

AUSTRALIAN
CLOSE ENCOUNTER
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AUSTRALIA was gripped by UFO fever last night as a family told how their car was plucked from the road by aliens.

Still visibly frightened, Mrs. Faye Knowles appeared on television to describe her ordeal on a remote highway.

She said a huge, egg cup-shaped object loomed into her rear-view mirror as she and her three sons drove across the Nullabor Plains from Perth early on Wednesday.

She accelerated at top speed but failed to lose the UFO.

Then the terrified family stopped, got out and hid in bushes—but the mystery craft still wouldn't go away.

"It was there, waiting for us, looking for us," she said. "It was up the road a bit further from us."

"When we hopped into the car to take off again it came after us. It wouldn't leave us alone."

Then the UFO pounced on the Ford Telstar saloon, clinging to the roof.

"I wound down the window ... it came in the car like smoke. I thought we were going to die."

"We were going silly—something was going into

our heads. We did not know what it was.

"It felt like we were dying. I was screaming. I was hysterical."

The car was picked up from the road and shaken violently.

Force

Faye and her sons Patrick, 24, Sean, 21, and Wayne, 18, tried to shout but their voices became slurred as if they were talking in slow motion.

Then the car was returned to the ground with

such force that one of the tyres burst.

Patrick said: "Something seemed to be on top of us. It seemed to get a grip on the car."

"The car began to smoke. The dogs in the car started going crazy. We wound up the windows and the car began to smoke up inside."

"It smelled like it was dead bodies or something. It smelled really foul—like gas or something."

Truck driver Graham

Hewley told how he found the bewildered and frightened family in a roadhouse after the encounter.

"They were still in a state of shock," he said. "Even the dogs were cowering in the front of the car."

Damaged

"There was soot all over the car and four dents as if the car had been picked up by a magnet."

"I can't explain it but I know I saw four very terrified people."

Mr. Hewley said truck drivers had seen mysterious lights over the stretch of road for the last 30 years.

"We don't stop unless we can help it," he said.

A truck driver and car driver, travelling in the opposite direction on the same highway, also reported seeing the UFO.

And the crew of a tuna boat 50 miles away said they were buzzed by a strange object and their voices also became blurred.

There were further sightings over Tasmania.

Police said the sightings were all independent and there was no way the witnesses could have known of each other's encounters.

"We were a little bit

sceptical at first," said Sergeant Jim Furnell. "But after investigating, we are treating the reports very seriously."

Hurt

"It apparently picked the car up off the road, shook it quite violently and forced the car back with such pressure that one of the tyres was blown."

Forensic scientists will today examine the black ash left inside and outside the family's car.

The Royal Australian Air Force has been warned and is launching its own investigation.

In her television interview Mrs. Knowles make an emotional appeal for the authorities to beware the alien menace.

"There is something out there we can not explain," she said. "Something has to be done or someone is going to get really hurt."

Her husband John, who had stayed at home while his family went on a holiday and job-hunting expedition to Adelaide, said last night: "They are still in a state of shock."

"They are too frightened to travel home by car. There is no reason why they should make up a story like this."

Highway chase terror as the aliens pounce

By CHRIS ANDERSON

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