

doctor, who has attended to Platner and his family for years past, put paid to all this by announcing that Platner had indeed had blood drawn from him, "but not by means of the needle, such as we traditionally employ for this." A statement which inevitably has caused a sensation and given rise to a lot of thinking...

Platner, a 34-year-old man who does not drink and enjoys a high reputation among his neighbours is, according to Dr. Pizarro, in excellent physical and mental health.

As Dr. Pizarro says, Platner is a simple, straightforward sort of man, who had never in his life before "believed in strange things". But, after what has now befallen him, Platner said, on August 12: "I have already told you: the Extraterrestrials AREN'T Science-Fiction! Anything but...!"

The doctor showed the marks on Platner where the blood had been taken. One of these places, right on a vein, was very clearly visible.

Life in Winifreda is unquestionably normally a bit dull and monotonous, and the "anti-brigade" have therefore been trying to spread the idea about that "Platner had made the story up as a piece of escapism." But Dr. Adolfo Pizarro's testimony has floored them. He has also floored those who were trying to prove Platner to be an alcoholic, and were confidently putting it around that his "close encounter of the third kind

was simply a hallucination caused by drink."

Like so many other experts on Ufology, they will have to think again. It will be interesting to see what they come up with next.

NOTE BY EDITOR

Not only are Jane Thomas's English and Spanish (no doubt like her French and her German, etc.) exemplary and perfect. She is equally accomplished in *Spanglish*, in which language some of her running commentary on the Platner case is couched. I translate the following extract from her latest letter:-

"The La Pampa case (of Platner) is still only at an early stage. My information is only what the papers have published. I also saw Platner on TV. He looked O.K., and does not look crazy — though with all the interviewing and the investigation of him he may well end up crazy before long. If he was lying — hard luck for him. And if he *wasn't* lying, it's still hard luck for him, because he won't be left in peace! What with all the newspapers and the TV and the radio and the investigators and the crackpots, the poor chap doesn't know yet what he has let himself in for. But how familiar this story of having tubes applied to draw off blood sounds to us! And if the poor chap knew nothing about our subject, then the other details which he has given are surely food for thought."

NEAR-LANDING OF A HUGE "SPINNING-TOP" IN BRAZIL

Irene Granchi

(Translation from Portuguese)

OVER a spot some 300 metres or so from the Sorocaba Airport, lying to the west of São Paulo, in southern Brazil, an outsized "spinning-top" appeared one evening in June 1979 and "stood still" for at least one hour, above the wall surrounding the backyard of a local surgeon-dentist.

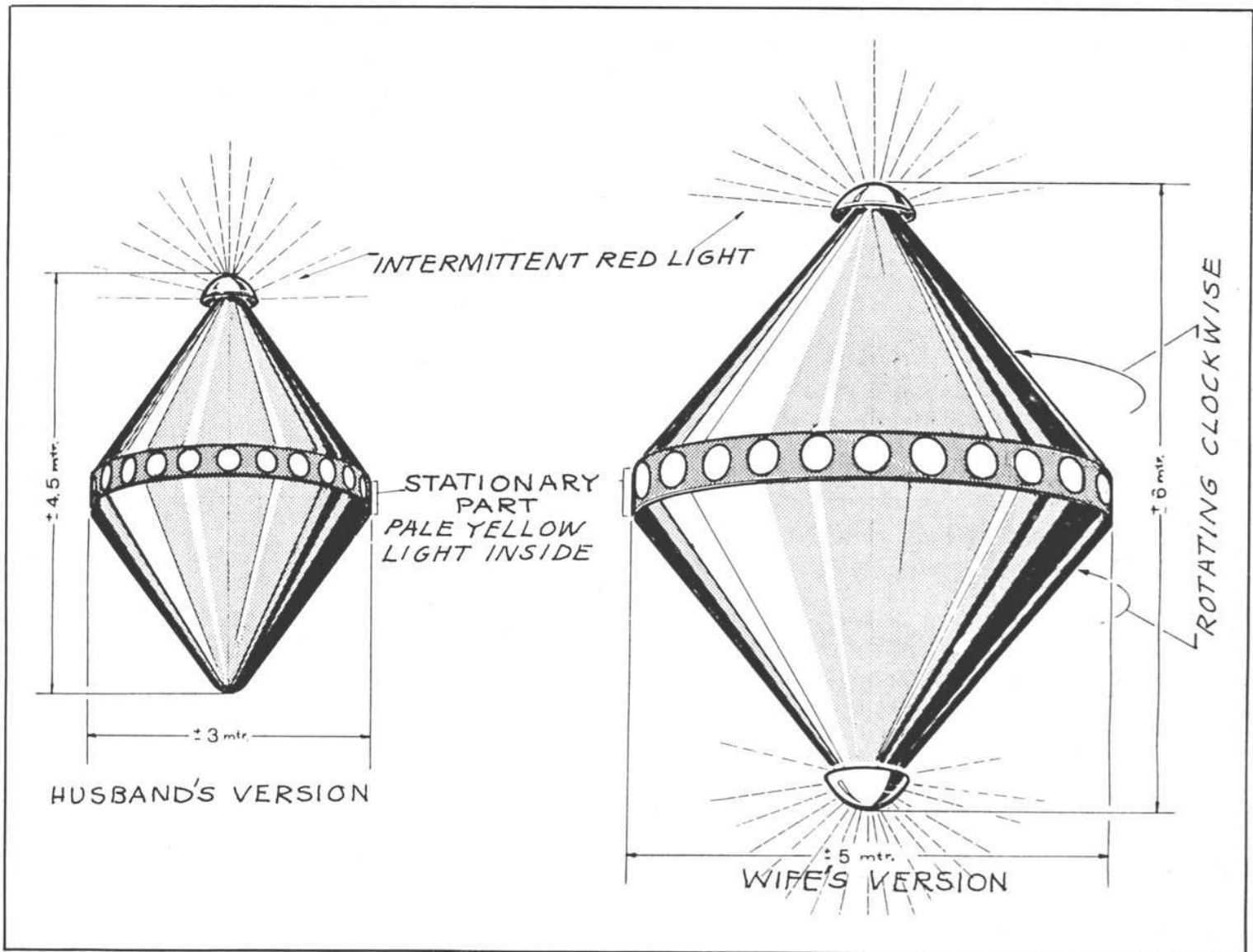
The dentist, Dr Roberto Domingos, aged 45, and his wife, Regina Clara, a University Professor, watched the extraordinary spectacle in utter amazement. Dr Roberto thought the UFO was about 4½ m. in height and, 3 m. wide, while his wife thought it was at least 5 m. in height and 6 m. in diameter. It was totally silent, and both witnesses agree completely as to its shape (see sketches).

After the lengthy period of observation of the object (Dr Roberto thought "at least one hour" while his wife thought it was nearer to 1½ hrs), it slowly moved away north-westwards towards the town of Salto de

Pirapora.

While both witnesses agree that it remained suspended over the same area throughout the sighting, they are in disagreement on one point, inasmuch as Dona Regina Clara thinks that she observed it to be *spinning*, while her husband did not have this impression.

A rapidly pulsating red light (just like those on Brazilian ambulances) surmounted it, while along a central band a series of circular windows were lit from within with a pale yellowish light. The bottom point of the "spinning-top" also carried a light, which was emitting successive pulsations of green, red, and yellowish tones. Dona Regina Clara says that both the upper portion of the object (above the row of windows), and the lower part, were spinning in a clockwise direction, but Dr Domingos says he did not notice this, nor did he observe the colours so well, for



it was sundown, and this meant that the visibility was not too good. There was, however, a perfectly clear sky.

Although the event is recalled to have been in June 1979, they do not remember the precise date.

Both witnesses estimate that the object was poised above a spot only six metres from where they stood in their backyard (see photographs), and they estimate that its height above the ground was no more than six metres also when the object finally moved away.

An additional interesting feature mentioned by the witnesses is that there is not only the Sorocaba Airport in the near vicinity (300 m. or so) but there is also a broadcasting transmission tower on Ipanema Hill, about 5 kms. from where they were standing. It is also interesting to note that a lawyer residing nearby, Sr. Carlos Barbosa, reported that he had experienced interference on his TV set at precisely that time.

Dr Domingos sent me an account of this sighting shortly after it had occurred. A lady who is a draughtsman for Volkswagen cars in São Paulo and who is also interested in UFOs, Uti Siebrecht, came over to visit me in Rio shortly after that, so I asked her to pursue the investigation of the case for me, and

the present report, and her excellent sketches, are the result of her enquiries.



Sra. Domingos points to where huge "spinning-top" hovered above backyard wall.

There is much more that one would have liked to have learned about this incident, so it is unfortunate that we have not yet a taped report of the interview with the couple.

However, Uti Siebrecht's sketches, plus the two sketches by the witnesses themselves, should suffice to show us that, whatever it was that they saw, it was certainly no ordinary little children's spinning-top!

"When I clap my hands near an ordinary housefly, it quickly flies away. I removed the wings from an experimental fly and clapped my hands, but it didn't move. Thus, I conclude that when you remove a house-fly's wings it goes deaf."

**— Roger Mason, New York City
(From OMNI, October 1983)**



Eyewitnesses Dr Roberto Domingos and wife Sra Regina Clara Domingos.

A CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE THIRD KIND ON AN ESTONIAN ISLAND

Heikki Virtanen (Stockholm)

When Swedish-Finnish investigators were able to visit the Estonian Republic recently from Sweden they were given some interesting UFO reports. Part of this material, relating to a Soviet contact case near Pyrogovskoe Lake in the USSR, has already been reproduced in an article by Heikki Virtanen in FSR Volume 28, No. 3. We now give below a further report which was secured by Heikki Virtanen and his colleagues during the same visit. He tells us that the story had to be repeated to him orally and written down very rapidly, so some details may have been missed. As Estonia (population: 1,300,000) has been, since June 16, 1940, under loving military occupation by the greatest imperialistic power (population: 268,000,000) that our planet has ever known, it has, moreover, been necessary to omit certain other details in order to protect the witnesses and the investigators who have been involved. EDITOR

THIS sighting occurred at the end of August 1980. The time was about 6.00 pm. on a Sunday evening, and the eyewitness, a factory worker, was engaged in checking some instruments in the yard of the plant, located on one of the Estonian Islands, when suddenly he caught sight of a peculiar, colourful object standing on the ground about 30 m. from him. The object glittered in different colours, and his first thought was that it must be something that had been forgotten and had been left outside by other employees.

He approached the object (see Fig. 1), but when he was some 20 m. or so from it, he observed that there was a black cube beside it. This cube was about half a

metre in height, and on it was another, smaller cube in which some kind of a 'tube' was rotating. (Fig. 2.) The object which had first caught his attention, as he could now observe, was a cylinder with tapering ends, in which something like "streams" of different coloured lights were moving. The "streams" were the longer the lower they were. Both the object and the two cubes had clear contours.

His first thought after noticing the cubes was that the rotating 'tube' was investigating bitumen. About 20 seconds after he had caught sight of the cubes the upper one began to rotate horizontally, and two holes became visible. Then all of a sudden an orange-