

ARE THERE UFOs THAT MIMIC?

Part 2

Ann Druffel

Our contributor, who lives in California and whose reports are always welcome in *Flying Saucer Review*, is organiser of Skynet and researches and writes for MUFON in addition to being a member of the Center for UFO studies.

TO those readers who might feel that this writer's preoccupation with the Glendale helicopter case of February 1, 1977, is like beating a dead horse, I offer apologies to both the readers *and* the dead horse. In UFO research, however, the essence of which is comprised of weird events, there occasionally occurs a super-weird incident that simply cannot be filed away. These occasional events worry researchers. They invite more study, and still more study, and any correlation which can possibly be made must be regarded as a clue for eventual solution.¹

We gratefully leave behind the "mimicking" speculation on this case and proceed to what is perhaps the most interesting aspect surrounding the report. I refer to the fact that the cylindrical-shaped object which manoeuvred in a precise orbiting pattern with a helicopter while being viewed from a distance of 300-500 feet by two professional and highly sceptical observers over Glendale, California, was distinctly similar to a well-known Brazilian UFO, which was involved in one of the strangest abduction stories ever recorded.²

On the afternoon of May 4, 1969 (Sunday), José Antônio da Silva was fishing alone on the banks of a small lagoon at Bebedouro, in the municipal district of Matozinhos, Brazil. José Antônio was an enlisted soldier and orderly to the Commandant of a Guards Battalion of the Military Police Force in Minas Gerais. About 3.00 p.m. on the above date, he became aware of figures moving behind him, and without warning was overcome by cramps and numbness in his legs. He was seized by two short entities dressed in shining "suits" and dull-grey helmet-like masks. The entities were soon joined by a third and José Antônio was carried some distance to a "machine", which was standing on a small dirt road.

The machine "consisted of a vertical cylinder joined at the bases by two lenticular or flattened pieces, both of them having a diameter greater than that of the cylinder. From the edges of the upper platform, at regular intervals, ran rods which were set obliquely into the base of the cylinder. In the cylinder was an opening resembling a door, some 1.30 x 0.60 metres in size. The external height of the machine was about two metres, the upper platform being about three metres in diameter and the lower platform, which rested on the ground, being some 2.5 metres in diameter. The cylinder was of a grey colour, and the two platforms were black."

To make a fascinating story very short, José Antônio was taken aboard the machine, the inside of which was quadrangular, each side being about 2 metres long and the height about the same.

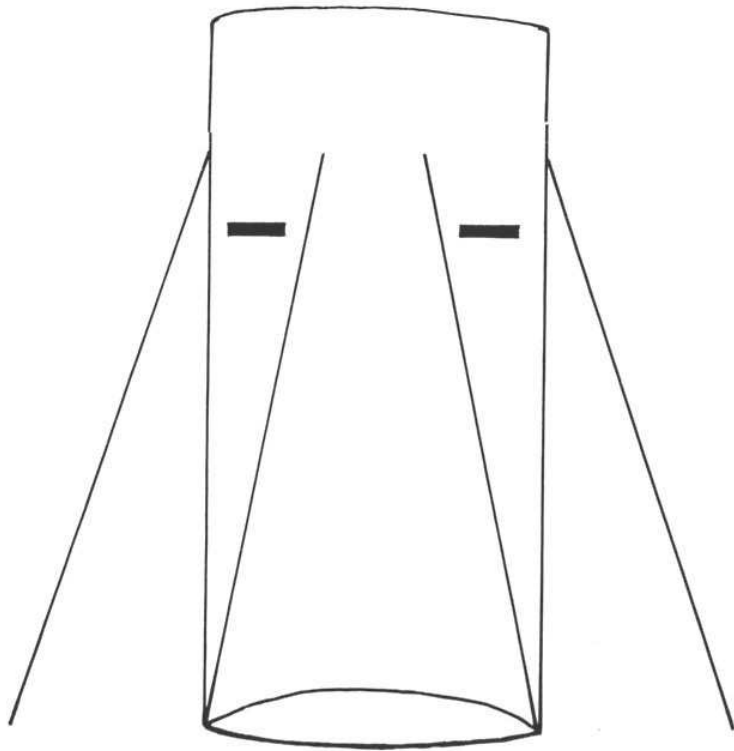
This exact description is quoted from the FSR Bebedouro article to point up the similarities with the Glendale object. The colour and reported height and width were similar.³ Especially the obliquely slanted appendages, which were termed "rods" in the Bebedouro article and "struts" by the Glendale witnesses are so much the same in angle of slant, width and length in proportion to the cylinder as to be truly fascinating. The best way to view these similarities is to compare the two sketches accompanying this article. Sketch A is an artist's impression based on the description given him by José Antônio. Sketch B is a composite of the two sketches made by the Glendale helicopter witnesses. It needs to be explained here that in the February 1977 Mufon UFO Journal article, the second witness' sketch was printed upside down by mistake! In Sketch B accompanying this present article, the *entire* composite sketch is printed upside down, for it is in this way that the correlation with the Bebedouro object is most marked. Even the faint markings seen by one of the Glendale witnesses corresponds with the height and position of the door described by José Antônio.

But is it fair, you might ask, to print a UFO sketch upside down to show correlation with another object? In this case it is more than fair for the following reason.

Continuing the Bebedouro story, the object with its three short entities and its unwilling passenger lifted off the ground and travelled for what seemed to José Antônio an "interminable" time. At about mid-point during the journey, "the machine seemed to rotate on its lateral axis. To illustrate this manoeuvre José Antônio took a tumbler, to represent the central cylinder of the machine, and laid it on its side. The seats adjusted themselves to this new position of the machine, and swung over themselves'. Then, after another lengthy period, the machine and the seats reverted to the normal positions." So when we print our composite sketch of the Glendale object upside down, we are doing nothing different that the Bebedouro object was apparently able to do so.⁴

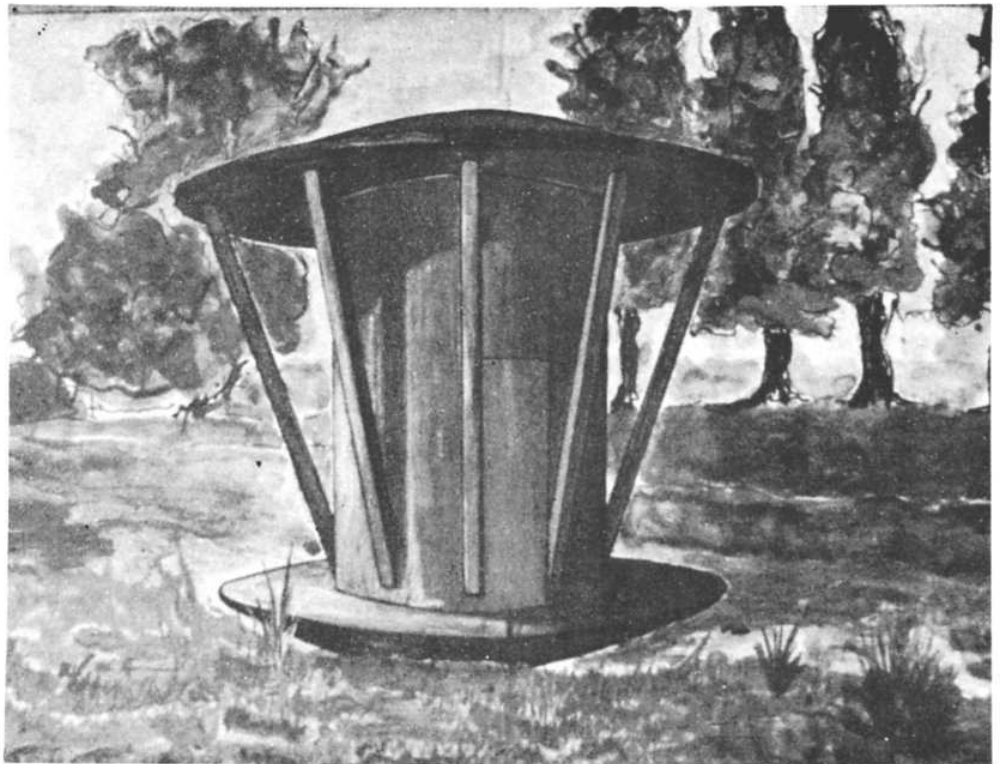
The remainder of the Bebedouro report is not of special correlative value as regards to the Glendale sighting, though the entire FSR article is heartily

recommended to any student of UFOs for its sheer vivacity and degree of strangeness. Our purpose has been served here by pointing up the similarities between the two objects' configurations. The fact that the Bebedouro object had lenticular or flattened platforms on top and bottom need not detract from our correlative study. It is possible that these were actually present on the Glendale object also, but unseen by the two witnesses. The top



Above: Composite sketch by Mrs. Druffel, combining features seen by the two officers in the helicopter. Compare with the drawing of the Bebedouro object. Correlation is even more marked if the sketch is viewed from upside down.

Right: Photograph of a painting by A. F. do Carmo based on the description given by Jose Antonio da Silva of the craft in which he was allegedly kidnapped. This illustration is taken from *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 19, No. 6, November-December 1973.



platform, if actually existent, could have been shrouded in shadow, since the object's bottom light reflected only about two-thirds of the cylinder's height. The lower platform, if actually existent, could have been hidden behind the extremely bright bottom light.

However, another possible correlative factor cannot be ignored. It may be of no importance whatever, or again it may be of tremendous value. Jose Antonio was a Brazilian soldier, and he was informed by his abductors, by means of laborious sign language, that they wished to make use of his military and police knowledge to get samples of human weaponry and other information about the earth for them.

If we consider the fact that the Glendale object encountered and manoeuvred with a helicopter — a sophisticated earth machine — with two professional observers inside, we might be permitted to wonder. If the Glendale object *was* an actual UFO — and not a mistaken hoax balloon — was it seeking another José Antônio to abduct? Or had its occupants, if any, decided to gather their own information regarding earth weaponry and resources?

The Glendale witnesses, when shown the Bebedouro FSR sketch, were impressed with its likeness to what they had seen themselves, but remain completely unaware of any reason for their encounter. There is no evidence that any "message" - telepathic or otherwise — was relayed to them, and of course the 4-5 minute duration of sighting does not permit us to consider any possibility of physical abduction. In fact, the names and occupation of the two Glendale observers were released by *mistake* in the February 1977 *Mufon UFO Journal* and are *not to be used in any further research studies*.⁵ It is a sad note for ufology that the United States, superior as it is in educational advantages and tech-

nology, lags far behind Brazil in its public and official acceptance of the UFO phenomena.

As a footnote to end this study of the Glendale Helicopter sighting of February 1, 1977 it might be of interest to include a short summary of the mini-flap which coincided with it. For an entire month after the helicopter incident was phoned into SKYNET-MUFON on February 2, 1977, residents of Glendale and surrounding communities reported a large number of unexplained objects. There were twenty cases investigated, covering sighting dates from July 4th, 1976, through March 6, 1977 from a relatively tiny area, approximately 11 x 11 miles square.⁶ These cases indicate a local flap of sizeable proportions. Of the reports, one was a CE III with landing, another a possible CE III. The helicopter encounter is regarded as a CE I. At least 7 other reports were puzzling NLs (Nocturnal lights?—ED) of possible scientific value, particularly one situation involving a recurring light which might permit future instrumented study. Five were probable hoax balloons of an unknown type, and another was identified as Venus. The remaining five reports fall into the never-never land between possible UFO and IFO. The flap ended with a rousing landing report, classified CE II which is still being investigated and holds considerable promise of scientific value.

Considering the fact that in this writer's experience, at least, only 2 - 3 percent of ordinary raw data reports turn out to have scientific value, the close encounter cases from this localized flap alone, constitute a 15 percent unexplained, and this figure does not even consider the three or four other NLs which may yet yield pay dirt.

The mini-flap, however, was not altogether a pleasant research experience. It yielded fascinating data, intelligent witnesses, and an astonishing degree of public interest and co-operation. But it also pointed up the abysmal state in which present-day ufology finds itself. The CE III case, for instance, lay hidden for eight months, simply because the witness did not know where to report it. There were alleged physical traces associated with this report which were no longer visible by the time MUFON investigator Vince Uhlenkott was made aware of the case. In another instance, two witnesses to a potentially interesting NL-disc was referred to a UFO-reporting Hotline in Seattle by the local airport, instead of to the police board of an adjacent community which would have relayed the call

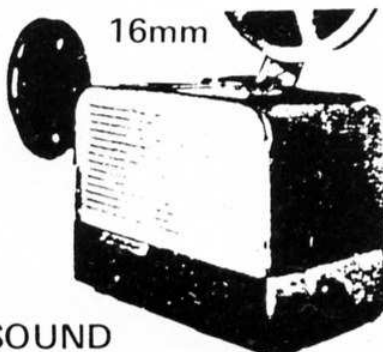
immediately to our SKYNET phones.

Beyond all doubt, the study of this mini-flap, which co-existed with the Glendale helicopter sighting of February 1, 1977, points up the need for organized, funded, and adequately staffed local referral systems, known and used by all official agencies and by the general public.

Notes and References

1. Documented report in MUFON, and CUFOS files entitled "SKYNET log: The Glendale sighting", 23pp.(by Druffel)
2. *Flying Saucer Review* (FSR) Vol. 19, No.6, Nov-Dec 1973, "Abduction at Bebedouro", by Hulvio Brant Alexio, pp. 6-14. [Vol. 19, No. 6, is out of print but this remarkable report is still obtainable in *Encounter Cases from Flying Saucer Review: — ED*]
3. The verbal estimate of height of the Bebedouro object differs somewhat from the FSR sketch, (Figure A). It is in this sketch that the similarities with the Glendale object are most marked.
4. Whether the Bebedouro machine merely reverted 90 degrees back to its original position or actually completed a 180 degree turn in upside down position is immaterial here. The important thing is that the manoeuvre as described suggested that the machine was able to adjust its position radically without normal effects of gravity being felt inside.
5. *Mufon UFO Journal*, February 1977 "UFO Sighted from helicopter," by Druffel, pp. 13-15.
6. Documented report in MUFON and CUFOS files, entitled "SKYNET" Log: Supplement to Glendale Helicopter Sighting, Feb. 1, 1977" (by Druffel). 17 pp. This report reviews only 18 of the 20 cases referred to in this article's statistics.)

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A "FLYING 'MAN' IN BLACK" IN RUSSIA

Vladimir V. Rubtsov

This interesting item was part of an article which appeared in the Soviet popular-scientific journal *Tekhnika-Molodezhi* No. 10 of 1976. The translation from the Russian was by the author, our contributor.

FROM time to time I have the opportunity of reading the splendid and informative journal, *Flying Saucer Review*, and I would like to supplement a report which was published in your Volume 23, No. 6. This is the account of the "flying" humanoid in Puerto Rico.

Several years ago I was in Kislovodsk (U.S.S.R.) where I spoke with a witness of a similar case which she alleges took place in 1936 in Kazakhstan. She was a Mrs. E.E. Loznaya, and her report was recorded. It later formed part of an article of mine which appeared in *Tekhnika-Molodezhi* ("Technics for Youth") 1976 No. 10. Here is her account:

"This event took place in the winter of 1936 in sovkhos (state farm) 'Oktyabrskiy' in the Kazakhstan, Pavlodar region. I was then fifteen. Early in the morning I went to school by a lonely country road.

"It was already light, although the sun had not risen. The weather was fine and it was freezing. Suddenly I caught sight of a dark point moving rapidly in the sky on my left. It came closer, grew larger, and in a matter of seconds I saw a man-like figure dressed in black and seen in profile. The course of its flight formed an angle of about 60° with the road.

"This 'man' was, to my mind, of medium height

his black clothes covered him completely, like overalls. His head (more exactly—something like a helmet) and massive ('square') arms tightly fixed to his body were perfectly visible. I saw no hands and feet. I could see behind his back an oval thing like a rucksack.

"Looking with fright at the 'flying man' I noticed suddenly that he had changed his course and was now flying towards me. When he turned [I saw] his right arm was slightly bent at the elbow. Now the 'man' was seen full face, but I could not examine his features for in place of a face there was just an entirely black surface.

"At that instant I heard an increasing rumble as if it was a flying mechanism and not a living man. By now the distance between us had shortened to about 40 metres. My numb terror had passed and I had turned back in search of shelter but there was none on the snow-covered steppe. I then turned again towards the 'flying man' and ... saw nobody. Maybe he had made an abrupt change in his course, or maybe he had dived in a snowdrift ... but the next moment I was running towards my home.

"This sighting lasted about one minute, but I have remembered it for all these years. I can also add that I have seen no similar sighting, either before or after that occasion."

UFO LEAVES HOLE IN THE SKY

Ken Phillips, former BUFORA National Investigations Co-ordinator, kindly investigated this case for NUFON. It is quite an intriguing one.

OVER Christmas/New Year 1977-78, 62-year-old Edith Lane was staying with her son (36-year-old Derek) at his home in the village of Exhall, Warwickshire. At dusk on December 30, 1977, at about 4.30 pm — a cold day with a blustery breeze but no rain — the sky was quite full of cloud, some fairly low. Here and there were patches of blue.

Derek was just closing the curtains of a window that faces WNW over quite an expanse of open land. Suddenly he caught sight of a brilliant object approaching from the west through the gathering gloom. He called out and his mother, wife (Hazel) and their 14-year-old daughter, Kerrie, all came over to watch. The object was oval in shape and glowing a bright golden colour. It seemed to be about 20 feet in diameter, although it was

probably up to two miles distant. Around its extremities it seemed to shimmer

The object approached across the area of Newdigate Colliery and then stopped over a row of electricity pylons. Here it hovered for several minutes. The witnesses feel that it was in view about 5 minutes.

The object suddenly began to move and accelerated rapidly to a tremendous speed. It moved away westwards, climbing as it did so, and then turned to the north west and was lost to view among the clouds. The strangest thing is, however, that at the spot where it had been hovering there seemed to be a hole in the sky. All the clouds covering a roughly oval space, several times the diameter of the object, had dispersed. This condition remained for many minutes

after the object had gone, despite winds moving the clouds quite noticeably. Then all returned to normal once more.

Ball lightning could be a possible explanation, although there were no storms in the area, and the object seems to have been visible too long, and to have behaved in a manner contrary to known "habits" of this electrical phenomenon. However, the proximity of the power sources makes an electrical phenomenon quite feasible — perhaps a most unusual form of ball lightning? The hole seems attributable to electrostatic forces in the air in the immediate vicinity — in what seems to have been a radius of about 80 to 100 feet around the object. That may be interesting food for thought regarding cases with electromagnetic interference.