

Multi-colored UFO starts Texas panic

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SCORES of frightened Texans watched in awe for three consecutive nights as a strange, colorful UFO swooped and hovered over Galveston County.

"It was a big round object with white lights that had some red and green colors with it," says Joe Scrosne, town constable in Hitchcock, who saw it on two nights.

"It obviously wasn't a star or planet.

"It was man-made. I watched it for about 15 minutes one night through my field glasses."

Then, to Scrosne's astonishment, the craft sped south toward Galveston, six miles away, where it sparked a flood of phone calls to police.

"Each caller said the same thing," reports police dispatcher Suzanne Northcutt. "They kept describing the red and green lights on the thing."

A patrolman tried to follow the craft, but it suddenly disappeared in the hazy sky.

Air controllers in southeast Texas claim they saw nothing, and the weather service office in Galveston says no weather balloons were in the area the nights of the sightings.

"Our weather balloons aren't brightly lit the way the sightings were reported,"

By **LARRY COLLINS**

says a weather service official.

"They do have small, flashlight bulbs that are on at night, but they certainly wouldn't shine as brightly as some of the witnesses described."

The Coast Guard says the strange lights may have been the reflection in the clouds of a gas well burning in the Gulf of Mexico.

But witnesses say that doesn't account for the horizontal and vertical movements.

Sam McQueen, of the Daily-Sun newspaper in Texas City, says he saw the object after a worried reader called him at about 7:30 p.m.

"About 8:15 the light began to move," he says. "Then it began a slow descent.

"I watched it disappear behind a train.

"It definitely was not an airplane or star or planet or helicopter.

"I wasn't any normal flying machine.

"It had to be either a very large balloon or a flying saucer."

Amateur astronomer Brenda Placette says the light from the UFO was 10 times brighter than Vega, the brightest star.

"At first I thought it was Jupiter or Venus," Placette says.

"But it was too hazy. You couldn't see those planets through the atmosphere that night."

It was even seen 235 miles away by an amateur astronomer in San Antonio.

Eyewitness Rick Shaw, a newspaper editor, concludes:

"Let me say one thing: It certainly wasn't from this planet."