

**Mad geometrician? God from outer space? Or is there a more prosaic solution to this desert fantasy?**

# Solving the world's biggest geometric riddle

**A DRIVING ambition to solve one of the world's great archaeological mysteries will take 41-year-old Wiltshire businessman William Veall on an expedition to South America in the New Year.**

His destination is Peru. His quest, to unravel the puzzle of the ancient Nazca Lines, a maze of etchings, dating back thousands of years and covering 200-square miles of desert and shale on the Pampa de Ingenio, some 300 miles from Lima.

At ground level the famous lines, furrowed into the sand and stone, form a massive cobweb of geometric shapes — triangles, rectangles, spirals meanders, and

to be the work of early space travellers.

But Mr. Veall, who lives in Stockbridge Road, Lopcombe, near Salisbury, has his feet firmly on the ground.

Like German-born mathematician Maria Reiche, who has spent 40 of her 76 years on the Pampa, charting and measuring the mass of unswerving lines, he believes in more logical explanations.

"It's undoubtedly the work of an advanced Inca, Maya or Aztec

lines from which the animal shapes and images can be picked up.

He has had the original pictures photographed and re-photographed from a whole range of different angles and patterns have begun to emerge.

The experiments, conducted with the help of Southampton University's teaching media photographic unit, have detected three previously undiscovered images.

These are a feline

takes longer for someone new to it," he said. "People are bound to say you can see anything you want to see if you look long enough. But this is not imagination — it is something arrived at by scientific experiments."

The authenticity of the photographs are vouched for by Mr. William Allen, who is director of the teaching media unit.

"I know very little about the Nazca Lines or Mr. Veall's research, but there is nothing

