

THE THING THAT GOT INTO THE HOUSE

Jennie Zeidman

LYNN M. is 31 and single, an extremely attractive young lady who is a doctor of medicine, currently in residency in haematology at the Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. She describes herself as a "night person"; most alert and at her best intellectual and physical capabilities in the "wee hours". She has a long history of ESP communications with her younger married sister, and it was from her sister (with whom I work) that I first heard of Lynn's experience. I met and interviewed her in February 1980.

On a Saturday night in June 1979, the two ladies were house-guests of their parents in Bordman, Ohio, an upper-class suburb of the industrial city of Youngstown. The occasion of the week-end gathering was the wedding of a cousin. As usual when spending the night, Lynn slept on a sofa in the "family room", a lounging area extension of the kitchen of the large and comfortable "ranch" home (a common one-storey style of architecture in America). The time was about 3 a.m. The others of the household had long retired. Lynn had been watching a film on the TV — a boring romantic adventure — and had decided that although she was still not sleepy, she had better turn in so as to be ready for the festivities of the following day. She turned off the TV and was half reclining on the sofa.

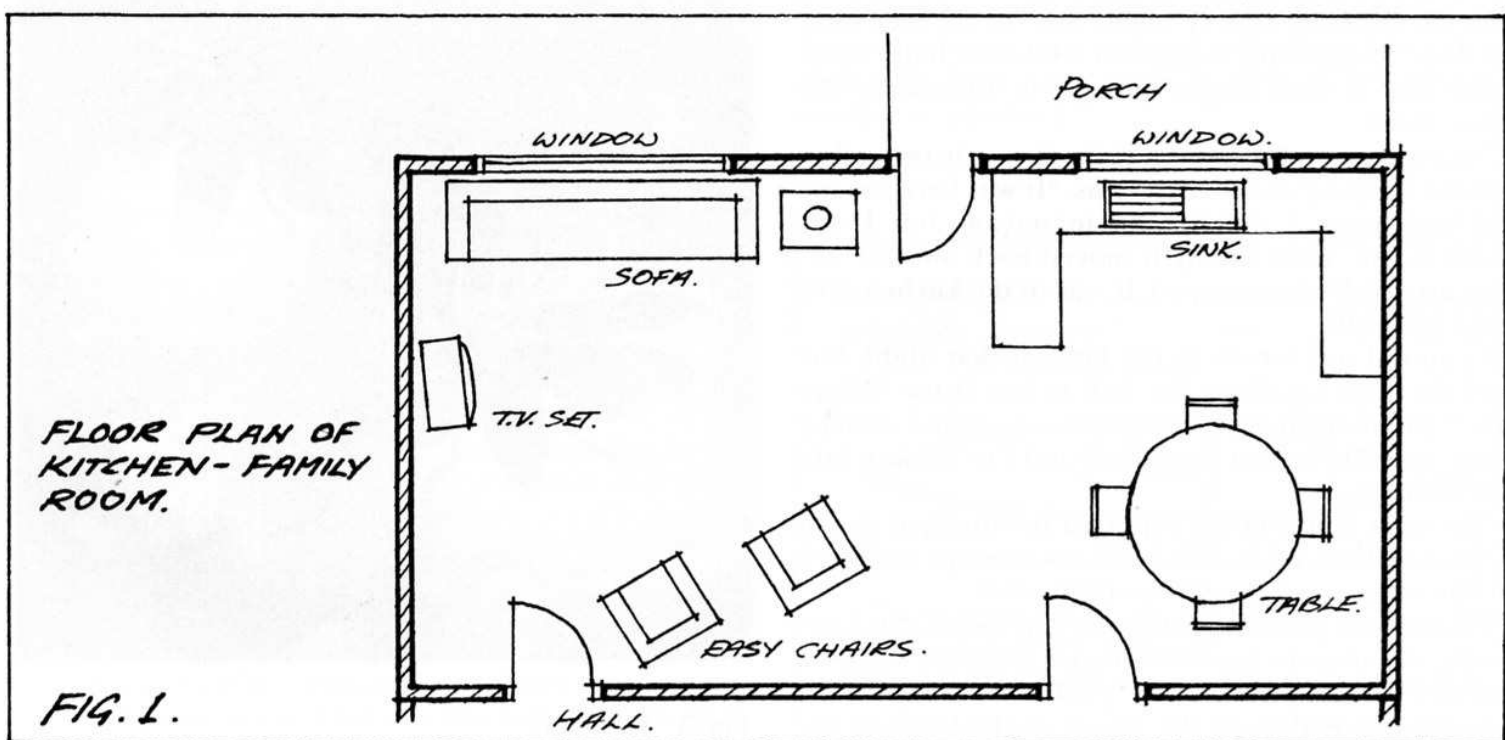
June in Ohio can be quite warm. The house central air conditioning was operating and therefore all doors and windows were firmly closed. The sofa backed against a large permanently sealed window facing

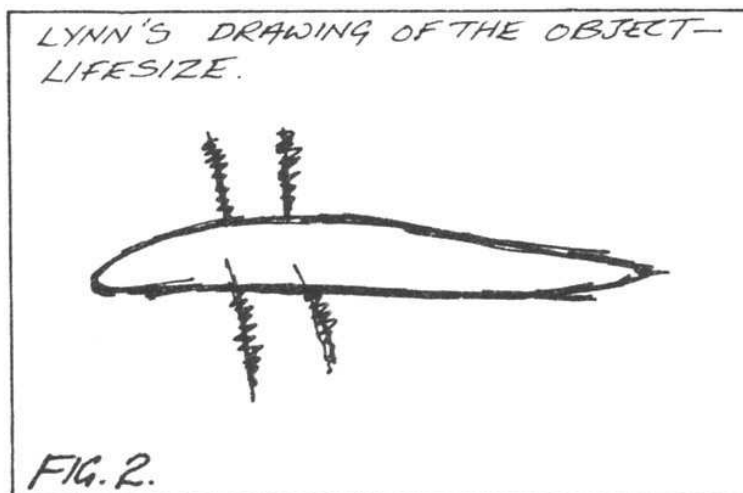
west onto a small park-like glade. The night was calm, with no storms or electrical activity about. The draperies were open.

Suddenly Lynn became aware of a flashing light, originating, she was certain, from outside the house just under the soffit, or roof overhang. "A firefly," she thought immediately. The little insects are common in Ohio in early summer, and she was totally familiar with their appearance and behavior.

The light flashed again. No, it was not a firefly; it was much too bright, illuminating quite an area, reflecting from the soffit around it. The object emitting the light was much too large, and the light itself, although yellow-white like a firefly, did not evince the firefly's brightening-dimming luminosity curve. It was either *on* — "as bright as a 60-watt bulb" — or it was *off*, with no intermediate variation in luminosity.

The young physician sat upright, watching with increasing curiosity. *The flashing object appeared to come through the window pane into the room*, crossing in front of her, not more than three feet from her face. It still had some of the characteristics of an insect — she was unwilling to relinquish the firefly hypothesis — but now, because of its size, it looked more like "the fuselage of a dragonfly"; no real wings, no real head, yet somehow still insect-like in appearance. Then, as it crossed over her legs and out into the room it took on a flat, two-dimensional aspect. Now, instead of an insect in size and configuration it resembled a large





paper-clip “trombone” held at arm’s length. There seemed to be two sets of wires extending from top and bottom.

The dog, who had been sleeping beside the sofa, suddenly rose and became alert. Lynn, who at first had thought simply “how bizarre”, was now aware of her increasing fear. (Perhaps that was what the dog responded to). Still trying desperately to fit the apparition into a firefly, she watched it intently. When it flashed it was stationary in the air, as opposed to a firefly’s usual upward soaring flight while illuminating. The light emanated from the entire object, not from a specific location on the object (a firefly’s light is clearly in it’s tail). When the light was “off”, the object was not visible, even though there was a fair amount of diffused light in the room from an adjacent hallway. The object in no way appeared interested in Lynn or her dog, its movements and flashing were at random, with the flashing usually about four to six feet from the floor. Comparing it again to a 60-watt bulb, Lynn noted that it was bright enough to illuminate the entire room.

Now she was afraid to move — it was between her and the doorway to the bedrooms. “It was between me and both exits. I didn’t want to scream, but I was afraid to run. Then finally it moved back into the kitchen area. I think it stopped. It was in the kitchen area and I took off”.

Lynn did not return to the kitchen that night. She (and the dog) ran down the hall to her sister. “Move over,” she nudged her sister (who was sound asleep). “I saw something that scared me and I’m coming into bed with you.”

The next morning she reported the incident in full at the breakfast table, but made no attempt to search for the object or for evidence of its visit.

I found two points of particular interest in this case. Firstly, the object’s appearance and behavior suggests that of a remotely controlled “probe” or “device”. Yet the physical reality of the object is doubtful: it ap-

peared to pass through the window glass and it remained invisible while not illuminated. My physics consultants tell me that it is highly improbable that Lynn observed a ball-lightning type of phenomenon, which would more likely have rolled or bounced along the floor in near continuous or sputtering illumination.

Secondly, although I am not a behavioural scientist, I found myself concerned over Lynn’s emphasis upon the wedding and the family gathering. It occurs to me that perhaps she *needed an event of her own* to compensate for the attention that others were receiving. I remember quite well that when I consulted Dr. Leo Sprinkle about a minor UFO experience I had had in 1968, he suggested that perhaps I had “needed” the experience as “an excuse” to fly to Evanston to visit Dr. Hynek! (Which indeed, I had done!)

These comments in no way detract from my conclusion that Lynn’s event (as well as my own) each constitute valid UFO experiences, and I am looking forward to increased attention by behavioural scientists to possible emotional motivations as triggering mechanisms in UFO percipients. And one mystery then leads to another: if UFO experiences are emotionally triggered, how is it possible that whole groups of individuals, or geographically separated individuals, report the same event?

A SIMILAR CASE IN BRAZIL IN 1962?

According to Dr. W. Buhler’s SBEDV Bulletin No. 26/27 (April-July 1962), page 9, an almost identical

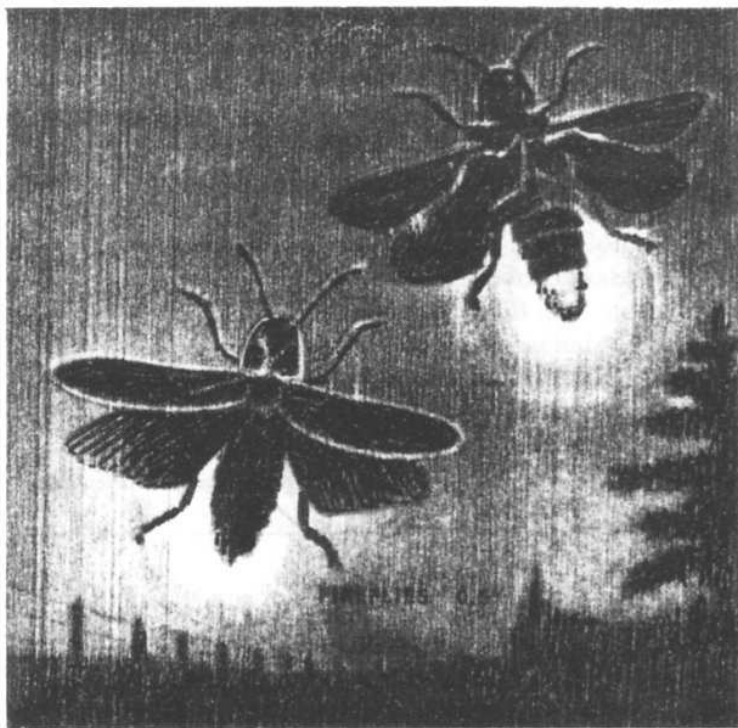


Fig. 3 Fireflies

'object' was seen inside a house in Rio de Janeiro on the night of January 16, 1962. Dr. Buhler seemed to think that what was seen was a "microsaucer" spy-beam, or a "focused radar beam" from a UFO, and the accompanying sketches show that what entered the house was a "slender, luminous, submarine-like object about 40-50 cms. long." Dr. Buhler interviewed the lady of the house and her two maids, and I give below a digest of his report:-

"The 21-year old maid, Dina, was standing near the open dining-room window when the object came in through it and flew swiftly past her at a height of about 1 m. 50 from the floor and headed towards the open door leading to the adjoining room where the lady of the house was sitting and having a telephonic conversation with a friend. She suddenly broke off the conversation, saying: 'I have to stop now as something very bright has come into the apartment.'

A second maid, named Luisa, was near the door between the two rooms; she saw the object flying straight towards a wall tapestry concealing the main electric switch, and the employer, who had now broken off her 'phone talk, saw it too. However the object did not strike the wall, but reversed course quickly. Luisa interpreted this scene as an explosion in the main switch and she cried out in alarm.

Meanwhile the object, still at the same height of about 1 m 50 cms from the floor, was now heading straight for the telephone and the lady beside it. Arriving right in front of her, it stopped, showing itself to her from the broad side. As she watched, she thought she saw it contract rapidly in length by a few centimetres, twice, and then at once revert to its length of about 40-50 cms.

She was able to observe it well, and said its thickness seemed to be about five centimetres. Its central part was of an intensely bright bluish colour, with a "crystal-like, faceted-like irradiation at its pointed extremities". (See sketch.) At this point she and the two maidservants heard a 'click'. Above and in front of the lady there was a three-bulb electric light chandelier. One of these bulbs (40-candle, 110 volts, pear-shaped) was subsequently found to be burnt out, and the 'click' was naturally related by them to this.

An interesting thing they discovered was that a tiny area (4 mm. x 10 mm.) of the surface of the (opaque) ruined bulb was quite transparent.

Opposite the lady was an open door leading off to a bedroom. The 'object' rapidly passed through the door but came out again from the bedroom (maybe, suggests Dr. Buhler, "because the windows of the bedroom were all closed?").

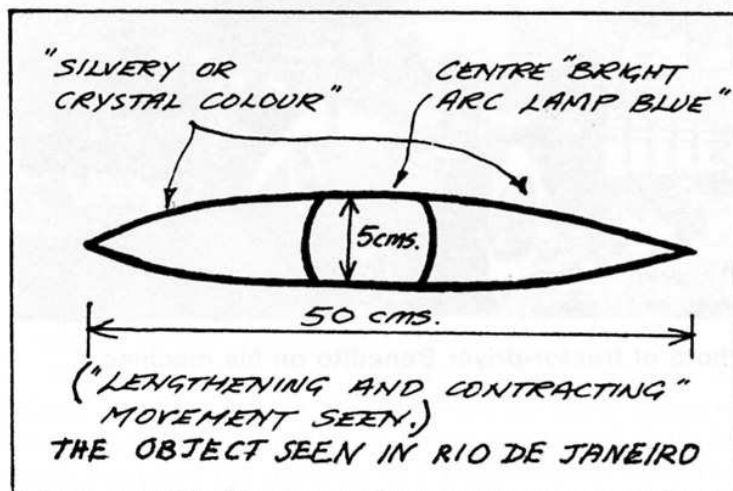
The 'object' next headed down a short corridor leading to the bathroom, the large windows of which were open. That was the last they saw of it,

as its glow was no longer visible in the corridor, and the inside of the bathroom could not be seen from where the three eyewitnesses were. The 'object' had covered a trajectory of approximately 17 metres inside the apartment, and the lady had observed it during 14 of them. It had been in sight for about 5 seconds.

Only a few minutes before this (it was about 8.00 p.m.) all three percipients had heard an explosion somewhere outside in the vicinity, and neighbours subsequently confirmed this. Some friends also told them later that they had seen a brightness in the sky. When Dr. Buhler discussed the case with another member of the SBEDV Group, the latter said he had also heard that a glow had been seen in the sky that evening. In neither case was the precise position of the glow in the sky given.

When Dr. Buhler was trying to get the lady to recall the exact date of the episode, she suddenly recalled that it "was on the day of the earthquake in Rio". An earthquake was in fact registered at Rio de Janeiro at 11.30 p.m. on January 16, 1962. Writing in the local newspaper *O Globo* of January 19, Professor Diniz Gonçalves was quoted as saying that the quake "may have been connected with the passage of a bolide and accompanying explosions in the atmosphere". A second scientist, José de Andrade Ramos, of the Department of Geology of the Brazilian Ministry of Mines and Energy, thought the earthquake was "related to modifications in the earth's strata".

Clearly there seems to be very good evidence that the 'object' seen inside the Rio de Janeiro apartment had no physical character but was of an electrical, maybe piezo-electrical, nature. Can anyone say whether the same explanation would hold for the interesting phenomenon described by Jennie Zeidman? At any rate the size and general appearance of the 'object' in both cases seem to have been strikingly similar. — (Editor.)



UFONAUTS STUDY A BRAZILIAN FARM

Dr. W. Buhler, M.D.

Translation by Gordon Creighton from Portuguese text in SBEDV Bulletin No. 136/145 (September 1981—April 1982), Rio de Janeiro.

THE newspaper *Vale Paraibano* for November 8, 1979, carried an interesting report signed by their correspondent Camões Filho, with supporting photos by Jandir Aparecido de Paulo, about an extraordinary event that had occurred in August 1978 on the São Pedro Fazenda (Plantation) owned by Sr. Haroldo Araújo de Vasconcelos and located about 5 kilometres from the town of Caçapava Velha (Lat. 23° 07S., Long. 45° 39W. in the State of São Paulo).

The protagonist in the story is the Plantation's tractor driver, Benedito Cristóvão da Silva, nicknamed "Canhoto" ("Caggy-Hand").

On December 10, 1979, our SBEDV investigation team visited the Estate and interviewed Benedito in his home when he arrived back from work at 6.00 o'clock in the evening, and on June 9, 1980, we made a second trip to see him.

Benedito was born on June 25, 1944 and is married and has two children. Strongly built and muscular, he is well accustomed to the hard physical toil on the farm.

There is no electricity where he lives, so he and his family all go to sleep early and are early risers in the morning.

One of his daily jobs is to take cartloads of feed out to the cattle. This is the so-called "Napier grass", which is kept in silos for one or two years and then cut by machine as required.



Photo of tractor-driver Benedito on his machine.

The Event

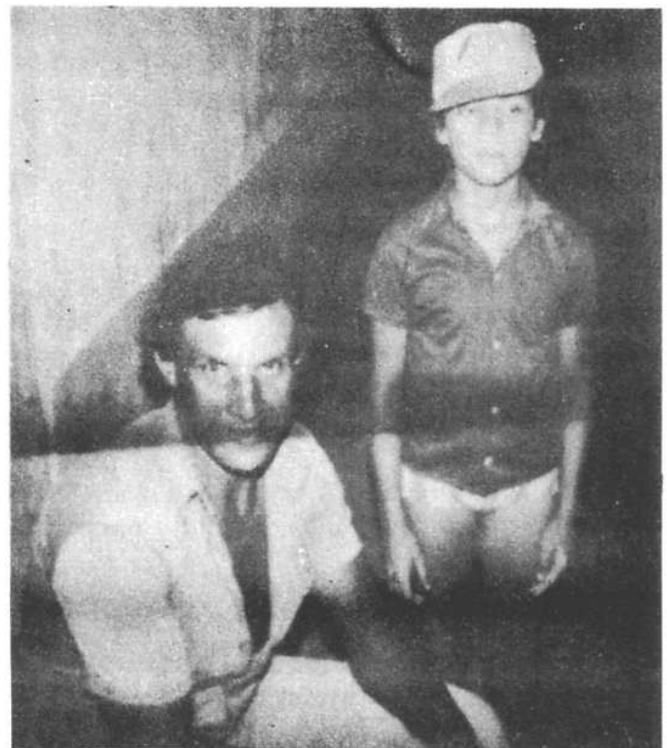
This took place early one Sunday morning during the dry season, in August 1978. Benedito had left his house as usual at about 1.00 a.m. It was a walk of some 15 to 20 minutes to the main buildings of the Plantation. Some 200-300 metres from these stands another building, about 50 m. long, housing various offices and installations connected with the running of the Estate, and in front of this building there usually stands a tractor and a transport trailer attached to it.

He went into this building, as was his daily wont, and put on the lights inside and outside. Then he coupled up the trailer to the tractor, and now noticed that there was an individual seated on top of the trailer. With a lamp that he held in his hand this individual gestured to him to 'start up'.

This individual seemed to be an ordinary human type, about 1.80m in height and wearing an opaque helmet, so that Benedito was unable to see his face.

The individual was wearing an overall-type uniform, of a loose shining sort of material. The light which he was holding in his right hand had a short handle and resembled a car headlamp in size.

Benedito explains that, when this light was directed at him, he found himself in an altered state of consciousness, and semi-subservient. He accordingly went and sat in the driving-seat of the tractor, in accordance with the stranger's signal to 'start her up'.



Benedito with his son.