

utes in the car wondering what on earth to do. (In view of what happened soon after, it would seem that the doctor tried, but failed to re-start the car). Meanwhile there was no movement on the part of the object in front of them and it was impossible to get past it.

The doctor had at last decided to get out and investigate when suddenly he saw somebody approaching. The doctor had his revolver at the ready, when he heard a soft voice ask "Que le pasa, amigo?" ("What's the matter, friend?"). The doctor replied that he could not get his engine to start. The voice replied: "Why don't you try again!". He did so, and the engine started. Then he put his lights on, and saw that the object in front of him was something unknown, something the like of which he had never seen before. I will continue the account in the doctor's own words: "Then the man standing near the car glanced at me with a smile and said: 'Don't be frightened. I'm a terrestrial. I have a mission to complete here on earth. My name is R— D—, my friend, and you can tell Mankind about it, in your own fashion'".

The doctor added that the man then walked off slowly towards two beings, both dressed entirely in grey, who were waiting for him. All three got into

the machine, which then took off swiftly, leaving a violet-coloured trail.

The doctor concluded his testimony: "When they had gone, we both began to tremble and shake like leaves, and I confess that I was for a while unable to so much as move my legs. We drank a cup of coffee from our thermos flask, and then continued our journey, and told nobody of our experience until we were back home in Buenos Aires. Now I feel calmer, and can tell you about it. All I can say is that I shall never doubt anybody's word again. As a result of that experience, I have arrived at the knowledge of this truth: yes, I tell you, beings of other worlds do exist".

It should be noted that the newspaper does not reveal the names of this doctor and his wife. Readers must form their own conclusion as to whether the story is true. But in assessing it they should bear in mind that it happened at almost precisely the same spot as the encounter of the motorcyclist with UFO entities in April 1957, full details of which case were given in Charles Bowen's *On the Road from Córdoba*, on page 19 of *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* for January/February 1965.

[*Mr. Creighton's article Argentina 1963/64 will be concluded in our next issue—EDITOR.*]

Queensland Again

By Judith Magee

Mrs. Magee is Vice President and Programme Officer of the Victoria Flying Saucer Research Society and edits that Society's excellent journal *Australian Flying Saucer Review*.

THAT flying saucer sightings occur mostly in well-defined waves is a well-known fact. That Australia figures predominantly in the world UFO scene is another fact that is now being hammered home. What seems even more remarkable is that the 'flaps', which are becoming more frequent than ever before, now seems to be heralded by outbursts of activity in and around our sub-continent. UFO researchers are generally agreed that the great wave of mid-1965 died away, to all intents and purposes, by October. Now we are forced to enquire whether or not another wave is commencing.

It is probably sheer coincidence, I know, but I venture to suggest that in view of the latest reports, Northern Queensland may well be the kicking-off spot for bursts of activity by our visitors. Admittedly one cannot afford to be dogmatic on that score, for these are early days. Still, wishful thinking or not, I have a hunch we are in for another intriguing spell. Time alone will tell.

Here are the latest facts, summarised from the

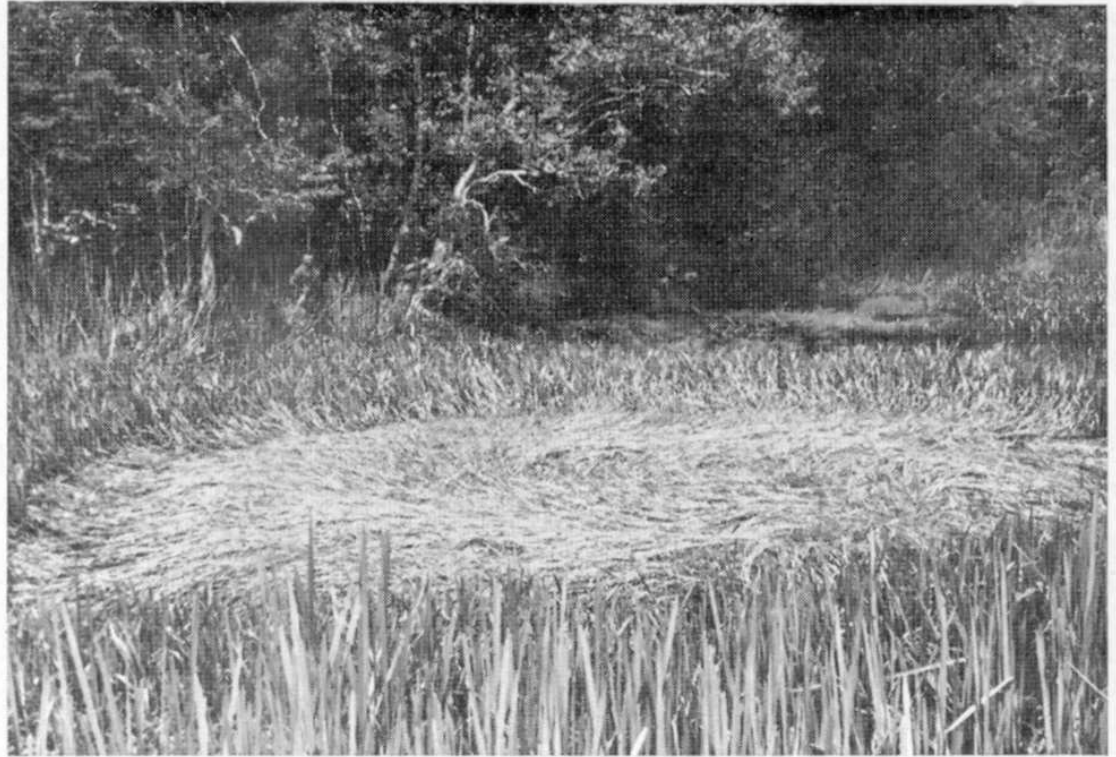
host of press cuttings we have collected, and from our private sources.

Landing reported

One of the earliest accounts of the new rash of incidents appeared in the Townsville *Daily Bulletin* of January 21, 1966, which told how on Wednesday morning, January 19, at about nine o'clock, a Mr. George Pedley was driving his tractor from the small town of Tully to a banana plantation some eight miles to the south. When approaching Mr. Albert Pennisi's farm, he heard a loud hissing noise. His first reaction was that something was wrong with one of his tyres, but as the hissing grew so loud that the sound was many decibels above the noise of the tractor, he glanced around in mild alarm. It was then that he saw a circular object above some trees about 40 yards away. The newspaper item continues: "The object seemed to dip a little, then took off at high speed and soon disappeared. As he continued to drive the tractor,

**The first depression
in the reeds of the
Swamps near Tully.**

*Copyright P. V. Vignale,
Tully*



he saw the big depression in the tall green grass in the swampland. The swamp contained about five feet of water, with long green grass and bull rushes growing through it. The grass had been pushed flat in an area about 30 feet by 20 feet.

“On Thursday, the officer in charge of Tully police (Sergeant First Class A. V. Moylan) went to the area and inspected the depression in the swamp grass. He said the grass in the depression was still lying flat and had browned off, although it did not appear to have been burned. Mr. Pedley had said that the previous day, when he saw the huge mark, the grass was quite green.

“Sergeant Moylan said there was no sign of any marks having been made by cattle or other animals. There were no tracks leading in or out of the depression, and the grass had been flattened smoothly. “I do not believe in flying saucers—not yet”, said Sergeant Moylan. ‘I have to see one first. But the peculiar mark in the swamp grass seems quite inexplicable. “‘It occurred to me that it may possibly have been made by a helicopter, but to the best of my knowledge there has been no such aircraft in the area’. “Sergeant Moylan said that smaller type helicopters commonly put down when their fuel supply was nearly exhausted and refuelled themselves from drums carried on the craft.

“But against the helicopter theory, he said, was the fact that the depression in the swamp grass was in very close proximity to trees, and a helicopter pilot could have found a much better landing spot in a clear area about 100 or 200 yards further out”.

Mr. Pedley’s description of the object was also given in the report. He said: “the object looked like two saucers joined together with a small cabin

at its top and another small projection underneath. He said it was about 24 or 25 feet long nine feet deep, and was greyish blue in colour.

The Landing

“The object had hovered about 30 feet from the ground for at least a minute before rising straight up and flying off towards the south-west”.

For those readers who are not too familiar with Australian geography, Tully is situated to the south of, and not over-far by Australian standards, from Cairns. They will remember that this is a region which featured prominently in the opening gambits of the May/July 1965 flap, which I reported in my article *UFO activity along the North-East coast of Australia* in the September/October 1965 edition of the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*. It is worth noting that the district is blessed by an annual rainfall in the order of 100 inches, and it is not surprising that interspersed between the farmsteads there are many swampy areas, with abundant long grasses, reeds and rushes.

The Pedley story burst into the big Sydney newspapers on January 23. The Sydney *Sun-Herald* added spice with an enormous page 1 banner headline: **MORE FLYING SAUCER NESTS!** and went on to say that in addition to the find by 27-year-old Pedley, who had reported seeing a vapour-like saucer take-off, there had been new discoveries in the Horseshoe Lagoon area near Tully. These were by a Mr. Tom Warren, a cane farmer of Euramo, and a Mr. Hank Penning, a Tully schoolmaster, who were taking a walk around the lagoon when they discovered the two new depressions. One appeared to be some days old, but the other, only a few feet away, seemed reason-

ably fresh. They were about 25 yards from the first one, but hidden by dense scrub. The fresher one was only eight feet across, and the reeds were flattened in an anti-clockwise direction. In the first (Pedley) disc they ran in a clockwise direction. All the reeds were dead, but they had not been scorched.

After reporting that the R.A.A.F. had asked police to collect samples of grass and soil in the area, the report goes on to say that: "Dozens of cases of flying saucers have been reported in the Tully area during the past two months. So many sightings have been reported that an Unidentified Flying Object club has been formed in Tully (population 2,500).

"Shortly before Christmas people claimed to have seen what they believed were two flying saucers, or 'flying vases', hovering on top of a hill less than a mile from the town. "Mr. John Zonta, a banana grower, told Mr. Pedley that on two or three occasions recently he has heard similar hissing noises to the one Mr. Pedley described, but could see nothing. Other residents have reported seeing objects described as brightly lit saucers some of which fired flaming balls".

A pity they had to label them 'nests', but I suppose the use of the name was necessary, as far as the newspapers were concerned, for it has more sensational appeal than the more prosaic term 'landing place'. 'Nests' certainly gave the cartoonists plenty of scope, and they made full use of the chance.

More Sightings

The *Sunday Telegraph* of January 23 told not only the Pedley story, but two others as well. One was a report by Cooktown Police Sergeant R. Hagerty who, while driving on a lonely road on Thursday night (January 20), saw unusual 30 inch 'bubbles' floating above the road. He drove over them, and later expressed the opinion that they were weather balloons. The R.A.A.F. however, stated they had no explanation for this, or any of the other incidents.

The second report concerned a Mrs. M. Hyde of Marreba, who told police that she had spent every night for a week watching a large object in the sky. The account tells how: "She said it appeared in the eastern sky about 10 p.m. and remained until 2 a.m.

"Sometimes it turned over and its lights went out. Then it shot off at high speed, but soon reappeared again".

The *Sun* of Monday January 24, after headlining the R.A.A.F. order to carry out tests, told how our friend Roy Russell of the Queensland Flying Saucer Research Bureau said that similar samples were being flown on January 25 to Queensland University Physics Department for private tests.

Professor H. C. Webster, an expert on radiation and the medical uses of radioactivity, said they might try to oblige Mr. Russell. The Professor added that:

".....any vehicle hurtling through space to earth would pick up a small amount of radiation. Tests at his department would not detect radiation in such small amounts as this".

A similar story appeared in the *Melbourne Age* of January 24, and in addition there was a piece about the obtaining of the samples:

"Yesterday Mr. Pennisi clambered into the five foot deep swamp to retrieve some of the grass which is said to have been touched by a flying saucer.

"I had trouble getting samples of the grass roots and mud which normally lie on the bottom of the lagoon.....they were floating on the top of the water, which is most unusual.

"They must have been sucked up by something', Mr. Pennisi said tonight. He said they would be flown to Brisbane today".

A disclosure

The *Sun-Herald* of January 23 had the following report, which may, or may not, have some significance. Mr. Pedley was talking to reporter John Dickson:

".....on my way home to Tully that night I met Albert Pennisi, who owns the property where I saw the saucer.

"He believed me straight away and told me he had been dreaming for a week that a flying saucer would land on his property.

"He said that about 5.30 a.m. on Wednesday his dog suddenly went mad and bounded off towards the lagoon".

So much for the newspaper angle. I have now received a letter from Roy Russell (dated January 25, 1966) in which he says that the fact that the Queensland Flying Saucer Research Bureau was on the ball, even before the R.A.A.F. could carry out official tests, made news. "Radio, television and newspapers" he writes "were on the hook right up till today. The upshot was that Stan Sears spent most of today mixed up with newsmen at the University, and appeared in all three TV networks (news sections) and on every radio news session throughout the day (all stations).

"Last night Stan and I drove to the airport and collected samples of reeds, mud, water from the depression ('nest'), and also of grass from nearby. We arrived at Queensland University at 9.20 p.m. The owner of the property (Mr. Pennisi) did an excellent job air-freighting well packed and labeled samples.

"**Result:** Radioactivity test was negative. Nil on gamma, nil on beta. The alpha equipment wasn't working. The absence of radioactivity

didn't warrant any more sophisticated tests. Final finding of Mr. G. Taylor of the Physics department, who did the test, was that the radioactivity count was only 1/100 of that registered by the average luminous watch. Samples are now in the hands of the Botany department to find out what killed the reeds. We think the explanation could be that whatever pressed down the reeds kept them down, submerged in water, for an unknown period. So the reeds could have been drowned, since this type of plant—like most—needs air, and dies when submerged. No vegetation was burnt: just dead. No soil was obtained—just mud, since there is five feet of water under the landing spot, which makes the 'drowning' explanation feasible".

Observations and Speculations

The tests at the university found that the reed and mud samples contained no radioactivity, not that the plants died of natural causes. Again, I would never call it a 'natural cause' which pulls the roots up from under five feet of muddy water, and has them floating in clockwise or anti-clockwise patterns on the surface.

I believe that this business of two secondary 'nests' both 8 feet in diameter, with reeds swirled in an anti-clockwise direction is very important. Could there have been two smaller objects, remotely controlled, which, when rotating in the opposite direction to the larger (parent) object, would have been attracted back to the parent? In the same way for example, as unlike poles of magnets attract each other. Wild speculation, no doubt, but we have to start somewhere.

POSTSCRIPT: I quote an extract from an article entitled "Strangers from Outer Space", which appeared in the Australian *Woman's Day* of February 21, 1966—(George Pedley is talking to the reporter).

"A day after I saw the saucer, a neighbour called my attention to some tracks on the soft earth between the bananas' George told me. 'I'd say they were made by a sharp, horny foot, about 3 inches long, with a soft frog in it. And I'd say they were made by something that had two feet, not four. They were straight in front of one another, about a pace apart, and in line with the flying saucer nest. I've been a stockman for 10 years and I have never seen tracks anything like these. But before experts could be called in, the tracks were washed away by the start of The Wet.'"

Editor's Note: We are deeply indebted to the Queensland Flying Saucer Research Bureau for permission to publish the results of their enquiries. We are also grateful to Mrs. Magee for her concise account of this latest case 'Down Under', which was made possible by laudable co-operation between the Societies. All of which has helped the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW to get the news out as quickly as possible. The *Australian Flying Saucer Review* is issued free to all members of the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society: enquiries should be addressed to the Society at **P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Victoria, Australia.** (Single copies may be obtained for 3/6 (35c.) Australian currency, plus postage).

We are grateful also to Mr. J. Sayers of Townsville, Queensland, who sent us a number of news items (one of which is also quoted by Mrs. Magee), and to Mr. K. Rogers of the Enfield UFO Research Group who sent useful photostats. The Tully incident was accorded considerable coverage by the British newspapers, not the least of which was an article in the London *Evening Standard* of January 27.

ADVERTISEMENT

IT'S THE JET FAIR AT BIGGIN HILL!

The International Air Fair will be opened by Group Captain Douglas Bader, C.B.E., D.S.O., etc., on Thursday, May 12th. The Fair will be open for the four days, May 12th–15th. For all the details write or 'phone Squadron Leader Maitland, Biggin Hill Airport, Kent. Telephone: Biggin Hill (BN9) 2277.