

# Solved—riddle of lights in the sky

By TIM ZILLESSEN

**A nocturnal mystery which baffled hundreds of Yorkshire folk and had some worried about UFOs was solved today.**

Following phone calls from puzzled readers in Leeds and other parts of the county, the Yorkshire Evening Post can reveal the truth about the extra terrestrial lights in the sky.

The beams seen right across the Aire Valley are laser projected space age adverts.

Their source is at Ashley Mills in Saltaire, near Shipley, a bedding and clothing wholesalers, which is using an argon laser to project advertising messages on clouds at heights of between half a mile and a mile.

Mr. Stephen Wilkins, managing director of CPR Advertising, a Bradford agency which is looking after the "Star Wars" display, told the YEP that the futuristic messages would continue for a month between dusk and 11 p.m.

According to a director of Ashley Mills, Mr. Roger Lowley, the back-up team would cost about £40,000 for the month.

Mr. Lowley said: "It is the first time that I know of that lasers have been used on a commercial basis for advertising. I know Leeds City Council used them at Christmas but only as light beams and without any product message.

"The lasers are quite harmless because they have a very long wavelength. In fact you can stick your hand in front without doing any harm.

## Inspiring

"We have had no complaints about the lasers. People have been ringing from curiosity because it looks so technologically impressive. It is inspiring because it seems to bend with the contours of the earth.

"We have had a tremendous response, not only from the public but from nightclub owners wanting to use the lasers."

Mr. Lowley said that more powerful lasers used in America had brought complaints of pilots being blinded but their lasers had been checked out with the Environmental Health Department.

In addition, his firm had kept in close touch with the Civil Aviation Authority which had given permission for the display at Leeds-Bradford Airport.

Mr. Lowley said the local police had had a number of calls worrying about UFOs in the area but they had been able to reassure people.

**100 DROWNED**

More than 100 people