

THE ANTHROPOMORPHIC ENTITY AT VILLA CARLOS PAZ — Part 2

A Classic Argentinian Case re-examined.

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Illustrations based on sketches by Don Benjamín Galíndez Senr. Translation from Spanish by Gordon Creighton.

IN Part 1 of this paper, which appeared in *Flying Saucer Review* Vol. 26, No. 5, an account of the phenomena reported at Villa Carlos Paz on June 14, 1968, and subsequently investigated by my father and I, was given in considerable detail. These phenomena were the red lights seen outside the Motel "La Cuesta" by the owner Sr. Pedro Pretzel, and the strange entity encountered inside the motel by his daughter, Senorita María Elodia Pretzel.

Readers of FSR are reminded that the only versions previously circulated¹ were based on reports which appeared in Argentine newspapers and journals.^{2,3}

VII. Other witnesses?

At about 1.00 a.m. on the same day, June 14, 1968, a woman neighbour of the Pretzels, Dona Cándida Alvarez Paz de Ramirez, saw a whitish light near her house.

Senora de Ramirez (now deceased) was 64 years old at the time, and the house where she was living lies at a distance of some 70 or 80 metres to the north-east of the Motel La Cuesta.

What she saw was a vivid whiteness on a piece of wasteland lying towards the N.W. from her house and adjacent both to her own property and to the area where Senor Pretzel had observed the two red lights (see Fig. 2). She thought the glow must be due to her outside garden lights. She thought that maybe her son-in-law, Senor Roberto Barrigó, had just gone out a few minutes previously and had left the outside lights on. She therefore

decided not to turn them off herself, as he might soon be coming back, and also because it was a very cold night and the light switch was itself outside the house. She concluded in short that the matter of the light she had noticed was not important, and she retired to bed.

But when, next morning, she heard of the Pretzel affair which had taken place during that same night, Senora de Ramirez asked her son-in-law whether by any chance he had left the outside lights turned on during the night. To which he replied that he had not. And, he added, in any case the outside lights had not been on when he returned to the house.

The waste site on which Senora de Ramirez had seen the bright light was at that date (but is no longer today) a piece of irregular and very uneven terrain. It was the same place which, as we have related, Sr. Pretzel had considered to be a highly improbable location for parking any sort of vehicle that might have been bearing the two red lights that he had seen during the night.

The house of Senora de Ramirez (today occupied by her daughter and son-in-law, Roberto Barrigó) is only 100 metres from the spot where — five minutes later — Sr. Pretzel estimated the two red lights on the National Highway No. 20 (see Fig. 2) to be.

But according to Sr. Pretzel the lights he saw were not on the wasteland but on the road, being reflected on its surface. On the other hand the light seen by Senora de Ramirez was on the wasteland and, in any case, it was, she said, white and not red like the lights seen by Pretzel.

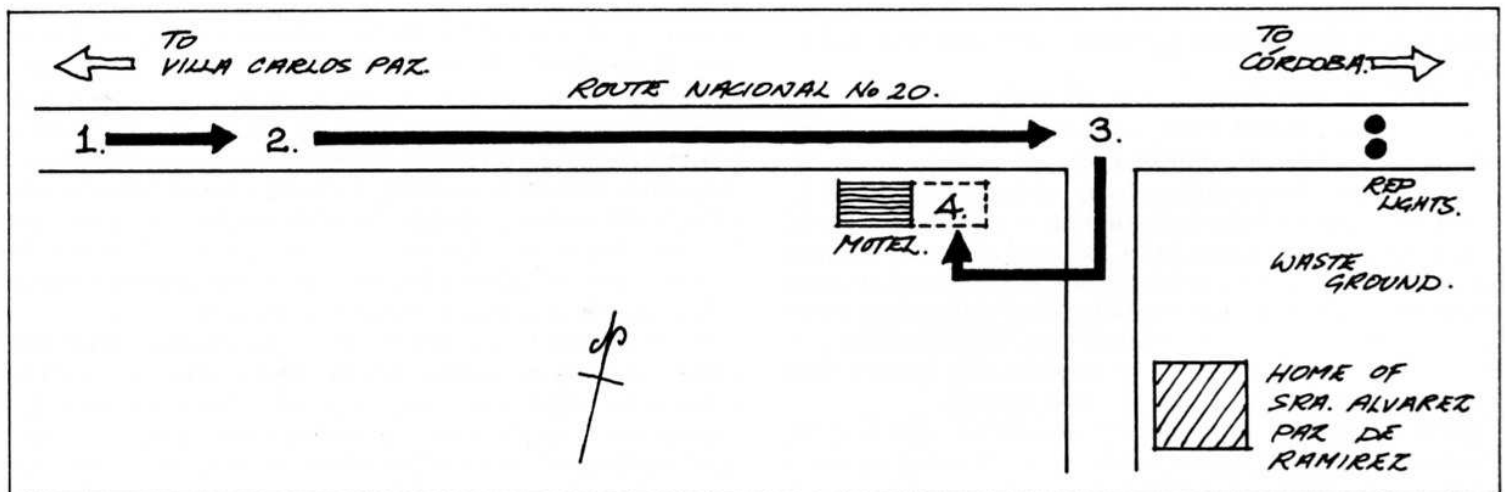


Figure 2 (repeated from Part 1): Route taken by Sr. Pedro Jacobo Pretzel. At (1) he was returning home from the town centre. At (2) he sees two red lights at 400m from him. At (3) he was only 70m from the lights. At (4) he leaves his van in the motel car park.



María Elodia Pretzel

Was there a link between the two phenomena?

VIII. Radioactivity?

Three young men, students at the time (Federico Carlos Scholtsi, aged 29; Marcos Alfredo Fossa, 25; and Carlos Alberto Palacios, also 25) went to the Motel La Cuesta on June 15, 1968 (i.e. the next day) with the intention of determining whether there was any radioactivity present.

They had with them a Geiger-Müller Counter, El-Tronics make, model PR4, used in mining prospecting (and consequently uncalibrated, but nevertheless capable of establishing the intensity of any radioactivity found.)

The external background radiation — outside the motel — was recorded by them as at the level of one count per 1-3 seconds. However, although the average and normal radiation inside houses is virtually nil — depending upon the materials used in the construction of the building — they did find it in this case to be considerably greater than outside, namely four counts per two seconds.

Some years later we members of CADIU checked the radiation at the site again, using a much more accurate counter, a Scintillometer SPP2, with a meter on its panel, and we checked once more in July 1980. Our findings are as follows:—

The background radiation near the motel varied

between 85 and 95 counts per second, and on the car park (surfaced with flagstones) it went up to 120-125 counts per second, and on the wall of the motel beside the car park it was 170-190 counts per second.*

Inside the dining room of the motel we found the count yet higher, its walls registering at various spots between 120-130 and 170-190 counts per second, while on the floor it was 120-130 counts per second.

These indoor levels are much higher than the outside ones. But in our view these persistently high counts inside the Motel la Cuesta are to be explained by the building materials used (particularly the sand and the local stone). All these building materials possess a quite high natural radioactivity, because they come from areas near Villa Carlos Paz that are rich in uranium ore. From which we must conclude that what Messrs. Scholtsi, Fossa and Palacios recorded, in all good faith, was the natural radioactivity of these building materials used in the Motel. It follows that the matter has nothing whatever to do with the question of the humanoid entity with which we are concerned in this paper.

IX. The personality of the eyewitness

María Elodia Pretzel (now Senora de Lorenzatti, and aged 31) made a very favourable impression on us. She is the eldest of Sr. Pretzel's four children, the others all being sons, Pedro Luis, Juan Carlos, and Oscar Alberto.

She is an affable and cultured person, and not given to the reading of Science Fiction. She relates her story in a firm and convincing fashion. She does not contradict herself, and always reproduces her experience without causing the hearer to have doubts or suspicions as to her veracity. She *does not know* what it was that she saw; nor does she ever affirm that it was an extraterrestrial being. Of one thing however she *is* sure: she is sure that it was some sort of unknown physical, material presence, and that it had nothing to do with any stunt concocted by a hoaxer.

The high regard in which she is held among her neighbours is equally visible. She is a well-bred lady, she is shy, and she is mentally totally normal. As quite a number of her neighbours put it to us very emphatically: "If she says she saw the being, then it has got to be true."

Dr. Hugo Vaggione, family doctor to the Pretzel household, told us that María Elodia is normal, sane, and honest, and that she has never had any mental trouble of any description whatever. He also let us hear a taped recording of her telling her story, which he himself had made when examining her scarcely twelve hours after the episode with the entity had occurred. In this taped piece of documentation her natural excitement and tension are clearly detectable — particularly as she had by no means got over her weird experience at that point. All of which, in our view, reinforces the certainty that the experience related by María Elodia Pretzel is genuine.

Furthermore, the wife of Dr. Vaggione (herself the holder of a degree in Psychology) told us that she, for her part, also ruled out completely all possibility that the phenomenon might have been of a hallucinatory nature, first, because of the duration of the experience (about four minutes) and, secondly, because of the great number of small details recalled by María Elodia — these details being such as could in no way be reconciled with the idea of a hallucination.

X. The police report on the case — and what became of it. . .

At about 9.00 a.m. on the same day, June 14, 1968, Sr. Pretzel and his daughter handed in their report on the affair to the Police Station which is close by, only 400 metres or so from the motel.

The Dossier on the case, opened by Assistant Police Inspector Cuello, was given the docket number 291/68 and headed "Unidentified Flying Object."

When CADIU sent a representative to the Police Station, the official seen by us was Sub-Inspector Héctor Cáceres, the officer in command of the Station, who was good enough to discuss the case with us. He exchanged impressions with our representative, and he reinforced the general view that the eyewitness María Elodia Pretzel was sincere in her declarations.

On the occasion of our visit to the Police Station we learnt, to our great surprise, that the file on the case had already — long before, namely on June 15, 1968 (i.e. almost within twenty-four hours of the occurrence at the Motel La Cuesta) — been forwarded to the Argentine Air Force at the special request of the latter.

This fact is particularly important because — if one were to accept the theory that the entity was simply somebody dressed up and masquerading — then the Police Force's summary report on the case ought to have pursued the normal course, according to which the matter should have been left to be dealt with under the local law (*Ley de Faltas*) which relates to such minor matters (contraventions) as — although not covered by the provisions of the Penal Code — nevertheless constitute some sort of disturbance of the public order, or some unwarranted infringement or offence against the person.

These discussions which we had with the Police Force personnel at Villa Carlos Paz furnished us with a total corroboration of all our own assertions about the Pretzel case — namely that the hoax theory was ruled out very early in the course of drawing up the police report. As a result of which the Police complied at once with the request of the Air Force, broke off their own work of producing a report on the case, and forwarded the file to the Air Force forthwith.

XI. Some considerations regarding the material and solid nature of the apparition.

In our opinion, the humanoid entity at Villa Carlos Paz was unquestionably of a material and solid nature. Consequently all theories relating to non-physical, non-material phenomena of a psychological (hallucinations) or a parapsychological nature (i.e. the much debated theory of projections, with telekinetic effects) have to be ruled out. Thus:—

1) Some suggestive points of behaviour

There are three significant aspects of the behaviour of the apparition that serve to support our assertion:—

(a) When María Elodia first sees the humanoid, she notices that the side door (leading to the car park) is open. In order to get into the dining room the entity would have been obliged to overcome the obstacle represented by the door. He therefore opened it, and it was in this position that the eyewitness first beheld him.

(b) When the entity is leaving the dining room and is



Repeat of Figure 14 from part 1: The entity encountered by María Elodia Pretzel on June 14, 1968.

facing the side door (see Figure 12)** he lowers his head so as not to strike it against the top of the door frame. This action by the entity is further proof of his material nature, because it shows him avoiding the obstacle presented by the fact that his own height is greater than the height of the door.

(c) The eyewitness states that the being did not have the appearance of a TV image (unstable). He was something concrete, material, "of flesh and bone." To such a degree indeed that the shape of his toes showed clearly through the material of the one-piece suit. He did not float or glide, but walked, articulating his lower limbs and setting his feet firmly upon the floor.

To sum up, one may say that in view of these actions by the entity, the material and solid nature of the phenomenon observed by María Elodia Pretzel is beyond dispute.

** See part 1 of this paper in FSR Vol. 26, No. 5.

2) Improbability of the Hoax Theory

The only question now remaining unanswered is the *origin* of this corporeal presence. Was it perchance a hoaxer? Or was it perhaps a being of unknown nature connected with the UFO Phenomenon?

We have already discussed the possibility of a hoax in the foregoing section when we were considering the probable reasons why the Police broke off their own enquiry into the case. Furthermore, be it noted that it would seem highly improbable that anyone, even with some knowledge of electronics, could have mounted such a phenomenon. The high sophistication of the apparel worn by the being is obvious. María Elodia observed no tiny lights or cables on his toes or the fingers of his right hand such as might have explained (were it a hoax) the beams of light emanating from them. The same goes for the coherent beam of light some 20 cms in diameter (which, in the present state of contemporary human Physics would find a certain remote similarity to our laser beams, though only as regards the coherence of the light).

As for the sensations of bodily distortion; the voice heard inside her ears and not from outside her; her sudden transportation from her first position at the kitchen doorway over the bar counter; the tingling sensations in her legs; and her two slow-motion "falls" caused by the entity's raising of his right hand — all these are difficult to explain away as resulting from a mere jest. What means, forsooth, would the hoaxer have had to employ in order to achieve such effects as these on the eyewitness?

It is necessary, likewise, that we lay emphasis on the astoundingly calm and cool fashion in which the entity comported himself, striding from start to finish with such striking deliberation. For even when the light in the sphere in his left hand went out (let us suppose for the sake of the argument that it might have been manipulated by remote control by an accomplice, in order to warn the intruding entity of the approach of Sr. Pretzel) it is surprising that there was still nothing precipitate about the entity's departure. On the contrary, he left the dining room in the same cool and collected fashion in which he had conducted himself throughout.

Furthermore, the facial features and the stature of the being were completely unfamiliar to María Elodia. The Police themselves told us that there was no record in Villa Carlos Paz of the existence of any male resident anywhere in the region possessing the hyper-stature described by María Elodia, and of course had there been any such person in the region he would have been unable to pass unnoticed by the rest of the population.

These various considerations go far to discredit the hoax theory, unless we have recourse to the theory of the Belgian investigator Christiane Piens⁴ who maintains that most of the physiological effects (nausea, headache, etc.) suffered by UFO percipients are due to the nervous trauma engendered by the mere shock of the sighting and

not by the UFO phenomenon itself.

This view advanced by Christiane Piens (which we do not regard as devoid of all validity) has been carried further by her fellow-countrymen Guy Vanacker and Francis Windey⁵, who assert that the percipient — faced with a phenomenon surpassing the limits of what he is capable of comprehending — is at times "bewitched" by it, and can consequently fall into a hypnotized state or, to put it more technically, a state of *sophronization* (i.e. a modification of the subject's state of consciousness) which heightens certain functions of the unconscious and produces specific psychological effects, viz: abnormalities of sleep; alterations in the sense of the reality of what has occurred; the activation of hallucinations; the loss of the notions of time and space; amnesia; astral "doubling", or at any rate the sensation of such; temporary paralysis; diminution of the critical faculty; absence of reactions; lack of willpower, etc.

Well now, can it really be possible that María Elodia saw a hoaxer, and that the presence of the hoaxer produced in her a state of *sophronization* that, in turn, brought about the illusion of all the other effects that have been described? With the greatest respect, we do not think so. (If the shock caused by certain events could so easily produce these states of *sophronization* in us, then all of us would be living — and pretty frequently too — in a well-nigh permanent condition of fantastic illusion and delusion.)

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The third and final part of Dr. Galíndez's paper will appear in the next issue of *Flying Saucer Review* — EDITOR

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Bibliography and Notes

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* To the best of the Translator's knowledge these sources in Spanish or French have not appeared in English versions.

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FALSE REPORT FROM LOCH NESS

Stuart Campbell

IN an article dealing with various phenomena at Loch Ness¹, the late F. W. (Ted) Holiday related the report by a Swede, Jan-Ove Sundberg (Fig. 1), that he had seen a landed UFO and occupants (CE3) at Foyers in 1971. The article was accompanied by a sketch map and sketches by Eileen Buckle. The latter were based on Sundberg's original drawings. The article claimed that Sundberg had actually photographed the UFO (with one occupant stepping back into the craft), although this picture did not accompany the article. Apparently it had been sent to Dr. Harder of APRO.

The incident was unknown in Scotland. Hence it was necessary to ask Ted Holiday for further information, and I was indebted to Mr. Holiday for his cooperation.

It seems that Sundberg (23 at the time) had first reported the alleged incident to John Keel in the USA. Keel, who in turn had told Holiday, had no details, but thought that Sundberg was "diligent and professional," and stated that he had provided reliable information in the past. Holiday provided me with Sundberg's address in Sweden.

Sundberg confirmed that he was the witness. But, because he believed that he was being persecuted on account of his experience, he would tell me no more of the incident. He claimed that, after his return to Sweden, "mysterious men" visited him, telephone callers told him to forget all that he had seen at Loch Ness, a "black figure" walked at night in his garden leaving strange dumb-bell shaped footprints, poltergeists plagued the house, and he had experienced "bad dreams" about flying saucers. He preferred to write to me about the Loch Ness monster, sea serpents, unidentified submarines, phantom helicopters and ships, holes in the ice, and mysterious craters. He revealed that, for some time, he had been editor of UFO-Sweden's *Special Report* (an English language UFO news-sheet) and, consequently, that he had been interested in UFOs for many years prior to his UFO report. He was a member of the Motala group of *Riksorganisationen UFO-Sverige*, the Swedish UFO Identification Organization. He told me that I could obtain all the information I needed from Holiday, to whom he had written in 1973.

Meanwhile I had already visited the Foyers area twice, and had attempted to locate the alleged landing site from the sketch map published in FRS. This proved unsuccessful.

Holiday provided me with the correspondence and sketches which he had received from Sundberg. These were copied and the originals returned to Holiday. Figs. 2 and 3 show the two sketches which accompanied Sundberg's letters ("Loch Mohr" should read "Loch Mhor").

Sundberg was in Scotland on a ten-day visit (11-21 August), assigned, so he claimed, by the Swedish magazine *Lektyr* to write an article about the Loch Ness monster. At Foyers he was on his way down to the site of the construction of a new hydro-electric power station on the shore of Loch Ness. He hoped to interview the men working at the station. Leaving public transport near the

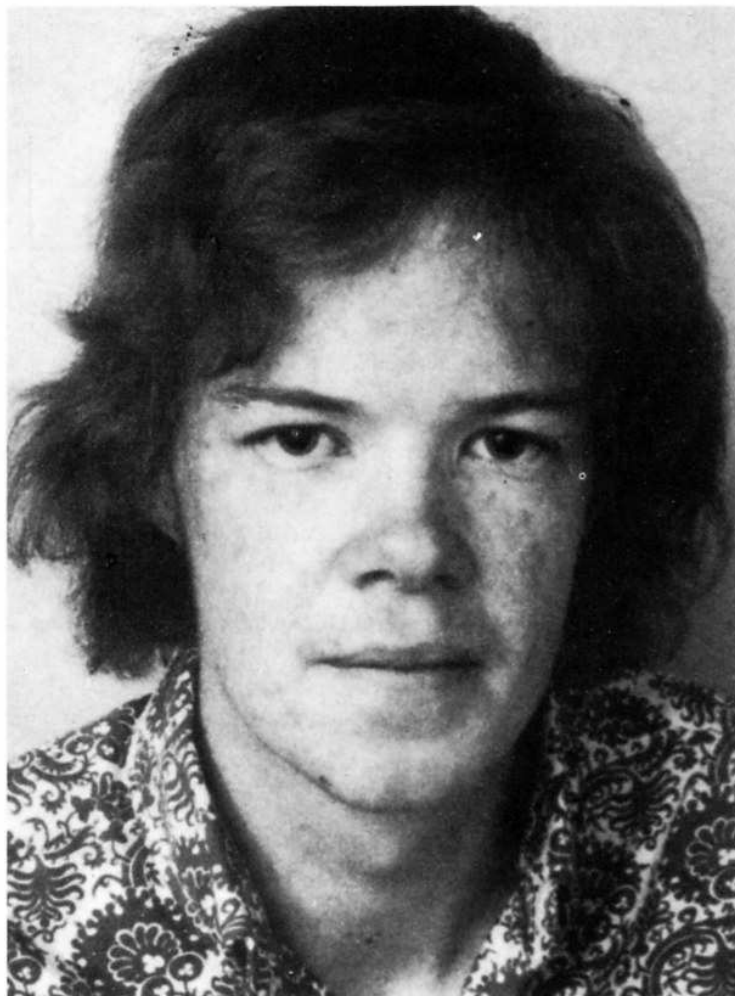


Figure 1: Jan-Ove Sundberg in 1971.

Foyers Hotel on the B852 (see Fig. 4), he was walking down a side road that led to Lower Foyers and the lochside.

The following is Sundberg's own account of the alleged incident, as related in his two letters to Holiday. The grammar and spelling have been corrected where necessary to improve comprehension.

"I had my sighting the 16th August some time between 0830-0930 in the morning, lost in the woods on the south side of the loch. On my way to a power-station construction located near Foyers Bay I took off from the 'main road' and I thought I could walk straight onto it by going over a woody area, it was there I was kind of lost. I went through the woods because I was trying to take a 'short cut' to the power-station. But in the woods, strolling around in the beautiful morning, I kind of went lost, and I cannot say how. Walking around in the area I suddenly saw an extremely strange machine in an open spot in the woods, a machine that looked like a 'smoothing iron'! I was not frightened when I first saw the UFO, I was merely surprised to find a strange machine like that up in the woods, and I can still remember me asking myself: What the hell is that? At first I thought it was some machine connected to the power-station.

"Close to the UFO were three creatures coming out from some bushes near the open spot. They looked like ordinary

NOTE: Figures 2, 3 & 4 overleaf.