

"Sioux City, Iowa. May 11. P.E. Jewell of this place claims he has an air ship which actually flies. Thus far he has not entrusted his person to the tender mercies of his craft, but a ship of sufficient size to carry a man is now being constructed on the pattern of a successful model already tested. The model soared to a height of 100 feet and was then pulled in."

The report goes on to give details of this wondrous machine.

The similarities between the old and modern UFO sightings are remarkable. Detractors called the witnesses 'deluded', 'lunatics', or worse. Airships were 'Venus', 'balloons', 'kites', the usual standbys.

The author of this present article does not claim to know what those people saw 90 years ago. *One thing is certain, though. They did see something.* It may have been humans flying before it was officially recorded; pre-Spanish-American War fever; aliens; or the planet

Venus. No one will ever know.

NOTE BY EDITOR, FSR

Like pretty well everyone else no doubt, I have seen exhaustive pieces of research thoroughly debunking every one of these various cases. But somehow I don't feel able to accept that they were all faked by humans. And I note that, in his latest book DIMENSIONS, Dr. Jacques Vallée still accepts as genuine the case at the Hamilton Ranch at Leroy, Kansas, on April 19, 1897, and I think I am correct in saying that Dr. J. Allen Hynek was also inclined to accept it. (Though, as readers may recall, the version given above is not the full one. For the alien craft was actually reported to have lassoed and carried off a calf from one of Mr. Hamilton's paddocks. And *that* rings a bell, doesn't it!) All the same, great effort has gone into proving the Hamilton story to be a fake. And we can fully appreciate that in 1896 and 1897 many 'excellent folk' thought it fully justified to spread any sort of lie in order to prevent the truth from getting out. *After all, don't they still do precisely the same in 1989!*

MAIL BAG

Correspondents are asked to keep their letters short and give full name and address (not necessarily for publication). It is not always possible for the Editor to acknowledge every letter personally, and so he takes this opportunity to thank all who write to him.

The Claims of George Adamski

Dear Mr Creighton, — It continues to puzzle me that so many people still believe George Adamski; if they lived in his home town as I do, they would have ample opportunity to learn otherwise. At the least, Desmond Leslie and anyone else interested in the facts should have written to the various persons mentioned by Adamski before accepting his statements at face value. In any case I hope that the enclosed article will not be too controversial for FSR. (What am I saying? Nothing is too controversial for FSR!)

Yours sincerely,
Eric Herr,
6250½ Stanley Avenue,
San Diego, CA 92115,
U.S.A.

August 6, 1988.

Readers will find Mr Herr's article on page 15 of this issue. — EDITOR

"Missing Persons" on Ships

Dear Mr Creighton, — In connection with the "Mary-Celeste" type of incident reported by Robert Perry Collins in his recent article *The Double Deception* (page 14 of FSR 34/2), I wonder how many of your readers remember their Suetonius?

In his chronicle of the Lives of the Caesars, this Roman historian (A.D. 70-160 approx.) gives the account of a ship from Alexandria which, approaching Dertosa,* was noted to have lost all its crew. (See: Suetonius: *The Twelve Caesars*, Penguin Classics, p.253).

Yours sincerely,
Hugh H. Trotti Jr,
230 Wilton Drive,
Decatur, Georgia 30030,
U.S.A.

July 24, 1989.

(*Modern *Tortosa*, on coast of N.E. Spain, south of Barcelona. ED.)

A bouquet for FSR!

— Please give my best regards to the Editor, Gordon Creighton, and to everybody working with FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

We love you all. Great job!
Eugene Bauer,
U.S.A.
March 8, 1989.

Two Small Beings

Dear Sir, — Having discovered the book "Above Top Secret", and then your publication, I feel that I must mention this experience of mine, just for the record.

It was February 1974. I was driving back home after taking my children to school. As I was approaching the house (I live in Kent) I saw two children on the pavement in front of my garden. I will never forget my first reaction and what followed. I wondered whose children they were, "skiving" from school. They looked about 7 or 8 years old. I did not recognize them as any of the local children. They wore identical dufflecoats and the hood was covering their faces. They were shuffling their feet playfully. The colour of their garments struck me by its intensity, and I remember wondering where I might buy such beautiful coats for my girls.

As a car came past them from the other direction, I saw them cross the metal bars, which form a feature of the front wall, as if nothing was there, and carry on with their playful movements.

I was still sitting in the car, and what I was seeing did not at first strike me as odd. Then I got out of the car, and went looking for them in the back garden, convinced that they must have gone to the back of the house, as they were nowhere at the front. They were nowhere at the back either. They had vanished into thin air, and I knew it, although the need for rationality made me go looking for them in the back garden.

I then sat down and started recollecting my thoughts, and realized that what I had seen was not possible. I considered the many details I had noticed in a few seconds, and nothing made sense. Conflicting thoughts began to occupy my mind. I related my experience to my husband and to some friends, but their reaction was so completely negative that I never spoke of it again.*

Yours faithfully,
Mrs — — (Full name and address on file)
June 1989.

*The lady is very wise. However, I have in my records a large number of similar cases, and those who have been reading FSR for years will recall several very striking ones that we have published. Of course the episode was "impossible". We all know that! *Lecturing on psychic phenomena to an audience of doctors and scientists, one of France's most famous pioneers in Parapsychology said: "Messieurs — I did not say that it was possible. I merely said that it happened!"*