

Argentina where the city of Mendoza, right up on the flanks of the Andes, has often figured in UFO reports in recent years. The Buenos Aires illustrated magazine *Gente Y La Actualidad* (September 5, 1968) has an article regarding recent encounters with UFO entities in the Mendoza region, and these are dealt with elsewhere in FSR in a separate article. What struck me as extraordinarily interesting and relevant to the present issue was that the article began by saying that of course UFO sightings in the Mendoza area did not begin recently, but "the history of the UFOs at Mendoza is almost as long as the history of Mendoza itself". For the whole thing started with the earthquake that destroyed the

village of Mendoza (as it then was) during the 19th century. Documents of the period show that some days before the catastrophe strange objects were seen moving through the skies overhead.

And, the article continues, much the same has happened in the years since then, in the present century. For example, ten years ago, inhabitants of the region of Puente del Inca, where a series of avalanches occurred, had reported that strange things were seen overhead some days beforehand. With the passage of time, nobody any longer remembered these things, "until just two months ago, when once again the UFOs showed themselves over Mendoza in a most emphatic fashion and, once again, though

this time without such grave results, a powerful earthquake shook the city, bringing the Mendozans streaming out of the cinemas on to the streets half way through the film."

Sources:

- 1 *Folha da Tarde*, São Paulo, March 23, 1968.
- 2 *Diário de São Paulo*, March 26, 1968.
- 3 *Diário da Noite*, São Paulo, July 7, 1968.
- 4 *Diário da Noite* São Paulo, July 20, 1968.
- 5 *Folha da Tarde*, Pôrto Alegre, August 6, 1968.
- 6 *Correio do Povo*, Pôrto Alegre, August 15, 1968.
- 7 *Jornal do Brasil*, Rio de Janeiro, August 20, 1968.
- 8 *Gente Y La Actualidad*, Buenos Aires, September 5, 1968.
- 9 Letter dated August 30, 1968, to Gordon Creighton from Sr. Jäder U. Pereira. Our thanks and credits to Mr. Nigel Rimes of São Paulo for items 1, 2, 3, 4; to Sr. Jäder U. Pereira of Pôrto Alegre for items 5, 6 and 9; to Mme. Rose-Marie de Argaez of Rio de Janeiro for item 7 (forwarded to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW via M. Aimé Michel); and to Señor Guillermo J. Gainza Paz of Buenos Aires for item 8.

Humanoids encountered at La Baleia

(continued from page 11)

of 2.30 metres and then a sort of lift emerged from its base, almost to the ground. Inside it there was a man, 1 metre 70 centimetres in height, who, approaching, gently drew the witness from his hiding-place and calmed him by stroking his head in a friendly manner. The clothing of the strange being looked like a diver's suit, fitting the body closely; it seemed to be made of plastic. Entering the disc with the entity, the motorcyclist observed that there were five or six men in there dressed in the same manner and sitting in front of panels of instruments. An extraordinary light filled the cabin, and there was a series of square portholes which, strangely enough, he had not been able to see from outside. Then the motorcyclist was escorted out again, towards his machine. His companion placed a hand on his shoulder, as though in a farewell gesture, and then re-entered the lift, which then rapidly rose up into the saucer.¹¹

The Rio Pardo Case¹²

On a night in June 1959, three citizens of São Paulo, hunting alligators on the Rio Pardo river, in Mato Grosso, saw a luminous object approach and stop at a distance of 100 metres from them. It was 60 metres in diameter, with a metallic surface. Slowly a cone was projected from the centre of the under-surface, reaching a length of 40 metres and coming down to 5 metres from the tops of the trees. The sketch made by the investigator Ruppert Kiener shows the projection as being quasi-cylindrical, giving the UFO the general shape of a mushroom.

C. Cases remote in time, in neighbouring areas

The frequency of reports of close approaches or landings of UFOs in the Belo Horizonte area is increasing. CICOANI have been able to document four alleged cases of landings in the urban district of Belo Horizonte from 1963 onwards. The only one that seems to have some correspondence with the Baleia Case is that of Sagrada Familia, "The One-Eyed Man of Belo Horizonte",¹³ which has already been the subject of a special report. This case, according to the statements of the witnesses, involves the presence of four individuals over 2 metres high, one of them walking in the garden of a house. Three children describe the giants as having only one round eye, without any white part (sclerótica), in the centre of the head.

REFERENCE NOTES

- 1 CICOANI Reports, Nos. 257 and 263.
- 2 Report of November 1967 (p. 12) by GEOANI (Group for the Study of Unidentified Aerial Objects, at Itajubá, State of Minas Gerais).

- 3 Review *O Cruzeiro*, Rio de Janeiro, October 7, 1967.
- 4 GEOANI Report (Itajubá) November 1967, p. 12.
- 5 CICOANI Reports, Nos. 254, 255, 258.
- 6 CICOANI Reports, Nos. 260 and 261.
- 7 *A Tribuna*, Santos, September 17, 1967.
- 8 *Diário de Pernambuco*, Recife, October 8, 1967.
- 9 Silvano, Ceccarelli. *Mario Zuccalà's Strange Encounter* FSR Vol. VIII, No. 4 (July/Aug. 1962).
- 10 Albanese, Renato. In *Domenica del Corriere* Milan of October 28, 1962 (p. 24). Creighton, Gordon. *The Italian Scene—Part 1* in FSR Vol. IX, No. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1963), p. 3. Creighton, Gordon. *More News of Siragusa* in FSR Vol. IX, No. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1963), p. 10.
- 11 Bowen, Charles. *A South American Trio* in FSR Vol. XI, No. 1 (Jan./Feb. 1965), p. 19. Creighton, Gordon. *The Humanoids in Latin America* in THE HUMANOIDs (FSR Special Issue, Oct./Nov. 1966), p. 35.
- 12 Kiener, Ruppert. In SBEDV Bulletin No. 51-53 (July/Dec. 1966), p. 12. (Rio de Janeiro. Ed. Dr. W. Buhler.) Creighton, Gordon. *Mysterious Physiological Effects of Flying Saucers* in FSR Vol. XIII, No. 4 (July/Aug. 1967).
- 13 Buhler, Dr. W. *The One-Eyed Space Men of Belo Horizonte*. In SBEDV Bulletin No. 48/50 (Jan./June 1966). Rio de Janeiro. Creighton, Gordon. *The One-Eyed Man of Belo Horizonte* Case No. 30 in *The Humanoids in Latin America* FSR Special Issue, THE HUMANOIDs.

**PERSONAL RECOMMENDATION
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LANDING AT BOTUCATU

By Nigel Rimes

Mr. Rimes, representative of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW in Brazil, is an Englishman who teaches English in Sao Paulo. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1953 to 1958, and has held British and Paraguayan private pilot's licences. In February 1959 he went to Paraguay on a visit and, apart from one trip back to England, has been in South America ever since. His report from Botucatu is another of the excellent and detailed accounts that we are receiving from Argentina and Brazil.

DURING the summer of 1968 two Brazilian newspapers, the *Correio de Botucatu* (July 7) and the *Brazil Herald* (July 17), carried reports that a saucer had landed in broad daylight, in full view of a large hospital, and only a few hundred metres from it, at Rubião Junior, some six kilometres outside the quiet and pleasant little town of Botucatu in the State of Sao Paulo. Botucatu is some 248 kilometres to the north-west of São Paulo, where I live and work, and—an interesting point to note—only 96 kilometres from Baurú, where José Higgins allegedly had a close encounter with decidedly alien beings on July 23, 1947 (see Gordon Creighton's *The Humanoids in Latin America*, Case No. 1, FSR Special, THE HUMANOIDS). Moreover José Higgins' account of the large metallic craft with a rim and standing on curved legs has much in common with the description of what was seen at Botucatu.

The actual date of the Botucatu landing was given as Monday, July 1, 1968, and the machine was said to have been seen in flight by numerous witnesses and in particular by some boys, who watched it take off at about 12.30 p.m., followed by a trail of white smoke in the sky and leaving behind on the ground some clearly visible marks of which the first-mentioned newspaper published a very good photograph.

Having put through a preliminary phone call to the Botucatu paper and secured their confirmation that something unusual had indeed taken place, we made arrangements for an investigatory trip, but we were not able to get away from São Paulo until early on the morning of Sunday, July 21, three weeks from the date of the landing. Our party consisted of Professor and Senhora Willy Wirz of SBEVD, Sr. Geraldo Luciano, and myself representing FSR and SBEDV.

Reaching Botucatu after a five-hour drive, we were given a most friendly welcome at the office of the newspaper, which also operates one of the two local radio stations. Sr. Plinio Paganini, the director of the company, gave us a quick rundown on the story, played us a taped interview with one of the

witnesses, and arranged for the reporter who had originally covered the story to accompany us in our investigations and in our talks with witnesses.

The main witness

The witnesses who saw the landed saucer were three boys who were sitting on the main gate of the large Clínicas Hospital. This hospital, owned by the F.C.M.B.B.,* is at Rubião Junior, some 6 km. to the west of Botucatu. The boys are: (1) Ferdinando, aged 12, son of Captain João Batista de Campos Lima, Commandant of the 6th Independent Company of the Força Pública (i.e. State Police) stationed in Botucatu; (2) Waltinho, aged 11, son of Sr. Walter de Souza, Administrator of the F.C.M.B.B.; and (3) Valentininho or Valcinho, aged 8. While playing and climbing on to the hospital gate, they suddenly perceived an object standing at a spot which, when measured later, proved to be about 350 metres to the west of them. The saucer (a large one "as big as a house": our investigation showed it might have been about 8 metres wide), had a large tripod undercarriage and a ladder reaching down to the ground.

The first reaction of the boys was one of stunned shock, but they started to yell as they saw the machine retract its tripod, ladder, and rise into the air. After a brief vertical climb to the height of a few metres, it made off, over their heads, towards the centre of Botucatu, at high speed, reaching a great altitude after only a few seconds.

The noise and other witnesses

Alerted by their shouts, Senhora Eloá de Souza, the mother of Waltinho, looked out from a window of her house, and saw the saucer, moving at great speed and now completely enveloped in white smoke. Several members of the Hospital staff and one of the teachers in the Faculty of Medicine (attached to the Hospital) also saw it. Most of the witnesses say

* Note (by G. Creighton): I am afraid I do not know what the letters stand for.

that they heard no sound from the craft, but the three boys said there was an extraordinary "tinging sound on a high note" which they found it impossible to describe or to compare with anything known to them.

One of the most impressive of the other accounts given to the newspaper by witnesses was that of a retired lady teacher named Dona Nair de Melo Rodrigues whose home is near the Hospital. For it now transpires that at about 11.50 a.m. on the day in question, that is to say some 40 minutes before the boys were to see the grounded saucer in the Hospital precincts, Dona Nair happened to step outside her house and beheld, flying quite low, "something different from an aircraft, without wings, circular, of a grey colour, with a dome on top and another dome beneath, quite silent, and travelling with its fore-part inclined slightly towards the ground."

Being preoccupied with her housework, the good lady apparently did not pay too much heed to this phenomenon at first, but a little later she observed to her sister, Dona Nazaré: "If I'm not crazy, I tell you I saw a flying saucer!" She thereafter gave no more thought to the matter.

It is of the greatest importance to note that the object seen by Dona Nair was heading precisely towards the Hospital, and we may therefore conclude that it landed and was on the ground there for more than half an hour before the boys saw its departure.

At the time of our visit Dona Nair was away on holiday, but we saw her sister Dona Nazaré, who gave us these details.

Two other witnesses (not named, so far as we could ascertain) were also said to have seen a disc-shaped object pass over Botucatu at about 11.50 a.m. leaving a trail of smoke.

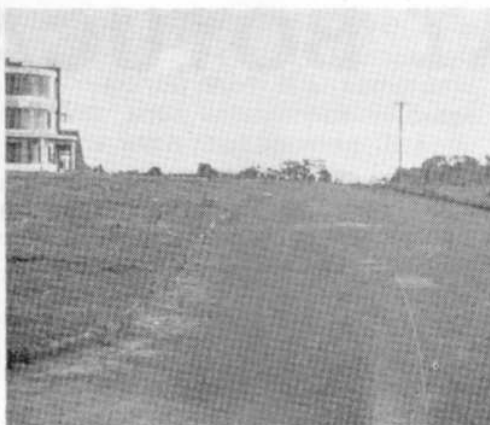
Marks in the ground

We heard of another important piece of testimony that had come from a student named Antônio Alegre (whom, however, we also failed to locate but whom we hope to see when we re-visit Botucatu in the near future). It seems that whereas the three little boys did not actually find



Boys mark pod marks 2 and 3, picture taken facing West.

Note ladder marks centre right.



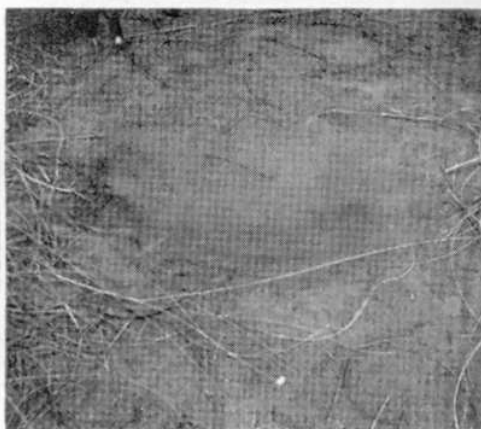
Facing West. General view hospital grounds. Landing site centre camera, on approx. level of boy's eyes.

Children mark the positions of tripod and ladder depressions.



Waltinho centre, Fernandinho right, facing east.

Pod mark No. 2. East.



the marks left by the saucer until early next day, Antônio Alegre examined the spot soon after the machine had gone. As he told the authorities and the newspapers, he found marks, forming an isosceles triangle, with two sides measuring roughly 6 metres and the third side 7 metres. (We measured for ourselves and found the sides actually to be 6.8, 7 and 5.45 metres, as shown in my sketch, Fig. 4). The student said that the marks as he found them were deep and could not possibly have been made by any manual instruments.

When we called upon Captain Lima of the Police (father of the eldest boy, Fernandinho) we learnt that Captain Lima had told the reporters that the boys had been badly shaken by their experience, to such an extent indeed that, for a while, they had seemed to lose all notion of time. For the whole of the rest of the day they were nervous and apprehensive, and their parents were all worried about it.

When we arrived at Captain Lima's residence we found two of the boys there, namely his son Fernandinho and Waltinho de Souza. In the short interval before Captain Lima's arrival I was therefore able to question the boys myself. Fernandinho I found

most co-operative, but at one point I began to wonder whether Waltinho had not been told to keep quiet about their experience.

Descriptions of the object

The first thing that I did was to sketch six different types of UFO (see Fig. 1). Both boys promptly identified type No. 1 as corresponding to what they had seen. And this is well borne out by Fig. 2, which is a drawing that had already been made by Fernandinho for his father on the evening of July 1, the day of the sighting.

Both boys agreed that the saucer was of a shining grey colour and that the luminosity came from the machine itself and was not reflected sunlight. Fernandinho said that the only sound he had heard was the high-pitched "ting-ting-ting", but I had the feeling that the other boy, Waltinho, had not actually heard this sound himself.

Unquestionably the most interesting point made by these two boys was that, just before the take-off, the cupola of the saucer opened up, "splitting down the middle, and the halves sliding to each side", revealing a brilliant white light. The cupola closed again almost immediately, as soon as the craft had left the ground, but the cupola still

continued to glow white. The underside of the craft emitted a reddish glow.

Captain Lima himself then gave us his full account of the whole affair, as he had managed to piece it together. As mentioned above, he described in detail the psychological reactions of the boys after their experience. The account that he gave us corroborated in all respects the version given by the reporter of the local newspaper.

At the landing site

Captain Lima accompanied us on our next visit, which was to the Clínicas Hospital. We found that the spot where the saucer had stood was some 350 metres from the main gate on which the boys had been sitting. The spot (see sketch) lies on the edge of an area of level ground right in front of the hospital building, which is three storeys high and about 100 metres long. There is a line of eucalyptus† trees which runs from north to south, and the saucer had landed in a gap in this line of trees. The soil at the spot was sandy but hard packed, except for the surface dust, and covered with sparse coarse grass. No scorch-marks were visible to us, but of course three weeks had elapsed. Captain Lima told us however that on July 3, two days after

the landing, "a smell of gunpowder still pervaded the area".

By this time the site had been visited by a large number of people. Nevertheless, the marks of the tripod landing-gear and the ladder were still clearly visible (see Fig. 4), though the ladder-marks were much impaired. The land slopes away slightly towards the north at this point, with a drop of 20 cm. in 7 metres. The clearest of the three landing-gear "pod-marks" was the one at the lowest point, i.e. towards the north. We found it to be 30 cm. in diameter and 5 cm. deep at the centre. The foot of the "pod" was not exactly round, but was slightly conical. The soil in the base of the depression was packed down very hard, and could not be marked by pressure with the fingers despite the heavy rain the night before and the elapse of 20 days. There is no doubt in my mind that the depressions could only have been produced by tremendous pressure, certainly not the sort of pressure that three boys might have been able to bring to bear.

A further point of interest is that the northerly depression lay right in the middle of a patch of grass, but there was no sign of the stalks having been pressed into the ground. The roots however were still there. The other two "pod-marks" had been somewhat filled in by scuffed sand, but both were still clearly defined. The one to the south-east was also 30 cm. across and 5 cm. deep. The third one, on the south, was slightly smaller—28 cm. by 4 cm.—and did not appear to have supported so much weight as the one on the north.

According to Sr. Walter de Souza, whom we were to interview later, the marks made by the base of the ladder were originally rectangular. At first he gave their size as 15 cm. long and 10 cm. deep, but later scaled the length down to 10 cm. When we measured them we found them to be depressions 15 cm. across and 4 cm. deep. These ladder marks lay on the westerly or longest side of the isosceles triangle formed by the three "pod-marks", as Fig. 4 shows.

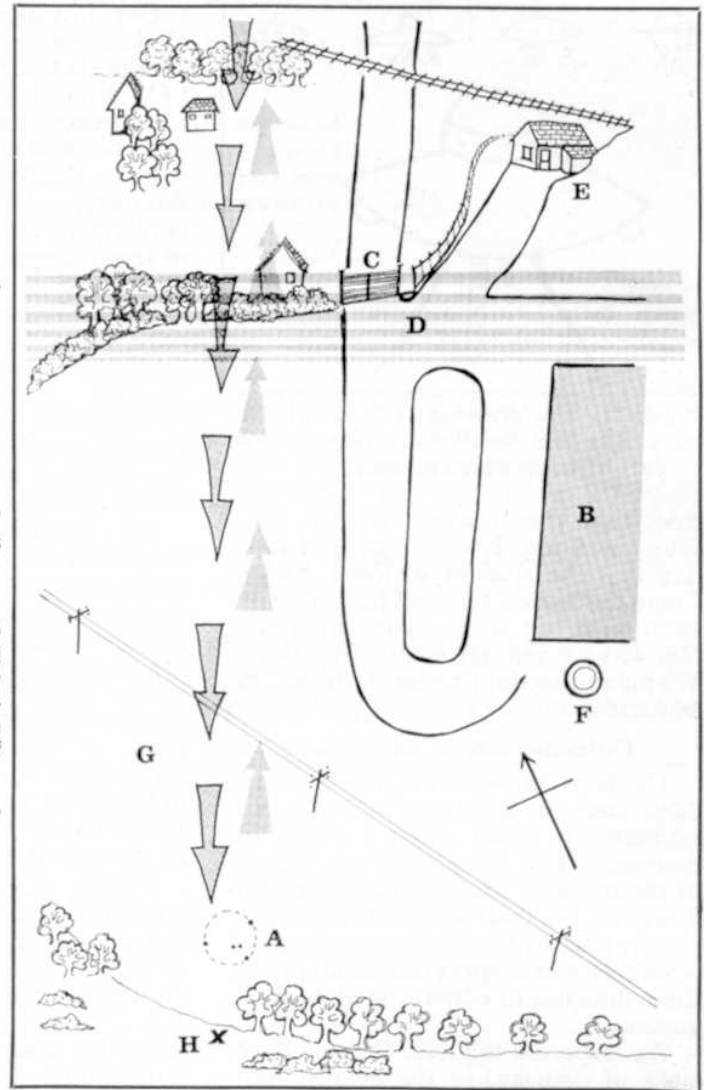
One point which was how worrying us was that, as we found, the main gate of the Hospital was not visible from where we stood at the landing site. The boys' story was that they were sitting on the gate when they caught sight of the saucer. Our investigations showed that the top of the gate was some 2ft. below the level of the eaves of the nearby house, so it is just possible that the boys could in fact

† Note (by G. Creighton): The Australian eucalyptus trees have been widely introduced in certain parts of Brazil.

Sketch map of the area.

Key

- A. Landing site.
- B. Hospital.
- C. The gate.
- D. Shaded area is out of view from landing site.
- E. Sr. Walter Souza's house.
- F. Water tower.
- G. Passage of UFO shown, over ground recently levelled by earth movers. Hard-packed sandy soil with sparse clumps of coarse grass.
- H. Site of horse's bones.



have seen the tripod feet while actually in contact with the ground. Even so, I still think that this is rather unlikely. However, in order to describe and draw the "pods", these must have been visible to the boys at some stage. Perhaps this can be accounted for by Fernandinho's statement about the take-off. He said that the cupola opened and then closed, the tripod was retracted and lastly, as the saucer hovered, the ladder was slowly drawn up.

Reactions of the boys

The fact that the boys were badly frightened and shocked by what they saw may well account for the slight discrepancies in their stories. Fernandinho stated that Waltinho and Valentinho climbed down off the gate and ran away as the machine was taking off. He on the other hand stayed where he was, unable to move or shout. The other two boys said the saucer flew off towards the east (i.e. in the direction from which it had originally come according to Dona Nair de Melo Rodrigues). If this is correct, then the saucer must have passed almost over, or very near to the gate.

However we were unable to get anything out of the boys on this score. It would appear that the shock of seeing the saucer on the ground and then seeing it take off has left Fernandinho with a memory blank about the machine's passage overhead. There is however their very emphatic statement that it made a "tinging" sound. Was this while it was on the ground, or as it hovered, or as it flew past or over them? And could this sound have been heard at the distance of 350 metres? Unfortunately we possess no information as to wind-direction and so on on the day of the landing. But we did note that the clanking of passing trains on the main line (500 metres away) could be heard very clearly from the landing site.

The tree beside the landing site was about 8 metres high. From the gate of the Hospital we were able to see some 4 to 5 metres of the top part of this tree. The boys said that the tree had waved about violently as the saucer left the ground, and at first they had thought the saucer was on the far side of the tree. In fact, when the three boys and Sr. Walter de Souza first searched for the landing site, it was behind the

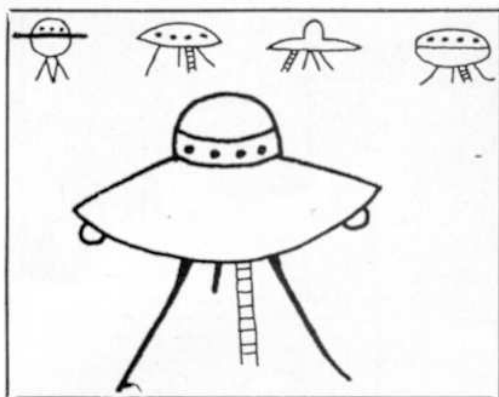


Figure 1. The drawing selected by the boys. The four smaller drawings shown above were rejected.

trees that they looked, and so they found nothing. It was not until next day that the student Antônio Alegre found the marks, but, as I have already mentioned, we were unable to locate this witness and get details from him. We plan to see him on our next visit to Botucatu.

Estimated size of the saucer

The boys had said the machine was "the size of a house", which we estimated to mean about 8 metres in diameter. The boys gave the height of the machine's cupola as also about 8 metres, i.e. level with the top of the nearby tree. Although the tripod marks would tend to support this assumption, these dimensions cannot be more than guesswork.

We inspected the tree. It showed no signs of damage, so the nearest part of the saucer's rim cannot have overlapped the most southerly "pod-mark" by more than a metre.

Our investigation of the site concluded with an interview with Sr. Walter de Souza and his wife (parents of Waltinho). They confirmed what we had already heard from Captain Lima and from the reporter Sr. Carlos Alberto Melluro (of the *Correio de Botucatu*) about other reports of landings in the vicinity. I give details of these alleged landings at the end of this article.

Winding up our visit, we then returned to the radio station and listened to a second tape-recording of Sr. Plinio Paganini's interviews with Fernandinho and with his parents, Captain and Sra. Lima. We noted that the contents agreed in every respect with what we had just learned.

We intend to return to Botucatu in the near future to carry out a further and fuller investigation and, if possible, interview the witnesses whom we had failed to see, such as Dona Nair and the student Antônio Alegre. As it was we had found that the task was far too much to get through in only one day. For the fact that we were able to accomplish so much we are entirely indebted to the help given us by Sr. Plinio Paganini and Sr. C. A. Melluro of the newspaper and radio company.

I have reserved till the end one curious fact that may or may not be connected with the landing. In view of the American report of the horse "Snippy" it must certainly be recorded. Just over the bank towards the west from the landing site I found several horse bones. There was a tibia with a few pieces of flesh (now dried) attached, and a left upper jawbone complete with teeth. There was no sign of the

rest of the skeleton. One might wonder what the bones of a horse would be doing inside the grounds of a hospital? Perhaps we did not pay enough attention to this point?

Other recent reports of saucer landings or sightings in the area

1. We learnt that not long ago a lawyer was driving at night along the road to Baurú when he saw a landed saucer to one side of the highway. He did not stop. The sighting was confirmed by another driver who passed that way a few minutes later. This incident was subsequent to the case at the Clínicas Hospital at Botucatu.

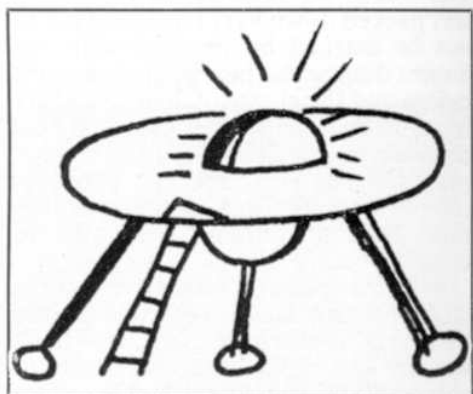


Figure 2. Fernandinho's drawing, done for his father on the day of the sighting.

2. A farmer and his wife, named Zucce, of the Fazenda Paula Souza, saw a saucer flying above their car one night. Suddenly it described a curve in front of them, and landed to one side of the road. As it passed in front of the car, the car's engine died. Sr. Zucce aimed his headlights at the object, which at once took off at high speed and vanished.

3. Some time ago, the school bus of the Rubião Junior School was paced by a flying saucer at very low altitude for a distance of several kilometres. The children were all terrified, many of them screaming and crying for their mothers.

4. It was stated, in the article about the Botucatu landing in the *Correio de Botucatu* of July 7, that an employee of the F.C.M.B.B. had informed their reporter that a few days previously a local farmer and his son had been sitting in front of their house after dinner, when they suddenly saw a large disc-shaped machine descend without a sound behind a nearby grove of eucalyptus trees. Going to the spot, they found nothing. Being unable to prove the reality of what they had seen, they had decided at first to keep quiet about it, so as not to be regarded as liars or lunatics. Now, however, encouraged by the report of the Botucatu landing they felt more ready to talk.

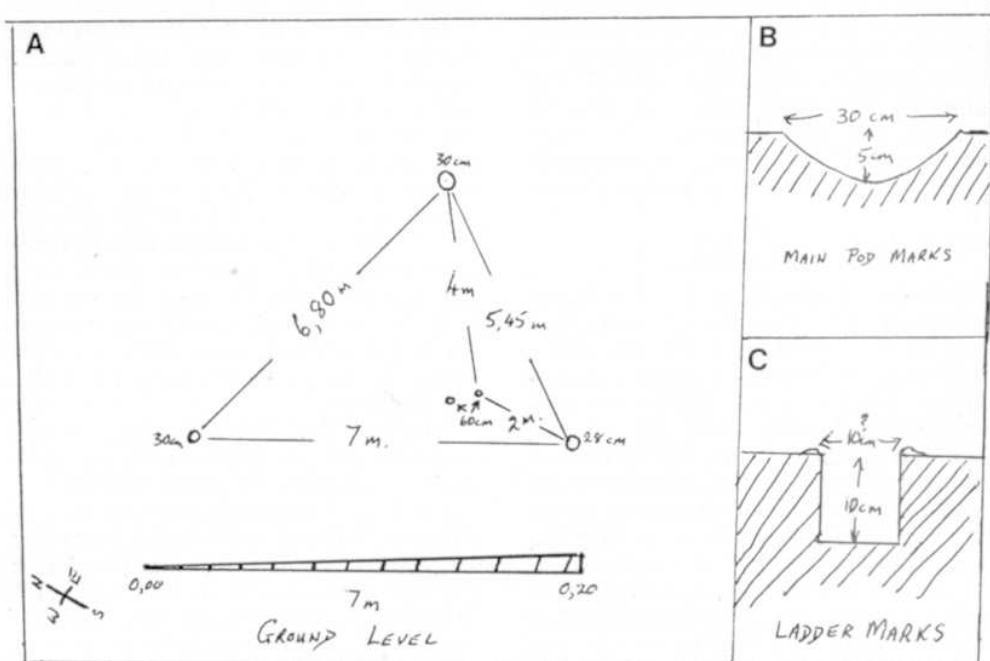


Figure 4. Tripod and "ladder" marks as sketched by the author.