

Meteor lights night sky

BEAUMONT, TEX ENTERPRISE
By The Associated Press 6/15/82

A meteor flashed through the skies over four Midwestern states early Tuesday, throwing off orange sparks and lighting up the night sky "like dawn," witnesses said. ~~S PARKER~~

The meteor was sighted from southern Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Kentucky, authorities said.

"What I thought was, somebody had pushed the button ... I thought World War III had started, it was so brilliant," said Bob Green, a cook at a restaurant in Herrin, Ill., about 60 miles southeast of St. Louis.

Green said he saw the sky light up just as he finished reading from the Bible's Book of Revelations, which deals with prophecy of the end of the world.

Carl Heinrich, a commercial pilot and flight instructor in Centralia, Ill., said he was in his front yard making wooden forms for the pouring of a concrete sidewalk at 1:15 a.m. CDT when he saw the meteor.

Fireball seen in sky

H CHRON 8/20/82

NEW YORK (AP) — Colorful sky lights provided a spectacle along much of the East Coast overnight, leaving astronomers puzzled Wednesday as to just what caused the display.

One astronomer in Washington, D.C., speculated Tuesday night's glow was debris from the last passage of Halley's Comet in 1910. But a colleague in Baltimore said he doubted that possibility.

Other skywatching agencies, such as the National Weather Service and the Federal Aviation Administration, had no answer. ~~S PARKER~~

The sky lights — by some accounts a bright ball, by others glowing bits of color that changed as they streaked and faded — were reported along the East Coast from here to Washington. Green was the predominant color in the reported sightings, most of which occurred around 8:30 p.m. Tuesday.

H. CHRON. AUG. 20, 1982

Green light in sky may have been rare meteor

H CHRON 8/20/82

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A bright green light that streaked across the nighttime sky may have been a rare "fire ball" meteor that landed in Oklahoma, a Texas astronomer said.

Two Fort Worth residents reported seeing the green light traveling north said Jonathan Wilkendorf, assistant director of the Nobel Planetarium in Fort Worth.

"One report stated that the green flash of light was like an explosion when it hit the ground," Wilkendorf said. "The caller thought maybe it was an airplane crash."

If the streak was in fact a meteor, it could have landed somewhere between Oklahoma City and Denton, Texas, Wilkendorf said. ~~S PARKER~~

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