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JOURNAL

SCIENCE AND THE UNKNOWN



Dr. William Beebe once had the experience, as rare as it was thrilling, of seeing no less than six of these great birds soaring together through a mountain pass in Venezuela.

BIG BIRD

By DON BERLINER *

* The author is, perhaps appropriately, an aviation writer.

There are big birds...and then there are BIG BIRDS. The former category includes condors and storks and others with wingspreads ranging up to 10 feet, which are sometimes seen far from their usual haunts. The latter are something sufficiently different to be considered Fortean, at least until a more precise term can be applied with assurance.

The latest spurt of Big Bird reports has come from exotic Central Illinois, where one appears to have tried to carry off a 10-year-old, 70-pound boy. The newspaper reports were immediately followed by the expected flurry of "explanations," none of which accounted for the observed phenomenon.

On the evening of July 25, 1977, according to wire service stories, Mrs. Ruth Lowe, of Lawndale, Ill. (35 miles southeast of Peoria) was cleaning the family camper when she heard a scream. Upon running to the back yard, she saw her son, Marlan, fighting with a huge bird that had lifted him two feet off the ground.

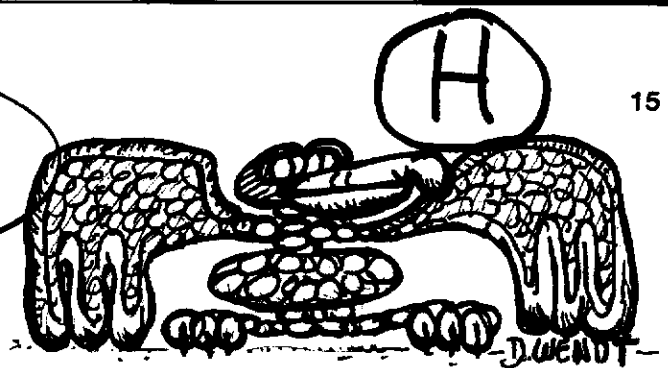
The Big Bird dropped the boy, was joined by another of its kind, and the two flew off in the direction of Kickapoo Creek. Mrs. Lowe described the birds as looking like condors, primarily black, but with white rings around their necks. She estimated their wingspan at eight feet. Mrs. Lowe's husband, Jake, and

PLESIOSAUR, Continued

the flippers. (Eugene, Ore., Register-Guard, 8/1/77, Tokyo (UPI); Credit: Estelle N. DeGraw).

All of the evidence is not yet in, and results of further tests are pending. When all the facts are known, we may have the most significant confirmation of a Fortean phenomenon in the 20th Century, or a false alarm of significant proportions. Either way, there will be lessons to be learned about evaluation of aberrant data.

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neighbors James and Betty Daniels ran to the yard in time to see the birds.

(Ed. Note: The California Condor has a wingspan up to about 10 feet and is known to attack sheep and goats, but mostly feeds on carrion. However, it is an endangered species, with few known remaining specimens, and inhabits high elevations. One theory that the California forest fires may have driven a few birds east may have some merit).

Mr. Daniels told UPI, "If I had just had a can of beer earlier, then I could have said I imagined I saw it. But I didn't have any beer that day." Mrs. Lowe delayed reporting the incident to the police for a day, fearing they wouldn't believe her. "I thought if I did tell the police, they'll think I'm crazy, and they did."

Logan County Conservation Officer A.A. Mervar guessed the four adults saw turkeys or king vultures, though neither is remotely capable of picking up a 70-pound child. A spokesman for the Brookfield, Ill., Zoo said an African stork escaped from custody on July 31 and was later seen at Lake Geneva, Wisc. The 8-foot wingspan stork was one of six received from Kenya in mid-July, but it was still in the zoo on July 25. Also, upon escaping July 31 it flew 60 miles north, while Lawndale is 130 miles to the south.

On July 28, several residents of Lincoln, Ill. (7 miles southwest of Lawndale) reported sighting a big black bird resembling a condor (according to Stan and Doris Thompson, of McLean County) or like an African crowned crane which trumpets loudly (according to Norma Knollenberg). The latter witness said, "I never heard such a loud noise come out of a bird in my life."

Near Tuscola, Ill., July 30, writer-outdoorsman John Huffer saw and filmed one of two large, black birds he saw while fishing with his son in a secluded bay. Part of the 100 feet of film he

(Continued next page)

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BIG BIRD, Continued

exposed was aired on WCIA-TV, Champaign, Ill. Huffer described the bird as having a huge body and a wingspan of about 12 feet. It had a "primeval...weird cry," he said. "It made an awful noise, kind of a clacking noise."

TEXAS BIG BIRD

The similarities to reports of Big Birds from south Texas a year and a half earlier cannot be ignored. At least 11 distinct encounters were reported in a two-month period, many of them with extensive and sometimes frightening details:

Mid-November, 1975--Robstown, Tex. Vague report of Big Bird seen from school playground.

Late November, 1975--San Benito, Tex. Reported by terrified man, then two boys, who said it had a bald head like a monkey. (Flying foxes, genus Pteropus, have dog- or fox-like heads, but these 5-6 foot wingspread bats are native to the tropics and are not known in the U.S.)

January 2, 1976--Harlingen, Tex. Bird-like footprints photographed in a plowed field: Impressions with three toes, 9 inches wide, 12 inches long.

January 3, 1976--San Benito, Tex. Policemen Arturo Padilla and Homero Galvan separately reported a white bird with 15-foot wings, gliding above the city.

January 7, 1976--Brownsville, Tex. Alverico Guajardo saw a four-foot tall bird-like creature with a huge wing-spread, long beak, bat-like face and eyes as big as silver dollars. He watched it for about three minutes before it walked away.

January 14, 1976--Raymondville, Tex. Armando Grimaldo, 26, told police he was attacked by a Big Bird in his own back yard. He said it was black, with big eyes and a monkey-like face, and it ripped his shirt.

January 14, 1976--Laredo, Tex. Arturo Rodriguez, 19, and Ricardo Rodriguez, 9, saw a gray bird with 15-20 foot wings and 5-foot body gliding 50 feet above the Rio Grande River.

January 14, 1976--Laredo, Tex. Two hours after the Rodriguez sighting, Roberto Gonzalez, 24, saw a similar bird above the road.

January 18, 1976--San Benito, Tex. Homer and Marie Hernandez reported a bird about four feet tall and with a beak 4-6 inches long, standing beside an irrigation canal.

January 18, 1976--Olmito, Tex. An anonymous man told the Sheriff's office of seeing a Big Bird crossing a road as he and his family were driving home. He said it was 4-5 feet tall with wings extending six feet on either side, and upon closer inspection it showed a face like a cat or a monkey.

January 21, 1976--Eagle Pass, Tex. Francisco Magallanez, 21, reported being attacked by a bird or animal with a brown or black body, bright red eyes and bat-like wings. He said it stood on short, stubby legs and had arms 2½ feet long, pointed ears, the face of a pig but without a snout. It hissed at him and hopped onto his shoulders, whereupon he felt hot. A doctor later verified animal- or bird-like marks on the man's shoulders.

Local reactions ranged all the way from the offer of a \$5,000 reward by an oil man for the capture of a bird which proves to be either unknown or supposedly extinct, to a variety of mundane explanations. Ornithologists talked about herons, pelicans, condors and cranes. A veteran bird watcher thought some inexperienced observers might even have mistaken some very ordinary barn owls for "Big Birds."

Dr. Don Farst, director of the Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville, told INFO investigator Gary Mangiacopra the sightings apparently were "a series of... indigenous birds such as the Great Blue Heron, White Pelican, Black Vulture, etc., that were exaggerated and over-dramatized for effect."

One can't help but wonder if the Big Bird which reportedly picked up Marlan Lowe wasn't being overly dramatic in its own way.

ADDENDA. Associated Press reported August 2 the recapture of the escaped stork by zoo officials using drugged darts. The bird subsequently died of shock. Member George C.M. Calderwood, Berkeley, Calif., reports: "I saw the motion pictures of the two unidentified birds...taken by Mr. Huffer...(they) were definitely California Condors which are extremely rare."

A Game Warden Takes Stock by Capt. C.R.S. Pitman, D.S.O., Game Warden, Uganda Protectorate, James Nisbet & Co., Ltd., London, 1942.

Investigating the Unexplained by Ivan T. Sanderson, Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1972.

Animal Treasure—A Naturalist in Search of Strange Creatures, by Ivan T. Sanderson, Viking Press, New York, 1937.

Searching for Hidden Animals by Roy P. Mackal, Ph.D., Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y., 1980.



(Editor's Note: Some readers might be surprised to know that zoologist and Fortean Ivan Sanderson went around shooting animals. So let's look at the background of the Percy Sladen Expedition to the Cameroons (1932-33) and how Sanderson came to be involved. At seventeen, he went on an animal collecting expedition to the Dutch East Indies and returned convinced that scientific methods of collecting animals were out of date. He realized that although most animals of the world were known and classified, there was very little known about the how and why of animal behaviour, other than what could be obtained from studying animals in zoos and from the study of dried and pickled remains. He was determined to change this.

The Percy Sladen Expedition was formed with Sanderson as leader just after he had graduated from Cambridge. We must remember that it was first and foremost an expedition to collect animals, and normal collecting tools were employed —nets, traps and guns. The natives who assisted

him used spears, bows and arrows and knives. Sanderson shot many animals, but where he differed from those who had preceded him was in his acute observations of animal behavior. Many of these are detailed in his delightful book, **Animal Treasure**, which can still be obtained in yard sales —we have bought three copies in the past month.

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To be strictly correct, however, Sanderson did not take any pot shots at the olitiau. Standing on the bank of the river, he had just shot a large bat which fell in the water. He laid his gun down on a rock and stepped in the water to try and retrieve it, slipped on something and was washed away by the current. He was actually floundering in the water when the olitiau appeared coming straight at him only a few feet above the water. His companion George Russell was able to fire at it twice with a shotgun. When it came back down the river, Sanderson's gun was unloaded and Russell only had time to duck. The animal soared over him and was soon swallowed up in the darkness.

If Ivan had had his gun loaded and at the ready, we might not be printing this article. The olitiau would now be in some museum, dried and stuffed and certainly classified —no longer a mystery. But until someone else shoots or captures one, a mystery it will remain.)

★ ★

The Institute of Noetic Sciences

The Institute of Noetic Sciences was founded in 1973 by Apollo 14 astronaut Edgar Mitchell to expand our understanding of consciousness and the mind-body link. (The word 'noetic' comes from the Greek noetikos, meaning intellectual, or of the mind.) The Institute has been active in promoting research into unexplained healings, biofeedback, holistic medicine, telepathy, clairvoyance, precognition, telekinesis and related subjects. The Institute is a membership organization with an impressive list of publications and will be pleased to send you their literature. Write to them at 475 Gate Five Road, Suite 300, Sausalito, CA 94965.

1. MARCH-86

Truckers report attack by bird-creatures from space ship

SAUK CENTRE, Minn. (AP) — The most exciting thing scheduled to happen this week at the Truckers Inn in Sauk Centre was the switch to new owners. That was before the truck-driving team of Robert and Jackie Bair of Selah, Wash., showed up.

They had parked their tanker truck of vegetable fat and weren't going to drive any more, they told truck stop attendants Monday, because they had been attacked on the road from Montana to Minnesota by bird-like creatures from a space ship.

The creatures — about 8 inches high, with V-shaped heads and human legs — had followed them to the truck stop and now were surrounding it, the couple said. Then they asked to use the telephone.

"They came into the station all upset and excited and said they weren't going any further because the UFO was shooting at them," said

Dorothy Sills, the office manager for Truckers Inn.

"It was strange," she continued. "We couldn't see what they were seeing, let's put it that way."

The Bairs repeated their story to Sauk Centre Police Chief George Trierweiler, who had received a call that morning from Jim Ketchum, general manager of Davis Transport Inc., the Yakima, Wash., firm that employs the Bairs.

"He asked me to go check on a pair of drivers of his at the Getty station and I asked him, 'What for?' and he said, 'I can't say over the telephone, but I want you to go over and see if they're OK,'" Trierweiler related.

The Bairs — he's 45, she's 21 — told the chief that somewhere around Billings, Mont., a bubble-shaped space ship emerged from a dark cloud and crashed into the road beside them.

"A peanut-shaped cylinder fell out of the ship

and these creatures came out of the peanut-shaped cylinder," Trierweiler said the couple told him. "These creatures followed them from Billings to Sauk Centre and there were metal filings shot at their vehicle."

Trierweiler said he inspected the truck windshield for the filings they said were embedded in it, but "I didn't see anything. There were some metal filings in the truck, but maybe they had some work done in the truck."

Trierweiler later returned with State Patrol Sgt. Fred Korte, who also inspected the truck. They both strained to see the creatures that the Bairs complained were standing guard in the telephone poles.

"I know there are certain things you can't see that you're supposed to believe — like the Lord," Trierweiler said. "But when someone starts telling me there are bird creatures on top of the lamp posts at the Getty station and I can't

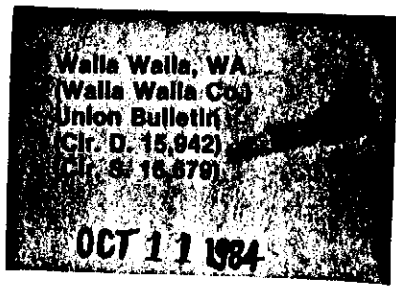
see it, in my mind, it's not there."

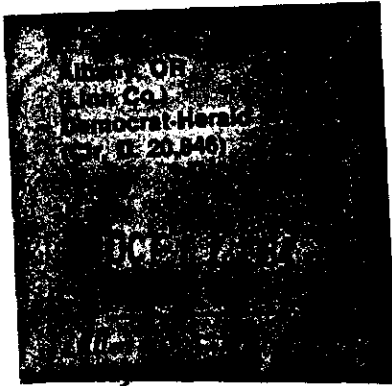
"As far as I'm concerned, there's nothing to it," Korte said.

Sills described the Bairs as clean, neatly dressed and quiet. "They seemed to believe what they were saying," she said.

The Bairs spent Monday night at a motel where, they told a reporter, they saw metal shavings in the room and writing appeared on Jackie Bair's thigh.

The National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle confirmed that the Bairs had filed a report with the private organization. There also was a report in South Dakota of large bright objects in the sky, but no peanut-shaped cylinders, said spokesman Robert Gribble. The Bairs left Sauk Centre for Washington Tuesday afternoon in the truck, with a driver flown in by Davis Transport.





Couple report attack from space

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"They came into the station all upset and excited and said they weren't going any further because the UFO was shooting at them," said Dorothy Sills, the office manager for Truckers Inn.

"It was strange," she continued. "We couldn't see what they were seeing, let's put it that way."

The Bairs repeated their story to Sauk Centre Police Chief George Trierweiler, who had received a call that morning from Jim Ketchum, general manager of Davis Transport Inc., the Yakima, Wash., firm that employs the Bairs.

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somewhere around Billings, Mont., a bubble-shaped space ship emerged from a dark cloud and crashed into the road beside them.

"A peanut-shaped cylinder fell out of the ship and these creatures came out of the peanut-shaped cylinder," Trierweiler said the couple told him. "These creatures followed them from Billings to Sauk Centre and there were metal filings shot at their vehicle."

Trierweiler and State Patrol Sgt. Fred Korte, who also inspected the truck. They both strained to see the creatures that the Bairs complained were standing guard in the telephone poles.

"I know there are certain things you can't see that you're supposed to believe — like the Lord," Trierweiler said. "But when someone starts telling me there are bird creatures on top of the lamp posts at the Getty station and I can't see it, in my mind, it's not there."

"As far as I'm concerned, there's nothing to it," Korte said.

Ms. Sills described the Bairs as clean, neatly dressed and quiet. "They seemed to believe what they were saying," she said.

The Bairs spent Monday night at a motel where, they told a reporter, they saw metal shavings in the room and writing appeared on Jackie Bair's thigh.

The couple had been driving for the company only a few months, said manager Ketchum, who had little to say except to confirm an earlier statement of his that the pair are "plain-old everyday folks."

"They're not crazies," he said.



Presentación del Suceso Dis Falls Vorstellung (FOREWORD)

Este encuentro que seguidamente se consigna para su conocimiento por parte de los investigadores del planeta, se encuadra dentro de una serie de sucesos de similar tipología, entre los que destacan las observaciones de Virginia Occidental recogidas por Keel y atribuidas por la prensa a algo conocido como "The Bird" o "The Mothman" de Point Pleasant. A lo largo de toda la fenomenología OVNI se han reportado estructuras similares a la que analizamos aquí.

El caso, sus precedentes y sus consecuencias Der Fall (REMARKS)

El suceso aconteció el 9 de Enero de 1.976 a Sergio Cervera y su hija Mercedes, en la ciudad norteamericana de Miami. Fue el propio Sr. Cervera quien me hizo llegar una carta autógrafa relatándome el suceso, publicando él después en una revista hispanohablante de Florida un resumen del mismo. A pesar de que en el artículo para esa revista el Sr. Cervera ocultaba su nombre y el de su hija con sendos pseudónimos, obra en poder del autor de estas líneas una carta (11-VIII-76) en la que se le autoriza a citar nombres.

El caso de los Cervera no es aislado en aquellas fechas en el Estado de Florida. El 9 de Octubre de 1.975 se detuvo una luz inmensa en forma de plato sobre el campo de deportes del colegio "Miami Senior High". Al mes siguiente se produciría el rapto de Travis Walton en Arizona. El 6 de Noviembre de 1.975 Virgilio Sánchez Orcejo observó y fotografió un objeto luminoso sobre Miami después de recibir noticias de avistamientos en Coconut Grove y Palmetto. (El Sr. Sánchez Orcejo colaboró hace tiempo con el Sr. Cervera). También por aquellas fechas (Nov.75) se observaron luces de colores en el cielo del Aeropuerto Internacional de Miami.

Posteriormente al encuentro del "pájaro" del 9 de Enero, el 22 del mismo mes el Sr. Francisco Magallanez fue atendido de heridas en los hombros producidas en Eagle Pass (Texas) por algo que él definió como un "vampiro".

El Testigo principal Der Zeuge: Herr Cervera (THE WITNESS)

Se trata de Sergio Cervera, cubano exiliado residente en Miami, de unos cuarenta y tantos años, muy interesado en la ufología y temas "paracientíficos" (ocultismo, kábbala, parapsicología) fundando la primera sociedad cubana (en el exterior) de estudios OVNI: la Comisión Investigadora de Fenómenos Aéreos (CIFA), actualmente casi reducida a él mismo. Su hija tenía 17 años cuando el suceso y no conozco más datos sobre ella. Es de resaltar la circunstancia que el Sr. Cervera comunicó haber sido seguido, unos meses antes del encuentro, por un "hombre que parecía un cura pero sin haberito blanco" que le impresionó profundamente.

El Suceso Das Ereignis (THE OCCURRENCE)

Para evitar confusionismos transcribo literalmente la parte referida al encuentro, de la carta de Cervera a mí fechada en Miami a 24 de Febrero de 1.976.

"Te contaré ahora un caso que me sucedió hace un mes pero te ruego no me tomes por loco pues es todo cierto sucedió así:

El día 9 de Enero de 1.976 venía manejando mi automóvil por la calle

9 del S.W. en compañía de mi hija Merceditas de 17 años cuando al llegar a la esquina de esa calle y la ll me pasó rozando los árboles que allí se encuentran, por encima del auto, la sombra enorme de un pájaro más grande que el auto y tendría alrededor de 20 a 23 pies de ala a ala, tuve un gran momento de confusión mental pues no concebía lo que acababa de ver, enseguida le pregunté a mi hija si había visto algo y ésta me dijo que un pájaro enorme y sentimos el mover de sus alas cuando nos pasó por encima, entonces le dije a mi hija que no hiciera ningún comentario pues nos iban a juzgar locos..."

"Días después daba el radio y la TV la siguiente noticia aquí te la copio pues la fui a buscar a la estación de Radio:"

"Qué cosa es más grande que un auto y se desliza silenciosamente por los cielos de Texas? Los sureños tejanos recientemente reportaron haber visto al enorme pájaro deslizándose silenciosamente por los cielos nocturnos. Dicen que la extraña criatura abarca una medida de 15 pies o más de ala a ala..."

Hasta aquí lo que Sergio Cervera cuenta del caso (que sucedió sobre las 14:15). Siento no tener acceso a los testigos de manera personal y directa para poder verificar multitud de detalles, sin embargo esta comunicación que me llegó no podía pasar desapercibida para los estudiosos OVNI y este liviano informe intenta contribuir a ello.

Es de resaltar el anonimato con que Cervera y su hija se rodearon en torno al caso (artículos en la prensa como el ya citado) cuando se han divulgado (especialmente él) a lo largo de todo Miami con sus continuas publicaciones sobre ocultismo y temas conexos, materias en la que destaca por sus muchas lecturas e increíbles conocimientos.

WITNESS'S PHOTO:

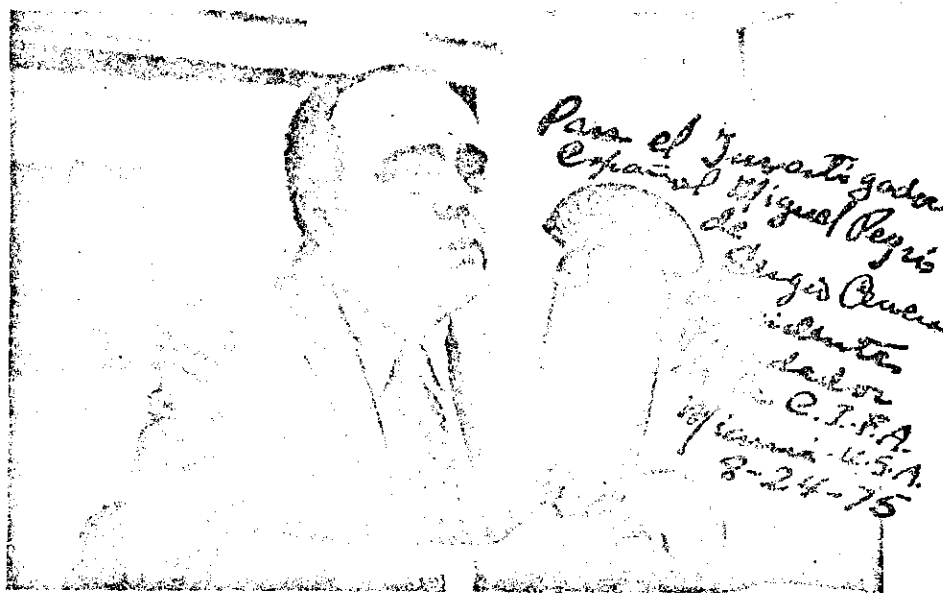
Foto: Sergio Cervera, testigo del encuentro.
(Bild: Herr Sergio Cervera, der zeuge)



Recopilación, dibujos e informe:

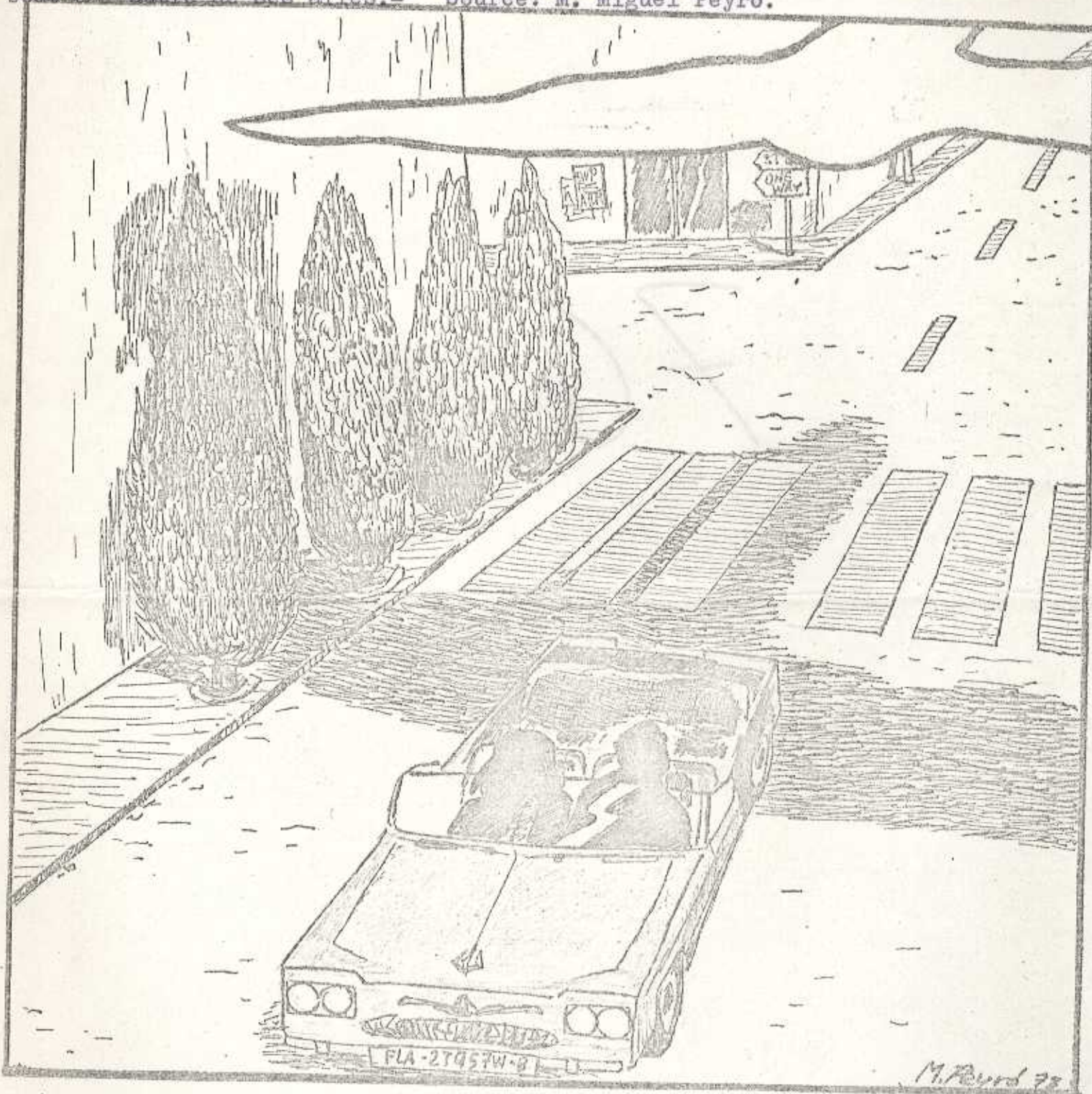
(Bericht:) MIGUEL PEYRO GARCIA
SEVILLA

Source credit and research: Señor Miguel Peyró García
León XIII, 10 (4º C). Sevilla-9. Spain



SUMMARY: On January 9th 1.976, at 2,15 P.M., in Miami (Florida; USA), driving on 9th S.W. Street with his sister Mercedes Cervera (17 years old), cuban exile Sergio Cervera, 40, the couple sighted over the car some enormous kind of "bird" sized 20-30 feet between the tips of its wings. Source credit and research: Señor Miguel Peyró (León XIII, 10 ; Sevilla-9 ; Spain).

RESUME: Le 9 Janvier 1976, vers 14 heures 15, un exilé cubain M. Sergio Cervera, 40 ans, et sa fille Mercedes Cervera, 17 ans, roulaient en voiture sur la rue 9 S.W. de Miami (Floride, USA), lorsqu'ils ont observé au-dessus d'eux une sorte d'énorme "oiseau" plus grand que leur auto, mesurant entre 20 et 30 pieds d'un bout à l'autre de ses ailes. - Source: M. Miguel Peyró.



ARCHIVZETTEL

Name: Sergio und Mercedes Cervera
Tag der Sichtung: 9. Januar 1.976
Ortszeit: 14: 15 (ungefähr)

Ort: Miami Stadt (Florida Staat, USA)
Anzahl der Objekte: eins
Form und Aussehen des Objekts:
"ungeheuerlich Vogel"

Chick-Charney: Bird-Man of the Bahamas

Dear Sirs,

I enjoyed the "Of Living Pterodactyls" article in *Strange* #6. It reminded me of some of the stories of giant bird-men that are part of the local "folklore" in the Bahamas, and which may be of interest to you.

I lived and worked on the island of Andros, in the Bahamas, from 1984-1985. I am a merchant seaman and was employed at that time by the RCA service company, contracted to the U.S. Navy for the testing of torpedoes and sonar equipment for nuclear submarines.

Andros island is the largest island in the Bahamas chain, lying a mere 160 miles east of West Palm Beach, Florida, and it is the least inhabited island of the Bahamas.

The eastern side of Andros is where the Tongue of the Ocean is located, a huge underwater abyss some 100 fathoms deep. The eastern coast is the only inhabited part of the island itself which measures roughly 100 miles long and 35-40 miles wide.

As I lived and worked among those native to the island, I was privy to many of their tales of ghost lights, haunted caves and the legendary "chick-charney," a humanoid-type creature that lives in the swamps and forests of the island. According to this popular tale, the chick-charney is a half-human half-bird creature who makes his home by nesting in the vast pine forests in the interior of Andros, which is also comprised of nearly impenetrable mangrove swamps and dotted with the famous "blue holes," perfectly round, water-filled limestone holes of incredible depths.

The chick-charney is supposed to have the body of a human and the face of a "featherless" bird. The eyes are reported to be huge and round and there is a beak instead of a nose. The feet of the creature are three-toed like those of a conventional ostrich. I don't recall any mention of them as having wings, however.

The legend also states that a chick-charney makes his "nest" by bending over the tops of several pine trees and "binding" them together to form a sort of canopy.

To cut down one of these "nests" is supposed to bring about the worst form of bad luck and misfortune. Indeed, one of the locals informed me that the cutting down of a chick-charney nest by reluctant native workers caused the ruin and death of a former logging merchant from the United States prior to WWII. The remains of his once-elaborate plantation still exist on Andros and are reportedly haunted, as well.

The interior of Andros is crisscrossed with a virtual maze of old logging roads and I would sometimes go on driving/exploring trips through the swamps which are completely uninhabited, lending an aura of mystery and enchantment to being out there alone. It was during one of these driving trips that I stopped my car to inspect a tire that was going slack. I happened to glance over into the woods next to my car and I spotted a group of pine trees, four of which had been bent towards each other and joined at the tops. By "joined" I mean that the tops were intertwined and growing together. Looking closely at this formation, it seemed to me that there was really no natural explanation for how the trees wound up that way.

During all my explorations of Andros, this was the only chick-charney "nest" that I ever saw personally, although others have told me of seeing similar formations themselves.

If these "nests" are in fact some sort of natural phenomenon, then one could pose a sort of "chicken or the egg" type question: Which came first, the chick-charney nests or the chick-charneys? I suppose that such a natural formation as this could lend itself to some fantastic myth creations among those who lacked any "scientific" knowledge to explain them. (None of the locals I spoke with ever claimed to have actually seen a chick-charney.) I would rule out the possibility of a hoax, as the area in which I discovered the nest was at least 10-12 miles into the interior, over very rugged road, quite an out-of-the-way place to perpetuate a hoax, and, besides, the discovery was made by myself only by accident.

Andros is a beautiful and mysterious place, having once been the hideout for the pirate Captain Morgan, whose ship's bell is now found in the local church, according to regional historians.

Andros is also located well within the so-named Bermuda Triangle and has a history of unexplained night lights and magnetic disturbances that affect radar and compass gear. I can personally attest to those phenomena myself, as well as a sighting of two unidentified "mystery rockets" in the night sky over the northern tip of Andros.

The legend of the chick-charneys was given several paragraphs in an '80s edition of the *National Geographic* magazine that was written exclusively about the Bahamas, and the "spook light" of Andros is indicated on some nautical maps of the area.

A journey to this island in America's "front yard" might make for an interesting side trip for fellow *Strange* readers.

Curt Rowlett

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STRANGE MAGAZINE #7

HUMANOID'S

Black Dog at the "Donut-Shop"

(H)

Mark Chorvinsky,

I had a strange encounter with a black dog either in 1962 or '63.

I worked at a Donut-Shop seven nights per week. I worked alone and walked one-half mile or so to my garage apartment each night after midnight. Since I had to walk down a street with no sidewalk and very few lights, I always carried a coke bottle in one hand and a roll of pennies in the other.

One night just before closing time I had heard a bark at the drive-in window, so I went and opened the window and in front of me sitting on the driveway was a large, black dog, wagging his tail. I threw him a few doughnuts and shut the window, not thinking anything except maybe he was just a stray. Anyway, when I locked up and started my short trip home, he (the black dog) was waiting for me and he walked beside me all the way home. It had been a chilly night, so when I got to my apartment (the stairs went up inside), I told the black dog that my manager said that I couldn't have pets and that if I let him in, when morning came he would have to leave, because the owner—who had a woodshop under my apartment—might hear him. The dog seemed to understand each word I said to him.

Anyway, all this became a habit and every night the black dog would meet me at the Donut-Shop, walk home with me and spend the night in my apartment and, in the early morning, I would let him out before the owner got there to work in his wood shop.

Now the first night he went upstairs with me, that was the first time I saw he had the bluest blue eyes. (Paul Newman eyes.) This went on for about two weeks, then I had some friends over for a few beers one night after work so I rode home with them. The black dog was waiting at my door as if he knew he didn't have to come to the Donut-Shop. My friends and I talked about this and of the fact he would show his teeth in a very mean manner if anyone got too close to me, and I told them of how, a lot of nights, I would wake up and the black dog would be sitting on the floor with his head resting on the bed staring at me, in a lover's way. This would scare hell out of me, but otherwise I felt very safe with the dog, I was no longer worried about walking down the side of the street full of woods and few houses after midnight.

One night, after coming home, I went into the bathroom and was reading the papers. (I never shut the door—nobody was there but me and the dog.)

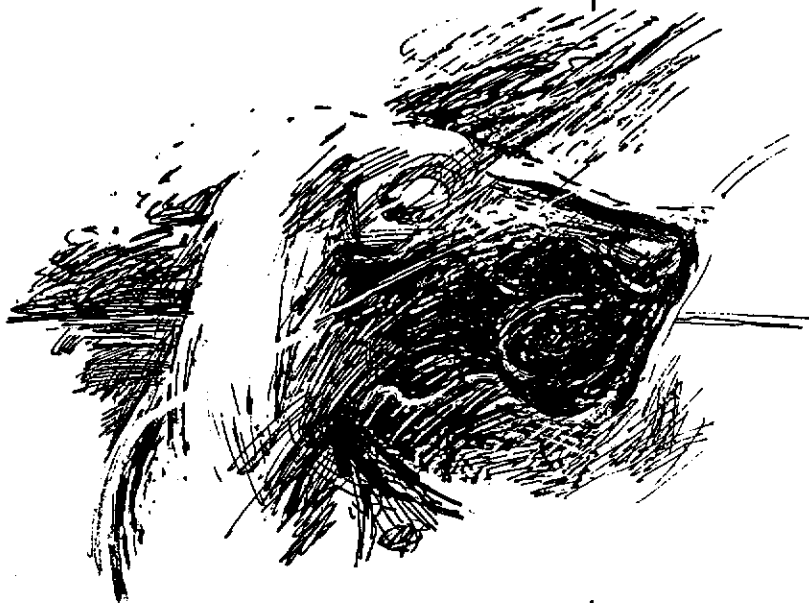
When I heard the dog's toenails clicking on floor as he walked up and sat down at the doorway, I paid no mind until out of the corner of my eyes I saw something black shoot up high.

I turned my head to look (having no fear—for, as I said before, I was comforted by this black dog). It wasn't a black dog, but a man with the most beautiful blue eyes and wearing a black suit. The minute I started to scream I saw this man take the form of the black dog once more.

As soon as I could, I went to the door, opened it and told the black dog to leave and I never wanted to see him again. He left and to this day I haven't seen him, but I've had so many strange things happen to me all my life. The only thing I do is shrug my shoulders and go on with the day.

Yours truly,

Molly Jo Dayton
Houston, Texas



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STRANGE MAGAZINE #7

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Chick-Charney: Bird-Man of the Bahamas

Dear Sirs,

I enjoyed the "Of Living Pterodactyls" article in *Strange* #6. It reminded me of some of the stories of giant bird-men that are part of the local "folklore" in the Bahamas, and which may be of interest to you.

I lived and worked on the island of Andros, in the Bahamas, from 1984-1985. I am a merchant seaman and was employed at that time by the RCA service company, contracted to the U.S. Navy for the testing of torpedoes and sonar equipment for nuclear submarines.

Andros island is the largest island in the Bahamas chain, lying a mere 160 miles east of West Palm Beach, Florida, and it is the least inhabited island of the Bahamas.

The eastern side of Andros is where the Tongue of the Ocean is located, a huge underwater abyss some 100 fathoms deep. The eastern coast is the only inhabited part of the island itself which measures roughly 100 miles long and 35-40 miles wide.

As I lived and worked among those native to the island, I was privy to many of their tales of ghost lights, haunted caves and the legendary "chick-charney," a humanoid-type creature that lives in the swamps and forests of the island. According to this popular tale, the chick-charney is a half-human half-bird creature who makes his home by nesting in the vast pine forests in the interior of Andros, which is also comprised of nearly impenetrable mangrove swamps and dotted with the famous "blue holes," perfectly round, water-filled limestone holes of incredible depths.

The chick-charney is supposed to have the body of a human and the face of a "featherless" bird. The eyes are reported to be huge and round and there is a beak instead of a nose. The feet of the creature are three-toed like those of a conventional ostrich. I don't recall any mention of them as having wings, however.

The legend also states that a chick-charney makes his "nest" by bending over the tops of several pine trees and "binding" them together to form a sort of canopy.

To cut down one of these "nests" is supposed to bring about the worst form of bad luck and misfortune. Indeed, one of the locals informed me that the cutting down of a chick-charney nest by reluctant native workers caused the ruin and death of a former logging merchant from the United States prior to WWII. The remains of his once-elaborate plantation still exist on Andros and are reportedly haunted, as well.

The interior of Andros is crisscrossed with a virtual maze of old logging roads and I would sometimes go on driving/exploring trips through the swamps which are completely uninhabited, lending an aura of mystery and enchantment to being out there alone. It was during one of these driving trips that I stopped my car to inspect a tire that was going slack. I happened to glance over into the woods next to my car and I spotted a group of pine trees, four of which had been bent towards each other and joined at the tops. By "joined" I mean that the tops were intertwined and growing together. Looking closely at this formation, it seemed to me that there was really no natural explanation for how the trees wound up that way.

During all my explorations of Andros, this was the only chick-charney "nest" that I ever saw personally, although others have told me of seeing similar formations themselves.

If these "nests" are in fact some sort of natural phenomenon, then one could pose a sort of "chicken or the egg" type question: Which came first, the chick-charney nests or the chick-charneys? I suppose that such a natural formation as this could lend itself to some fantastic myth creations among those who lacked any "scientific" knowledge to explain them. (None of the locals I spoke with ever claimed to have actually seen a chick-charney.) I would rule out the possibility of a hoax, as the area in which I discovered the nest was at least 10-12 miles into the interior, over very rugged road, quite an out-of-the-way place to perpetuate a hoax, and, besides, the discovery was made by myself only by accident.

Andros is a beautiful and mysterious place, having once been the hideout for the pirate Captain Morgan, whose ship's bell is now found in the local church, according to regional historians.

Andros is also located well within the so-named Bermuda Triangle and has a history of unexplained night lights and magnetic disturbances that affect radar and compass gear. I can personally attest to those phenomena myself, as well as a sighting of two unidentified "mystery rockets" in the night sky over the northern tip of Andros.

The legend of the chick-charneys was given several paragraphs in an '80s edition of the *National Geographic* magazine that was written exclusively about the Bahamas, and the "spook light" of Andros is indicated on some nautical maps of the area.

A journey to this island in America's "front yard" might make for an interesting side trip for fellow *Strange* readers.

Curt Rowlett

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WINGED BEINGS

by Luis Schoenherr



THE observation of a winged being as reported in the March-April, 1964 issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW is not quite unparalleled¹. In the Spring 1960 the Italian jeweller Salvatore Cianci and his wife were driving in their car at night in the vicinity of Syracuse, Sicily. Suddenly a little being, three feet and a half in height appeared in the beam of the headlights. It wore an iridescent or luminous overall and a diver's helmet. Instead of arms it had something what the witness described as "two little wings". Mrs. Cianci suffered a heavy nervous shock.²

What are those "wings" really? It seems unlikely that they are actually a part of the bodies of these creatures. Certainly even the most open minded biologist would regard the idea of a human or humanoid being endowed with wings with reserve. The other possibility is that the wings serve a technical purpose. They could be parts of a highly sensitive hearing device, or radiators for the internal cooling of the space suit. A space suit with a reflector for the emission of heat rays was years ago proposed by Professor Oberth.³ A radiator is the more efficient the greater a surface it has. It would be less of a hindrance if mounted on the back of the space suit and could therefore be easily mistaken for "wings". The same holds true, if those appendages are not radiators but the filters

of a breathing apparatus, to minimize breathing resistance such filters would also have as much surface as possible. If this supposition is correct it must be concluded, that those beings utilize at least certain components of our atmosphere. Possibly they are even to some extent accustomed to its composition and the filters serve as a protection against bacteria only.

Another interesting feature connects the Saltwood mystery with earlier observations. The witnesses said that the being came stumbling towards them. Now, in the cases of Mme. Leboeuf and the lorry driver Suddard⁴, beings with a hopping or jumping walk were also observed. And these beings were described as having either no arms or as holding them close to their bodies.

Unfortunately the teenagers at Sandling Park "didn't wait to investigate". If they had, they could possibly have told us more about those strange "wings". But it is certainly less alarming to write in the study about this subject than to encounter such a being alone at night. Despite my intense interest I am not so sure, whether I should have been curious enough to wait for it.

¹"The Saltwood Mystery", FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, March-April, 1964, page 11.

²Source, Agence France Press, May 30, 1960

³Oberth, *Adenschen im Weltraum*, Econ Verlag, Düsseldorf.

⁴Constance, *The Inexplicable Sky*, pp. 243-6.

THE MENZEL-MICHEL CONTROVERSY

(continued from page 6)

chance effect and an actual UFO sighting, in which small "objects," (the exact nature of which is still to be determined) have been dispersed and have followed straight trajectories, thus contributing to create the illusion of a star of lines? I think we should. But I do not see how, in the present state of the discussion, one could disprove the Poncey phenomenon without accepting Type-II sightings as a physical reality.

Clearly, the generality of orthotenic lines has been exaggerated. But the fact that elementary tests, which should lead to the rejection of all the lines, do not appear to do so in several occasions, and yield a level of significance higher than what experienced statisticians would consider satisfactory in more classical fields, indicates that something remains which is understood in the topography of the French sightings of 1954. Whether

this is due to a real internal law of the phenomenon we are dealing with, as claimed by Michel, or to other effects, is hard to decide. All we can say is that, from the data we had, and going through the procedure we have described, we have found the results indicated.

A theory has been presented which can be checked completely by scientific methods: we cannot see any reason why our curiosity should stop, and why we should not look for more facts. In our opinion, Dr. Menzel has not presented sufficient evidence of the unprofitability of such a study. The casinos of Reno and Las Vegas have many statisticians on their staff. Their results seem, after all, most encouraging.

* See "Recent Developments in Orthotenic Research" FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, November-December 1963, issue.

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una contraseña--así como en una vieja novela de espionaje. Disgustado, Maccabee dijo que Green "confundi" la contraseña y el acercamiento jamás tuvo lugar.

Es sorprendente que Maccabee no se dé cuenta de lo ridículo que suena todo esto a los oídos de personas que han estudiado el manejo de los ovnis por el gobierno al paso de los años, ni le molesta el papel desempeñado por Moore, mucho después de que este haya confesado ser un mentiroso y traidor, según su alegato de haber sido un "desinformador controlado" durante el simposio anual de MUFON en Las Vegas, NV en 1989.

(Continuará en el próximo número de Inter Alia)

SERES EXTRAÑOS AQUI Y AHORA por Scott Corrales

Distintas partes del mundo se han distinguido por el hecho de que albergan criaturas misteriosas que han cautivado las mentes de investigadores y los interesados en dichos temas: el monstruo de Loch Ness, Bigfoot, los Yetis de las Himalayas; y los "Yowlies" australianos, entre otros, representan muestras de estas criaturas que aún consiguen esquivar el alcance de los seres humanos. Sin

embargo, existen criaturas únicas cuyas apariciones han sido documentadas durante cierto período de tiempo, solo para desaparecer después sin dejar rastro alguno o volver a aparecer jamás. Este es el género ocupado por el célebre "Mothman" de la Virginia occidental y otros menos conocidos, como se podrá apreciar a continuación.

Grant Callison, natural del pueblo de Galesburg, estado de Illinois, vió tres seres extraños la noche del 10 de mayo de 1968: una noche lunada con cielo despejado. Desde su cocina, Callison y su esposa, Wilma, vieron criaturas que

volaban a una altura estimada en los 500 pies, cubiertos de plumas o escamas de un aspecto metálico que adquirirían fluorescencia con la iluminación del tendido eléctrico local. Carecían de cuello y tenían una cola corta y cónica. "Fue algo increíble y espeluznante a la misma vez," comentaron los testigos.

Pero este no sería el único avistamiento que presenciaria el matrimonio Callison. Unos días después, de visita con sus parientes, el hermano de Grant, Ward Callison, preguntó si habían visto algo fuera de lo común hacía algunas noches. Luego de haber escuchado el testimonio de su hermano, Ward confesó haber visto los seres voladores siguiendo un trayecto que los llevó sobre su casa, desde el noroeste. La descripción de Ward coincidió con la de Grant en los detalles más mínimos.

Cinco meses más tarde y a la misma hora de la noche, otro "pájaro gigante" o "ser alado" voló directamente por encima de Grant y Wilma. La pareja observó que la criatura parecía tener problemas con el ala derecha, que permaneció inmóvil a unos grados más abajo del ala izquierda (la envergadura de las alas era de unos 15 a 20 pies). El ser volador pareció apercibirse de las miradas de los humanos, y fijó su vista en ellos mientras que se alejaba volando. "Esto nos asustó de veras," confesó Grant. "y nos retiramos al interior de la casa por el resto de la noche". La opinión del matrimonio Callison tras de los avistamientos fue que los seres alados no eran oriundos, por supuesto, de este mundo, así que tendrían que ser extraterrestres o extradimensionales. Los Callison no se habían enterado de las tropelías de Mothman en Virginia y jamás volvieron a ver dichas criaturas.

Otro ejemplo de criaturas singulares puede apreciarse en el caso del "orang minyak" u "hombre

aceitoso" que atemorizó a los habitantes de Kuala Lumpur en Malasia a comienzos de los años '60. Carys Evans, estudiante en un colegio malayo en dicha época, recuerda el pánico infundido por dicha criatura, a la cual se le asignaban poderes sobrenaturales. "Orang minyak" tenía la apariencia física de un ser humano cubierto en aceite, "imposible de agarrar debido a su capacidad de escabullirse de aquellos que pretendían atraparlo, y no sin razón, ya que se le achacaba la violaciones de mujeres", dice Evans.

El autor inglés Harold Wilkins hizo mención de extrañas criaturas entre nosotros en su libro Flying Saucers on the Attack, uno de los clásicos de la ovniística. A mediados del mes de febrero de 1953, un administrador en una bufete de abogados de la ciudad de Los Angeles, Ca. que se dedicaba a la búsqueda de "personas desaparecidas", comentó que dos hombres "rarísimos" de 6 pies, 2 pulgadas de estatura, temporalmente ocupados por el director del bufete, se habían esfumado repentinamente. El administrador explicó que dichos hombres, mal vestidos y con facciones que tenían un matiz azul-verdoso, tenían también orejas puntiagudas como las de ciertos perros.

El 20 de enero de 1953, se les encomendó una misión en el rastreo de personas desaparecidas con el bufete de abogados, y su eficacia fue tal que los demás rastreadores de personas se quedaron atónitos. El administrador apuntó también que un buen día, uno de los seres abrió un zurco de por lo menos media pulgada de profundidad en el tope de acero de un armario, utilizando para ello "una mano extrañamente curvada".

Wilkins prosigue el relato, diciendo que ambos seres tenían manos y muñecas sin articulaciones y con una curvatura extraordinaria, totalmente distinta a la humana. El bufete dio parte al Negociado Federal de Investigaciones, pero el par de extraños se había esfumado para

cuando llegaron los agentes. Aparte del testimonio de los abogados y rastreadores del bufete, la única evidencia de la existencia de las criaturas extrañas era el zurco en el fichero de acero: un químico en metalurgia afirmó que para producir dicha indentación, se habría requerido ejercer una presión de 2000 libras por pulgada.

Cabe señalar que dichas criaturas extrañas no pertenecientes a un género (por ejemplo, los Yetis) han estado con nosotros desde los albores de la humanidad, distinguiéndose por el hecho de que son únicos en su clase, así como el Minotauro de la leyenda griega.

Los cronistas romanos Aulo Gelio, Julius Obsequens y Plinio el Viejo hacen mención de criaturas extraordinarias--casi siempre de tipo vagamente humanoide--cuyas fugaces apariciones llenaban al pueblo de pavor y eran consideradas como presagios de grandes cambios o desastres. En las crónicas aztecas figuran también los "Tlacantzollis" u "hombres divididos" que fueron atrapados y llevados a la casa de la magia del emperador Moctezuma, donde se evaporaron delante de los ojos del monarca azteca y su séquito.

Tampoco puede olvidarse "Springheel Jack", cuyas apariciones a comienzos y a finales del siglo XIX causaron sensación en la Inglaterra victoriana. El pavor sobre este ser desconocido alcanzó tal grado que hasta el anciano duque de Wellington, famoso por haber derrotado a Napoleón en Waterloo, salía a caballo de noche con dos pistolas, con el propósito de despachar a la "amenaza pública número uno" del momento.

El "Hombre Rojo" cuyas visitas al Rey Carlos de Suecia y al mismo Napoleón marcaron momentos importantes en las vidas de ambos monarcas, y que jamás volvió a aparecer, parece haber sido una pieza más del conjunto de seres misteriosos.

Pero aún queda por contestar la pregunta: ¿Qué o quiénes son estos

seres misteriosos?

El autor francés Jacques Bergier opinó que dichos seres son en verdad únicos y enigmáticos, y que su propósito es el de probar las reacciones de los seres humanos ante cosas fuera de su ámbito natural. Tras de haber aparecido ante un cierto número de espectadores humanos, los seres desaparecen "para ser devueltos a un cajón que existe en alguna parte" por obra de experimentadores desconocidos que bien podrían recibir el calificativo de "dioses".

Por otra parte, F.W. "Ted" Holiday, investigador del fenómeno de Loch Ness y los casos "gatos fantasma" que se dan en el Reino Unido, expresó en su obra The Goblin Universe que la aparición repentina de estos seres sirve para recordar a los humanos que hay un aspecto espiritual o divino a su existencia, algo así como un antídoto al materialismo que tiende a hacer presa de nosotros. Su concepto no es tan extraño si se toma en cuenta que las "oleadas" de avistamientos ovni, por ejemplo, parecen seguir el mismo patrón: las oleadas de los '40 sucedieron en el auge del materialismo militar y nuclear; las de los '50 coincidieron con el aumento en los bienes de consumo en los EE.UU, y de ahí en adelante. Holiday apunta que las fachadas de muchas iglesias en Inglaterra muestran relieves de ovnis, "perros negros" y "gatos fantasma", sugiriendo la idea de que tales cosas pertenecen al mundo espiritual.

Antes de que el lector piense que dichos seres no han hecho acto de presencia en fechas recientes, bastará con ilustrar el caso de "La Bestia de Bray Road".

Las comunidades de Elkhorn y Delavan en el estado de Wisconsin,

pueblos dedicados a la industria lechera y con una población de unos 5.000 habitantes cada uno, se vieron plagados por varios meses por lo que aparentaba ser o un "hombre-lobo" o una criatura bípeda parecida a un lobo. En el mes de octubre de 1991, la joven Doristine Gipson conducía a través de una encrucijada del camino rural Bray Road cuando la parte delantera del auto se levantó y cayó repentinamente, como si hubiese atropellado algo. Doristine se detuvo y salió del auto para ver qué había sucedido, cuando "algo" salió corriendo de la oscuridad hacia ella. "Nunca había visto un perro tan grande correr tan rápido," dijo Doristine, "y lo interesante es que tenía un pecho descomunamente ancho, como las personas que levantan pesas, cubierto de pelo largo". Sin pensarlo dos veces, Doristine entró en su vehículo y arrancó a 65 millas por hora. El "lobo" saltó sobre el baúl de su auto y cayó inmediatamente después. La señorita Gipson comentó el extraño suceso con una vecina, quien había visto algo semejante dos años antes: Lorianne Endrizzi, gerente de un bar cerca de la encrucijada de Bray y Hospital Roads, había reducido la velocidad de su carro una noche en el otoño de 1989 cuando creyó ver "una persona en cuclillas o agachada al borde del camino". Al detener la marcha casi por completo, la criatura levantó la cabeza, revelando una rostro con un hocico largo, parecido al de un lobo. A una distancia de seis pies, Lorianne pudo distinguir que los brazos del ser tenían coyunturas extrañas, como las de los brazos humanos. Las piernas parecían más humanas que animales. La experiencia duró unos 45 segundos hasta que Lorianne decidió alejarse.

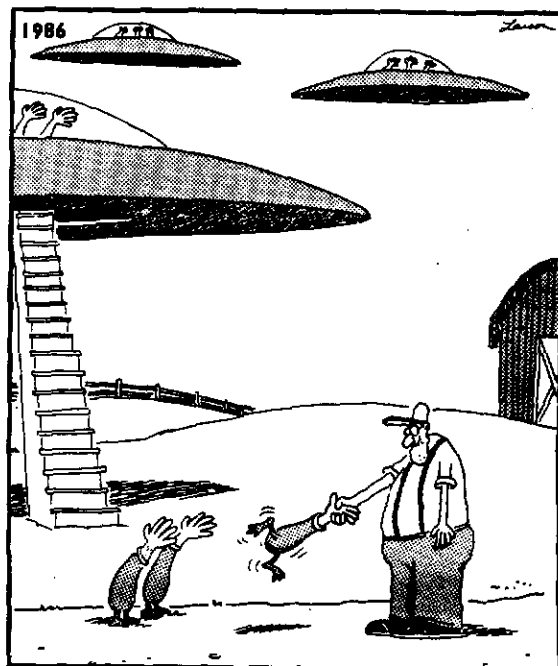
El extraño "hombre-lobo" de Bray Road volvería a aparecerse un sinnúmero de veces ante vecinos del lugar o viajeros transitando la encrucijada de Bray y Hospital Road.

Un granjero se aperció de la presencia de un "perro raro" en sus pastizales, y se echó a perseguirlo. El ser se ocultó detrás de un amontonamiento de piedras, y para cuando el granjero llegó al sitio, se había esfumado.

Lo verdaderamente interesante del caso de la criatura de Bray Road es que dicha región del estado de Wisconsin experimentaba un aumento en las mutilaciones de ganado desde hacía ya tiempo. En 1991, un hombre que iba de paseo se topó con los cadáveres mutilados de doce perros y siete gatos en un claro del bosque a 20 pies de la carretera. Los "hombres de negro" también visitaron la comarca: un hombre de uniforme negro al volante de un gran auto negro trató de amedrentar a un niño para que éste le cediese un perro "Labrador" que llevaba. Se encontraron señales de ritos satánicos en las lápidas del cementerio local y en el interior de una casa abandonada. Al igual que sucedió con el caso Mothman, el licántropo o cinántropo de Bray Road constituyó un fenómeno de duración limitada (1989-1992). En su artículo para la revista Strange, Scarlett Shankey expresa la opinión de que el caso Bray y el de Mothman revelan un paralelismo innegable. El célebre investigador John Keel, quien investigó las apariciones de Mothman, declaró en el epílogo de su última edición de The Mothman Prophecies (IllumiNet Press, 1991) que el "protagonista" principal de todo incidente no fue la criatura, sino un hombre que intentó secuestrar a una testigo presencial, y quien bien pudo haber sido "el hechicero que conjuró al monstruo". En el caso Bray vemos la yuxtaposición de elementos típicos de la magia negra--la encrucijada, el "sacrificio" de animales, la aparición de los "hombres de negro", etc.-- que constituyen de por sí una tercera explicación que puede sumarse a las ofrecidas por Jacques Bergier y por Ted Holiday.



"Muy bonito, pero yo tenía entendido que habría experimentos sex
SEXUALES"



Inadvertidamente, Onofre causa la destrucción del mundo cuando tratando de ser amistoso, toma al líder de los marcianos de la cabeza y le da un fuerte apretón.

Continue

BIG BIRD INTERVIEWS

INTERVIEW 2

Mr. Earl Cansler, Animal Patrol Supervisor, Overland Park, Kansas
2:45 P.M., Tuesday, 1 August 1978.
Interviewer: Steve Hicks (by phone).

INT: O.K., I've turned the, uh, tape-recorder on now. Uh, I talked to Mr. Lees the other evening over the phone . . .

CANSLER: Yeah.

INT: . . . and, uh, he gave me most of the details, but there was one question I had from what he told me. And, uh, he said that after the attack he had identified a picture of a crooked-legged hawk as being the bird that he thought attacked him, anyway.

CANSLER: Uh-huh.

INT: Uh, he said, of course, that he only saw the bird as it was flying away . . .

CANSLER: Right.

INT: . . . a few seconds after the attack, you know. But, uh, now the news report I had here, you were quoted as saying, "The theory is, this might be an eagle. It's not one of the native hawks."

CANSLER: Uh-huh.

INT: I wondered if, uh, your thinking had changed on that since . . .

CANSLER: Well . . .

INT: . . . you were quoted here?

CANSLER: Yes, it has.

INT: Uh-huh.

CANSLER: I'll tell you what we have did. Now, we have went to the, uh, uh, federal people . . .

INT: Uh-huh.

CANSLER: . . . and asked them to identify these birds. I really believe now that they're large red-tailed hawks.

INT: Uh-huh.

CANSLER: And . . . that, that's the situation, they're still out there, and they have attacked other people since.

INT: Ah. Uh-huh, that's what Mr. Lees said he thought.

CANSLER: The joggers in the area, I don't know why they want to jog out there, but, uh, they seem to attack, uh, joggers. Now, we're in the process now of, uh, trying to trap 'em.

INT: Ah, uh-huh.

CANSLER: And what we're doing, we put a, uh, 'course, uh, a rabbit in a wire cage. Now, as, uh, 'course the hawk can't get to the rabbit.

INTERVIEW 2 Cont.

INT: Yeah.

CANSLER: Now, we put a bunch of, uh, monofilament nylon line with loops on it, on top of the cage . . .

INT: Uh-huh.

CANSLER: . . . and we hope maybe we'll be successful. But we also have permission, uh, if it occurs again, from the, uh, federal, federal people to, uh, uh, kill 'em.

INT: Ah. I see.

CANSLER: We really don't want to kill 'em, and it's gonna be a difficult job to kill these birds, because of getting a, uh, safe, uh, shot with any type of a high-powered weapon.

INT: Yeah. Yeah.

CANSLER: And . . .

INT: I understand the high school is right there nearby.

CANSLER: Well, see, they stay right, the area is completely surrounded by dwellings. There's a section, and it's just, uh, completely surrounded, any way you shoot, you're taking a chance to, of uh, well, hitting a building or hitting somebody . . .

INT: Yeah.

CANSLER: . . . or hitting a car.

INT: It's built-up areas all around this, uh, wild-life preserve that the high school runs?

CANSLER: Yeah, and uh, all, all through there. Now, that's the problem with it. Now, we're gonna hold off as long as we can on this, uh, uh, shooting 'em, but if it happens again, why, I'm sure that uh, uh, we'll have to, this one big bird especially, we'll have to kill it.

INT: Yeah. Yeah.

CANSLER: Don't wanna do it, but . . . laughs.

INT: Have the, uh, other joggers reported, too, that the bird is unusually large?

CANSLER: Yeah. [coughs]

INT: Five or six, uh, foot wing-span, I see Mr., uh, Lees . . .

CANSLER: Uh, but, I really don't know, we, we've been working on this thing for, oh, over, over a month, ever since Mr. Lee [sic] got attacked, and laughs. it's been, it's been quite a problem.

INT: [laughs] O.K. Well, I certainly thank you for your help, and, uh, thanks again for returning my call, then.

CANSLER: O.K.

INT: Thanks very much and

. . .

CANSLER: All right . . .

INT: 'Bye.

CANSLER: 'Bye.

* * *

They Never Came Back

Mysterious Disappearances in Sweden. Part 1.

By Jan-Ove Sundberg
(Ekopress, Sweden)

How can a person vanish without a trace? That question has been asked by despairing relatives, experienced police officers and an astonished public in all times and in every country. It is estimated that more than 100,000 people are reported as missing every year, world-wide. Most of the disappearances are sooner or later solved by a natural explanation. But far too many people disappear under inexplicable, and very often extremely mysterious circumstances. They are never found again. Many of these disappearances, however, are poorly documented and most of them that are to be found in Fortean books are nothing but fabrications by sensationalists. Others, unfortunately, are seriously probed and beyond doubt true, frightening and lacking explanation. My investigations concerned three unexplained cases.

THE BOY WHO VANISHED ON HIS WAY TO A WOODSHED.

April 16, 1967, was a cold and windy Sunday with a bit of snow in the air. On the

Sundslätt farm at the far end of Sirkön Island, right in the heart of the fruit farm district around Urshult parish, the father and the smallest son had gone down to the barn early in the morning. The mother was in the kitchen, busy with their breakfast. It was cold inside the house and she decided to set a fire in the kitchen stove, but there was no wood in the house. She was just preparing to go out to the woodshed and get some herself, when her 13-year-old son Alvar came down the stairs.

Alvar had been sleeping for a long while this morning. He was reading for his confirmation and would leave for church later on that morning. But he was not dressed up for church yet, and was wearing a flowered shirt and blue jeans. His mother asked him to please get some wood.

Alvar took the basket and slipped into his clogs in the hall. It was a walk of only 75 feet to the woodshed, and yet, somewhere along this line, or possibly from the woodshed, 13-year-old Alvar disappeared without a trace! Neighbors, police, the Home Guard and military servicemen, clairvoyants and mediums, searched and pondered, so far in vain.

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BIG BIRD, continued

blood had gathered over my right eyebrow, but after taking a shower and washing out the wounds with soap, I discovered that the, all the worst wounds were up in the top of my head were very deep scratches and there were three of those on top of my head, and there were four definite punctures on, two on each side, where he obviously stuck in his talons or something like that, and they were just puncture wounds, and, uh, I didn't go to the doctor 'cause my wife was able to stop the bleeding, so I waited 'til the next day before I went to my family doctor, and he gave me, uh, a tetanus shot, and, uh, said a couple of the scratches, if he would have seen 'em right after, he probably would have recommended stitches, but he said since they, they looked like they were starting to heal, just to let 'em go, as long as I kept 'em clean, I'd be all right.

INT: Uh-huh.

LEES: That's, that's, that's kind of, uh, what happened. Since then, of course, we've got calls from various people, a couple kids that, uh, knew of some hawks that were in the area. So there's the Shawnee Mission, uh, the Overland Park police were very interested in trying to find out what kind of bird it was. Uh, their first fear was that maybe somebody was training their bird to attack people.

INT: Ah.

LEES: Or if it was, uh, a eagle, uh, they wanted to, they, they know they couldn't, because it is a protected species, they couldn't touch it, but if it was a hawk, that they might want, uh, to either move it or kill it, so it wouldn't hit anybody else. And, uh, they brought pictures over and, uh, we could definitely identify it at that time, uh, as a, as a, large hawk, probably a crooked-legged hawk by, by the pictures, their having a tremendous amount of white on their underbelly. And, uh, oh, about three days later, the, a girl who lives in a farm on, oh, about 108th [Street] and Nall, who was the nearest house from where I, where I got hit, called and said that she was out running that morning and, uh, she was kind of on the, on the lookout for two, a male and a female hawk that she knew nexted in the area, been nesting there for five years, thinking that might have been what hit me, and sure enough, she said that she saw the female hawk take out of the tree that was nearby the road and came down and, uh, tried to attack her; she had her hair, long hair, piled on top of her head, and she was able to throw her hands up and go prone on the ground and, uh, without really receiving any wounds. And, uh, she said that, uh, she called and said that she was going to report it to the police, but hoping that they wouldn't do anything, because, uh, she felt the nesting season would be over by the end of June, and the young ones

(continued on next page)

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BIG BIRD, Continued

would be out of the nest, and there was obviously a mother, female, hawk trying to protect its young.'

INT: Uh-huh.

LEES: And since then I really haven't, uh, double-checked back with the, uh, with the police department, they were keeping contact with me, but, uh, they probably felt that that was the case and, uh, you know, quit, quit working on it.

INT: O.K. I think pertinent to this, what is your height and weight?

LEES: I'm, uh, six feet four and weigh 175 pounds.

INT: Besides your wounds, were there any physical traces of the bird, uh, feathers or such, that, uh, uh, that anyone noticed?

LEES: No, because, uh, the going back over the, the area, in fact, I ran by there today, you know, I could only, oh, come within twenty-five yards, probably, of finding the exact place I got hit, but, uh, so we didn't go back and examine to see if there was any feathers on the ground or anything.

INT: Did the, uh, bird, when you saw it flying away, or when the, uh, man in the van stopped, did he say anything about seeing it and noticing its unusual size or anything . . . ?

LEES: He said it was the biggest bird he had ever seen, uh,

and uh, 'course I'm not from this locale, I'm originally from the west coast, other than a pelican, it was the biggest wing-span I had ever seen, I . . . guess the wing-span to be five or six feet.

INT: Hmm.

LEES: And of course, as I say, the, uh, it happened quickly and the bird was flying away, and, but I'll just, you know, gauging it by, uh, my recollection, I'd say that's what it was. So I would say it was a very large, very large bird.

INT: Do you know the name of the witness who, uh, stopped to help you?

LEES: No, in fact that's one of the reasons why we, we did a little, uh, we'd initially contacted the, uh, the newspaper, uh, so they would write a feature article on it, uh, the Kansas City Star, which ended up putting it in a front-page article the following Wednesday evening, and, uh, this, uh, hopefully the man would, would come forward. The only thing he stated when he picked me up was that I told him that I lived at a hundred, 101st [Street] and Nall. And he said, well, he said, he's new to the area, I'd have to give him directions. I said, well, you're at a hundred and, almost 107th [Street], so I'm, you know, three or four blocks down the hill, so he was, uh, new to the, new to the area and, uh, he had, a new, a new van, uh, oh, I'd say in the last couple years, years old,

and he had two small children and, uh, and there's been a lot of, uh, a lot of publicity on it and he's never called, uh, uh, or, has come back to, to see how I was or anything. So, he might have even been from out of town.

INT: Uh-huh. Have you ever read, uh, any other accounts of other joggers, or other people in general, being attacked this way by birds?

LEES: No, I really haven't, uh, everybody that I've ever, uh, talked to since this happened, uh, it's always the all-time first and, uh, they're all very, very surprised. Other than this, uh, girl, lives at this farm house . . .

INT: Uh-huh.

LEES: . . . and she's a college student, uh, and it was obviously, uh, or it sounds like it was obviously, it was the same bird. It's the only two attacks that anybody's ever heard of. 'Cause I've had, oh, the National Jogging Association, I've had the Runner's World Magazine, the Runner's Magazine, they've all, uh, called and wanted information on the story, the story's been published in, I'd say, at least twenty-five different newspapers that I know of . . .

INT: Yes, uh-huh.

LEES: Uh, and, uh, no one has come forward and said, "Gee, it's happened to me," and, you know, or given me any, uh, idea.

INT: Well, listen, uh, I know for a fact that it's been published at least once in Canada, and the man who published it there, uh, published another account from Pennsylvania of several joggers attacked there. Uh, I'll send you, uh, a copy of, uh, of that, uh . . .

LEES: Yeah, I'd love to see it, yeah.

INT: O.K. Uh, at, at this remove from the incident, oh, do you have any particular thoughts or feelings in looking back on it?

LEES: No, as I say, uh, kind of, uh, half-jokingly said, uh, to, uh, the, uh, in the first article that was in the newspaper, uh, was that, uh, most of the time, uh, runners, and I'd say I, and I'm definitely one of those, I keep my eyes kind of straight ahead or d . . . , to the ground, worrying about dogs and cars, and, uh, and or snakes, and, uh, never had to worry about looking up over my shoulder, but since then I, uh, I always keep a steady glance up in the sky and look, uh, over my shoulder to, uh, . . .

INT: [laughs]

LEES: . . . to see if something's attacking me. So it does psychologically kind of get to you when you're hit from, uh, above like that, when there's, uh, complete surprise, because if you come across a dog or anything, you have time to react, at least, uh, to put out some adrenalin,
(continued on next page)

BRIEF REPORTS

By STEVE HICKS

BIG BIRD, Continued

to be scared. This happened, uh, I didn't have any warning at all.

INT: Uh-huh.

LEES: But, uh, it was a very eerie thing to happen, and try to explain to people, because it's, uh, was so unusual.

INT: Uh, the last question here. Uh, have you ever had any other unusual experiences, such as, uh, uh, sighting a UFO, or anything of that sort?

LEES: . . . No I haven't, no.

INT: O.K. Good. O.K., well, thanks very much . . .

LEES: O.K.

INT: . . . and that's all the questions I have . . .

LEES: Great.

INT: I'll send you a letter, and I've got a couple clippings I'll enclose . . .

LEES: Oh, great.

INT: . . . that'll be of interest to you.

LEES: Sure appreciate it.

INT: Well, thanks very much for your help.

LEES: Thank you, uh-huh. 'Bye.

INT: 'Bye.

MUTILATIONS

NOTE: Due to a lack of space, an abbreviated version of Brief Reports appears in this issue, and INFO newsletter has been reduced to 1 page, 2 sides. We felt Steve Hicks' interview on Big Bird was important enough to print in full, and his feature will be resumed. The size of the Newsletter will be determined by member interest and participation.

Camonica Valley, northern Italy -- Sculptures depicting the worship of dogs and butterflies were discovered by a 12-nation archaeological team. Emmanuel Amati, professor at Camuno Prehistoric Studies Center at Capodiponte, announced the finds and said, "The discoveries are most unexpected as we had already found 130,000 prehistoric works in this area, none of them comparable." The sculptures were dated to the fourth or fifth millenium B.C., and were the first of their kind found in Italy, although similar finds have been made in the Balkans. (Canberra, Australia, Times, 11 August 1977. CR: W.J. Tarplee.)

Colonial Village, Connecticut -- early February -- Four dogs were found dead in a 2-week period in this area of Norwalk. "Each of the canine deaths was believed suspicious . . . since there was no indication of illness or physical damage which would have shown had the dogs been struck by a car."

Two of the carcasses were destroyed before they could be examined, but an autopsy on the third dog revealed it had suffered a ruptured spleen. "There

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BRIEF RE

By STEVE HICKS

BIG BIRD, Continued

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INT: . . . and that's all the questions I have . . .

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INT: . . . that'll be of interest to you.

LEES: Sure appreciate it.

INT: Well, thanks very much for your help.

LEES: Thank you, uh-huh. 'Bye.

INT: 'Bye.

you the gift of healing, but anyone can do Pow-Wow, as long as it's in the family."

Isolated villages such as those in Penns Valley are gradually drifting into oblivion. And with each will pass a unique storehouse of folklore, pieces to the puzzle of unexplained phenomena, and the artifacts that have helped to shape the mind of modern man. Unfortunately, there will be no Pow-Wow Man to make them suddenly reappear.

((Note: This is a most famous Magic Square known since early times. It may be found on page 206 of Anders Baeksted's Islands Runeindskrifter. He records it as occurring in runic letters at a site in Iceland. D. Buchanan.))



BIG BIRD?



We were intrigued to receive this photograph from one of our correspondents in Wellsley, Massachusetts (near Boston). It was taken in January 1981 (exact date unavailable) following a heavy snowfall. On looking out into the back yard of his home the day after it snowed, our correspondent was astonished to see these huge footprints. They are clearly visible

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in the photo, which shows a single set of prints compared to a yardstick. Not shown is a brush-mark made by a wingtip(?) some 36 inches away.

The local Audobon Society was asked what they thought could have made the prints. Their only response was: "Don't let your dog out at night!"

We would appreciate further information on this. Does any reader have newspaper clippings referring to the prints --or can any reader assist in making an exact identification?

Ancient Astronaut Society Meets

The Tenth Anniversary World Conference of the Ancient Astronaut Society took place at the world's largest Holiday Inn near Chicago's O'Hare Airport on 6/7 August 1983. Featured speakers included Rich Crowe and Stuart Greenwood of INFO, plus Erich von Daniken whose books have now sold some 50 million copies. For further information on the Society and details of a "Fantastic Adventure Trip" to Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Easter Island, contact the Society at (312) 432-6230 or (312) 432-6050 --or write to them at 1921 St. John's Ave., Highland Park, IL 60035.

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I assumed I had seen a rare bird, perhaps an endangered species. I checked some bird identification books and quickly realized that it was much rarer than I had assumed, so rare, in fact, that it didn't exist!

I would be happy to hear from others who have seen similar birds.

Judy Diliberto
1034 Stephen Rd.
Bayport, NY 11705



SEALS, continued.

We know, too, that the Phoenicians traded with the coastal natives of Eire, even as they traded with the Gaels of Cornwall. Possibly, then, the mystery seals of Ireland came with them, having reached Phoenicia by the Mid-Asian route from China to the Euxine or Black Sea, or through the countries of Asia Minor in communication with it.

That these singular cubes of porcelain did not find their way to our shores either in modern times or for centuries past becomes certain if the conditions are considered in which most of them have been found. Nature and mother-earth have their own ways of marking the passage of the centuries over that which falls into their care. The human bones, found with the Cahir Castle specimen, told, by falling away into dust, of their long measure of antiquity.

SAND, continued.

scratched where they had raced across the face of the mountain in the brambles and rocks to carry out their scheme." The ghost light did not appear after the boys' confession.

The entire event was a hoax, but the resolution of the case appeared only in a local newspaper. The moral is: always check as close as possible to the original source when researching Fortean, and always check a few issues after the first appearance of the report.



Dear Sir:

Big Birds (H)

In the spring of 1969 on a run-down farm that we had recently purchased in northern Franklin County, New York (close to the Quebec border), I rose quite early one day to accompany my young German shepherd on his morning romp.

We were walking down the dirt road near a pond behind the farmhouse when we suddenly saw, standing in the water, an absolutely immense grey bird. I could distinguish no feathers, although I assumed they were there.

It looked at us; we looked at it. My puppy did not bark. Then the bird unfurled its magnificent wings, easily spanning 24-28 feet, and flew off very low toward the Canadian border.

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