

The Tale of Lorenz Meier

Some photographs, however, are more closely scrutinized by the public a few weeks after they are taken. Lorenz Meier called the world's attention to his article "Three Men Under One Sky" (14), the Brazilian weekly picture magazine O Cruzeiro published, remarkably clear photographs of an alleged flying saucer (15). According to the newspaper's story, a reporter and a photographer on the staff of the magazine in São Paulo had visited São José, an island not far from Rio de Janeiro, to do a feature assignment. Late in the

FINAL GALLERY PROOF

GALLERY 16—THE SHIELD OF FLYING KNIVES

Afternoon, at a moment when the photographer just happened to have his camera pointed at the sky, the reporter suddenly called his attention to a passing UFO. During the minute or so the object was in view, he obtained five pictures which, along with the reporter's eyewitness story, were released to the public on May 17. If the claims actually believed in the reality of the saucer, the two-day delay before releasing the world of its visit is remarkable. The magazine has never admitted that the photographs were a hoax, but they inspired doubt even in sympathetic investigators (16).

The UFO appears in a dull sky above a mountain peak. In the first picture the object looks like a jet plane surrounded by an exhaust haze and with a little illumination, might be called a "Barnes-like" object. In succeeding pictures it resembles the top of a wagon, or the bottom view of a rubber dropper, or a cup. A study of the diagrams quickly reveals the handles or outline of these photographs, the dome on top of the "saucer" casts shadows to the right, while the trees and mountains in the foreground cast their shadows to the left. The picture could be nothing else, in a procedure world in which the sun shone from the west on objects on the ground, but shone from the east on objects flying in the sky!