

18 JUL 1968

Taxi drive to outer space mystery

CLAIMS that a huge U.F.O. hovered over a car as it drove along a deserted road in South Tyneside have left police baffled.

The "flying saucer," measuring about 80ft. long and covered with bright lights, is said to have followed a taxi along the Coast Road while the man and woman inside watched in disbelief.

The woman driver, who works for a South Shields taxi firm and who wishes to remain anonymous, said at around 3 a.m. she picked up a man from South Shields, and was driving him home past Marsden Grotto, when they noticed the saucer-shaped object.

She said: "I was just driving along as normal when I noticed this brightly-lit object in the sky.

"As I watched, it came closer and closer until it was right by the car and following us.

"We couldn't believe what we were seeing. It was about 80ft. long, with red lights on the top and bottom



"IS THERE A MARS DEN GROTTO AROUND HERE?"

and a string of white lights along its rim.

"The roads were deserted and it followed us until I stopped the car near The Marsden Inn at Whitburn. It was just hovering above us at a height of about 30ft.

"It was definitely some sort of machine because we could see grey metal on its top. But the weirdest thing was the way it made no noise. Everything was completely silent.

"We got out of the car to have a closer look and it then backed off before disappearing over the golf course and away inland. There was nobody around and I know it seems ridiculous but we both saw it," she said.

After driving to the golf course to try to see the U.F.O. again, the taxi driver and the man decided to report the sighting to the police.

Today a police spokesman said: "We get quite a few reports of UFO sightings but this is the most dramatic I have come across.

"This woman and man are not crackpots and did not know each other before the incident, so there is nothing to indicate they would have made the story up. The whole thing is a real mystery," he said.