

## MAIL BAG

1.896-97

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

### The truth about Aurora

Sir,—As a postscript to our article 'Airships over Texas' we wish to inform the readers of the REVIEW of new developments regarding the alleged airship observation in Aurora, Texas, of 17 April 1897. Given the highly unusual character of the report, we brought it to the attention of Dr. Hynek, the Air Force's scientific consultant, who very kindly proposed to make a private investigation of the matter. A friend of Dr. Hynek in Texas checked our references to the local papers and sent his conclusions as follows: "After reading these accounts, I drove to Aurora and stopped at the only service station there. The proprietor of the service station is named Oates and the station and his house are on what was Judge Proctor's place. It seems as if Aurora was once the largest town in Wise County and was also the county seat and Judge Proctor was a Justice of the Peace. Mr. Oates would neither confirm

nor deny the authenticity of the story but he told me to contact a Mr. Oscar Lowry a few miles down the road in the town of Newark, Texas, which, incidentally, is another thriving metropolis of slightly over 300 inhabitants.

"I found Mr. Lowry just where I was told I would, 'down the road apiece by the schoolhouse.' When I told him what I wanted he asked me to sit down on a bale of hay (I found him in his barn) and he would tell me the story. He was about eleven years old when this happened and he also told me that no-less than twenty others have been there before me.

"Mr. Lowry said that Aurora was a busy little town until the railroads put down their new tracks and neglected to include Aurora in their plans. As a result, the town began to diminish as people moved to be near the railroad. E. E. Haydon was a cotton buyer and writer who lived in Aurora and wanted to do something to help keep people in town and to make it a tourist attrac-

tion. He got the idea, I suppose, from the actual sighting he had read about and made up his story. The T. J. Weems that was supposed to have been a U.S. Signal Service officer was actually the town blacksmith and, according to Mr. Lowry, the Proctor place never had a windmill on it. To further substantiate the hoax, the cemetery is a Masonic Cemetery and a chart is kept on who is buried there. There are no graves unaccounted for. Mr. Lowry said that Mr. Haydon later told others about his story and many went on letting people believe it.

"The old courthouse is gone in Aurora and Decatur is the county seat of Wise and just a few houses are left in Aurora."

The authors feel that this clarification of the Aurora mystery only adds to the flavour of the entire episode. We are thankful to Dr. Hynek and his friend in Texas for providing us with this colourful new piece of Americana. D. B. Hanlon and J. F. Vallée, Chicago, Illinois.

FSR, VOL. 13, No 1,  
JAN. - FEB. 1967



896-97



## SPIN WHEEL SPIN

Yolanda Pimentel

In the Ausbury Park Press August 14, 1966, there was an article about a U.F.O. flap that occurred in the year "1897", in Texas.

It first appeared at Childress, Texas, on April 17, 1897 at 1:16 A.M., and was observed by a Reverend Smith. Then it appeared at Longview, Texas, on April 20, 1897 and was seen by a family returning from church. It was described as metallic in nature and the light emitted a color of intermittent flashes.

On April 19, 1897, at Atlanta, Texas, it is said "there was considerable excitement here last night caused by the visitation of the mysterious airship, which was between 200 and 300 feet above the earth and hovered for awhile, then it moved away at about the speed of a passenger train." The Atlanta Dispatch, at that time, said that it was cigar-shaped and some said it had long wings at either side.

On April 26, 1897, it appeared again at Merkel, Texas. People coming from church noticed a heavy object dragging along with a rope attached. They followed it until they came to the railroad tracks, and looking up, there was the mysterious airship. The people observed a light coming from several windows. A bright light in front of the craft looked like the headlight of a locomotive. After ten minutes a man was seen ascending the rope; he was clearly seen by these people, and they said he was dressed in something like a sailor suit and was no more than four feet tall. He cut the rope or anchor, and sailed off in a northeastern direction. "The anchor is now (1897) on exhibition at the blacksmith shop of a Mr. Elliott Miller and hundreds of persons came in to look at it.

A U.F.O. was mentioned again in the Dallas Morning News. At Aurora, Wise County, Texas, on April 17, 1897 at about 6 A.M., the early risers of Aurora were astonished to see an airship that had been sailing around the county. The airship sailed directly over the public square, and when it reached the north part of town, it collided with the tower of Judge Procter's windmill. There was a tremendous explosion and debris was scattered over several acres of ground. The windmill and water tank were destroyed and so was the Judge's flower garden.

The pilot of this unusual airship was supposed to have been the only one aboard, and while he was badly disfigured, enough of the original was picked up to show that he was "NOT AN INHABITANT OF THIS WORLD". Mr. T. J. Weems, the United States Signal Service Officer at this place, and an authority on astronomy, gave as his opinion that the pilot of this aircraft was a native of the planet "MARS". Papers found, they said, "were written in some unknown hieroglyphics." "The airship was too badly wrecked to draw any conclusion as to its construction or motive power."

"The town was crowded today (1897) by people who were gathering specimens of the strange metal of the debris, and the pilot's funeral will take place tomorrow."

This well documented story of a U.F.O. flap in 1897, draws a similarity to a sighting and landing that took place in 1965.

A Mr. John Reeves at Weeki Wachee Springs, Florida, saw a "flying saucer" on March 2, 1965 at 1:55 in the afternoon. Mr. Reeves stated that the "humanoid" was dressed in a silver gray suit, which appeared to be of some heavy ma-

terial like canvas. On the hands of the "humanoid" was something like mittens, and on the head a colored glass helmet with a skullcap underneath it. Mr. Reeves could see the face as well as the neck, and described it as human in appearance, except that the eyes were set very far apart and were closer to the ears. (Compare this description with that of Mr. Hill's story in Look Magazine.) Mr. Reeves said that the center brow of the humanoid appeared to be flat.

Mr. Reeves convinced reporters and investigators as being a very honest person. One of the most significant things about this incident was the two tissue-like papers that Mr. Reeves found. They were made of very strong material, which was covered with strange figures of semi-circles, dots and lines. One of the men of the local radio station cut a tiny corner of this paper, and put a lighted match to it. The paper flared up and burnt violently like a miniature explosion. Then the Air Force took the papers, and so much for that. The finding of this paper in 1965 draws a parallel to the 1897 story.

In several contactee stories, the humanoids are described as having a flattened appearance to the face and head. In my recent book ("A WHEEL WITHIN A WHEEL"), I mention the fact that the Kwakwaka'wakw Cannibal Society, Eskimos of the North Pole, and the ancient Mayas had a peculiar custom. During infancy the children's heads were flattened against a cradleboard, and this flattened head was considered to be a mark of caste and beauty.

Now let us carry this one step further: the Mayas had a God called Quetzalcoatl, who visited them and brought them their calendar and a way of life. According to legend, Quetzalcoatl descended from heaven where he had been the "GOD OF AIR". He became man and taught all art, wisdom and kindness to the people. He incurred the wrath of some greater God and was forced to flee. He went on to the sea, promising that he would return, and embarked in a "WIZARDSKIFF", made of serpent skins and set off for the fabled land of Tlapallan. I wonder who the Mayas and Eskimos saw in those days to get such ideas of beauty.

1.896-97



## Where The Reader Has His Say

Sir:

I would like to correct an unfortunate attitude pointed out to me by another person who reads your magazine. That is, you have stated in your magazine that any material to be published should be mailed to you three months beforehand. Several months ago I became interested in the UFO report published in the Dallas, Texas, newspaper for April 19, 1897. This article stated that some type of aerial object had crashed at nearby Aurora, Texas, and that the "pilot" and a paper containing written "hieroglyphics" had been found by the citizens of the town. Another report concerned some type of anchor left by a UFO.

I had decided to write a letter to you about this unusual report, with the suggestion that some researcher visit the area and check on the newspaper article. However, this letter was written to you several months ago - and was not published until after I had uncovered new material on the subject. This new material suggests that the UFO story may have been the idea of a newspaper reporter or some other person seeking publicity for Aurora. Furthermore, several UFO researchers appear to have visited Aurora and concluded that the story was only a rumor. However, I discovered this new material between the time of sending you the letter and your delayed publication in your magazine.

I have been taken to task for seemingly suggesting research on this apparently already-solved report. I am of the opinion that you should publish this letter so as to clarify all of these points - because some of your readers do not know that the material published in your magazine (due to printing and shipping procedures) may have been mailed to you months earlier. In

fact, you have pointed this out in your publication. However, I am still of the opinion that we should be open-minded about all UFO reports (whether of 1967 or 1957 or 1947 or 1897 or even earlier). A prominent American scientist named Dr. Edward Teller called the UFOs a type of "scientific miracle", and on the basis of world-wide reports over many decades and centuries we seem to be studying a phenomenon of an advanced-culture and probably of a higher intelligence. I am of the opinion that the UFOs have conducted an intelligent and a long-range program, and we are just beginning to comprehend the extent of the entire operation.

I realize that you have probably been unjustly criticized in the past because of various factors over which you had no control. It is my hope that we can find out new material about the many reports of UFOs that happened during 1896 and 1897 and over various American cities.

It is possible that these reports are related to the later reports after 1947 and up to the present time.

Kenneth Larson  
112 West Fifth Street  
Los Angeles, California  
90013

● Obviously, a magazine that appears every 60 days cannot carry anything in it that is less than 90 days old (it takes at least a month to prepare an issue). However, all publishers realize that the magazine reader is not aware of this factor, and some of them can't even estimate within 90 days something they have already read. We frequently have people criticize us for presenting "old material" which they "read six months ago", and it can be proved by the date on their letter that the

event in question occurred only six weeks previous. We see no way to present a bi-monthly magazine with a daily newspaper capability. Here you are, asking us to apologize for the fact that there are 365 days in the year, and they don't all fall on the same day! -- Editor.

Dear Editor:

In your August, 1967 issue of FLYING SAUCERS a Mr. C.R. Barker wrote to you saying he had mistaken in buying a magazine which had a resemblance to yours. I have that magazine, and I assure you that they are not trying to copy you. One thing, its titled "Flying Saucers, UFO Reports", also, if Mr. Barker will look inside he will find it very informative. This named magazine is new, so don't kill it before it gets started. I happen to like both magazines because they both give out both sides of the UFO argument. If we are to get anywhere in Ufology we need a magazine that is really informative. So tell Mr. Barker, don't "judge a book by its cover"

Douglas Sulenes  
6900 Chestnut  
Kansas City, Mo, 64132

● If you were the publisher of a magazine that had grown well-known throughout the world over a period of ten years, so that the "logo" (title design of the magazine) had become a valuable trademark, you would be a bit miffed if some other publisher used your trademark to sell their magazine. Naturally, there is no copyright on the words "Flying Saucers", but it is considered the most reprehensible act in the publishing field to make your title look like the other guy's title (and in this case, there is no way of distinguishing, as witness our many readers who purchased the Dell magazine, thinking it was ours). As a matter of fact, considering the excellent reputation of Dell, whom I know well, it is incredible that they would do such a thing. We can only assume they did it without realizing they were borrowing on our reputation. Also, adding the words "UFO Reports" doesn't excuse the action. What if we put out a magazine called READERS DIGEST and added "Of UFO Reports"? Reader's Digest would sue us right up to the Supreme Court!

As you can see, our acceptance

FS, Oct-67

ENRIQUE VICENTE,  
Fernando Obrial, 15-2.º  
MADRID-17  
(ESPAÑA)

Apuntes para un catálogo de casos  
de aterrizajes y humanoides anterior  
es a 1947.-

ENRIQUE DE VICENTE  
LA OLEADA ESTADOUNIDENSE DE ABRIL-1897



-- El asombroso incidente de Aurora (H-20)

Sin duda alguna, el incidente más asombroso de cuantos conocemos sobre la oleada de apariciones-ovni registrada sobre territorio estadounidense, durante el mes de abril de 1897 es la que hace referencia al estallido de un artefacto volador en las proximidades de Aurora (Texas) aproximadamente a las 6.00 A.M., del día 17 del citado mes y año.

El "Dallas Morning News" del 17/4/1897 lo relata en éstas palabras:

"...Los madrugadores entre los pobladores de Aurora quedaron atónitos por la súbita aparición del navío aéreo que ha estado navegando a través del país.

" Navegaba directamente sobre la plaza pública y, cuando alcanzó la parte norte de la ciudad chocó con la torre del molino de viento del Juez Proctor y fué reducido a trozos con una aterradora explosión, esparciéndose (scattering debris) sobre varios acres de terreno, arruinando el molino de viento y el tanque de agua, y destruyendo el florido jardín del Juez.

" El piloto del navío, que se supone haber sido el único abordo del mismo, y cuyos restos están malamente desfigurados, pese a lo cual se ha escogido lo suficiente del original para mostrar que no fué un habitante de éste mundo.

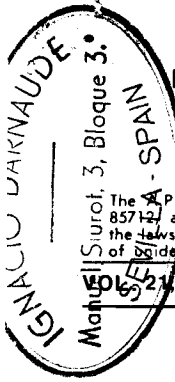
" Mr. T.J. Weems, el oficial del "U.S. Signal Service" en éste lugar ~~primaria autoridad~~ en astronomía da su opinión acerca de que éste (el

"Papeles encontrados...están escritos en algún hieroglífico desconocido... El navío estaba también bastante arruinado (was too badly wrecked) para sacar alguna conclusión acerca de su construcción ó fundamento (motive power)... La ciudad está llena de gente hoy, que se hallan viendo los restos y los especímenes coleccionados del extraño metal "from the debris". El funeral del piloto debe tener lugar al mediodía de mañana."

El investigador norteamericano Brad Steiger nos comenta éste caso con las siguientes palabras:

" Las buenas gentes de Aurora aparentemente no se pararon a conjeturar que el piloto "Marciano" fué de una raza temerosa de Dios (God-fearing race) o de una raza caída pero redimida. Su servicio funerario fué determinado sólo para mostrar respeto y suministrar un entierro propio de un viajero valiente."

El citado caso merecería por parte nuestra toda una extensa serie de comentarios que deberían conformar un estudio comparativo con otros muchos casos de similares características, cuya validez se ha negado totalmente en nuestro tiempo. ¿Puede alguien negar la validez probatoria de un suceso acaecido hace más de 70 años y que se encuentra registrado con indudable convicción en los documentos de 1897?



1896/97

# THE A.

The Aurora P.O. Bulletin is the official copyrighted publication of the State of Arizona and a federally recognized flying objects. Inquiries pertaining to

NO. 6 MAY - JUNE 73

## CLOSE E

### The Aurora, Texas Case

The alleged crash of a UFO on April 17, 1897 has been hauled into the focus of the news media again. For new members who may not have read the basic story, we will recount it briefly again:

A. Mr. S.E. Hayden, a "stringer" for newspapers (one who provides local news to big-city newspapers) submitted the story to the Dallas Morning News on April 17, 1897. In effect, it said that at about 6 a.m. a huge, silver-colored, cigar-shaped object appeared over the southern horizon, showing two gasoline engines along each side. Both of these engines turned propellers and another propeller, which "bored through the air" was mounted on top, apparently for vertical lift. This is the general description furnished by several people in several areas prior to the Aurora incident.

It was estimated that the object was 200 to 300 feet long and 50 feet wide. Seven windows (at least, according to the story) were strung along the bottom, and a strong headlight flashed out of the nose. Depending on who was telling the story, it was piloted by one of several persons, some of whom were wearing blue sailor suits.

This was the general description of a strange "airship" which had been reported throughout the United States that year. However, in the case of the Aurora "ship", it was piloted by only one individual - a "Martian". Hayden said it came in low over the Aurora town square, zoomed north above Judge J.S. Proctor's house which was located on a hill and struck the Judge's windmill and exploded. Debris was allegedly scattered far and wide and when the citizens of Aurora rushed to the site of the wreck they found the badly disfigured body of the pilot. T.J. Weems, allegedly the U.S. Signal Corps Service Officer and also an authority on astronomy, made the pronouncement that the pilot "came from the planet Mars."

Further, the story read, papers were found among the wreckage but the writing could not be deciphered. According to Hayden, the local citizenry cleaned up the debris and at noon that day gave the pilot a Christian burial at the Aurora cemetery which is located on a hill near the town.

(See Aurora - Page Three)

Aurora 1.897

(Continued from Page Three)

newer aluminum alloys would not be in "good shape" after being exposed to the elements for 76 years. Yet the metal found in May, 1973 are described by the investigators as being in remarkably good condition.

Now some pieces of the puzzle begin to fall together, if we consider the facts available. Dr. Kraus found that there was no T.J. Weems of the Signal Corps in Aurora in 1897, but Jeff Weems was the local blacksmith. Dr. Kraus found no unusual metal, aluminum alloy or otherwise in 1967, yet it allegedly showed up on the crash site after the initial flurry of publicity in April of this year.

The most recent "finding" is a stone with a triangular inscription etched on it which the current investigators hint might be the stone used to mark the grave. The news articles dealing with this discovery describe the inscription as being cigar-shaped whereas it is actually a triangle.

Two elderly people have been located who declare they remember their parents talking about the "airship crash" and allegedly having gone to the scene and describing it later. They also said they could locate the grave, which they did, but each sent the investigators to a different grave site.

It is amazing that the 1973 Aurora "investigators" have not taken the obvious route: examination of cemetery records would be of prime importance. It is strange, too, that the Wise County Historical Society, which has carefully and laboriously recorded the history of that county (the spotted fever epidemic, the failure of the cotton crop and the railroad bypass of Aurora) did not record such an historical happening as the crashing of an airship, especially since there were no airships in those days.

An examination of all the "evidence" leads us to an obvious conclusion: The aluminum alloy arrived at Aurora after 1967 when Kraus examined the crash site and therefore has no bearing on the mystery whatsoever. Whether the aluminum was brought to the scene by publicity-seeking UFO buffs or by people who wanted to inject some life into a ghost town (Aurora was re-incorporated in 1972) we may never know but it seems certain that we should relegate the story of the 1897 Aurora, Texas airship crash to the hoax bin.

Moving? \_\_\_\_\_

Please send address changes!

**Aurora 1.896-97**

(Continued from Page One)

wh  
U  
ag  
re  
aw  
  
att  
jur  
co  
of  
ne  
lit  
wi  
an  
lea  
rej  
att  
th  
  
m  
cl  
sit  
M  
sa  
m  
to  
gc  
it  
pa  
to  
C  
in  
co  
  
m  
as  
th  
to  
kn  
wh  
poi  
19  
kne  
kne  
exa  
cor  
  
cra  
Da  
wh  
wa  
the  
alu  
be  
bu  
wa  
acc  
in  
of  
sor  
thi  
  
to  
had  
it  
All  
dur  
har  
elen

Those, basically are the alleged "facts". Most UFO researchers are familiar with the "Airship" flap of 1897 when unidentified airships were reported in various states across the country. It has yet to be proved what the things were, if, indeed they existed at all. The accounts would be much more easy to verify if the descriptions had been more detailed and not tinged with so much emotion.

But-back to Aurora. A little background is helpful here. Aurora was in pitiful straits in 1896 and 1897. An epidemic of spotted lfever had decimated the population and a lot of people left town because of it or the failure of the cotton crop or the bypass of Aurora by the railroad or a combination of all three circumstances. What had been a thriving country town was now a ghost town. S.E. Hayden, a cotton buyer, was in as bad a fix as anyone else.

Seventy years passed and the question of the Aurora crash was brought up again by UFO researchers during the furor of the 1966 "flap" when the Condon Committee was commissioned to investigate UFO reports and determine whether or not UFOs really existed.

Wise County (where Aurora is located) historians pronounced the whole tale a hoax but few believed them. The only qualified scientist to investigate the affair was Dr. Alfred E. Kraus, then Director of the Kilgore Research Institute at West Texas State University. He made two visits to Aurora during which he carried out a careful investigation. On his 19th second trip he used a metal detector to search the supposed crash site but turned up nothing of interest. What he found, he said, were old stove lids, rings used on the horse bridles and some 1932 license plates, but nothing which could be interpreted as having been a part of a "flying silver cigar".

Dr. Kraus also interviewed people who had lived in Aurora at the time and they denied any knowledge of a crash. One, Oscar Lowery of Newark, was a resident of Aurora and 11 years old at the time. He had been visited by no less than a dozen newspaper and magazine reporters, one of whom offered him a large sum of money to verify the crash story. But he stuck to his story and would not budge, even with the offer of money.

It has also been learned (and this can be verified by Jerry Flemmons, reporter with the Fort Worth Star-Telegram) that in the early 1960's an aging telegrapher confessed that the stories had begun with a telegraph operator in Iowa and had spread to Texas, and had no basis in fact.

Now we come to the present. Around the middle of April, a UFO buff who has a reputation as a gadfly who flits hither and yon as circumstances allow

when a midwest area is infected with UFO reports, brought up the Aurora case again. He apparently had not done any research to speak of because he was not aware of the basic history involved.

As this individual began to get attention from the news media, others jumped on the bandwagon and the controversy flared anew. This new crew of Aurora "investigators" included a newspaper reporter who showed up at the little town wearing a jacket emblazoned with the NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) emblem and leaving the impression that he was a representative of NASA. He made no attempt to identify himself as other than that, either.

But - he produced bits of "fused" metal resembling aluminum, which he claimed he retrieved from the "crash site". During a telephone interview with Mrs. Lorenzen, the *Bulletin's* editor, he said that immediately upon finding the metal he had "sent it out of the country" to be analyzed because he was afraid that government authorities might confiscate it. Daily newspaper articles in Dallas papers said that the metal had been sent to a government research laboratory in Canada, and another sample to a scientist in this country. But the reporter and his cohorts refused to identify the latter.

Because Dr. J. Allen Hynek was mentioned prominently in news articles as planning to visit Aurora to investigate the findings, Mrs. Lorenzen put in a call to him and asked him if he had any knowledge of Dr. Kraus' investigation to which he replied that he did not. She also pointed out that Kraus' investigation in 1967 had yielded no mysterious metal. Dr. Hynek then informed her that he knew the name of the scientist who had examined the mysterious metal and that the man was legitimate. She asked him if the metal was unusual. It was a fairly common aluminum alloy, he said.

Referring back to the file on the 1897 crash, including recent clippings from Dallas papers, the APRO staff noted that while quite a bit of very mundane metal was found by the current investigation, the new metal was found to be an aluminum alloy which could not have been manufactured on earth before 1908 but later. While the mundane metal (iron) was badly rusted, the aluminum alloy, according to the unnamed scientist, was in good condition. A check with members of the Consulting Staff of APRO yielded some interesting information concerning this turn of events:

Aluminum alloy manufactured prior to World War II contained copper and had it been buried for such a long period it would have been badly corroded. Alloys developed and manufactured during and since World War II are much hardier and would stand up under the elements much better. However, even the

(See Aurora - Page Four)

Dallas, Paraíso de la Fantaciencia

# Brotan Masas Vibrátiles y Amorfas Junto a la Tumba de un "Visitante del Espacio"

DALLAS, Texas, E.U., mayo 29 (AP).— Masas vibrátiles, amorfas, surgidas misteriosamente del seno de la tierra, crecen y se multiplican en tres viviendas de la zona de Dallas.

Científicos y profesores universitarios han estudiado el fenómeno, pero nadie ha logrado hasta ahora una explicación.

Entretanto, a unos 120 kilómetros al noroeste, guardias armados custodian un cementerio, donde según los vecinos está enterrado un "visitante del espacio" que murió en 1897.

Un grupo de investigadores examina lo que, según se afirma, podrían ser fragmentos de metal de su nave interplanetaria.

La zona se ha convertido en algo así como el paraíso de los aficionados a la ciencia-ficción.

Los diarios de Londres han pedido más información, al igual que lo han hecho periodistas de Canadá y Australia.

La misteriosa sustancia comenzó a crecer hace dos semanas en el patio de un residente de Garland, Marie Harris, quien describe el extraño material como una masa rojiza, de superficie sembrada de burbujas, e interior mucoso y ne-

gruzco.

La "masa viviente", ha multiplicado su tamaño 16 veces en las últimas dos semanas, según la señor Harris.

Si se rompe alguna de las burbujas superficiales, se derrama un líquido purpúreo, que semeja sangre.

Una residente de Dallas que rehusó ser identificada, dijo: "Me muero de miedo. La misma cosa, crece en mi vallado. Y no puedo matarla".

Edna Smith, que vive en un suburbio al este de Dallas, dijo haber visto una "masa viviente", similar que crecía adosada a un poste de teléfonos. "Era una masa roja, latiente, como la que habían descrito en los periódicos. Dios de Dios, ¿qué puede ser."

Los científicos de Growth International, una empresa de Colorado, analizan la sustancia membranosa que crece en el patio de la señora Harris.

Muestras de la misma han sido enviadas a Colorado para análisis de laboratorio.

"Desde luego que crece", dijo el científico Arnold Dittman.

"Si se trata de bacterias, tiene capacidad de crecimiento.... Quizás se trata de una nueva mutación, de una nueva especie completamente diferente. Pero en realidad no sabemos de qué se trata", dijo.

En Aurora, Texas, guardias armados impiden que curiosos y periodistas penetren en un pequeño cementerio de la localidad.

Un guardia dijo a un periodista que trató de entrar al camposanto ayer: "Aunque fuera usted el propio Jesucristo no puede entrar".

Por otra parte, laboratorios de diversas universidades estudian pedazos de metal encontrados en el lugar donde según artículos periodísticos de 1897, se precipitó a tierra un "objeto volante" no identificado.

Periódicos de Dallas han dicho que la criatura que piloteaba el aparato sufrió mutilaciones mortales en el accidente y fue enterrado en el rústico cementerio.

El jefe del Centro Nacional de Identificación de Objetos Volantes, Hayden Hughes, dijo ayer que viajaba a Aurora para abrir allí su propia investigación. \*

Querido Ignacio: Aunque Donald B. Hanlon se toma a choteo lo del "marciano" enterrado en Aurora, Texas (cf. xerocopia artículo de la FSR, que tal vez ya tienes), ahora resulta que están pasando cosas raras en su "tumba", como verás por el adjunto recorte, que me han enviado de México. Mil gracias por los estupendos artículos del Dallas News, que ya recibí. Prepararé algo con ellos. Abrazos.

Aº RIBERA

\* No se sabía nada, como siempre.

concerning the sighting of unusual aerial objects during 1897 among which is the confession of a telegrapher in Iowa that he had concocted a story that went out over the telegraph wires concerning the sighting of airships. Randle, who has conducted an in-depth study of the 1897 "flap" concludes that the happenings involving airships that year were the result of an expanding hoax, the most sensational of which was the Aurora case.

Since the basic information was put out in Texas newspapers in April, 1973, newsmen kept the story alive with fragmentary day-by-day tid-bits which amounted mainly to a promotional campaign for a UFO group. Early on, metal which allegedly came from the "crash site" was "sent out of the country" and wound up in the hands of personnel at Crawley Films, Ltd. in Canada who passed it on to Dr. W. Wallace and Mr. F. Thurston of the National Aeronautical Establishment Structures and Materials of Canada. The findings were as follows:

Five samples mounted with transparent tape on a piece of white paper were labelled as A,B,C,D and E for purposes of identification. They were found to be non-radioactive.

Because of their magnetic properties and the presence of what appeared to be rust on their surfaces, examples A,B and C were tentatively identified as ferrous alloys. In contrast, samples D and E both had grey metallic lustre and were believed to be non-ferrous. Sample D was quite hard and dissolved rapidly in hydrochloric acid while E was extremely soft and dissolved very slowly.

We could go into the chemical analysis here, but the report, signed by L.C. MacAulay, states: "In summary, the materials supplied to N.A.E. Structures and Materials by representatives of Crawley Films Ltd., possess no unusual structural properties and are most certainly not of unusual composition. The results of this investigation indicate the materials are:

- A. Tin plated low carbon steel
- B. Wrought Iron
- C. Tin plated low carbon steel (lower carbon than A)
- D. Zn cast alloy
- E. Antimonial lead.

The report was dated June 18, 1973 and was no doubt in the hands of the group promoting the Aurora case when they were still pumping the story for all of its worth as late as the 10th of July.

A number of elderly people from nursing homes were located who stated that they recalled hearing from their parents about the crash, but none of them could say they had viewed the crash site itself. Considering the fact that 76 years have passed since the alleged incident, it is not likely that oldsters in their 80s and 90s would remember with

any great accuracy details of anything that far back. There is also the good possibility that their parents merely parroted the rumors resulting from Mr. Hayden's (the original story teller) story to a Dallas newspaper and had not visited the scene at all.

UFO Research can learn something from the silly affair at Aurora. The principals in the mess, although alluding to themselves as "scientists" did not adhere to scientific principles as they made their daily statements. They said that they would announce it to be a hoax if it indeed turned out to be one, but meantime daily reports out of Dallas insinuated that it wasn't and each day's newspaper came out with fresh but unfounded claims.

The unwarranted publicity brought throngs of UFO buffs and curiosity seekers to the scene resulting in destroyed property and the responsible citizens of Aurora were enraged. One irate individual told APRO that had there been any substance to the story to begin with, quiet, careful investigation would have been welcomed.

The grave marker with the alleged "strange markings" disappeared and not long after, the piece of ground which had marked had been dug up. It is not known if a body had been entombed there or not but when the individuals who were orchestrating the spectacle got around (after three months of talking about it) to getting a legal order for exhumation the cemetery association was so sick of the charade that they barred any further investigation.

The correct procedure, had there been any supportive evidence, would have been to approach the Wise County Historical Society with a request to examine records, then a search of the cemetery records would have been next on the agenda. If, after this, there was any strong evidence to support the airship crash story, a quiet but legal bid for exhumation could have been made, and the question would have been settled once and for all.

As the matter stands at this writing, controversy rages because there has been no clean-cut investigation and therefore no conclusions. What evidence may have existed has been destroyed so that there had been a case for the existence and crash of an airship in Aurora, Texas in 1897, it is impossible to discern—forever.

## "Young World" Features APRO

The October 1973 issue of "Young World", (1100 Waterway Boulevard, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202) features an article on APRO by Robert M. Powers. Inasmuch as young people are getting more and more involved in the quest for answers to the UFO problem, this article should help to steer those interested in the mystery toward a source of information.

## More on Aurora

Since the publication of the May-June issue of the Bulletin more information has reached Headquarters concerning the alleged crash of an "airship" at the small town of Aurora, Texas in April, 1897. Field Investigator Kevin Randle visited Texas and discussed his voluminous file

Help!

The APRO Headquarters office is badly in need of books dealing with UFOs which can be disseminated among our foreign representatives and field investigators in order to provide the



## NOTIZIARIO UFOLOGICO ESTERO

### Ancora sui blobs e sull'incidente UFO risalente al 1897

Come avevamo promesso nel numero precedente a tutti i lettori interessati, ecco le ultime notizie pervenute dagli Stati Uniti d'America.

**DALLAS** — In un giardino periferico, martedì, una misteriosa escrescenza diventò di colore bianco e sembrò morire.

La signora Marie Harris del sobborgo di Garland chiama l'escrescenza un "blob" (bolla, massa rigonfia) e ha dichiarato che era la quarta a comparire nel suo cortile.

«Credo che la quarta stia morendo, — ella disse — sta avvizzendo completamente». La Harris ha poi dichiarato che l'ultima escrescenza misurava 18 pollici di diametro ed era la più grande di tutte.

«La prima aveva le dimensioni di un pasticcino. La seconda era grande come la prima. La terza era due volte più grande della seconda, mentre la quarta era enorme».

Numerose persone hanno preso esemplari dei «blobs», ma nessuno ha fatto un'analisi completa delle escrescenze e nessun biologo le ha controllate. Dallas è stata colpita da violente piogge, per oltre un mese, e la signora Harris ha espresso la speranza che le escrescenze altro non siano che semplici funghi.

Infine la signora Harris ha dichiarato che i "blobs" contengono una sostanza scura all'esterno di una membrana. Inoltre possono assumere diverse colorazioni, e quando vengono punti diventano color rosso porpora.

Martedì, le escrescenze erano bianche e sottili come una cialda e apparivano completamente disseccate.

(dal «The Miami Herald» del 1°-6-1973)

#### I «BLOBS» DEL TEXAS SONO DEI SEMPLICI FUNGHI?

**DALLAS** — «I "blobs" apparsi nel cortile di Marie Harris sono morti e con ogni probabilità non ritorneranno», così hanno dichiarato due scienziati del Texas.

Il Dr. F. Hurst, botanico alla Baylor University e J. Flook, botanico erborista della biblioteca di scienze della Southern Methodist University, sono d'accordo nell'affermare che i suddetti "blobs" altro non erano che comunissimi funghi. Il Dr. Hurst ha lanciato l'ipotesi che si tratti di un composto di spore che si sono raggruppate in una grossa massa protoplasmatica che si nutre di batteri e che comunemente assumono una forma gialla pulsante, come quella descritta dalla signora Harris ai giornalisti.

Flook ha detto che sono necessarie delle ben precise condizioni atmosferiche e una gran quantità di umidità perché una tale escrescenza raggiun-

ga la misura di quella apparsa nel giardino della signora Harris. «Se ora sul Texas splendesse il sole e facesse caldo, — ha proseguito Flook, — è assai improbabile che quella cosa faccia la sua ricomparsa». Secondo T. H. McBride e G. W. Martin, i quali hanno pubblicato uno studio su queste escrescenze, intitolato «The Myxomycetes», tali formazioni sono assai diffuse ed estremamente comuni, e generalmente si manifestano dopo i temporali estivi e quando il tempo è afoso.

(dal «The Miami Herald» del 1°-6-1973)

#### UNA DONNA DEL TEXAS DICE DI RICORDARE UN INCIDENTE UFO RISALENTE AL 1897

**AURORA (Tex.)** — Una signora di 91 anni afferma di ricordare che nella notte del 19 aprile 1897, i suoi genitori si recarono a vedere il relitto di un'astronave precipitata nei pressi del pozzo del Giudice Proctor ed è sicura che il pilota venne seppellito nel locale cimitero.

«Quell'incidente fu naturalmente causa di una grande agitazione», ha detto Mary Evans. «Molte persone erano spaventate. Non sapevano che aspettarsi. Erano gli anni in cui non esistevano ancora gli aerei né esisteva alcun altro tipo di macchina volante». I fratelli Wright effettuarono il loro storico volo nel dicembre del 1903 a Kitty Hawk. Questo ha fatto supporre che l'astronave precipitata nel Texas provenisse da un altro pianeta, sempre che fosse realmente esistita. Ma su questo la signora Evans non ha dubbi.

«Avevo soltanto quindici anni a quel tempo, ma ricordo perfettamente l'incidente», ha detto. «Vivevamo in Aurora in quell'epoca, ma i miei genitori non mi lasciarono venire con loro a vedere il luogo dell'incidente. Quando tornarono a casa mi dissero come l'astronave era esplosa. Il pilota venne ridotto a pezzi dall'urto e rimase ucciso. Gli uomini della città che raccolsero i suoi resti testimoniarono che si trattava di un essere di piccola statura. Lo stesso giorno lo seppellirono nel cimitero di Aurora».

Frammenti di metallo trovati nella zona sono stati inviati a numerosi scienziati ed esperti in metallurgia, per essere esaminati.

Un professore di fisica nella North Texas State University, ha esaminato un frammento ed ha concluso che si tratta di un metallo insolito in quanto è formato per il 75% da ferro, ma manca di molte delle comuni proprietà del ferro.

(dal «The Miami Herald» del 1°-6-1973)

1. 896-97

Send For  
Your  
FREE  
BOOK  
Catalog



AURORA, WISE COUNTY,  
April 17th, 1897 (Note the date  
IS 1897) a happening occurred  
in the small Texas town which  
is still talked about in "old timer"  
reunions.

It was 6 o'clock in the morning  
when early risers were astonished  
at the sudden appearance of  
"an airship" which had been reported  
"sailing throughout the country."

"It sailed directly over the  
public square. When it reached  
the north part of town, it collided  
with the tower of Judge Proctor's  
windmill and went to pieces  
with a terrific explosion, scattering  
debris over several acres  
of ground, wrecking the windmill  
and water tank and destroying  
the Judge's flower garden."

"The pilot of the ship is supposed  
to have been the only one aboard.  
His remains were badly disfigured,  
but enough of the original has  
been picked up to show he was not  
an inhabitant of this world.

"Mr. T. J. Weems, U.S. Signal  
Service at Aurora, and an authority  
of astronomy, gives it as his  
opinion that he — the pilot —  
was a native of the Planet Mars.

"Papers found — are written  
in some unknown hieroglyphics  
. . . This ship was too badly  
wrecked to form any conclusion  
as to its construction or motive  
power.

"The town is full of people today  
who are viewing the wreck and  
gathering specimens of strange  
metal from the debris. The pilot's  
funeral will take place at noon  
tomorrow," according to the  
Dallas Morning News of that date.

The newspaper was printed six  
years before the Wright Brothers  
made their historic flight at  
Kitty Hawk.

7

FSN. Ag-71, FSN

1. 896-97

Send For  
Your  
FREE  
BOOK  
Catalog



AURORA, WISE COUNTY,  
April 17th, 1897 (Note the date  
IS 1897) a happening occurred  
in the small Texas town which  
is still talked about in "old tim-  
er" reunions.

It was 6 o'clock in the morning  
when early risers were astonish-  
ed at the sudden appearance of  
"an airship" which had been re-  
ported "sailing throughout the  
country."

"It sailed directly over the  
public square. When it reached  
the north part of town, it collid-  
ed with the tower of Judge Proc-  
tor's windmill and went to pieces  
with a terrific explosion, scat-  
tering debris over several acres  
of ground, wrecking the wind-  
mill and water tank and de-  
stroying the Judge's flower gar-  
den."

"The pilot of the ship is sup-  
posed to have been the only one  
aboard. His remains were badly  
disfigured, but enough of the  
original has been picked up to  
show he was not an inhabitant  
of this world.

"Mr. T. J. Weems, U.S. Signal  
Service at Aurora, and an auth-  
ority of astronomy, gives it as  
his opinion that he — the pilot  
— was a native of the Planet  
Mars.

"Papers found — are written  
in some unknown hieroglyphics  
. . . This ship was too badly  
wrecked to form any conclusion  
as to its construction or motive  
power.

"The town is full of people to-  
day who are viewing the wreck  
and gathering specimens of  
strange metal from the debris.  
The pilot's funeral will take place  
at noon tomorrow," according to  
the Dallas Morning News of  
that date.

The newspaper was printed six  
years before the Wright Brothers  
made their historic flight at  
Kitty Hawk.

7

FSN. Ag-71, FSN

1.896-97

more with a small band of intense, white light next to the object.

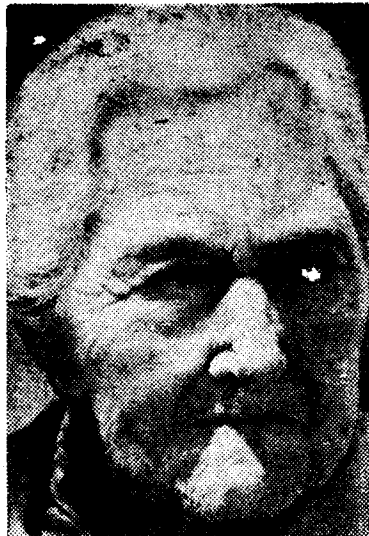
At the same place I have seen many small red objects the size of oranges, as well as discos-shaped UFOs with a diameter of 1,5 metres. They were standing still at the edge of a wood about 300 metres off, shining white and yellow.

Finally, I have at the same place

observed a ball coming against me like a shot, then it paused, became bright, went out and disappeared. This took place in daylight, and before stopping it looked metallic-grey. Well, that is my account of part of the things I have observed, and do remember I want to remain anonymous - if you publish anything. Yours truly

"UFO CONTACT"  
Magazine,  
Denmark,  
Vol 2, no 4  
August 1.973

## Woman Tells Of '97 Spaceship Crash



Aurora, Tex. (UPI) - A 91-year old woman says she remembers the night on April 19, 1897, her parents went to the spot where an airship crashed into Judge Proctor's well and the pilot was buried in the community cemetery.

"That crash certainly caused a lot of excitement," Mary Evans said Wednesday. "Many people were frightened. They didn't know what to expect. That was years before we had any regular airplanes or other kind of airships."

The Wright Brothers made their historic flight at Kitty Hawk in December, 1903. This has led some to believe the airship that crashed at the Texas well was from another planet, if indeed such an airship exists. Mrs. Evans has no doubts.

"I was only about 15 at the time and



Tombstone over Space Pilot.



ing against  
sed, became  
ed. This  
fore

1.896-97

all but forgotten the incident until appeared in the newspapers recently," she said. "We were living in Aurora at the time but my mother and father wouldn't let me go with them when they went up to the crash site at Judge Proctor's well.

"When they returned home they told me how the airship had exploded. The pilot was torn up and killed in the crash. The men of the town who gathered his remains said he was a small man and buried him that same day in Aurora Cemetery."

The UFO advocates have combed the Aurora area with metal detectors, radiation meters and other scientific devices in recent months in an attempt to get some tangible evidence to file with a court order to exhume the body of the alleged pilot. Pieces of metal taken from the area have been sent to various scientists and metallurgists

for examination.

A physics professor at North Texas State University tested one piece and said it was unusual because it was 75 per cent iron but lacked many of the properties common to iron. The professor, Dr. Tom Gray, said it was not magnetic and was shiny and soft instead of dull and brittle like iron.

"I don't mean by my comments to indicate whether this is of terrestrial or extraterrestrial origin, but that the physics of that much iron being not magnetic stirs my curiosity as a scientist," he said. "If it proves to be a rather strange beast, then a great deal more study will have to be done on it. Right now we can only make suppositions. We cannot draw any conclusions."

The Times Herald, Norriston, PA.

May 31, 1973.

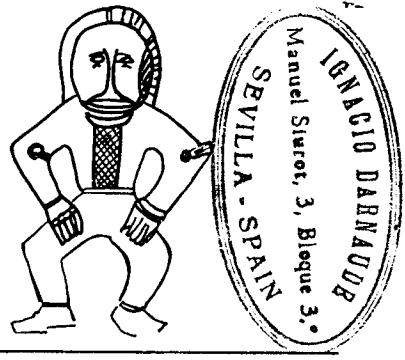
Credit: H. Gunderson, USA.

### Ancient Spaceman?

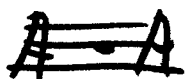
I have enclosed a tracing of a figurine, actual size which was in the FEB number 1971 of Sputnik. In an article "Who were the Scythians, where did they go?"

There are no comments from the editors of just why they popped this odd little fellow in - - - and if that isn't a spaceman - - - well!

Mab Till



## FLYING IN ANCIENT EGYPT



The idea of flying is thousands of years old, and first manifested itself in the philology of the Ancient Egyptian language and in the religious rites practised by the Ancient Egyptians themselves.

There were three words which meant "to fly": "hi" (see Fig. 1), "hi" (see Fig. 2), and "pa" (see Fig. 3), the determinative in all three being a half-wing with long feathers. As for

religious ritual, according to the Saqqara Pyramid texts (circa 2400 B. C.), representation of the posthumous journey involved the god, Ra, being ferried in his morning solar barque,

funding needed to mount a realistic effort aimed at detecting the existence of extraterrestrial intelligent life. The report covers every foreseeable approach to which a designed study of such magnitude could theoretically work, explained in a somewhat technical level. Those interested in obtaining the final copy of the 243 page report may write to Dr. John Billingham, NASA/Ames Research Center, Code LT, Moffett Field, California 94035.

F.S. 1 FALL 1973  
Aurora Texas, UFO

Hot on the trail of the 1897, Aurora, Texas, UFO crash landing is Hayden Hewes, director of the International UFO Bureau, who claims to have scientist examining pieces of metal allegedly discovered near the crash site. As the story goes, a cigar-shaped UFO reportedly exploded atop a well on judge J.S. Proctor's place on April 19, 1897. The small pilot, described as not human, was torn up and killed in the crash. He was supposedly buried the same day in the Aurora cemetery.

Recently UFO teams from the Bureau have been combing the area with metal detectors, radiation meters, and other devices in hopes to find fragments of the UFO, or even the pilot.

One "interesting" piece of metal found at the site was examined by Dr. Tom Gray, a physicist at North Texas

University. He remains "skeptical" but did discover "unusual properties" on the strange pieces of iron, which he thinks should be tested and given further study.

Not to dampen the excitement this UFO has caused, but Dr. J. Allen Hynek, a former Air Force consultant on UFO reports had a friend check out this fantastic story. Unfortunately, they discovered, from every indication the report is a hoax, perpetrated by an Aurora resident.

In 1897, Aurora was a small prosperous town, until the railroads decided to by-pass it by quite a few miles. In order to promote a little publicity for their town, a cotton-buyer, and a part-time correspondent named S.E. Hayden, concocted the "crashed airship" story, basing their story on actual sightings in other areas of the state. It didn't work, despite the fact a U.S. Signal Service officer claimed the pilot was a Martian and claimed to have recovered some papers from the crash. But evidently the railroad companies weren't too interested in Martians.

#### Ezekiel's UFO Gains Support

A scientist-engineer working for the U.S. space program since 1959 claims the Bible offers a description of a UFO which from an engineering standpoint, could possibly fly. Josef F. Blumrich, a designer for NASA, applied an engineer's interpretation to

### È falsa la notizia dell'astronave precipitata nel Texas?

Tucson, Ariz. — L. J. Lorenzen, direttore del Centro di Ricerche sui Fenomeni aerei che ha sede in questa città, ha dichiarato che l'incidente «UFO» di Aurora e l'inumazione del pilota deceduto nella disgrazia, fatti avvenuti nell'aprile del 1897, sono un'evidente assurdità.

« Recenti esperimenti sui frammenti di metallo ritrovati nei pressi del luogo dove avvenne il presunto incidente UFO, hanno rivelato che si tratta di una comunissima lega di alluminio, e in tutto questo non c'è niente di strano ».

(Da «The province» del 14-4-1973 Trad. di F. Magini).

UNA. (Etc.)—Existe la posibilidad de que la masa amorfa que ha aparecido tan extrañamente en la zona de Dallas (Texas, Estados Unidos) sea de origen extraterrestre, dijo el presidente del Instituto Peruano de Radiaciones Interplanetarias, Carlos Paz.

Los miembros del Instituto se reunieron en el domicilio de Paz para discutir el caso, difundido en Lima, y que ha suscitado gran expectación entre los aficionados a lo extraordinario.

Redirigiéndose a un supuesto piloto extraterrestre, que anda en un cometa, el presidente del Instituto de Radiaciones Interplanetarias de Lima, Carlos Paz, dijo que en el año 1897, año en que fue sepultado el pretendido piloto extraterrestre, se estaban aviones de aeroplanos de ninguna clase en la tierra, sino solamente los globos aerostáticos, por lo que podría ser cierto que el enterrado fuese un piloto extraterrestre.

La aparición de la misteriosa «masa amorfa», es im-portantísima —dijo Paz— para los estudios sobre la posibilidad de vida en otros planetas. Indicó que esta misteriosa aparición presenta el primer caso del mundo, que se sepa.

Señaló que se sabe de hongos de gran tamaño, que llegan hasta los dos metros, y de las llamadas «luzas de hikos», en forma de filetes, que se atribuyen a los experimentos atómicos, lo que no está demostrado. El origen de estos fenómenos bien podría ser extraterrestre.

Paz informó que va a escribir a organismos de Dallas, similares al suyo, para informarse al detalle de lo que viene sucediendo en aquella localidad norteamericana.

« Sin tener detalles completos y análisis de laboratorio no se pueden hacer afirmaciones terminantes, terminando diciendo Paz. A veces, dado el secreto que se guarda en los Estados Unidos sobre fenómenos extraños, es posible que los análisis de laboratorio de la «masa amorfa» no se hagan públicos ».

ORGAN EXTRATERRESTRE

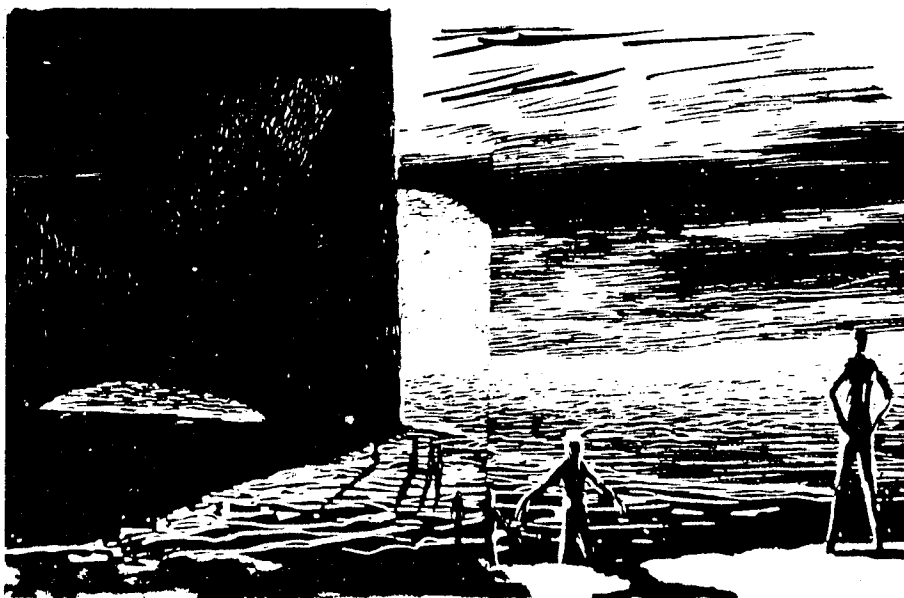
U + U

# Mundos paralelos

Por LINO MONTI

**R**olando Quiroga, un gran amigo de lo inesperado y de lo extraterrestre, me prestó un recorte del periódico *Austin American Statesman*, del mes de septiembre de 1972, en el que apareció un cable de la AP: "Investigadores buscan la tumba del piloto de un OVNI, muerto en... ¡1897!".

Expedido en Dallas, Texas, el cable explica el extraño suceso del día 18 de abril de 1897, en el que se detalla, con testigos tan serios como un juez y un oficial vigilante de policía, cómo un extraño objeto luminoso en forma de disco, se estrelló alrededor de las cuatro de la mañana "con gran estruendo". Al día siguiente, una multitud acudió a ver aquello, localizándose



## SOBRE LA TUMBA DE UN OVNINAUTA

el cuerpo descuartizado del piloto, quien por cierto traía "extraños papeles" con datos y jeroglíficos que "probablemente pertenecían a experiencias de sus anteriores viajes", eso a decir de los testigos.

El tripulante de aquella nave fue sepultado, "aunque no se supo si era habitante de este planeta o de otro". En el cementerio local, con funerales cristianos, se sepultó lo que quedaba de aquel humanoide. Esto sucedió en un pequeño pueblo: Aurora, Texas, en... ¡1897! Todo lo consignó abierta y cándidamente, en su edición del 18 de abril de ese año, el *Times Herald*. Esto aparte de insólito y extraño, nos provoca algo de irritación e inquietud.

O el periódico publicó mentiras, involucrando a un juez y a un vigi-

lante de la comunidad, o la Association Press (AP) convierte en cables las mentiras. O los numerosos testigos de lo que sucedió, que vieron luces raras y que asistieron al funeral del tripulante aquel, sufrieron "hipnosis colectiva" o "alucinación en cadena". O simplemente estaban locos, ¿no?... ¿Qué sucede en este mundo que ni siquiera sabemos lo que ocurrió en verdad?

Ahora que el tema extraterrestre anda de moda, y cada día más, como rondando sospechosamente en próxima revelación, nos preguntamos: ¿qué hacían los bromistas de entonces, incomodando gente en 1897, antes de la aviación y de los "satélites que caen a la Tierra"? El juez se llamaba J.S. Proctor y el vigilante de Aurora era T.J. Weems. El periódico que dio la

noticia lo hizo con la naturalidad con que se da información sobre un descarrilamiento o un accidente automovilístico. ¿Habrá mayor naturalidad frente a algo que nadie podía desmentir?...

Lo increíble acecha. Y la frase de Theilard de Chardin, ese genio difícil de ubicar, brota de nuevo: "En el terreno de las posibilidades, sólo lo fantástico puede ser real". Y ese murmullo interior que nos dice que no estamos solos...

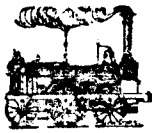
Uno de estos días, uno de estos años o de estos siglos, nos llevaremos la sorpresa mayor.

Y la posibilidad... posible, dentro de lo imposible. ¿Extraterrestres? ¡Bah! ¿OVNIS? ¡Uh! ¿1897? Mmmmm. ¡Mejor pensemos en la inmortalidad del cangrejo y en lo que hoy pasan por televisión! ¿Verdad?

CE, 10-5-78

BY HAYDEN C. HEWES

→ 1296-97



# SEARCH FOR THE AURORA ASTRONAUT



11 M - Ao 79

In the latest UFO controversy, Hayden C. Hewes, director of Oklahoma's International UFO Bureau, reopens the files on the mysterious extraterrestrial spaceship mishap which allegedly occurred some 75 years ago in the little Wise County, Texas town of Aurora

"ABOUT 6 O'CLOCK THIS MORNING the early risers of Aurora were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship which has been sailing throughout the country.

"It sailed directly over the public square and, when it reached the north part of town, collided with the tower of Judge Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a terrific explosion, scattering debris over several acres of ground, wrecking the windwell and water tank, and destroying the judge's flower garden.

"The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one aboard, and while his remains are badly disfigured, enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world.

"T.J. Weems, the U.S. signal service officer at this place and an authority on astronomy, gives it as his opinion that he (the pilot) was a native of the planet Mars.

"Papers found on his person—evidently the records of his travels—are written in some unknown hieroglyphics and cannot be deciphered. The ship was too badly wrecked to form any conclusion as to its construction or motive power.

"The town is full of people today who are viewing the wreck and have gathered specimens of strange metal from the debris. The pilot's funeral will take place tomorrow."

Thus wrote cotton buyer and newspaper correspondent S.E. Hayden for the *Dallas Morning News* on the morning of April 18, 1897, a day after the accident. Not 1973, when the sighting of another unidentified flying object might be viewed with interest but not necessarily excitement. No, long before the first "flying machine" made its entrance into the history books, citizens of Aurora, Texas gawked at the remains of an amazing "airship" as it lay burning amid the rubble of Judge Proctor's windmill.

Was it a "cigar-shaped airship" that tragically exploded that spring morning, or were prior reports of airship sightings across

the country all the impetus the citizens of Aurora needed to construct a set of "facts" surrounding the incident?

Wise County historian Etta Pegues, who was 14 years old at the time, believes the story is "a fantastic piece of fiction. It's a bunch of bunk! Judge Proctor had no windmill."

But from the original article, countless rumors have emerged over the years as to what really did take place. And it was this interest that prompted the International UFO Bureau, headquartered in Oklahoma City, to reopen the Aurora file.

Following investigation into the incident during the summer of 1972, Tommy Blann, deputy director of the International UFO Bureau, explained, "During the past sixteen years, I have studied the UFO phenomena, looking for all possible clues that would give me solid, tangible evidence that would prove from a scientific standpoint that these UFOs could very well be extraterrestrial in origin. Since I was particularly interested in old newspaper clippings concerning UFOs, I came across the Aurora, Texas incident. To satisfy my curiosity, I embarked on a trip to Aurora on June 21, 1972, to find out what really did happen."

### WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?

After talking with several Aurora residents, Blann was disturbed by the fact that some still believed in the 75-year-old story, while others shrugged it off as a hoax. "I question myself as to why some stuck to their story after all these years," Blann said. "Something had to have happened, but what it was, I didn't know. This is when I began an intensive investigation into the incident."

After discussing his investigations with Bureau officials, Blann went ahead with plans for an in-depth investigation. In gathering background information, Bureau public relations director Daniel Garcia wrote to the Texas State Library, Texas Archives, at Austin to obtain information on Aurora a

P. DEC-73



→ 1.896-97

# BRIEF REPORTS



## Flying Saucers Come, Go; Aurora's Legend Lives On, Aurora, Texas.

If the little man from outer space hadn't died when his cigar-shaped spaceship plowed into Judge J.S. Proctor's window on April 19, 1897, this would be like any other rural community left to wither when the railroad went elsewhere just after the turn of the century.

In fact, that's exactly what most of its residents would like it to remain -- a quiet farming and ranching community of 273 persons, a dot on the more intricate state maps, an obscure community 45 miles northwest of Dallas in a county where the biggest town has 3,750 residents and the biggest event is the annual Chisholm Trail Days each June.

Instead, much to the exasperation of many of its residents, Aurora has become a shrine to watchers of unidentified flying objects, the scene of periodic attempts to dig up the remains of what is reputed to be the only being from outer space said to be buried on Earth.

H.R. Idell, the town's marshal and attendant at Bonnie Oates's Arco station, right in front of the bluff where the little man supposedly fell to earth, says he's not sure if the story is true but his wife's grandmother used to say she heard the crash.

"Me, I'd like to see what's down in there," he says.

Such remarks are enough to send many residents into fits of profound depression. Members of the local cemetery association have spent evenings camped out at the site to prevent the body from being exhumed. The association has been threatened with suits and subjected to verbal abuse. And members are unanimous in saying there was no spaceman, there was no spaceship. Judge Proctor didn't even have a window, they say, and there's only a ludicrous hoax kept alive in UFO newsletters and newspaper reports.

"It's not true," said one member, who asked not to be identified. "It's all nonsense. We'd appreciate it if people would just let it drop. I wasn't here at the time, but I've got some common sense, and I know none of those stories ever jibed."

Aurora was saved from anonymity by one S.E. Hayden, a local cotton-buyer and correspondent for Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers, who wrote the newspaper stories solely describing the crash that allegedly dismembered the pilot and destroyed the judge's window, watering trough and flower garden.

"However," Hayden reported, "enough remains were picked up to determine it was not an inhabitant of this world. The men of the community gathered it up, and it was given a Christian burial in the Aurora cemetery."

Except for an Oklahoma City researcher of unidentified flying objects who contended that he had proof the story was true, proponents of exhumation say there was a nationwide UFO craze in April 1897, marked by dozens of obviously spurious sightings. But this is the only place where a being is supposed to be buried, and efforts should be made to find out if it's true, they say. (Chattanooga Times, 4/22/79, Cr: Terry Lee).

body and use the senses of the inner soul body.

When scientists, studying psychic events with the use of their graphs and computers, discover physical reactions being produced, it is not the physical action that is producing the phenomenon but simply the body reaction to the soul functioning. Scientists' idea of establishing parapsychology as a recognized physical science is only beneficial to obtain grants for more research.

There will eventually come an understanding that soul is real. Soul survives death of the body and can re-enter a body again while progressing in its development (reincarnation). One field of evidence of this re-entry of bodies is possession and split personality cases. It is simply another underdeveloped soul trying to enter a body that is already occupied.

G.L. Jordison  
Baker Lake, Northwest Territories,  
Canada

1 M-AP 79

Newark during the 1890s. Their report stated, "During these 'boom days' of Newark, Aurora—the best Wise County town at that time—began a demise. There were three very good reasons for this. The roadbed for a railroad to be known as the Dallas-Albuquerque was surveyed through their district. Construction was slow due to the fact that there was no power equipment, only 'team power' and hand power with pick and shovel. The horse-drawn scoop, or 'slip' to some, did the excavation work.

"The Dallas-Albuquerque never reached completion," the report continued. "Some old-timers attributed the failure to a fund depletion. This was a setback to Aurora. The second reverse to progress came one windy day when the entire western business section was destroyed by fire. On the heels of this tragedy, a greater catastrophe occurred in the form of the 'spotted fever epidemic' (1890) that caused a virtual stampede of the populace."

The next month, a letter was directed to Lou Farish, who has spent a great deal of time researching the "airship" sightings of the 1890s. His reply, dated July 25, 1972, stated, "Everything I've heard/read about the Aurora, Texas 'crash' indicates to me that it was a hoax, concocted by S.E. Hayden, the local writer/cotton buyer. I've talked to people who have

been to Aurora, and they all say the same thing—no one ever heard of any 'buried spaceman' until someone happened to run across the 1897 story. I admit there are certain details in the story (such as the hieroglyphics found on board the crashed ship) which puzzle me, as they tie in quite well with later UFO reports.

"I am not committed to the hoax explanation," Farish concluded, "but up until this time everything has seemed to point in that direction."

One unidentified resident of Aurora told Bureau officials that he considered the "pilot" part of the incident to be a hoax. "It was hard enough to get people to bury people they knew with the spotted fever epidemic," he said. "You almost had to get them drunk the night before."

If there is a clue to a possible hoax, it is in Hayden's identification of the signal service officer. T.J. Weems was actually Jeff Weems, Aurora's blacksmith.

#### BILLBOARDS AND HOLIDAY INNS

Dan Garcia then wrote to Jerry Flemmons of the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, who had written the September 27, 1967 article about the incident. Garcia requested any information that might not have been included in the original

**IS AN ALIEN BURIED AT THE AURORA, TEXAS CEMETERY?** Some old-time believers in the alleged 1897 crash of a UFO say yes, while other skeptical pioneer families and researchers are not so sure. Here, International UFO Bureau director Hayden C. Hewes (speaking into a microphone) points out a possible alien grave site to curious reporters.

Photo by *The Oklahoma Journal* staff photographer Steve Sisney



article. His reply came in the form of a *Telegram* article, published July 10, 1972, in which Flemmons concluded that if Aurora had indeed been the site of a Martian-driven spaceship disaster, "Holiday Inn would have one of its motels on the site, billboards would point the way, and you and everybody would be paying \$2 a head just to look and purchase plastic replicas of the space ship or plastic ash trays with pictures of Martians on them."

Eight months later, in an article published March 8, 1973 by the *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, Chuck Oswald related the Bureau's progress into the incident. As a result of this article, Bill Case, aviation writer for the *Dallas Times Herald*, became interested in the story, and on March 25 the investigations of the Bureau were headlined around the world and kept a



Photo by *The Oklahoma Journal* staff photographer Steve Sisney

**A PAINFUL CASE OF ARTHRITIS**, which doctors believe might have been caused by radiation poisoning, has crippled the hands of Brawley Oates, present owner of the crash site. Oates is convinced the ailment is a result of contaminated water from the well on his property.

questioning readership wondering. Case related that Bureau officials "were interested in locating metal fragments in an effort to support or dispel the legend." If unexplained metal could be located, Case reported, "our next step would be to locate a possible grave location."

Then on his own, Case began to interview Aurora families. C.C. Stephens, a long-time resident, reportedly told Case that his father, Jim Stephens, had been putting the cows out to pasture on their ranch, three miles south of Aurora, at 4 o'clock that morning, when he noticed a "cigar-shaped airship with a white light" pass very low over him and move straight ahead until it crashed at a well site on a high hill on Judge Proctor's farm. The resulting explosion, the elder Stephens told his son, lit up the sky for several minutes. When Stephens rode a horse to the crash site the next day, he reported all that remained was a mass of torn metal and burned rubble.

Yet, when Bureau officials interviewed the now 83-year-old "Charlie" Stephens, he told them that "He (referring to his father, Jim) only saw the fire. He didn't know if it was an airship or what it was. The next day he went over and said there had been a fire up there. That's all he knew. They told him something fell that was on fire, and he thought it was a house that burned (as a result)."

Stephens went on to say that he had not heard about the "little man" until a couple of years ago, and that as far as he knew, there had been no windmill on the Proctor property. Rather, the airship crashed into Judge Proctor's wooden windlass, which had been built over a well to haul up the pump.

Reporter Bill Case also said he was able to locate Mrs. Mary Evans, a pioneer Wise County woman who lives in Newark, who said she was about 15 years old at the time. Mrs. Evans allegedly told Case that her family lived in Aurora, but her mother and father wouldn't let her go with them when they went up to the crash site. When they returned home, however, they told her that the airship had exploded and that the pilot had been "torn up" in the crash. Townsfolk gathered the remains of what they described as a "small man" and buried him that same day in the cemetery.

#### "A LITTLE GREEN MAN"

Again, when Mrs. Evans recalled the incident to Bureau officials and Greg Thompson, staff writer for the *Denton Record-Chronicle*, she said she wasn't old enough to remember all about it, but that it really did happen. "All I can remember," she recalled, "is that people were talking about a little green man."

According to Case, G.C. Curley, 98, another pioneer resident, told him that he had been in Lewisville at the time of the accident. Two friends had asked him to ride over on horseback to Aurora to see it, but since he had to work, he hadn't been able to go with them. When they returned that night, they allegedly told him the airship had been seen coming from the direction of Dallas the day before and had been sighted in the area. But no one had seemed to know what it was. Sightseers had been collecting pieces of the exploded



"ALL I CAN REMEMBER," says Mrs. Mary Evans (above), a long-time Wise County resident, "is that people were talking about a little green man." According to newspaper sources, Mrs. Evans was so young at the time that her parents left her at home when they viewed remains of the crash.



INTEREST IN THE 75-YEAR-OLD MYSTERY has soared in recent months, primarily due to newspaper reports by *Dallas Times Herald* aviation writer Bill Case, who is himself being interviewed here.

airship, but no one had been able to identify the metal it was made of.

Curley reportedly told Case that it was difficult for his friends to describe the pilot—all they had seen was a torn-up body—and they didn't know what happened to it later.

When Bureau officials interviewed "G.C. Curley", a resident of Lewisville Texas Nursing Home, they discovered that his real name is A.J. McCurley. He said he didn't know why people were calling him. "I don't know anything about it."

Several days later, in a follow-up interview, his son, Homer McCurley, reported, "My father doesn't know anything about that. My father was living in Oklahoma, teaching school, when that was supposed to have happened. He is ninety-eight years old, and if somebody can put words into his mind, he comes out with it.

"I have read all the articles in the papers," McCurley continued, "and this (referring to statements attributed to his father) is not a factual story. I do know, by checking on my own, that my father was teaching school in Oklahoma. He agrees with you, but the next day he doesn't remember anything about it."

On May 17, 1973, another Case article carried the headline, "Metal Unearthed May Be UFO" and related how a scientific Texas treasure hunter had recovered some unusual, unidentifiable fragments on May 16. A Frank N. Kelley of Corpus Christi, Texas said that in all his years of recovering metal and treasures, he had never seen metal like the kind he unearthed at the site where the windmill on Judge Proctor's property used to stand.

According to Case, Kelley recovered thin, jagged pieces of metal, which looked like they had been torn apart by an explosion. Although Kelley said they looked something like modern aircraft covering, he did not believe they were aluminum, tin, iron or steel.

After allegedly spending hours at the site with a metal detector, Kelley said he received the same type of rebound signals from a remote grave in the Aurora Cemetery. Could the pilot have been buried there?

#### DIGGING FOR THE TRUTH

As the rumors continued, the stories and national headlines related the latest findings. At this point, an article entitled "UFO Unit Wants Body Exhumed" said that International UFO Bureau officials were seeking legal means to exhume the body for examination, providing enough evidence could be located to support the pilot part of the incident.

These headlines resulted in the Aurora Cemetery Association taking legal action against the Bureau. Decatur, Texas attorney Bill Nobles was requested to prepare a petition for an injunction against the Bureau to stop any illegal digging in the cemetery, should any occur. In the meantime, Bureau attorneys were looking into the legalities involved with exhuming the body, should that course of action be decided on. Any court order would have to be granted by District Judge Hughes. But Nobles pointed out that the injunction would be used only to stop any digging not authorized by a court order.

"The Aurora Cemetery Association would require substantial evidence before it would consent to the exhumation," Nobles said. "If the probability of finding an alien in the grave were overwhelming, I think the citizens would cooperate. We have no desire to stand in the way of scientific research."

In the meantime, fearful of illegal digging, Wise County Sheriff Eldon Moyers stood guard at the cemetery to keep Bureau officials out.

Shortly after it was reported that Kelley had found metal fragments, additional fragments were located at the site by Bureau deputy director Tommy Blann. The first analysis was conducted by physics professor Dr. Tom Gray at North Texas State University. Of the submitted fragments, one was unusual. "It's mostly iron (75 percent), with about 25 percent zinc, but it's not magnetic," Gray reported. "I don't know what it is. I don't think a spaceship would land here carrying American-threaded zinc." After Bureau officials released the

analysis, a full statement was issued by Dr. Gray to the news media.

On May 31, Case reported that samples of the metal had been submitted by *The Dallas Times Herald* to one of the nation's leading aircraft manufacturers. In a preliminary report, a spokesman for the company said that one of the seven pieces which had been submitted for examination was highly unusual. After a complete rundown, including spectroscopic tests and a feedback run-through in a computer bank of all known metals, the final report was released by Case under the headline, "Aurora 'UFO' Alloy Unknown Back In '97". In his story, Case stated that the fragments of metal discovered at

Photo by *The Oklahoma Journal* staff photographer Steve Sisney



**RADIATION DETECTOR** used by Hayden Hewes (at left) at the purported crash site fails to detect anything but normal background radiation. Below, Bureau consultant Richard Leonard, Ken Vaught and Vic Johnston probe for evidence with a metal detector at the crash site. The Bureau's conclusion: Although something probably *did* happen that April 17, 1897, no evidence has been found to substantiate the claim.

Photo by *The Oklahoma Journal* staff photographer Steve Sisney



the well site had been identified as an aluminum alloy, which could not have been made "prior to 1908, 1910 or even as late as 1920". The report continued that from the corrosive effects they had undergone during the past 75 years, the remaining pieces were identified as iron, steel and lead. Some of them were so corroded, in fact, that they had lost all of their magnetism.

When the Bureau attempted to locate Frank Kelley in Corpus Christi to discuss his fragments findings, it was determined that no one by that name resided in the city. The investigation report stated, "The telephone number given by Kelley as his home belongs to another family, while his home address is nonexistent." In addition, Corpus Christi Bureau officials stated, "He is not known in the treasure-hunting circles in the Corpus area."

Before Kelley disappeared, Case gave Bureau officials some of the metal fragments that Kelley had allegedly found. Upon analysis at the request of the Bureau, the metal was identified "as iron and nothing unusual".

Additional fragments analyzed for the Bureau by one of the nation's leading companies specializing in aluminum and aluminum compounds was released by the *Denton Record Chronicle* on June 3 as being 99 percent aluminum. The complete analysis stated:

Sample No. 1	Sample No. 1 Acid (HNO <sub>3</sub> ) washed before dissolution
%	%
Al 98%	98% approximate
Ca 0.005	0.005
Cr 0.04	0.04
Cu 0.12	0.12
Fe 0.40	0.10
Mg 0.02	0.02
MN 0.02	0.02
K 0.12	0.06
Na 0.45	0.10
Ni 0.04	0.04
Ti 0.0005	0.0005
V 0.0005	0.0005
Si Trace	Trace
Zn Trace	Trace

The reduction of Fe, Na, and K in the metal after the surface was washed with HNO<sub>3</sub> indicates that the metal has been exposed to a highly alkaline environment.

**Sample No. 2**

Same as above with the following exceptions:

- Fe 0.50%
- Zn 0.10

A general survey of the metal was made with an emission spectrograph. The elements reported were analyzed using atomic absorption techniques.

In a press release several days later, Bureau officials agreed with Bill Case's statements that "the metal could not have been produced in the 1890s" due to the fact that it contained a high amount of sodium, indicating it was made with present-day methods. The metal was nothing more than 98 percent aluminum-normal cast aluminum.

It was at this point that Bureau officials announced they would join the Aurora Cemetery Association in requesting an injunction to enjoin anyone from exhuming the suspected

grave site. Attorney Bill Nobles was notified. The purpose of this action was to prevent anyone from digging up the site before all of the tests were in. Additional Analyses were expected.

Then on June 16, L.J. Lorenzen, director of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) in Arizona, told United Press International, "There's every indication that the bits of aluminum alloy arrived on the Proctor property since 1967 and probably within the last 60 days."

Lorenzen added that if the Aurora incident had been a legitimate case of a UFO crash, APRO would have been the first to recognize it as such.

**ALL ELEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON EARTH**

N.N. Kohanowski, associate professor of mining geology at the University of North Dakota, discussed the fragments obtained by the Bureau. "Judging by the available data on composition of light-emitting stars," he said, "no elements have been found that are not known on the earth. Mathematicians tell us that some materials of exceptionally high densities must exist on some of the remotest stars, but no spectroscopy data bear that out.

"There is another possibility," Kohanowski continued, "that an extraterrestrial object is made of some alloy of metals known to us. In the set-up at the present, even NASA would not be able to identify any alloy as not fabricated in the USA."

Agreeing with Kohanowski was Bureau deputy director Blann, who stated, "From a scientific standpoint, there is really not enough evidence to support either side of the story (terrestrial or extraterrestrial). But it must be remembered that although our analysis proves the metal fragments to have the same characteristics of terrestrial metal, this does not eliminate the extraterrestrial hypothesis.

"The only clue that might support any indications of metal fragments being of extraterrestrial origin," Blann added, "would possibly be due to the nuclear arrangement of the elements involved in the composition of the alloy, plus other chemical and nuclear properties that could not be attributed to our present-day technology."

The search for the Aurora Astronaut by officials of the International UFO Bureau in an effort to determine if the legend is true or not has resulted in the following conclusions: It is the opinion of the Bureau that the entire story is not a hoax, that in fact something was observed (in 1897), but that no evidence has been presented to establish the identification of what the object was or what grave the "alien" is buried in, if there is in fact such an occupant.

Brawley Oates, present owner of the crash site, is a true believer in the story. When he moved to the farm in 1945, he cleaned the partly-filled well and then used it for drinking water for 12 years. But when he began to develop a painful case of gouty arthritis, he decided to seal the well. His gnarled, grotesquely deformed hands baffled doctors, who could only speculate that the arthritis might have been the result of radiation poisoning. And although geiger counters used by the Bureau failed to detect anything but normal background radiation near the well, Oates thinks the water might have been radioactive.

"At the time," Oates said, referring to several years ago when he first heard about the 1897 UFO crash, "I didn't think anything about it. I didn't think there was any such things as flying saucers. But I sure do now." □

# Nadie llevó jamás flores a esa tumba. Era un ser desconocido, quizá de otros mundos...

...ve, como hemos dicho más arriba, quedó totalmente destruida y es imposible formular cualquier teoría sobre su construcción o sobre el secreto de su fuerza motriz. Ciertamente estaba construida con un metal desconocido, una especie de aleación de aluminio y platina, y se supone que había pesar varias toneladas. Hoy la ciudad está llena de curiosos llegados de todas partes para ver el lugar del desastre. Los restos del pitoto serán enterrados a mediodía en el cementerio de Aurora. Firmado: S. E. Haydon.

Bill Case es un periodista del Dallas Morning News, que casi por casualidad descubrió en marzo pasado, buscando en el archivo, el viejo artículo de Haydon que decidió abrir de nuevo el caso. Subió a su automóvil y se dirigió a la tumba. Aurora, donde actual-

sensación. Se trataba de un texto relativamente breve, pero, por una razón incomprensible, aunque la noticia me interesaba mucho, no conseguía que los diversos detalles se fijaran en mi mente. Una especie de hechizo, en suma. El escrito me fascinaba pero al mismo tiempo no era capaz de asimilarlo. Cuanto más lo leía me acordaba los detalles, los personajes citados, los recovecos del episodio. Hube de acabar tomando notas rigurosas para evitar que todo se borrara definitivamente de mi memoria. Pero en sustancia se trataba de una imitación precisa para que me trasladara en persona a aquel pueblo perdido de Texas. Era como si el cerebro se negase categóricamente a registrar aquellos hechos e través del escrito de Bill Case y una fuerza misteriosa me impulsara inexorablemente

1897. En mi opinión, ya se lo he dicho, es seguro que aconteció algo anormal. Yo compré esta propiedad a los hijos del juez Proctor hace muchísimos años, no recuerdo exactamente cuántos. Estaba la estructura del molino de viento, estaba el pozo, estaban las huellas de la explosión, y todos hablaban de ello como de un hecho notorio y evidente. En 1945 decidí cerrar el pozo e hice abrir otro algo más lejos. Puse una losa de cemento sobre el antiguo y construí el galinero tal como está ahora. Debajo del cemento debe de haber muchas cosas que podrían ser útiles para establecer la verdad. El hecho es que antes de que los periódicos sacaran a relucir el caso aquí no se hablaba mucho de él. No es que el problema no estuviera siempre en lugar destacado de nuestras mentes. A veces bastaba pronunciar la pala-

til perseguirla. La astronave no les dejaría nunca acercarse lo suficiente. De modo que volvieron a contar veces. Lo único que quiero demostrar con este episodio es que las astronaves misteriosas existen. Y que es más que normal que una de esas astronaves, de un modelo antiguo, un chisme de hace casi ochenta años, fuera a dar contra el molino del juez. Me parece elemental.

## «Pasó silbando sobre la cabeza de mi padre»

El festigo ocular Charlie Stevens, de 82 años, vive en una ca-

ente puede llegarse desde Dallas en poco más de una hora de carretera. En cambio tardó algún tiempo en localizar exactamente la aldea, porque Aurora, desde que fue diezmada por una epidemia de fiebre tifoidea a principio de siglo, ha desaparecido literalmente del mapa. En otros tiempos fue un punto importante de la Old Chisolm Trail, donde las caravanas de pioneros que se enfilaban hacia el Oeste se detenían para pasar la noche. Había quince «saloons» siempre abiertos, se jugaba y la feria de ganado era una de las más importantes de Texas. Bill Case es muy amable, pero, como es natural, un poco celoso de su información. Cuenta muchas cosas, pero es comprensible que reserve las noticias más importantes para sí y para su periódico. Me di cuenta que esto la primera vez que le llamé por teléfono. Y debo decir que entre Bill y yo surgió inmediatamente, a través del hilo, una cordis pero tenaz rivalidad profesional. El hecho es muy lógico, y por tanto no acudí directamente a la cita que me concedió y que debía tener lugar en la redacción del «Morning News». Por el contrario subí al coche y me precipité en dirección a Aurora. Gracias a los artículos de Bill, que yo había leído ávidamente, especialmente el primero, tenía ya datos suficientes para practicar una pequeña indagación por mi cuenta. El primer reportaje de Bill Case, en particular, me causó una extraña

hacia Aurora. Por eso estoy aquí ante esa carretera, el chico rubio pajizo, los testigos decrepitos, el gallinero, el cementerio, la leyenda. Pero no consigo hacer un programa, no me muevo. Me doy cuenta de que lo único que puede hacerse es abandonarse a esta historia, a estos personajes. No sirve de nada buscarlos, estimularlos con preguntas, provocarlos. En el fondo siento cierta satisfacción por haber traicionado a Bill, por haber venido sin él, por estar yo solo en el centro de la historia. Y todo esto es absurdo porque en Aurora no hay mucho por descubrir que Bill Case no haya descubierto ya. Pero de pronto me doy cuenta de una cosa, de algo de lo que Bill no ha hablado. Estoy en el centro de Aurora y no sé dónde está el cielo ni dónde está la tierra. Si miro a mis pies veo nubes, si miro hacia arriba veo árboles y manadas de bueyes. La cabeza me da vueltas y ya no comprendo nada. Más tarde me despierto aturdido en el cochitril de Brawley Oates.

«—Sabe Dios lo que sería — explica pacientemente Oates — pero algo cayó sobre el molino de viento del juez. Una cosa pesada que luego estalló. Y después de la explosión hubo un violento incendio. Hemos recogido una montaña de pruebas materiales que favorecen la tesis de la explosión. Aquí estamos todos ferozmente divididos en cuanto a los hechos que sucedieron el 17 de abril de

una astronave para provocar un trifulca, pero la vida continuaba y el asunto no había adquirido la dimensión mundial que tiene ahora. Era una historia nuestra y nada más. Ahora los odios y las divisiones han aumentado.»

Brawley Oates no quiere ir más allá ni dar más explicaciones. Dice que es mejor que vaya yo a hablar con los testigos, que me entere directamente. El sheriff, Harold Idell, quien apenas ha hablado, se ofrece a acompañarme. Mientras conduce empieza a hablar a media voz. Parece que dialoga consigo mismo más que conmigo.

«—La historia es verdadera — dice Idell—. Y en el cementerio está sepultado ese ser. Yo no estaré tranquilo mientras no lo desenterramos. El juez nos niega el permiso, es verdad. Mucha gente de aquí presiona para que se silencie la cuestión. Pero tenemos mil maneras de salirnos con la nuestra. Aunque me cueste la insignia de sheriff. Ve a el caso de mi nieto: sucedió hace tres semanas. Estaba en medio de un campo con un amigo contando vacas. De pronto una astronave se posó a su lado. Los dos dejaron de contar vacas y se acercaron a ella. De pronto, pssst, la astronave se elevó con enorme rapidez y aterrizó algo más lejos. Ellos la siguieron y el aparato se fue a lo alto de la colina. Entonces mi nieto decidió que era inú-

sa amarilla de madera a kilómetro y medio del cementerio.

Cultiva un centenar de hectáreas de tierra.

«—Avellanas — dice — sólo avellanas porque cualquier otra cosa sería demasiado cansada para mí. Las avellanas basta con ir las a buscar con el tractor y el remolque. Crecen solas. Quieres saber toda la historia, lo leo en tu mirada. Procuraré ser breve. Era muy temprano y mi padre estaba ya en pie ordeñando las vacas. De pronto vio una especie de puro — estas fueron sus palabras durante años — que pasó silbando sobre su cabeza. A mi padre solía traerle todo sin cuidado. Pero unos instantes después se armó una de todos los diablos. El cielo se incendió, se tizó de rojo, se sintió un estampido, una confusión monumental. Mi padre dejó de ordeñar y me parece que soltó algunos tacos. Acudió a despertarnos, pero cuando nos levantamos ya no se veía nada. El viejo dijo que todo aquello le importaba un bledo, que había una montaña de trabajo por hacer. Yo tenía sólo cinco años pero ya me ganaba la vida en los campos. Por la tarde mi padre no pudo resistir más, montó a caballo y fue a ver qué demonios había pasado. Cuando volvió nos lo contó todo. El molino del juez Proctor había saltado por los aires, el jardín estaba destruido y alrededor había huellas de un incendio. La Si



## El sheriff convencido de que

tierra estaba negra. Había una multitud de gente mirando y más de uno dijo a mi padre que durante la noche había caído un objeto misterioso sobre el molino del juez. Mi padre nunca tuvo dudas y repetía siempre que aquel objeto estuvo a punto de caer encima de nuestras vacas en vez de dar contra el molino. Mi padre siguió hablando del caso durante años, hasta que se fue al otro barrio. No sé si se trataba verdaderamente de una astronave. Mi viejo nunca contó nada del piloto, por ejemplo. Acaso cuando llegó allí lo habían enterrado ya. De todas formas es seguro que algo cayó del cielo aquella mañana y fue a estrellarse en línea recta contra el molino del juez Proctor. Es casi inútil seguir hablando de aquello...

«—Pero, Charlie, ¿no pudo ser que su padre se sugestionara por alguna otra cosa, o bien que interpretara de manera confusa lo que le contaron?»

«—¿Estoy equivocado o llamas a mi padre mentirosos?»

un inútil. De trabajo, nada, y la cerveza por cajas. Ya me entiendes. Son los más tronados de toda la comarca. Si tú pudieras... Un par de dólares bastará. Mary sabrá complacerte. Ya verás, tiene la mente clarísima a pesar de sus 92 años.»

Mary Evans no nos deja entrar en la barraca y sale para hablar conmigo.

«—¿Que si vi la astronave? Respuesta: la vi, la vi, la vi. Pero no con estos ojos. Quería ir adonde el juez, pero los míos no me dejaron. Entonces corrían otros tiempos. Una chica de quince años debía quedarse en casa cuando pasaban ciertas cosas. Verá lo que sucedió. Todavía estaba oscuro y en casa fuimos desperdidos todos por una especie de explosión. Mi padre miró hacia afuera y dijo que se veía fuego en lo alto de la colina. Decretó que las mujeres no debíamos salir bajo ningún concepto. El salió a ver qué pasaba. Cuando volvió nos lo contó todo, hasta el detalle de los restos del piloto, y añadió que el entierro se haría aquel

Evans decido que ha llegado el momento de interrumpir la investigación y de ir en busca de Bill Case. Ahora lo que Case ha escrito me parece claro y transparente. Necesitaba introducirme un poco en el ambiente de Aurora (Texas).

Bill no parece ofendido por el hecho de que yo llegue con veinticuatro horas de retraso. Vamos a sentarnos en una ruidosa cafetería junto al periódico.

«—De modo que ya lo sabe usted todo —me dice un poco cortado cuando le confieso que he estado ya en Aurora—. Entonces las otras cosas importantes que debe tener en cuenta son las siguientes: cuando aquel recorte con la crónica de Haydon cayó entre mis manos por casualidad hice unas investigaciones más en las bibliotecas y descubrí que el episodio de Aurora representaba el «climax» de una situación que había madurado durante semanas. Del 14 al 27 de abril de aquel año se señalaron nada menos que quinientas observaciones de astronautas en Texas. Fue después de

el detector de metales nos da el cementerio, sobre aquella tumba, las mismas señales que se registran alrededor del antiguo pozo. Esto nos impulsa a concluir que alguna cosa encontrada en el lugar de la explosión fue efectivamente enterrada en esa tumba. El detector de metales es un aparato de gran precisión. ¿Pero se trata verdaderamente de restos de un ser extraterrestre? Tal vez lo podamos averiguar el día que nos den autorización para abrir la tumba. Por tanto, la cosa no es tan absurda si se piensa bien. Imaginemos que uno de nuestros astronautas se estrellase contra la superficie de otro planeta. Si se le enterrase con el traje espacial puesto, evidentemente sería sepultada, junto con los restos, cierta cantidad de metal. Los trajes espaciales están llenos de metal. Y hay otro detalle muy interesante. El mismo juez Proctor que murió hacia 1905, publicaba un periodiquito local en el que insertó una amplia información del suceso. Por desgracia no existe ni un solo ejemplar de aquel número. Hemos dirigido varios llamamientos a la gente de la ci

El viejo se levanta del murete en que estaba sentado, se pone cárdeno, las venas del cuello se le hinchan y agita frente a mis narices un flaco puño surcado de gruesas venas moradas. Es una mano vieja pero todavía firme. El sheriff Idell, hasta entonces apartado, interviene sabia y decididamente e intenta restablecer el orden.

Pero el viejo no quiere saber nada. Escupe y grita.

«—Ha llamado mentiroso a mi padre, eso es lo que le ha llamado. Estos de la prensa infectan todo lo que tocan.»

Idell me hace una seña indicándome que suba al coche. Mientras nos alejamos veo a Stevens que sigue escupiendo y pataleando. Me asusta la idea de que la rabia pueda provocarle un ataque. ¿Qué leyes hay en Texas respecto al asesinato por medio de una pregunta verbal?

«—Mary es mucho más tratable», me tranquiliza Idell cuando estamos a punto de detenernos delante de la casita de Mary Evans, segunda testigo directa.

Vive en una barraca de cartón cubierta con láminas de hojalata hechas con envases de carne, judías, leche en polvo y demás.

«—Está en mala situación —continúa el sheriff— Vive con su nieta. La nieta no es una desfilarradora pero está casada con

una quina voladora que venía del cielo se había estrellado en la finca del juez, que todo había pasado ya y que era preferible que nosotras nos olvidásemos del asunto. Pero al día siguiente mi madre y yo cogimos el carricoche y fuimos a echar un vistazo. Primero pasamos junto al cementerio. Había mucha gente y algunos nos indicaron el punto exacto donde habían enterrado al piloto. Lo recuerdo como si hubiera sucedido ayer. He sido la única que ha enseñado al sheriff y a los periodistas la tumba precisa. Lo recuerdo como si fuese ayer, eso es todo. Recuerdo que dijeron que el ser enterrado era una criatura extraña perteneciente a otro mundo a pesar de lo cual se le había dado cristiana sepultura y que era mejor rezar por él. De modo que las dos rezamos. Luego subimos a ver lo que había pasado en el lugar del juez. Recuerdo todavía la tierra ennegrecida por la explosión, el olor acre a quemado, los grupos de curiosos. Todos decían que una astronave procedente de otro mundo había caído precisamente allí. Todos decían que había un piloto a bordo y que murió en el accidente. Durante años hemos vivido con la convicción de que era una historia verdadera, un hecho de la vida. Ahora todos discuten del caso, hasta por televisión. Cuando yo era joven no había tiempo para charlar tanto.»

Después de hablar con Mary

descubrir esto cuando partí hacia Aurora. Ya sabe usted lo que hay en esa aldea: encontramos viejos testigos y recogimos algunos fragmentos de metal muy interesantes. Parece muy verosímil que se produjera allí una explosión aquel día. Seguidamente quisimos saber qué tipo de hombre fue Haydon, el corresponsal que envió la noticia al «Dallas Times Herald». Algunos lo recuerdan como un aldeano socarrón, otros dicen que estaba loco y hay quien afirma que era un poeta. Yo he hecho algunas investigaciones y he descubierto que Haydon fue sin duda un tipo alegre, pero como periodista era bastante exacto y digno de crédito. Trabajaba como corresponsal en los ratos libres que le dejaban sus actividades de comerciante en algodón. Envié dos informaciones sobre este episodio. Las he examinado con atención y debo decir que en sustancia son coherentes. Por último está la cuestión del metal que, con otras personas, hemos recogido en la zona. Entre los fragmentos, que están todavía en estudio, hay indudablemente algunas piezas muy interesantes. Se trata de compuestos de aluminio desconocidos y de esquilas de metal que contienen un ochenta por ciento de hierro, pero no son magnéticas. Esto tal vez no quiera decir mucho pero puede tener alguna significación precisa. Además tenemos el hecho sensorial más reciente en lo que respecta a los descubrimientos:

marca pidiendo que se busque en los desvanes o en los sótanos, tal vez entre las hojas de una vieja Biblia familiar para ver si encuentra alguna huella, un simple diario o anotación que pueda ayudarnos a averiguar lo que efectivamente sucedió en Aurora mañana de 17 de abril de 1897

## Han robado la losa de la tumba

Cruzamos de nuevo la calle y volvemos a la redacción. Bill quiere mostrarme sus documentos de sigo hasta su mesa.

Apenas hemos llegado cuando suena el teléfono. Bill coge el aparato y, después de soltar algunos gruñidos, empieza a tomar notas. Cuelga y se despide de mí bruscamente. «He de escribir información para mañana —dice—. Telefonéame dentro de un par de días por ejemplo». Y mientras mete la hoja en la máquina de escribir añade: «¿Sabes lo que ha pasado? Han robado la losa sepulcral del astronauta enterrado en el cementerio de Aurora».

Todo está trastornado. Las cosas empiezan a girar de nuevo y yo me encuentro otra vez en despacho de Brawley Oates. Naturalmente, el sheriff está aquí. Ni-

# Idell ha ocultado una prueba: «Estoy seguro en beneficio de Estados Unidos...»

uno de los dos parece emocionarse con mi nueva visita. Oates está interesadísimo persiguiendo los moscos o tres moscas con una paleta que debe remontarse a los tiempos del astronauta. Por fin anuncio que voy a escuchar a la parte contraria o sea a los «que no creen».

«—Son ganas de perder el tiempo —dice de pronto, como desesperándose, el sheriff Idell—. Sólo te irán esto: que es una mentira, es inútil que vayas. Ya te he dicho lo que van a contarte.»

«—Pero es importante para mi trabajo saber lo que opinan.»

«—Si vas a casa de Etta Pegues, ve con cuidado. Esa es capaz de sacarte los ojos.»

«—Estén tranquilos, seré prudente. Pero díganme qué es esa historia del robo de la losa sepulcral del astronauta.»

«—Robada y desaparecida. No han dejado huellas. Probablemente o han hecho de noche. Para mí

Pegues—. ¿Aquí o delante de esa carroza fúnebre de la época de la astronave? Me encantan las carrozas fúnebres. Las encuentro el método de transporte más refinado que pueda imaginarse. ¿Tiene abierto su chisme, el magnetófono? Pues vamos a empezar. ¿Funciona ya ese cacharro? La historia de la astronave es una patraña. Es una historia que yo rechazo en su totalidad. Por varias razones. La primera es que Haydon, el individuo que escribió aquella famosa información para «Dallas Tribune Herald» en 1997, era un loco. Si queremos ser amables, en vez de loco le podemos llamar mentiroso, exaltado, visionario. Si queremos ser bonisimos podemos usar la expresión de poeta de perra gorda. La información de Haydon es un ejemplo máximo de periodismo amañado. He hecho investigaciones interminables. He hablado con testigos que ni usted, ni el señor Case del «Morning News» ni la banda de desgraciados que acudilla el sheriff pueden imaginar. Es cierto que mis testigos han muerto todos. Pero he registrado sus declaraciones en cinta

«—No.»

«—Bueno, pues no se la enseñaría ni aunque estuviera armado.»

«—Oiga, Etta Pegues, ¿cómo demonios explica la historia del metal extraño encontrado junto al pozo y las señales que el detector de metales registra sobre la tumba desconocida del cementerio? ¿Sabe que en todos estos años nadie ha llevado jamás una flor a esa tumba? ¿Quién cree usted que hay en esa sepultura?»

«—No tengo por qué explicar nada. Yo sé. Sé que es una patraña. En lo que respecta a la tumba y a las diversas actividades clandestinas del sheriff Idell, actividades que tienen su epicentro siempre en el cementerio, añado sólo esto: si Idell, Oates, usted o cualquier otro se van al cementerio y empiezan a cavar, yo cojo la carabina y allá voy dispuesta a todo. No permitiré jamás que se profane a nuestros muertos.»

«—No creo que el sheriff Idell ni cualquier otro sin autorización

La fuerza misteriosa me impulsa otra vez en la misma dirección.

## «Obro en interés de la ciencia»

Vuelvo a recorrer los 80 kilómetros que hay desde Denton, sede de la Universidad de Texas del Norte, hasta la gasolinera de Oates.

Se repite la escena de siempre: Oates e Idell están contemplando el televisor. Afectan una frialdad calculada en cuanto me van apareciendo. Inmediatamente me califico de imbécil por haber vuelto, puesto que ya no descubriré nada más.

Estoy perdiendo el tiempo. No puedo imaginarme que estoy a un paso de vencer clamorosamente a Bill Case. El sheriff se quita las gafas y limpia los cristales con un faldón de la camisa. Seguidamente sale y me indica que lo siga. Nos vamos a hablar

que se trata de algún resaca. No me sorprendería nada que alguien "de la acera de enfrente" supiese algo.»

«—¿Y qué van a hacer ustedes?»

«—¿Qué quieres que hagamos? Nada.»

## «La historia de la astronave es una patraña»

Salgo en busca de Etta Pegues. Al cabo de muchas horas encuentro al marido, George, dedicado a recoger heno con un extraño tractor.

«—Acaben ustedes de una vez con esa broma de la astronave —exclama iracundo—. Váyase a trabajar. De todas formas, si quiere hablar con mi mujer tendrá que ir al Museo de Historia de Decatur. Está allí haciendo unas investigaciones y se quedará todo el día.»

Encuentro el museo de Decatur y localizo en él a Etta Pegues.

«—¿Dónde quiere que pronuncie el discurso? —pregunta la

magnetorrita, como esta usted haciendo ahora mismo. Otro gran sinvergüenza de esta historia fue, y lo sigue siendo, el juez Proctor. Paz a su alma desventurada, naturalmente. Proctor no tenía molinos de viento, pozos ni nada por el estilo. En aquella parcela de tierra no había absolutamente nada.»

«—Oiga usted, que el pozo sí parece que existiera.»

## «Volvamos al loco, al periodista Haydon»

«—No, no existía. Y no me interrumpa. Volvamos al loco, al periodista Haydon. He descubierto una fotografía de Haydon que es la clave de todo y que prueba todo lo que digo. El loco está retratado en medio de un grupo de desconocidos con las manos sujetas de los tirantes. Naturalmente, va sin chaqueta. Esto revela la clase de hombre que era.»

«—Quisiera ver esa foto; me gustaría hacer una reproducción para mi periódico.»

«—¿Está armado usted?»

regal...»

«—El sheriff Idell es un irresponsable. Cierre esa máquina. El «sheriff» Idell... ¿Ha parado el magnetófono? No le diré lo que pienso exactamente del sheriff, es mejor que se lo imagine.»

Escucho por último el parecer de un científico. Se trata de Tom Gray, físico de la Universidad de Texas del Norte.

«—Tenga en cuenta que no he estado en Aurora ni de paso —declara—. Algunos colegas míos han ido allí a investigar y me han traído fragmentos para que los analice en mi laboratorio. Después de una primera ojeada debo decir que es una cosa que merece un examen más profundo. No tengo más que añadir por el momento. Hay algunos fragmentos metálicos que me parecen curiosos. Pero esto no quiere decir nada. Aunque llegáramos a determinar que uno de los fragmentos es de un metal desconocido no habríamos probado nada. Quiero decir que nunca sabremos si esos fragmentos, procedieran o no de otro mundo, pertenecían a la astronave misteriosa. De todas formas, la historia es divertida y yo continuaré la investigación durante mis ratos libres.»

En vez de cerrar el reportaje con las palabras del profesor Gray caigo nuevamente en la tentación de volver a Aurora.

que no siga. Nos vamos en el automóvil. Es más seguro

«—Esa losa sepulcral no ha sido robada», —dice Idell mirando en dirección contraria de donde estoy yo.

Me callo expectante.

«—No ha sido robada —la voz de Idell es bajísima—. Por la sencilla razón de que la cogí yo. Sólo para protegerla, naturalmente. Imaginé que alguien "de la acera de enfrente" podía llevársela por despecho y me dije: aquí hace falta un acto de protección preventiva. Eso se hace también con los testigos importantes. ¿Por qué no podía hacerlo yo con una losa sepulcral? De modo que allí fui de noche y me llevé la piedra a casa. Ahí estará mejor. Al menos mientras no lleguemos a una decisión. Pero a los periodistas de aquí no quiero decirselo; podrían meterme en líos. Vienen demasados a meter las narices en la aldea. He pensado que decírtelo a ti no daba frío ni calor y el mismo tiempo me liberaba de un peso. Al fin y al cabo estoy convencido de que obro en interés de la ciencia. E incluso en beneficio de mi patria, los Estados Unidos. Ahora habrás comprendido que, aun siendo yo un funcionario público, creo ciegame en la historia de la astronave que cayó sobre el molino del juez. No tengo dudas. ¿Hago bien o hago mal?»

# Los Enigmas

# LOS ENIGMAS

REDACCION Y ADMINISTRACION: Salvador María del Carril 3788 — T. E. 50-9022  
Reg. Nac. de la Prop. Int.: N° 1.187.315. — Hecho el depósito que marca la Ley. — Prohibida la reproducción sin previa autorización por escrito de la Dirección. Distribuidor: Rubbo S. C. A. Avenida Juan de Garay 4228 - 1er. piso



## MUERTE DEL SER EXTRATERRESTRE

Son de profundo conocimiento, para todas aquellas personas interesadas en la problemática O.V.N.I., los singulares sucesos que se desarrollaron en una campaña cercana a **Aurora**, en el Estado de Texas y que, más tarde, abarcarán una vasta extensión de esa zona, en particular, la ciudad de Dallas.

Todo comenzó cuando el investigador y ufólogo Hayden Hughes, director de la Oficina Internacional de Objetos Voladores No Identificados, reunió a los miembros de varios medios de difusión en una conferencia de prensa a efectos de explicarles que su organización estaba abocada a desentrañar un misterioso acontecimiento suscitado unos 76 años atrás. Así informó que tenía noticias de una nave voladora de procedencia desconocida, pero presuntamente extraterrestre... que se había un pozo ubicado en un predio de propiedad del juez J. S. Proctor; asimismo, agregó, el cadáver del tripulante de la máquina apareció totalmente desmembrado en una zona cer-

créé une civilisation en avance sur la nôtre. La preuve? Les Atlantes des soucoupes volantes. Voilà. Maintenant, il ne vous reste plus qu'à y croire ou ne pas y croire.

na vez, le habían comentado algo de eso... Un hombre de 83 años refiriéndose a su padre nos dijo: El vio a la nave espacial que era plateada y con forma de cigarro atravesar nuestra pastura volando muy bajo y a poca velocidad; tenía una luz muy blanca encima y lo vio hasta que estalló y comenzó a arder.

A no dudar, y teniendo en cuenta los periódicos de la época, algo había pasado que respondía muy positivamente a lo enunciado por el director de la O.I.O.V.N.I.; descartada la posibilidad —por la fecha en que esto pasara— de tratarse de un avión, no queda otra posibilidad en pie que suponer que estamos en presencia de una nave extraterrestre u O.V.N.I. que por causas desconocidas estalló en pleno vuelo pereciendo su único tripulante. Es justamente éste quien desencadenó la narración.

Hayden Hughes expresó que estaba haciendo las gestiones legales pertinentes para obtener la autorización que le permitiera exhumar los restos en-

*jurat, et pour nos visiteurs (qui en fait sont nos descendants) remonter le temps est une technique à*

municado logró traspasar la oscura barrera, y —¡oh, casualidad!— se trata de una "desautorización" relativa a la veracidad del Informe Heghes, firmada por el conocido ovnilogo Prof. L. L. Lorenzen, autor de varios libros sobre el tema. Dice éste que todo no es más que producto de la imaginación, y que los restos hallados en los alrededores del aljibe de la finca del juez Proctor son restos de arneses de caballos y trozos de hierro de viejas cocinas junto con algunos restos que 'no eran más que aleaciones de aluminio dejadas allí probablemente, desde 1967'. Esto no coincide con la opinión de LOS ENIGMAS.

Hay un hecho —la tercera parte de la historia— sobre el que no hemos reparado todavía... Simultáneamente con los estudios y excavaciones de Hughes, comenzaron a desarrollarse en lugares relativamente cercanos (por ejemplo en Dallas distante 120 km. de Aurora) unas masas vibrátiles, amorfas, de color rojizo con superficie sembrada de burbujas e interior ~~macoso~~ y negruzco. Estos presuntos vegetales —ya que bien podrían ser animales— po-

*vous (et nos visiteurs aussi) ignorent; seulement certains « secrets » ne peuvent étre dévoilés.*

Los Herederos de Drácula  
Theophile Gautier, Nicolai  
gol, Edgard Alan Poe y  
Traducciones de varias p  
nas. Rodolfo Alonso Edi  
1973. 140 pág.

Indudablemente, el título  
verdad; después del éxito  
torial de Drácula fueron  
chos los que se inclinaron  
tal género y, abundaron  
bién aquellos que revol  
cuánta página escrita hub  
rada en los tachos en po  
recobrar un material qu  
suponía inservible. Todos  
cordamos la vida de Poe,

posible contaminación qu  
el aparato existieran (bact  
virus etc.) murieron al co  
to con las características  
nuestro planeta, en tant  
otrospasaban a un estad  
otros pasaban a un esta  
chas especies conocidas)  
espera de condiciones má  
vorables. Sin duda esos 'ele  
totos de contaminación'  
tuvieron adheridos a los  
tos de la nave que que  
enterrados en los alrede  
del aljibe cuestionado.

Cuando Hughes y su  
procede a traerlos nuev  
te a la luz, esos orgar  
hasta el momento en  
latente, reciben los ben  
de esta nueva atmósfer  
la ignorancia destructor  
hombre ha creado donde  
otros hechos perturbado  
encuentra el de haber a  
tado enormemente la ca  
de radiactividad ambien  
resto es sencillo, aarras

*ageuse. merci, M. KONAN  
Ab Lug. Voici enfin une  
bonne nouvelle économi-  
que.*

MEUSE LA LANTERNE 6/11/74 et 9-10-11/11/1974

Plus peut-être que certaines autorités officielles, il est des fanatiques qui causent un tort considérable à la cause que nous défendons. Heureusement qu'il se trouve encore des personnes qui les traitent avec humour!

explosé. Le pilote avait été dépecé et tué. Les gens du village qui rassemblèrent ses restes et les inhumèrent le même jour dans le cimetière affirmèrent qu'il s'agissait d'un homme de petite taille."



Tombstone over Space Pilot.

Les partisans des UFO's ont passé la ville au peigne fin à l'aide de détecteurs métalliques, de détecteurs de radioactivité et d'autres instruments scientifiques. durant les derniers mois, dans le but de découvrir un élément qui permettrait d'obtenir légalement l'ouverture de la tombe et l'exhumation du corps du prétendu pilote.

Des débris métalliques découverts dans la région furent envoyés à divers scientifiques et métallurgistes afin d'être examinés. Un professeur de physique du Texas du Nord qui enseigne à l'Université testa un morceau de métal et déclara qu'il était très inusité car il était composé de 75% de fer mais pourtant la plupart des propriétés communes au fer lui faisaient défaut. Ce professeur, le Dr Tom Gray, déclara que ce débris n'était pas magnétique et qu'il était brillant et mou, au lieu d'être terne et cassant comme le fer.

"Je ne veux pas, par mes commentaires, indiquer si oui ou non cela a une origine extraterrestre, mais le fait que les propriétés physiques de ce fer sont entre autres de ne pas être magnétique pique ma curiosité" a-t-il déclaré. "Si cela s'avère être un objet suffisamment étrange, alors il sera nécessaire de faire plusieurs autres études à son sujet. Jusqu'à présent, nous ne pouvons faire que des suppositions. Nous ne pouvons tirer aucune conclusion."

arrive somewhat later than you expected, seeing that your letter of January 7th didn't arrive here at Rheme until February 19th. This delay was due to the fact that your letter was evidently sent to every other post office in Texas before finally arriving here. The reason for this is the fact that Aurora is no longer large enough a town to need a post office and all mail addressed to Aurora is delivered here to Rheme.

"In answer to your first question, as to whether or not this report was true, I regret to say that the entire event was a hoax. This statement I base on the lack of evidence to support such a happening. I have read much about the event and most written accounts of what happened contain very little evidence to support the claims that an airborne craft crashed or even appeared anywhere near Aurora. More important than this however, in talking with citizens of the community who were alive then, I find that all of them report the entire thing as a hoax.

"In answer to your second question, I must admit that no record exists to support the claims that the pilot was buried in the cemetery there, and it only seems logical that if such an event did take place it would have received extra attention in the burial plot records. Also, no gravestone exists that would indicate that there was anyone unusual buried there.

"In answer to your third question, I can find no evidence of any investigation into the matter. The land on which the craft was supposed to have crashed has, however, been dug up, sifted and searched with metal detectors so many times that any strange metal would have been found by now, and none of note has been.

"The question in your mind right now is probably 'if nothing happened, why would it get so much publicity?' In answer to this question, I report that all evidence indicates that the sighting was merely a joke brought on by boredom by employees in a railroad telegraph office near here. You may have read that sightings of similar objects were reported at the same time. Further research will show that these sightings, in Iowa, were also reported by employees of a railroad telegraph office.

"I'm sorry that I am unable to provide any more information than this. You may use this as you please." (Mr. Dettwiler suggests that the writer's name should not be made public to save him receiving unnecessary follow-up letters.)

Will the case for a UFO crash remain inconclusive, like so many others? The thought occurred to me that even if the body was exhumed, it might not be possible to prove that it belonged to a spaceman. Perhaps there was a poor old tramp resting near Judge Proctor's well who happened to get in the way.

Highlights of the forthcoming FSR Case Histories Supplement 16 . . .

The Faymonville photographs:

A report from Belgium by SOBEPs investigators.

Further details of the Rosedale UFO and Occupants:

An artist's report from Brian James.

Frightening incident on the London-Brighton road:

by Mlle. J-M. Rivaux.

## UFO AND SPACE AGE PUBLICATIONS

**ORGONE ENERGY**, by Jerome Eden. The cosmic energy that can save our planet from destruction. Why did U.S. Government officials suppress the vital discoveries of Wilhelm Reich? £3-20

**FLYING SAUCERS THROUGH THE AGES**, by Paul Thomas. £1-20, Paperback 42p

**THE WARMINSTER MYSTERY**, by A. Shuttlewood. £1-40, Paperback 42p

**EARTH IN UPHEAVAL**, by Immanuel Velikovsky. 71p

**OUR HAUNTED PLANET**, by John A. Keel. Strange truths about the earth and its mysterious inhabitants. New hard-cover edition. £2-30

**THE DRAGON & THE DISC**, by F. W. Holiday. An investigation into the totally fantastic. £3-45

**VENUSIAN HEALTH MAGIC**, by Michael X. Barton. 10 big chapters. For those who have a burning desire to leave poor health behind forever. Reprint. £2-60

**YOUR PART IN THE GREAT PLAN**, by Michael X. Barton. Includes special exercises and methods for protection in this present age. £1-15

**INVISIBLE HORIZONS**, by Vincent Gaddis. Reprinted. 65p

**THE PSYCHIC WORLD AROUND US**, by Long John Nebel. £2-85

**CANADIAN UFO REPORT**, by John Magor. Illust. 40 pages of fascinating information. Professionally printed. 45p

**SYMPOSIUM ON UFOs**. Hearings before the committee on Science and Astronautics U.S. House of Representatives in July 1968. £4-25

**OMEGA**, by Derek Samson. Latest publication on space contacts and inner space. Thick bumper issue. 35p

**ALIEN CONTACT**, by Kurt Glemser. Booklet. 55p

**INVESTIGATING UFOs**, by Larry Kettlekamp. Illust. 31p

**IDENTIFIED FLYING SAUCERS**, by Robert Loftin. £2-60

**UFOs—MENACE FROM THE SKIES**, by Kurt Glemser. Illust. booklet. 65p

**FLYING SAUCER INTELLIGENCE SPEAKS**, by Kurt Glemser. Illust. booklet. 65p

**FLYING SAUCERS FROM BEYOND OUR DIMENSIONS**, by Kurt Glemser. Illust. booklet. 65p

**FLYING SAUCERS AND THE INNER EARTH**, by Kurt Glemser. Illust. booklet. 65p

**UFOs—VENTURE INTO NOWHERE**, by Dennis Stamey. Illust. booklet. 65p

Prices include postage and packing inland. Overseas 10% extra. Any surplus credited. Lists 5p (free with orders). Dollar cheques must include 75c. bank exchange.

Miss S. R. Stebbing, 87 Selsea Avenue, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 8SD.

1.896-97

## AURORA **SPACEMAN—R.I.P?**

*Eileen Buckle*

TO be really newsworthy, a UFO story has to be somewhat unique. Most UFO reports tend to be too commonplace to hit the headlines of any but the local press, but now and then (often in the "silly season"), something happens which fires the imagination of the national press and may even spread abroad. At the time of writing (early June) a welter of newscuttings and reports is being received from our correspondents in America, and from readers the world over, on account of two bizarre occurrences. Because these happened to take place simultaneously within a mere 75 miles of each other and both smacked distinctly of science fiction, they were frequently linked together in the same news items. One could only at a far stretch of the imagination associate one of these with ufology—biology would seem a more likely category, although there was once a case where giant puff balls were associated with a UFO landing.

### The "Blob"

In early May, a "pulsating, cancerous blob of matter which mysteriously oozed from the ground, defying explanation" appeared in Mrs. Marie Harris's backyard at Garland, Texas. It was "reddish with thick bubbles on top and blackish mucus inside and appeared to bleed red and purplish material." Despite several attempts to kill it, by cutting it up, spraying it with poison and crushing it, this biological curiosity merely reappeared bigger than before, increasing from the size of an oatmeal "cookie" to that of 16 oatmeal "cookies" in two weeks. By three weeks it had doubled in size yet again and a Dallas newspaper ran the story. The "Blob" promptly died. But it wasn't long before so much attention had been given to it in the news media that, for a time it is said, the public's mind was diverted thankfully from Watergate. According to a New York newsman: "It's been a long time since we've had a response like this to a story—any story."

The inevitable "outer space" theory for the origin of the "Blob" evolved, but the story has a mundane ending. Some scientists came along and identified it as a common slime mould, a lower type of fungus. According to Dr. Fannie Hurst, a botanist at Baylor University, it could have been a fuligo, a compound of spores which group into a large protoplasm which feeds on bacteria and is usually seen in the yellow, pulsating form Mrs. Harris described to newsmen (*International Herald Tribune*, June 1, 1973).

### Plan to exhume the remains of a "spaceman"

If officials of the International UFO Bureau (IUFO) obtain permission to open a grave in the village of

Aurora, Texas, whereby they hope to prove the remains to be those of a spaceman, perhaps the result would be an equal anticlimax. According to newspaper reports, Mr. Hayden Hewes, director of IUFO, has already embarked on legal means to obtain an exhumation order, after checking the grave with metal detectors and gathering facts for three months. As a result of the publicity given his project, Aurora, which has a population of about 100, has been besieged, we are told, by flying saucer enthusiasts, reporters, and the plain curious. Residents stood vigil round the grave to prevent the threatened exhumation, which the Cemetery Association is pledged to prevent.

Is there positive evidence of a "spaceship" having crashed at Aurora in 1897, and the mangled body of its pilot having been buried in the grave in question? The story is widely discounted as a hoax, yet some interesting facts have lately been uncovered to suggest there might be something in it after all. First, let us look back at the newspapers of April 19, 1897, which reported that "about 6 o'clock this morning early risers in Aurora were astonished by the sudden appearance of the airship which has been sailing through the country."

The story which appeared in all the papers was written by an Aurora cotton buyer named F. E. Hayden. It was said that the airship collided with a windmill tower and that the flying machine was shattered in a terrible explosion, scattering metallic debris over three acres, wrecking the windmill and destroying Judge Proctor's flower garden. Hayden said that the body of the pilot was badly disfigured but a prominent astronomer and Army Signal Corps officer, T. J. Weems, happened to be in Aurora and declared that the pilot was "not an inhabitant of this world. The town is full of people today who are viewing the wreck and gathering specimens of the strange metal from the debris. The pilot's funeral will take place at noon today . . ."

It has recently been stated by Frank X. Tolbert, a journalist from the *Dallas Morning News*, that on investigation, the aforementioned T. J. Weems turns out to have been the village blacksmith, and thus suspicion is cast on the truthfulness of the report. Nevertheless, UFO enthusiasts have, with some success, combed the area for tangible evidence that a crash had occurred, and urged residents of Aurora to search their homes, barns and storage places for clues to the incident. An article in *The Dallas Times Herald* written by aviation writer Bill Case, quotes the renowned Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Chairman of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University: "Now that scientific investigation makes it highly improbable that the report is a hoax as has been reported so many times, we feel the people of the area may be able to locate

FSR .VOL. 19 N #4  
AND 1973  
MES JL-AC



information and physical evidence gathered and kept by their fathers and grandfathers."

#### A sample of "unusual metal"

In another article by Bill Case in *The Dallas Times Herald* of May 31, it is said that two of three laboratories testing pieces of metal recovered from the site of the alleged UFO crash have reported they have found one sample "highly unusual." A physicist, Dr. Tom Gray of the North Texas State University, tested four samples which had been recovered near a well at the Brawley Oates Farm site by Dr. David Redden and a graduate student of the University using metal detectors. He said:

"Three samples have properties and content common to metals of this area, but one sample may require much more investigation."

"He said the sample looks as if it has been melted and splattered on the ground."

"However, the most intriguing thing is that it is made up primarily of iron, but is not magnetic," he explained.

"First analysis shows it to be about 75 per cent iron, and 25 per cent zinc, with some other trace elements."

"But it lacks properties common to iron, such as being magnetic," Dr. Gray said. "It is also shiny and malleable, instead of being dull and brittle like iron."

"Most alloys which contain iron are magnetic," he added.

"Dr. Gray emphasised he did not mean his comments to indicate the sample was of earthly or extraterrestrial origin. 'But its physics stir my curiosity as a scientist,' he said. [*non-earthly?*—E.D.]

"This sample may require much more investigation," he added. "If it proves to be a rather strange beast, then a great deal more study will have to be done."

"Gray said his reports will be sent to Dr. J. Allen Hynek, chief consultant for MUFON (Midwest UFO Network) and the nation's leading UFO expert at Northwestern University."

"In a second report on seven samples submitted by *Dallas Times Herald* reporters to one of the nation's largest aircraft manufacturers, scientists said 'one of the seven different pieces submitted for examination is highly unusual.'

"They said the sample also was shiny, non-magnetic and tests so far show unique properties. A spokesman said, 'We are giving this a complete run-down, including spectroscopic tests and feedback run-through in a computer bank of all known metals.'

"A preliminary report of this collection of samples should be ready Friday. A third set identical to this given to the American Aircraft Co. has been sent to the National Research Institute in Ottawa, Canada."

"We are seeking independent evaluations of the metals from as many highly reliable sources as possible under the circumstances," a MUFON spokesman told *The Times Herald* Thursday. "If the results indicate at least one of the metals is considered definitely unusual by the scientists we would then have scientific evidence on which to base a request to exhume the body of the reported UFO pilot."

"Using metal detectors, reporters and MUFON investigators have located a remote grave in the country

cemetery from which they receive the same decibel readings as they did from the sample of metal Dr. Gray, and the aircraft company scientists say they find 'puzzling' and unusual."

#### Surviving Eyewitness' accounts

Perhaps the most convincing evidence that an unidentified flying object crashed at Aurora in 1897 came to light as a result of the recent search for witnesses and additional information about the supposed airship crash by UFO investigators. Three witnesses to the event came forward. Charlie Stevens, aged 86, of Aurora, described to *The Times Herald* how his father, Jim Stevens, was an eyewitness to the UFO crash. Mary Evans, a 91-year-old woman, in a UPI report has this to say:

"That crash certainly caused a lot of excitement. Many people were frightened. They didn't know what to expect. That was years before we had any regular airplanes or other kind of airships. I was only about 15 at the time and had all but forgotten the incident until it appeared in the newspapers recently. We were living in Aurora at the time, but my mother and father wouldn't let me go with them when they went up to the crash site at Judge Proctor's well. When they returned home they told me how the airship had exploded. The pilot was torn up and killed in the crash. The men of the town who gathered his remains said he was a small man and buried him that same day in Aurora cemetery."

The testimony of the third witness, a "remarkably alert 98-year-old," G. C. Curley, of Lewisville, now a resident of Lewisville Nursing Home, was quoted in *The Times Herald* of June 1, 1973:

"We got the report early in Lewisville. Two friends wanted me to ride over to Aurora to see it. But I had to work. When they got back on horseback that night they told me the airship had been seen coming from the direction of Dallas the day before and had been sighted in the area. But no one knew what it was. They said it hit something near Judge Proctor's well. The airship was destroyed and the pilot in it was badly torn up. My friends said there was a big crowd of sightseers who were picking up pieces of the exploded airship. But no one could identify the metal it was made of. We didn't have metal like that in America at that time. And they said it was difficult to describe the pilot. They saw only a torn up body. They didn't say people were frightened by the crash. They couldn't understand what it was."

The three witnesses' statements thus corroborate the story written by H. E. Hayden in Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers the day after the alleged crash.

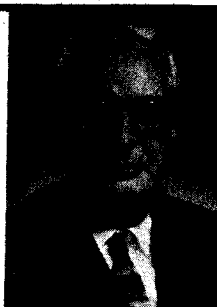
Finally, to counterbalance the evidence in favour of the airship crash with some information which puts doubts in the mind, I thought it would be of interest to quote from a letter sent to our reader, Mr. Johannes Dettwiler of Ruislip, Middlesex, in response to a written enquiry he addressed to the Aurora Town Council in January, 1972. The questions asked by Mr. Dettwiler were: Did the story about an airship carry some truth, and if so, was the pilot's burial ground preserved to this day? Has a proper investigation been undertaken into this case in the past? This was the reply, dated February 22, 1972:

"Dear Mr. Dettwiler,—This letter will probably

1.896-97  
*I See by the Papers*

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**  
*The apparent triumphs of the mechanistic approach to science, particularly since the 19th Century, have led many people to believe that there is only one way by which any true knowledge can be acquired. The method of compiling an endless body of facts, each related to and depending on those already established, leads to the development of a great scientific system, entirely valid and coherent in its own terms. But the limitations which this system imposes upon original research becomes ever more onerous. New discoveries, unrelated to what is already known, tend to be ignored for lack of a convenient category or adequate means of scientific expression. Few now doubt the existence of phenomena which transcend and even contradict the present structure of generally acknowledged facts; but where they relate to a scale which we have yet no means of measuring, their elusive quality is often mistaken for evidence that they have no objective force or meaning. The human eye has a natural inclination to detect patterns, and specialists trained*

AURORA



Curtis Fuller

*to detect and embellish one particular pattern can become so attached to it that they resent the suggestion that there may be others.*

John Michell  
 in *The View Over Atlantis*

**ONE OF THE** problems in historical UFO cases is the high incidence of hoaxes. Our forefathers in the 19th Century seem to have been even greater hoaxers than we are today; yet among some of their wild reports are many well-documented sightings with hundreds of witnesses. The many sightings of the 1880's and '90's are some of these but alas, mighty few witnesses are left to attest to them.

One UFO incident of those bygone days recently has raised a greater furore than any we can remember. It purports to origi-

10

**OCCULT SUPPLIES** 

**LEGENDARY INCENSES & OILS**

Attraction • Patchouli • Voodoo • Money • Van Van • Obeah • Witches Formula • Crossing Evil Eye • Jockey Club • Black Arts • Anointing • Compelling • Controlling • Irresistible • King Solomon • Uncrossing • Musk

1 Dram Bottle, \$1.00. 2 Dram Bottle, \$2.00.

**INCENSES**

Money Drawing • Attraction • Uncrossing • Success • John the Conqueror • Fast Luck • Love • Hi-Conquering • Jinx Removing • King Solomon • Uncrossing • Musk

2 oz. Box, \$1.25 each.

**NEW, REVISED ENLARGED EDITION:**  
 "PERFUME OILS, CANDLES, SEALS AND INCENSE" by Aima  
 \$4.95 per copy

50% Deposit on all C.O.D. orders. Californians please add 5% Sales Tax. We ship to continental U.S.A. only. Catalogs 25¢ each

**HOUSE OF HERMETIC**  
 5224 SANTA MONICA BLVD., Dept F  
 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90029



**TAROT CLASSIC DECK**

Beautiful classical 78-card tarot deck. Complete with 22 Major Arcana and 56 Minor Arcana cards in full color. Instruction booklet. Deluxe Swiss Edition. \$5.99

**TAROT CLASSIC BOOK**

By Stuart R. Kaplan

Reveals fascinating origin and development of tarot cards, detailed meanings for each card, ancient card spreads, the Kabbalah, and actual sample readings. Extensive glossary and index. Exhaustive bibliography from year 1540. Features many rare books and decks from author's private collection. Profusely illustrated with many photographs. Widely acclaimed and recommended. 256 pages, hard cover, 1972 edition. \$5.95 (Dealer inquiries invited.)

Tarot catalog in color 15¢, free with order.

Order from:  
**U.S. GAMES SYSTEMS, Inc.**  
 448 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016

FATE

If such an incident occurred, what evidence can be produced for it?

First, there are eyewitness accounts. Second, we can examine the physical traces of the accident. And third, we can use a bit of common sense.

In any case the claim should not be dismissed without investigation because if true, it is the only known incident in which a UFO crashed and the occupant's body was recovered.



**TESTIMONY FROM THE PAST**  
**A**T LEAST three residents of northern Texas have come forth to declare they knew of the crash when it occurred those 76 long years ago although they were not eyewitnesses.

Mrs. Mary Evans, 92, of Newark told Bill Case she was living in Aurora at the time of the accident but her parents would not let her go to the crash site. However, they went and "when they returned home they told me how the airship had exploded. The pilot was torn up and killed in the crash. The men of the town who gathered up his remains said he was a 'small man' and buried him that same day in Aurora. That crash certainly caused a lot of excitement. Many people were frightened. They didn't know what to expect. That

0-73



**THE METHOD  
OF THE SIDDHAS**

TALKS WITH FRANKLIN JONES  
ON THE SPIRITUAL TECHNIQUE  
OF THE SAVIORS OF MANKIND

Paperback \$3.95



**THE KNEE OF LISTENING**  
THE EARLY LIFE AND RADICAL  
SPIRITUAL TEACHINGS OF  
FRANKLIN JONES

FOREWARD BY ALAN WATTS

Now available in paperback \$3.95

Add 25c postage and handling.

*"A great teacher with the  
dynamic ability to awaken in  
his listeners something of the  
divine Reality in which he is  
grounded... which in fact he is"*

*Israel Regardie*

order from: The Dawn Horse Press  
6913 Melrose Avenue  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90038

California residents add 6% sales tax.

nate in the Dallas and Fort Worth newspapers of March 19, 1897, when F. E. Hayden, a news correspondent in Aurora, Tex. filed the following story, as reported by Bill Case, aviation writer of the *Dallas Times Herald*:

"At 4:00 A.M. a spaceship which had been seen in the area earlier moving low and slowly crashed into Judge J. S. Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a tremendous explosion.

"Parts scattered over several acres. The windmill was destroyed. The pilot's body was dismembered. However, enough remains were gathered to determine it was not an inhabitant of this world.

"The body was buried at noon in Aurora Cemetery," Hayden continued. "Papers believed to be the pilot's log were written in some undecipherable hieroglyphics. And the aircraft was made of some unknown metal."



**FACT OR FICTION?**

**I**S THIS story truth or fiction? Mrs. Etta Pegues of nearby Newark, Tex., a writer, charges that it was a hoax dreamed up by Correspondent Hayden and some friends while sitting around the stove in the general store.

Let's examine the arguments for ourselves.

**FREE** Metaphysical • Self-Help  
Occult • Inspirational  
— BOOK LIST ON REQUEST —

**DeVORSS & CO.**  
1641 Lincoln Blvd.  
Santa Monica, CA 90404

### THEOSOPHY

Free literature. Study courses.  
**GEORGE CARDINAL LeGROS**  
301 N. Wall Ave., Joplin, MO 64801

### SCIENCE OF TAROT

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES BY THE  
FOREMOST CUSTODIAN AND SPIRITUAL  
CENTER OF THE ESOTERIC WISDOM OF  
TAROT AND THE HOLY QABALAH

Sincere aspirants send for free booklet  
THE OPEN DOOR and documentation  
on the "Tzaddi Miracle."

**BUILDERS OF THE ADYTUM, Dept. A**  
5105 N. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90042

## MIND EXPANSION



Using proven techniques of  
"reality - awakening," practical  
mysticism, ESP, "accelerated"  
evolution, transcendental think-  
ing, esoteric sexuality. NO medi-  
tation, NO astral projection! Be-  
yond reincarnation, beyond alpha  
waves. Unlocks your NATURAL  
mind power. Releases inner supra-  
abilities. Send for free informa-  
tion.

**INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED THINKING**

Dept. F-1073

15243 La Cruz Drive, Box 606  
Pacific Palisades, Calif. 90272

## FATE

was years before we had any regular airplanes or other kinds of airships."

G. C. Curley, 98, of Lewisville also was interviewed by Case and told him: "We got the report early in Lewisville. Two friends wanted me to ride over to Aurora to see it but I had to work.

"When they got back on horseback that night they told me the airship had been seen coming from the direction of Dallas but no one knew what it was. They said it hit something near Judge Proctor's well. The airship was destroyed and the pilot in it was badly torn up.

"My friends said there was a big crowd of sightseers who were picking up pieces of the exploded airship. But no one could identify the metal it was made of. . . . And they said it was difficult to describe the pilot. They saw only a torn-up body. I don't know what happened to the pilot's body. They didn't say."

Earlier, C. C. Stephens, 86, of Aurora, described the crash as recounted by his father Jim Stephens who he said was an eyewitness. "My daddy said he was putting the cows out to pasture on our ranch about 4:00 A.M. three miles south of Aurora when he noticed a cigar-shaped airship with a white light pass over," the Associated Press reported.

"It was very low and just went

## THE NEW FRONTIERS

**Man's Exploration  
of the World  
of Psychic Phenomena**

CONFERENCE DATES:

October 13 and 14, 1973  
At the Casino, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

FEATURING:

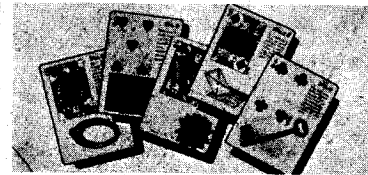
Brad Steiger, Rev. Noel Street, John W. Spencer, and speakers on Dowsing, Hypnosis, Spiritualism, UFOs.

FOR INFORMATION WRITE:

D. J. PITKIN  
60 Ballston Avenue  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Sponsored by P.S.I. Associates,  
Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

## GYPSY WITCH



**Fortune-Telling Cards & Book**

What's "in the future" for you, your family, your friends? Become a **GYPSY WITCH** card reader in short order and amaze everyone with what the cards reveal. They are designed so that anyone can "tell fortunes" easily and quickly. Each card has a brief meaning printed on the face. Accompanying book, **FORTUNE TELLING BY CARDS**, gives complete instructions on card reading — including detailed meanings and various systems of laying out the cards to make readings.

**Only \$2.95**

For both cards and book  
Plus 35c for postage and handling

**VENTURE BOOKSHOP**  
P.O. Box 249, Highland Park, IL 60035

## FATE

straight ahead until it crashed at a well site on a high hill on Judge J. S. Proctor's farm. He said there seemed to be an explosion and a fire that lit up the sky for several minutes.

"The next day my father rode a horse into Aurora to look at the scene and said it looked like a mass of torn metal and burned rubble."



### SCRAPS OF METAL

**T**HE PHYSICAL evidence reported to have come from the UFO is of two kinds — scraps of metal recovered from the site and the at-this-point theoretical remains of the alleged UFO "pilot himself."

Different investigators have found different pieces of metal scraps and they are not in complete agreement.

Reporters from the *Dallas Times Herald* working with Earl F. Watts, a Dallas astronomer and investigator for the Midwest Unidentified Flying Object Network (MUFON), recovered several pieces of extremely light-weight and strong but initially unidentified metal near the scene of the UFO crash.

MUFON soon found itself in controversy with Hayden Hewes, director of the International UFO Bureau, Inc., of Oklahoma City, who at first concluded, on the

## How to MAKE MONEY WRITING

**...Short Paragraphs!** Hundreds of beginners now making money writing short paragraphs. I tell you what to write, where and how to sell; and supply list of editors who buy from beginners. No tedious study. Get free facts by mail. Benson Barrett's "Home Studies in Writing", Dept. 395C, 6216 N. Clark, Chicago, IL 60660

### WORLD'S LARGEST OCCULT CATALOGS

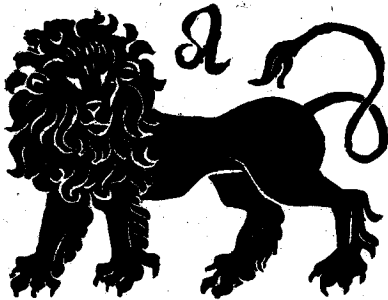
**5000** Fascinating curios, books, herbs, complete supplies. 1973 issue, 25¢.  
TYRAD CO. Dept. B  
Box 17006, Minneapolis, Minn. 55417

### BOOKS: Occult, Metaphysics

Healing Stones ..... \$2.00  
Doris Hodges  
Universe, God & Man ..... \$1.50  
Mary Neely

FREE Catalog listing almost 1000 books on Metaphysics, Self-Help and the Occult with each order.

**HIAWATHA BOOKS**  
Box 400, Perry, Iowa 50220



**EXCLUSIVE LIMITED EDITION**, original hand blocked color prints of your astrological sign. Matted and ready for framing. Size 7 x 9 inches. \$2.50 each plus 50¢ handling and postage charge. Enclose your check with order. Indicate desired birth sign. Set of 12 only \$25.00.

Egri International, 342 Madison Avenue, Suite 718, New York, N.Y. 10017.

basis of his investigations and analyses of four pieces of metal, there was nothing to the story.

Walter H. Andrus, Executive Director of MUFON, criticized Hewes' conclusions. "We have found metals of totally different composition than his (Hewes') and obtained evidence and testimony from reputable people he failed to recognize as information vital from a scientific view," Andrus declared.

Some of this evidence was discussed by Dr. Tom Gray, a physicist at North Texas State University. Gray studied four pieces of metal from the site and found one of them particularly unusual.

It was a small chip, "mostly iron with about 25 percent of zinc, but it's not magnetic," Gray told the Associated Press. "Now that wouldn't be unusual if it were stainless steel. But it's not stainless steel. I don't know what it is."

Gray says he's never seen a piece of metal he couldn't classify. For example, he found a piece of zinc casting at the site. It had American threads machined in it. "Who knows what a spaceship is made of?" he asked. "But I don't think a spaceship would land here carrying American-threaded zinc. We've got a lot more testing to do on this one, though. It really arouses my curiosity."

**learn ACCOUNTING at home**

1000s high pay "Big Income" jobs open to men, women in Accounting, Bookkeeping, Tax Return. Send for FREE "ACCOUNTING WITH COURSE CAREER KIT." Approved for Veterans.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

FREE CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

BOOK NORTH AMERICAN SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING, Dept. 2842A  
Accredited Member, National Home Study Council • 4500 Campus Dr., Newport Beach, CA, 92663

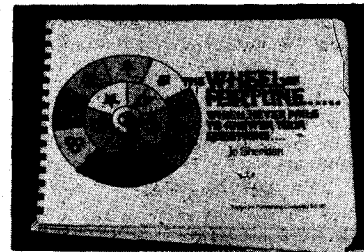
**THE BAG OF MAYA  
THE BAG OF MAYA  
THE BAG OF MAYA**

The Lamp Is  
Lighted  
Be Ye Lighted  
Light Ye Other  
Lamps!

Teaching the most Direct, Intimate, and Immediate Spiritual Attainment!

Send \$4 to: **POINT DAWN BOOKS**  
Rt. 1, Box 244-C  
Oroville, CA 95965

### New Exciting Entertainment for all!



### The Wheel of Fortune

By Jo Sheridan

A snappy game that anyone can play — no age limit. Provides instant answers to 97 questions vital to your life and happiness. Close your eyes. Concentrate on your question. Guide your finger to a symbol on the WHEEL OF FORTUNE and you can read the key to your answer. Use it as a quick source of counseling, as a guide to the future, or simply as light entertainment. Consult the wheel and arrive at meaningful answers without extended study and preparation beforehand. It may help you make important decisions. Use it as a cleverly formulated system of divination and you will be amazed at how the answers directly apply to each person involved. Teenagers will love it.

Handsome Spiral Bound

**\$5.95**

Please add 35¢ postage and handling.

**VENTURE BOOKSHOP**  
P.O. Box 249, Highland Park, IL 60035

The latest information we have on the metals controversy is that aluminum fragments dug up about 250 feet from the well site are made of an alloy that did not exist on earth at the time of the purported spaceship crash. There is no reason why they could not have been manufactured on earth in recent years, however, and metallurgists at an aircraft factory who analyzed them reported there is no way to date them.



### GRAVESIDE CONTROVERSY

**A**LL THIS brings us to the second possible physical evidence — the remains of the "spaceship" occupant.

(Note how difficult it is to describe this poor fellow. The newspapers use the pronouns "himself" and "he" — but how do we know spacemen have a sex? Newspaper accounts refer to the occupant also as "pilot" — but how can we know such "ships" were "piloted"?)

Hayden Hewes who at first doubted the Aurora story came to conclude, after continued research including the use of metal detectors, that there was something to it after all. He believes he has located the grave of the "pilot" which is marked with a hand-hewn stone into which is chiseled what appears to be the

outline of a cigar-shaped object. It was Hewes who asked that the grave be opened and the remains be exhumed and studied. This created quite a storm in Aurora. Judge John Winder of Wise County opposed the move on the grounds that yellow fever victims were buried in the cemetery and "if that grave is opened it could spread yellow fever germs all over this county." Winder issued an injunction against the opening of the grave. At last report, Hewes was proposing to take the case before a state district court.



SOUVENIR HUNTERS

MEANWHILE, Dr. J. Allen Hynek suggests that other evidence may still exist. He urged residents of Aurora and surrounding areas to search their homes, barns and storage places for historic relics of the incident. "Now that scientific investigation makes it highly improbable that the report is a hoax," Hynek said according to Bill Case, "we feel the people of the area may be able to locate information and physical evidence gathered and kept by their fathers and grandfathers."

Andrus of MUFON suggests that descendants of early residents of the Aurora area check old diaries, newspapers, even

THE TALLEST HUMAN IN THE WORLD... AND HIS DAD!

Robert Wadlow, at the age of 22, reached the record height of 8 ft. 11.1 in. His father was the long time Mayor of Alton, Illinois.

The heaviest human on record weighed 1,069 lbs. and was buried in a box the size of a piano case.

The highest divorce settlement ever made was \$9,500,000.

The longest single unbroken apple peel on record is 1,568.5 in. The apple was 15 in. in diameter!

The greatest number of children produced by a mother is an unbelievable 69.

The most expensive wine in the world cost about \$300 a glass.

Here it is—the only book of its kind—

The Guinness Book of World Records—enlarged and updated! It contains over 3,000 all-time records, statistics, spectacular feats of man, nature, science, space, the arts, entertainment, the world of sports and little known fantastic phenomena.

Packed with unbelievable facts and over 400 photos! "IT'S VALID, AUTHORITY." —The N.Y. Times. Settle any argument! Amaze your friends! You won't be able to put it down. This 637 page fantastic hard-covered volume is a must for any library. Nearly 10 million copies sold worldwide. Only \$5.95.

BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS, DEPT. G-239 1966 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10023

Please rush me \_\_\_\_\_ Guinness Book of World Records at \$5.95 ea. (plus 60¢ post. and hand.) Enclosed is my check or money order for \$\_\_\_\_\_. If not completely satisfied, I'll return the book within 15 days for a full refund.

name \_\_\_\_\_ please print

address \_\_\_\_\_

zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make check/money order payable to Book of World Records. © 1973



☉	☽	by Lynn M. Buess
☉	☽	TAROT
☉	☽	AND
☉	☽	TRANSFORMATION
NEW TAROT REVELATION!		
<p>Easy to read text for beginners and advanced students. (Written for use with any deck.)</p> <p>Detailed interpretation with an emphasis upon esoteric and spiritual meanings (upright and reversed) for both major and minor arcana.</p> <p>Concentrates upon the Tarot's symbolical revelation of the path toward total cosmic awareness.</p>		

family Bibles. He said newsmen in 1897 reported that after the crash hundreds of sightseers carried away pieces of the spaceship as souvenirs.

Meanwhile, it seems all but incredible that a spaceship actually crashed somewhere in the United States in 1897 and was completely ignored until 1973. As a matter of fact, I find it so incredible that I continue to be skeptical of the whole story.

show  
Wh  
make  
that  
unus  
An  
your  
days  
rial.  
Tha  
get it  
If j  
at lec  
inves  
cashe  
be pu  
The  
to yo  
C.O.D  
ods ir  
And  
you t  
life.  
Bec  
what  
fect:  
Man's  
O.K  
little.  
neces

WILLIAM/RETOFF

"CANADIAN AIRSHIP  
REPORTS OF 1896-97"

"DEAL'S UFO  
MAGAZINE", NR 11,  
USA, 1.980

—

## BRAD STEIGER:

"FLYING SAUCERS ARE HOSTILE" 92

church last night noticed a heavy object dragging along with a rope attached.

"They followed it until, in crossing the railroad, it caught on a rail. On looking up they saw what they supposed was the airship . . . A light could be seen protruding from several windows; one bright light was in front like the headlight of a locomotive.

"After some ten minutes, a man was seen descending the rope; he came near enough to be plainly seen; he wore a light blue sailor suit and was small in size.

"He stopped when he discovered parties at the anchor, cut the rope below him and sailed off in the northeast direction. The anchor is now on exhibition at the blacksmith shop of Elliot & Miller and is attracting the attention of hundreds of people."

What became of the "anchor" is not known. Probably it was dismantled, heated, and fashioned into horseshoes. It is interesting to note that people interpret UFOs according to the time in which they live. The ancients termed the strange objects in the skies, "fiery chariots," "clouds of fire," "wheels in the sky" and "pillars of light."

Medieval man saw the UFOs and their crews as ships of Satan manned by devils. Until man succeeded in accomplishing flights in heavier than air craft, he quite naturally compared spacecraft to sea vessels and referred to their crews as sailors.

Perhaps the most significant incident, which may have been almost totally obliterated by the scientific establishment of the 1890's, concerned the crash of a spaceship near Aurora, Texas, at about 6:00 A.M., on April 17, 1897. An account of the bizarre accident was carried in the April 19 edition of the *Dallas Morning News*.

Early risers of Aurora were astonished at the sudden appearance of the air ship which has been sailing throughout the country.

"It sailed directly over the public square and, when it reached the north part of town, collided with the tower of

93

Judge Proctor's windmill and went off with terrific explosion, scattering debris over several acres of ground, wrecking the windmill and water tank, and destroying the Judge's flower garden.

"The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one aboard, and while his remains are badly disfigured, enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world.

"Mr. T. J. Weems, the U.S. Signal Service officer at this place and an authority on astronomy, gives it as his opinion that he [the pilot] was a native of the planet Mars . . .

"Papers found . . . are written in some unknown hieroglyphic . . . The ship was too badly wrecked to form any conclusion as to its construction or motive power . . . The town is full of people today who are viewing the wreck and gathering specimens of strange metal from the debris. The pilot's funeral will take place at noon tomorrow."

The good people of Aurora apparently did not stop to conjecture whether the "Martian" pilot was of a God-fearing race or of a fallen but redeemed race. Their funeral service was intended only to show respect and provide a proper interment for a brave voyager. We can but hope that such good will may characterize our future relationships with an alien race. Part of the motivation for flying-saucer hostility may be that they have been observing us long enough to know that we earthlings are not always the most pleasant and magnanimous of creatures. In fact, memories of landing parties which were stoned to death or delivered into the efficient hands of the Inquisition during our Middle Ages may have convinced the less forgiving of the UFO crews that we barbarians are fit to be dealt with in no way other than violent force.

It is certain that World War II must have thoroughly established us as a bloody and barbarous race. However, if



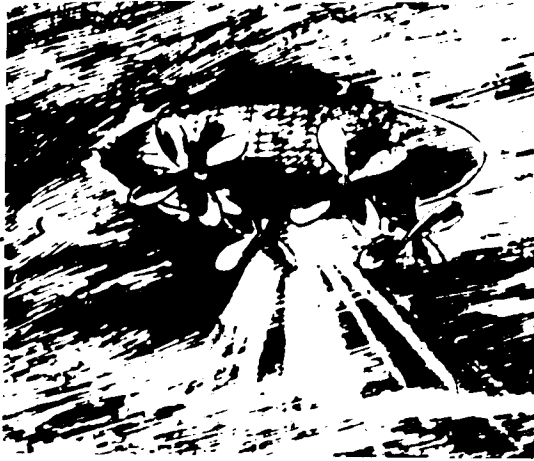
Below is a listing of articles pertaining to the Aurora, Texas UFO. Reproductions of these are available for U.S. \$.50 each.

Newspaper articles:

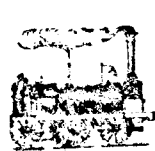
June 11, 1973	DMN	Tolbert's Texas
June 10, 1973	DTH	UFO experts squabble
June 10, 1973	DTH	UFO 'pilot' gone but not forgotten
June 7, 1973	DTH	More UFO clues sought
June 6, 1973	DTH	'UFO' alloy unknown back in '97
June 3, 1973	DTH	Aurora UFO site probe near climax
June 1, 1973	DTH	Pioneer recalls hearing of crash
May 31, 1973	DTH	UFO site metal described as 'puzzling' 'unusual'
May 29, 1973	DTH	2 narrow hunt for UFO pilot's grave
May 25, 1973	DTH	UFO searchers go 'underground' in Texas
May 25, 1973	DMN	Residents stand vigil at grave
May 24, 1973	DMN	UFO bureau to seek Exhumation of 'Astronaut'
May 23, 1973	DTH	UFO unit wants body exhumed
May 21, 1973	DMN	Tolbert's Texas
May 20, 1973	DTH	Silence broken on UFO crash
May 14, 1973	DTH	Some Dallasites convinced UFO's may be from outer space
Ap. 15, 1973	DTH	'97 UFO tale gains support
Ap. 2, 1973	DMN	Tolbert's Texas
Ap. 1, 1973	DMN	Team seeking parts of UFO
Mar.28, 1973	DTH	Aurora's old-timers 'thinking over' UFO
Jan. 8, 1973	DTH	Mysterious ships fly area sky
Oct.18, 1972	DTH	Physicist believes in UFO
Sep.26, 1972	DTH	Area UFO report studied nationally
Mar.29, 1970	DTH	Reports of UFO's Ready to Balloon
Sep. 6, 1969	DMN	'Mysterious Light' Atmospheric Test
Ap. 20, 1969	DMN	'Unidentified Flying Object' Turns Out
Sep.29, 1968	DTH	Expert Predicts UFO Admissions
Feb.26, 1968	DTH	Loco Martian Claim Fails Under Lie Test
Nov.26, 1967	DTH	USAF's UFO Expert Plans NTSU Talk
Aug.30, 1967	DMN	Skywathcer's Cause Stir Over Balloon
Mar.22, 1967	DMN	'Flying Saucers' Seen Two Nights in a Row
Jan. 7, 1967	DMN	Tolbert's Texas
Jan. 4, 1967	DMN	Did Plane Crash in Texas in 1397

OCTOBER - 1975

1.896-97



## AURORA & CARCARAÑA



### ¿mitos de la ufología?

¿Son auténticas las crónicas que relatan  
la caída de OVNI sobre Estados Unidos  
y Argentina en 1897?

En los distintos trabajos de investigación que fueron realizados sobre la oleada de 1897, se presentan algunos hechos cuyo carácter extraordinario hace dudar al estudioso objetivo. Los sucesos que componen este artículo pertenecen a esa primera época de lo que se ha dado en denominar "Ufología", término no muy exacto que pretende definir el campo de estudio. Son pues dos hechos controvertidos, sobre los cuales, dado su interés, precisamos echar un poco de luz.

### 1.ª PARTE

***"Es absolutamente imposible imaginar que una persona haya podido construir una nave aérea con éxito y sobre todo que guarde el secreto tan largo tiempo".***

Thomas Edison



El sheriff Harold Idell, de Aurora; "El ser está enterrado en este cementerio"

**N**OS encontramos en plena revolución industrial, todo bulle en el Nuevo Mundo. Se abren nuevos mercados. Aniquilamos a los auténticos propietarios de nuestra nación. El país se ve comunicado de costa a costa y esa mentalidad competitiva nuestra se trasluce en las más diversas realizaciones. Somos entonces un mundo que se hace a sí mismo. En este contexto cambio, se va a producir lo que los investigadores del fenómeno OVNI conocen como la primera "oleada" de avistamientos constatada fehacientemente. En ello tendrá una parte muy destacada la prensa, que va a hacerse eco de toda una disparatada serie de testimonios que hablan del "airship", la nave aérea.

En realidad la primera "oleada" se produjo en 1896, entonces limitada casi exclusivamente a la costa Oeste de los Estados Unidos, exactamente del día 6 al 30 de Noviembre, con un máximo de 43 testimonios el 25.

En cuanto a la producida en 1897 tuvo lugar sobre la zona de los Grandes Lagos, Michigan, Illinois, Arkansas y Texas, aproximadamente de mediados del mes de marzo a principios de mayo, contabilizándose un total de 122 informes.

El primer hecho realmente destacable es la coherencia de los testimonios que no pueden ser

VM. N° 8, 1.980

- 7.896-97

'97

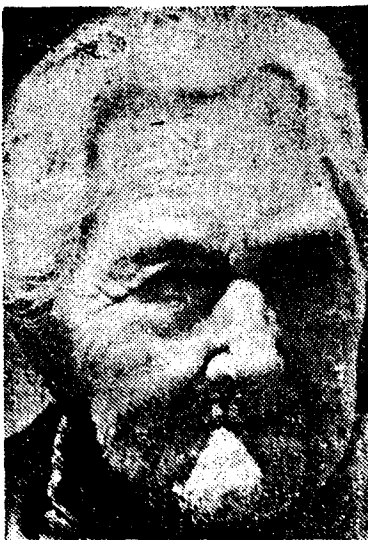
**SOUVENONS-NOUS..**

## UNE VIEILLE DAME SE SOUVIENT ...

BF, N° 37, 1.975

Le 31 mai 1973, le Times Herald de Norriston (PA) remettait au goût du jour une histoire étrange que beaucoup d'ufologues ignorent et que d'autres considèrent comme une mystification.

Nous pensons pouvoir résumer adéquatement cette anecdote en offrant ici une traduction intégrale de l'article du Times Herald\*.



Aurora (Texas) - UPI - Une vieille dame âgée de 91 ans déclare se rappeler la nuit du 19 avril 1897 au cours de laquelle ses parents allèrent voir, près du puits du juge Proctor, l'endroit où venait de s'écraser un vaisseau aérien dont le pilote fut finalement enterré dans le cimetière du village.

"Ce crash causa certainement une bonne part d'excitation, déclara vendredi Mary Evans, nombreux étaient les gens qui étaient effrayés et ne savaient que penser. C'était longtemps avant que nous n'ayions des lignes d'aviation ou toute autre machines volante."

Les frères Wright exécutèrent leur vol historique en décembre 1903 à Kitty Hawk. Cela a amené certains à croire que l'engin qui s'écrasa au Texas venait d'une autre planète, du moins si un tel engin a existé, ce dont Mrs Evans ne doute pas.

"J'avais à peine 15 ans à l'époque et j'avais tout oublié de l'incident jusqu'à ce que récemment on en reparle dans les journaux."

"Nous vivions à Aurora à l'époque, mais ni ma mère ni mon père ne voulurent accepter que j'aie avec eux lorsqu'ils allèrent au puits du juge Proctor où l'engin s'était écrasé. Lorsqu'ils rentrèrent à la maison, ils me racontèrent que l'engin avait

terrados en una tumba ya debidamente señalada que, a su juicio, lo pondrían en una situación nunca antes vivida por un Ser Humano que tengamos noticias: **Tocar esos despojos mortales de alguien venido de otros mundos.** Pero, cuando todo se estaba empezando a transformar en una "novela" de ciencia ficción y los medios de comunicación masiva (diarios, radio, televisión) empezaban a olvidar los "delirios" del investigador, unos pocos periodistas intentaron acercarse al mencionado cementerio en pos de observar la insólita tumba y una vez allí, pudieron ver atónitos, que todo el lugar había sido rodeado por un fuerte cordón de guardias armados que no permitían el paso de persona alguna que no tuviera una autorización especial. **A nuestro juicio éste es el eslabón donde queda claramente demostrada la verdad del colega ufólogo, de haberse tratado de una simple patraña publicitaria los medios oficiales ni se habrían inmutado.** Después de esto, el más rígido y absoluto silencio cayó como un manto sobre toda la cuestión: no más noticias, no más novedades, ni siquiera una escueta esquela explicando los resultados de la exhumación. Solamente un co-

dian multiplicar su tamaño 16 veces en pocas semanas. En el término de un mes llegaron noticias de estos seres verdaderamente enigmáticos procedentes de diverso puntos de Texas; algunos días más tarde iguales cables llegaron procedentes de Nueva York. Del análisis de las masa vibrátiles pudo llegarse a la conclusión que probablemente se trataba de bacterias que **FAVORECIDAS POR EL MEDIO AMBIENTE ACTUAL** lograban su pleno desarrollo.

Hay necesidad de explayarse más sobre este engorroso asunto?. A nuestro juicio la explicación es simple y sería la siguiente: Las condiciones atmosféricas y de contaminación del aire han variado mucho en los últimos años, tanto, que bien puede decirse que las condiciones dadas hoy son diferentes a las que presentaba el planeta setenta años atrás; muy especialmente en países como los Estados Unidos donde la gran industrialización, las pruebas atómicas, el aglomeramiento en ciudades ha contribuido a la polución atmosférica.

Cuando, en el pasado, la nave desconocida explotara en el aire no provocó —al menos no en gran escala— la aparición de formas vivientes nuevas o mutantes pues los elementos de

por los vientos, esos seres van desarrollándose en los lugares más insólitos; como prueba de esto, nos llegan noticias de una 'masa vibrátil' que crece adherida a lo alto de un poste telefónico.

Para terminar, algunas consideraciones. Ante todo pensamos que éste no debe ser un caso único; habrá otros. En ocasiones los descubrimientos se harán en forma casual y estos bien pueden traernos aparejados problemas; recordemos que hoy fueron masas profundamente inofensivas, mañana tal vez tengamos que toparnos con "cosas" que crearemos salidas de una película de ficción. Luego, el comportamiento ante lo insólito por parte de las autoridades de algunas naciones: esconder, acallar, silenciar. Al igual que con el **cadáver de Aurora**, toda nueva información sobre esas inexplicables masas dejó de darse a conocer.

Tengamos la plena certeza que así, jamás lograremos despejar las nubes que cubren el horizonte. No imitemos el oscurantismo de otras épocas nefastas de la Historia mundial. Lo que Hughes expresa es verdad, y lo que él desató —sin desearlo— es una indiscutible realidad.

Le condizioni del malato peggiorano rapidamente. Sulla sua pelle, in ogni parte del corpo, comparvero delle macchie di color giallo-biancastro, delle dimensioni di un'unghia. Avvertiva dei dolori atroci. Cominciò a dimagrire a vista d'occhio e si ridusse in breve tempo a pelle e ossa. Morì l'11 ottobre 1967, esattamente 59 giorni dopo il drammatico incontro con i misteriosi individui. Per suo stesso desiderio, tutti i suoi effetti personali, compreso il letto ed i materassi, furono bruciati.

Il fatto arrivò per la prima volta all'orecchio del GGIOANI ai primi di novembre 1967, in occasione del 2.º Congresso Brasiliano sugli ufo tenutosi a São Paulo. Ne dette notizia il Dr. Olavo Fontes, il famoso studioso brasiliano oggi purtroppo scomparso; egli era già in contatto con il sig. A.S.M., l'industriale proprietario della fattoria « Santa Maria », ed aveva in programma di compiere, a breve scadenza, un'inchiesta approfondita sul caso e di farne un rapporto destinato alla pubblicazione. Ma poco dopo il Congresso il Dr. Fontes fu colpito da una grave malattia (da cui non sarebbe più guarito), ed i rapporti con il sig. A.S.M. furono momentaneamente interrotti (anche per una improvvisa reticenza dell'industriale). I contatti furono ripresi da altri ricercatori in occasione del 3.º Congresso sugli ufo, l'anno successivo. Il sig. A.S.M. spiegò che il suo silenzio gli era stato consigliato da alcuni amici, nel timore che la notizia dell'incidente, se diffusa, potesse provocare fastidi a lui e panico nel pubblico. Tuttavia, essendo ormai trascorso un anno, egli riteneva che non ci fosse più motivo di tacere, ed accettò di scrivere e firmare una relazione dettagliata dell'accaduto, che fu consegnata al presidente del GGIOANI, prof. Felipe M. Carrion.

La notizia si diffuse rapidamente e fu pubblicata con un certo risalto dal giornale « Correio de Povo » nella sua edizione domenicale del 22 dicembre 1968.

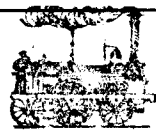
Il rapporto da me utilizzato come fonte (nella traduzione francese pubblicata da « Phénomènes Spatiaux ») è stato redatto dal prof. Carrion nel gennaio 1969.

Pier Luigi Sani  
(continua)

NOTE:

(1) C. Lorenzen: The startling evidence of the invasion from outer space (trad. ital.: I dischi volanti, Bompiani 1968) — (2) D. Keynoe: Flying Saucers from outer space (trad. ital.: La verità sui dischi volanti, Atlante 1954).

RETROSPETTIVA



di Walter Pilloni

# MORTE DI UN UFONAUTA

**19 Aprile 1897, uno strano oggetto volante si schianta nei pressi di una cittadina del Texas — Estratto dall'abitacolo un umanoide con un incomprensibile libro — Un misterioso frammento metallico ed una strana epidemia.**

« **Straniero, benvenuto ad Aurora; la città che non diviene mai tale** ». Questo è quanto si legge in un grosso cartello posto all'entrata di questo piccolo e polveroso paese del Texas.

Basse costruzioni tipiche del luogo, ove abitano poche migliaia di abitanti, fanno da cornice ad ampie e silenziose strade.

Entrando nel paese, si ha l'impressione di sconfinare in un luogo in cui il tempo si sia fermato, come per magia, molto tempo prima.

La cosa che più sorprende il turista di passaggio sta nel constatare che gli abitanti di Aurora sono prevalentemente persone di età avanzata.

— « Sul paese è calata una maledizione » — dicono i vecchi.

« I giovani hanno preferito le grandi città a questo piccolo e sperduto paese ». « E pensare » — continuano con nostalgia — « Che Aurora sarebbe potuta diventare una bella e grande città ».

Cosa turbò, quindi, l'equilibrio e l'espansione stessa del paese all'epoca della sua giovinezza?

La risposta ci viene data da due anziani cittadini.

La prima è la sig. Mary Evans, una cordiale vecchietta di 91 anni.

La signora rovistando nel suo passato, ci ha raccontato un'inquietante storia avvenuta la notte del 19 aprile del 1897, epoca in cui i fratelli Wright, compivano i primi rudimentali tentativi di volo con mezzi più pesanti dell'aria.

## Due testimonianze eccezionali

« Un oggetto infocato — dice la Sig. Evans — precipitò dal cielo schiantandosi con inaudito fragore

in una località chiamata Pozzo del Giudice. Nell'abitacolo della strana macchina volante giaceva, oramai morto, e semicarbonizzato lo strano pilota. Egli venne la notte stessa sepolto nei pressi del cimitero del villaggio. Quella indimenticabile notte, qui ad Aurora, eravamo tutti molto spaventati, poiché ci rendevamo conto che quanto era appena avvenuto era quanto mai insolito. A quel tempo io avevo solo quindici anni, e per motivi che è facile comprendere, non mi fu permesso recarmi sul luogo dell'incidente; tuttavia ricordo quel giorno con molta chiarezza ».

Una seconda e più dettagliata testimonianza del fatto ci viene raccontata dal figlio di uno dei soccorritori che per primi accorsero sul luogo del disastro. Coetaneo della signora Evans, questi è costretto per motivi di salute, all'uso della carrozzella. Egli così racconta:

« Mi trovavo, quella sera, in compagnia di mio padre. Stavamo rincasando per andare a riposare, quando improvvisamente, sollevando lo sguardo verso il cielo, vidi qualcosa che somigliava ad un pallone da rugby, ma molto... molto più grosso.

Questo oggetto era in fiamme e stava paurosamente perdendo quota. Allarmato, lo feci notare anche a mio padre, e pochi istanti dopo, assieme, assistemmo impotenti al tremendo impatto. Quell'aereo, di strana forma, si schiantò proprio sopra il vecchio mulino, del giudice del paese, distruggendolo completamente.

Mio padre accorse immediatamente, proibendomi di seguirlo, verso il luogo in cui era precipitato lo strano velivolo. Assieme ad altri concittadini riuscì non senza difficoltà a domare l'incendio.

Lo stupore lasciò il posto al ter-



*Il tremendo impatto del misterioso oggetto di Aurora. (Ricostruzione di Silvio Neri).*

rore più profondo, quando si resero conto che al posto di guida dell'infernale macchina, si trovava un uomo, in tutto simile a noi fuorché nell'altezza. L'umanoide, infatti, non era più alto di un metro e mezzo.

Le sorprese non erano finite. Nel secondo posto di pilotaggio, vicino al primo, si rinvenne un libro. Nessuno riuscì a comprenderne la scrittura. Sia lo strano essere che il suo libro vennero sepolti la notte stessa sotto un grosso albero nei pressi del cimitero ».

### La strana febbre

« Per una ragione inspiegabile — continua l'intervistato — accadde in seguito che molti bambini e molte persone anziane caddero vittime di

una forte febbre. Per molti lo stato febbricitante perdurò alcune settimane stroncandone la debole e vana resistenza. Altri, probabilmente i meno deboli, riuscirono a cavarsela.

La colpa di ciò ricadde immediatamente sul misterioso personaggio e la sua apocalittica macchina volante. A farla breve, fu così che moltissimi abitanti di Aurora decisero di trasferirsi altrove, abbandonando la casa, il terreno e tutto ciò che non era trasportabile ».

Quella fu la fine della « città che non diventò mai tale ».

Un noto quotidiano di Dallas ha ripreso, nel mese di Agosto del 1973, la storia di quel terrificante avvenimento. La tiratura raggiunse vertici mai raggiunti prima. Scienzia-

ti e curiosi accorsero sul posto a frotte, alla ricerca di altre notizie, ma tutto fu inutile perché una cortina di silenzio è scesa sugli abitanti di Aurora. Nessuno parla. Nessuno sa niente. Come per un tacito accordo, gli abitanti del paese cercano disperatamente di allontanare lo spettro di quel triste ricordo che tanto dolore portò al paese.

Il prof. Tom Gray, docente di fisica dell'Università del Texas, dopo aver esaminato alcuni frammenti metallici rinvenuti sul luogo dell'impatto, ha dichiarato: « Uno dei pezzi da me esaminato appare piuttosto strano, poiché, pur contenendo il 75% di ferro, è privo delle caratteristiche tipiche di questo metallo ».

### Considerazioni sul caso

L'episodio sopra riportato è indubbiamente la cronaca, seppur triste, di un tragico incidente di un mezzo aereo di natura extraterrestre. Tutte le prove raccolte tenderebbero ad avallare tale ipotesi.

Esaminiamole un attimo: all'epoca dell'episodio, l'uomo della terra, per quanto mi risulti, non era assolutamente in grado tecnologicamente e psicologicamente di concepire un simile mezzo aereo.

La descrizione somatica dell'umanoide, ci riporta alla memoria diverse testimonianze di persone che asseriscono di aver veduto esseri extraterrestri nei pressi della loro astronave.

Il caso della Sig.a Rosa Dainelli calza a pennello ed anche la descrizione dell'astronave sembrerebbe coincidere con la descrizione del secondo testimone di Aurora; (per il caso Dainelli vedere G. d. M. n. 17, pag. 7).

Il libro di bordo, che era accanto al cadavere del pilota, non è stato più ritrovato. Altro fatto degno di nota, se si esclude la coincidenza con qualche sconosciuta epidemia, è la strana febbre che fu la causa di diverse vittime.

Si sarebbe portati a credere che l'impatto dell'oggetto con il terreno abbia provocato la rottura di una qualche apparecchiatura di bordo, dalla quale si siano sprigionate le micidiali radiazioni.

Walter Pilloni

*N. B. La prima parte è liberamente tratta da un programma televisivo.*

1.896-97

# Stories continue of outer space alien buried in **Aurora** Cemetery

<sup>198</sup>  
Several years ago I heard stories about a spaceman being buried in Wise County. This spaceman was supposed to be someone or something from outer space. I can't remember the whole story. Can you find out anything about this for me? — T.W.

LaVerne Odom



Contact

In 1973 a visit was made to the Aurora Cemetery in Wise County by officials of the International UFO Bureau from Oklahoma City. They were there to investigate the possibility of an outer space alien buried there.

The group said they were looking for witnesses to the crash of a spaceship in 1897. They were checking out a legend that a cigar-shaped spacecraft crashed into a windmill on a Judge Proctor's farm on April 17, 1897. It was said that the people of the town of Aurora cleaned up the wreckage and buried the pilot in the town cemetery. The Dallas Morning News carried a story about the incident the next day. The entire story, written by S.E. Hayden follows:

"AURORA, WISE COUNTY, TEXAS. April 17 — About 6 o'clock this morning the early risers of Aurora were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship which has been sailing throughout the country.

"It sailed directly over the public square, and when it reached the north part of town collided with the tower of Judge Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a terrific explosion,

scattering debris over several acres of ground, wrecking the windmill and water tank and destroying the judge's flower garden.

"The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one aboard, and while his remains are badly disfigured enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world.

"T.J. Weems, the U.S. signal service officer at this place and an authority on astronomy, gives it as his opinion that he (the pilot) was a native of the planet Mars.

"Papers found on his person — evidently the records of his travels — are written in some unknown hieroglyphics, and cannot be deciphered. The ship was too badly wrecked to form any conclusion as to its constrictive or motive power.

"The town is full of people today who are viewing the wreck and gathered specimens of strange metal from the debris. The pilot's funeral will take place tomorrow. Signed, S.E. Hayden.

During this investigation by the UFO officials in 1973, Wise County historians said the entire Hayden story was fiction. Most citizens said they thought the story was a hoax.

Dr. Tom Gray, a physicist from North Texas State University, was asked to analyze some samples of metal that had been dug up near the site of the windmill where the spaceship crashed. He found the metal to be somewhat different from most metals, but said "Given the fact the earth is struck by meteorites of all shapes and sizes on occasion, it would be difficult to rule on the origin of the metal."

The UFO group wanted to dig into the grave that was said to be where the little spaceman was buried. The cemetery association got an injunction to stop any

digging not authorized by the courts. The UFO group did not seek a court order to dig.

Metal detectors were used by the UFO hunters. They claimed the signals received from the grave matched those recorded at the crash site. They also made the claim, based on the signals from the metal detectors, that the person buried there was not an inhabitant of this world.

Local citizens said the grave contains the body of an itinerant farm worker named Carr, who had died of spotted fever about the time of the alleged spacecraft crash.

After all investigations were completed in 1973, it is still not known who or what is buried in that unmarked grave in the Aurora Cemetery.

(Sources: Denton Record-Chronicle files and Dallas Morning News.)

*Contact solves problems, gets answers, tracks down the facts and guards your right to know. Write Contact, P.O. Box 369, Denton, Texas 76201, or call 387-3811, Ext. 211, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.*

*Because of the large number of letters received each week and limited space, not every question can be answered.*

*For information on "people services" offered in Denton County, call the Information and Referral Service, 566-2688. The service can refer you to the appropriate agency to help with your problem.*

**Dennis Stacy is the editor of the Journal and a San Antonio-based photojournalist whose articles and pictures have appeared in a variety of newspapers and magazines both here and abroad, including "Southwest" and "OMNI."**

## **AURORA**

*The Aurora Encounter* (New World Pictures) purports to be about a "true story," the alleged crash of an alien airship at Aurora, Texas, on April 17, 1897. According to legend (most UFO historians regard the account as more hoax than history), the sole occupant of the ship, who perished in the collision with a water tank, was subsequently buried in the town cemetery.

A sandstone headmarker supposedly portraying the strange airship reportedly marked the grave until sometime in the Seventies, when renewed interest in the case brought an influx of outside visitors and it was stolen. Metal detectors were said to have picked up readings under the now unmarked gravesite, but these samples later disappeared, too, under somewhat mysterious circumstances. Finally, the local cemetery association sought and received a court injunction to prevent any further digging.

*The Aurora Encounter* also purports to be a movie, but offers little in its own defense, borrowing heavily-handedly virtually every Spielberg cliché in the book, from flying children, caves and cobwebs, to a cuddly alien visitor. What emerges, however, including what must be the absolutely worst spaceship in the history of cinema, is more spaghetti than Spielberg.

One looks for a kind word to say about such a promising storyline, but one looks in vain. The acting is for the most part wooden and the plot has more holes in it than a coffee filter.

### **ACTORS**

Jack Elam, the only name actor, who's probably been in more westerns than he cares to remember, turns in a credible performance, given the script,

as Aurora's town scalawag and drunk, a peddler of Doctor Neptune's Elixir, an alcohol-laced antidote to the yellow fever sweeping the countryside.

Carol Bagdasarian, as Alain Peeples, the school ma'am who inherits her daddy's newspaper, the "Aurora Sentinel," is called on to deliver most of the movie's lines, and does passingly well, again considering the script. The high sheriff, "Not-in-my-town-you-won't," is played by Tom Brown, who has little to say and seems thankful enough for it.

There's also a bad-guy, undercover Texas Ranger (yes, in black hat), a cameo appearance by Spanky McFarland as the state governor, Dottie West as Irene, who contributes a gratuitous nipple, and more cute children than you can shake a stick at, probably impressed into their roles by their parents.

More material falls through the sieve-like plot than floats to the surface, but for whatever reason(s), a diminutive alien (Micky Hayes) aboard an airship from the moon turns up in Aurora shortly before the turn of the century. Which proves to be just what the suffering small town needs, having been bypassed by the railroad, its cotton crop failing, and dread yellow fever on the loose.

For more reasons unknown, the little alien frequents a riverbank where he maintains a bunch of cattle skulls and feathers on sticks. This is just above a fakey cave three young girls fall into for a convenient late afternoon stroll through a cutrate Spielberg set.

*I think* boy-alien is visiting the place because his ancestors (more skulls) are buried here among all sorts of mysterious Aztec and Mayan allusions that otherwise go unexplained. Anyway, the girls are imperiled by a fake roof falling in, though the undercover Ranger lurking above is apparently unaware of all the seismic activity. Boy alien arrives in the nick of time, and one of the grateful girls gives him her Cabbage Patch doll.

### **SPECIAL EFFECTS**

Moving right along, the school ma'am, who has built the first crude aeroplane in the meantime, decides the

alien should fly down Aurora's main street because it will apparently make good copy for her 4-page newspaper. This publicity coup begins in broad daylight which quickly turns to nightfall so the special effects budget can be used up in one swell foop. Previously, and again for reasons left unexplained, the airship alternately glowed or steamed smoke, neither mode of which propulsion seemed necessary as long as it was securely supported by cables and cropped camera angles.

But come downtown it does, in a blaze of arc-lights. Boy alien steps out of his ship long enough to be gunned down by the dastardly Ranger. He staggers inside, lifts off, and then passes out at the controls so his ship can slam into the Aurora water tower and explode. But the cascading water puts out the fire long enough for one of the girls to retrieve his body before the spaceship erupts in paltry pyrotechnics again.

A tiny casket is prepared for burial, but just like in E-T, cuddly alien movies don't end on sour notes. The casket glows blue, and what I assume to be boy-alien's soul streaks skyward, a sort of moonbeam in reverse.

I caught Aurora at a bargain matinee and even then felt swindled. If you have some very young (and gullible) children, perhaps it'll be worth your while. Otherwise, encounter it soon on a TV or videocassette near you, because it's not long for the box-office.

**17TH ANNUAL**

# **UFO**

**SYMPOSIUM**

**JUNE 27-29, 1986**



**PRESENTED BY**



**MUTUAL UFO NETWORK**

M, AP - 86

DE "CINE"





**Highland Station, Kansas, April 15, 1897.** An "explosion of chemicals" aboard a passing airship caused the machine to plummet earthward. Persons who rushed to the site heard groans of an unconscious man buried under the debris. He was pulled from the wreckage and restored to normal consciousness. He identified himself as Pedro Sanchez of Cuba. "He refused to tell anything further, shipped it to St. Joe and then went to Omaha," a press account stated.

Source: *Atchison [Kansas] Daily Globe*, April 17, 1897.

**Near Jefferson, Iowa, April 16, 1897.** An airship plunged to the ground and left a large hole.

Source: *Omaha Daily Bee*, April 17, 1897.

**Aurora, Texas, April 17, 1897.** On April 19 the *Dallas Morning News* carried a brief account of a tragic event in this tiny north Texas village: a Martian spaceship crashed into a windmill owned by Judge J. S. Proctor. The pilot's badly disfigured body was recovered, and his "funeral will take place at noon tomorrow." There were no follow-up reports.

This simple tale is one of the great UFO hoaxes. When the story was rediscovered decades later, in the 1960s and early 1970s, journalists and ufologists flocked to Aurora, precipitating a farcical series of events centered on the belief that one ambiguously marked grave in the local cemetery held the Martian's body. The excitement died only in 1973, after metal found in the cemetery and linked in the minds of some to the Martian ship turned out to be terrestrial. A prankster apparently had planted it at the site.

Local historians were certain no such incident had ever taken place. Proctor, who did exist, did not, however, own a windmill. The story was the invention of local correspondent S. E. Haydon, who may have been seeking publicity for the town. Though today believed in only by the militantly credulous, the legend lives on in the low-budget feature film *The Aurora Encounter* (1985) and in folk singer Tom Pacheco's tongue-in-cheek ballad "Judge Proctor's Windmill" (recorded on his 1976 RCA album *The Outsider*).

Sources: Wallace O. Chariton, *The Great Texas Airship Mystery* (Plano, Tex: Wordware Publishing, 1991), pp. 197-213; *Dallas Morning News*, April 19, 1897; Donald B. Hanlon, "Texas Odyssey of 1897," *Flying Saucer Review* 12 (September/October 1966): 8-11; H. Michael Simmons, "Once Upon a Time in the West," *Magonia*, August 1985.

Not one of these stories is credible. Some (notably the Lanark, Illinois, tale) are obvious jokes, and the rest are reminiscent of the newspaper hoaxes that characterized much of the coverage of the 1896-97 wave. Nineteenth-century journalistic standards were fairly dismal, and press accounts of extraordinary events have to be read with great caution. In our time journalistic hoaxes are considered an outrage, but a century ago they were ubiquitous. Among the prominent creators of such fabrications were provincial correspondents whose stories could not be checked—even

By JEROME CLARK  
JUL - AG 1993

Un «caso Roswell» — alieno compreso — di cent'anni fa

## Ritorno ad Aurora

di GIUSEPPE STILO

La storia dell'astronave aliena precipitata nel 1897 nel Texas rappresenta purtroppo uno dei classici della storia dell'ufologia. Pur essendo da molto tempo passato di moda, nel 1985 un film sull'argomento, semplicemente intitolato *The Aurora Encounter*, è stato diretto dal regista americano Jim McCullough, seppur mai distribuito in Italia.

Si tratta di una vicenda che anche da noi è stata più volte parzialmente presentata. Essa avrebbe avuto luogo il 17 aprile del 1897 nell'ancora fiorente cittadina di Aurora, nella contea di Wise, a nord-ovest di Fort Worth.

Proprio al culmine dell'enorme ondata di avvistamenti che investì le regioni occidentali e centrali degli USA (almeno 1700 segnalazioni) il quotidiano *Dallas Morning News* del 19 aprile 1897 pubblicò un curioso articolo del suo corrispondente S.E. Haydon, un commerciante di cotone.

In esso si diceva che alle 6 di mattina un'aeronave era stata vista muoversi lentamente nei cieli del paese e poi urtare contro il mulino a vento del giudice Proctor, che fu distrutto da un'esplosione insieme ad un vicino serbatoio d'acqua. Rottami si sparsero a terra per parecchi acri. Il corpo di un pilota, pur sfigurato, fu raccolto sul posto. Un certo T.J. Weems, «autorità nel campo astronomico», aveva addirittura determinato che l'uomo era originario di Marte! Parecchi pezzi metallici dell'aeronave sarebbero stati recuperati dagli abitanti, e documenti scritti in «geroglifici sconosciuti» erano stati scoperti sul morto, i cui funerali avrebbero avuto luogo «il giorno dopo, alle 12». Tutto qui. Poi l'articolo giacque dimenticato nelle biblioteche per circa settant'anni.

La storia moderna dell'*UFO-crash* di Aurora, in realtà, ebbe inizio soltanto nel 1966, quando l'ufologo Donald B. Hanlon la riesumò sulle pagine dell'allora nota rivista britannica *Flying Saucer Review*. Quasi subito, però, gli studiosi Jacques Vallée e Joseph A. Hynek conclusero per un falso ideato da S.E. Haydon, l'autore dell'articolo del 1897,



L'ingresso del piccolo cimitero di Aurora.

con lo scopo di pubblicizzare a fini turistici la cittadina, aggirata dalla ferrovia e dunque destinata ad un triste declino.

Il 4 gennaio del 1967, sul *Dallas Morning News* il giornalista Frank X. Tolbert riportava le conclusioni di una sua inchiesta sulla questione: si era trattato di un falso architettato da un telegrafista delle ferrovie dell'Iowa, certo Joseph E. Scully, detto ironicamente «Veritiero».

Tuttavia, l'interesse sotterraneo per il fatto continuava inarrestabile. La svolta si ebbe quando l'ufologo Haydon Hewes, dirigente del gruppo «International UFO Bureau» attirò l'attenzione del corrispondente aeronautico del quotidiano *Dallas Times Herald*, William Case.

A partire dal marzo 1973, Case iniziò a pubblicare sul suo quotidiano una serie di articoli dai toni via via più sensazionali, che dovevano consacrare a fama imperitura la storia del marziano di Aurora (1).

Comunque, ciò che mi ha spinto a presentare in maniera organica un caso già

noto è un altro fatto.

Nel giugno 1995 l'ufologo **Roberto Pinotti**, se ne è infatti ampiamente occupato nel suo libro «*UFO: Top Secret*» (Tascabili Bompiani, Milano, pp. 152-68), ritenendo di poter rivalutare una storia che la quasi totalità degli studiosi ritiene chiusa da un pezzo.

Gli esiti di tale operazione appaiono a chi scrive piuttosto deludenti.

L'80% dello spazio che Pinotti dedica ad Aurora è in realtà occupato dalla riproduzione di un pur interessante articolo del giornalista de *L'Europeo* Duielio Pallottelli comparso su quel settimanale il 26 luglio del... 1973.

Esso è in sostanza il frutto di interviste a due presunti testimoni del fatto (Mary Evans e Charlie Stephens, diventato «Stevens» nel pezzo di Pallottelli), allo sceriffo Harold Idell (un «credente») e alla storica locale Betty Pegues (una «scettica»).

Come scopriremo, è difficile rintracciare materiale d'indagine sulla vicenda successiva al 1974, anno nel quale le tracce della mitica astronave e del suo pilota si perdono di nuovo nel nulla.

Ma vediamo cosa emerse dalle indagini di William Case, che si recò ad Aurora circa 30 volte.

La richiesta di collaborazione da parte degli abitanti del posto, subito fatta, ebbe un esito discreto, e Case ne approfittò subito. In particolare, la novantunenne Mary Evans venne portata agli onori della cronaca quando dichiarò a Case che la sua famiglia le aveva parlato del fatto, di un corpo sepolto e di pezzi dell'astronave sepolti.

L'ottantatreenne «Charlie» Stephens narrò che suo padre gli aveva detto di aver visto un oggetto sigariforme cadere nella proprietà del giudice Proctor e un grosso incendio divampare.

Sul posto, il giorno dopo l'uomo avrebbe scorto una massa notevole di lamiere contorte e di gomma bruciata.

Il terreno dove sarebbe sorto il mulino a vento contro cui si sarebbe schiantata l'astronave, nel 1973 era ormai di un anziano benzinaio, Brawley Oates. A suo avviso, la terribile artrite che lo affliggeva era dovuta alle «radiazioni marziane» provenienti dal punto del *crash*. Malgrado con altri ricercatori (compreso Hynek) Oates non avesse rivelato nulla d'importante, e anzi li avesse indirizzati verso sostenitori dell'ipotesi del falso, nel 1973 Case scrisse che a lui aveva detto di aver sentito parlare della faccenda del *crash* per tutta la vita e che nel 1945 aveva visto molti «frammenti metallici» lavorando alla chiusura del pozzo su cui sarebbe stato costruito il mulino a vento del giudice Proctor.

Questo accenno a «frammenti dell'astronave» doveva essere gravido di conseguenze. Nel maggio del '73 Case rintracciò una curiosa figura di «cacciatore di tesori», certo Frank Kelley, originario di Corpus Christi. Kelley dichiarò di aver raccolto «prove definitive» che ad Aurora era caduta un'astronave i cui pezzi erano disseminati in un'area assai vasta, e che i suoi cercammetalli avevano registrato dati assai insoliti intorno a una vecchia tomba isolata del cimitero cittadino.

Da qui una serie di azioni piuttosto maldestre, condotte anche da ufologi, il cui esito lascio valutare a chi legge.

### La tomba e la lapide

Uno degli aspetti più sconcertanti di questa vicenda è di fatti rappresentato dalla ricerca che alcuni inquirenti del MUFON, associazione con sede centrale nel Texas, fecero della supposta tomba nella quale potevano essere sepolti i resti dello sfortunato «marziano». Le ricerche si accentrarono subito sulla

fossa del camposanto (gestito dal locale ordine massonico) citata da Kelley e segnata da un curioso blocco di arenaria su cui qualcuno sembrava aver inciso una forma triangolare con dentro tre cerchi. La sagoma dell'astronave aliena, supponeva la leggenda popolare.

Dopo che grazie ai loro cercammetalli i membri del MUFON ritennero di aver individuato nella tomba pezzetti di un materiale non meglio precisabile, Walter Andrus, direttore del gruppo, chiese alle autorità locali il permesso di aprire la tomba e di riesumare il corpo.

Ma ecco il colpo di scena: nella notte sul 14 giugno qualcuno penetrò nel cimitero e asportò la strana lapide e i pezzi di metallo. Case, il 4 luglio (festa nazionale USA), con un articolo scoppiettante sul *Dallas Times Herald* diede fama internazionale a questo dettaglio teatrale e contribuì probabilmente a far accorrere sul posto anche Duilio Pallottelli. Irritati, gli abitanti di Aurora organizzarono ronde armate intorno al cimitero, mentre Andrus si inimicava definitivamente la direzione del cimitero chiedendo di aprire una *seconda* tomba, priva del nome del defunto. In realtà, si seppe poi che molte salme di quella sezione erano state inumate secondo procedure sommarie proprio a metà degli anni '90 del XIX sec., quando un'epidemia di febbre gialla colpì la contea. Ma il MUFON e Bill Case erano ben lungi dal demordere.

### I supposti «frammenti»

Nel giugno '73, gli investigatori dell'associazione ufologica avevano appunto rinvenuto i curiosi frammenti sotto la copertura di terra. Sebbene gran parte di essi fossero, come detto, poi scomparsi insieme alla strana pietra tombale, un paio di pezzetti furono inviati a due laboratori privati di ditte aeronautiche per l'analisi. Certo, il metallo si era fuso dopo esser stato esposto ad un'alta temperatura, ma risultò anche che esso era composto da una lega con cui si costruivano stufe negli anni '20...

Del resto, già il dr. Alfred E. Kraus, direttore del «Kilgore Research Institute» della West Texas State University si era recato due volte nel 1967 ad Aurora munito di cercammetalli e aveva trovato sul posto del presunto *crash* soltanto vecchi rottami metallici. Pure il fisico dr. Tom Gray, a cui presso la North Texas State University furono in seguito fatti analizzare quattro frammenti, trovò solo che si trattava di manufatti probabilmente risalenti agli anni '10 o '20 del secolo.

Infine, sempre nel mese di giugno 1973 alcuni dipendenti di una società cinematografica che si erano recati ad Aurora fecero analizzare cinque pezzetti metallici trovati sul posto al dr. L.C. McAuley: ancora una volta, con esiti del tutto negativi.

Dunque, niente frammenti dell'astronave che, secondo l'articolo del *Dallas Times Herald* del 1897 «si presume dovesse pesare diverse tonnellate».

Tuttavia, Pinotti, nel suo libro (p. 167) ritiene di poter dire che l'indagine del dr. Kraus «è a dir poco di parte avendo accuratamente ignorato tutte le testimonianze a favore raccolte».

La congiura del silenzio è in agguato? Vediamo se tutti gli studiosi sono d'accordo sul peso da attribuire a dette testimonianze.

### Troppi dubbi

Per cominciare con alcune considerazioni di carattere generale, già nel 1966 Frank X. Tolbert aveva rilevato che lo storico texano Cliff D. Cates, autore nel 1907 (cioè dieci anni dopo il supposto incidente) di una minuziosa storia della contea di Wise che lo impegnò — pare — per cinque anni, non accenna minimamente a quell'evento eccezionale. Possibile già nessuno lo ricordasse? Anche la successiva, monumentale ricerca «Saga of Aurora» di Harold R. Bost non ne faceva cenno. Dov'erano andati i testimoni, necessariamente allora tutti vivi e vegeti?

Billy Porterfield, appassionatosi alla questione, condusse delle indagini assai minuziose, il cui esito riassunse sul quotidiano *The Texas Observer* del 21.9.73. Egli scoprì che il pezzo di terreno nel quale si supponeva fosse stato sepolto il marziano era in realtà stato regolarmente acquistato per la sepoltura da certo C.A. Carr, i cui discendenti fu purtroppo impossibile individuare. Anche la signora Robbie Reynolds Hanson, che aveva 12 anni nel 1897, sentita da Porterfield ricordò che il giudice Proctor era ben noto per il suo senso dell'umorismo e che spesso egli pubblicava brevi storie satiriche, compresa una riguardante il *crash* dell'aeronave, uscita su un foglio locale intitolato *Aurora News*, del quale tuttavia nessuna copia sembra esser sopravvissuta.

Tra l'altro, si noti che fra i circa cento incontri del terzo e del quarto tipo di cui chi scrive è a conoscenza per quanto riguarda l'ondata del 1896-97, quello di Aurora è solo uno degli almeno cinque *crashes* di cui i giornali dettero notizia tra il 6 e il 19 aprile, ma è anche l'unico

in cui si fa riferimento ai marziani come piloti dei velivoli e non a «misteriosi inventori», molto meno suscettibili di sollecitare l'interesse degli ufologi e del pubblico contemporanei e dunque di rivitalizzare la storia.

Frequenti erano in quei mesi convulsi anche le storie burlesche e satiriche sull'argomento, o i resoconti palesemente falsi.

Betty «Etta» Pegues, l'anziana storica locale che nel 1975 fu incaricata dalla contea di Wise di scrivere una nuova versione della storia della cittadina, e che Pallottelli descrisse nel suo articolo su *L'Europeo* come una vecchia svitata, assunse in effetti un atteggiamento decisamente scettico sulla vicenda. Sulla proprietà del giudice Proctor non c'era un mulino a vento, Weems non era un astronomo ma il maniscalco del paese, etc.: dettagli notati nel '67 da Tolbert e che non parvero degni di considerazione a William Case. Inoltre, la Pegues rintracciò almeno due anziani, Shaw Ford e Oscar Lowry, che parlarono senza mezzi termini di un falso, mentre Robbie Hanson — che aveva già smentito a B. Porterfield la storia — dichiarò ancora che quel giorno si trovava nella vicina scuola e che non accadde

un bel nulla. Uno dei venti cronisti che visitarono Lowry gli offrì del denaro perché sostenesse di ricordare l'evento. Un punto importante è che Mary Evans, la cui testimonianza grazie agli articoli di Case era diventata la più nota a sostegno del caso, dichiarò alla Pegues che il giornalista aveva gravemente distorto le sue dichiarazioni.

Lo scrittore Daniel Cohen ha visto uno dei motori delle vicende del '73-'74 in uno dei frequenti contrasti scoppiati anche stavolta tra le due associazioni ufologiche MUFON e APRO. L'APRO, che oggi non esiste più e che pure non disdegnava di occuparsi di casi ufologici «ad alta stranezza», ripeté in un numero del suo bollettino che i presunti campioni metallici erano nient'altro che una banale lega di alluminio e che essi, relativamente recenti, risalivano a una data decisamente posteriore al 1897. Tutta l'inchiesta — scrisse poi l'APRO con un appena velato riferimento al MUFON e al suo direttore — si era risolta «in larga misura in una campagna pubblicitaria per un gruppo ufologico». Si noti con cura che anche Heydon Hewes, che pure era stato uno dei promotori del caso, dichiarò che gli articoli di Case erano solo «pubblicità» e che

Frank Kelley, il «cacciatore di tesori» che fra i primi aveva parlato della natura insolita dei frammenti non era più disposto a farsi intervistare da nessuno. Alcuni dei supposti testimoni resi celebri da Case avrebbero rilasciato ad Hewes dichiarazioni di tenore assai diverso. A parte la Evans, che smentì anche stavolta quanto attribuitole, Charles Stephens ribadì che né lui né suo padre avevano osservato il *crash*, ma soltanto «un incendio», e un altro testimone pescato da Case, G.C. Curley (il cui nome esatto era J. Mc Curley) disse che in quel periodo in realtà andava a scuola nel vicino Oklahoma.

Di questa posizione successivamente assunta da Hewes, Pinotti nel suo libro non parla affatto.

William Case, il principale proponente del *revival* di Aurora è morto nel dicembre 1974. Da allora, a quanto mi risulta, ben poco è intervenuto a modificare il quadro.

Sulla base di quanto esposto, non me la sento affatto di condividere l'opinione di Pinotti secondo cui «l'idea che i fatti di Aurora abbiano al contrario un loro preciso e positivo riferimento è tutt'altro che fuori luogo» (op. cit., p. 167).

Ad un secolo di distanza, tutto quello che ci rimane è il ritaglio ingiallito di un giornale di paese e i racconti contraddittori fatti da un paio di vegliardi.

Ad avviso di chi scrive, davvero un po' poco. Ma lascio giudicare ai lettori. Se qualcuno ritenesse di potermi fornire fonti e dati a me sconosciuti che contribuissero a modificare la mia opinione, lo faccia.

Renderli noti a tutti sarebbe un mio dovere.

Giuseppe Stilo

**NOTE:** (1) In Italia se ne occuparono tra l'altro «La Gazzetta del Mezzogiorno» del 31.3.73 e «L'Unità» del 2.6.73. Nel 1976 la Rai produsse un documentario improntato a sensazionalismo.

**BIBLIOGRAFIA:** Eileen Buckle: «Aurora Spaceman - R.I.P.?», in «Flying Saucer Wallace Review», vol. 19, n. 4 del lug.-ago. 1973. — Wallace O. Chariton: «The Great Texas Airship Mystery», Worldware Publ. Plano (Texas) 1991, pp. 197-213. — Daniel Cohen: «The Great Airship Mystery», Dodd, Mead & Co., New York 1981, pp. 103-121. — Jean Sider: «L'Airship de 1897», Presso l'Autore, Parigi 1987, pp. 197-8. — Jacques Vallee: «Confrontations», Ballantine Books, New York 1991, pp. 38-9.

**Costretti dai continui aumenti dei costi di gestione, informiamo che, nostro malgrado, dal prossimo numero di febbraio il prezzo della rivista sarà di L. 6.000.**



Una ricostruzione della misteriosa lapide posta sulla presunta tomba del «marziano».

## UN MISTERIO QUE PERDURA UN SIGLO DESPUÉS ¿SE ESTRELLÓ UN OVNI EN AURORA EN 1897?

**E**l periodista Duilio Pallottelli iba dispuesto a solucionar un enigma que, por aquellas fechas, 1973, duraba ya cerca de 80 años. Lo único que necesitaba, era una orden de exhumación del juez del pequeño pueblo de Aurora (Texas), para intentar averiguar si en el cementerio de dicha localidad, se hallaban los restos de un ser extraterrestre desde el siglo pasado...

Pero no adelantemos acontecimientos sobre estas modernas indagaciones y hagamos un poco de historia, sobre lo que podría ser una prueba definitiva sobre la presen-

cia de seres "extraterrestres" en nuestro planeta. La presente crónica nos remonta al año 1897, durante el cual, al igual que venía ocurriendo desde finales de 1896, el sudoeste norteamericano, se vio literalmente sorprendido por la constante aparición en sus cielos de unas extrañas aeronaves denominadas "Air-Ship". Dichos "dirigibles" se dedicaban a sobrevolar con total impunidad ciudades y pueblos, ante la mirada perpleja de cientos de testigos. Asimismo, con sospechosa frecuencia, había diferentes testimonios de personas que aseguraban haber observado o conversado con los tripulantes de la insólita aeronave, que por otro lado y salvo en contadas ocasiones eran personas aparentemente normales. No obstante parecía estar claro, que los "inventores" de tan sofisticados dirigibles estaban muy lejos de ser simples pioneros aeronáuticos, pues la tecnología que des-

plegaban tales artefactos, en muchos casos, era muy superior de lo que se podría haber alcanzado en la época por cualquier genio desconocido. Hay que recordar, que nos situamos a finales del siglo pasado, y el primer vuelo efectuado por el hombre lo consiguieron en este caso, los hermanos **Wright** el 17 de diciembre de 1903 y el primer dirigible, el California Arrow de **Thomas Baldwin** no voló hasta el año 1904. Por lo tanto, tal y como apuntan muchos investigadores e historiadores contemporáneos, aquellas misteriosas aeronaves no podrían pertenecer a nuestro mundo.

### El accidente

La prensa de la época se ocupó de plasmar en sus páginas las frecuentes apariciones de estos "dirigibles" (más de 2000 referencias), y en uno de estos titulares se podría haber encontrado la clave de toda la trama:

**19 de abril de 1897**, extracto del periódico "Dallas Times Herald" de dicha época:

*<<...Aurora, Condado de Wise, Texas, abril 19.*

*Hacia las seis de la mañana (del 17 de abril) los habitantes de Aurora advirtieron con asombro la aparición de la misteriosa aeronave que desde hace algunas semanas se observa con cierta regularidad en el cielo de Texas. El aparato viajaba en dirección al norte y volaba más cerca del suelo que en ocasiones anteriores. Evidentemente, alguna parte de la compleja máquina debía de haber sufrido una avería, porque la nave no superaba la velocidad de diez o doce millas por hora y perdía progresivamente altura. Después de sobrevolar en diagonal la explanada donde habitualmente se celebraba la feria de ganado, y tras alcanzar el límite septentrional de la ciudad, el aparato cayó sobre el molino del juez **Proctor**. En la terrible explosión*

que siguió, todo saltó en pedazos. Los restos del vehículo aéreo quedaron esparcidos en un radio de dos o tres hectáreas, el molino del juez Proctor resultó completamente destruido y el depósito del agua saltó por los aires. Del jardín que había a su alrededor, no quedó nada. Parece ser que a bordo de la aeronave había un solo tripulante. Aunque sus restos quedaron horriblemente desfigurados, por lo que se pudo ver resultaba claro que no se trataba de un habitante de este mundo. El señor T. J. Weems, telegrafista del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos destacado en esta localidad, ha declarado que en su opinión se trata de un habitante de Marte. Algunos documentos hallados en el lugar del accidente, probablemente los restos del diario de abordaje, están llenos de jeroglíficos indescifrables. La enorme aeronave, como se ha dicho, ha quedado totalmente destruida

y no ha sido posible formular ninguna teoría sobre su fabricación ni sobre el secreto de su fuerza propulsora. Parece ser que estaba hecha de una composición de aluminio y plata, y se piensa que debía pesar varias toneladas. Hoy el pueblo está lleno de curioso que han acudido de todas partes para ver el lugar del desastre. Los restos del piloto serán sepultados a mediodía en el cementerio de Aurora.

**S. E. Haydon...>>**

La "Air-Ship" accidentada en la propiedad del juez Proctor fue descrita por numerosos vecinos de Aurora como un enorme objeto en forma de puro con enormes motores a cada lado, conectados con tres hélices. La explosión provocada por el impacto fue lo suficientemente potente como para destruir el molino y el depósito de agua, así como dejar evidentes señales de la destrucción en el terreno. Los restos semicarbonizados del piloto, tal y

como señala el periodista de la noticia, que fue publicada bajo el nombre de "That aerial ship" (Esa nave aérea), fue enterrado en el cementerio de la localidad norteamericana. Muchos de los restos de la aeronave, que quedaron esparcidos alrededor del punto de caída, fueron recogidos por los habitantes y curiosos del lugar, que quedaron extrañados sobre el desconocido material del que se constituía la "Air-Ship". Nunca se llegó a saber a ciencia cierta, donde fueron a parar los misteriosos "documentos" hallados junto a la aeronave siniestrada, y que decían estaban escritos con unos "jeroglíficos" (1).

Sin embargo, aunque la trascendencia del suceso de Aurora, pueda parecer lejos de toda duda, ateniéndonos principalmente a que la aeronave se estrelló cerca de una zona habitada y de que el cadáver del supuesto extraterrestre se enterrara en el mismo cementerio del pueblo, el caso pronto pasó

al olvido, a la vez que la oleada de la Air-Ship fue remitiendo hasta que desapareció.

### El Informe Condon, reabre el caso

Años más tarde, el caso fue objeto de una curiosa reapertura por parte del Dr. Alfred Kraus, a la sazón Director del Kilgore Research Institute (Centro de Investigación perteneciente a la West Texas State) y asesor del polémico Informe Condon, que intentaba en la década de los sesenta "averiguar" si el fenómeno OVNI era real o no. Por lo tanto, dentro de una investigación mucho más amplia, compleja, y burocrática, y que abarcaba el estudio de centenares de casos OVNI, el Dr Kraus había decidido como parte de su aportación al Informe Condon, recabar información sobre una extraña aeronave que según la prensa de la época, se había estrellado en Texas en el lejano 1897. Y es que, con los tiempos

fue acusado de servir a oscuros intereses para desviar la atención del público sobre la existencia de los OVNI. Por tanto todas las investigaciones que se efectuaron bajo el marco de dicho proyecto, quedaron parcialmente desvirtuadas y poco investigadores daban crédito del análisis y resultado de las mismas. El periodista italiano Duilio Pallottelli, enviado por la revista "L'Europeo", se propuso investigar concienzudamente el caso Aurora, sin basarse en las primeras indagaciones del Dr. Kraus. Trasladado al lugar de los hechos, Pallottelli, logró 76 años después, entrevistarse con varios testigos claves del caso que evidenciaron lo erróneo de las "apresuradas" conclusiones del Dr. Kraus. Charlie Stevens contaba con tan solo 5 años de edad cuando todo sucedió. Recuerda que su padre le contó que aquella fatídica mañana de 1897, mientras se encontraba ordeñando las vacas, fue testigo de como un objeto alar-

gado que emitía un fuerte silbido se precipitó violentamente contra el suelo.

Charlie asegura que "el cielo se incendió, todo se volvió rojo y se oyó un fuerte estruendo". El chico aunque estuvo en el aérea siniestrada, no pudo confirmar la presencia del cadáver del piloto. Cuando se realizó la entrevista el Sr. Stevens aun vivía y tenía 82 años. El sherrif de Aurora **Harold Idell** confirmó al periodista italiano su creencia particular en la autenticidad del incidente de Aurora y comentó a Pallottelli que su prima Frances le había hablado en numerosas ocasiones sobre el tema.

Las hipótesis del Dr. Kraus parecían desmoronarse por completo con el hallazgo de estos testimonios, aun cuando las investigaciones de Pallottelli le reservaban nuevos testigos y pruebas que apoyaban sin lugar a dudas que algo extraordinario había ocurrido en Aurora. **Broweley Oates**, propietario de una estación de servicio, relató al

*La prensa de la época se ocupó de plasmar en sus páginas las frecuentes apariciones de estos "dirigibles" (más de 2000 referencias), y en uno de estos titulares se podría haber encontrado la clave de toda la trama.*

que corrían en los E.E.U.U. en la década de los 60 el suceso de Aurora fue releído como un posible accidente OVNI. El objetivo de su investigación, entre otras cosas, era intentar hallar posibles testigos del incidente que residieran por aquellas fechas en el pueblo de Aurora. Por otro lado, el Dr. Kraus trató de encontrar pruebas físicas del accidente rastreando la zona del molino con un detector de metales. Los resultados de la búsqueda fueron al parecer negativos. Con la evidencia testimonial, parece ser que tampoco hubo mucha fortuna, y varios

vecinos de la localidad negaban la existencia del hecho. Uno de los entrevistados por el director del Kilgore Research Institute, Oscar Lowery (Newark, Nueva Jersey) afirmaba haber recibido tentativas de soborno por parte de varios periodistas para confirmar la historia del accidente descrito en el Dallas Times Herald.

Por tanto, el Dr. Kraus finalizó su investigación afirmando que el caso había sido un fraude perpetrado por el periodista S. E. Haydon amparándose en las historias fantásticas que circulaban por el sudoeste norteamericano sobre la hipotética existencia de una extraña nave aérea.

#### **Nuevos datos reveladores**

Posteriormente a la publicación del Informe Condon, aunque ya durante su realización sufrió grandes críticas sobre su supuesta objetividad, éste proyecto,

intrépido periodista italiano que recordaba el suceso de 1897 vagamente, aunque dijo que algo se había estrellado en la zona y que después estalló. Oates indicó que el terreno donde cayó el objeto, fue adquirido por él años después, y aun se notaban las consecuencias del accidente. El molino estaba casi derruido, y los alrededores, incluyendo el pozo de abastecimiento de agua, conservaban las huellas del desastre, que había concluido tras la explosión de la aeronave, con un potente incendio. En 1945 Oates edificó sobre el pozo y construyó un gallinero, indicando al periodista que "debajo de ese hormigón (con el que cegó el pozo) debe de haber un montón de cosas que podrían servir para establecer la verdad". Todo parecía empezar a encajar. Si las pesquisas de Duillo Pallottelli no iban desencaminadas, la posible localización del supuesto cadáver extraterrestre podría estar cerca, aun

más cuando tuvo la certeza de que el cementerio estaba prácticamente intacto desde 1897. Pallottelli encontró nuevos datos reveladores sobre el destino del infortunado piloto por boca de Mary Evans (89 años), que en la época del siniestro contaba 13 años de edad. Según la testigo, hoy fallecida, la mañana del 17 de abril escuchó una fuerte explosión que sorprendió a toda su familia. Obligada a permanecer en su casa, la joven Mary Evans, observó al mismo tiempo que su padre salía de casa, un incendio que se estaba produciendo en la propiedad del juez Proctor. Posteriormente, su padre le comentaría que una aeronave se había estrellado sobre el molino y que el piloto había fallecido a consecuencia del trágico accidente. "Todos comentaban -señala la testigo- que había caído una astronave de otro mundo con un piloto a bordo". Al día siguiente del suceso, Mary Evans en compañía de su



madre visitó la tumba del piloto, que estaba siendo velada por varios vecinos. Así mismo la anciana comentó al periodista italiano que la propiedad del juez Proctor quedó prácticamente destruida a causa de la fuerte explosión y el incendio. "Aquí hemos vivido siempre con la convicción de que aquella fue una historia verdadera, un hecho real" -concluye su relato la Sra. Evans.

Este testimonio es de suma importancia, ya que un testigo directo del caso, pudo décadas después, señalar el lugar exacto donde permanecen los restos del supuesto alienígena...

### Restos de la aeronave

El ufólogo **Bill Case** convencido de la realidad del suceso, y tras una rigurosa investigación de hemeroteca, se trasladó hasta Aurora con la intención de localizar restos de la aeronave siniestrada. Armado con un detector de metales, el periodista americano, lo-

gro hallar varios fragmentos metálicos en la antigua propiedad del juez Proctor. De nuevo se dejaba entredicho la anterior investigación en la zona del Dr. Kraus.

Los supuestos restos de la aeronave fueron analizados por el físico **Tom Gray** de la North Texas University. El resultado de los análisis indicaban que se trataba de una aleación compuesta por un 80% de hierro ausente de magnetismo. "*Aunque lleguemos a determinar que esos fragmentos son de un metal desconocido* -comentaba el Dr. Gray-, *no habremos probado nada. Nunca podremos establecer si proceden o no de otro planeta. Aun así, proseguiré mis investigaciones, por que algunos fragmentos son verdaderamente curiosos*".

Investigadores del IUFO recibieron igualmente un dictamen de los técnicos de una fábrica de aviones próxima a Aurora, en el que se señalaba que varios restos pertenecían a una aleación de metales

11.0 10 - 17

nunca vista.

Se da la circunstancia que Bill Case había hallado los restos junto al antiguo pozo del juez Proctor, pero en el transcurso de su investigación comprobó como en la tumba donde supuestamente se hallaba enterrado el cadáver del piloto, el detector de metales delataba también la presencia de componentes metálicos (?)...

### ¿Que hay en la misteriosa tumba de Aurora?

El paso siguiente de esta investigación era evidente. Había que comprobar si en el cementerio de Aurora reposaban los restos de un ser extraterrestre. En compañía del Sheriff **Harold Idell**, el periodista **Duilio Pallottelli** pidió al juez de Aurora una autorización para exhumar el cadáver del presunto piloto de la aeronave. Inexplicablemente, el juez negó la petición y pretendió dejar el

asunto zanjado. Parece ser que las motivaciones del periodista italiano no eran suficientemente consistentes como para elevar la orden de exhumación. Aunque Pallottelli había logrado lo imposible, pues había sido capaz de armar un complicado rompecabezas, 76 años después del incidente, un "pequeño" problema burocrático frenaba de golpe su investigación. Posteriormente, el Internacional UFO Bureau, una organización privada norteamericana para el estudio de los OVNIs, emprendió un recurso legal similar para proceder a la exhumación del presunto cadáver extraterrestre. Incluso el Dr. Hynek se interesó por el asunto, enviando a un cercano colaborador al pueblo.

No obstante, tanto interés fue en vano. El resultado de la apelación fue negativa. Por segunda vez, se impedía una oportunidad de conocer la verdad de los hechos. Los escépticos por el contrario,

D 1997



# Aurora, Texas, and the Great Airship of 1897

by Kevin D. Randle

Not long ago, I had the opportunity to appear on the late night radio show, *Coast-to-Coast*. I bring this up only because, apparently, the next night the host had on Jim Marrs, who talked about the Aurora, Texas, airship crash of 1897. I wouldn't have known this, but someone who heard my interview the night before mentioned to me in an email that Marrs had talked about Aurora and suggested that it was a real event. That person wanted to know if Marrs was correct and if there is anything to the story of the crash.

And this provides us with an opportunity to examine one of the major problems in UFO research. No case ever dies, no matter how many times it is exposed as a hoax. This is true even when those exposing it range from the skeptics to the believers in extraterrestrial contact. And it continues even when no evidence for the reality of the case has ever been found...or none was found until people began to realize they could get their names in the newspaper or their faces on television if they said something to confirm the case.

The stories of the flight of the Great Airship of 1897 provide us with proof of both

theories. Although many of the tales have since been shown to be jokes, there are a few that are repeated in the UFO literature with such regularity, and almost with such awe, that it is necessary to provide, once again, all the information about them so that we can work to remove them from that same literature. The two most famous, and probably the most reported, are the Aurora, Texas, UFO crash that had been the subject of that email correspondence and the Alexander Hamilton story of an airship and calf-napping that occurred about two days after the Aurora events.

## Typical Airship Accounts

Back when I lived in Texas, I didn't live all that far from Aurora. I was interested in UFOs even then, and I prowled the morgues of various newspapers searching for stories of the great airship. There were lots of these stories from Texas, including interviews with the crews of some of the airships and even repeated tales of the airship's destruction.

Typical of the airship sightings was that told by Patrick Barnes to the *Fort Worth Register*, "which hardly cares to repeat it." He claimed that he was traveling near Cisco,

Texas, and spotted several men standing around a large, cigar-shaped craft. He went over to talk to them and learned they were on their way to Cuba to bomb the Spanish. They had landed to make some repairs and soon took off. Their immediate destination was the Ozarks, where they planned to train for their self-designed mission.

In fact, there were dozens of stories of the Great Airship landing throughout the South and the Midwest in March and April of that year. One of the earliest appeared in the Cedar Rapids (Iowa) *Evening Gazette*. According to the story, a large, cigar-shaped craft had landed on the Union Station in the "wee morning" hours and several locals were taken on board. Charley Jordan quickly made his story known to the newspaper and even signed an affidavit attesting to the reality of his flight. He was described by reporters as "never telling but a few lies and then only about things of importance."

He was accompanied by W. R. Boyd, whose whole purpose in going along, according to the newspaper story, was to "get as high as possible so that he could learn about the condition of the post office."

The airship's crew confessed that they were tired from their long journey, though they offered no revelations about their home base or their purpose. They did

promise to lecture about the trip soon, and the topics to be discussed included the unlikely subject of hell.

The problem for Cedar Rapids was that, the very next night, the airship crashed in Waterloo, Iowa. Those in Cedar Rapids, who couldn't produce any physical evidence of their adventure, quietly faded from sight, while crowds flocked to the Waterloo fairgrounds, where they could see a large, twin-cigar-shaped object. A heavily accented "professor" claiming to be from San Francisco told of their perilous flight across the United States that ended in tragedy when their leader fell into and drowned in the Cedar River.

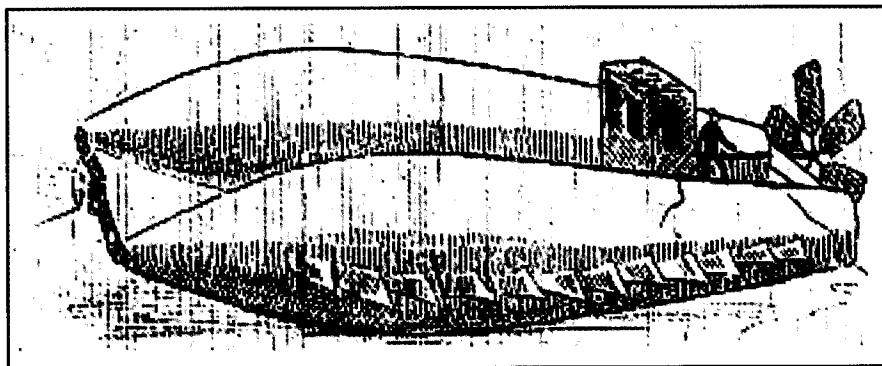
The whole story unraveled late in the day when the professor was recognized as a local man. The joke was admitted, and the "ship" was removed from the fairgrounds, but not before hundreds had the chance to see it and interview members of the crew.

### The Aurora Crash

The Aurora crash story, as it was told just days later, suggests that the airship appeared about dawn on April 17, 1897, came in low, buzzed the town square, and then continued north toward the farm owned at the time by Judge Proctor. There it hit a windmill and exploded into a shower of debris, damaging the judge's flower garden and house, not to mention his windmill. The townspeople rushed to the scene and found the badly disfigured body of the pilot. T. J. Weems, a Signal Corps officer (the 1897 equivalent of an intelligence officer), thought the pilot was probably from Mars.

Being good Christians, and apparently because no one had anything else to do, they buried the pilot after a short memorial service that afternoon. They also gathered several documents covered with a strange writing found in the wreckage and picked up tons of material, including silver and aluminum that came from the airship. All that evidence has long since disappeared.

And that's it. No follow-up stories as tourists flocked to Aurora. No mysterious scientists arriving to inspect the wreckage. No Army response, though one of their own was on hand to report what he had



The airship as it was described by those who saw it on the ground in Waterloo, Iowa. Later, it was all revealed to be a joke.

seen. And finally, most importantly, no one ever produced those documents or bits and pieces of the wreckage, though there had been tons of it, at least according to the newspaper report.

The story died at that point, and then was resurrected in the 1960s by UFO researchers who stumbled onto the airship tales which had been dormant for about six decades. Suddenly the story of the tragedy reappeared, and Aurora, Texas, was now on the map with those scientists, researchers, and tourists finally making the trek.

A large number of people, including Hayden Hewes of the now defunct International UFO Bureau; Jim Marrs, who had most recently suggested the story was real; and even Walt Andrus, the former International Director of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) at various times journeyed to Aurora in search of the truth. They all reported a strange grave marker in the Aurora cemetery. They found strange metal with metal detectors, and they gathered reports from long-time Aurora residents who remembered the story, remembered seeing the airship, or remembered parents talking about the crash. There was also discussion of government attempts to suppress the data. To them, that made the story of the crash real.

The problem here is that I beat most of these people to Aurora by several years to conduct my own investigation. I talked to some of those same long-time residents, who told me in the early 1970s that nothing had happened. I talked to the historians at the Wise County Historical Society (Aurora is in Wise County), who told me that it hadn't happened, though they

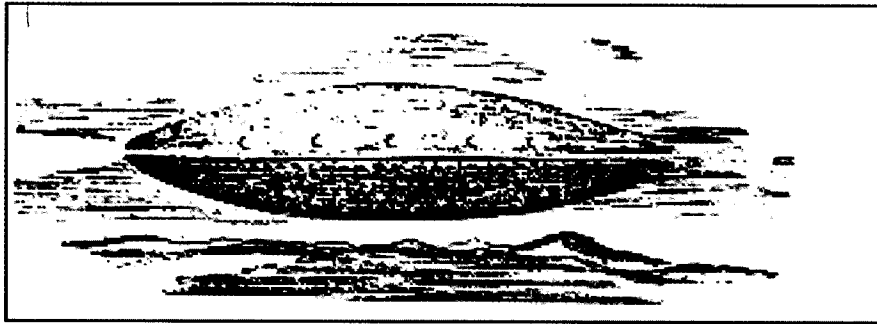
wished it had. I learned that T. J. Weems, the famed Signal Corps officer, was, in fact, the local blacksmith. I learned that Judge Proctor didn't have a windmill, or rather that was what was said then. Now they suggest that he had two windmills. I wandered the graveyard, which isn't all that large (something just over 800 graves), and found no marker with strange symbols carved on it, though there are those who suggest a crude headstone with a rough airship on it had been there at the time. I found nothing to support the tale and went away believing, based on my own research and interviews, that this was another of the airship hoaxes.

Metal collected by all those others, when analyzed here, turned out to be nothing strange or unusual. Some of it was later analyzed in a Canadian lab, and their results mirrored those of American labs.

Isn't it interesting that none of the metal supposedly gathered by the town's residents has ever surfaced. The metal analyzed was always recovered by researchers with metal detectors. Isn't it interesting that the strange grave marker has since disappeared and that there is no real photographic record of it. There should be, for all the research that has been done. The single picture that has turned up showed not an airship but a coarse triangle with circles in the center. And isn't it interesting that there were never any followup reports from Aurora. First the big splash with the crash and then nothing for more than 60 years.

### Another Fishy Story

Which also sums up nicely the Hamilton calf-napping story that followed the



The airship as it was described flying over parts of California in 1897.

Aurora crash by two days. According to the literature, Alexander Hamilton was a widely respected resident of little LeRoy, Kansas. Jerry Clark reported that Hamilton had been a lawyer, had served in the Kansas legislature, and was a very successful stock dealer. Those who knew him suggested that he was an honest man.

According to the reports, including that in the Yate's Center *Farmer's Advocate*, Hamilton heard a disturbance among his cattle on Monday, April 19, and got out of bed to check. Hovering over his cow lot was the airship. It was, according to Hamilton, cigar-shaped, about 300 feet long, with some kind of a glass-encased carriage under it. Inside were six strange-looking beings who were at least human enough that Hamilton identified two men, a woman, and three children.

The craft hovered until the crew spotted Hamilton, his tenant Gid Heslip, and Hamilton's son. Then a great turbine wheel, about 30 feet in diameter, that had been revolving slowly below the craft, began to spin faster. As the airship climbed to 30 feet, it paused over a three-year-old heifer that was caught in a fence. Hamilton and his son found a cable from the airship wrapped around the cow and tried to free it from the cable but couldn't. Instead, they cut the fence. The cow and ship began slowly rising and then disappeared in the distance.

The next day, Hamilton went in search of his missing cow but could find no trace of it. Instead, a neighbor, identified in the reports as Lank Thomas, had found the remains of a butchered cow several miles from the Hamilton spread. He picked up the remains and took them into LeRoy for identification. Thomas said he could not find any trace of a track in the soft ground

around the cow's remains.

The newspaper, as well as other men in town, attested to the honesty of Hamilton, suggesting they all believed his...well...unbelievable tale. These men included an attorney, a doctor, a justice of the peace, a banker, and even the postmaster. If no other report from 1897 was to be believed, this one certainly had all the credibility that those others lacked.

And, like the Aurora crash, here was an 1897 report that seemed to mirror its modern counterparts. A UFO hovering over a ranch, an animal that disappeared and was later found mutilated with no sign of anyone being in the field with it. Unlike the modern reports, Hamilton saw the airship steal the animal rather than just vague, mystery lights glowing in the distance.

In the early 1970s, Jerry Clark managed to track down the relatives of Hamilton and interviewed an elderly woman, who remembered Hamilton returning from town, chuckling about the story he'd invented because it would be published in the newspaper. While that evidence might not convince a true believer, an article that appeared in the *Atchison County Mail* on May 7, 1897, should do it. Hamilton told the reporter, "I lied about it." Those who signed the affidavit about Hamilton's veracity were members of the local liars club.

What this tells us is that the newspapers, which had to suspect the truth if not know it outright, didn't mind printing the wildest tales of the airship. Proof of this comes from Burlington, Iowa, in what was described, even in 1897 as one of the "meanest and most discouraging [airship] stories of the entire lot." Members of the newspaper staff launched hot air balloons made from common tissue paper so that

they would carry over the city. They soon began to receive reports from the citizens describing the airship. When one of the most distinguished men of that town came forward to report that he had not only seen the airship, but had heard voices from it, the newspaper staff was convinced that all the tales were faked. While their conclusion might seem premature at the time, later evidence would suggest that they weren't all that far off the mark.

### Bull Market for Bull

Maybe part of it was the way many such stories were reported in 1897, especially those about the airship. The editors of the Cedar Rapids *Gazette*, upon learning the airship had landed in nearby Waterloo, wired their counterparts at the Waterloo *Courier* asking for 500 words but no crap. They didn't mention that their own story, carried a day earlier, was now clearly a hoax. They just ignored that fact. In other words, the newspapers were having some fun with the airship tales too.

In fact, that seems to cover the vast majority of the airship stories. The men telling them had ulterior motives for telling them. Maybe they just wanted to join the fun, or maybe they just wanted to see their names in the newspaper. Maybe they thought no one would be harmed, and, of course, no one was. Other news, more important news, finally pushed the tales of the airships from the newspapers and little was thought of them for decades.

The final, fatal blow for the airship and Aurora crash comes from the original reporter, H. E. Hayden, a stringer for the *Dallas Morning News*, who claimed to have invented the story in a vain attempt to put his dying community back on the map. He hoped to draw attention, and people, to Aurora, Texas. He was successful. The problem was that he succeeded 60 years too late, and those who arrived only wanted to learn about the airship, not settle down to rebuild the community as he had hoped.

**Kevin D. Randle** is a well-known UFO researcher and author of such books as *Invasion Washington: UFOs Over the Capital* (Harper Mass Market, 2001).

illness. He healed a man but cautioned him that if he sinned again, his illness would return. The great psychic Edgar Cayce said: "Sin sits on the doorstep of disease."

Therapist Jeanne Achterberg states that mind and body communicate, that mind causes biochemical reactions in body, and that changing the mind changes the body. But she fails to state that an immoral mind malfunctions and diseases the body.

Achterberg teaches that "visualizations" heal illness, but Gerald Epstein, MD, in his book *Healing Visualizations*, clearly points out that visualization is not enough—one must also change to a moral mind.—*Merry Browne, Louisville, Ky.*

### Thanks for the Insight

On August 6 I wrote a letter to the editor commenting on the crop circle article in the August issue of FATE. The letter was printed in the October issue and responded to by Desi Gabriel of London, England, in the January 2003 issue. I am impressed by the distance FATE covers.

I thank Mr. Gabriel for giving me and your readers an insight into how things are today in England. I'm an old codger, born and raised in a different world from the one we have today. The way people think in today's world fascinates me.

For instance: Two burglars break into a farmer's home. He shoots both of them. One dies and the other lives. He [the farmer] is charged with murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. Today he is behind bars and the burglar, having gotten over being shot, is walking around free.

It didn't used to be this way, not even in England. How did things get so turned around that justice sides with the guilty and not the innocent? How could a judge and a prosecuting attorney not see that this cumbag of a burglar got what was coming to him, and the farmer had a right to protect his property and himself?

Maybe this is why all these UFOs are covering over us from time to time. They

are spellbound by our lunacy.—*Budd Vanzant, Largo, Fla.*

### Aurora "Crash" a Hoax!

I really cannot believe that FATE could publish Chris Tull's article on the Aurora, Texas, "crash" of 1897 [December 2002].

Good golly, anyone who has been in the UFO field for any length of time has known for almost 30 years that the whole story was a complete hoax! This only goes to prove what I have long suspected, namely that the UFO writers and "researchers" of today have no grasp of the historical aspects of the UFO field.

What's wrong with the Aurora story? For starters:

Judge Proctor had no windmill.

T. J. Weems of the "Signal Service" was the town blacksmith.

In the late 1960s, a local historian interviewed surviving senior citizens; none of them had any knowledge of the "crash."

The period of the late 1890s was the apex of "yellow journalism," and of local liars' clubs. Quite simply, the Aurora, Texas, incident (as well as the majority of the 1896-97 "airship" cases) was a journalistic hoax. It's time for present-day writers to do a bit of historical research before they make fools of themselves!—*Rick R. Hilberg, Berea, Ohio*

### Third Secret of Fatima

I am writing in response to "The Third Secret of Fatima" by Lina Accurso (December 2002). The contents of this letter have long been on my mind, approximately since 1962 when due to circumstances I felt obligated to move in with the family of Reverend Robert Ernst Dickhoff, then living on West 162nd Street in Manhattan. He rented me a room at his apartment, and I lived there for about two years.

Rev. Dickhoff is a devout Buddhist—and as I delved into the history of Christianity in relation to the rites of the Buddhist church, it became very clear to me

that Marco Polo and other Europeans who traveled to Tibet discovered the way in which the Buddhist church was organized, with its sacraments, cardinals, bishops, priests, and congregation.

So then—and I hope that this will not be too shocking or upsetting—I am convinced that the Catholic church is a close imitation of the Buddhist and Lamaist church, with every detail copied exactly!

The Third Secret of Fatima may be closely linked with what I have just written in this letter. I am a devoted reader of FATE magazine, and I humbly believe that this magazine is a wake-up call to all who seek to know and understand the Truth. After reading the December 2002 issue, I felt that I had to write.

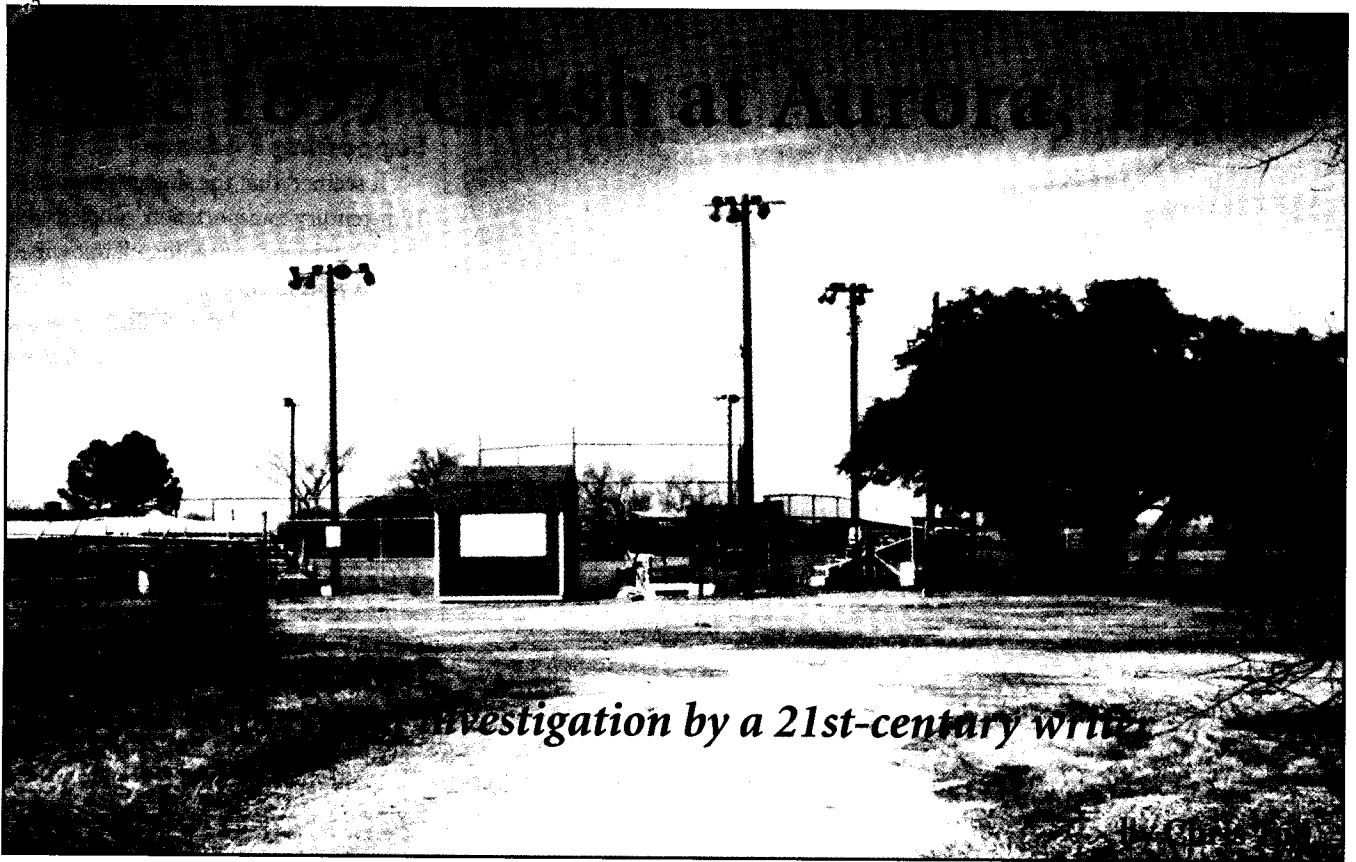
As to my personal views on how society operates, I feel very justified in claiming that American society and government have been dismal failures, as crime, ignorance, greed, vice, and prejudice have increased almost a hundredfold, especially since 1950.

The term "invisible government" may be familiar to you. I am very convinced that the way in which brutality and evil have triumphed in America was carefully planned and encouraged by those who are in government, as it keeps the American people in a state of apathy, vicious selfishness, and mental blackout.

The road to Hell is wide and straight, and many there are who enter therein.

The story of my life is one of endless suffering, due to the organized conspiracy of all those upon whom I was forced to depend. My parents were killed by muggers, my apartment broken into and ransacked about a dozen times, and I was brutally beaten and assaulted many times, especially after 1950. The Supreme Court decisions gave the savage population the right to do all the harm they could, with no fear of being punished.

The Mormons fled westward to escape the savage population in 1845. Peace and



The Aurora Ballpark—the present-day site of the 1897 crash.

In the back room of the Wise County Historical Society, hundreds of packaging boxes lie atop one another. Each box contains documents about a particular city or town in Wise County, Texas.

It was in one of these boxes where I learned of a strange mystery—a mystery stemming from the small Texas town of Aurora. Aurora is located about 30 minutes away from Fort Worth.

In the midst of crumbled newspaper clippings, photographs, and old county records, I found a particular news article. The piece was from the April 19, 1897, edition of the *Dallas Morning News*. It's a strange blurb; not the kind of thing you'd expect to read over hot coffee and eggs.

"Aurora, Wise County, Texas, April 17—About 6 o'clock this morning the early risers of Aurora were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship which has been sailing through the country.

"It sailed directly over the public square, and when it reached the north part of town collided with the tower of Judge Proctor's

windmill and went to pieces with a terrific explosion, scattering debris over several acres of ground, wrecking the windmill and water tank and destroying the judge's flower garden.

"The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one aboard, and while his remains are badly disfigured, enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world.

"T. J. Weems, the U.S. Signal Service Officer at this place and an authority on astronomy, gave it as his opinion that he (the pilot) was a native from the planet Mars.

"Papers found on his person—evidently the records of his travels—are written in some unknown hieroglyphics, and cannot be deciphered. The ship was too badly wrecked to form conclusions as to its construction or motive power.

"The town is full of people today who are viewing the wreck and gathering specimens of strange metal from the debris. The pilot's funeral will take place tomorrow."

I have to admit—my curiosity was piqued.

There were other documents as well in the box, statements from residents at the time confirming a mysterious crash. It seemed evident that something had indeed crashed in this small Texas town. What exactly crashed was the real question.

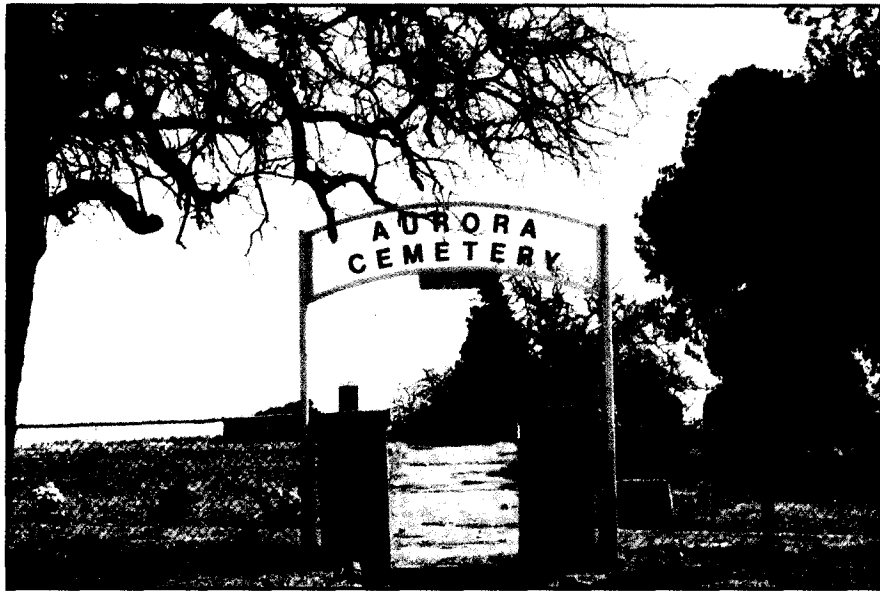
In 1897, there were no man-made flying machines in existence, especially none like the ones described in the *Dallas Morning News* story. At the time of the crash, the Wright brothers' first Kitty Hawk flight was still seven years in the future. Whatever it was that crashed in Aurora, this much is known: It could not have been man-made.

What was it then that drifted above the Texas firmament? Was there a pilot, as indicated by the records in Wise County?

I intended to find the answers to these questions.

### The Crash Site

I drove the busy stretch of Interstate 35-W, then turned onto TX114. To the left rose the Texas Motor Speedway, a gigantic



The Aurora Cemetery—the burial site of an “inhabitant not of this world.”

structure with the sound of racing engines in the air. The wide expanse of farmlands and mesquite trees covered the flat landscape. TX114 took me straight into Aurora.

An old county tax drawing I’d discovered placed Judge Proctor’s farm on a small dirt road, ending at the town’s local ball park. A hundred years ago, Proctor’s property encompassed this entire area.

I looked around. There was nothing out of the ordinary. I was around the third base of the baseball diamond when someone called out to me: “You lose something?”

A smiling man called from the parking area. Three young boys pulled bats and gloves from the truck’s bed.

“This might be kind of a weird question,” I said, “but do you know if this used to be a Judge Proctor’s farm?”

He looked at me with pensive eyes. “Yeah,” he said. He’d been through this conversation before.

“I heard there was some kind of crash around here—back in the late 1800s,” I said.

“Before my time,” he said.

“You think it happened?” I asked. “What do you think it was?”

“I don’t know. I’m not sure it isn’t anything but a myth. Have you checked out the cemetery?” he asked.

“The cemetery?”

The man pointed across the street. “Across 114—this road turns into Cemetery Drive. It’s where they buried the re-

mains from the crash. After the cleanup effort. There wasn’t much left—but folks are kind of God-fearing around here. They figured whatever it was, it deserved a proper burial.”

“There a gravestone?” I asked.

“No,” he said. “It’s unmarked. There was a large rock that served as a gravestone for a while. But it’s been long stolen.” The man described the grave’s location, though.

“Towards the south of the cemetery, underneath a gnarled oak tree. The only one around the south area.”

### The Grave Site

I located the Aurora Cemetery on the east side of Cemetery Road. I pulled up and parked in a small, declining ditch.

A State of Texas historical marker gleamed outside the cemetery. The marker included some interesting commentary on the history of the area. Halfway down the marker, I read a blurb about the strange crash: “... This site is also well-known because of the legend that a spaceship crashed nearby in 1897 and the pilot, killed in the crash, was buried here...” I entered the cemetery. After about ten minutes of searching, I found the unmarked grave area, surrounded by a peaceful and serene landscape. I left Aurora that afternoon, more puzzled than when I’d arrived.

I returned to the Wise County Historical Society and dragged out the familiar

Aurora records box. I read through the documents again.

### Supporting Evidence

It seemed that the sluggish nature of 19th-century transportation, coupled with the nonexistence of radios, all but wiped out the Aurora crash from the mindset of Texas. That is, until the 1970s.

In early 1973, interest in the Aurora crash began to revitalize. The International UFO Bureau (UFOB), hearing wind of the mysterious crash nearly 80 years before, filed legal proceedings to exhume the grave site associated with the crash. A May 24, 1973, report from the United Press International stated: “Aurora, Tex.—(UPI)—A grave in a small north Texas cemetery contains the body of an 1897 astronaut who ‘was not an inhabitant of this world,’ according to the International UFO Bureau. The group, which investigates unidentified flying objects, has already initiated legal proceedings to exhume the body and will go to court if necessary to open the grave, director Hayden Hewes said Wednesday.”

The Aurora Cemetery Association chose to fight the proceedings. Because of the uncertainty of the location of the grave, the Aurora Cemetery Association was hesitant about disturbing the remainder of the cemetery.

While the UFOB’s legal proceedings were being fought, an interesting discovery occurred near the crash site. In 1973, Dr. David Redden of the University of North Texas’s department of biological sciences unearthed some strange metal. The metal was discovered near the site of the windmill, where the legendary object reportedly crashed.

Dr. Tom Gray, a physicist also from the University of North Texas, analyzed the sample metal. He stated the sample had some “puzzling” properties.

“The nonmagnetic piece is 75 percent iron and 25 percent zinc, with a few trace elements,” Dr. Gray said in an interview with the *Denton Record-Chronicle*, May 30, 1973, “but it lacks properties common to iron, such as being magnetic. It is also shiny and malleable instead of dull and brittle.

“I don’t mean by my comments to in-



dicating whether this is of terrestrial or extraterrestrial origin," Dr. Gray continued, "but that the physics of that much iron not being magnetic stirs my curiosity as a scientist."

### The Aftermath

The UFOB eventually lost its lawsuit against the Aurora Cemetery Association. The Aurora Cemetery and the unmarked grave remain intact to this day.

As for the strange piece of metal examined by Drs. David Redden and Tom Gray, it was eventually sent to members of Boeing for further analysis. The final results of the Boeing examination listed the results as inconclusive.

I left the Wise County Historical Society no closer to unearthing the mystery of the Aurora crash than those before me. Driving toward home, I passed Carswell Air Force Base.

Carswell: the name sounded familiar. I then remembered why. Carswell was the alleged location where the 1947 Roswell, New Mexico, crash remains were taken. Carswell rests about 30 miles south of Aurora.

I had several questions, but few answers. Who was this officer T. J. Weems, mentioned in the 1897 *Dallas Morning News* story? If indeed Weems was an officer with the military, at what base was he stationed? Although Carswell wasn't opened officially under that name until the 1940s, there were smaller military bases around Aurora during the 1890s. These smaller bases eventually grouped together



The gnarled oak tree in the Aurora Cemetery—the grave site of the crash debris.

to become Carswell. Was Weems from one of these smaller bases around Aurora? If so, which one?

Did Carswell (which is now closed) once contain the remains and/or records from the Aurora crash? Did Carswell operate as some sort of crash recovery site, perhaps stemming from the Aurora crash? Could this be why the remains of the Roswell crash were allegedly delivered to Carswell instead of closer bases near the New Mexico crash site?

What remains, if any, were taken from the original cleanup effort? Does any debris from this effort still exist today?

Why did Boeing (a top military consultant for aerospace and energy) have the final word regarding the strange metal dis-

covered by the two University of North Texas professors? Why were no other organizations allowed testing on the metal?

Does that sample of metal still exist? If so, where is it located?

I drove back to Dallas, thinking about what Carl Sagan once said: "Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known."

There's more to Aurora, Texas, than meets the eye. Drive through sometime, and you'll see. ✕

*Chris Tull is a writer based in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. He is currently working on a book about strange mysteries within the Lone Star State. Chris may be contacted at ctull@coserv.net*

## Death Is No Excuse

by K. L. Jones

Police in the central Illinois town of Bloomington conscientiously enforce the traffic laws. Jose Casa-Ruiz was involved in a single-car accident in the town on January 20, 2002. About two months later, Casa-Ruiz was issued citations for drunken driving, improper lane usage, not having a valid driver's license, and failure to properly wear a seat belt. It is unlikely, however, that Mr. Casa-Ruiz will ever show up in court. He was dead when the tickets were issued.

"Anytime there is fault in an accident," Officer Verne Hughart, who reconstructs accidents for the Bloomington Police Department, told the Associated Press, "we do issue the responsible person the ticket." Verne, who wrote the citations, admitted that the case against Casa-Ruiz would never be prosecuted, but that the

tickets would be held pending any civil litigation.

Sgt. Michael King, the officer in charge of Bloomington's traffic division, said the policy of issuing tickets to deceased drivers came from training Bloomington officers received at Northwestern University Traffic Safety Institute in Evanston, Illinois, and the Institute of Police Technology Management in Jacksonville, Florida. According to the Associated Press, however, spokespersons for both of the institutions were unaware of any training involving ticketing corpses

Sometimes you can talk yourself out of a ticket, and that's probably true even in Bloomington, Illinois. But as everyone knows, dead men can't talk. ✕

1.896-97

Spanish custom) and counting only the letters with roman numeral equivalents: FIDEL CASTRO RUZ (RVX) = 1 (I) + 500 (D) + 50 (L) + 100 (C) + 5 (V) + 10 (X) = 666. No doubt about it, Fidel Castro has been and is an evil Antichrist for most Cubans. Castro is an evil entity all on his own, but not mentioned by Nostradamus or in the Bible.

I have read *Defense Week Magazine* of March 31, 1997. They discuss the possible ways of "futurewar tactics"—but a possibility is not a probability! We are now in 2003, and most people today would split their sides laughing at the idea of "angry gods" over a battlefield.

Might UFOs be holograms? It might be true of some reported incidents, but it does not explain the majority of these, or those like the one seen in 1951 over the Siboney Beach Resort near my city in Cuba, Santiago. My maternal uncle Xavier Calvera and his wife Sylvia were there on their honeymoon: "Enormous, gray, about 100 feet up in the air...it made no sound." Aunt Sylvia remembers the displacement of air and the breeze that disturbed her curls.

Nor does the hologram theory explain the "German submarine" supposedly sunk by Ernest "Papa" Hemingway during World War II. Another relative of mine was present for this incident. Papa Hemingway swore that "the thing was no submarine" over daquiris at the Floridita. My relative

agreed. One of Papa's brothers did claim to have seen UFOs and Atlantis-like underwater ruins about 50 miles or less off the Las Villas Province coastline in the 1940s. My late uncle Dr. Adolfo Rivero-Argüelles, an attorney, was a passenger in the boat and also saw the ruins. None of these things were holograms. UFOs were seen quite often over Havana and in Oriente Provinces in the 1950s.

Did Scott Corrales travel to Cuba to take the photos printed with the article, and to do "research" on the hologram matter? It would be unfortunate if he did, as he probably got only the official government "party line" about the incidents that he mentions. We do know that Castro and his minions are all too fond of blaming the U.S. government for whatever turns Castro's tail out of whack. Scott, friend, please be more careful in the future

and do check your sources a tad further. In the meantime, keep your Spanish and Latin American UFO articles coming.—  
*Isabel Rivero-Argüelles, Miami, Fla.*

### **Believes in Aurora Crash**

As an active researcher in "the serious field of ufology" since the early 1970s, I've got one or two things I'd like to say concerning Kevin Randle's article "Aurora, Texas, and the Great Airship of 1897," in the March 2003 issue.

All due respect to Kevin Randle and

**...most people today would split their sides laughing at the idea of "angry gods" over a battlefield.**

Rick R. Hilberg, as relates to their theories regarding this matter. I have read several accounts of this story, and I conclude it probably has some basis in actual, established historic fact.

Some versions say that "the pilot of the spaceship was a cross between a feline and a man, sort of like half-tiger and half-man." A Signal Corps officer, Lt. T. J. Weems, made the deduction that the craft's pilot was from the planet Mars. Given the period in which he lived this would be a logical conclusion one might reach. In 1897 we didn't know Mars was a dead world.

I'll admit that, given the late-1890s and early-1900s was the era of airship hoaxes and the Liars Club, it makes following serious UFO reports of the period hard to do and sorting fact from fiction often impossible. But I for one believe something strange crashed in Aurora, Texas, in 1897.—*J. Grimes, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.*

### **Self-Healing Clarified**

In reference to readers response (March 2003) from Merry Browne of Louisville, Kentucky, regarding my feature article "You Can Heal Yourself": She is absolutely correct in pointing out that "an immoral mind malfunctions and diseases the body." The issue of being a moral individual is a "must" in order for self-healing to succeed. I regret not having included this necessary process for achieving spiritual libera-

tion/Nirvanic Consciousness. I felt it was a foregone conclusion. I intuitively felt it bordered somewhat on celibacy. This could inadvertently send a message to your readers that "too much" is expected from the average person, which could result in disbelief. I failed to elaborate.

I wish to thank Browne for pointing it out. Masters, adepts, avatars, Buddhas, and other lofty beings lived pure, ascetic lives, or they could never have attained illumination. Their mode of living was strict self-discipline and denial, morally, known as "the path" to perfection.—*Ethel Rawson, Harwood Heights, Ill.*

### **I for one believe something strange crashed in Aurora, Texas, in 1897.**

### **Roswell Digger Comments**

In your February issue you had a couple of articles about the recent archaeological dig done near Roswell, both articles by Kevin Randle. As one of the volunteer archaeologists on site, I don't remember seeing Kevin Randle. (Maybe he was hiding under a rock?) Don Schmitt, Tom Carey, Dr. Bill Doleman, fellow archaeologists Bob and Lou, Larry Landsman and the Sci-Fi crew, as well as several of us volunteers worked very hard in a not very friendly environment, and it seems that Kevin Randle just keeps popping up and stealing the thunder, especially from Don Schmitt who worked very hard to see that this whole project came together.

If you want the real story of what went

Nuevas investigaciones sobre uno de los primeros episodios ufológicos

## ¿Se estrelló un ovni en Aurora en 1897?

En 1897, un extraño artefacto volador no identificado se estrelló en Aurora, una pequeña localidad del Estado norteamericano de Texas. Su supuesto tripulante habría fallecido en el impacto y sería enterrado en el cementerio local poco después. Este legendario episodio nunca ha dejado de ser estudiado por los expertos, que recientemente ha vuelto a presentar nuevas evidencias que demostrarían la autenticidad del mismo.

**José Antonio Caravaca**

Quando nadie hablaba aún de "platillos volantes", en el ocaso del siglo XIX, un suceso ocurrido en Aurora, Texas (EEUU) ha logrado convertirse en una de las referencias más clásicas del enigma ovni. Ahora han aparecido nuevas pruebas que parecen avalar la veracidad de este inquietante suceso acaecido en 1897.

### Investigaciones oficiales

El supuesto ovni accidentado en la propiedad de juez Proctor tenía forma de puro y disponía de algo parecido a motores en cada lado. La explosión provocada por el impacto dejó evidentes señales de destrucción. El cuerpo del piloto, parcialmente carbonizado, fue enterrado en el cementerio de Aurora mientras que los restos de la aeronave fueron recogidos por los habitantes de la localidad. De los documentos hallados

análisis del enigma que hicieron sus participantes. Además, el caso de Aurora fue posteriormente investigado en 1973 por Duilio Pallottelli, periodista italiano de la revista *L'Europeo*, que localizó a testigos del suceso como Broweley Oates, propietario de una estación de servicio en Aurora, que aún recordaba el estallido del objeto, de cuyas consecuencias en el terreno todavía quedaba rastro. El molino de la finca estaba casi derruido, y sus alrededores, incluso un pozo de abastecimiento, conservaban las huellas del desastre causado por el incendio de la aeronave.

El camposanto en donde había sido enterra-



Un curioso medallón ha aparecido en el lugar hace unos meses. El recuerdo del

junto al lugar del impacto, en donde aparecían unos símbolos escritos a modo de jeroglíficos, nunca se supo más.

Durante décadas el suceso permaneció en el olvido hasta que reabrió el caso el Dr. Alfred Kraus, asesor del polémico "Informe Condon", un estudio encargado al Dr. Edward Condon, físico de la Universidad de Colorado, a quien las Fuerzas Aéreas de Estados Unidos le encomendaron a finales de los sesenta analizar la información ovni recogida hasta entonces de forma oficial para dictaminar si el enigma era real o no.

Pese al tiempo transcurrido, el objetivo de Kraus fue buscar testigos de aquel suceso. Rastreó la zona del accidente con un detector de metales en busca de restos que se salvaran del expolio de 1897. Los resultados fueron negativos. Incluso, el investigador llegó a localizar testigos que aseguraban haber recibido tentativas de soborno por parte de varios reporteros para confirmar la historia. Aquello condujo al investigador a dictaminar que el caso había sido un fraude periodístico. Los ecos de las críticas a las conclusiones del "Informe Condon" acabaron por restar crédito al

do el misterioso piloto estaba intacto desde 1897. El periodista italiano solicitó permiso para poder exhumar el cadáver del presunto piloto de la aeronave, pero el juez de turno se lo negó. Posteriormente, el *Internacional UFO Bureau*, organización privada para el estudio de los ovnis, emprendió un recurso legal similar para proceder a la exhumación del presunto cadáver extraterrestre. Nuevamente, la apelación resultó infructuosa.

### En busca de nuevas pruebas

Tiempo después, el periodista norteamericano Bill Case encontró gracias a un detector de metales varios fragmentos metálicos en la propiedad del juez Proctor. Los supuestos restos del ovni fueron analizados por el físico Tom Gray, de la *North Texas University*. Los resultados indicaron que se trataba de una aleación compuesta por un 80% de hierro ausente de magnetismo. "Aunque lleguemos a determinar que esos fragmentos son de un metal desconocido —comentaba el Dr. Gray—, no habremos probado nada. Nunca podremos esta-

blecer si proceden o no de otro planeta". Además, Bill Case comprobó cómo en la tumba donde supuestamente estaba enterrado el cadáver del piloto, el detector de metales también delataba la presencia de componentes metálicos.

Recientemente, el investigador Jim Marrs ha conseguido el testimonio de un vecino de Aurora que en la década de los sesenta encontró un extraño medallón enterrado en el lugar donde se había estrellado el objeto. El singular medallón está compuesto de dos partes "metálicas" ligadas entre sí por un pesado alambre. El pasado agosto del 2002 la pieza fue mostrada a Cyndi Femihough, experta joyera de Decatur (Texas), que declaró que el tenía las características propias del cobre, aunque encontró en la pieza algunos detalles desconcertantes, como por ejemplo ocho agujeros cuadrados en que indicaban el uso de clavos de la misma forma. Según asegura el propio Brown, un ingeniero aeroespacial ha descubierto que el interior del medallón estaba compuesto por oro.

condon una siempre presente en esta tumba del cementerio de la localidad.

## Una histórica información

■ El suceso de Aurora quedó inmortalizado gracias a una información que publicó el diario *Dallas Times Herald*. El texto decía así:

"Hacia las seis de la mañana (del 17 de abril) los habitantes de Aurora advirtieron con asombro la aparición de la misteriosa aeronave que desde hace algunas semanas se observa con cierta regularidad en el cielo de Texas. El aparato viajaba en dirección al norte y volaba más cerca del suelo que en ocasiones anteriores. Evidentemente, alguna parte de la compleja máquina debía de haber sufrido una avería, porque la nave no superaba la velocidad de diez o doce millas por hora y perdía progresivamente altura. Después de sobrevolar en diagonal la explanada donde habitualmente se celebraba la feria de ganado, y tras alcanzar el límite septentrional de la ciudad, el aparato cayó sobre el molino del juez Proctor. En la terrible explosión que siguió, todo saltó en pedruzcos. Los restos del vehículo aéreo quedaron esparcidos en un radio de dos o tres hectáreas, el molino del juez Proctor resultó completamente destruido y el depósito del agua saltó por los aires. Del jardín que había a su alrededor, no quedó nada. Parece ser que a bordo de la aeronave había un solo tripulante. Aunque sus restos quedaron horriblemente desfigurados, por lo que se pudo ver resultaba claro que no se trataba de un habitante de este mundo. El señor T. J. Weems, telegrafista del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos destacado en esta localidad, ha declarado que en su opinión se trata de un habitante de Marte. Algunos documentos hallados en el lugar del accidente, probablemente los restos del diario de abordaje, están llenos de jeroglíficos indescifrables".

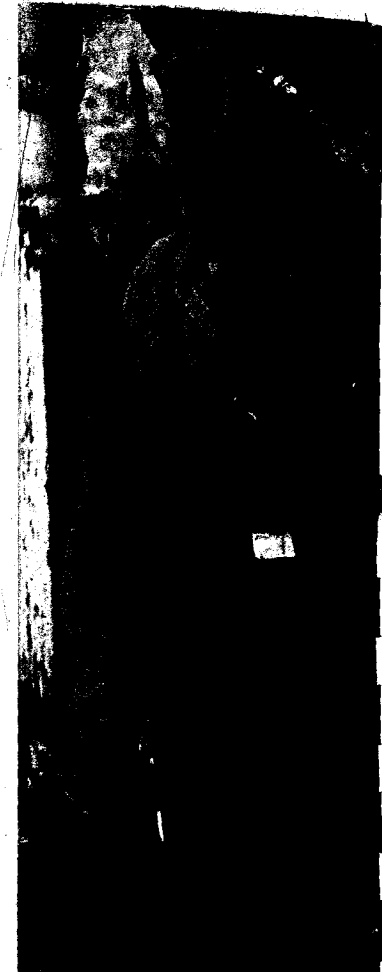
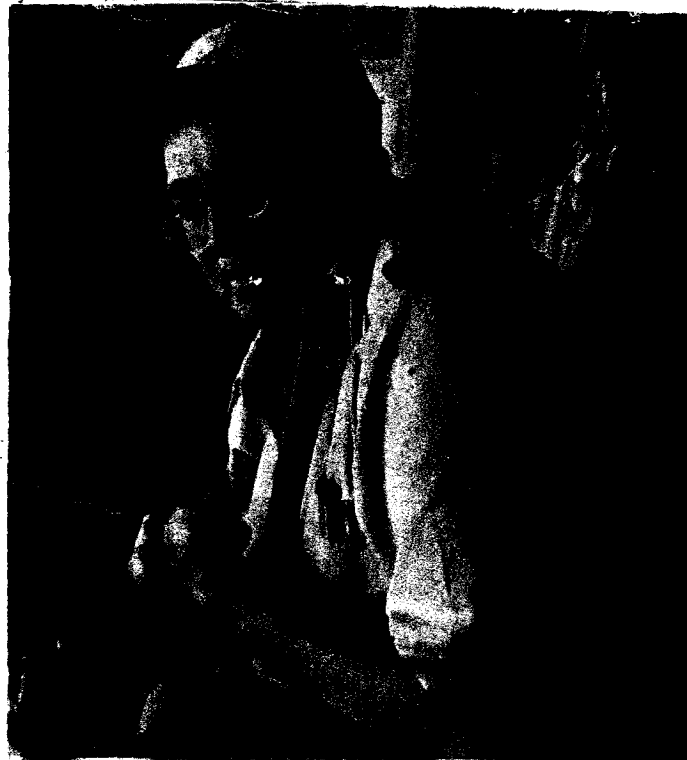
IGARPS DE BANCO



Brawley Oates, condenado a la inmovilidad por una artritis deformante, compró la finca donde se estrelló la nave a los herederos del juez Proctor: «Es seguro que aconteció algo anormal...».

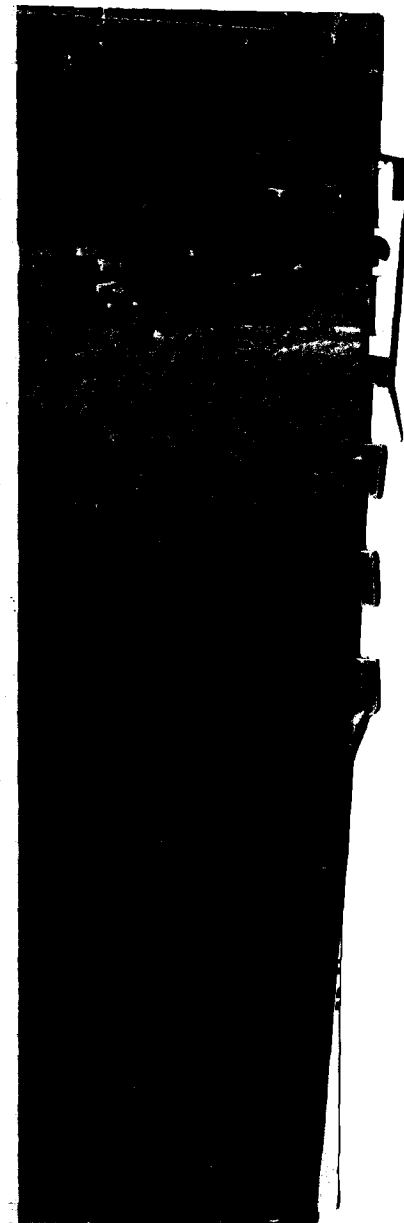
## LA ASTRONAVE QUE CAYO EN TEXAS

Etta Pegues, escritora: «Son cuentos: si el "sheriff" empieza a cavar en el cementerio me liaré a tiros».





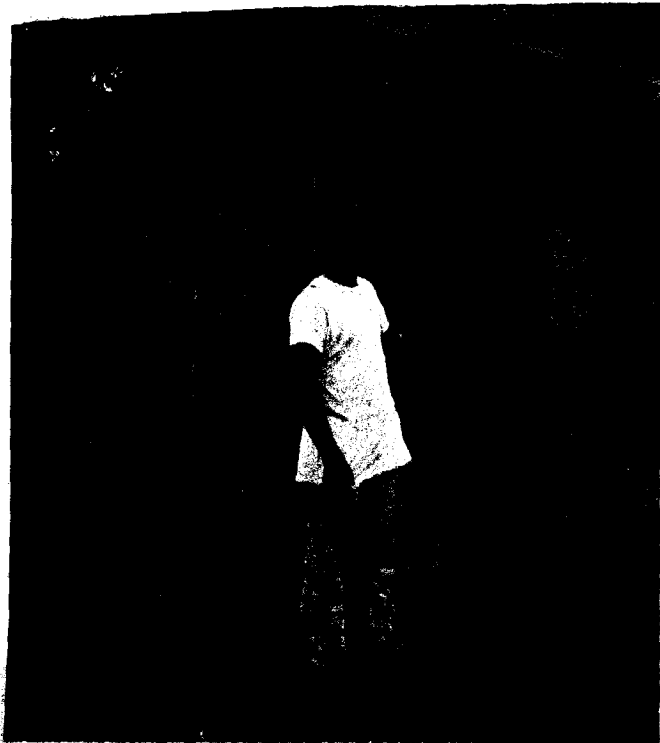
Mary Evans, testigo de la época; tenía entonces quince años; su padre la encerró en casa para impedirle que viera lo que había pasado.



**El pueblo  
está ferozmente  
dividido  
por el suceso.  
Y la losa ha  
desaparecido...**

George Pegues, el esposo de Etta:  
«Acaben ustedes de una vez con esa broma».





El gallinero de Brawley Oates se encuentra hoy en el punto exacto donde habría caído la astronave en 1897. Este muchacho rubio es Min Stone, ayudante de Oates en la gasolinera de su propiedad

Archie Stevens, un testigo. En aquella célebre noche tenía sólo cinco años de edad; su padre le despertó después de ocurrir la catástrofe

El «sheriff» Harold Idell prosigue su relato diciendo: «La historia es verdadera. Yo no estaré tranquilo mientras no lo desenterremos...»



de la curva, se halla el cementerio, punto crucial de los acontecimientos pasados y presentes de Aurora (pero siempre detrás del gallinero de Oates, porque es precisamente en ese punto, en el que se levanta el gallinero, donde estaba el molino del juez). En todo caso, y por el momento, la discusión que se desarrolla entre los 198 ciudadanos de Aurora está centrada en el cementerio por causa de ciertas exhumaciones que algunos quieren hacer para descubrir si en una de las tumbas periféricas están verdaderamente los restos del ser cósmico que en la mañana del 17 de abril de 1897 se encontraba a los mandos de la astronave. Al alba de aquel funesto 17 de abril, el momento exacto en que se produjo la colisión entre el misterioso objeto y el molino del juez.

«—Más precisamente: éramos 198 hasta hace veinticuatro horas —puntualiza el sheriff Idell—. Hoy somos 197 porque ayer por la tarde murió mi prima Frances. A pesar de sus 87 años, Frances era todavía una mujer fuerte. Y era una "de los que creían". Me refiero al asunto de la astronave. No vio nada directamente, pero oyó hablar repetidamente del caso cuando era niña. Era también una mujer con los pies puestos

en tierra. Si afirmaba que creía, eso significa que algo concreto la había convencido efectivamente. Pero ya no está aquí y es inútil lamentarse: somos uno menos. Por otra parte se ha extinguido tranquilamente, sin sufrir. Se sentó en la cocina y se fue al otro mundo sin decir ni pío, tan discreta como siempre. ¡Pobre Frances! Pero tuvo tiempo de pronunciar unas palabras. Me lo ha asegurado mi nieto, que estaba presente. Murmuró: "¡Qué verdad tan grande es eso del juez Proctor, Dios mío!". Luego se le extraviaron los ojos y no logró terminar la frase. Pero yo sé perfectamente lo que quiso decir. Me lo había repetido un montón de veces. Frances era una "de los que creían"».

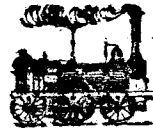
## El artículo escrito por Haydon en 1897

El 19 de abril de 1897, el «Dallas Times Herald» publicaba el siguiente despacho de su corresponsal en Aurora, S. E. Haydon, fechado el 17 de abril, es decir dos días antes:

«Hacia las seis de la mañana de hoy, algunos de los habitantes de Aurora más madrugadores se quedaron sorprendidos por la aparición de la misteriosa astronave que desde hace algunas se-



en los cielos de Texas. El artefacto viajaba en dirección Norte y llegó más cerca de la superficie terrestre que en todas sus apariciones precedentes. Evidentemente alguna parte de la compleja máquina debía estar averiada porque no marchaba a más de 16 a 20 kilómetros por hora y perdía altura gradualmente. Después de atravesar en diagonal el descampado donde suele celebrarse la feria del ganado, al llegar al límite Norte de la población, se precipitó sobre el molino de viento del juez Proctor. En la tremenda explosión que siguió, todo quedó reducido a fragmentos. Los restos del vehículo espacial quedaron dispersos sobre una superficie de dos o tres hectáreas. El molino resultó completamente destruido, el depósito de agua desapareció y nada queda del bonito jardín que había alrededor. Parece que sólo iba un individuo a bordo de la astronave. A pesar de que sus restos estaban atrocemente mutilados, de lo que se ha podido recoger se desprende claramente que no se trataba de un habitante de este mundo. Mr. T. J. Weems, telegrafista del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos destinado en esta población y una verdadera autoridad en astronomía, ha declarado que en su opinión se trata de un habitante de Marte. Algunos documentos hallados en el lugar de la catástrofe, probablemente lo que queda del diario de a bordo, están llenos de jeroglíficos indescifrables. La astro-



Fotocopia de la vieja página del «Dallas Times Herald» de 1897 con la noticia de la nave voladora caída al suelo y de la muerte del ser que la pilotaba.

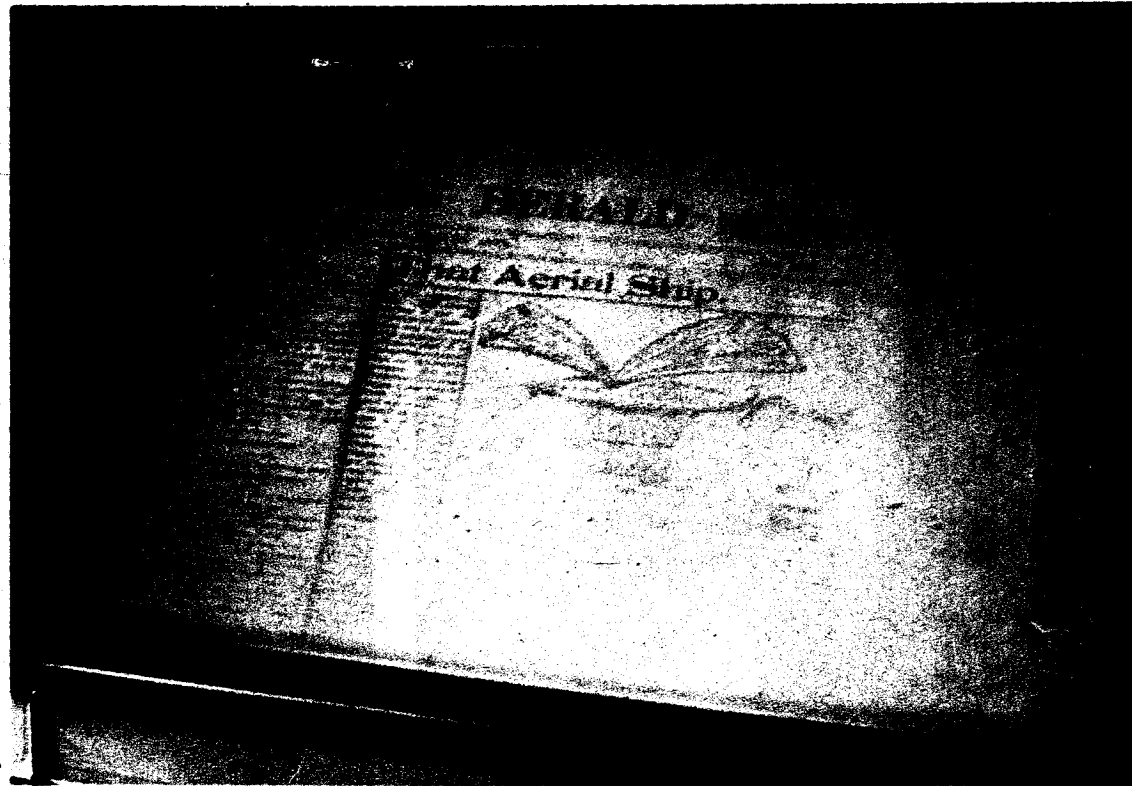
**Algo sucedió en Aurora el 17 de abril de 1897, pero, ¿qué fue exactamente?**

**El molino del juez Proctor no existe ya pero hay fragmentos de misteriosos metales, una tumba cuya apertura no se autoriza y una violenta polémica entre los que recuerdan y los que no quieren acordarse.**

En Denton (Texas), Tom Gray, físico de la Universidad de Texas del Norte, muestra algunos fragmentos procedentes de Aurora; el departamento correspondiente del Centro los está analizando.

**AURORA, Texas, agosto.**

**E**S difícil encauzar esta indagación, situar el relato en el contexto adecuado. Delante de mí se ve un trozo de carretera, la gasolinera de Brawley Oates ca-



yéndose a trozos; poco más allá está el gallinero de Oates, con una decena de gallinas medio peladas. Está Kevin Stone, un chico de once años que, cuando no va al colegio, ayuda a Oates manejando la bomba de la gasolina. Si el muchacho no está, los clientes se sirven solos y dejan el dinero en una caja de hierro que hay en el alféizar de la ventana.

Oates se ve condenado a permanecer todo el día sin moverse de su asiento por culpa de un grave caso de artritis deformante y nunca sale de su pequeño despacho. Algún voluntario lo lleva allí por la mañana, antes de las siete, y otro le vuelve a meter en la cama, en el cuarto trasero, después del telediario de las once de la noche. Tenemos además al sheriff Idell, a Bill Case, del «Dallas Morning News», y a la señora Pegues, con su mirada dura, la cara surcada de centenares de miles de pequeñas arrugas y el índice acusador siempre levantado. Y están el viejo Stevens y la viejísima Mary Evans, testigos de vista o, más exactamente, casi testigos de vista. Alrededor está la inmensa llanura amarilla y verde, a trozos seca como la corteza de la Luna y a trozos húmeda y lozana: el Estado de Texas. Finalmente está la historia de la astronave misteriosa que el 17 de abril de 1897 se precipitó, estallando, sobre las colinas al Norte de la aldea y destruyó el molino del juez Proctor.

Más a la derecha, al otro lado

