

STRANGE ENCOUNTER

THE UFO mystery deepened this week when two Dumfries car salesmen told of a "strange encounter" near Moffat.

Mr. Tom Smith, 33 Hardthorn Crescent, Dumfries, and a colleague from another garage in the town, Mr. Bob McCulloch, of Dalbeattie Road, Dumfries, were travelling south down the A74 at Beattock about 7.00 p.m. last Wednesday evening when they witnessed a sinister object with red glowing lights shoot across the carriageway.

"We were travelling home from a business trip to Oban in separate cars when we saw what appeared to be a row of red lights on a flat object about the size of a desk", said Tom yesterday.

"It seemed to float across the road in front of me. I estimate it was about eighty feet off the ground and appeared to be completely silent.

"Initially I shrugged it off as being the reflection of car lights from vehicles on a side road, although I was by no means convinced.

"But when we got to Dumfries Bob got out of his car

and said: 'What the hell was that'.

"He had been right behind me and had also seen the object".

Queer

Bob commented: "I'm quite certain it was not an aircraft or even a helicopter. It was genuinely something queer".

He said that the object was going from west to east and appeared to be heading for the Moffat Hills.

"Some of the lights were flashing, and the object, which was very low, seemed to have a rounded head . . . like the flasher on a police car".

This latest sighting comes after numerous reports of UFOs in the area — including many close to the Moffat hills.

Less than two weeks ago two police officers based at Sanquhar witnessed a UFO travelling in a south easterly direction over Kirkconnel at night.

PC Keith Rowlands and PC David Walker were travelling in a patrol car at the time and were later able to give a detailed description of the object, which had two glowing lights and made a distinct whirring noise.