

Lonely cloud was a UFO claim

Sunday Times

21/12/80

By BEVIS FAIRBROTHER

AN unidentified flying object has been reported over the Eastern Cape.

The object, say Colesberg residents, looked like a cloud ... but a cloud like they've never seen before.

Officials have passed it off as a small thunder cloud obscured by misty and dusty conditions.

But residents say there was no dust, no wind and it was the only "cloud" in the sky.

Other strange phenomena were:

The object emitted a brilliant light.

There was a hazy funnel which reached to the ground.

It moved across the sky at great speed and then suddenly stopped.

After a while, it moved off again more slowly and then disappeared.

Broad base

A similar cloud was seen over Cradock about five years ago. It was small with a distinctive broad base, narrowing out at the top.

Mrs Alta Jacobs, of the farm Riekertsfontein, said she was on her way home after delivering sheep to another farm when she saw the object.

Her mother-in-law and sister-in-law were with her at the time.

"It was so strange that we stopped to look at it.

"It was about 10 kilometres away so we couldn't see how big it was.

"Then it moved off quickly and disappeared.

"We thought that was that but just as we were about to drive off again it suddenly reappeared and then stopped over another spot.

"We watched for a few minutes and it moved off again more slowly. We waited a while longer but we didn't see it again.

Another Colesberg resident, who asked: "Don't use my name, people might think I'm seeing things", gave a similar description of the object.

"It couldn't have been dust playing tricks on my eyesight because there was no wind. And the sky was clear."