

Banker, Principal and Their Wives Tell of Seeing UFO in West Virginia

By JIM BLAIR

A brilliant orange-colored flying object that seemed to be searching for a place to land startled our responsible citizens in rural West Virginia. The four were returning from dinner at a mountain resort last summer when they stopped their car to watch a blinding light that suddenly appeared in the night sky, they told an ENQUIRER reporter.

"It was 10:30 p.m. and the sky was black. The object seemed to have four giant searchlights pointing earthward and moving in circles," said James V. Coste, a former radio-radar engineer for the U.S. Marine Air Corps in World War 2.

His wife said: "It looked to me as if the 'thing' was searching the earth for a place to land as it lit up the ground for several hundred feet in every direction."

"It was a baffling experience," added Oliver Porterfield, a school principal.

Mrs. Porterfield said: "I was just a little frightened. I couldn't believe my eyes. But there it was."

Both couples said they also saw a smaller, twinkling light trailing after the big, brilliant orange object.

Coste, a banker in the town of Hin-



REPORT SIGHTING: Mrs. James V. Coste, Mr. Coste, Mrs. Oliver Porterfield and Mr. Porterfield (from left) gather near place where they say they saw the bright orange, flying object.

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ton, W. Va., and also president of the Hinton Television Cable Co., said he and the others were shaken by what they saw.

"But being reasonably intelligent people, we tried to calm ourselves and study the object," he said.

The two couples got out of the car

to get a better look at the object hovering in the sky.

Coste said: "All of us moved about, trying to get a look at it from different angles. But its appearance was always the same." He described the

UFO as a round, orange mass with shafts of light sweeping downward from the bottom.

"I put on my sunglasses, thinking they would cut out some of the glare so I could get a better look.

"But the glasses didn't help a bit because its light was just too bright," Coste said.

The mysterious object seemed to hover in the air.

"At first," Porterfield said, "I thought it was a light from a car coming down a distant mountain road — but then I could see that it stayed in one place, well above the timberline of the mountain ahead."

All four watched the strange object for at least 15 minutes, last June 24, they said.

When they first sighted it, they had been driving slowly along the Greenbrier River Road, in an isolated area 13 miles east of Hinton.

"When the object finally disappeared, it really left in a hurry," Coste said.

"After it left, our eyes were so unaccustomed to the dark that we could hardly find the handles to the doors of our car," his wife added.

"I can't tell you what it was we saw that dark night," Porterfield said.

"But I am convinced that we saw something very, very real — something I will never forget."