

# UFO tracks 2 in Esperance

TWO ESPERANCE businesswomen claim they were menaced by a UFO during an hour of terror early last Sunday morning.

A policeman, two kangaroo shooters, a truck driver and other motorists also say they saw the mystery object.

The women's frightening ordeal began as they drove along a lonely stretch of the South Coast Highway — and continued for 100 kilometres.

The mystery craft changed altitude and speed and swept from one side of the road to the other.

About 4.30am, near Esperance, it accelerated away to the size of a star before returning seconds later.

The women — craftswoman Maggie Yeend and shopkeeper Mrs Frances Collins — said that at times the brilliantly-lit craft appeared to be only 200m away.

At one stage Mrs Yeend slammed on the brakes when she thought she was going to hit it.

"I thought it was going to run into us. I thought it was going to kill us," said a shaken Mrs Collins.

They said the UFO was about the size of a small helicopter and shone alternatively red and orange underneath, and turned green and misty when accelerating.

When they got to Esperance and woke local policeman Constable Bob Cordon they discovered they had been driving on a shredded rear tyre.

By **BERNIE TIER**

Constable Cordon saw the UFO, "six times the size of a star", hovering over Esperance Bay and a sight bearing he took positioned it three kilometres off the coast.

It was not the morning star Venus — source of many UFO sightings — and did not behave like any of the main causes of UFO mistaken identity, he said.

Another woman, Elspeth Benson, saw the object at about the same time from her kitchen window.

Few Esperance people doubt the witnesses' story — too many have seen strange early morning lights.

It is said that some farmers would rather lose seeding time than work during pre-dawn hours because of UFO scares. Some truck drivers accept strange lights as a fact of life.

The 200km stretch of South Coast Highway between Ravensthorpe and Esperance is renowned locally for UFO sightings.

The only town in between is the tiny Munglinup settlement and it is near there that the women began their terrifying encounter.

Local legend says there is a UFO "nest" near Phillip River, between Ravensthorpe and Hopetown.

A local theory says that UFOs are behind the mysterious disappearance of a Queensland man from the lonely stretch 18 months ago.

His late model car was found parked next to the

highway in perfect working order.

The surrounding area was searched but he was never found.

Many people believe that a mystery explosion at 7.50am on October 4, 1979 was caused when a UFO crashed to the ground.

Others say it was a rocket or a warhead and the official government version is that it was a meteorite.

An Esperance State Emergency Service search failed to find any trace of the object.



• FRANCES Collins describes the UFO after her ordeal last Sunday.

## Break in 'UFO drought'

"THIS is one of the best sightings we have ever had in WA," said Perth UFO Research Group spokesman George Hume when the *Sunday Independent* told him about the Esperance encounter.

An excited Mr Hume said his group would send an investigator to document the sighting.

The description of the craft was excellent and the number of witnesses — including a

policeman — made it a major sighting, he said.

"We have had quite a few reports from Esperance over the years and we consider it to be almost a UFO centre," he said.

Mr Hume said the sighting was the first in WA for six months. It broke a "UFO drought" that had seemed to be a current world-wide phenomenon.



LITTLE green men from Mars or some other interplanetary beings with a few space credits to spare may be about to invest in Australian resource development.

That's one conclusion to be drawn from the appearance over Mount Newman iron-ore mine of an unidentified flying object.

# Odd UFO on flying visit to iron mine

By PETER TERRY

No one at the site actually saw the greens of their eyes or the green of their space credits but the UFO's visit has made the front page of Mount Newman Mining Company's own newspaper, the *Chronicle*.

According to the company, the UFO entered Mount Newman's airspace during the early hours of March 15.

It was first spotted by two mine employees, Mr Tony Debono and Mr Julian Oggmann.

Both were returning home after a night's fishing trip.

Mr Debono insists he had no more than a cola to drink, and Mr Oggman had consumed only one stubby.

As they were driving home at about 3am they saw what they later described as a bright light moving towards them.

Twelve kilometres on, they stopped for a closer look.

As they watched, the UFO became brighter and brighter, at which stage the two men decided to take off.

"When we started moving, the light appeared to move with us at the same speed as the car," said Mr Debono.

It then appeared to move ahead of us and slow down.

It appeared to get closer to the ground and move across our paths.

"By the time we reached my home it was hovering very low.

"We were both shaking and scared."