

JOSEPHINE'S CLOSE ENCOUNTERS . . .

An Isleworth mother had the fright of her life last week when she experienced a close encounter of some kind . . .

Mrs Josephine Cutts of Morris Road, Isleworth, was letting her dog out at about half past ten at night when she saw a hovering red ball coming towards her across the roof tops.

"It was glowing and moving fast," she

said, "and I ran indoors because I was so scared."

She said the red ball landed on the roof of a house at the back of her garden.

"I went upstairs to wake up my 11-year-old son because he's got a telescope but he was sound asleep. By the time I went outside again the thing had disappeared."

Mrs Cutts asked around her neighbourhood to find out if anyone else had seen the unidentified flying

object — but no one had, except one woman who had been coming home at the time.

"She said she'd seen something like it but it had been white," added Mrs Cutts.

Police at Brentford said they had no reports of any sightings that night.

One possible explanation, said Mrs Cutts, was that a fireworks display was being held that evening in Richmond.

Anyone else got any ideas . . . ?

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They're Glad Someone Else Saw It

Something streaked across the Pocatello sky the night of Aug. 4, and two Pocatello women want to know what it was.

The women, Chris McLoy and Claudia Allen, don't know each other. In fact, they were about a mile apart when both say something trailing a fiery red tail plunged to earth somewhere west of the Portneuf Gap near Pocatello.

But, since nobody else reported seeing anything unusual during the subsequent week, they're just glad the other saw it, too.

"Everybody told me I'm nuts," Mrs. Allen said. "But I am not an imaginative person."

Mrs. McLoy is equally firm. "If I say I saw it, I saw it," she said.

Mrs. McLoy was sitting in a van watching a drive-in movie

with her children, a sister, Cori Brown, and a friend from Chicago, Sharon Searl.

Sometime around 11 p.m., her son Jimmy noticed the object. It caught Mrs. McLoy's eye, too.

"It was very much like a meteor," she said. "It had a very red tail. I didn't think it was as close to the earth as it was until it hit."

Mrs. Allen, an Idaho State Police dispatcher, saw the mysterious object, too. After finishing work at 11 p.m., she was being driven home by fellow officer Sgt. Ed Aplington.

A couple minutes later, the pair had stopped to help a motorist stranded at the Cheyenne Crossing south of Ross Park, when Mrs. Allen something pass overhead.

"I saw this big stream of light

swoop by," she said. "Then it must have hit because it lit up the sky."

Sgt. Aplington, who was busy with the motorist, apparently didn't see anything. In the car, he told her about his son who saw an unidentified flying object almost in the same place.

Mrs. McLoy, who is a civil defense volunteer, said the object emitted a brilliant light when it crashed into the mountains. "It was just pure white, definitely like the rays from an explosion.

She said the whole affair took only five to ten seconds.

Curious after a week of uncertainty, she and her children searched for hours in the Scout Mountain area Wednesday without finding the crash site.

The National Weather Service

in Pocatello did not record anything unusual, but one weatherman said his wife had seen something.

A dispatcher for the Bannock County Sheriff's Office said no reports had been called in, and Federal Aviation Administration spokesmen in Boise and Salt Lake City said their radar hadn't picked up anything.

Mrs. McLoy didn't report the incident because she assumed some of the dozens of patrons also at the drive-in that night would call police.

That didn't happen, said Mrs. Allen. So she decided not to press the subject, believing there probably was a logical explanation.

She said her husband believes it could have been a disintegrating satellite.