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BRAZILIAN RIVER HIDES A MYSTERY, by Judson Bennett--Within the next few weeks, a cavalcade of trucks will be unloading dredging equipment and excavation gear on to the banks of the Peropava River in Brazil's Sao Paulo province--and a strange civil engineering project will be under way. For the 120 workmen, under the control of scientists from Rio de Janeiro, will dredge the deep mud of the sluggish Peropava looking for a strange silver object popularly believed to be a flying object! Hundreds of people saw what has been described as a "shining silver disc" roar over the river side villages and plunge into the Peropava one afternoon in June, 1967. But until now, no one has had the equipment to make a proper search at the place, marked with buoys by local fishermen and locally called "the UFO hole." Now, the highly superstitious farmers and fisherfolk who live on the river's bank are fearful of what the dredgers might find. The mystery began just before 3:30 p.m., on June 14, 1967, when 9-year-old Ruth de Souza was playing happily with friends, not far from her home, on the banks of the Peropava River. Suddenly, they were all startled by a strange roaring noise. Moving slowly towards them, at tree-top height, was the weirdest thing they had ever seen, a shining disc which seemed to be loosing height as it moved towards Ruth's house. Suddenly, there was a loud thud as "the thing" collided with a tree that stood in its path. The disc wavered, then changed course and wobbled out over the river, rocking violently. It seemed to be struggling to gain height. Then, abruptly, it plunged into the water like a stone and vanished. Mud and debris from the river bed came bursting to the surface amid a spate of huge bubbles. The river seemed to be boiling at the spot where the disc had disappeared.

Ruth's mother, Senora Elidia Alves de Souza, had also been startled by the unusual noise. She came out of the house and ran down to where the children were staring at the churning water. A moment later, Ruth's uncle, Paul Alves, arrived on the scene. But they were utterly bewildered and could give no answer to the children's questions. It was exactly 3:30 when the strange flying disc plunged into the river. Paul Alves immediately went to the nearest town, Iguape, and reported the incident to the police. Although sceptical, they agreed to send someone to the scene. Fortunately for the children, whose story might easily have been dismissed casually as a figment of imagination, some fishermen on the opposite bank of the river had also seen the flying disc. They said it had been about three feet thick and between 20 and 30 feet in diameter. Somehow--perhaps because of its roar--they had got the impression that the disc was immensely powerful. It had been very bright, like highly polished aluminium. The water at the point where the disc had crashed was later found to be about 12 feet deep, but beneath it was a 20 foot thick layer of silt. The eye-witnesses all agreed that the disc had plunged into the water with sufficient force to bury itself deep in the mud. It had been heavy, too: the investigators found that a great gash

had been torn in the trunk of the tree which the disc had struck during its erratic flight. The police marked the exact spot where the disc had plunged into the river. By that same evening, every newspaper in Brazil had the story, and the following day, hordes of curious sightseers and UFO investigators descended on the peaceful Peropava. Two weeks later, a diving instructor named Caetano Iovanne--with the assistance of two colleagues--made the first attempt to recover the disc. For several hours, they searched the murky river bed, probing among the thick layer of mud, but there was no sign of the mystery object. The next day, a second attempt was made by another team of divers, using special equipment. They, too, drew a complete blank. Several more attempts were made over the next few weeks. Mine detectors were used to "sweep" the river bed in the hope that they might reveal some trace of the metal object buried in the mud--but it had either sunk too deeply in the silt, or else it had disappeared altogether. Some suggested that it might have been washed down-stream, but because of its size and weight, this was unlikely. Certainly, if it is there the forthcoming excavations should find it. The scientists who have persuaded the Brazilian Government to mount this expensive, full-scale search are quite convinced that somewhere in the silt below the muddy Peropava, the most intriguing space prize of all lies within man's grasp.

REDDISH UFO OVER MASSACHUSETTS--"It was a very large craft in the sky. The thing that struck me as odd was the fact that it made no noise and there was no jet streak." There is reason to believe the man from Osterville, Massachusetts. Although he prefers to remain anonymous, he did state that he has been a summer resident on Cape Code for a number of years, is over 50 and a well-known professional man. He has never seen--let alone reported any UFO sightings in the past. Here is his description in full, of the sighting he made from his back yard on a bright, clear, sunny afternoon on July 29. "I saw a large craft going by...I would estimate it was about 10,000 feet high. The sky was very clear. What struck me as odd was the craft was so big and moving so fast--and yet it made no noise and there was no jet streak. It seemed to be moving in a northerly direction--from Provincetown to Boston. I would say the size of the craft was about the size of an ordinary inter-city plane. But it made no noise and left no jet streaks in the sky. It was moving very fast. The sides of the craft were a vivid reddish color. As I watched, a very bright light went on at the rear. The light was too powerful for it to be a reflection. Then the light went out abruptly. Then it went back on again."

DISC-SHAPED CRAFT GIVES OFF BEEPING SOUND--At least two persons saw what they reported to be a mysterious object hovering over Grafton, West Virginia for more than an hour the night of July 31. Cecil Devers sighted the UFO at 10:15 p.m. moving toward the old city park. According to Devers, the craft was disc-shaped and was bright silver in color. When asked what he thought of the sighting, he said, "Well, if you ask me, there's something going on up there that we don't know about. It's all a mystery but I know I saw something." Mrs. Everett Knotts reported that she, too, had spotted the craft. Mrs. Knotts gave the following account of what she heard and saw. "My husband was ill, and I had gone downstairs to check and see if he needed anything, when I heard an unfamiliar beeping noise. After seeing that he was all right, I returned upstairs and went out on the porch. I still heard the noise, so I went to check if I had any electrical appliances turned on. I hadn't, so I went back out on the porch, and then is when I saw the object. It

was headed toward Maple Avenue, and was making a beep, beep noise. It was bright silver, and was disc-shaped. Red and silver lights were flashing. It seemed to go toward the old pottery, and then disappeared. I must have been watching it for over an hour and a half, before it disappeared." Mrs. Knotts was asked whether or not the craft had windows and she replied, "It would be hard to tell without binoculars, but there was something dark around the sides. It could have been windows." She was asked whether or not the craft frightened her, and she said, "Well, I'm normally a brave person, but let me tell you, when you see this thing it just sends cold chills up your spine."

WEIRD EVENTS IN ANDES AREA BAFFLE CHILE--Chilean scientists are said to be baffled by recent reports of weird, unearthly events on the lower slopes of the Andes about 62 miles from Santiago, Chile. Reports of strange warm winds, automobiles moving inexplicably and fruit trees flowering out of season in only 30 minutes have prompted investigations by the Chilean Air Force. And the Chilean Scientific Society is organizing a report on what is known throughout the world about UFOs. In one reported incident, a driver told police that his car suddenly stopped at night and its lights went out. The car started again, he said, and its lights were switched on--apparently by remote control. Two days later, a truck loaded with newsprint halted without any action by the driver. When the driver got out, the truck moved forward, turned off the road and then stopped. Other motorists said they had the same experience in the area. Another report was of a strange warm wind which alarmed Jose Bolosin, owner of a nearby hotel: "Several of my neighbors were worried by the wind and a smell of burning and we feared there was a forest fire," he said. "We went out into the countryside around dawn when the thermometer was showing (73.4 degrees Fahrenheit) instead of the usual (32 degrees.) Nobody was burning anything, but the powerful wave of heat nearly suffocated us," he added. The wind blew over a plantation, making fruit trees flower in half an hour. These trees usually flower in September. Some persons believed the phenomena were caused by a deposit of pure iron directly under the area.

MYSTERY OBJECT OVER SPAIN--The Spanish Air Force said an UFO eluded one of its supersonic jet fighter-bombers as a rash of UFO reports spread from Latin America to Europe. The sighting of a bright object in the night sky September 5 over Madrid, Spain caused a monumental traffic jam and sent the U.S.-built F-104 jet scrambling to find out what it was. An official air force announcement said the pilot climbed to an altitude of more than 50,000 feet and reported the object was still above him when he had to return to base for fuel. The pilot of another plane flying at 36,000 feet reported seeing the same object. Air Force radar screens tracked the UFO and said it was flying at 90,000 feet and moving slowly. Thousands of Spaniards jammed the streets of Madrid to get a look at the object, and traffic backed up for miles. One reporter, sent to the Madrid astronomical observatory for a look through its powerful telescope, said the object gave off "a blinding light." A photo taken through the telescope revealed a triangular object, apparently solid on one side and translucent in some sections. The official Air Force announcement said it had no scientific explanation for the phenomenon. Stories from Buenos Aires, Argentina, where the latest UFO stories started, said a space ship landed on General Paz Avenue. This story produced thousands of calls to police and newspapers.

