

UFO POTPOURRI

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Many in eastern U.S. see mystery lights

Associated Press

People scattered over much of the eastern United States reported a mysterious light in the night sky, and residents of Kentucky said they heard a boom and felt their houses shake.

The phenomenon late Tuesday coincided with the Perseid meteor shower, an annual occurrence lasting several days.

"I glanced up into the sky at about 10:15 p.m., and I saw this white object spiraling. At first, I thought it was an airplane or something," said Edward J. Uiszkowski of Vestal, N.Y.

There were similar reports in other parts of the East. Robert Gribble, a spokesman for the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, said he received more than 100 calls from a region bounded by Michigan, Maine, South Carolina and Louisiana.

"Some people said they saw a great big ball of fire," said Clark County, Ky., Deputy Sheriff Larry Lawson. "The people said their homes shook and windows vibrated as if there

had been an explosion or earthquake.

"All these people weren't imagining or seeing things. Some of them were very terrified over it right after it happened. Some said they smelled something like gunpowder."

Weather specialist Dick Hathaway of the Columbus, Ohio, office of the National Weather Service said he believed the light, which appeared blue-green in the northern sky, was caused by a controlled release of barium gas from a satellite that was being tested.

But workers at Cape Canaveral, Fla., the North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado Springs, Colo., and the NASA facility at Wallups Island, Va., all confirmed there were no launches Tuesday.

"It would probably be associated with the meteor showers," said a NORAD worker who declined to give his name.

"It was like three lights at once — red, green, and white. It was flashing on and off," said Tim Jones, an air traffic controller at Syracuse, N.Y.

In Buffalo, N.Y., talk show host Tom Bauerle at radio station WGR said his station was swamped with calls about the sightings just after 10 p.m.

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Wednesday, August 13, 1986

Japanese put satellites into orbit

TOKYO (UPI) — A new Japanese rocket carried two satellites into orbit Wednesday on its first flight test, improving the nation's launch capability at a time when the American and European space programs are having trouble.

The National Space Development Agency said the H-1 rocket blasted off at 5:45 a.m. from the national space center in southern Japan, 14 minutes behind schedule, and re-

leased a satellite for use by amateur radio stations and another for geodetic surveys.

The key to the rocket is its new 10.5-ton thrust LE5 engine in its second stage. The engine burns super cold liquid hydrogen with liquid oxygen — the most potent rocket combination in use, and the same propellants used by America's space shuttle main engines.

Yataro Mitsubayashi, director-general of the Science and Technology Agency, hailed the success of the first domestically designed liquid fuel engine as "a major step forward toward Japan's space development in the future."

The LE5 engine was developed by the Japanese space agency at a cost of \$286 million and was designed for more powerful rockets, which will be used to launch spacecraft in the 1990s, agency officials said.

Space industry officials in the United States have expressed an interest in the use of the new Japanese rocket to launch commercial satellites.

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