

a square and with a pinnacle on top. I watched spellbound for about 10 minutes and was so excited that I went to wake my husband. He would have said I was dreaming if I hadn't fetched him to see it too.

"We watched spellbound as it hovered over the rooftops and then gently drifted towards the south-east. There was no engine noise and sometimes it was partially hidden by cloud. I must have watched it for over half-an-hour before I went back to bed and even then I was so fascinated that I wanted to go back again."

"The local police said they had not received any reports of sightings of this object."

Credit: **Chris Tomlinson** of Matlock.

That puma again

Memories of the great puma "flap" of 1964 in Hampshire and Surrey, described at the time in FSR,* were evoked by the following account in the *Western Times* of June 20, 1969—

"The puma-like animal which two years ago stalked the night countryside in the Rackenford, Templeton, and Witheridge areas—and vanished before animal experts could identify it—has turned up again.

"It was seen in the brilliant sunshine of Saturday afternoon by Col. W. A. C. Haines, of the Copse, Brushford, as he drove along a quiet district road near Witheridge. For three minutes he was able to observe it from about 5 yards.

"He said: 'It was certainly an unpleasant thing to look at. I was flabbergasted. If a woman on a bicycle or a young child had come across it, they would have been frightened out of their wits.

"I have seen many leopards in Malaya, and it was exactly like one, but smaller, although it was the size of a calf. At first I thought of a Great Dane or fox gone wrong; but it was far bigger than a fox. I am nonplussed: I just do not know what it was."

"For 5 or 6 seconds the animal stood broadside in the road looking at Col. Haine's car. Then it loped down the road with Mr. Haines following, until it leapt over a hedge.

"It had a brown head, large, black, prominent eyes and a nose extraordinarily like a pug. Its left ear was pricked, but the other hung down as if torn. Its ribs were a bright, pale chestnut, turning to a sort of dirty gingery brown, and its hind quarters were darker still," he said.

"On its hind quarters were three black spots about the size of a penny and along its spine was a ridge of hair, about 2 inches in length which waved in the breeze. Its body was smooth-haired and thin. Its tail, long and thin, looked like a piece of dirty rope. Its

legs were very long for its body, and pale fawn in colour.

"Intrigued by what he saw, Col. Haines contacted people who sighted the animal in September 1967.

"Their description seemed to be right in line with mine," he said. He reported what he had seen to Tiverton police."

Credit: **Mrs. M. J. Harries** of Budleigh Salterton.

* *Mystery Animals* by Charles Bowen in FSR for November/December 1964.

PHILIPPINES

UFOs and occupants reported

We are indebted to CBA International of Naka P.O. Box 12, Yokohama, Japan, for sending us the following account. Based on a UPI report from Manila, it appeared in the *Mainichi Daily News* of July 13, 1969—

"Three Filipino farmers and a construction engineer have submitted eyewitness reports on what might be the first sightings of unidentified flying objects—and their mysterious passengers—in the Philippines.

"At least two retired Filipino military officials, Col. Aderito de Leon (Air Force) and Col. Rufino C. Santiago (Army Corps), who were among the first to learn of the sightings, said they were inclined to believe them.

"But U.S. Air Force Col. Alred K. Patterson, air attache of the American Embassy in Manila, said he was sceptical about the reports after making an initial inquiry.

"The reported sightings took place on four occasions in the past eight months—at 4 a.m., 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. last November 1 and at 10.30 p.m. on June 10. They all occurred within the vicinity of the Philippine Communications Satellite (Philcomsat) ground station, tucked inside a valley in Rizal Province 32 air miles east of Manila.

"De Leon, former manager of the station, wrote a detailed report on last November's sightings based on interviews he and Santiago, assistant station manager, made with the three farmers.

"The farmers' separate accounts were more or less identical about seeing a white, low-slung saucer-shaped vehicle landing and taking off near where they were, and of two passengers inside. One of them gave a more close-up description of the passengers as being Caucasian looking, with one about 6ft. tall, and wearing white flying suits without identification, and glass-like or plastic-like headgear.

"The latest sighting made last month was reported by engineer Leonardo de Luna, 25, assistant project superintendent at a development site near the station. Recounting his experience to United Press International, de Luna

said he saw a big, yellowish 'ball of fire' flashing in the sky, followed by a hovering, blinking red light for about 15 seconds.

"De Leon sent his report on the November sightings to Sgt. Lonnie Zamora of the local police department in Socorro, New Mexico. De Leon said Zamora's account about a UFO, published in last September's issue of *Pageant*, 'closely resembles what we have experienced here.'

"De Leon made his report available to UPI, he said, 'in the interest of science.' It quoted separate accounts of the three farmers who made the sightings within a span of hours in the same area about 3 miles due south of the communications station.

"Col. Patterson, 48, of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, visited the station recently after learning of the incidents from another embassy official who had been there earlier.

"Asked by UPI about his impressions on the stories, Patterson said:

"As you know we (the U.S. Air Force) have an interest in this type of thing, apart from satisfying my own curiosity."

"But he was openly sceptical on whether the sightings were actually on UFOs after reading de Leon's report and hearing de Luna's own account.

"He was more doubtful about what de Luna saw and said it was 'probably a plane flying over the area.' On de Leon's report, he said he had no ready explanations about the detailed sightings and added 'we just don't have enough information to make a decision or an investigation.'

"Patterson said the U.S. Air Force had conducted numerous investigations on reported UFO sightings in the United States and that the official findings were that 'there ain't no such thing.' He acknowledged this was the first such report brought to his attention in the Philippines."

AUSTRALIA

UFO trails truck drivers

From the *Sydney Morning Herald* of May 23, 1969—

"Several truck drivers reported today that an oblong, brightly shining flying object followed and hovered above them as they travelled between Esperance and Lake Grace last night.

"John Shanahan, 23, who was driving a newspaper truck, said the object followed him from Lake Grace, about 200 miles south-east of Perth, to beyond Ravensthorpe, a distance of about 120 miles.

"Mr. Shanahan said that during the drive three other transport drivers, R. Pupiland, R. Kenna and A. Wilson, stopped him along the road between 3 a.m. and 4 a.m. They all claimed

to have seen the bright object and estimated its size to be about 40ft. by 30ft.

"Mr. Shanahan described the object as being like a huge diamond, or an enormous light which appeared to have a band around it. He said he was unloading newspapers at Lake Grace about 2.45 a.m. when the area became brightly lit.

"He noticed the object directly above, and got back into his truck, locked the doors, and drove off.

"The object followed above.

"It often sped off at a terrific pace and then returned, hovering above," he said."

SOUTH AFRICA

School report

The following item is taken from *The Leader* of June 13, 1969—

"An unidentified flying object, in the shape of a 'flying saucer,' was seen by a group of children and a teacher from the playing field of a school in Malagasi, near Isipingo (Durban) one morning last week.

"*The Leader* learnt the children were being taught in the open when they noticed the 'flying saucer' hovering in the sky. After watching the shiny, round object they drew the attention of the teacher to the strange object in the sky.

"It appeared to be spinning in the same position for several minutes, before it streaked across the sky in a westerly direction.

"When *The Leader* contacted the Meteorological Station at Louis Botha Airport for their comments, we were told that no report had been made to them regarding the sighting of the object. They were further not able to offer any suggestions as to what the object might have been."

Credit: Philipp Human.

U.S.S.R.

Eminent Soviet astronomer, Viktor Ambartsumyan, again talks of advanced civilisations in the cosmos

According to a Reuter report from Moscow printed in the Madrid paper *Arriba* of February 27, 1969, and a further report from Vienna in the same paper of March 3, the Soviet astronomer Ambartsumyan of the Soviet Academy of Sciences has again spoken, in a recent interview with the newspaper *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, of the very great probability that civilisations more advanced than our own exist on distant planets of the universe, though he added that it might be several centuries yet before we enter into contact with them. The thought of making such contacts and of detecting signals from such beings had greatly added, he said, to the interest now being taken in

astronomy. In the meantime, he went on, the fact that we have not yet picked up such signals in no way refutes the idea that such advanced beings may well exist in other galaxies.

According to the Vienna report of March 3, many scientists in the U.S.S.R. and the countries of Eastern Europe share these views, the most notable of them being perhaps Professor Rudolf Pesek who occupies the chair of fluid mechanics in the Technical University of Prague and is also president of the engineering sciences section of the International Academy of Astronautics. Professor Pesek and some 60 of his colleagues in various parts of the world are certain, furthermore, that contact with the other beings will be established—not in a few hundred years from now as Ambartsumyan envisages—but in one or two decades from now.

Since 1965 Professor Pesek has been trying to convene an international scientific congress on the subject, and the Soviet scientists were the first to take an interest in his proposals, and even sent to him various concrete suggestions regarding methods of making contact with extraterrestrial life. Western scientists were rather more cautious, but at any rate the Professor's aim will be achieved in the autumn of 1969 when the Congress will take place in Prague. Scheduled to last from September 7 to September 12, it will be a *Symposium on Communication with Extraterrestrial Intelligence*. Already dubbed with the initials CETI, the gathering will be held under the auspices of the Czech Academy of Sciences. Pesek is hard at work preparing the agenda, and assisting him he has a secretary based in the U.S.A. and another secretary based in the U.S.S.R.

Pesek believes that the arrival of Americans or Russians on the Moon shortly will bring very much nearer the day when his theories about extraterrestrial life are vindicated, for once Earthmen are on the Moon they will be able to see from there the planets of other solar systems. He also does not exclude Mars as a possible home for extraterrestrial life.

He believes that the Prague Symposium will be an important milestone in Space Research. Its recommendations regarding future methods of investigation will be submitted to the United Nations for urgent study. Summing up, Professor Pesek says: "There is a tremendous difference between setting up a complicated investigation laboratory in only one country, which would mean that it would take perhaps 20 years to carry out our programme, and setting up 50 or so stations all around the world which would be able to complete the same programme in

perhaps only five years. I think time is pressing."

Credit: Sr. Ignacio Darnaude of Sevilla.

Translated by G. Creighton.

Space-waves a "new source of energy"?

We thank reader S. G. Brighton of Finchley for drawing our attention to the following item which appeared in the *Sun* on Monday, June 16, 1969:

"A group of American scientists say they have detected a new type of wave from far out in space—the gravity wave.

"They believe the waves come from stars developing or collapsing in the Milky Way, the great star mass to which our solar system belongs.

"One of the scientists claimed: 'This is a discovery comparable to the discovery of radio waves.'

"The gravity waves were detected by a team under Dr. Joseph Weber, of the physics department at the University of Maryland. Dr. Weber said that since January this year his team's sensitive instruments had picked up what they believed to be gravity waves on 40 occasions. He claimed that the apparent detection of the waves supported a major phase of Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity—that the gravitational fields surrounding bodies should produce waves if the bodies are set in motion.

"If confirmed by further studies, Dr. Weber's discovery would be proof that gravity travels in waves, like light waves or radio waves.

"Dr. Weber suggested gravity waves might eventually provide man with a new energy resource. 'There is 100 times as much gravity energy in the universe as there is nuclear energy,' he said. 'Some day an advanced civilisation may be clever enough to use it.'"

For French-speaking readers . . .

CIEL INSOLITE

A new bi-monthly UFO magazine produced in collaboration by

C.I.E.S. - OURANOS (France) and

GEOS (Switzerland)

Edited by Marc Thirouin and Rolland Vagnetti

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