation and of decomposition. Swamps are not the normal province of the astronomer; he usually has his eyes trained toward far loftier places—yet the Dutch astronomer, Minnaert, in his book, "Light and Colour, in The Open Air", has this to say about swamps. He describes lights that have been seen in swamps by the astronomer Bessel and other excellent observers. The lights, he says, resemble tiny flames, sometimes seen right on the ground, sometimes floating above it. The flames go out in one place and suddenly appear in another, giving the illusion of motion. The colours, he says, are sometimes yellow, sometimes red and blue-green. No heat is felt, and the lights do not burn or char the ground. They can appear for hours at a time and sometimes for a whole night. Generally there is no smell, and usually no sound,

except the popping sound of little explosions, such as when a gas burner ignites.

Where does the gas come from, and what lights it? The rotting vegetation produces marsh gas which can be trapped by ice and winter conditions. When a spring thaw occurs, the gas may be released in some quantity.

The flame, Minnaert says, is a form of chemical luminescence and its low temperature is one of its peculiar features. Exactly how it occurs is not known and this in itself might be made a subject of an interesting study.

The glowing lights on the swamp near Dexter and Hillsdale were observed for two to three hours. No sounds were heard, except for popping sounds. The lights were red, green or yellow and they appeared to move sideways, and to rise a short distance. I emphasise this would not be seen frequently—it is of a unique character. I have never seen it myself and I can easily understand the dismay of the witnesses who saw it and who sincerely described what they saw.

It seems likely that as the present spring thaws came, the trapped gases CH_4 , H_2S , PH_3 , resulting from decomposition of organic materials were released. The chemistry book by Sienko and Plane has this to say: "In air, phosphine, PH_3 , usually bursts into flame, apparently because it is ignited by a spontaneous oxidation of the impurity P_2H_4 . The will-o-the-wisp, sometimes observed in marshes, may be due to spontaneous ignition of impure PH_3 , which might be formed by reduction of naturally occurring phosphorous compounds".

Other scientists have pointed out to me that in swamps the formation of H_2S and CH_4 from rotting vegetation is common. These could be ignited by the spontaneous burning of the Phosphine, PH_3 .

It would seem to me that the association of the sightings with swamps, in these particular cases, is more than coincidence. **No group of witnesses observed any craft coming to or going away from the swamps.** The glow was localised there. Deputy Fitzpatrick described the glow as coming from beyond a rise adjacent to the swamp, and visible through the trees. He stated that the lights brightened and dimmed much as stage lights do—smoothly and slowly. The girls at Hillsdale described almost the identical thing. This could have been due to the release of variable quantities of marsh gas.

The disappearance of the light when people got close with flash-lights or car lights, would indicate that the glow seemed bright only to dark-adapted eyes. The night was dark—there was no moon. The Hillsdale girls kept their rooms dark in order to see the lights in the swamp.

I emphasise in conclusion that I cannot prove in a Court of Law that this is the full explanation of these sightings. It appears very likely, however, that the combination of the conditions of this particular winter, an unusually mild one in this area, and the particular weather conditions that night—there was little wind at either location—were such as to have produced this unusual and puzzling display.—[My emphasis on certain passages.—EDITOR]

OLD HANDS

We observe from the March/April, 1966, edition of **Lumières dans la nuit** that R. Veillith's excellent journal, which frequently features articles by Aimé Michel, is now in its ninth year—a fine service to our cause. Enquiries to: M. R. Veillith, "Les Pins", LE CHAMBON-SUR-LIGNON (Haute Loire), France.

SMART NEW LOOK

Phénomènes Spatiaux, the quarterly journal of the French Group, G.E.P.A., has made its 1966 appearance in a pleasing new letterpress style. Editor: René Fouéré, 69 rue da la Tombe Issoire, Paris 14^e.

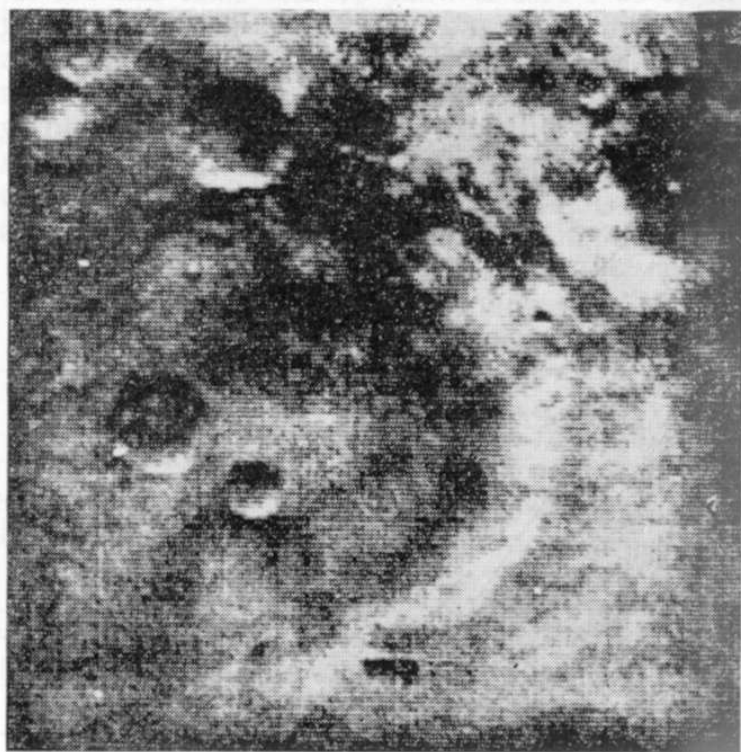
THE MOON AND MARS

A note on the authors of our main feature which follows on page 9. **Antonio Ribera**, well known to our readers, is Vice-President of Centro de Estudios Interplanetarios, Barcelona, Spain. **José M. Oliver** is Secretary of the Agrupación Astronómica de Sabadell, Spain.

THE MOON AND MARS

by Antonio Ribera and José M. Oliver

IT was quite a shock for the scientific world at large to look at the photographs of Mars sent by the space probe *Mariner IV* and note the great similarity they presented with the surface of the Moon. At first sight, these photographs dealt quite a blow to the old school of thought which presented Mars as a world of sandy deserts and barren landscapes, more or less dead but far removed from any similarity with our satellite, the Moon. It was then, when studying these similarities, that we fell upon a photograph of the lunar region of Clavius, which, compared with the Number 11 photograph of Mars by *Mariner IV*, had in store for us one of the biggest surprises in our lives:



Mariner IV : Frame 11 of Mars Photographs.

Fig. 1.

at first sight, the similarities between both photographs were extraordinary. Showed to a layman, he dubbed them as photographs of the same region unhesitatingly. But the laymen's evidence wasn't enough for us, of course, and we undertook the task of making a scientific study of both photographs, comparing them by the most foolproof methods, and summing up our findings. (Figures 1-2).

And these are our findings . . .

The photographs. Frame 11 was taken in green



The Clavius Crater region of the Moon.

Fig. 2.

light from a slant range of 7,800 miles, with the sun halfway up the Martian sky. The region is probably Atlantis, between Mare Sirenum and Mare Cimmerium (Lat. -31° Long. 163°). Extent: E-W 170 miles; N-S 150 miles. The American magazine *Sky and Telescope*, in its September, 1965, issue, most surprisingly stated (Page 160): "Here the gigantic circular feature covering most of the left side resembles the lunar crater Albategnius (sic)". We checked with Albategnius, and the similarity is remote compared with Clavius.

When at first sight we noted the similarity of the above photograph with a standard photograph of Clavius (Figure 2)—but noting also that this photograph has a slanting perspective, since it belongs to a very southern region of the Moon (Lat. -86° : Long. -13°), with an extent of 155 miles E-W; 380 N-S—we proceeded to make an orthographic projection of this photograph, in order to compare both photographs on the same basis. To make our drawing, we used the MOON MAPS by H. P. Wilkins (Map XXIII), arriving

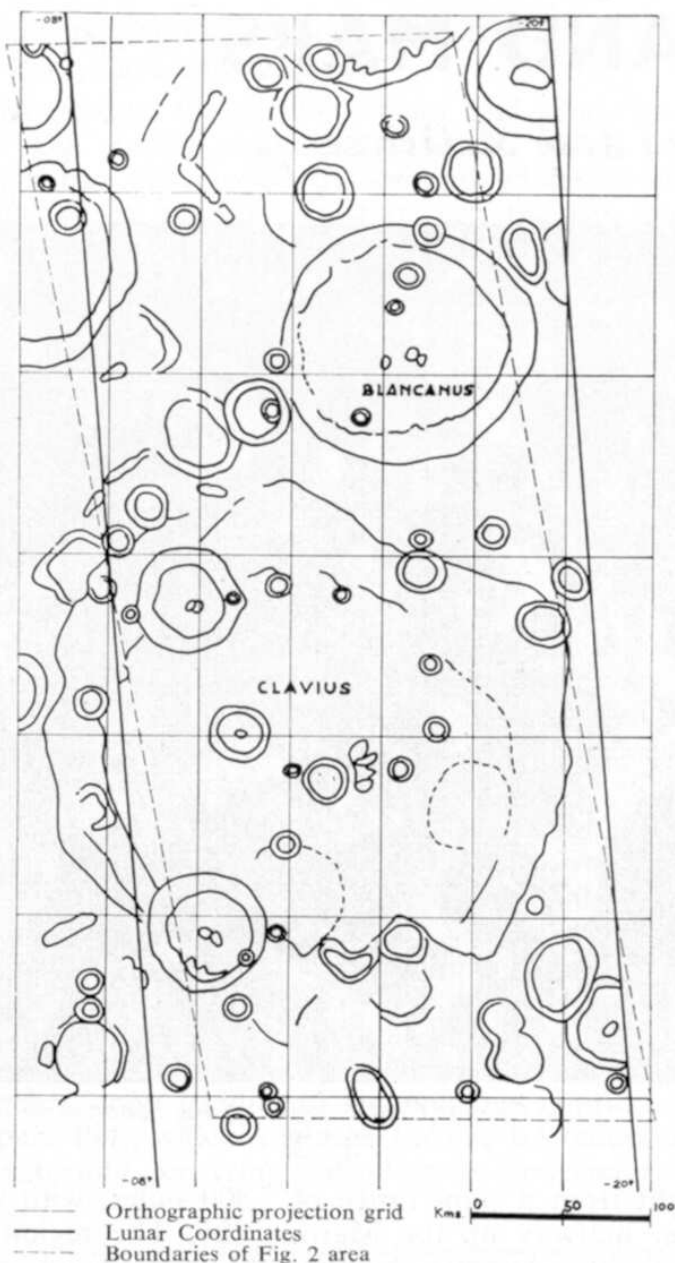


Fig. 3.

at the chart showing in Figure 3. The dotted line corresponds to photograph Number 2.

Cartographic method used. The first thing to do, in order to compare successfully the topographical features in both photographs, was to draw a map of the Mars photograph; then it was necessary to superimpose both maps, and thirdly to note all the similarities existing between both maps.

The cartographic work with the Mars photograph was none too easy, to begin with. The details in it are not generally clear; some of them, however, are clear enough to be recognised as craters and mountains. According to several scientists, the white cloudy areas could be caused by snow or mist. Assuming that both mist and/or snow are found near and on the summits of circus walls and mountains, it is reasonably safe for us to use these white areas as topographical

features, and noting them accordingly in our map. The results of this cartographic work can be seen in Figure 4; please compare it with Figure 1.

Since all the features in the Clavius photograph do not correspond with those in the Mars photograph, but only with some, we drew another map of the Clavius region, noting only the most relevant features, namely, those corresponding to details in the Mars photograph.

It is necessary to note now the photograph taken through a green filter from *Mariner IV* was taken practically from the zenith of the region photographed, i.e., from an angle of about 90° . We can consider this photograph, then, practically as a vertical projection of the Mars surface, since the slant would be negligible. On the other hand, our orthographic projection of the Clavius region is also 90° , yet they don't fit angularly, but only when the Lunar projection is seen from an angle of $70-80^\circ$. This is what we did. Once this correction was made, and using only the corresponding details and features (Figure 5), we put numbers in the Mars features and letters in the Moon features, in order to draw a list of corresponding features. We thought it fair to establish an "awards" scale of 1 to 10 marks, according to the degree of similarity between the features observed.

TABLE OF COMPARISONS

Mars	Moon	"Award" Score	Remarks
1	1-2	A	3 The two Mars craters correspond to the NW Wall of the Moon crater.
2	3	B	2 Similarity only by position.
3	4	C	9 Surprising similarity between Moon and Mars craters.
4	5	D	7 Confused Mars area similar in shape and position with Lunar crater.
5	6	E	2 Ibid.
6	7	E	5 Same features, same shape in both craters, but displaced.
7	8	F	7 In Mars it is a hill, in the Moon, a crater.
8	9	G	9 Two very similar craters; only the Mars crater has a broken wall.
9	10	I	9 Two small craters on the wall of 9-G.
10	11	H	9 Ibid.

with the help of Señor Don Feliu Comella, President of the AAS, as follows :

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{36} \right)^{36} = \frac{1}{2.36^{36}} = \log 1 - \left[\log 2 + 36 \log 36 \right]$$

which gives us a most surprising result : -56.3278

The ratio with this logarithm

$$\text{is } 2.128 \times 10^{56}$$

i.e., that among 2128 (followed by 53 zeroes) groupings of 36 features, there is only **ONE** possibility of concurrence.

This figure amounts to infinity, for all practical purposes.

Conclusion. So far, we have only endeavoured to underline some strange similarities between the

features of the Martian surface discovered by Frame 11 of the *Mariner IV* photographic survey of the Red Planet, and the Lunar region which sports the gigantic Clavius circus. As demonstrated by the probabilities calculation, this is not only curious but to all intents and purposes impossible. How can astronomers explain these—to say the least—surprising similarities ?

It's up to them to answer. But . . . does this answer lie in mere topographical similarities ? We strongly suspect that this is not the case.

[This article appears in the appendices to A. Ribera's new book (see p. 15). Since going to press we learn that it has also been published in the February issue of *The Strolling Astronomer* University Park, New Mexico, USA]

Back to Charlton

IN a lengthy and detailed article, published in the Winter 1965 edition of the *BUFORA Journal and Bulletin* (Vol. 1, No. 7), Mr. Alan W. Sharp, B.Sc., B.Eng., F.G.S., F.R.A.S., endeavours finally to dispose of the Charlton (Wiltshire) Crater mystery of 1963. The ingenious theory he offers is that lightning struck at the point on a former demarcation line between fields where an iron straining post once stood. According to Mr. Sharp, the discharge was probably accompanied by a very strong wind, sufficient to disperse the remains of plants thrown up by the strike . . . in a summer memorable for its severe storms and heavy rainfall.

In the September/October 1963 issue of the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, our late editor, Waveney Girvan, told how he had demolished astronomer Patrick Moore's claim that a tiny meteorite had caused the hole, crater and unusual indentations in Farmer Blanchard's field. He also exposed "Dr." Randall who had made a fanciful claim that a flying saucer from Uranus was responsible for the marks : this Review remained uncommitted on the matter.

Feeling that even Mr. Sharp's wind would not have been strong enough to have removed all traces of (sodden) barley let alone potatoes, I showed this latest article (which had also been offered to this journal) to our scientific consultant, C. Maxwell Cade. Said Mr. Cade, in a letter dated March 7 : "This does seem like making a mountain out of a molehill. As an article on 'exotic ways of making holes in the ground' it is really

rather good, and I am sure that it deserves to be published—somewhere. But as far as the Review is concerned, I can only repeat 'What about Farmer Blanchard's potatoes and barley ?' "

Elsewhere in his article Mr. Sharp laughs at claims that 'gas jets' cushioned the landing of a sophisticated spacecraft, as well he might. Later he states that "no convincing reason has been advanced . . . why a spaceship would elect to have a large spike sticking out underneath".

Perhaps we should examine these points in the light of things that have been discovered since 1963. In my article *A Significant Report from France*, (FSR September/October 1965), I indicated that there was a degree of similarity between the marks found at Valensole after the landing incident reported on July 1 1965, and those discovered at Charlton. The machine witnessed by M. Masse at Valensole had six 'legs', only four of which made marks on the ground. Could it not be possible that a 'sophisticated' machine did after all land at Charlton, that the 'spike' was retractable, and that only four of six 'legs' left marks ? And what have we learned about the take-off of the machine at Valensole ? I think readers will find the answer in the article by G.C., the French magistrate (see p. 22) in which he quotes how when the machine took off 'it was this (central) pivot struck down into the ground that gave the initial thrust, making a dull noise, without raising any dust, and then the six legs began to rotate'.

CHARLES BOWEN.

The Greatest Flap Yet? — Part III

by Jerome Clark

IN the first two parts of this account of the UFO events which flooded North America during the late summer months of 1965, I surveyed the scene to the end of August. Before we examine the incidents of September and October, I would like to remind readers that I am citing only those cases which I feel are of outstanding importance, having ignored numerous mundane reports—including my own humble sighting.

The case of Deputy Goode

Within 24 hours of each other were to occur the two most startling single encounters of the flap. The first, the Exeter, New Hampshire, incident, has already been described in these pages.¹ The second, taking place halfway across the country, actually eclipses its counterpart both in detail and in implication. In fact, if it is what it appears to be, it could well be one of the most significant UFO cases on record.

Early in the evening of September 3, Patrol Deputy Robert Goode of the Brazoria County, Texas, Sheriff's Department was helping his son move an alligator when the animal bit him on the left index finger. The wound, quite painful, swelled rapidly and bled freely. It was still bothering Goode when later he went on duty with Chief Deputy Billy McCoy.

The night was apparently a quiet one, and the two officers drove undisturbed down Highway 36 south of Damon. Suddenly, shortly after midnight, they sighted a huge craft—about 200 feet long and 50 feet thick in the middle, tapering off toward the ends—hovering silently in the sky. The UFO carried a purple light on its left side and a blue light on its right. Watching through binoculars, Goode and McCoy were horrified to see the object was moving toward them at a not inconsiderable speed. Panicking, they fled, but not before the saucer and flashed a brilliant light on the car. When its beams fell on Goode's left arm, which hung out the window, the officer felt a "warm" sensation. This only added to their excitement, and the two raced back to Damon at over 100 miles an hour.

Not too long afterwards, Goode and McCoy decided to return. When they did, the UFO made as if to approach them again, and they left once again at a comparable speed. They did not come back for a third time.

But, even though they did not see the saucer

again, the story was far from over. Goode was to notice, shortly after the first encounter, that his finger was no longer bleeding or swelling. The pain was gone, and the wound was curing unnaturally fast—all this on the arm that had been exposed to the UFO's rays.

Strange as all this was, the oddest part of all did not come until slightly later. Two strangers appeared at the Sheriff's Office looking for Deputy Goode, who was not in. When they found him at a West Columbia area restaurant, they immediately began to describe in detail how the UFO looked—even before Goode had an opportunity to tell them. The ship, they continued, operated on magnetic rays. They suggested that in the future, should he encounter a similar machine, he should co-operate with its occupants and keep to himself any conversation that might ensue.²

Major Laurence R. Leach, Jr., of Ellington Air Force Base, investigated the affair. "Both officers appeared to be intelligent, mature, level-headed and capable of sound judgment and reasoning. Chief Deputy Sheriff McCoy holds a responsible position in the department requiring the supervision of over 42 personnel." He admitted that he had no explanation for the incident.

Mexican cases

While sightings in the United States slackened off during the last three weeks of September, they increased spectacularly in neighbouring Mexico. The writer has not been able to obtain many details of this visitation, but the few newspaper accounts available describe rather generally a spate of rumours involving alleged landings and contacts—many of them frankly dubious. Others seem to merit more serious consideration. Among them is a report made by four men who saw a UFO flashing lights near Tijuana on the U.S.-Mexican border, and on impulse signalled back with a flashlight. When the UFO began moving toward them, they ran away. Another group of people claimed to have seen a flying saucer land near the national Polytechnic Institute in Mexico City, and newspapers later carried pictures of rocks supposedly scorched by the UFO's exhaust.

Shots at Rio Vista

Two Rio Vista, California, boys fired on a UFO on September 21. About 8.30 p.m., said Danny Bland, 18, "I was down on Riverview

Road when it appeared and I ran home and then called my chum, Tom Springs. I grabbed a .22 rifle and Tom took a .22 pistol. It was then about 260 feet off the ground and moving toward the mesa of the city. The brilliance changed to a kind of smoggy red, and we were scared. Both of us fired several shots at it. It became brighter when the bullets struck. We knew we had hit it because the object gave off a metallic ring. The light flooded our car just as if the sun was shining."

The next night several hundred residents of Rio Vista waited near a water tower five miles from town where the object had allegedly appeared on a number of occasions. It did not disappoint its audience, passing silently over the area in full view of everyone.

Unusual "Ufonaut" reports

Sightings continued to decline during October as the flap, if not really dying, was becoming less intense. Yet those incidents that were recorded—the three of any significance—were among the most interesting of the entire wave.

October 4, Rio Vista, California. During the evening Mrs. Betty Valine was sitting outside with her 12-year-old son Robbie when they sighted a large plate-shaped machine with a dome on top. Inside this dome stood three "people", plainly visible.

October 13, Minto, North Dakota. Two 15-year-old high school girls, Marg Gudajtes and Judy Norlock, watched a huge UFO land in a park on the edge of town, and later described it as a metallic oval, with bluish lights. It was still there when they left but had gone when they returned with help. All that remained of the visitation was an oval ring of crushed grass.

October 23, Long Prairie, Minnesota. In one of the most unusual ufonaut encounter reports of recent years, a 19-year-old radio announcer named James Townsend was driving down Highway 27 near Long Prairie—the time was 7.15 p.m.—when, as he rounded a curve, "all of a sudden my engine stopped, my lights went out and my radio stopped playing. I let the car coast and then I put on the brakes because I saw this thing in the centre of the highway.

"It was like a rocket ship. It was about 30 feet tall and about 10 feet in diameter. It was sitting on fins. Then I saw them. They were standing in a big circle of light under the ship.

"I jumped out of my car and was going to try to knock one over but then they came at me. They came right up to the car. There were three of them."

"They" looked like 303 cans.³ "They had no

eyes or anything. Just those tripod legs and those matchstick arms", extending from their bottoms and sides. Their colour was a kind of brownish-black. Townsend thought they had come from behind the because he had not seen them step out of it.

"They may have been robots", he told Clarke John Jansen of *Fate* magazine, "but they acted like creatures".

"I can't explain it because they didn't have eyes", he went on, "but they were looking right at me". For some moments Townsend and the beings "stared" at each other, the witness becoming increasingly frightened; "then they turned around and scooted under the ship. The light was so bright I didn't see where they went.

"Then there was a high-pitched humming sound and the ship took off straight up. It went up about a quarter of a mile, stopped for a moment and then disappeared. After it left, my lights on the car came back on and the engine started running. And I didn't touch it, either. I just can't explain that. Then I heard my radio playing again.

"I got out of there fast".

Townsend immediately reported the incident to Todd County Sheriff James Bain and Long Prairie policeman Luverne Lubitz, whom he assured he was not "crazy, drunk, or ignorant". He was obviously shaken, according to Lubitz, who knew him as "reliable and level-headed"—a hardworking, well behaved boy who never drinks". (Townsend, who the summer before had served as a counsellor at a Bible camp, has religious convictions against drinking).

The officers drove Townsend back to the scene of the purported landing, even though the young man, still badly frightened, seemed reluctant. Once there, the men looked up and to their amazement sighted a strange yellow light moving across the sky.

Although one newspaper announced contemptuously that "they couldn't find any trace of the 'space visitor'", such was not the case. On the ground the officers and Townsend discovered three strips, three feet long by four inches wide, composed of an oil-like material. It was like nothing they had ever seen before, said officer Lubitz. The two men were convinced that Townsend was telling the truth.

Two other sightings in the area the night of the 23rd added creditability to the tale. Over Minneapolis, at 7.00 p.m.—15 minutes before Townsend's experience—a 14-year-old boy, Ray Blessing, watched a mysterious sombrero-shaped machine through a 200-power telescope as it

passed across the sky from north-west to south-east. He told his parents about it, but they said nothing until after the Long Prairie encounter had been publicised and they saw its significance.

Three youths hunting coons near where Townsend was confronted told the sheriff that they had seen "a light in the sky" at the same time as the UFO had supposedly taken off from the highway. Other Long Prairie residents told Bain that they themselves had seen a peculiar flying object operating in the area recently, but had said nothing about it for fear of ridicule.

"I know what I saw and I know it was real", Townsend concludes. "I am telling the truth."

Public reaction

While an attempt to uncover the significance of the August-October flap would be not only premature but pointless, a word about public reaction to the wave is in order. For the first time in a long while, it seemed, Americans were begin-

ning to wonder just how straight a story they were getting from their Air Force. Never before have there appeared so many newspaper editorials criticising the service's handling of the UFO mystery, nor so many articles in generally conservative publications seriously discussing the merits of our case. Especially surprising were pieces in the *Saturday Review*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. True hastily inserted a condensation of Vallée's recent book into its October issue, and later published an article by Donald Keyhoe. Several pro-UFO tomes have been accepted for publication in 1966, when since 1958 books on flying saucers have been rejected as unsaleable. All of this is very encouraging. If the momentum can be continued (past experience leaves considerable doubt on this score), the greatest American flap to date may do infinitely more than provide ufologists with more sightings to hash over.

NOTES

¹ FLYING SAUCER REVIEW Vol. 12, No. 1, p. 3. *Important New England Sighting*.

² One cannot help drawing parallels between the two "strangers" of Goode's story and their counterpart in the notorious Maury Island incident, termed by Ruppelt "the dirtiest hoax in UFO history" but proclaimed by Arnold, Palmer, and others to be genuinely inexplicable. The evidence on both sides, in the writer's view, is equally convincing. For the Air Force position, see Chapter 2 of Edward J. Ruppelt's *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* (Doubleday, 1956). The opposite interpretation is given by Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer in their *The Coming of the Saucers* (Wisconsin, 1952) and by Harold T. Wilkins in Chapter 4 of *Flying Saucers on the Attack* (Citadel, 1954). See also *Fate* for Spring 1948.

³ Some newspaper accounts, obviously in an underhand attempt to cast doubts on the witness' sobriety, quoted Townsend as saying the Ufonauts resembled "beer cans", but subsequently he rather bitterly denied having used the expression.

⁴ In an October 25 story, the *Minneapolis Star* reported what it apparently considered a strong objection to the incident's validity: "Townsend . . . had been studying a lengthy article on UFOs in the current issue of a national magazine" i.e., the condensation, in the October *True*, of Jacques Vallée's *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*. Townsend, however, told *Fate* that he had not read the article until after the encounter, when several persons referred him to it.

Postscript: Since completing part III of *The Greatest Flap Yet?* Mr. Clark has written to say that the wave concluded in October. Many reports some sensational, others merely surprising, have found their way to him, and it now seems that the wave continued into 1966. We hope to include accounts of these newly reported incidents in our next issue.

TWO NEW BOOKS

THE most recent of new books on UFOs is by one of the longest-serving and most valued contributors to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. In fact none other than **Antonio Ribera**, our friend from Barcelona in Spain. As one can gather from the title *El Gran Enigma de los Platillos Volantes* (published by Editorial Pomaire of Santiago de Chile, Buenos Aires, Mexico and Barcelona; 435 pages, including appendices), Senor Ribera takes his readers with a broad sweep through the saucer story of the last 20-odd years. In numerous appendices he looks at the historical and biblical aspect of the subject, the problem of satellites of Mars, the Mariner IV and Moon photograph comparisons, and so on.

The author is well known as a sound, objective researcher, with a vast capacity for work—and we learn from the fly-leaf that he is also one of the leading Spanish experts on submarine exploration. In this latest book, which should have not only great appeal in Spain, but should also be more than welcome in South and Central American

countries, some of his chapter headings give an idea of the scope of the work: "Are we alone in the Cosmos?"; "Appearances of flying saucers on the scene"; "Secrets of the United States Air Force"; "Adamski, and those who have followed him"; "The great French wave of 1954"; "The Spanish wave of 1950"; "The great summer wave of 1965"; "Possible methods of propulsion, and probable origin"; "Submarine bases?"

The arrival on the scene of **Jacques Vallée's** second book *Les Phénomènes Insolites de l'Espace* Editions de la Table Ronde, 40 rue du Bao, Paris-7^e, France, this time in co-authorship with **Janine Vallée**, his wife, is without doubt the first of several appearances. In fact an English language version (translated by Gordon Creighton) is due to be published by the Henry Regnery Company of Chicago towards the end of the year, when a full appreciation will appear in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

For the present, suffice it to say that the Vallées
(Continued on p. iv of cover)

SPACE VISITORS IN ANCIENT EGYPT

by Roberto Pinotti

Signor Pinotti is a committee member of the Italian CENTRO STUDI CLIPEOLOGICI, and is a contributor to that Society's publication, CLYPEUS, THE INTERNATIONAL FLYING SAUCER NEWS.

"... In the third month of winter of the year 22, at the sixth hour of the day, the scribes of the House of Life found that there was a circle of fire coming in the sky. (Though) it had no head, the breath from its mouth had a foul odour. One rod (about 150 feet) long was its body and one rod wide, and it had no voice. And the hearts of the scribes became terrified and confused and they laid themselves flat on their bellies ... (lacuna) ... they reported to the Pharaoh. His Majesty ordered ... (lacuna) ... has been examined ... (lacuna) ... and he was meditating on what had happened and which is recorded in papyri of the House of Life. Now, after some days had gone by, behold, these things (the fire circles) became more numerous in the skies than ever. They shone more than the brightness of the sun, and extended to the limits of the four supports (quarters) of the heavens ... (lacuna) ... Powerful was the position of these fire circles in the sky. The army of the Pharaoh looked on with him in their midst. It was after supper. Thereupon, these fire circles ascended higher in the sky towards the south. (Then) fishes and birds fell down from the sky. A marvel never before known since the foundation of this land (Egypt) ! And the Pharaoh caused incense to be brought to make peace on the earth ... (lacuna) , , , and what had happened was ordered by the Pharaoh to be written in the annals of the House of life ... (lacuna) ... so that it be remembered forever."

UFO researchers will remember this well-known translation of a badly decayed papyrus, found still untranslated with many others dating from the Middle Kingdom, among the papers of the late Professor Alberto Tulli, former director of the Egyptian Museum of the Vatican. Professor Tulli's brother, Monsignor Gustavo of the Vatican Archives, had allowed Prince Boris de Rachewiltz, one of the world's leading Egyptologists, to translate it, and so the papyrus, which begins with a broken off section relating to some other prodigy, could be identified as part of the Royal Annals of the Pharaoh Thutmose III (1483 - 1450 B.C.). This ancient writing, showing clear and impressive evidence of the presence of UFOs in the past, reveals that unknown objects with the same characteristics of the so-called "flying saucers" of today were often seen in the skies of Egypt in those days.

In fact, in this papyrus there is a clear hint of some other occurrence which was "recorded in papyri of the House of Life", and it is stated that the mysterious fire circles became "more numerous in the skies than ever"—evidently implying that such events were not new for the Egyptians.

The papyrus also reveals that such sightings have always been given, (like other phenomena in the skies such as meteors, mock suns and moons or comets which our ancestors were not able to explain), a supernatural and religious meaning. Ignorance, superstition and fear, obviously distorted and coloured many mysterious events witnessed by mankind in the past. This explains why it is difficult for us to obtain a clear picture of the real meaning of the myths and prodigies of antiquity. Modern philosophy aims at getting rid of such "fantasies" in the name of reason and progress, but surely Shakespeare was right when he wrote in his *Hamlet*: "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy". Man has been given irrefutable proof of this statement.

It is safe to say that our picture will never be perfectly clear, since too many details have been irremediably altered and facts misrepresented throughout the ages. Nevertheless, if we examine ancient records such as the Tulli papyrus, we can't help wondering if Extraterrestrial creatures visited our planet in the past, and if—as some savants are now beginning to suspect—most of our religions and mythologies were really originated by the deification of ancient space visitors who came down among men in far-off times. As a matter of fact, all our religions and mythologies state that mankind was ruled, at first, by divine beings from "Heaven" (in other words from the sky). And also the Holy Bible, as far as the Judeo-Christian scriptures are concerned, produces in Genesis (Chapter VI, verse 2) irrefutable evidence of the existence of these mysterious "Sons of the Gods" ("Benêha-Elohim" in Hebrew—remember "Elohim" is a plural term, and its real meaning is not "God", but "Gods"). They and the two hundred fallen Angels called "Watchers" in the Coptic "Book of Enoch" and "Gregoroi" in the Slavonic "Book of the Secrets of Enoch" who came down among men in days of Jared to mate with the

"daughters of men" and rule the earth are evidently the same.

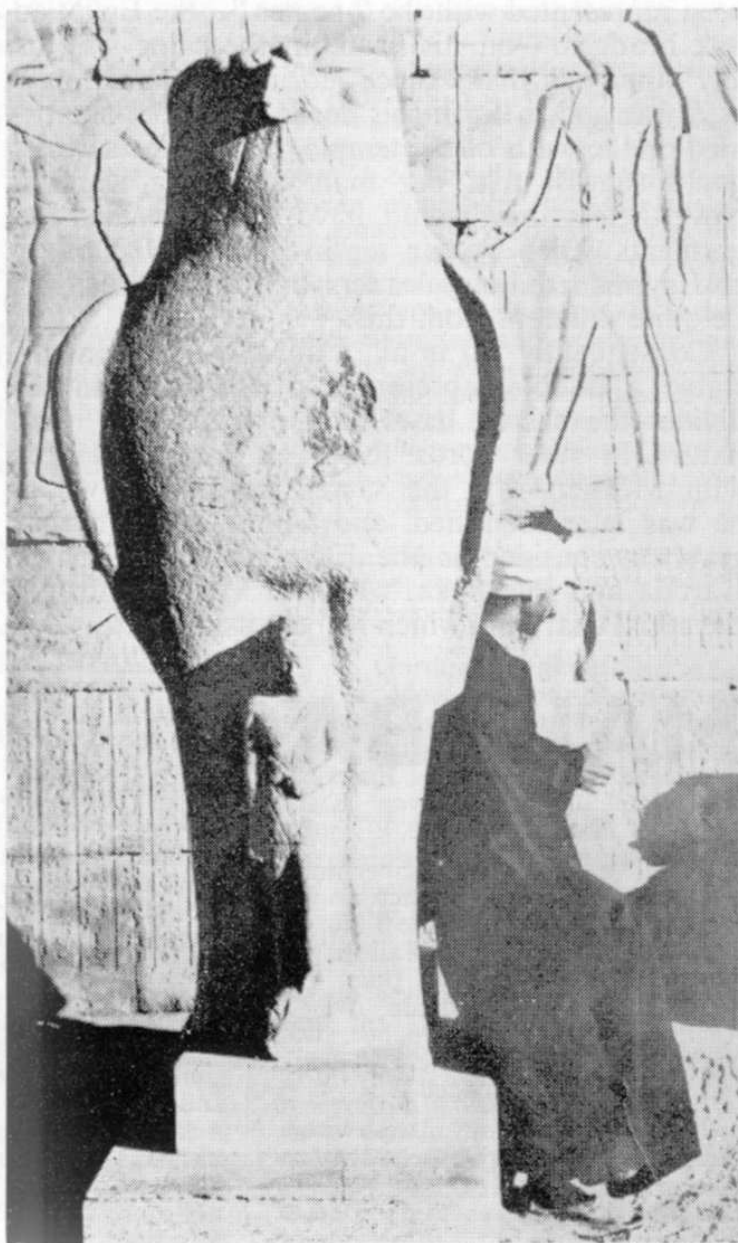
We must remember that beings with their same characteristics are the protagonists of several myths of Greece, Egypt, Lesser Asia, Mesopotamia, Persia, India, Tibet and Japan, as well as of a number of Celtic, Roman, Australasian and pre-Columbian legends. Were our ancestors really ruled by an alien race of super-men and by their descendants? Whatever one may say, such myths could prove to be too important not to be examined and studied in the light of all the aspects of the UFO enigma.

As far as Egyptian mythology is concerned, we know that the first earthly dynasties succeeded Horus, the last "divine king" who had been chosen by the council of the Gods in Heaven to be the ruler of Egypt after the death of his father Osiris, who had been killed by his brother Set, the usurper. "Manetho says" according to Josephus "that Horus was admitted to the sight of the Gods" (JOSEPHUS, contra APION lib. i. p. 932). It is evident that this admission of Horus (who is here spoken of as a human and mortal king, as you see) to the sight of the Gods implies the use of a means of transport which could drive him to the Gods of Egypt, dwellers of the sky. In fact, according to Egyptian myths, this flying vehicle existed. It was the so-called "Eye of Horus", often referred to in several ancient texts, such as the "Book of the Dead", and which was always represented as a winged circle with all the characteristics of the winged sun-discs worshipped in other parts of the world. As a matter of fact in the "Book of the Dead" (Chapter LXVI) it is written: "... My name is Horus and I am from the Eye of Horus ...". Obviously, this sky vehicle was given the unusual name of "Eye of Horus" since the deity riding it was evidently able to watch mankind from the skies. In fact, Horus (which is only the Latin name of this God) was originally named "hrw" "hr", and the literal meaning of this ancient Egyptian word is just "he who flies high in the skies". Besides, it is interesting to remember that the vault of heaven (that is, the starry Universe) was named after him "Hat-hor", which means "the abode of Horus".

All this not only shows that the Egyptians firmly believed that the "Eye of Horus" could easily reach outer space with its divine passenger, but also suggest that it might have been a sort of flying machine. Moreover, we know that in ancient India, where space flight was restricted to the Gods, as in Egypt, the mythical Garuda (a bird-like flying deity considered as man's earliest concept of an interplanetary vehicle) was evidently a symbolical rep-

resentation of a flying means of transport. Are some researchers wrong when they wonder if the symbol of the "Eye of Horus" (the winged circle or disc), to which the Egyptians attached a very great importance, may be only a cross-sectional drawing, much simplified and stylised by many copyings of an ancient extraterrestrial spaceship? In this connection, surely the "fire circles" from "Heaven" described in the Tulli papyrus offer plenty of material for controversy. Do you think that their strong resemblance with the biblical "Chariots of God" (Psalms, 68 : 17) described in the Book of Ezekiel (Chapter I, verse 16) as flying "wheels" is merely coincidental?

Flying vehicles from "Heaven" are often referred to in both mythological and historical records of several peoples of the world, and were frequently given symbolical and fanciful representations. For instance, observe the photo of this ancient



statue of Horus from the temple of Edfu. Though they were two different deities, Horus was often represented in the form of a gigantic hawk called Mékhentierty, connected with a forgotten astral myth, who was later given all his attributes and became his best known symbol. But what about the man whom we can see with the sacred image of the God? Surely he must have been a very important personage, for he was granted the privilege of being represented with Horus in a statue which was later placed inside the famous temple of Edfu. Who is this man? Surely he is not a pharaoh or a member of the Royal family, because the well-known image of the serpent, worn by all the Egyptian monarchs and their relatives, is not affixed to his head-dress. So far as I have been able to find, this "helmet-like" headgear not only shows that this man cannot be a priest of scribe (who are always bare-headed in all their representations), but also that he cannot be a courtier (who would have been represented with the "nemes"—the Egyptian flax headgear—on his head, in the same way as any other rich man). Since Horus was worshipped as a war god in Edfu (his deeds were commemorated on the walls of the temple there) some savants could suggest that our man is only a warrior. Nevertheless they would have to admit that the garments which we can see in well-known images of Egyptian military leaders or warriors seem to be quite different from this.

Consequently all in all, I think we have in this statue a double representation of Horus, in his divine (the sacred hawk) and human (the man) nature. In other words, this is an image of Horus with Mékhentierty, the sacred hawk with whom he was later identified, and whom many mythographers consider as the Egyptian equivalent of Garuda and Pushpaka, which in Vedic myth was the aerial chariot in which Kubera usually travelled.

(In the Ramayana it is told how it was stolen by Ravana and later recovered by Rama—Egyptian and Hindu legends evidently refer to the same mythical event, since we know that the "Eye of Horus" was also stolen by Set and later recovered by Thoth).

Therefore it seems safe to say that in our statue the hawk symbolizes the "Eye of Horus", the flying vehicle of the god, and the man its divine occupant, *who is seemingly coming out of a door*, as you see.

Such being the case, what shall we think? Is this statue a stylised image of an ancient spaceship and of its pilot? Remember that in the "Book of the Dead" (Chapter LXVI) Horus says: "... I leave like the sacred hawk who flies away and rests on the forehead of Ra (the Sun), on the prow of the Boat of Nu(n) (the boundless dark void in which everything was created, in other words cosmic space—also considered as the birthplace of all Gods of Egypt)...."

Those who are familiar with our subject will admit that these words could describe a scout ship (the "sacred hawk", or the "Eye of Horus") and its huge interplanetary spacecraft carrier orbiting around Earth in outer space (the "Boat" of Nu(n)). Can this be true?

Weigh the evidence—then decide.

"... Scholars should not shrink from translating difficult text" Sir Alan Gardiner wrote in the *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* "... At the best they may be lucky enough to hit upon the right renderings. At the worst they will have given the critics a target to tilt at".

POSTSCRIPT: *Details of the publication CLYPEUS and of the parent society, may be had from Sig. Gianni Settimo, Casella Postale, 604, Torino Centrale, Italy.*

MAIL BAG

On Contactees

Sir,—I've been a subscriber since 1955, but have never written as yet. Now, with reference to the January-February issue, 1966, "Mail Bag", I feel I had to write to point out how correct Mr. Ronald W. J. Anstee, of Montreal, Quebec, was when he wrote his letter: "Clark and Wellman Challenged".

There are far too many within this field who put themselves up as "judge and jury" about what is, and what is not; something none of them are qualified to do, "degree or

no degree"—but Messrs. Clark and Wellman are certainly wrong where they stated that all the contactees are not, or were not "learned", whatever that term is supposed to mean. It certainly doesn't mean anything to me, and I have been studying the U.F.O. subject perhaps longer than either of these two gentlemen—actively since 1947—and I've talked with the late G. Adamski, D. Fry, G. H. Williamson, Van Tassel and others, and they are just as "learned" as Mr. Clark, if not more so. G. H. Williamson, who witnessed the Adamski meeting, has

a degree or two, D. W. Fry is highly learned in more way than one, Van Tassel was a Test Pilot, and I could go on... To "us" with a true open mind in this field of study, an "earthly degree", doesn't mean a thing.

—A. Christoffersen, (Master Mariner), R.N.V.R. (Ret.).

Porthole Faces and Rodeffer Film

Sir—This is in reference to a letter from Mr. Ronald W. J. Anstee in your January-February issue.

Mr. Anstee asks "Why have these

facts, the faces in the portholes (in photos taken by Adamski of saucer-shaped objects), and the daylight movie taken by Mrs. Rodeffer near Washington, been ignored?"

In reply, I might make the following comments. Regarding the portholes, the images of faces might be due to distortions in the film or reproduction in the book. I do not believe it unfair to say that most photography experts will admit that still photos are unreliable as evidence in many cases.

I have seen Mrs. Rodeffer's film and in my opinion, it is not convincing. The film is of poor quality and jumps around so much from place to place—for no reason at all, at times—that I am extremely suspicious and would not even begin considering whether it contains what is claimed unless it were under strict analysis for many weeks.

—Robert E. Barrow, 4167 Cleveland Road, Syracuse, New York 13215 U.S.A.

Jerome Clark replies

Sir,—Mr. Ronald W. J. Anstee question my contact thesis, *The Meaning of Contact*, FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, September/October 1965, on five counts. I offer the following in reply.

1. My own experience indicates definitely differing reactions between those U.F.O. witnesses who are well educated and those who are not. The first, having observed a strange object, many times retain an intense curiosity about the subject and often go on to study U.F.O. literature, attempting to understand their experience. The second group, with some exceptions, are ordinarily only briefly puzzled, then dismiss the matter. Their reaction is usually less thoughtful, in other words, a fact of which ufonauts may well be cognizant.

What, for example, would be the reaction of an astronomer told by U.F.O. occupants that Venus is an earth-like world populated by earth-like people? "Nonsense!" he would say, and rightly so. A service station attendant, possessing a presumably rudimentary knowledge of science, would be less likely to doubt such a statement.

2. I quite agree with Mr. Anstee that intelligence is not always linked with education, but I do not consider the point relevant. Further, I have great respect for farmers, but to understand the U.F.O. mystery one does not need to know about

"herbs, trees and plants." One needs to know about psychology and physical science, not to mention flying saucers. A farmer may know how to plant corn, but he may not know why it is extremely improbable that intelligent life as we know it exists on the surfaces of other planets in our solar system. That is, I think, what the Wisconsin "Venusian" meant when he said rather coyly that "sceptics are avoided."

3. Nowhere in my article did I use the word "insane." I did on the other hand, characterise the so-called messages as "inane," a synonym for "silly." As Mr. Wade Wellman has pointed out, "One can hardly think that the real facts of the saucer mystery are as utterly insipid as most contact claimants would have us believe." The "philosophy" ufonauts often espouse reminds me of something a not overly-bright junior high school student might suggest. Any society whose highest achievements are reflected in George Adamski's "Cosmic Philosophy" surely could not have developed interplanetary travel.

4. Contrary to an impression I may have given, I do not dismiss Adamski out of hand. Evidently most of his story is pure science-fiction (and not very good science-fiction at that), but some circumstantial evidence for certain of his claims is hard to discount, in my opinion. Adamski apparently experienced *something* but precisely *what* I do not care at this time to speculate.

Aside from this, though, I wish to make it clear to Mr. Anstee that I do *not* discount "evangelical" contacts *per se*, since I used one of them to support my hypothesis about ufonaut prevarication. Indeed, they constitute one of the most important tenets of my theory. I do maintain, however, that by far the majority of "professional" claimants—those who have gathered large financial rewards from their alleged encounters—are liars and hoaxers.

5. Perhaps "wantonly killed or injured" is too strong a statement to describe a certain class of reports. In fact, most "hostility" cases become such because the reader *interprets* them that way. This much conceded, I do not feel my impressions have been particularly unreasonable. Here are three of the (in my view) more conclusive incidents indicating malevolent intent on the part of the ufonauts.

(a.) Kinross, Michigan, 1953. Since it has often been demonstrated

that U.F.O.s are capable of evading terrestrial aircraft quite easily, the destruction or disappearance of the F-89 could hardly have been an accident."

(b.) Venezuela, December, 1954. Several documented reports of dwarfish U.F.O. beings clawing and attempting to kidnap witnesses.

(c.) Brazil, 1962. Disappearances of Rivalino Mafra da Silva and Telemaco Xavier. In the first instance, if the testimony of the boy Raimundo is to be credited, U.F.O. beings rather viciously tormented their victim before abducting him.

Miss Lou Zinsstag asks what ufonauts would gain by contacting "a handful of people of no consequence." The question is answered in my article, and also partially in the above paragraphs. Scientists and other highly learned individuals—whom the ufonauts would be the first to contact were they in earnest—would be suspicious of their motives, particularly when the extraterrestrials tried to pass on information known to be inaccurate. When a contactee quotes a "Venusian" as saying that there are twelve planets in the solar system all inhabited by human beings, the scientist assumes that the *contactee*, not the *contactor*, is lying. Other persons, not so critical, might believe *both* contactee and contactor, and still end up with a completely confused (and inaccurate) idea of the nature of U.F.O.s. The possibility that, while some claimants may be sincere, the saucer occupants may not have occurred to relatively few individuals.

Here I should like to insert a few comments suggested by a recent, startling revelation included in these pages:

Mr. Gordon Creighton, in Part II of *The Most Amazing Case of All*, (FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, March/April 1965), quotes the late General Marshall as stating that the United States government had established that U.F.O.s are piloted by extraterrestrials who are "trying to work out a method of breathing and staying alive in our atmosphere before landing and establishing contact." How this intelligence was gathered we do not know, but the reader infers that Washington has purportedly communicated with ufonauts. If all this is correct (and I have my reservations), we should realise that these details do not conform at all to what ufologists have observed about saucers and their occupants. **But it would seem to be just the kind of "line" that a government**

would believe, especially in the early 1950's, when we knew a great deal less about the "operators" than we do today. In other words, it appears that ufonauts suit their "messages" to their audiences—and contradict themselves in doing so!

Miss Zinsstag to the contrary, I am not suggesting that the ufonauts must necessarily have sinister intentions, although I can see how she might have read my article thus. It may be that, even if their mission here is harmless, they simply do not want us in their way, or overly excited about their coming. The less we know about them, the less chance we will have of interfering with them. One detail in the Rivalino "spacenapping" (FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, November/December 1962) suggests this in particular:

Several days before he was taken away, Rivalino Mafra saw two strange beings digging a hole and seemingly putting in or taking out something. When the creatures saw him, they fled into their craft and flew away. Shortly thereafter they returned, stealing him away **apparently to ensure his silence. Evidently he had—or the ufonauts thought he had—seen something they did not want seen.**

I wish to reassure Miss Zinsstag that, no, really I do not favour warfare and nuclear weapons, and, yes, I do care about peace. But, indeed, even in our own times we have seen how words can be corrupted for unworthy ends, and undoubtedly one of the most often abused is "peace," as students of the Communist movement are fully aware. "It is deeds, not words," Sidney Hook has written, "which are the acid test of meaning and sincerity." While ufonauts have often proclaimed interest in "peace," there is little indication that in truth the question is of any particular concern to them.

Finally, I should like to thank Mr. S. A. Paris for calling attention to some inexcusable errors of mine relative to the Fatima affair. Nonetheless, despite these mistakes, my original point still seems valid: that the being involved did identify herself as "the Lady of the Rosary." It is, however, quite possible—as Mr. Paris implies—that my interpretation is too simple, and that Fatima represents a much deeper mystery than any of us have supposed. —Jerome Clark, Canby, Minnesota, U.S.A.

Great Circles

Sir,—Having studied my copy of the January/February issue,

and having particularly noted Aimé Michel's *New Thoughts on Orthodoxy*, I was idly sitting and contemplating a very small terrestrial globe on which I had stretched both the BAVIC and the Southend-Italy great circles.

It appeared to me that both circles were manifestations of the same orbit, both being inclined at approximately the same angle to the equator.

It would be interesting to discover if other such great circles show similar properties. Despite variations in apparent direction in high latitudes, do they all bear the same relative angle at the equator?

If not, can any nodal points be calculated, bearing in mind the earth's rotation, that might indicate points of terrestrial origin, particularly in relatively uninhabited parts of the world, such as the Andes.

It is particularly interesting that an orbit such as BAVIC can cover practically all of the earth's surface other than the polar ice-caps.

J. V. Webber, 47 Church Way, Sanderstead, Surrey.

Fantasy of Mars

Sir,—Since the American rocket was recently sent to Mars to obtain photographs of a portion of its surface, and other scientific information, there is not so much confidence that Mars is inhabited by a dying race, or by any race of human beings at all. My own belief in a Martian civilisation has sunk to zero anyway.

If, as has been calculated, there are altogether about ten thousand craters on the surface of Mars, that suggests there never has been a Martian civilisation, otherwise by now most of these craters would have been obliterated. Nor were any of the famous "canals" recorded by the rocket camera.

According to my records, the great American astronomer, Professor Percival Lowell (who died in 1916) when studying Mars, used magnification powers of from 350 to 550 diameters, but preferred to use a power of 370 diameters. I think I can remember him stating in an article, that with this magnification power of 370 diameters, the details on Mars were sometimes as clear as engraving, but that higher magnification powers would only have blurred the planetary details out of all recognition.

But perhaps higher magnification powers would have shown the truer details, by which I mean that the Martian "canals" would have

broken up into the real planetary markings.

This I think has been proved by other observations made with powerful telescopes, and a much higher magnification power than those mentioned by Professor Lowell, especially his preferred power of 370 diameters. This brought Mars much nearer visually to these other observers than to Professor Lowell, and shall we say too near to Mars to show the "canals" in the telescope. At such times, some of the so-called "canals" have dissolved into quite a different sort of detail.

The same result was obtained by the American rocket—it was too near to Mars, for its camera to record any canal-like markings. So, although I am not an expert astronomer, I venture to call it the "Fantasy of Mars."

—Walter Firminger, Canterbury Road Ashford, Kent.

Space Hazards

Sir,—The Soviets' achievement of an unmanned 'soft' landing on the moon will no doubt encourage them to speed up their attempt to put a man or men on it. I hope I may be wrong, but I have always believed that the outcome of such an attempt, either by Russia or America, will prove to be disastrous.

It is a very different matter for a human being to encircle the earth in a space capsule well *within* the 700 mile thickness of its atmosphere from attempting a journey to the moon, which is roughly 239,000 miles beyond this atmospheric covering. For I believe that there are unknown elements and factors within the vast *etheric* or *magnetic* envelope of our planet (about 250,000 miles thick, just within the fringe of which the moon has its orbit) that are at present beyond the comprehension of our science.

If conditions existing at about 200 miles above the surface of our earth—which is only about a third of the thickness of its atmosphere—can produce physiological disturbances in the astronauts (losses of calcium and blood plasma, etc.) what is going to happen to man's body and mind when he attempts to probe 239,000 miles into space *beyond* this atmosphere?

The courage of these men who actually make the journeys is beyond all praise.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Ivan Brandt, c/o 8 Normanby Road, Scunthorpe, Lincs.

LUIS SCHÖNHERR'S QUESTIONNAIRE

As we have now received replies to our contributor's questions, we reprint the article which first appeared in the March/April issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

BECAUSE of the implications of the Valensole incident I suggested that the investigators should clear up the following points:

1) When (date and time) did the GEPA investigator begin the investigation? When did he arrive at the landing site? Was he on the scene before the "hundreds of people" arrived who "manfully trampled down the fields of lavender" (see FLYING SAUCER REVIEW September/October 1965, p. 9) and, as I am tempted to add, also probably obliterated the imprints and other traces of the landing?

2) Is the depth and area of the imprints made by the 'legs' known? Have casts from the imprints been made? By duplicating them on the spot one could at least get a rough idea as to the weight of the object.

3) Why did the witness fill the hole left by the object?

4) Did the witness have the impression that the object was resting mainly on its central support, the legs merely acting as stabilizers, or did it seem that the legs themselves were strong enough to support the whole object?

5) Did the investigators examine the hole before it was filled in. Could they say

- a) What were its exact dimensions?
- b) Could it have been caused by high pressure?
- c) Was it created by excavation? If so, did the investigators look for the soil from the hole. Was it spread around the hole or along the trajectory of the object? Was it found in another place?

6) What was the diameter of the central support?

7) Have the soil and plants (roots) at the landing site been thoroughly examined? Did they show anything unusual when compared with samples of the same species taken from another area?

8) Has the landing site been tested for radioactivity? As there have already been cases of radioactivity, and as the witness himself exhibited an apparently intuitive fear of harmful influence, such a test should have been obvious. If no geiger counter was available, it could at least have been tried with a piece of film (a dentist's X-ray film would certainly been available).

9) Was there any sound while the object rested on the ground?

10) Is a drawing of the object available? Did the investigators induce the witness to try a sketch?

11) According to the GEPA report, the witness approached the object "calmly and without overmuch concern" (FLYING SAUCER REVIEW Nov./Dec. 1965, p. 5). Aimé Michel wrote, however, that "he approached cautiously" because "his first thought was that he had bagged the people who were spoiling his lavender" (FLYING SAUCER REVIEW) Nov./Dec. 1965, p. 7). Did the witness tell different versions to Michel and GEPA, or must the investigators be blamed for this contradiction?

12) According to the report from *Le Petit Dauphinois* (FLYING SAUCER REVIEW Sept./Oct. 1965, p. 10), the witness saw one being outside the object and the other

inside it. GEPA, however, reports that he saw both of them beside the object.

13) Has an attempt been made by the investigators to ascertain whether or not the witness has any previous interest in UFOs, or theories on the subject?

14) The investigators imply that the contact was attended by certain effects on the physical as well as on the psychological constitution of the witness. They suggest a sort of post hypnotic suggestion, and even a "psychological conditioning". Can the investigators accept full responsibility that the above conditions weren't already present before the sighting took place and could therefore not have been its cause?

15) The witness states that the beings "were communicating . . . by means of inarticulate sounds which did not seem to come from what for them took the place of a mouth".

- a) How did the witness get the impression that the voices did not come from the mouth?
- b) Was it because the voices came from another direction? If so, from what direction did the voice come?
- c) Did the witness get this impression because he could not observe any movement of mouth or facial changes while they were speaking?
- d) What was the volume of the voice relative to the distance? Loud? Weak?
- e) Did the volume of sound change when the beings turned their faces away from the witness?
- f) Did the beings wear any devices, apparatus etc., on their bodies? Or were they wearing close fitting overalls which couldn't have concealed a device?

16) How did the witness get the impression of a surprising agility when the beings returned to their machine? Usually small men are more agile than bigger ones, or at least that is the impression their movements tend to create: was there anything peculiar in the way the beings moved?

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A TENTATIVE REPLY TO LUIS SCHÖNHERR'S QUESTIONNAIRE

We are grateful to Monsieur G. C., the French Magistrate who investigated the Valensole case on behalf of the French Group G.E.P.A.,* for preparing this reply specially for FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

(1) The dates of the various steps taken by me at Valensole are: Monday September 6, 1965, Thursday September 9, Friday September 10, Tuesday September 28. I examined the landing site on September 6, that is to say more than two months after the events. Several hundreds of visitors had already been there and their trampling around had almost completely effaced all the traces.

(2) Herewith the information that I have managed to secure from a person who is absolutely reliable and who had visited the scene of the landing on the following day, i.e. July 2, 1965:

"I was able to establish the existence, in a lavender field with light, freshly hoed soil, of some strange and more recent marks. These consisted of a shallow basin about 1 metre 20 in diameter, in the centre of which there was a cylindrical-shaped hole 18 cms. in diameter and 40 cms. deep. Also to be seen were four shallow grooves, each 8 cms. wide and approximately 2 metres long, which formed a sort of cross having the cylindrical hole as its centre. The earth at this spot was densely packed".

(3) I did not put this question to the witness. Moreover, it was not he who started filling in the hole. This was done by the trampling of the crowd. He no doubt wanted to finish filling it in so as to restore his field to its previous condition.

(4) It is difficult to reply with precision to this question. The witness simply declared that it seemed to him that "the machine was resting on six legs located underneath it, and on a steel-coloured pivot in the centre". When the machine took off, "it was this pivot stuck down into the ground that gave the initial thrust, making a dull noise, without raising any dust, and then the six legs began to rotate".

(5) I did not examine the central hole before it was filled in. (But see reply to this question under No. 2 above).

(6) From the width of the central hole, one can reckon it at about 18 cms.

(7) I did not carry out these investigations myself. I simply took some samples, which I sent to G.E.P.A.

(8) I did not carry out such investigations. The radioactivity of the soil was, however, studied by

specialists, but so far as I know, the results have not been given out.

(9) The machine emitted no sound while it was on the ground.

(10) A sketch of the machine had already been made by M. Masse and had been reproduced by various newspapers. In this connexion, see PHENOMENES SPATIAUX, September 1965, p. 7.

(11) My report to G.E.P.A. reproduces the statements made to me by M. Masse. It is however possible that the witness made more complete statements to M. Aimé Michel. But on this point, here is a summary of the statements made on August 18, 1965, by the witness, to certain Valensole people in whom I have absolute confidence. I learnt of these statements subsequently to G.E.P.A.'s publication of my own enquiry.

... "I got to a point 7 metres from this machine, by **skirting round** the vineyard that adjoins my field and then making for the machine, which I could see at an angle. From the moment that I started out from the heap of stones, **I knew that it wasn't with men that I had to deal** and I watched them the whole time as I was moving across. Both these beings were down on the ground. They were squatting down. One had his back to me and the other one was opposite him, and it seemed to me that they were looking at a lavender plant. When I had got to a distance of 7 metres from them, the only facing in my direction caught sight of me..." etc.

We thus have three statements by the witness, which all agree in the essentials but diverge on a few points of secondary interest.

As regards the route taken by M. Masse from the moment that he left the heap of stones and earth (see FSR November/December 1965, p. 7) it seems to me improbable that he would have gone through the vineyard. More probably he skirted right round the vineyard without leaving his own lavender field. On this point, I enclose a plan of the area, with exact measurements.

As regards the preoccupations that were engaging the mind of the witness while he was moving across the space in question, I suppose that they must have been various and that they must have been changing rapidly as he got nearer.

At first—despite the strange character of the scene that met his eyes—he may perhaps have been saying to himself: “Haha! So *that’s* how my lavender plants are disappearing!” But I imagine that his attention must have soon been directed on to those two extraordinary beings whom he could see more and more clearly.

But why did the witness give differing accounts?

I should say, rather, not different accounts, but different *replies*, according to the manner in which he was interrogated. I recall, so far as I myself am concerned, having asked him if he had not been afraid when perceiving the strange craft at a distance, for it occurs quite commonly in fact that witnesses do not dare to approach flying saucers on the ground. To this he replied that he had not been afraid and that he “had advanced at an unruffled pace, empty-handed, across the young lavender plants with which his field is covered”. (“Empty-handed”, i.e. without any tool of any sort, such as a shovel or pickaxe, which he could have used as a weapon should the need have arisen.)

(12) I declare likewise, on this point, that my report to G.E.P.A. agrees with the statements made to me on September 6, 1965, by M. Masse. But in order to answer this question more fully, I quote for you, hereunder, the beginning of the statement made by the witness on August 18, 1965, to the Valensole people referred to me by above:-

“When you questioned me on July 2, 1965, I did not reveal to you all that I had seen, for it was so extraordinary that I feared I might be taken for a madman and locked up. Having regained my confidence later, I have now fully made up my mind to describe to you everything that I saw in the course of the morning of July 1, 1965. . . . Contrarily to what I had said, the distance from the machine to which I got by skirting the vineyard was 7 metres . . .” etc.

Having decided—at that time when he made his statement to the Press (and, in particular, to the *Petit Dauphinois*) at the beginning of July—to say as little as possible about it all, the witness, in my opinion, knowingly and as it were instinctively—in accordance with a process that is very familiar to us—had falsified the facts somewhat so as not to be drawn into saying more than he wanted to say. Thus it was that he had spoken of one occupant down on the ground and one other visible in the machine. From August 18 onwards he rectified his story and has never varied it any more since then: namely that he saw the two little beings on the ground and that they both climbed back into the machine after striking him with a temporary paralysis.

(13) I put the question to the witness and to his wife. They both replied that they had never taken any interest before in matters concerning flying saucers. Mme. Masse did however show me that she possessed some old copies of reviews relating to UFOs (*Ouranos* in particular), which had been given or sent to her by M. Aimé Michel—but, naturally, long after the events had occurred.

(14) In my opinion, and in the unanimous opinion of the various people to whom I listened at Valensole and at Digne, the chief town of the region, the odd behaviour of the witness is the **consequence** of the phenomenon, not the cause of it.

M. Masse was regarded, in particular, as a perfectly well-balanced man. It remains regrettable, however, that the witness had refused to submit to a psychiatric examination.

(15) (a) I got the witness to explain this point. He meant to say that the sounds emitted by the two beings did not appear to be articulated by this hole which they had in the place of a mouth, but that the sounds resembled a sort of gurgling coming from their throats.

(b) Of no interest.

(c) The witness noticed that the eyes moved.

(d) and (e) These questions were not put.

(f) On this point, here are the details that I was able to obtain: the two beings were clad in greyish-green overalls, apparently one-piece. On their left side they had a sort of smallish case, and on the right they had another case, this one being larger. The witness was able to perceive quite clearly that the entity who had immobilised him then put back, into the case carried on the left side, the object that he had aimed at M. Masse. These cases seemed to be fastened on by a belt. I did not put the question regarding any instruments that might have been concealed under the clothing.

(16) I questioned the witness on this point. here is his reply:

“The distance separating the little beings from the machine was very small. I was not able to establish the length of their stride, but their agility was remarkable”. I am unable to give any further details beyond that.

Translation: G. Creighton.

*The Secretary of G.E.P.A. is M. René Fouéré, 69 Rue de la Tombe Issoire, Paris 14e France. M. Fouéré also edits the G.E.P.A. bulletin *Phénomènes Spatiaux*.

VALENSOLE — FURTHER DETAILS

By Aimé Michel

YOUR contributor Luis Schönherr is quite right ; many questions about the Valensole case remain unanswered. I did not make a report, having studied this landing merely from the point of view that interested me. The only things of mine published in the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW were a few reflections.

Here are the answers to some of the questions that have held my attention :—

7) I have examined carefully some samples from the plants over which (so the witness says) the craft flew as it took off. The roots show nothing particular under the microscope. The plants themselves show—on each plant—one or two sprigs (sometimes more) that are desiccated, exactly similar, so far as one can see, to twigs that have been dried naturally by great heat or by the autumn. These twigs crumble to dust between the fingers. On August 8 such plants as these, with desiccated twigs, were found over a distance of about 100 metres *beneath* the trajectory of the alleged take-off. The non-desiccated twigs (of these plants that had the desiccated twigs) showed nothing particular. This phenomenon of desiccation could be seen over a width of 2 or 3 metres. A more precise estimate than this would signify nothing for it was in any case difficult to see : the gendarmes didn't notice it. You had to be used to lavender to distinguish it. I intend to make a fresh examination of the plants this spring, to see whether there is not some delayed effect.

8) Yes. No radioactivity. Don't forget that Valensole is very near the Cadarache atomic plant. It was easy to do the test, accurately. Negative

9) No.

10) M. Masse made a sketch which was widely publicised, and the small version in the diagram on page 7 of the November/December, 1965 issue of the *Review* is a fair replica.

11) Traduttore traditore. Masse told both of us (GEPA and myself) that he approached without any fear, calmly, without apprehension, but hiding among the vines in order to be able to take by surprise those whom he thought to be lavender pilferers. Where is the contradiction ?

12) There are certain contradictions between, on the one hand, what the newspapers said, and on the other, the statements of Masse to the Gendarmes, to GEPA, and to myself. I don't

know the source for the report in the *Dauphiné Libéré* (NOT *Le Petit Dauphinois*, which went out of existence 22 years ago). But the statements made by Masse to the Police and GEPA and myself are identical.

13) Yes ! He had not. Masse does not read books and (this is confirmed by neighbours and acquaintances) had no interest or curiosity in that direction, or indeed in *any* direction, apart from lavender, hunting, and fishing.

14) I have stated clearly in my article that the physiological and psychological effects began three days after the sighting. Until then, Masse used to sleep for 4 or 5 hours in the 24. On the fourth day, he slept almost 24 hours, only being awakened by his family to eat something.

15) (a), (b), (c). I am an acoustic engineer. I think that at a distance of three metres an ear that has not been trained to it is incapable of establishing precisely from which point on an object 80 cms in height a sound can be coming. Masse noted that on the faces of these two beings, the spot corresponding to what in us is the mouth was marked simply by a very small round patch ; that the part corresponding with what in us is the lower jaw was very sharp, almost pointed ; and that, when they "spoke", the *whole* of that area remained absolutely motionless : the "hole" did not open, the "jaw" did not open. On the other hand, Masse did notice changes of expression on their faces, due to slight movements of the skin. He even avers that these expressions were very comprehensible, very eloquent. According to him, the two faces at times expressed mockery, but always benevolence.

(d) The word "gurgling" ['gargouillement' in French] implies an idea of *weakness*.

(e) When they turned their backs, they talked no more.

(f) Masse saw two instruments. The first one was the instrument pointed in his direction by the entity nearest to him, the instrument that paralysed him. Masse thinks the entity took it from its belt on the right side. But this opinion is based solely on the fact that the other entity was wearing on that side (the right) an instrument—the second instrument—which (apparently) it did not use. Masse thought it was a weapon. And as the second instrument was much bigger than the first one, Masse said to

me (I quote his exact words): "If they had used the big one, I wonder what would have happened. With that, they can stop an army". When I asked him why he thought it was a weapon, he was surprised, and agreed that, after all, he knew nothing about it.

16) Nothing special, except for "a remarkable agility", according to the purely subjective impression of the witness.

I understand very well indeed why Luis

Schönherr would like to put some questions. As for myself, I'm going to wait a few more months and then I shall go and spend a few days at Valensole with a friend who is a painter and sketcher, who will try to reproduce it all with the guidance of Masse. I think the study of landings should become our No. 1 Study. Every well observed landing teaches us something new.

(Translation : G.C.)

ARGENTINA 1963/64 — Part IV

by Gordon Creighton

IN the first three parts of this article I have surveyed the **major** UFO events in Argentina—and the occasional incident in a neighbouring country, as reported in Argentine newspapers—up to the early days of June 1964. Throughout the series I have had to ignore the more mundane 'fly-overs'; even so, demands on space have been so great that a fourth part is required to complete the amazing picture.

Metán-Tucumán road

The newspapers *La Crónica* and *La Gaceta* for June 14, 1964 describe how, at 9.30 p.m. a few nights before, three prominent Salta citizens—a lawyer, an engineer and a business-man—were travelling in a station-wagon along this road when a most peculiar rectangular UFO, reddish-orange in colour, dived down several times in front of them. The first time the UFO caused such tremendous condensation on all their windows that they saw very little of it, and had to stop and wipe the windows. But when the thing re-appeared they saw that it was some 16 feet high, 20 feet wide, and had what seemed to be "two big paddles" or "blades" that were revolving clockwise around it as it sailed along silently above the road. They had already noticed that some distance ahead of them there was a stationery rectangular dark red light which looked like a lantern, and to their astonishment they now saw the larger machine pick up this "lantern" (apparently about 50 cm. square) and vanish at high speed.

Commenting again on the case next day, June 15, *La Gaceta* reviewed the tremendous number of UFO sightings recorded in that same district over the past two years. According to the columnist, it was now clear that the area north-west of Tucumán, and south-east of Salta, (included the vicinity of Choromoro, on Highway 9, where this

particular thing was seen) is for some reason a region of special importance for the UFOs. Have they bases there or in the nearby high-altitude desert, the Puna de Atacama? Or are they interested in some local mineral deposit, perhaps uranium? The paper goes on to mention that there are wild rumours that the "visitors" have built a fantastic subterranean city beneath the Puna de Atacama.

Metán (Province of Salta)

According to the newspaper *El Mundo* of June 25, 1964, a flotilla of five discs was seen flying over the Metán district.

South Atlantic coast of Argentina

Under the headline "Sea Mystery : Bengal light, meteorite, comet or flying saucer?", the newspaper *Democracia* of July 30 reported that at 11.24 p.m. on July 28, the Argentine authorities at Puerto Madryn (at the head of Golfo Nuevo) received a radio message from the Argentine tanker "Cazador" that they "had seen a flare on the sea just after 9.00 p.m. and, while making a search, had heard voices close by". Their position was 45°56' S, 64°00' W, roughly on a line with the port of Comodoro Rivadavia. A little later, a second message from the "Cazador" said that they and a second Argentine tanker, the "San Antonio", were searching over a five-mile radius.

Meanwhile, the newspaper goes on to say that on July 29 the Norwegian vessel "Sumber" had docked at Puerto Madryn and its captain had told the authorities there that at about 9.00 p.m. on July 28 they: "had seen a meteorite or small comet, flying horizontally to the earth and in a north-easterly direction. It had a luminosity which now and then became intense". The Norwegian captain added: "It might also have been a flying saucer!"

The newspaper observes that the Argentine tanker "Cazador" and the Norwegian ship were very near each other and had evidently seen the same thing, and that had it been a flare or rocket its trajectory would have been a parabola and in no possible circumstances could it have been horizontal. Meanwhile, the Argentine shipping authorities had continued to carry out an intensive search, but up to July 30 no explanation had been found for the intensely luminous object seen in the sky or for the voices heard in the sea.

(This report should be read in conjunction with my article in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for July/August 1964, which contained a reference to weird stories of "mystery submarines", and of flying saucers seen entering and leaving the sea in this same region in 1960 and 1962. Several press-clippings received from Argentina have shown that the inhabitants of this South Atlantic coast area seem to take it for granted that the "Martians" have under-water bases here).

Rocha (Uruguay)

The newspaper *Córdoba* published in the Argentine city of the same name (August 10) carries a report of an astonishingly brilliant UFO which circled about in a clear sky above the Uruguayan town of Rocha at 8.30 p.m. on the evening of August 9. Hundreds of people saw it and declared that it lit up the night sky as if it were daylight. Some witnesses said it was as bright as hundreds of mercury gas lamps all combined. It returned again over Rocha at about midnight.

The Sighting had created such a sensation in Rocha that the Uruguayan paper *Acción*—from which the Argentine paper took the report—now revealed details of an episode that had occurred several months before. A Señor Roberto Dominquez and his wife and mother-in-law were driving from San Carlos to Rocha, and saw in front of them an intensely luminous, almost spherical object which "was moving about, up and down, as though dancing". (This is the famous 'ballet dance', of which both Aimé Michel and Jacques Vallée have spoken). They stopped the car, imagining that they were perhaps suffering from a hallucination or optical illusion, but the ballet dance still went on, and so it continued until they reached Rocha. In describing it they said: "when the object moved upwards, it expelled, downwards, a jet of thin sort of smoke, as though from an engine". They also said they could distinguish clearly two separate antennae projecting on the upper part of it.

Arrived in Rocha, they found that the object had now vanished, but while they were telling

their friends there all about it, they looked up again and saw that it was once more there, now hanging stationary, now gambolling about, in the northern sky.

Salta

According to the Salta daily, *El Tribuno* (September 6, 1964), a Señor Chafredo Dagota, of Pueyrredón, Salta, had reported that at 9.00 p.m. the previous evening, at a nearby place called Cofico, he had seen a flying saucer touch down briefly. It appeared to stand on a kind of 'pillar' (a feature frequently mentioned in recent years) and gave out a blinding light. Near it he caught a blurred glimpse of two figures moving about.

Patagonia

Jornada, a newspaper published in Rawson, near Golfo Nuevo, on the Atlantic coast of Argentinian Patagonia, reported on September 21, 1964 that saucers had been seen repeatedly around Trelew. For example, at 4.45 a.m. on September 8, four important business-men were travelling near Rawson, at a spot only 60 km. from the coast, where so many people claim to have seen UFOs leaving or entering the sea. Immobilised because their car had broken down, these men saw a huge shining object, with what looked like a "chimney" on top, stationery in the sky towards the coast. After they had watched it for three minutes it began to approach, giving off a vivid fluorescent light, red on top, yellowish at the base, these colours changing intermittently to blue and violet respectively. The object came to within an estimated distance of three kilometres of them, and now appeared to be "like the planet Venus, but six or seven times as big".

San Miguel (Province of Buenos Aires)

From the newspaper *Los Principios* (Córdoba) September 16, we read that at the Adarra Observatory in San Miguel, where, on January 7 and 9 of 1964 the amateur astronomer Luis Ferro and his scientific associates reported excellent sightings of UFOs, another impressive sighting was recorded at 10.55 p.m. on September 14, 1964. The flying object, its apparent size being twice that of the Moon, was seen with the naked eye passing across the constellation Lira. The central part of it was white and fiery green, while the rear seemed to look like half-rings of an intense blue colour. Its speed was estimated at three times the speed of sound. The sighting lasted for three minutes, the object moving through the constellation of Lira in the direction of Jupiter. The witnesses were

astronomers Luis Ferro and Renato Matteassi and three students of Astronomy.

According to a slightly fuller report of this sighting given in the Jamaican *Daily Gleaner* for November 17, the astronomers admitted that, whatever the object was, it could not possibly be an artificial satellite inasmuch as it had flown across the sky and then reversed.

San Juan

From the daily *Tribuna*, published at San Juan, (in the Andes and due east of Córdoba), October 13, 1964, comes yet another important account.

On the night of October 10, four women, all school inspectors, had a harrowing experience when travelling in a country bus from Angualasto to San Juan. At about 9.10 p.m., near Villicum, a tremendously powerful "light" appeared in the sky and split up into two portions which dived down at the bus. Two more lights then joined them. They were all as big as the full Moon and the terrified women begged the driver to put his foot on the accelerator, and began to pray "They were most powerful, burning lights, which gave out red flashes, and they put us in mind of many things, so that our only recourse was to pray and entrust ourselves to God . . . I do not believe that these lights were any natural phenomena", said one of the women.

The driver gave a vivid description of his mad dash down the Andean mountain road from Villicum at 50 m.p.h. with a broken spring, with the huge UFOs flying above the creaking bus and bathing it in over-powering light. The authorities made an investigation, and established that there was no other traffic anywhere on the road at the time, and that there was no machinery or equipment anywhere in the vicinity that could possibly account for the "lights". The driver, who had done the same journey scores of times, had never experienced anything like it before, but he told the press that two of his friends had seen the powerful "lights" at precisely the same spot about two months before.

Patagonia

On October 21 the daily paper *Esquel*, published at Chubut (not far from Rawson) reported that at 5.30 a.m. on October 15, at a spot some fifteen kilometres from Trelew, the driver and passengers in a country bus saw a saucer hanging motionless beside the road, at a height of some fifteen feet. From the under part of the machine a trail of smoke was being given off. They estimated the machine's diameter at about ten feet. The driver stopped the bus and got out to take

a better look, and then entered the bus again and set out for Trelew, whereupon the saucer joined them and accompanied them almost into Trelew.

When the affair was made known in Trelew, it became apparent that numerous motorists and truck-drivers had already seen precisely the same thing at the same spot, but that nobody had taken their reports seriously.

Lima (Peru)

The Buenos Aires newspaper *La Razón* of October 16, 1964, carries a report from Lima stating that farmers in the Lampian Valley, sixty kilometres north of Lima, say that almost nightly during the previous month, they have been seeing whole formation of discs passing overhead at enormous heights. Sometimes the discs were moving very fast and sometimes slowly, and leaving behind them a luminous orange trail. They say that the saucers appear from the Pacific side, vanish beyond the Andes, and then invariably appear once more from the Pacific and make a second run, but this time more slowly and at a lower altitude, so that it can now be clearly seen that they are round and silvery. The farmers add that at times the craft remain stationary for a while, giving out orange coloured flashes.

Rosario

La Tribuna, a daily newspaper published in Rosario, on November 2, 1964, reported that Sr. Ariel Ciro Rietti, president of the Argentine Commission for the Study of Unidentified Flying Objects (CODOVNI), recently had a press conference in Buenos Aires to inform local newsmen of the latest developments. The most interesting point mentioned by him was that his group were engaged in studying the frequency of sightings in one particular region of the Argentine, namely the zone running from Salta, via Córdoba, to Bahía Blanca, with particular relation to gravity and the magnetic declination throughout this zone. He gave an outline of the theory of the Frenchman Lt. Leplantier concerning the possible magnetic propulsion of the saucers, and said that his group was working on a study of this whole question.

Mansilla (Province of Entre Rios)

According to a report published in the newspaper *La Crónica* for November 11, two residents of Mansilla, Sr. Néstor Reynoso and Sr. Orlando Marosini, were travelling in a truck between Victoria and Mansilla at night (on November 10, 1964) when a huge luminous UFO approached them. They turned their lights off, at which it receded from them, equally rapidly. But when

they started up the engine again and turned on their lights, it came shooting back, giving off blinding blue and white flashes, and at one point came down to about five feet from the ground at a spot only about fifty yards in front of them. Its brightness was so intense that it was impossible to make out its exact shape. They continued their journey with their lights off, but the UFO made several more close passes over them before disappearing.

San Miguel (Province of Buenos Aires)

At midnight, between Saturday and Sunday, November 14/15, astronomers at the San Miguel Observatory saw an elongated flat reddish-orange flying object which crossed the heavens first from east to west and then back again, at a speed estimated at approximately $4\frac{1}{2}$ times that of the satellites usually seen. Nor was this the first occasion, as scientists at the San Miguel Observatory had already experienced two similar sightings.

Ezeiza International Airport, Buenos Aires

According to *El Mundo* of July 9, 1965, the appearance of a large UFO and several smaller ones at 9.00 p.m. on July 3 when they were very clearly seen—though at a distance of many kilometres—from Ezeiza International Airport, aroused much interest, and led to the revelation that on some unspecified date during the last few months of 1964, one of the observers saw a similar large luminous object in the vicinity of Ezeiza. It was accompanied by two smaller ones. These approached it, one on each side, and were seen by the witness to be “absorbed” into what was evidently the “mother-craft”. At the moment at which this process took place, the luminosity of the large object increased greatly, only to diminish rapidly afterwards. The witness used the familiar simile of “a lamp being suddenly turned off in the sky”. The whole phenomenon had vanished.

THE MADRID LANDING

by Antonio Ribera

ON February 8, 1966, the whole Spanish press published the following report, which had been sent to the newspapers by the CIFRA Agency :

“Madrid : February 7. It was about 8 p.m. yesterday, Sunday, when, in the suburb of Aluche, very near the Casa de Campo, an object which was unidentified but which, from the descriptions given by witnesses, corresponded to the characteristics of the so-called ‘flying saucers’, touched down in the grounds of the ‘El Relajal’ property and took off again a few seconds later, vanishing in the sky.

“There remain, as vestigial evidence of the presence of this object, an area of ground—not very extensive—that almost has the appearance of having been burnt, and the emphatic statements of various witnesses of the occurrence. One of the witnesses was unwilling to give his name, for fear of publicity ; the other witness, who watched, from a window, the arrival and the departure of the strange object, is Vicente Ortuño. Their descriptions agree in affirming that ‘an orange-coloured disc came down, landed, and then took off again at great speed’. All this at 8 p.m. yesterday, Sunday.

“The witnesses, no doubt put off by all the stories that have been told about the ‘flying saucers’, were unwilling to say that the episode involved one of these machines. But they do agree in stating flatly that it was neither an aeroplane nor a helicopter. We, for our part, neither con-

firm nor deny this report which, once again, reads as though it might well belong in the realm of science fiction tales.

“The concrete and undeniable fact, however, is that there are two witnesses and an area of scorched earth, all testifying to the appearance of a strange flying object yesterday in Madrid. And, as a final point, we must add that when we got in touch with the Madrid Observatory and the Barajas observation tower, both these bodies advised us that at the time in question they had detected the presence of no unidentified object over Madrid.”

To begin with, all the information I possessed about this case (which presented considerable semblance of being true) consisted merely of what had appeared in the national Spanish press. The CIFRA report only named one of the witnesses, but without an address so that any investigation was a bit difficult. But a few days later my friend and fellow-worker Doña Cecilia C. de Puig told me that the review *Porqué* for February 16 had an article on the case and giving the address of Señor José Luís Jordán, one of the two witnesses.

So I bought a copy of it and read the article by José Luís Pimentel, their special correspondent who had interviewed this witness and two others. The rest of the article consisted of ‘far-out’ statements by a fourth person interviewed—a ‘professor’ according to his own designation—who

devotes himself to rapturous speculations concerning the 'Space Beings' with whom he claims to be in telepathic contact, and who keep him posted as to their own comings and goings (inclusive of course of the particular landing of the saucer in question, about which *he knew* four days previously. What a magnificent missed opportunity to deliver a prophecy!).

After interviewing Sr. José Jordán, the *Porqué* reporter saw two other witnesses, namely a lady named Doña María Ruíz Torres, of Aluche, and the watchman Juan Jiménez Díaz, who likewise saw the mysterious craft appear.

The interview with Doña María Ruíz follows :

"I was sitting quietly at the window when suddenly I saw something very strange dropping silently from the sky. I watched closely, thinking it was some kind of aircraft, but when I saw it nearer, I was petrified."

"Why?"

"I realised it was something quite exceptional. I became more frightened."

"Could you distinguish anything special about it?"

"Yes. I kept my eyes glued on it, and I could see a gigantic eye through the glass of a window, or at least it seemed to me to be a window."

The watchman Juan Jiménez Díaz made the following statement :

"If you want to know, I did not move from the spot where I was. I realised right from the very first moment what it was."

"What?"

"Something not of our world."

"But what do you base yourself on?"

"If you had seen it, you'd have understood all right. It was a most peculiar machine, something very striking. I think whoever was in it tried to land."

"How do you know that?"

"I saw a sort of door that started to open, but then, I didn't know why, it closed again and the thing flew off."

At this stage in the proceedings, Eugenio Danyans and I decided to write to Señor Jordán, for, if his reply proved favourable, I intended to include his case in the book I am now writing.

In addition to the general features of the case that seemed quite typical and 'classical', there was one other fact, known only to Danyans and myself, which seemed to endorse the authenticity of the story. This was that my friend Baltasar Rodulfo had told me that a certain Jorge Forcada was in Madrid on February 6, and that this

gentleman found that the compass he always carries on him was showing curious perturbations, as if it were in the vicinity of a powerful magnetic field. Only much later did he learn about the 'landing' without at first attributing any relationship to these two facts.

In reply to his enquiry, Danyans received from Señor Jordán a long letter dated February 26 and posted in Madrid. In this letter, Jordán started off by expressing his displeasure that the newspapers should have revealed his address, as this had exposed him to much annoyance. He then went on to describe, in the fullest detail, the episode of which he had been a witness. I reproduce here almost *in toto* in view of its extraordinary interest :—

"At about 8 p.m. on the night of February 6, I was coming home from the housing estate of Casilda de Bustos, where I had been that evening to visit friends. Night had fallen, and I was driving towards 'Housing Estate C' at Aluche, with my headlights on. Something suddenly struck my attention very forcibly. At first I thought I could identify it as a helicopter, but I altered my opinion straightaway, since so far as I am aware the rotor blades of helicopters aren't usually lit up. At first what I saw was a white disc, but its colour switched to yellow and then to orange as it approached. (This may not be the precise sequence of the colours, but that is how I seem to recall it). By then I had already stopped the car and got out, so as to be able to watch the 'peculiar aircraft'. I confess that, due to my inclination to put it down as a helicopter, the idea had not even entered my head that it might be one of those 'flying saucers' that the newspapers were constantly talking about last summer.

"The disc was approaching at what seemed to be a very great speed. (I don't venture to make any comparisons as regards the speed, for I am ignorant in aeronautical matters.) When the thing passed over, almost right above my head, though still at a great height, its apparent diameter seemed to be about equivalent to the diameter of the steering wheel of a car. It was moving in a direction almost perpendicular to the runway of the Aeroclub. At that moment the idea came to me to remain right there where I was. About twelve metres behind me, or perhaps a bit more there was another man—I think he had a girl with him—and he too was looking upwards.

"When I looked at the disc again, I was puzzled to see that it was apparently coming down near the end of the road that I was on.

I admit though that it did not at first surprise me, and in my own mind I at once found a logical explanation. We must bear in mind that the well-known Aero Club is not far from there, so there was nothing strange in the idea that they should be testing some aircraft prototype or other in the area. This was my first and immediate idea. But my curiosity was not satisfied, and this caused me to get in again and start up the car, to go to the place where the landing was going to be. And so it was that, being back in the car, I did not see the actual landing take place.

"As I was driving along, I noticed a small road leading off towards the Aero Club runway, and I felt that this would lead me right to the spot. Then, while I was still approaching the place—I was still in the car, and I applied the brakes suddenly—I saw the enormous disc rising again from the ground.

"I repeat, it was **enormous**, that is to say enormous in contrast to what I had been expecting to see. Its diameter must have been not less than 10 or 12 metres. I was so affected by the sight, that I can still remember even now how for some minutes afterwards my tongue remained dry and 'biscuity'.

"What shook me was not so much its great size as its astonishing luminosity. It would be more exact if I compared it with the brightness of those fluorescent paints used on road-signs, but much more vivid and intense. (There were no lights in the vicinity that could have caused this luminosity.) It gave out a steady muffled sound that reminded me of the hum of some electricity generating turbines that I visited some time ago in the marshlands of Jaen Province.

"The take-off, steady and uniform, was extremely fast, and I threw myself out of the car so as to be able to watch it though, I admit, my legs were trembling. I very much regret that the powerful shock I had experienced prevented me from noticing details, dazed as I was by the astonishing sight.

"It is useless to ask me whether I saw doors, or windows, or auxiliary instruments, or the precise outline of the machine. I noticed just one outstanding detail (apart from the support-legs which I will describe later.) This was that in the centre of the disc (i.e., in the 'belly' or lower part) there seemed to be what I imagine could have been a vent or an escape-hole for gases.

"Three big points stuck out from the machine (almost certainly forming the vertices of an equilateral triangle). I am certain of this, for the newspaper *Informaciones*, and also many

witnesses, all declared that they saw the marks that were left, equidistant some 6 metres from each other. (See *Informaciones*, February 9, 1966). These 'legs' or 'landing gear' ended in small squares or rectangles which were also luminous.

"I could describe several possible models for those support-legs, without however daring to go so far as to identify precisely any of them as being the exact thing.

Fig. 1



"I am in much the same fix about the edge and outline of the disc. I regret to have to confess that I am not very much sure of my first idea, which I identified as a sort of triangle with curvilinear sides.

Fig. 2



"But was this the product of an optical illusion when seeing the discontinuity caused by the bases of the three feet? Was the outline absolutely circular? My hesitations on this point may perhaps seem to you to be either the result of, or an indication of, a fraudulent story. But you are asking me for a detailed description, and I prefer to be guided by a sincere standard of judgment in this, devoid of anything fictitious. (I am giving you two sketches of the machine, without however accepting responsibility for the accuracy of the shape. Somebody asked me if it had a cupola. I told the newspapermen that I had not noticed a cupola, though it is a fact that the upper part of it was very visible to me).

Fig. 3



"The colour of the luminosity was orange, beyond any manner of doubt . . . Just as I am also positive that this sort of fluorescence could not be confused with the light emitted by an incandescent body.

"The machine rose and then—an astonishing fact—it **vanished just as though it had suddenly 'gone out', like a light.** [My emphasis—EDITOR.]

"There is not much else to tell. I went to a house near by (I learnt from the newspapers that this was the 'El Relajal' property), and there a gentleman listened to my agitated story. (I now know from the newspapers that he was the husband of a lady named Doña Herminia Pelaez Blanco.)

"I was still unaware that there had been numerous other witnesses. A few minutes after the thing had taken off, I ventured, still pretty shaken, to take a look at the spot again. All I found there was a white Renault car whose occupants—a pair of lovers—assured me that they had seen nothing, and further off there was another car near which two mechanics were working. They moved away from the vehicle when I approached them. (The reporter from *Informaciones* has told me a story about those two mechanics that is so 'fantastic', so 'strange', that I refuse to believe it.)

"My opinion about the episode? Well, right at the start I soon perceived that my object was not a helicopter, and I assume—here my certainty is absolute—that it was not a meteorite, as one 'learned pundit' stated in the newspapers. But it is still a very long way from that to saying that it was a machine from Outer Space. I confess that I am dreadfully confused about it all and that I have no capacity for judging the event in its true proportions. But do not let us forget that the Aero Club is nearby, though the Aeroport people did deny that

it was a machine from there, and although, furthermore, an Air Force officer came to see me saying that he too had witnessed the landing. Nevertheless, since the nature of the craft remains unknown to us, we must not totally reject the possibility that it was some top-secret experiment being carried out by the American forces stationed in our country."

POSTSCRIPT: In a subsequent letter to Danyans, Señor Jordán added the following very important details regarding electro-magnetic effects:

"I should add that an Air Force officer who visited me made a remark that coincides with the reference that appeared in the review *Europa*. [A Danyans article in which he quotes the Forcada observations—EDITOR.] A magnometric team from the Barajas Airport registered several perturbations on that night.

"Likewise two of the traffic [radio-traffic?—EDITOR] receivers recorded, on the same band, some static effects of radio-electric perturbations on an unusual frequency, and having very unusual features. All this attracted attention, and was commented on by the technical personnel. The time—which coincides to the time in the story as known to us—and the frequencies registered, are all on record at the Control Tower."

The Air Force officer in question said his name was 'Pleza', which could well be a pseudonym. Danyans and I will continue our investigations with a view to establishing the identity of this officer and the truth of his statements, though, on the other hand, these do give an impression of truth.

(Translation—G. Creighton)

NOTES

In addition to the above article in *Porqué*, there were also reports of this case in the following Madrid papers: *Informaciones*, February 7, article giving a brief account of the landing. Also photographs of site. (Continued on p. iv. of cover).

World round-up

ENGLAND

Luminous object over Hull

Mr. A. E. Train C.Eng. of Kingston upon Hull, E. Yorks, has submitted the following account of a sighting observed from the garden of his bungalow: "On December 9th, 1965, between 6.10 p.m.-6.15 p.m. I ... saw at a distance hard to estimate, but at a high altitude, a luminous star-like object (magnitude brighter than the brightest star visible to the naked eye) hovering in the sky. Suddenly, the object started moving towards the west at slow speed and, on reaching a point due west of its original stationary position, it executed a 45 degree angle turn and, with ever-increasing acceleration, disappeared in a south-easterly direction.

It was impossible to make out its exact size, but I would say that it was very large. It also moved in

total silence and gained altitude as it disappeared in the distance.

Flame-like plume

The following letter and editorial comment appeared in the *Liverpool Daily Post* of January 28th:

"Sir,—My wife, myself and five of my six children clearly observed an unidentified flying object on Sunday, December 26, while we were walking in the Knowsley Estate, near Liverpool, some time after midday.

"I was a pilot in the last war and yet I found it impossible to explain what the object was; nor was I able to make a reasonable assumption to account for its behaviour in the air.

"The description given by Miss Wingfield who photographed an unidentified object passing over Ireland at 3.15 p.m. on the same day fits the object we saw (i.e., 'solid looking rounded object flying in sil-

of news and comment about recent sightings

ence with a plume of flame-like brightness at its stern—but with no smoke trail', it eventually went away in a S.S.W. direction, climbing from a height of about 8,000-10,000 feet. We observed this object for some three or four minutes, visibility excellent."

—C. F. Campbell, Yew Tree Lane, Liverpool, 12.

"A Ministry of Defence (R.A.F.) spokesman said that the department responsible for investigating reports of unidentified flying objects had no knowledge of sightings on December 26, nor had the Ministry of Aviation received any reports."

(Credit to T. J. St. John-Coleman of Anglesey.)

Object dematerializes?

The *Kent and Sussex Courier* of February 11 carried the following interesting item:

"A flying saucer passed over Tonbridge at about 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 27, according to 65-year-old Mrs. D. Hayman, of 49 Priory Street

"There was a thin low cloud that evening," she said. "I was just coming in from the garden when I looked up at the stars. Suddenly I saw this white object high above the garage roof. It was glowing white and and spinning. It moved a short way and then disappeared."

"Mrs. Hayman described the object as being roughly circular with a brim round it. The object moved only a short distance but seemed to materialise and then dematerialise before her eyes."

'Cabin' lights

The following letter, written by Mr. Terence Kelly of Marple, was published in the *Manchester Evening News and Chronicle* dated March 5th:

"I was extremely interested to read P.C. Perk's account of a 'flying saucer' seen in Wilmslow some weeks ago.

"While driving along Waterside Lane, in the direction of Strines Road, Disley, about six weeks ago, my wife and I saw an object approaching us at a slow speed at about 300ft high. It had a bright green light or lights beneath and white lights above.

"I immediately stopped the car to try and make out if it was a helicopter but as it came closer and passed over us the object made no sound at all.

"As it was quite dark we could not make out any general shape but there were no flashing lights as would be present on a low-flying aircraft at night, and strangely the white 'cabin' lights above were visible both when coming towards us and later away from us.

"I would estimate the speed to be only in the region of 30-50 mph, and it disappeared in the direction of Whaley Bridge. The object was in view for about 15 minutes." (Credit to John Peers, Walkden, Manchester.)

Polebank light goes out

The *Manchester Evening News* of March 18 printed the following letter:

On the night of Monday, March 7, my girl friend and I were walking home along Stockport Road, near Polebank old people's home, on the way to Bredbury, at about 9.45 p.m. when I spotted a large oval light high in the sky and

I pointed it out to my girl... it appeared to move very slowly in the sky.

"It stayed visible for about four minutes, then suddenly disappeared as if a light had been put out... M. Darlington, 73 Woodfield Avenue, Hyde.

Redcar 'rocket'

From the *Evening Gazette* of Middlesbrough (March 24) we learn that on March 23:

"Alan Smith, 21, of West Coat-ham Farm, Redcar... a chef at Redcar bowling alley, was just sitting down to his tea in the kitchen of his home last night when he spotted an object in the sky.

"Both he and his 16-year-old sister Dorothy dashed outside and watched it for several minutes as it "drifted" low down from Lackenby Works and over ICI.

Mr. Smith told the *Evening Gazette* today: "It had no wings and was rusty colour of brown, shaped like a rocket..."

Orange saucer

The *Liverpool Daily Post* of March 24 reports the following sighting:

"Mr. Norman Comber claims he saw a flying saucer glowing orange, fifteen feet across, topped by a small dome, flying 100 feet high across the front of the Plough and Harrow Inn, Ormskirk Road, Up Holland, where he is licensee.

"A week ago, three people reported seeing an unidentified object hovering over their house four miles away.

Little Hulton visitant

The following piece appeared in the *Farnworth and Worsley Journal* of March 31:

"A woman from Mereside Grove Little Hulton, whom I call Mrs. X to spare her blushes, was awakened early on Sunday morning by her husband.

"Somewhat disinterestedly, he said, 'If you want to see a flying saucer, you'd better look out of the window.'

"Mrs. X takes up the commentary: 'I looked out of the window and saw a strange, moon-shaped light in the sky. Inside that glow was a saucer shape. I wasn't frightened, just fascinated. It stopped there for a couple of minutes then moved quite quickly.'

[Why should Mrs. X blush? She saw fit to report her sighting to the newspaper.—EDITOR]. (Credit: John Peers.)

AUSTRALIA

Noise like swarming bees

The *Newcastle Morning Herald*, N.S.W., carried the following report datelined Perth, Monday, January 24:

"A motorist described today how he watched a saucer-shaped object with bright rotating lights for more than an hour as it hovered over the Carrolup Hall, 11 miles west of Katanning.

"The motorist, Lee Marshall, 21, of Katanning, said he saw a row of bright lights on the brow of a distant hill as he was driving towards Katanning along the Kojonup road at 12.30 a.m. last Thursday, (January 20).

"They looked like the lights of a semi-trailer and I did not pay much attention," he said. "As I drove over the crest of a hill, I was blinded by a bright yellow light."

"Mr. Marshall said he stopped his car and turned out the lights. He saw a large object hovering over the hall about half a mile away. It had a revolving top like a lighthouse tower and emitted bright red, yellow and green lights. He said the object shifted about in the sky between about 50 and 2,000 feet above the hall. It made a noise like swarming bees.

"The lights from the tower illuminated an oval-shaped lower structure, which shone like stainless steel. I watched, unable to move for nearly an hour and a half," Mr. Marshall said. "Then the lights appeared to become brighter and the object soared off toward Katanning at a terrific pace."

"Mr. Marshall said he arrived home soon after 2 a.m. and woke his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Marshall and his brother, Ken, 19, who watched the object for about 15 minutes as it circled the town before heading south-east toward Nyabing."

Hovering light

The following account of a sighting witnessed by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Stroessinger of Hillwood, which is a few miles outside of Launceston, Tasmania, is taken from *The Examiner* of Tasmania dated February 28:

"In the early hours of Tuesday morning, (February 22), they watched fascinated as a blinding, bluish-white light hovered in the eastern sky between Hillwood and Lilydale.

"The strange night began for the Stroessingers at 3.30 a.m. when something disturbed their baby daughter, Iris.

"I went in to her," said Mrs. Stroessinger, "and when I was getting back into bed I saw the reflection of a very bright light in one of the bedroom windows, which was open and facing east. I went through to the lounge, and there it was . . . a brilliant bluish-white light just hovering in the sky. It was so bright it lit up the whole paddock on the hill next to the house.

"I immediately went in and woke my husband."

"Mr. Stroessinger gave the same description of the object—an eerie bluish-white light which seemed to float in the sky.

"The light was so bright it hurt my eyes. We could see the paddock just as if it had been daytime," he said.

"It was throwing out a wide beam of light something like the light from under a lampshade. It wasn't steady; it was shimmering all the time, and if you looked hard enough you could pick out a vague oval shape in the light. At first, it appeared to be just a bright shapeless light, but after a while I could just make out the cloudy oval appearance."

"Mr. Stroessinger watched the light for about five minutes, but his wife stayed and watched for half an hour. The light was still there when she went to bed about 4 a.m.

"After about 10 minutes I saw several stabs of light come out of the bottom of the main light," she said. "The whole thing then moved slowly across the sky, probably for a couple of miles. It seemed to be just floating sideways. But it stopped again, and four distinct reddish-coloured lights appeared in a rectangle on the white light. The four separate lights were still there when I went to bed."

(Credit to Mrs. S. Barraclough, Nairobi, Kenya).

CANADA

UFOs over the Okanagan

From a Vancouver newspaper probably the *Sun* of March 2, comes the following account of three sightings—

"Newspaper printer Alfred Quemby said Tuesday, he had seen an oval-shaped saucer with a dome on top circling over the Benvoulin district on Kelowna's south-east limits.

"Quemby said: 'When I got out of my car for a closer look, it disappeared at an almost unbelievable speed.'

"Clifford Cole, an employee of the CPR Lakes Service, said he was on watch at the CPR dock in Kelowna when he saw a large object hovering over Okanagan Lake. Suddenly, another smaller craft seemed to pop to the surface from beneath the lake. It seemed to remain on the surface and then returned to the mother ship which flew away," Cole said.

"Two teenagers, who refused to be identified, said they saw a saucer-shaped object, Saturday night. They said they also heard the craft make a noise like a transport truck until it gradually subsided to a low hum.

"The couple said a diamond-shaped smaller craft emerged from the big ship while they watched, circle the saucer and then went back inside."

(Credit: Dr. P. M. H. Edwards, Victoria, B.C.)

PACIFIC OCEAN—near MARIANAS ISLANDS Giant cigar sighted

The following report came to the Editor in a personal communication—

"On January 13, 1966, Anderson Air Force Base, Guam, received a message from SS *Morgantown Victory*, Captain Petore, which was part of Task Force 34, a supply ship convoy en route to the war zone in South East Asia. The vessel reported, 'At 112200 Lat. 27N 154.8E (northeast of Marcus Island but well beyond any land) watch sighted 200 foot cigar-shaped silent unidentified object at 400 feet height, approximately one mile starboard beam then hovered starboard quarter and away. Visible three minutes . . . Searched for possible downed plane one hour. Phenomenon inexplicable . . . ' Anderson AFB forwarded this message to Hamilton AFB, California, and air mailed Captain Petore's witness account. The message was unclassified.

"It should be noted that the area of the sighting is just north of the Marianas Islands, some of the deepest depths in the Pacific."

SOUTH AFRICA UFO seen over Malvern

The *Natal Mercury* of March 15, carried the following account:

"An unidentified flying object, which looked 'just like a flying saucer,' was seen by a Malvern woman, Mrs. P. Farren, yesterday.

"It circled around my house," said Mrs. Farren, who lives in Thalbör Avenue. 'I was attracted outside by a buzzing noise at about 11 a.m. Then I saw this thing like a flying

saucer, coming towards the house. It circled round and seemed to have a glass dome on top. It had two long thin tails, but no wings and no propeller. I have never seen anything so graceful or beautiful in my life.'

"The craft appeared from the direction of Pinetown and flew off towards the north after a few minutes.

"I have seen all sorts of aircraft and helicopters," Mrs. Farren added, 'but never anything like this.' Several people had seen the U.F.O., she said."

(Credit to Mr. Philipp J. Human).

U.S.A.

Pupils see UFO

We are grateful to Mr. Welton P. Farrow for sending us the following two reports from the *Morning Sentinel*, Waterville, Maine, dated December 11, 1965:

"It was about 9.30 a.m. Friday, December 10, Mrs. Marjorie Fernald's 5th grade class at Fairfield Junior High, when Paul Holway, 10, suddenly heard a sharp 'beeeep' that 'took my breath away and I looked out the window to see a small, black dot speeding toward the school (from the northwest).'

"Paul's exclamation of surprise brought about 15 of the pupils to the north side window where, for a matter of seconds, they saw the object glow—the light fade as the silvery object approached at high speed, hovered, then glided steeply out of sight behind nearby houses (headed eastwards).

"It was about ten feet long and egg-shaped when nearest to the school," Paul said later, 'silvery metal coloured and with an antenna on one end.'

"In mid-afternoon seven of the group were individually taken to a classroom where they described what they had seen, then each drew a sketch on the blackboard.

"None of the seven had the opportunity to tell the others what he had drawn, and the drawings had a startling basic resemblance.

"A couple of the pupils said the thing they saw was blurred about one end—and one said there appeared to be something swirling around beneath the object.

"All agreed there was a dark circle in the centre of the object that seemed to grow as it approached the school building—that the object seemed to be illuminated from within—glowing and fading—and 'it moved faster than anything I ever saw before.'"