

ANOTHER STRANGE AFFAIR AT OLAVARRIA

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ACCORDING to a report in the Buenos Aires paper *La Razón* of November 25, 1969, kindly sent to us by Señor Ignacio Darnaude Rojas-Marcos of Sevilla, Spain, the district of Olavarría, in the province of Buenos Aires, has again been the scene of some very strange happenings. As readers will recall it was there that, in July 1968, the boy Oscar Heriberto Iriart¹ saw a landed disc and encountered alien beings while riding on his father's ranch.

The present report, no less fantastic, speaks of 17 strange luminous flying beings that visited a farm and emitted beams of light which smashed objects, put dogs to sleep, and produced a general commotion.

I have translated the full report from *La Razón*, which is as follows:

"Veritable commotion prevails in this district as the result of the appearance of strange beings, presumably extraterrestrial, in view of their shape and their manner of gathering together in out-of-the-way spots.

"These queer forms appear at night, and fly about, projecting beams of light like searchlight beams, and of a vividness that has to be experienced. When anyone is struck by these beams of light he faints, and dogs are put to sleep and objects are smashed.

"The most moving account yet regarding these incredible happenings was given by the manager of a farm and the members of his family. The farm, known as 'Mi Recuerdo' is in the Crotto district.

"Reporters from the local paper, *El Popular*, went out there and talked to the witness, Señor Aquilo Ramón Acosta, aged 44, and his wife Amelia and their two children, German (a boy aged 6) and Mónica, aged 10, and today's issue of the paper carries the story in detail.

"Acosta's wife explained that, last Sunday (November 23) she and her two children had gone to the neighbouring farm (known as 'El Carmen') to ask the manager, Señor Higinio Mendoza, to drive her into Olavarría. But on the way back from Olavarría they got a puncture in one of the tyres of the car, so she and the children decided to stay overnight at Sr. Mendoza's farm. 'I had left my poor husband alone at home', she said,

'and just see what happened to him!'

"We now come to Señor Acosta's own account. He said: 'I had gone to bed at 11 o'clock, or thereabouts. I hadn't been drinking liquor or anything like that. I was a bit worried because my wife and the children had not returned. Finally I dropped off to sleep, with the idea in mind that I would awaken at cock-crow. At about 9.00 a.m.² the cock crowed three times, and I got up. I went to the kitchen and lit the lamp and started preparing some maté tea. Everything was quiet. Not a sound. When I went out into the yard to get water from a pitcher, I saw them . . .! Some strange beings, lighting up the field with very powerful lights, just like searchlights. They were beside the wire fence (separating the house from a paddock)—about 15 metres from the kitchen.

"At first I told myself they must be will-o'-the-wisps but I'm not afraid of them. About ten of the beings were moving to and fro along the wire, illuminating the ground, and seven were in the paddock. The one nearest to the house came to a distance of about 8 metres from where I was. It had come over the wire and was entering the yard. I could only see them from the waist downwards. Scared though I was, I seemed to perceive that their clothing was transparent, for they shone. The chap, or Martian or whatever he was, was carrying a rod or something of the sort in his hand. He raised the rod and then suddenly flew into the air and went and joined the others near the wire. When I fixed my attention on these, which were bunched together in the corner of the yard, they shone these big lights of theirs on me. Suddenly the whole house was lit up, and I felt a heavy blow on the face as if someone had hit me! So I went back to the house, and into the kitchen. It had left me almost senseless . . . just as though I had been stunned. So much so, that although I had a gun in the room, I didn't even think of going to get it.

"Despite my state of shock, however, I plucked up enough courage to peep out through the little window in the door. And so I was able to see 'them'—I don't know how to call them—run along the wire fence from

one end to the other, three times. And always they were shining their lights down on the ground!

"From time to time too they would focus them on the trees. *But what seemed to interest them most of all—for it was there that they paused most—was the dung-heap*, about 20 metres from the house.

"All this continued for about an hour."

The journalists went out to the spot indicated, where they saw some footprints like the prints of horses' hooves. And Acosta said: "No. We haven't got any horses here . . ." There were also a lot of sort of little holes in the ground, and the grass was flattened as though by a very smooth roller.

Señora Acosta added: "There were also some other strange things in the house, like for example a pane of glass (30 cms. x 20 cms.) in the door. This pane of glass had been broken by the strange light. The pieces of the broken glass were none of them more than 4 cms. long.

Furthermore, according to Señor Acosta, the dogs in the house did not even bark: "They didn't even put on a show of defence. One of them did go out of the house with me, but came rushing back into the kitchen. And the other dog, Nero, was prostrate, as though asleep."

Señora Acosta, continuing, emphasised that she had returned to find her husband in a highly excited state. She told the reporters: "You should just have *seen* him for yourselves! He was in the kitchen. And he was repeating to me, over and over again: 'I always said they didn't exist. But now I believe in them!' The poor man, his eyes were running, and looked as though filled with blood, and his head was aching, and he was trembling, and when night fell he was again overcome with fear."

The Acosta family are held in high regard in the region, and have been living for 30 years on the farm, which is the property of Señor Ricardo Portarrieu. It is indeed a staggering story.

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Students of our subject will find in this report many features that recall

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