

The Sauvé and Léger parents, although understandably finding it difficult to believe that their children had seen a "monster", were nevertheless convinced that they must have seen *something very extraordinary*, so great and so marked were their fear and anxiety.

At the spot where the witnesses said they had seen the luminous craft standing, the light of dawn showed eloquent proof. Over a circular area 5 metres wide, the oats had been crushed and flattened "with a circular motion, as though by a whirlwind." Extending outwards from this area into the standing oats was one long "arm-like" mark, 20 metres in extent and some 10 centimetres wide.

As G.E.P.A. Editor René Fouéré observes, this story at once calls to mind Mrs. Coral Lorenzen's famous Venezuelan cases of 1954²—in which witnesses were set upon and injured by hairy creatures—or the (seemingly less bellicose?) hairy and bewhiskered "Martians"³ encountered by children at 6.30 p.m. on October 9, 1954 at Pournoy-la-Chétive, in France, and by M. Roger Barrault at Lavoux only half an hour later—hirsute fauna which, thanks to the hilarious comments of the French press, now have their assured place in the literature of "Ufology".

On the other hand, as M. Fouéré points out, the shape

of the actual craft, the size of the creature itself, and its close approach to the window to peer in at the occupants, inevitably puts us in mind of the famous hobgoblins of Kelly-Hopkinsville.⁴

Monsieur Fouéré hopes to secure more details of this remarkable Canadian case, and we await his further report with interest.

NOTES

¹ The Editor of *Phénomènes Spatiaux* points out that there are considerable differences between the French spoken in France and that spoken in Canada, words often being used differently or having slightly different meanings.

² See Mrs. Lorenzen's *The Great Flying Saucer Hoax*, 1962, and chapter VI of the same work, expanded and amended, with title: *Flying Saucers: The Startling Evidence of the Invasion from Outer Space* (Signet Books, N.Y., 1966.)

See also Cases 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18 of my *Humanoids in Latin America* (FSR Special Issue THE HUMANOIDS); also Brian Stross's *The Ikk'als* and my *Middle American Creature Reports* (both in FSR for May/June 1968).

³ Aimé Michel: *A Propos des Soucoupes Volantes* (Editions Planète: 4th revised edition), pages 191/192. (The same two cases appear as Nos. 80 and 81 of Jacques Vallée's *The Pattern Behind the UFO Landings*, in FSR Special Issue THE HUMANOIDS.)

⁴ See Jacques Vallée: *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*. Also his *A Descriptive Study of the Entities Associated with the Type I Sighting*, in FSR, January/February 1964. Also Donald B. Hanlon: *Questions On The Occupants*, in FSR Special Issue THE HUMANOIDS. Finally, I think that careful perusal of the literature of ghostly apparitions and psychism might reveal that there are already other cases on record in which these creatures with dark, knobby, and furrowed or warted skin ("like a toad") have been reported.

ANOTHER FLOATING PLATFORM

Jonathan M. Caplan

GORDON CREIGHTON'S report on the floating platform at Aldeburgh (FSR for January/February 1969, p. 23) strongly resembles a case which I investigated a few years ago, and which I feel deserves more serious attention if only because it comprises a less familiar category of UFO.

The Reverend Pitt-Kethly of West London, needless to say a lifelong teetotaller, who assures me that he does "not doubt the evidence of his own optics", witnessed his floating platform on Tuesday, October 18, 1955, at 4.10 p.m.

He was travelling on an Uxbridge line train to East Harrow, London. Visibility was clear, so that when the train was halted by a signal at a West Hampstead viaduct, Reverend Pitt-Kethly immediately noticed the strange craft as it sailed effortlessly into view. As in the Aldeburgh case, the platform was travelling on a perfectly straight course at a speed of about 20 m.p.h. The craft was reddish-brown and grey, quite soundless, the size of a small bus, and at a height of approximately 120ft. (It is curious that the Reverend, like Mrs. Whiteland at Aldeburgh, was reminded of a German troop carrier—though, of course, he realised that he was observing something quite different).

During the three to four minutes that the object was in view, Reverend Pitt-Kethly noticed about 30 immobile helmeted figures with human faces—all apparently dressed in khaki uniforms—some of whom were seated and staring fixedly forward. Reverend Pitt-Kethly was so amazed and puzzled that he wondered how such an object with its low trajectory could possibly clear London.

Perhaps the most vital parts of Mrs. Whiteland's and the reverend gentleman's recollections are, that the former noted that the occupants were "staring", and the latter that they were "looking forward like robots". It requires very little deduction to conclude that the craft were engaged primarily in observation, and here perhaps is their motive and, indeed, their advantage.

The more conventional saucer, cigar or sphere, with their usual lack of wide apertures, are usually totally ill-equipped for close ground observation, at low altitude, by large groups of ufonauts. The floating platform would appear to rectify this deficiency admirably, even being more unobtrusive than the more sophisticated UFO, and even giving the impression of being more translucent and "fourth-dimensional" than most UFOs—perhaps they are even a projected image to selected individuals, which would account for the apparent lack of witnesses in both cases.

Whatever their structure, and I feel it to be a more physical and tangible one than I might have implied, it must be agreed that an evaluation of those areas over which such platforms have been sighted could well be enlightening upon the entire UFO enigma, for those selected areas must surely warrant the close scrutiny they would appear to receive.

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