

did not speak of anything that had not existed or that he had not seen, and added that in his position as a police-officer and in view of his service-record, he could not now indulge in inventing visions."

Credit, and thanks for translation, to **Miss E. Greinert** of Argentina.

AUSTRALIA **UFO like basketball**

The following item is taken from the Portland, Victoria, *Observer* of November 19, 1969—

"Three young couples were frightened by a silent, fiery object which appeared over Portland late on Saturday night.

"The young people were parked in cars near the yacht clubhouse at Henty Beach when the object first appeared. About as big as a basketball, with a fiery tail which changed colour, the object appeared above the oil tanks, South Portland, soon after midnight. It appeared from nowhere—one minute there was nothing, the next this fiery ball.

"The young couples all saw the ball and watched it for three or four minutes. It moved from south to north, horizontally, across the sky passing over the new silos at the harbour and eventually disappearing.

"One onlooker told the *Observer* the mystery object appeared to get smaller as it moved across the sky. This indicated it was travelling away from the town.

"The watchers at first thought it was a meteor and this belief was strengthened when the object appeared to disappear in a flash of sparks or coals. But meteors don't usually fly sideways, as the object did — they just plummet to the ground.

"The *Observer* has been told over the past few months of repeated

activity of Unidentified Flying Objects in this area. Usually the reports only reach the papers weeks after the sightings. This is mainly because people are afraid of public ridicule if they tell of strange objects which have been seen in the sky. But the reports have gradually filtered in and it makes one wonder just what these sightings are — natural phenomena or something else. . . ?"

Credit: **Mrs. Judith Magee** of VUFORS.

RHODESIA **From the Rhodesian scene**

The following item has been prepared by Eileen Buckle from reports sent to us by various readers.

On January 30, 1970, at about 9.30 p.m., two policemen on night patrol in a remote part of the Mrewa district in Rhodesia saw three flying saucers appear from the sky and hover for about 1½ minutes. Patrol Officer Brian Walthew got out of the car to observe the spectacle, proving to himself that what he and his colleague were seeing was no optical illusion caused by distortion through the wind-screen. The objects were estimated to be at a height of 200 feet in the sky, and about ½ mile away.

"I saw them very clearly," said P/O Walthew. "They had red lights under them which lighted up their structure. They were flattish and oval. Behind them trailed a white glow."

"I thought it was some sort of miracle happening," declared Constable Munawi.

The objects finally moved away at great speed and disappeared behind a hill. As they watched, the lights of the Mini-Moke suddenly failed. As neither of the two policemen knew much about cars,

no attempt was made to repair them. But about 10 minutes later the lights suddenly came on again. As soon as the lights had returned they headed back to the police station and reported their sighting.

"Had I been on my own I might not have reported seeing the flying saucers," said P/O Walthew. "I think I would have passed it all off as some kind of optical illusion. But we both saw them very clearly."

Several farmers in the area reported seeing objects in the sky at the same time as the two police officers. The story was splashed on the front page of the *Salisbury Sunday Mail* of February 1 where it was stated that Government investigators were understood to have been sent to Mrewa.

A good deal of UFO activity has been taking place in Rhodesia over the last few years. In September 1965, at Bulawayo, more than a dozen people reported seeing a ball of orange-coloured fire over the suburb of Bradfield. It rattled windows, shook fences and put out a row of street lights. Furthermore, on the following day, the same object was reported hovering over another Bulawayo suburb; on this occasion, two policemen were among those who witnessed it.

Several reports of lights moving and hovering in the sky issued from Bulawayo and Salisbury last year. In May, a silver pear-shaped object was seen over Salisbury. Later, in the same month, a UFO was reported hovering over the RRAF's Thornhill air base at Gwelo and was seen by police and airmen.

We are indebted to our correspondents Mrs. Evelyn van Vloten and Mr. M. Imber of South Africa, and Mrs. M. Knaggs of Rhodesia for sending the news on the Mrewa incident so promptly.

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM CRADLE HILL — A DATA CORRECTION

Mr. Albert Davey, FRAS, drew my attention to the fact that if the exposure time was as stated in John C. Ben's article (see *FSR*, July/August, 1970, pp. 4 and 5), namely 0.1 secs., then the vehicle on the hill opposite must have been travelling at, say, more than 250 m.p.h. The next day I received a note from Mr. Ben telling how Mr. Foxwell, the photographer, had stated that there was a mistake in the given data.

Wrote Mr. Foxwell: "The time exposure in *FSR* was incorrectly stated as 0.1 seconds. In fact the camera shutter was set on 'B' and an exposure of a few seconds was given (I do not know the exact time)."

The error, in fact, was mine when, due to hasty editing, I substituted "tenth" for "ten".

C. BOWEN.