

14 SEP 89

UFO SCARE TERRIFIES VILLAGERS

A SOUTH Petherton couple are looking for a down-to-earth explanation for the UFO which shocked them while they were walking their dog on Monday night.

Mike and Wendy Wood, who live in Palmer Street, were coming home across the fields at Combe Bottom, between the village and Compton Durville, when they suddenly became aware of a bright light behind them.

They turned to see what they first thought was a firework coming towards them at phe-

nomenal speed.

"It was essentially a green light, with a reddish yellow edging and it was coming towards us at a hell of a rate of knots," said Mike.

"It was impossible to judge how high or big it was because of its speed. We watched it for a few seconds, then it simply disappeared.

"What made it so weird was that there was no noise at all. If it had been a firework, there would have been a hiss of propellant but we heard nothing and it didn't peter out like a

conventional firework would.

"I've seen shooting stars before and this was nothing like them. I've no idea what it was.

"I only hope no-one's experimenting with home-made explosives, because someone might get hurt."

Commented Wendy; "I was frightened to death. If Mike hadn't been with me, I would have run all the way back home."

They are now anxious to know if anyone else spotted the strange phenomenon at around 7.45pm.

Now chance to air one's UFO views

DOZENS OF PEOPLE in West Glamorgan claim to have seen flying saucers and other unidentified flying objects.

How many of them have come forward for the first time because of a Ufology Conference which will be held next month in Port Talbot.

It has been organised by Ougrap, the Open University Graduate Research into Anomalous Phenomena.

Ufology is the study of UFOs and the Port Talbot conference is the first one organised by Ougrap in Wales.

Convenor

Among the unexplained sightings the conference will discuss is the strange dome-shaped object moving through the night sky above Morriston at about 1.30 a.m. on Saturday August 12.

By Jonathan Isaacs

UFOs were also spotted at Ystalyfera in the Swansea Valley during August while a cone-shaped object was sighted over Brynhyfryd, Swansea, back in February.

Ougrap convenor Mr. Gordon Millington said today that because of the interest shown in West Glamorgan the conference will be held in Port Talbot's Grand Hotel on October 21 and 22.

He said: "I've received many registrations for the conference from local people who say they have a genuine and serious interest in the UFO phenomenon.

"Some of them have experiences they are looking forward to discussing with our team of scientific ufologists.

"It seems that for fear of ridicule they've never spoken of these experiences before,"

said Mr. Millington.

He said Ougrap took the accounts seriously even though the group might not be able to explain them.

"Ougrap is a body that is totally agnostic with regard to the phenomena it studies. We espouse no specific explanatory philosophy or religious position.

"We try to keep our minds open and responsive to any data offered," added Mr. Millington.

South Wales Evening Post, Swansea

26 SEP 89

Manchester Evening News

26 SEP 89

In a spin over UFO theory

MINI tornadoes may have caused the mysterious circles in crop fields in the south.

Some at first attributed the strange patterns to flying saucers, but UFO expert Jennie Randle said today: "There's a perfectly natural explanation.

"An almost stationary spinning vortex with considerable power causes these marks.

"The circles appear all over the country and most farmers have even seen them happening.

"Most of these mini-tornadoes only last between 5 and 10 seconds, but some have been strong enough to damage farm buildings and outhouses.

"There was a case in Goostrey in Cheshire where one lifted a barrel load of hay and dumped it down again on top of a car.

"It's a fairly rare meteorological phenomenon which blows itself out very quickly leaving an impression behind in the fields."

A joint report, by the Stockport-based British UFO Research Association and senior meteorologists, also reveals that similar shapes have been discovered by farmers in the North West.

More than 600 circles have appeared in fields

By Evening News Reporter

this summer. Two of the biggest were at a site near Chester and another at Marple.

Researchers found the only reason more circles had been reported in the south was because it had an earlier growing cycle than the north.

They also believe the increasing use of pesticides in modern agriculture means that the impact of the tornado on crops is more noticeable.

The 112-page report — Controversy of the Circles — is available from 37, Heathbank Road, Stockport, price £4.20 which includes postage and packing.