

UFO sightings along coast all night

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. OCT. 17, 1973

Reports of unidentified flying objects flooded Bay Area police telephones over a period of hours last night and early today, continuing until dawn.

Concurrent with a wave of similar reports from various parts of the nation, they began here as early as 7 p.m., according to the Coast Guard.

In a period of 4½ hours, the Coast Guard received about a dozen calls describing various colored flares, light flashes and glowing objects.

Spokesmen said the reports generally concerned objects seen off the coast, and along an area that extended from Jenner in Sonoma County south to Santa Cruz.

Several Coast Guard planes were dispatched to observe the phenomena, but they saw nothing.

San Francisco police began getting their quota of UFO reports about 11 p.m., and in the next hour received about 15 to 20 calls.

Operators said citizens, mostly in the western part of the City, said they saw different colored lights, almost all agreeing that there was some orange involved.

In addition, Sgt. Tony Balzer, on duty in the operations center at the Hall of Justice, received three calls between 11:45 and midnight from persons who apparently were reporting the same object.

It was, they said, over the southern part of the City and appeared to be about the size of a small airplane. They said it changed from white to orange or reddish orange, seemed to be round in shape, and was moving at the speed of a jet liner at what they thought was an altitude of several hundred feet.

In common with most callers, one of the three refused to identify himself. However, Edward Cottman of South San Francisco, who said he saw the object from his home, described it as having four lights, three red and one green.

From his angle, he said, it appeared as if it almost

—See Back Page, Col. 1