

UFOs AND MYSTERIOUS DEATHS OF ANIMALS

PART 2: UFO SIGHTINGS IN PUERTO RICO

Sebastion Robiou Lamarche

Our contributor, Sr. Robiou, a Puerto-Rican engineer, sent us the illustrations used in Part I of this article. The text, however, has been taken from the Spanish journal *Stendek** (Nos. 22 and 23 of December 1975 and May 1976). Translation by Gordon Creighton.

THE first of the cases with which we will deal took place in January, 1975. The witness failed to give the precise date. Señora A.A. (she wishes to remain anonymous) was asleep in her home in the Garden Hills sector of San Juan when she was suddenly awakened by a strange sound. It was a powerful intermittent hum, accompanied by another constant hum which appeared to be of lower frequency. The electric fan in the bedroom suddenly stopped. Alarmed at this, Sra A.A. took the daughter who was sleeping with her, collected her other child, and they all went to another room and shut themselves in.

A few moments later, the loud hum stopped and the electric fan started up again. Sra A.A. had seen nothing. She had merely heard the hum, which scared her.

A few days later, in the patio of her house, near the swimming pool, her gardener found three strange marks forming a triangle. Around that time she also learned that on the same night when she had heard the weird hum, the family in the house next door had seen an intensely bright light above the palm tree in front of the house. The light itself was not unbearably bright, but it had other lights, green and red, with it and it seemed to have "bright holes" in it. This strange light had remained there for about ten minutes and then moved away and disappeared from view in the west.

This case has been the subject of intensive investigation. The three marks found in the patio were three inches deep and four inches wide, and formed an equilateral triangle with each side measuring 44 inches. Engineer Oscar Hernandez of the Foundation Engineering Laboratories made a profound study on the spot and in his laboratory, covering all aspects of the terrain. As a result of his study, he was able to establish that an average weight of around 14,190 lbs. would have been required to produce such holes on that type of soil. So far, no grass has grown again on the areas where the marks were, despite the fact that no signs of burning were detected there. Likewise no signs of abnormal radioactivity were detected in the area.

The next case was on January 12, 1975, when Señor Pedro Vega Avilés stated that he had seen three objects "brighter than the stars" travelling southwards in a zigzag motion near San Sebastián at about 5.30 a.m.

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Moca

On March 12, when the reports of mysterious deaths of animals at Moca had already begun, a farm worker from Moca named Luis Torres Aldaondo, and his son and daughter-in-law plus eight neighbours, all saw, passing overhead at tree-top height at about 9.30 p.m. "something that looked like a Police screen, of various colours, and spinning like a top." Then it suddenly began to rise as it moved off eastwards. The witnesses said it looked as though made of "shining silver" ... and that it was "bigger than the house." They said they heard "a faint whistling noise." The sighting lasted but a few seconds before the object was lost to sight among the clouds.

On March 21, just a few days after the mysterious killings of goats which we have already described, and when there had already been a dozen or so of similar cases, a party of witnesses, Señor Carlos Santiago and his wife and one of their daughters, were driving in their car when they observed a UFO which passed at great speed and very low over the El Mamey district of Moca. The object appeared to be "incandescent" and was soon out of sight. On March 24, Dr. Juan Sánchez Acevedo, a well known Moca physician and the local president of one of the political parties, was at work in his study at about 12.00 p.m. when he heard a "shaking, juddering" noise as though from something in the air. He described the sound as like a long drawn-out "ruum" ... "and stronger than an earthquake". The vibration caused the doors to rattle and his car to shake. Dr. Sánchez Acevedo at once wakened his wife, but by then the noise had moved away and seemed to be fading out. They saw nothing.

Round about the same period in March, three witnesses, Arnaldo Rullán, Carlos Rullán, and Alexis Fernández, reported having found "an area of flattened reeds, circular, as though some heavy flat-shaped object had settled there." And elsewhere in the same town of Moca, at the sports-field, while they were watching a game of soft-ball, three witnesses, Teodoro Quiñones Muñiz, Norberto Méndez, and Jorgo Ramos, saw "a greenish-blue disc descending from the sky". They then saw it perform a sharp turn and move off rapidly towards the east. (The date of these last two happenings have not been established.)

During the days that followed, various witnesses said they had seen a weird bird at various places in

the Metropolitan Area of San Juan, and meanwhile reports were still coming in of strange killings in other towns on Puerto Rico.

San Juan

On March 21 came the first sighting (of the current wave) of a UFO over San Juan, the Capital. It was at 9.30 in the morning, when a group of people walking along in Santurce saw "a saucer-shaped object moving off towards the North, in the direction of Isla Verde." They said it was travelling at the height of an aeroplane, but at a staggering speed, and that it had a dome "which seemed to be metallic."

Three days later, on March 24, near Puerto de Tierra, in the same area of San Juan, two girl secretaries, Antonia Cintrón and Paquita Martínez, were returning to work from lunch at 1.00 p.m. when they saw "a stationary luminous object ... which afterwards began to move slowly, emitting brilliant flashes of light." They added "It was something very strange; not an aeroplane; it seems it must have been what they call a 'flying saucer' because it was oval and silvery coloured."

April 6 is a very important date. This was the date of the first strange case of dead animals in the Metropolitan Area of San Juan itself, i.e. the case of Sr. Bello's ten geese, which we have already described above. And, also on this same date came the first close-sighting of a UFO right in the centre of San Juan.

Disc jockey's encounter

That night, Willie López was working as a disc jockey with Radio Station WBMJ (Radio Rock), located in the Darlington Building at Miramar, when he heard three very loud blows on the outside window behind the controls. (The radio station is on the top floor of the building in question.) Going over to the window, the young López saw a luminous figure in rapid movement which seemed to hide behind one of the external columns of the building. Then, remembering that he was all alone in the studio, he telephoned a friend, José Manuel, who lives in the same multistorey building. However, by 10.45 p.m. his friend had still not arrived, so Willie Lopez, unable to contain his curiosity any longer, went over and opened the window suddenly. And he beheld, right in front of the building, and on top of the adjacent cooling tower, "a luminous white object, or rather a yellowish-white object, saucer-shaped, about forty feet in diameter," and only about three or four feet from the building. In the interview which he gave to the press Willie López said he had noticed it was "making a rocking movement." The UFO itself was stationary, the rocking movement was slight, and the UFO's luminosity was constant. Alarmed, Willie López slammed the window shut, and then instantly stopped the music he had been broadcasting, and told the listeners what he had just experienced. (Some days after this incident, the young disc jockey was still suffering from nervous shock and under treatment with sedatives.)

At 1.50 p.m. (precisely the same time) on

Tuesday, April 8, when López was in the studio, along with announcer Raymond Rosado and Rosado's wife, and just as they were about to go on the air with a piece of promotion based on the events that had happened two days previously, they heard the whole air conditioning system of the building start to vibrate. As they described it, "it seemed as though the whole place was about to collapse."

Meanwhile, just as this was happening at the studio, out at Guaynabo, where the radio station's actual transmitters are located, things were also happening. Rafael Pérez, Efraín Camacho, José A. Soto, Wito Castro, and Johnny Acevedo all saw a shining object descend and produce a powerful explosion, as a result of which it seems that the whole district, including the WBKJ (Radio Rock) transmitter, was without electricity for twenty minutes. The object that fell made a crater several feet wide and the ground at the spot remained hot for several days. While the possibility of its having been a meteorite naturally cannot be ruled out, does there not seem to be a strange element of coincidence about this whole business?

Power failure

On April 11 there were sporadic power failures in various parts of San Juan. On the day following, April 12, a group of eyewitnesses saw a UFO "resembling the rotunda on the Capitol" near Paquita's Place, a restaurant in the Piñones district, to the north-west of San Juan. And on April 17, again at Moca, a lady named Wanda Feliciano, and her brother Elly and his companions Félix Cruz and Rosaura Vargas, claim to have seen a UFO. (This date too coincides with the strange deaths of animals in various places.)

Weird creature, animal effect and another mutilation

On April 18, Orlando Franceschi, janitor at the San Lucas Hospital at Ponce, claims to have had a personal encounter "with a horrible monster that he would never be able to forget", right in the back-yard of his own home. Coming out of the bathroom, at 8.00 p.m., he was just about to go to the ice-box for some water when, looking out through the window that gives on to his back-yard he saw what at first he took to be a dog pass by. Astonished, since he knew his own dog was tied up not far from there, he seized a shovel which was standing near the door and stepped outside. "Arriving round at the back of the house, I saw nothing, but when I came back ... I saw it coming towards me ... it was the same thing that I had seen go past the window; with long ears, a long noise too; the mouth wasn't very visible, but I noticed a slit with no lips, two black blobs which were its eyes, the jawbone of an ape ... and it was walking the way 'zombies' do, swaying from side to side. It was an amazing sight ... I felt it was going to attack me, so then I hit it with the shovel. It was about four feet or so from me ... it was very small, let's say about 4 ft. 8 inches high ... I hit it on the chest with the shovel and the blow sounded a hard one. On feeling the blow from me, it backed away,

but it made no sound ... it moved as though it was floating. I said to myself: 'this is no vision' ... and I hit it a second time with the shovel and again it backed away. When I hit it the third time, I was in a rather uncomfortable position ... I can't explain it exactly, but I fell, as though I hadn't hit him, I fell just because of the weight of the shovel. I tried to get up again, but, I don't know exactly how or why, I was paralyzed ... I don't know if it was through fear ... I had no strength. I felt there was something that wasn't in me. I looked around and the creature was gone. Then my strength came back. There was a zinc sheet in the neighbour's fence between the two houses, and this had been pushed through on to the other side, as though it had escaped through there. I can't of course swear to this, I don't know whether it flew away or whether it just disappeared. While all this was going on, my dog didn't bark even once."

After this episode (transcribed by us here from his original taped statement) Señor Franceschi, who is aged 26, went back into the house, where were his mother, his wife, and his two daughters. Seeing the distraught state he was in, the family at once called the Police, who launched an investigation, the results of which have not been divulged. Franceschi remained under sedation for the next two days. Immediately after the incident, five young men who were returning that same night from the Glenview housing estate said they had seen a "strange dwarf" and pelted it with stones. It is to be noted that a cock was killed that same night and was found near Franceschi's house. It displayed the same characteristic wound as were found on the other dead animals and which we have already described.

A week later, Senor Franceschi started hearing voices which, as he said, "I am absolutely sure were not imaginary." And he went on: "I heard what sounded like somebody speaking to me, and this voice said to me that on Saturday, May 31, all Christians should meet together to pray. I heard the voice repeat this to me seven times. It said that the churches must remain open, so that there would be nobody who had not prayed ... and that if this was not fulfilled even worse things would happen than are happening now."

In fact nothing did happen on Saturday, May 31, though lots of people heeded the exhortation which Señor Franceschi had had published in the newspapers.

Juane Díaz and Cosmo

Let us however return now to previous events. On the day following the Franceschi case, that is to say April 19, Senora Alda Isabel Vázquez de Figueroa and her daughter Camille observed a UFO at Las Corozas, a suburb of Juana Díaz, a town near Ponce. Said the eyewitness: "It was around 10.15 p.m. I was just tidying up, and then I went to get a dress to iron it. I opened the door leading to the patio, and I saw a vivid orange light hanging stationary above the garage. It was quite near, and I stood there quietly, watching. I remained there like a statue for I don't know how long — maybe five minutes — and the light remained in the same spot. The thing was bigger than an automobile wheel ... Then it rose up a bit, quite silently.

The body of the thing was very orange and its brightness was enormous. Then it moved away and was concealed behind the mountain, but still leaving the whole area lit up."

On some subsequent date after April 20, which we have not been able to establish precisely, Señora María Socorro Janer and her husband saw an object "shaped like a cupola, with a vivid bright light", when they were travelling by car near the town of Cosmo, not far from where the last case had occurred.

Arson-loo?

On April 29, at 3.30 a.m., Señora Juana Vázquez and her children were awakened by something that lit up their house in Peñones, a suburb of San Germán. One of the most astonished members of the family, Ivan, aged 17, said that they got up and, looking out of the window, saw "a bright object stationary over their lavatory." Señor Vázquez and her children Jennie, Luis, Pastora and Ramonita confirm this.

The UFO was shooting out "flashes of blinding light" which made it impossible for them to make out the precise shape of the object. The lavatory caught fire, and the witnesses heard some "faint sounds." Then came other sounds that were "louder and of higher pitch", and the UFO shot upwards and vanished.

The latrine continued to burn and the fire was put out with the help of the neighbours who came rushing up immediately. One of the neighbours, Rubén Hernández Blas, an agricultural worker, said he had seen the UFO as it was moving away. This case created a great commotion in the whole district and was thoroughly investigated by the Police.

Other residents in the district reported that on that same night they had noticed a great deal of disturbance among their domestic animals, especially the dogs, which had barked furiously. Other reports, unconfirmed, indicate that two cows were found dead at the time, in very mysterious circumstances, right inside the suburb of Peñones.

Cupey

The area of activity seems to have moved, and at 4.30 a.m. on May 4, a Señor R—, residing at Cupey, to the south of the Metropolitan Area of San Juan, "saw a UFO with a big intensely yellow pulsating light on one side (the extreme right from his point of view) and another less vivid light at the other side, plus a row of eight rectangular lights," stationary at a distance of about 1,500 ft. from his suburban home. He at once aroused all his family, who all watched the phenomenon for 45 minutes until they grew weary and went back to bed. The following day they went back to the spot where the UFO had presumably landed and they found an area, some 25 ft. in diameter, which "seemed to be burnt." They observed moreover some strange marks, shaped like feet with only three toes. These were 14 inches long and tapering from a width of 4 inches at the back to 19 inches in front. These marks seemed to be in a straight line, and spaced at intervals of 50 inches.

Along with these marks, the witnesses also found some "scratch marks" on the ground. This case, which received no publicity, was investigated by Electrical Engineer Heriberto Ramos.

Professor's view

May 17 brought two high-altitude sightings. One of them was seen from Las Crobas, Fajardo, by Gustav Zeissic, a Doctor in Astronomy and Professor of Physics at the University of Puerto Rico. Others with him who saw it were Julio Peignand, a professor of Psychology, Luis A. Delgado de León, a sculptor, and José F. Delgado Ramírez, a banker.

Low level UFOs

On the same day, May 17, at 9.30 p.m., came another low-level sighting of a UFO, sighted from two places in the Metropolitan Area of San Juan. At Park Garden in Rio Piedras, Mérida Méndez was in conversation with Georgina and Norma Toro in the back-garden of the two last-named. Norma suddenly saw an object ... "round and yellow and all with a very powerful light," and shouted to her two friends to look. The UFO was stationary at an angle of about 60° of elevation, above a neighbouring house. They noted that the object consisted of three parts, and that the middle part had some "windows" which emitted a brilliant green light. Suddenly, as they watched, the UFO started "to rise, at an angle, rotating as it did so, and making a 'pu-pu-pu' sound." They also saw that as the UFO rose a red light came on inside it.

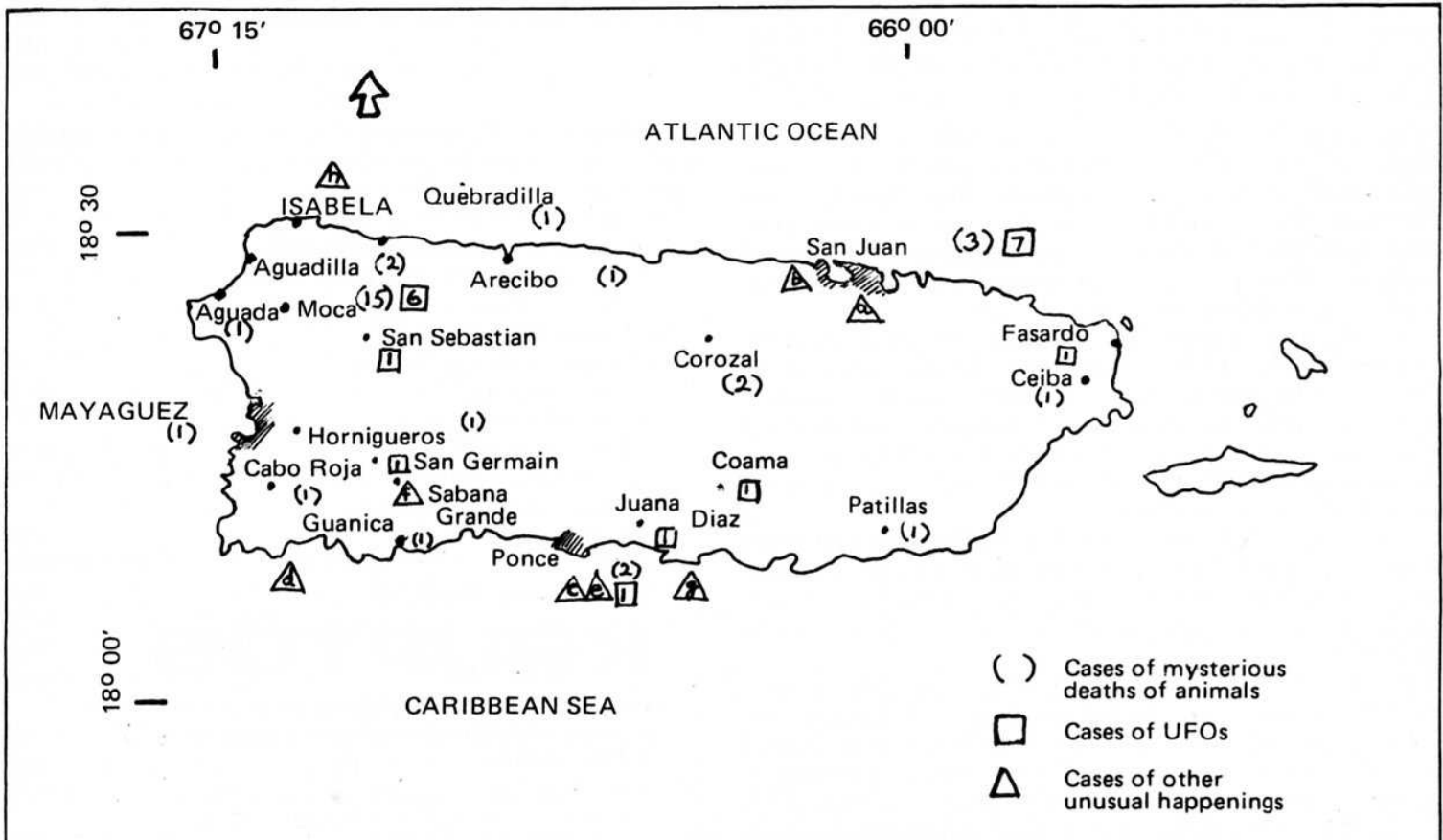
After the UFO had climbed higher in the sky it remained there circling around over the area for some minutes. It then disappeared from sight.

On that same night, May 17, approximately one hour later, a UFO, flying slowly and very low, was seen from the Miramar sector, in the same part of the suburbs of San Juan, by a professional man and his wife who prefer to remain anonymous.

On May 24, at 9.50 p.m., not far from the same area, the Ortiz de Rivero family reported that they too had seen a UFO flying low, "with blinking red light." As it moved off towards the south-west the light then became a vivid white. The witnesses stated that on its central part it had what they described as "elliptical skylights showing a yellow glow."

Pilot's report

After this last sighting, the nature of the reports changes and they now refer generally to UFOs seen at great heights over more distant regions of the island, such as Maricao, San Gerardo, and Cayey-Salinas. On Wednesday, June 18, two commercial air pilots informed the press (anonymously) that they had seen UFOs over Villalba and over the area around San Sebastián. In one case, said one of the pilots, "Some weeks ago, between Barranquitas, Villalba and Ponce, I saw two white lights and one red one stationary in space. The red light was flashing, and the two white ones very brilliant. The time was about 11.00 p.m. The object - or the lights - were towards the northwest, that is to say, nearer to Ponce. Then at one point the UFO started moving up and down, as though simulating impulses, and



The island of Puerto Rico

flashes began coming from the lights." Amazed at what he had seen, this pilot called up the Air Control Centre to ask whether there was any plane or helicopter in the area, but the reply was that there were none.

Remarks and Conclusions

1. Nobody, either privately or officially, has succeeded in establishing the cause of the deaths of the animals. Official Police investigations took place. Also investigations by the Department of Agriculture and by Federal Agencies. The conclusions were ... silence.

2. It is not possible to establish categorically a link between the mystery deaths of animals and the UFO sightings. However, it must be emphasised that both of these phenomena were occurring simultaneously, and practically in the same chronological order, in certain definite geographical zones.

3. The UFO cases started at the beginning of the year. The strange deaths of the animals began to be reported before the end of February. In the town of Moca both the phenomena — UFOs and animal deaths — were occurring simultaneously, and when sightings of UFOs outside the Moca area began to be reported, so too did the strange deaths of animals in other places also begin to be reported. Around the end of July, 1975 came the last cases of strange deaths of animals in Moca, as though a cycle were closing. *Since that date we have no further cases of either phenomena.*

4. We think we can safely say that 1975 has been the peak year so far as Puerto Rico is concerned for the weird and strange. In addition to the UFO phenomena and the strange deaths of animals and a number of reports of sightings of an enormous bird, which we have quoted above, we have also had the undermentioned happenings of a strange nature

a. January 14, 1975, at 2.30 p.m. a mysterious explosion was heard throughout almost the entire Metropolitan area of San Juan. The Puerto Rico National Air Guard (i.e the Air Force) deny that any machine of theirs broke through the sound barrier over the city and caused this spectacular noise. The cause remains unexplained.

b. On that same day, January 14, at 7.30 p.m. Señora Isabel Dávila of the Santa Juanita residential estate at Bayamón claims to have heard a strange moaning noise and to have seen tears of blood gushing from the eyes of an image of the Sacred Heart. This happening received widespread publicity over a period of several weeks.

c. January 23: Señora Dionisia Arteaga reported that on this day her son Radamés saw blood coming from a picture representing The Almighty which hangs in her residence in the Dr Pilá housing complex in Ponce.

d. February 22. A search was called for after a boat failed to return to the town of La Pargüera. Six days later, on February 28, the boat was found drifting in the Canal de la Mona, with everything in complete order, the engine in perfect condition, but both the occupants, two young professional men from the district, missing.

e. March 6. Another strange explosion of unknown origin shook the town of Ponce. It was heard practically all over the town.

f. From the beginning of March reports of fresh "miracles" began to come from the town of Sabana Grande, where there is a Sanctuary for religious pilgrims — due to the fact that on May 25, 1953, the Virgin is alleged to have appeared there. These new reports of "miracle cures" continued over the following weeks.

g. April 1. The press reported that a sailing boat had been found without its crew. The boat had put to sea a few days previously from Guayamar, on the South Coast of Puerto Rico, and the Coast Guard had mounted an energetic search for it.

h. June 20. Some wax remnants on a porcelain plate are allegedly converted into an image of the Virgin del Carmen. This event is reported to have occurred at Isabela, in the home of Arturo González and his wife. According to the report, Father Ignacio and Father Elías, priests of the local Catholic church in the town, accepted the existence of the image as authentic.

5. What is above all evident from all this is that we are seeing what we might term *a new phase of activity by the UFO Phenomenon*. The UFO Phenomenon is now manifesting itself more openly; it is ceasing to be rural, and in many cases it is now a town phenomenon; there are more low-altitude sightings; there are three cases with physical marks left on the ground, one of these being the alleged incendiarism in an outside latrine. The UFO theme is the subject of frank and open discussion in the organs of the press. And, above all, it is now connected in the mind of the public with the killing of animals.

* * * * *

In conclusion, I must add that the work of compiling this Report has been made possible thanks to the co-operation received by me from:

William Santana Font, Architect.

Noel Rigau, Agricultural expert.

Oscar Hernández, Engineer.

Heriberto Ramos, Engineer.

Salvador Freixedo, S.J.

Alfonso Martínez Taboa.

Carlos Alvarado.

Freddy Badillo Javariz.

Francisco Marín.

José Vargas Lisboa.

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YOUNG SWEDISH SCIENTIST'S UNIQUE SERIES OF UFO PICTURES

Sven-Olof Fredrikson

This article first appeared in the Swedish journal *GICOFF Information**, issue number 2 of 1974, and a translation of Marie Palmer of GICOFF (Göteborgs Informations Center för Oidentifierade Flygande Föremål), was sent to FSR in December 1976. Many readers will recall that Mr. Fredrikson has been a frequent contributor to FSR since 1970, and we are delighted to receive this new item from him.

DURING the morning of November 11, 1973 Åke Lejon borrowed a camera from his niece in order to go out and take some photographs. The weather was beautiful and he had intended to take a few good nature photos.

As he was standing in the courtyard of his home in the village of Pönttjä, he suddenly saw a triangular object flying from NW towards NE. He swung up his camera and took two pictures of the object as it passed. This happened at about 11.10 a.m.

Åke Lejon didn't think over much about the kind of object he had photographed, but shortly afterwards he went to a meadow, about 180 yards SW of the village, where there is a fine view of the beautiful landscape. He took a picture in the direction of the woods, and the little lake below him.

Then, suddenly, he caught sight of a strange object that came floating, so it seemed, about a mile from him. It was now about 11.30. During the following two or three minutes nothing special happened, and Åke Lejon was convinced he was watching a balloon.

Suddenly, though, the "balloon" became oval, and then gradually flattened until it finally resembled an angular "loaf." After that, there was a slight increase in speed, and the "loaf" began to lean forwards and then accelerate even more. (The facts indicate that what Åke probably saw was a round, disc-shaped object that was turning around its own axis,—S-O.F.)

During the observation a triangular object suddenly detached from the disc and made a wide curve below the horizon and then turned upwards in a SSW direction, roughly in the direction he'd first seen the larger object. Meanwhile, the larger object had disappeared among the clouds in the NE.

During the observation Åke took four more pictures: the first one shows the disc- or "loaf"-shaped object. The second shows the triangular object and the last two again show the disc-shaped object. Altogether a series of seven pictures was taken, and not five, as was incorrectly stated in newspaper articles.

Åke Lejon himself has no explanation as to what kind of phenomenon it was he saw and photographed, and facts about the event were not known until journalists in northern Sweden visited him on account

of his prosperous hunt for minerals; they were asked if they possibly knew what the pictures represented.

It should be added that the observation that was made outside the village lasted about five minutes, and that the disc-shaped object had a very dark centre, while the rest seemed steel-grey or aluminium-coloured. When it rose a yellowish light could be seen underneath. It seemed to be a solid object. The smaller object seemed more luminous, and had a silvery-white, shining colour.

Comments

As always, when one has observations and pictures from a single witness, one ought to be a little careful with one's comments. As researchers know, it is rather easy to falsify UFO-pictures.

In this case, however, we have made an investigation of the negatives as carefully as possible, and we haven't found anything remarkably wrong about them. It is, consequently, a real object that can be seen on the pictures, but whether this is a real UFO, or an object of some kind that was thrown up in the air, is hard to decide. The negatives have been analysed in A-Kopias laboratory in Gothenburg. More about this analysis further on.

There is, in my opinion, no reason to doubt Åke Lejon's information, but as mentioned earlier, the situation of the observation is such that no unambiguous comments can be made. We leave it to the reader himself to decide the reliability of the report in the light of the information we have gathered.

Concerning Åke Lejon's own report, there was, from the beginning, some uncertainty that has now been removed. He himself was, for example, not quite sure when the first pictures (the triangle) were taken. Later on, though, he remembered having taken these pictures at home in the courtyard.

It is only the first picture of the triangular object that is really interesting. The quality of the pictures is not of the best since the pictures were taken with a simple Instamatic camera and GAF colour-film. This combination doesn't allow for the enlargements to be sufficiently distinct.

The larger object appears as an obscure dark line on the pictures.

Picture No. 5 shows the triangular object but is very indistinct and has, furthermore, just below the UFO in the picture, a sprinkle of some kind of acid.

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