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* T O P S I D E *

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Tepawé
June 1960

THE VANISHING ACT

by W. B. Smith

There have been many well authenticated reports of flying saucers suddenly vanishing, and a few where they have as suddenly appeared. There is little doubt that the phenomenon does take place but we are most perplexed for a satisfactory explanation.

Head Layne of B.S.R.A. has suggested that the craft materialize from one dimension and dematerialize into some other dimension, but since we know so little about this process proffering it as an explanation seems like begging the question. There is a great deal of evidence to support the fact of the dematerialization phenomenon in a general sense, but our understanding of it is so inadequate that we are not really entitled to comment.

Cramp and Michel have suggested that possibly high speed and rapid accelerations might be an explanation, but again there are difficulties. Even a high speed shell from a big gun can be seen if the observer is favorably situated. Also, high speeds and large accelerations imply large expenditures of energy, and even if the energy itself poses no problem, equipment to handle and control it most certainly does. All the information on the structure and equipment of flying saucers points away from any great aggregation of such equipment, and we are left with the conclusion that it is skill, rather than brute force which is involved.

There is an increasing amount of evidence indicating that Time is not quite what we have assumed, and that it is related to a field condition rather parallel with electric and magnetic fields. If we are prepared to accept Time as a variable quantity, and that it can be controlled we can see how this vanishing trick is worked, because it is indeed a trick. When the magician makes an elephant apparently vanish from the stage, he usually does it with mirrors and lighting. The audience continues to look at where the elephant last appeared to be, but sees instead a reflection of the curtains, and therefore think that they are looking through the space recently occupied by the elephant when in reality they are looking around it.

If a flying saucer is parked in a meadow with a background of trees, and arranges things so that there is less time close to the ship than more remote from it, light will be bent towards the ship, because the wave front will find that the side next to the ship has less time and therefore can't go as far as the side away from the ship. Light being reflected from the trees and passing close to the ship to reach an observer will bend around the ship, much as light is bent in passing through a lens, and the observer who is accustomed to thinking that light always travels in straight lines thinks that the image of the trees has come to him directly through the space occupied by the saucer, whereas in reality it passed around the saucer, and the saucer to all intents and purposes was rendered invisible.

It is true that there will always be a little residue of core made up of light which came directly from the saucer along the same path as the light from the trees, but the effect is precisely the same as if the saucer were viewed through a strong concave or reducing lens, and it would appear to be so small as to be inconspicuous and would not be noticed.

An acute observer might be able to detect the presence of the saucer, either through locating the tiny image, or through noticing the apparent increase in distance from himself to the background in the direction of the saucer, since the light passing near the saucer would have to travel a little farther than the light passing at a greater distance. If the observer were in motion while this latter observation were taking place he would note that an area of background would seem to recede as if it were painted on a backdrop and the backdrop had a wave in it.

Since it is rather apparent that saucers do make use of field manipulation for their support and propulsion, it is not unreasonable to carry this one step further and assume a control over the time field, particularly since this offers such an elegant explanation for what would otherwise be an inexplicable phenomenon.

THE BELLS CORNERS MYSTERY

by W.B. Smith and
J. R. Buchanan

Bells Corners is a small village and rural centre about five miles west of Ottawa. The area south west of the village is largely bush and swamp, with a few meadows interspersed, and is practically uninhabited, except for a few farmers who have built their homes fronting on the highways. One of these small holdings about a mile and a half south of Bells Corners is held by Mrs. Couturier and her family, who live in a large rectangular shaped house set well back from the highway. The land immediately surrounding the house and up to the highway is cleared but behind the house is a bush land running into swamp. Across the swamp and about a mile west is an abandoned farm with the barn still standing and reasonably serviceable, with a couple of meadows nearby which were originally fields.

During the week of August 18, 1958, exact date impossible to determine, at about 10:45 p.m. E.D.T. Mrs. Couturier glanced out of her window and noticed a patch of bluish light from some unexplained source in the yard about twenty five feet south from the house. She immediately put on a black house coat and went out into the yard to investigate. Her son who lives on the ground floor of the same house also came out to investigate. Although Mrs. Couturier walked right up to within a couple of feet from the light; her son remained near the corner of the house, urging extreme caution.

Mrs. Couturier said that she saw within the patch of light what appeared to be a small person lying face down on the ground with the face tilted so that she could see the eyes but not the lower part of the face. She described the head as perfectly round and about the size of that of a six year old child, with short cropped rather dark blonde wooly hair on top. The chin appeared to be very white and without blemishes or markings. She was unable to see if there were nose, mouth or ears, but she did note that the eyes were quite large, round and seemed to be faceted and jewel-like. She was unable to determine the source of the light but gained the impression that it came from the eyes.

At this point and after looking at this being for about a minute Mrs. Couturier's son became so insistent that she left the vicinity and to satisfy him returned to the house and when she looked out the window the light was gone and since there was no moon nothing further could be seen. Although Mrs. Couturier says that she was not frightened, her son apparently was terrified, otherwise a further investigation might have been made at the time. Subsequently she told this story to various friends but was met with frank disbelief.

This story came to our attention on February 16, 1960, following a short TV program on flying saucers over the local station, when Mrs. Couturier phoned the station and told her story. Heavy snows in the area prevented any investigation until May first. On this date she was interviewed on tape and the grounds looked over. She pointed out the place where the being was seen, which was marked by an irregular area of dead grass about 3 ft. by 1 ft. She also pointed out where small unexplained foot prints had been seen in the snow last March, the line of which was projected to the vicinity of the old barn mentioned above. The foot-prints were described as being about what a six year old child might have made but sideways, and fairly close together as if the person had paced along sideways.

It is unfortunate that the foot-steps were not reported at the time they were noted, since some investigation might have been made at the time in spite of the heavy snow. However, Mrs. Couturier is strongly of the opinion that the being, whoever or whatever he is, is still in the neighborhood. A superficial search of the three or four square miles of bush and swamp back of the Couturier house failed to yield any tangible evidence of either a space craft or a possible occupant or alien being, but the terrain is such that a small army could hide out with little or no chance of casual detection. Mrs. Couturier has promised to advise immediately of any further developments in the area.

U.F.O. SIGHTING - 1897

by Don Hughes

The February issue of "Stag" magazine presented a "pre-airplane" era report of a UFO sighting which was witnessed by a large number of people.

The object sighted was described as being cigar-shaped, with stubby wings and was over 200 feet long. It was also sighted at night and showed flashing coloured lights. It swept over a small town named Sisterville (state unknown) at night and shone search lights down at the houses while the inhabitants of the town watched. This was on April 9, 1897.

It was seen for seven days at different places on the route from St. Louis, Miss. to Denver, Colorado.

Consider it a significant report as there were no man-made objects to confuse the issue.

UNSOLVED AERIAL MYSTERY

The Almonte Gazette
April 28, 1960

Mr. W. B. Bolger of Clayton was in the Gazette office one day last week and had with him a number of strips of tinfoil which he said had come down from the air. He and several others saw them descending and picked them up from the ground or in the branches of trees. They may have come from an airplane or may have come from hundreds of miles away borne on the wind. So far as he knew there had been no planes over that part of the country recently.

A sample was examined, a strip approximately one foot in length and one quarter of an inch wide. It was found similar to the "chaff" or "window" material used in Radar exercises. Aircraft spreading this material can well fly at altitudes such as not to be heard or noticed.

LOOK ON PLANETS MORE THAN LIKELY

by The Montreal Gazette

Ottawa, Nov. 19 - C.P. - A number of eminent astronomers consider that there must be many millions of planets in the universe suitable for the support of life such as on earth, Dr. William Petrie said tonight. Dr. Petrie, superintendent of the Defence Research Board's operational research group, was delivering the second in a series of lectures on space science at Carleton University here. He said a remarkable fact about the galaxies - the solar system in which the earth whirls is only a tiny part of one galaxy - in that they appear to be moving away from the earth no matter in what direction one looks. It is generally agreed

... the universe is expanding and that the galaxies are rushing away from each other. If one works backward from the measured speeds, it appears that about 1,000,000,000 years ago the material of the universe was packed together much more closely than it is at present. If so, there would be many collisions taking place between individual stars and groups of stars during this period. It is likely that our earth and other planets were formed during this distant era and it is also likely that many other stars acquired planetary systems. A number of eminent astronomers consider that there must be many millions of planets in the universe suitable for the support of life such as our own. Dr. Petrie said the region of the solar system will keep earth's spacemen busy "for a good long time". It was a big jump from the sun and planets to even the closest star. The distance to the sun was about 93,000,000 miles and to the nearest star about 280,000 times this distance. Dr. Petrie said the stars which can be seen by eye or telescope belong to a large system called the galaxy, which is shaped somewhat like a cartwheel and has a diameter of 80,000 light years. One light year is six trillion miles. The "galaxy" comprises about one billion stars. The sun and the planets occupy an insignificant position near the edge of this assembly. More than 100 star-clusters have been recognized in the "galaxy" and each may contain 500,000 stars. But the galaxy itself is only a "local system", Dr. Petrie said. Space included an enormous number of other galaxies or "island universes". The nearest is some 150,000 light years from the earth, the more distant hundreds of millions of light years away. The number of galaxies seen with a 200-inch telescope was estimated at several hundred million. Galaxies tended to cluster and form groups with as many as 500 members. Several thousand of these clusters have been recorded. "The mind does not appreciate the magnitude of these figures", Dr. Petrie said.

FOUR SEE 'SAUCERS' OVER SARNIA, ONTARIO

The Montreal Gazette
February 23, 1960

Sarnia, Feb. 22-C.P.- Four men and a woman told reporters they saw five circular objects whirling across the sky early last night, which sounded "like whirling dynamos" and hovered for a few minutes before disappearing. P.C. Bart, a CNR employce said they were definitely not helicopters and that their sound was not like any familiar ground sound. He said he saw the white objects moving in formations on two levels. Each had a beam of light that shone to the ground like a giant flashlight. Mrs. Helma Ballentyne, who works for the Grand Trunk Western Railway restaurant said she first heard a sound "which I know wasn't a plane". The sound hovered, I thought, right over me for several minutes before it went away." Mr. Bart made his report to the CNR (Canadian National Railways) terminal crew at 5:20 p.m. E.S.T., that he had seen several "queer objects" in the sky west of the Modeland side road and east of the main CNR station.