

REJUVENATION FOLLOWS CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH UFO

An extraordinary case from Argentina

Pedro Romaniuk

Translation from the Spanish by Jane Thomas

THE single witness in this important case, Señor V— M—, is an Argentine citizen, 73 years old. He has had only the first two years of primary schooling, and is a typical *gaucho* from the vast rural areas of Southern Argentina. The place where the sighting occurred lies in the Province of Buenos Aires, and about 500 km. to the south of the Federal Capital of the same name. The names of all concerned are on our files, but the witness, and also the local investigators, have insisted that their names shall not be divulged, and that likewise the name of the place shall not be given. As field-investigator I visited and interrogated the witness myself.*

The Occurrence

On December 30, 1972, at approximately 10.20 p.m., Sr. V.M. was sitting, drinking the national beverage *maté*, about six metres from the little wooden shack in which he lives. He was sitting by a small fire, and had just finished his evening meal. At his side were his dog, a medium-sized animal some four or five years old, and a cat with her three kittens. He was listening to his transistor radio, when suddenly the radio began to fail. He thumped it a few times, thinking that perhaps the batteries were loose, but as it continued to fail, he switched it off.

At that moment, he heard a loud humming noise, which he described as "like the noise of angry bees, only ever so much stronger." It was growing steadily louder and, when he realised that it was coming from overhead, he looked up and saw a powerful light, rapidly increasing in intensity and flooding the whole area around. Within the area of the light he could clearly distinguish an enormous object.

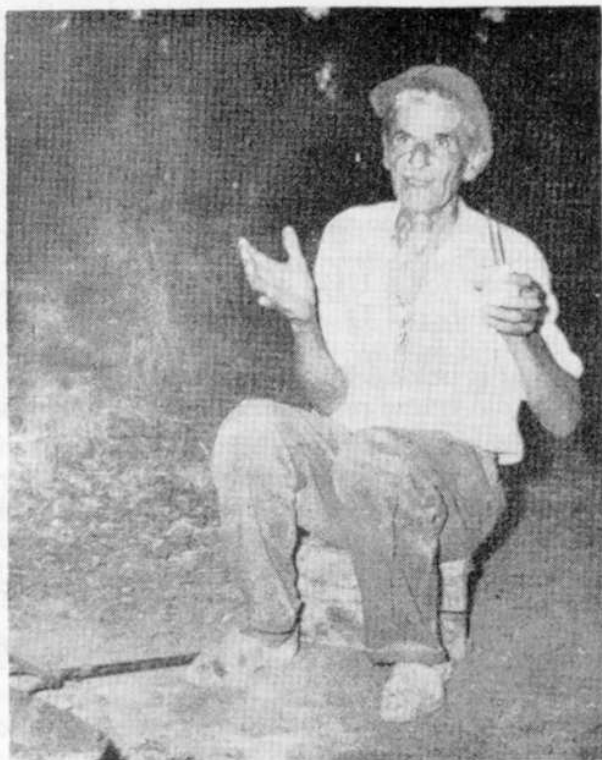
As a result of the calculations which we have made when discussing the case with him at the spot and reconstructing the episode, we estimate that the object

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He has done research on nuclear physics, meteorology, parapsychology, and extraterrestrial sciences, and is the author of books on all these subjects. He is today the general director of the Argentine Cosmobiophysical Institute for Extraterrestrial, Paranormal, and Atomic Research. He has given many lectures on the public platform and has given talks on radio and television. In particular, he has presented his theories regarding "Atmospheric, Seismological, and Extraterrestrial Phenomena."

EDITOR.

must have been approximately 20-25 metres in diameter. It was almost exactly right above his head, hanging stationary above the nearby grove of eucalyptus trees, which are some 10-12 metres high. From tubes in the lower central portion of the object (tubes protruding



The witness, Ventura Maceiras

* Important late note . . .

In a letter sent in July, after this article had been typeset, Miss Thomas informs us that as a German publication, *UFO Nachrichten*, has revealed the names of the persons involved, FSR may inform readers that the witness is Sr. Ventura Maceiras, and the local government official is Sr. Angel Petrazinni of the Municipality of Tres Arroyos (see *FSR Case Histories*, Supp. 14, for details of another incident, a month earlier, at Tres Arroyos).—C.B.

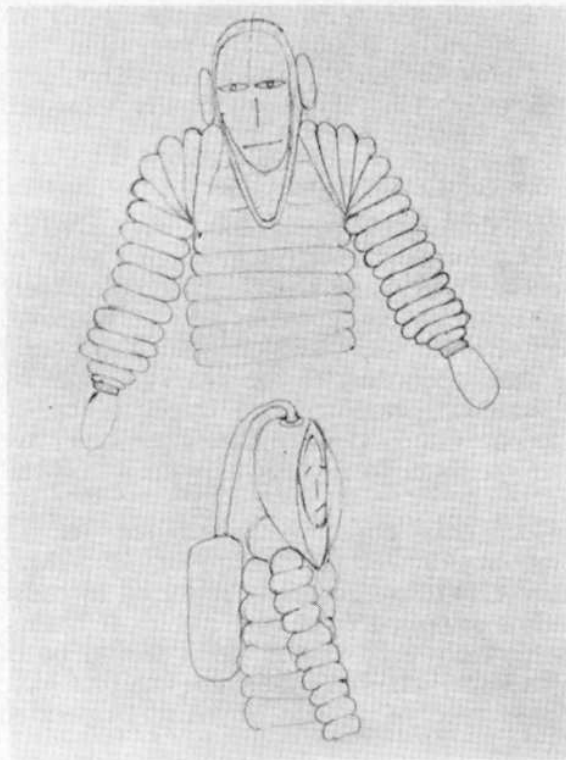


Fig 1.

some 25 or 30 cms. from it) it was emitting sparks, while around it an enormous wheel was constantly spinning.

The witness describes the colour of the object as having been "red-orange turning to purple." In the upper central part of it, the whole of which was intensely illuminated, he could see a spherical cabin with two small windows. At one of these windows was a person, visible only from the waist upwards. This individual was wearing dark grey clothing "made of rolls or cylinders joined together." (Sr. V.M. actually described these "rolls" as "like bananas." See Fig. 1.) The "rolls" gave the appearance of being inflatable, similar to the garb worn by astronauts. On the individual's head was a helmet. From the upper part of the helmet, a tube passed down into a box on his back.

Simultaneously with his sighting of this occupant, a shower of sparks shot from the under-part of the object right in front of where V.M. was sitting, and the object tilted slightly downwards and towards him, so that he now had a full view of the lighted cabin of the stationary craft, and could see that there was also a second occupant, with identical features and clothing, who was looking over the shoulder of the first one. He described the eyes of both of them as slanted. He said the eyes looked fixedly, and gave an impression of depth. The mouth was but a thin line, and he remembered no details of nose or ears.

The object being now in this tilted position, V.M. was able to see moreover that, in addition to the two small windows on this side, through which the occupants were viewing him, there were also two more windows on the further side, and between these other two windows he could see what seemed to be, as he described it, a small flag or banner or emblem, the upper part of which was light blue. On the left was the representation of a sea-horse bearing a crown, and to the right of the sea-horse a number of signs or symbols. The lower

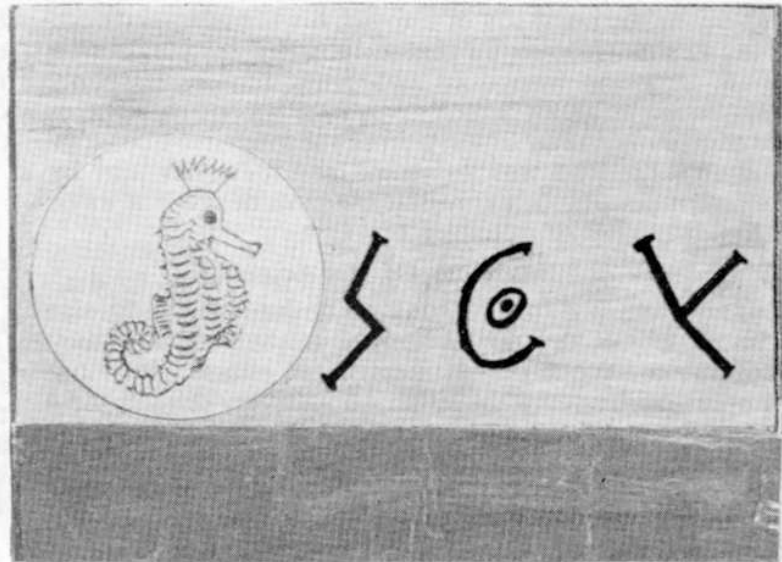


Fig. 2: The "sea-horse" symbol is set on a white, circular background, and the symbols on blue with a golden band below

part of the banner was golden. (See Figure 2.)

Inside the cabin he could also see a long panel with, as he put it, "a whole lot of instruments and clocks."

Almost simultaneously with the downward tilting movement of the object, a powerful flash of light came from the under-part, blinding the witness temporarily and forcing him to avert his eyes downwards. This flash of light completely enveloped the cat and then vanished at once. Meanwhile the humming noise was growing much louder, and the colour of the object was turning to bluish-green. It began to move forward, away from the eucalyptus trees, and descended still lower until it was no more than from 4 to 6 metres above the ground. At this point V.M. was able to see that in the upper part of the cabin there was a wheel or ring which was spinning very fast.

After that, the object moved off towards the N.E., where the main road is, and where there are high power cables. A strong smell like the smell of sulphur or arnica remained in the air for a few seconds. Then the object disappeared behind a tree-covered mound. It was still flying very low, its colour changing slightly to reddish and then greenish-blue.

The whole observation had lasted for approximately 20 seconds. The sketches of the occupants and of the banner have been drawn in accordance with the witness's descriptions.

The initial reaction of V.M. when he saw the first occupant was to raise his hand with the *maté*-bowl and to call to him to come down and have some *maté* with him. (All this was before he had seen the second occupant.) At no time, so he tells us, did he feel any fear of the object or of its occupants. We should point out that the country folk and the gauchos of Argentina are always noted for their free and easy hospitality. If a visitor arrives they gladly share with him whatever they have, even if they have almost nothing to eat, or their house or hut should be extremely primitive. The witness V.M. does not own a TV set; he is scarcely able to read or write; he has no access whatever to films on this or indeed on any other theme. Serving as the caretaker of a

house on the outskirts of a town, his life is a very poor one. His neighbours all regard him as a simple, honest man, and one who does not drink liquor. His only possession is a cow which gives him two or three litres of milk daily. At all times, during the intensive questioning to which he was subjected several times and by different people, he expressed the firm desire not to be given any kind of publicity.

The Behaviour Of His Animals

The reactions of the dog and the kittens to the strange object was not abnormal in any way, and they appear to have suffered no physical effects. With the mother-cat however the situation was very different. As soon as the sudden flash of light had ended, the cat was nowhere to be found, despite the fact that at the time she was still suckling her kittens. She did not reappear until February 16, 1973, which was 48 days later, when her back was found still to show scorch-marks and burns.

The Symptoms Felt By The Witness

1. While the object was stationary in the air, Sr. V.M. felt a certain degree of tingling in his legs, which he described as similar to a strong vibration. This tingling sensation lasted until the second day, that is to say for some 48 hours, and after 72 hours was completely gone.
2. Three or four hours after his experience, Sr. V.M. had a severe headache, extending from the centre of the forehead to the temples, where he felt continual pulsations. This headache went on getting worse, and was finally unbearable, aspirin having no effect on it. From the eighth day onwards the headache began to abate, and on the 14th day it disappeared altogether. By the eighth day moreover the pain was in the back of his neck as well as in his head. By the date of my first visit (January 16, 1973) he was no longer feeling any pain.
3. Eight or nine hours after the episode, he developed a most violent type of diarrhoea, involving about eight attacks daily. Unfortunately he did not think to check whether or not he was passing blood. The diarrhoea continued until the eighth day, when he was finally able to terminate it with four tablets of *Streptocarbocastiazol*.
4. The above-mentioned diarrhoea was accompanied for the first four days by nausea and vomiting. On the fourth day these ceased.
5. At the time of my first visit, on January 16, 1973, Sr. V.M. had begun to notice that he was losing hair abnormally, for at one pull he would be losing between 170 and 200 hairs. He did this several times, in the presence of the investigators, and it was evident to everybody that despite his 73 years he had abundant hair.
6. From the 14th day on, several small red pruriginous pustules appeared on the back of his neck, so that he was constantly scratching them. On January 16 I examined him and found some ten of these swollen red pustules.
7. After his experience Sr. V.M. developed a marked difficulty in speaking, having trouble in moving his tongue. This state of affairs persisted for about ten to twelve days, and was confirmed by many people. Even when I interviewed him on January 16, I could observe that he still had a slight stammer.

8. After the episode, Sr. V.M. found that both his eyes watered constantly. Beside tears, very thin filaments, about 3 cms. in length, almost capillary, also came from the eyes. This symptom finally vanished completely on the fifth day.

Traces Left By The Object

The site where the object appeared is surrounded by eucalyptus trees some 10-12 metres in height. Most of the tops of these trees were scorched or completely burnt. Several branches were taken to the National Atomic Power Commission, which issued an oral report stating that, according to the analysis made by them of the material presented, no traces of radioactivity had been found. Unfortunately however we were unable to get them to furnish us with an official written report.

Another effect that could be attributed to the presence of the object was the failure of Sr. V.M.'s transistor radio. UFOs are generally reported to cause failures in radios supplied from the electrical mains, but not in battery-powered radios, so it would be of great interest to know whether other investigators have encountered this type of failure of battery-operated radios.

A further possible (though at this time not yet confirmed) consequence of the appearance of this UFO could be the news—which has just reached us a few days ago—that a large quantity of dead catfish have been found in a small stream near the place of the sighting. The remarkable feature of this affair of the catfish is that some of the fish were gathered up and put in a refrigerator and on the following day were found to have turned a dark red. We have requested that five of the fish be sent to the Institute of Bromatology in La Plata for analysis. We hope to be able to report on the results in due course.

Conclusions Drawn from Analysis of the Physical Symptoms and Physical Traces Left Behind

- i. **Tingling sensation:** The sensation of tingling or vibration described by the witness is an evident sign of his having absorbed some kind of discharge, be it electrical, or electromagnetic, or be it some sort of radiation, not necessarily radioactive. In the present case we have to rule out radioactivity, not only because the Atomic Power Commission's report was negative, but also for other reasons. There are, for example, the symptoms presented by the witness, which do clearly indicate the absorption of some kind of radiation—in this instance radiation of an unknown nature—largely similar to the consequences suffered by those who have been subjected to radioactivity. Yet another reason is the fact that today, 45 days after his sighting of the UFO, the witness is still alive and, at the date when this is being written, his neighbours have noticed that his health has improved remarkably, to such a point that he can now lift and carry weights that were out of the question for him before. Furthermore, the animals are all in perfect health, except of course for the mother cat, but she is recovering slowly from the burns on her back, though she remains very nervous.
- ii. **Headache:** This symptom has been reported to be present in many cases where witnesses have been

exposed to the direct or indirect influence of the radiations emitted by the UFOs. Furthermore, it is a classic symptom which, as doctors and parapsychologists have been able to verify, frequently appears as the stage previous to the onset of ESP conditions. In the present case, ESP conditions had not been observed up to the time of writing this report, so far as we know. I can however quote several cases of people who (without having had a UFO sighting or contact) have had similar headache symptoms which on disappearing have given place to ESP faculties.

iii. **Diarrhoea:** This is another of the symptoms often mentioned by witnesses as resulting from their having been subjected to what we might term "stronger vibration fields," such as those surrounding UFOs.

iv. **Vomiting:** See under iii.

v. **Loss of hair:** This is a characteristic symptom resulting from the absorption of radiation.

vi. **Small red pruriginous pustules:** This is a symptom that has also been frequently mentioned by witnesses who have been near a UFO.

vii. **Stammering:** This has not often been mentioned. In the present case, the stammering by the witness can be confirmed by many people, including myself, though by the time I saw him the condition had reportedly been noticeably alleviated.

viii. **Watering of the eyes:** This is another symptom that frequently appears after a witness has been near a UFO or has simply observed the powerful light emitted by a UFO. The discharge of the *filaments* from the eyes is however something quite unusual.

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Sr. V.M. was interrogated more than sixty times by different people, including doctors, engineers, police officials, and the Secretary to the local Government Office. These people have all requested that their names shall not be quoted, but their names are all on file. I hypnotised Sr. V.M. and questioned him again, and at no time was any discrepancy found between his statements under hypnosis and what he had said while in the waking state.

It should be noted furthermore that, after I had hypnotised Sr. V.M. and questioned him, I myself felt so weak for a while that I had to remain in bed, and that this weakness in me was accompanied by nausea, vomiting, and severe diarrhoea with blood. It is not an uncommon occurrence for the hypnotiser to absorb, by "closing the circuit," some portion or some elements of any problem that may be troubling the hypnotised subject.

On the other hand, four other investigators who interrogated Sr. V.M. while he was in his normal waking state felt nothing more than pains in the legs.

Despite his 73 years, Sr. V.M.'s mental state is completely lucid. All the details of the episode, plus his description of the occupants, the craft, the symbols on the "banner," etc., etc., were repeated by him several times to investigators without any contradictions being noted. The interrogations went on for several days, and his answer to every question was always quite spontaneous, with no hesitation. All the facts of the episode seemed to have been well engraved in the witness's mind, and the detailed nature of his replies baffled the investi-

gators, particularly when it is taken into consideration that the whole experience was said to have lasted only some twenty seconds.

A possibility which it might be well worth our while to consider is that Sr. V.M. could have been subjected to a *mental projection*. This would account for the sharpness of his recollection of so many details, the projection having impressed itself deeply upon his subconscious mind. And here perhaps the sudden flash of light which came from the object may have played an all-important role.

We should not overlook the fact that at the present time experiments are being conducted in Russia in the recording of data at a distance by means of laser impulses—for example, in sending the contents of whole pages of newspapers or even books to a distance of 5,000 km., and in fractions of a thousandth of a second they are printed at their destination.

On the basis of our analysis of the data we have obtained regarding the witness Sr. V.M., as well as on the basis of the material evidence in the case, we fully accept that this "sub-contact" episode did occur as claimed. We propose to visit the witness again in the near future to make a further check on his health, and an additional report will then be issued.

The field investigation in this case was conducted by myself, Pedro Romaniuk. German translation by Engineer Sigurd von Wurmb and English translation by Miss Jane Thomas.

Buenos Aires, February 17, 1973.

REPORT ON SECOND VISIT

I went to see Sr. V.M. again, just over a month later, and was with him from February 19 to February 21 of this year. I was able to gather the following additional data:

The Witness

Since approximately February 10 Sr. V.M. has observed that new teeth have been appearing in his left upper gum. At the time of my second visit, I was able to confirm that two front teeth and two cheek teeth were coming through, and were already approximately ² mms. to ³ mms. long.

Precisely 45 days after the UFO experience *parapsychological symptoms* began to show themselves in the witness. These parapsychological features are now undergoing scientific study. All researchers interested in receiving further details of these parapsychological phenomena which have developed since Sr. V.M.'s UFO experience are invited to write to me at Casilla de Correo, Moron, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The Cat

As I stated in the earlier part of this Report, the cat, with her back still singed and burnt, only reappeared on February 16. We understand that she has now become extremely shy, hiding herself away the whole time. She refuses to go near the place where she had her unpleasant experience, and she also avoids her kittens. After several attempts at the time of my second visit, we managed to get her while she was asleep and carry her out to the place where she had her experience, but

THE E.T. CONCEPT IN HISTORY

Lucius Farish

THIS contribution is occasioned by one of Gordon Creighton's remarks in a recent issue of *Flying Saucer Review*.¹ In discussing the history of those whom he terms the "Gentry," Creighton wondered if anyone prior to the early 1950s had claimed contact with "extraterrestrials."

Further, Mr. Creighton remarked, "What does seem certain, at any rate, is that, during the American Visitation of 1897 for example, not one of the entities allegedly met told any American that he was from another planet, and not a single American is reported in the press of that time as having thought there was anything 'interplanetary' about the whole affair."

Let us take these subjects one by one and see how well they stand the test of examination:

(1) Did anyone claim to have met inhabitants of other planets prior to 1952 or thereabouts? Yes, most definitely!

In the revised paperback edition of Vallée's *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*,² reference is made to the Jesuit scholar, Athanasius Kircher, who "'could not find his words' to convey to his readers the admiration he felt for the inhabitants of Venus. He describes them as young men of a wonderful beauty, whose clothes were as transparent as crystal . . ."

Athanasius Kircher (1601-1680) wrote on a wide variety of scientific subjects, but most of his writings have never been translated from the original Latin. However, in Gustav Davidson's *A Dictionary of Angels*,³ a bit more information is given concerning Kircher's "visits to various planets."

According to Davidson, Kircher was accompanied on his celestial flights by "the genius Cosmiel." On

Saturn, he found the "sinister" genii inhabiting that planet. The "guardian angels of all the virtues" were found living on the "Elysian shores of the planet Jupiter."

If some Latin scholar among the FSR readers should wish to translate more of Kircher's writings into English—a worthy project, it would seem—the interplanetary accounts will probably be found in two works—*Oedipus Aegyptiacus* (Rome, 1652) and *Voyage Ecstatique* (Rome, 1656).

Vallée also mentions one David Fabricius, a 17th Century writer who claimed to have met the "inhabitants of the Moon." Investigation of Fabricius' writings might well disclose more pertinent details.

Some time in the late 1800s, a book entitled *The Man From Mars* was published. The author, Thomas Blot, claimed to have met an inhabitant of the Red Planet in the mountains of California. The Martian had not arrived by spaceship, but through a process which seems to have been a mixture of astral projection and teleportation (if such a thing can be conceived!). Long discourses by the Martian, largely of a philosophical/sociological nature, are contained in the book. The only copy this writer has seen had the copyright date missing, so it is not possible to say precisely when the incident allegedly occurred. However, it was at the time of an extremely close approach of the planet Mars.

One modern contactee, Albert Coe of Beverly, New Jersey, claims to have been in contact with people now living on Mars and Venus who are descendants of a race which once lived on "Norca," a planet of the star *Tau Ceti*. Coe says his original contact occurred in 1920 and they have continued over the past 52 years.⁴

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as soon as we got there she suddenly awoke and fled in terror, scratching my arms as she escaped from me.

The Dead Catfish

The Bromatology analysis has not yet been received. The water of the small stream where the dead fish were found is normally drinkable. Two or three metres wide and about 50 or 60 cms. deep, its water is always crystal-clear and its flow is regular, indeed at times very fast. No more dead fish have been found since the first batch.

I must repeat that on the occasion of my second visit to the witness, and also all the other persons engaged in investigating this case, again emphasised their wish to remain anonymous and, despite our pleadings, they also insisted that even the name of the town be withheld. They consider that this is the only way in which they

can be sure of avoiding a mass invasion by reporters and curiosity-seeking intruders.

Buenos Aires, February 27, 1973.

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NOTE BY EDITOR OF FSR

The name of the town, the name of the witness, and the name of the Secretary to the local Government Office who participated in the interrogation of Sr. V.M., are on record with us, and in accordance with Señor Romaniuk's express request we shall not reveal them until advised that we may do so.

[As indicated in our note on p. 10, some of these details have been published in Germany, so the restriction is now lifted.—c.B.]