

hear a deep, rich, powerful sound, like the humming noise of an electricity transformer. It was not a meteorite or any plane or helicopter that we have seen or heard before. There was an engine and I would have guessed that it was a manned vehicle.'

"Last night the authorities could give no answer to the mystery. No other report had been received and there should have been no aircraft in the area.

Credit: Alistair J. Simpson of Kircaldy, Fife.

Venezuela

Attempted abduction

The following report appeared in *La Razón* (Buenos Aires newspaper) of August 6, 1974,—

"Maracaibo (Venezuela) (Latin Press

agency report):

"Two peasants who live near here, and who swore that they are abstainers, have stated that extraterrestrial beings who emerged from a flying saucer tried to capture them, for purposes unknown. Ricardo Chaika and Aaulfo Monteil have described to the newspaper *El Mundo* how, shortly after dusk, just as they were returning to their homes, they were blinded by a sudden light from the sky, and an object appeared which was 'round and flattened at the sides, and of a silvery colour.'

"Terrified, they wanted to run away, but only felt themselves slipping backwards to the same spot and finally stood there petrified. 'We wanted to run, and yet something prevented us from moving, while, from the strange machine, two figures came out, looking like men, in leaden-coloured clothing like the skin of sardines.'

"They said the two beings were more than two metres high and both had dark-coloured belts and were wearing blue goggles in front of their eyes. In the words of one of the two peasants, 'I did not see how they walked, but they came towards us slowly, and making signs with their hands, while from the machine there came a sound like a whistle.'

"The scene reached its culmination when, as Chauka and Aaulfo described it, two other machines came down out of the sky, as though suspended from invisible cords, and took the first machine and the two 'sardine-skin' occupants in tow. Only then, said Chauka and Aaulfo, did they at last feel themselves able to move again, and took to their heels.'

Credit and thanks to Miss Jane Thomas of Buenos Aires. Translation from Spanish: Gordon Creighton.

MAIL BAG

The Editor regrets the smallness of this column, caused by pressure on space rather than shortage of material

Correction

Dear Sir,—An omission in your recent Special Issue No. 5 *UFO Encounters* should be noted. The by-line on the article, "The Yorba Linda Photograph" should read "by Ann Druffel and Lawrence Kirsch."

It should also be noted that Tom X's photograph of the black top-hat-shaped object carries a 1972 U.S. Copyright and cannot be duplicated in public without permission.

Ann Druffel
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Can anyone help?

Dear Sir,—May I avail myself of the facility provided by your correspondence columns to enquire whether the letters ETOAIN have any significance

or "ring any bells" in the field of UFO research?

If any of your readers find them of significance or have comments to make, I would be very glad to hear from them.

Dr. J.R. Markette, M.D.
Department of Psychiatry,
University of Texas, Medical Branch,
Galveston, Texas, USA.

The Knutsen photograph

Dear Sir,—Concerning the Knutsen photo, (FSR Vol.20 No.4, p 29-30) I think the possibility of a hoax is very likely. In support of this, the background in the picture appears to be fairly clear, allowing for the fact that it was taken through a window, indicating a focus on infinity. The UFO, in contrast, is blurred somewhat. An object "400 feet away at its closest point" should be as clear as the back-

ground scenery. The explanation that the blurring could be due to motion is, to me, invalid because the blurring is uniform; not the case if the object were moving in a particular direction. Also the 3 second duration and the boy's description of the object's motion should mean the UFO was constantly active (not apparent in the photo). The boy's interest in UFOs is another factor.

My own explanation would be a cutout or other object pasted on the window and photographed.

Note similarities of this case, and explanation, to that of Alex Birch (FSR, Vol.18, No.6, p 2).

I do not want to be a "stick-in-the-mud" but I think FSR readers wish to be concerned with better reports.

Sincerely yours,
Barry Greenwood,
6 West Hancock Street,
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Mass. 02180, U.S.A.

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