

STARGAZER'S OWN STORY

My close encounter with a UFO

MELVYN TROUTZ never believed in UFOs until, at age 58, he finally saw one.

"I guess I've joined the ranks of the cranks," the San Antonio resident chuckled.

Troutz, an amateur astronomer, was lying in his backyard, observing a meteor shower, when his eye caught an incredible, yet unmistakable, sight.

"I was watching the North East quadrant of the sky. Then I saw a flight of five rings," he told the Examiner.

"They were perfectly round and in a very tight V formation. There was a subdued light around them.

"They were travelling from exact north to exact south at one tremendous speed. If I'd have batted my eyes, I'd have missed the whole thing," he said.

Troutz scoffs at sugges-

tions that what he saw were weather balloons.

"If we've got weather balloons that fast we don't need rockets," he laughed.

Troutz, an ex-truck driver, long ago gave up hope of ever seeing a UFO.

Convinced

"When the big craze was on, and everybody was talking about seeing them, I went out and looked and looked and I never saw a darned thing," he said.

Even after his incredible experience, he still has doubts about the more outlandish UFO stories.

"I don't go along with these tales about beams of light coming down from out-

er space and picking people up," he said.

But Troutz is now convinced that there are other civilizations in outer space.

"God must have made other worlds out there. But he didn't tell us about them," he said.

Troutz has seen some incredible night scenes in his time.

"I was an airman in England during the blitz," he recalled. I used to watch planes being shot down. But I've never seen anything like this UFO before."