

# Hills Residents Tell Of Shining Objects

Maybe you've seen one and thought it was a star—but according to the myriad reports from this area, flying saucers abound in the evening sky right now.

Numerous reports from the southern Black Hills concerned saucer-like objects aloft which gave forth varying colors as they moved and then halted Saturday night and early Sunday morning. At approximately the same period a similar object was reported from motor patrolmen at Pierre.

Rapid City's enthusiasm for saucers mounted Sunday night as Sheriff Glenn Best and State Patrolman Carrol Erickson chased an unidentified luminous object towards the Badlands. They said it changed color, showing different shades of green, red and white as it moved and then remained stationary in the sky. Sheriff Best said "I don't know what I saw but I've never seen anything with lights like that before." Best is a pilot and familiar with aviation navigation and airplane lights.

Meanwhile, numerous scrambles were reported for the 54th Fighter - Interceptor Squadron at Ellsworth Air Force Base during the weekend but to all intents and purposes the jet jockeys made their missions in vain.

Officially, the Information Services Office at EAFB said neither the 54th fighters nor the radar scopes of the 740th Aircraft Control and Warning Sqdn. picked up any unknown objects during the weekend "saucer spree."

Unofficially, however, rumors were rife in Rapid City that blips were sighted on the radar scope by the pilot of one of the jet fighters and by the scanners in the 740th control rooms.

The U.S. Air Force has blanketed investigations of "flying saucers" under the cloak of "security" for several years and apparently the same rules still prevail.

**Attempts to match the "saucer" reports with clear skies in this area and the presence of the star Betelgeuse in the Orion constellation don't fit the information obtained by The Journal from local astronomers.**

One expert here said it would be impossible for the "more than casual" observer to confuse the colorful Betelgeuse with an object which moves rapidly, then halts, at the same time diffusing a variety of colored light.

Best and Erickson went to Wasta to check the reports on the saucer first spotted from that community about 7:30 p.m. last night.

## 45 Minutes

Best said they were there about a half-hour before they saw what appeared to be lights over the bombing range—that would be approximately 8:30. The colors were different shades of green, red and white and both men agreed the green was continuous while the bright flashing red light appeared at varied intervals. The two officers also saw a bright white light that seemed to shine upwards from the object at intervals.

The object remained stationary for a half hour after it was first sighted by Best and Erickson and later reports from other persons say it moved later. The officers were at a complete loss to explain the object.

The saucer scare here followed by ten days a report from Minnesota where a truck driver from Redfield had witnesses to the aerial object which frightened him on a nighttime trip near the S.D.-Minnesota border.

At Hot Springs several persons, including a policeman, saw the object in the sky early Sunday morning.

Policeman Gene Hofeldt answered a call from the Hot Springs Country Club and while there witnessed what he called a strange phenomena for nearly two hours.

The object first was sighted at the country club about 4 a.m. by Yvonne Wilson, a waitress there. Grace Sorenson, operator of the club, said the object was "real red, red as a tail light." She said it then turned green and then yellow and back to red in sequence. It appeared there was a definite interval of time before each color change was made and the object moved up and down.

Hofeldt arrived at the scene

about 4:30 a.m. and said he watched the object until nearly 6:30 a.m. before it went out of sight.

The policeman said there was no way to determine the size because "it was a long way out." He described the object as being blue at times and then mostly yellow.

When Hofeldt first saw the

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## 11 Die In California Forest Fire

SAN DIEGO, Calif., (AP) — Eleven fire fighters burned to death last night when they were trapped while battling a hot spot of the 33,000-acre Cleveland National Forest fire, forest supervisor Walter Puhn reported.

He said eight of the men were inmates from the Vejas Honor Farm and the other three were U. S. Forest Service personnel.

Six other fire fighters managed to flee to safety, Puhn said, as lightning-fast flames swept up from the dry San Diego River bed near Eagle Peak, two or three miles above the El Capitan Reservoir. The scene is about 30 miles northeast of San Diego.

The fire, which started Saturday morning from a trash fire on the Inaja Indian Reservation, is one of the worst in recent California history.

The most deadly forest fire in California occurred in 1933. A sudden shift in the wind trapped a fire fighting crew in a canyon at Griffith Park, Los Angeles and 28 died.

James Fenlon, chief ranger of the State Division of Forestry, described the present fire in the Cleveland National Forest as "the worst I have ever fought in this area," adding, "and I've been fighting fires for 25 years."

The perimeter of the fast-moving blaze is estimated to be 40 to 50 miles. It advanced yesterday into El Monte Canyon, a half mile west of El Capitan Dam, a city reservoir, and threatened El Monte County Park, 22 miles from San Diego.

Some 400 persons were evacuated from the Barona Indian reservation and the Wildcat Canyon area but 150 in the latter area later returned to their homes.

On the fire lines were 1,400 men, including 500 sailors from the San Diego Naval Training Center and 75 Indian experts from New Mexico. Strong winds have hampered crews from the start.

In the San Fernando Valley north of Los Angeles, meanwhile, a small fire raced unchecked near Chatsworth. Los Angeles County fire dispatcher A. J. Boutin said more than 100 acres were black-burned.

## Milbank Lady 171st To Die

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — Mrs. Henry Jurgens, Milbank, died in a Sioux Falls hospital Sunday night of injuries received in a two-car crash seven miles east of Milbank on Nov. 17.

Mrs. Jurgens, 68, was hospitalized here the day after the accident. Her husband received minor injuries in the crash.

Mrs. Jurgens was the 171st highway fatality of the year in South Dakota, compared with 183 on this date a year ago.