

# A PERSISTANT PROWLER AT SOUSAS

*Nigel Rimes*

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THE *Correio Popular*, local newspaper in the town of Campinas, where I live, carried in its issue for June 9, 1973 the following interesting report about happenings at Sousas, a nearby locality. The report appeared under the headlines: "SUSPENSE IN SOUSAS; 'A BALL OF FIRE'; WAS IT A FLYING SAUCER?"

"A large proportion of the population of the district of Sousas are living in a state of expectancy due, apparently, to a 'ball of fire' — an expression which has been coined to identify what in more scientific terms might be called a 'UFO' — discovered some six months ago by a young bank clerk named Gilmar Aparecido Barijan.

"The 'thing', which is of oval shape and of a bright red colour, has been blamed by a number of the residents for a sudden power failure at the local school on June 7 of this year. At any rate, according to folk who live in the district, the school building was blacked out at the very moment when the 'ball of fire' passed overhead, observed by a number of witnesses.

"Technicians from the CPFL (São Paulo Power & Light Co.) stated, in this connexion, that the failure of the lights at the school was due to the fuses having blown. Even so, the doubt still exists, for there are those who even suggest that the fuses blew *precisely because* the 'thing' was passing over.

## A LONG STORY

"Gilmar Aparecido Barijan, a youth of 16, who was the first to inform the Sousas residents about the 'ball of fire', yesterday told our reporters what has been going on, frequently interjecting, between his statements: *'The thing is following me.'*

"Gilmar, who works for the local branch of the Bradesco Bank, and is also a student at the Manoel Marcondes Machado State High School (the school where the lights failed), told us that he first saw the object some six months ago, hovering over the farm where he lives with his parents. On that first occasion he was unable to discern the shape and colour of the object very clearly, and did not dare to approach it. He thought nothing more of the matter, and just went on leading his normal life — which consisted of eight hours work daily at the bank, his night-classes at the High School, and the journeys to and fro between Sousas and his home, which lies a few kilometres from the town of Joaquim Egidio.

"But his attention was forcibly brought back to the object when, returning home from school one

night in his car, he saw it over Joaquim Egidio. It seemed to be following him, and it only vanished when he entered his house. There he told his parents and brothers and sisters about the thing. He thought it had been about 700 metres from him, and on this occasion it had seemed to him to be shaped like an ordinary globe of the world, and of about the same size as such globes.

"From that moment on, and for the next 25 days consecutively, he saw the same ball of fire every night when on his way home from the classes. During this period he noticed that the trajectory followed by the object was always along the same route, between Sousas and his home, but the object varied a good deal in its appearance, and was alternately either on his right side or his left as he drove home. This was proof that it really was moving.

## A PAINFUL EXPERIENCE

"Gilmar only secured definite—and objective—proof, however, on the night of June 7, during an experience that was quite painful.

"On the night in question he had wanted to convince his sisters that the thing really did exist, so he had taken them with him in the car to the place where he usually sighted it.

"They set out from Sousas at 10.00 p.m., with Gilmar determined to prove his story. When they were a short distance from Joaquim Egidio, they saw the fireball suddenly in the sky. Gilmar says it was about 500 metres from their car. The sisters, Neide and Sueli, quickly discarded their former scepticism and began to insist that Gilmar take them back to Sousas without delay. They had not really expected to see the object, nor to experience such fear if they did so.

"At their insistence, Gilmar prepared to turn back. He put the car into reverse so as to turn round, and at that moment, in the twinkling of an eye, the 'fireball' came straight towards the car, and halted right in front of it for several seconds. Its distance from them now seemed to be about 50 metres. It was of the size of a small car, and was emitting concentric rings of yellow light, thus giving the impression of being enveloped in a circle of fire.

"During the few instants that Gilmar found himself 'face to face with the thing,' as he put it, he was able to make out its elliptical form, and to note the effects that it was producing both on his body and on the car. 'For ten minutes,' he told us, 'I was trying to get the car moving again, because the engine had failed, and all the while I was experiencing

an intense tingling of my skin and a terrific headache.'

"These symptoms have in fact not yet quitted him, although Gilmar was back at work as usual yesterday. As he told us his story there were still signs on his face of the fatigue and strain of the previous day, and he stressed that the experience had been an extremely painful one. Gilmar now says he intends to stay in Sousas, in the house of one of the sisters, for many months to come. 'I don't want to repeat that experience in a hurry,' he said.

#### OTHER CASES IN THE SAME LOCALITY

"Cleuza Aparecido João and Edna Ribeiro, two girl university students, are among other people who have also witnessed the spectacle of the 'ball of fire.' Last Thursday they were returning home at 10.30 p.m. when they saw two men beside the road, looking up at the sky.

"Cleuza slowed down, stopped the car, and both girls got out to have a look at the sky for themselves. To their mingled astonishment and terror they beheld a strange spherical object about 200 metres above the car. The object was bathed in an intense light and really did resemble the customary description given of a flying saucer.

"In their complete surprise, the girls only realized what it was when the 'fireball' started to move, at first horizontally and then vertically.

"A caravan was quickly organized for the purpose of investigating, but by that time the thing had gone too far, and doubts began to be felt as to whether it really had been a UFO.

#### GREAT CURIOSITY AT NIGHT

"At the High School in Sousas however the teachers and students do not seem to share such doubts. They say that they had seen the same phenomenon on the previous Saturday, the object being quite close to them and clearly visible.

"On Wednesday (June 9) when the lights failed in the town, they saw it again, but on this occasion they say it flew over quite fast.

"Intensely curious about the whole business, the students met together after class last night, at 11.00 p.m., and set off in more than twenty cars for the Serra das Cabras hills (the area where Gilmar had his experience). The caravan of cars also included students from the Catholic University of Campinas, in addition to others who had joined in out of curiosity. All hoped to be able to get more precise details about the 'thing,' which some witnesses have described as a 'fireball' while others have called it 'an elongated luminous body.' In everybody's mind is the same question: what is this thing? Is it just an optical illusion, or some physical phenomenon that can easily be explained, or is it indeed a flying saucer?"

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Since that report in the paper there have been further sightings. On the night of June 13 more than fifty people were out on the Serra das Cabras

watching for the "fireball." Gilmar was among them. He has now come out in bluish-red patches all over the body.

At about 1.00 a.m. the object came in sight, far off on the horizon towards the east. It flew about in several different directions, rose and fell vertically, and finally vanished. The witnesses, who include several of my own students, are in agreement that, distant as it was, the object was of about one-third of the apparent size of the full Moon. They also confirm that the colour of the object was bright red, with concentric rings of yellow.

Julio Hadler, my "tame Brazilian scientist," tells me that a fireball of the same type landed on a farm near Jundiai about two years ago. There was apparently no sign of any occupants on it but for three months thereafter nothing would grow on the spot where it had touched down. We do not know whether vegetation is growing there again now, but he will try to find out. (Sousas and Jundiai both lie to the south of Campinas from where I write.)

I will complete this report with translations of two other reports which I have recently seen in the Brazilian press.

#### 1. Landing In Argentina

From the *Notícias Populares* (São Paulo), June 13, 1973:

"Two people were frightened by a flying saucer in the Argentine town of Oriente, near Mar del Plata. The authorities went to the place indicated and found that the vegetation was all scorched, as though burnt by fire, at the spot where the saucer had reportedly landed.

"A farmer claims to have been the first to spot the saucer. He then drew it to the attention of a young man, *who had stopped to see what was wrong with the engine of his car.* (My italics,—N.R.)

"At first all they could see was an intense light, then suddenly they perceived an enormous, wingless, disc-shaped object.

"All the witnesses agreed that it took off straight up, and vanished towards the South.

#### SHOWER OF SULPHUR

"UFOs have recently been seen in several areas of the Brazilian States of São Paulo and Paraná. Indeed countless people have been seeing them, for many years past.

"The most frightening case to date in the State of São Paulo took place on December 18, 1954, some 20 kms. from Arealva. An object passed overhead, and soon afterwards a thick cloud formed, which precipitated a liquid in the form of a rainshower. It had a powerful sulphurous odour. There was a general panic, and a number of persons had their clothing burnt by the sulphur.

"On the following day, all the roofs of the town were yellow. The local doctor sent samples of the yellow substance to a specialized institute. The result of the analysis was never made known."

#### 2. Blood-Sucker in Brazil

"A number of São Paulo newspapers reported on

June 13, 1973, that an enormous, mysterious monster has caught no less than eleven pet dogs in the town of Osasco and has sucked each one dry of blood. The municipal veterinarian, who examined the bodies of the dogs, said that there was not a drop of blood left in any of them, and that he had never seen anything like it in his whole career.

"In each case the throat of the dog had been torn out and the jugular vein exposed.

"Several people claim to have seen the 'vampire,' and describe it as a 'huge dark shape.'

"During the previous night, June 12/13, there were seven major fires in the city of São Paulo."

## DID A UFO LAND IN THEIR FRONT GARDEN?

A new physical trace incident reported from South Africa

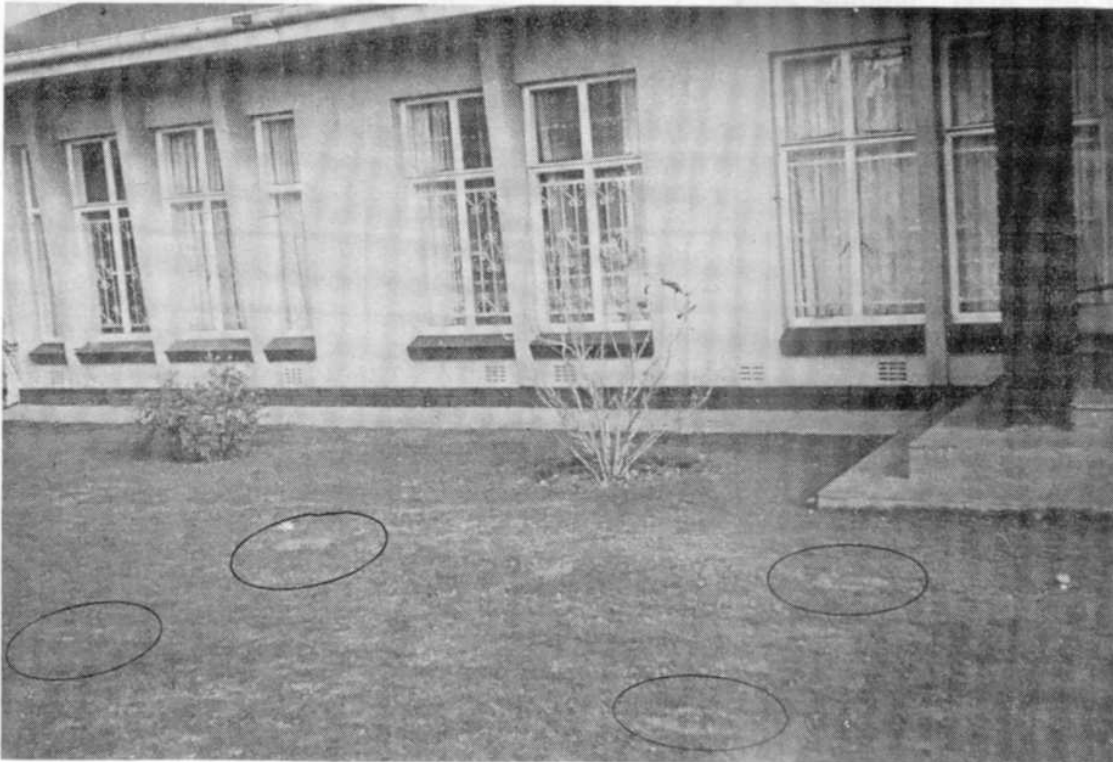
*Ivan Clark*

THIS is an interesting report of an incident which at first was explained away, not surprisingly, in the following terms: "...Oh, someone probably just parked their car on the Krugers' lawn." At first glance it did look as though this might be a reasonable explanation, but on closer examination it became clear that this was probably not the case.

It all started on April 30, 1973, at about 3.30 a.m. in the house of Mr. and Mrs. Kruger, of Queenstown, Cape Province. These good people were awakened by excessive light in their bedroom. Mrs. Kruger woke first, and stated later that she had heard a noise like a jet aircraft in the distance. She paid no more attention to it, but both of them were aware that the room was lit up more than it usually is by the street lamp outside. Nevertheless it did not occur to either of them that anything unusual was happening outside.

It seems that after a while Mr. Kruger got up to make coffee for his wife and himself as they could not sleep. After drinking their coffee they were unable to sleep any more that night. The bedroom curtains are thick and heavy, and neither husband nor wife observed a light source outside; in fact they said they felt no inclination to look outside at all. Mr. Kruger states that the excess of light must have lasted for some ten minutes.

Next day, while watering the front lawn, Mrs. Kruger noticed four marks on the grass just outside their bedroom window; the grass was light brown. When I visited the house later, I took a good look at the grass and marks myself. I could see that the grass in the marks was "dead" but not burnt. The marks could be described as being of a squared oval shape, with dimensions about 23 cms. by 15 cms. Together they formed a rectangle 3 metres by 1.5



Photograph taken 20 days after the "landing" showing "pad marks," which are ringed to distinguish them from post marking, which occurred subsequently.