

Sun 4 June '85

UFO terrorizes Texas town



● **GREEN THUMB** Eugenia Pickford was in her garden photographing morning glories when this UFO appeared out of the blue and she was fortunate enough to be able to snap it hovering above the Texas hamlet of Athens

A MYSTERIOUS OBJECT in the sky terrified hundreds of Texans.

It hovered ominously over the town of Athens for about 15 minutes, then shot straight up into the air at incredible speed and vanished.

Luckily, Athens housewife Eugenia Pickford managed to grab a snapshot of the UFO because she already was out in her garden taking pictures of morning glories.

"I heard a whirring sound overhead, looked up, and had to blink several times to be sure that I wasn't imagining things," says the woman.

"All I knew to do was take the picture and holler for my husband to come and see that thing."

Vanished

Says her husband, Jack, "The craft was metallic and saucer-shaped. It scared the hell out of me. I grabbed my wife and hauled her inside, where we watched from the bedroom window as it vanished."

Hundreds panic over saucer-shaped object

Pickford called the Athens police, who confirmed the switchboard was overwhelmed with frantic UFO reports from other frightened and concerned residents.

"We don't know what it was," says a police sergeant in the south Texas town of 11,000.

"But it certainly set off a lot of excitement.

"Our switchboard was

jammed for hours," the officer adds.

The craft reportedly hovered over a suburban neighborhood, where there are no military installations or secret research plants.

"It's hard to say what would attract aliens from outer space to our sleepy little community," comments the cop.

— **BRYAN ROWLEY**