

“Ghostly Fireball” in Virginian Town

NEW YORK: The town of Suffolk, Virginia, has something better than a flying saucer

It's a ghostly, gleaming globe.

This globe has been knocking about Suffolk off and on for at least 70 years.

It is a ball of glowing light about one foot in diameter, probably a landgoing version of St. Elmo's fire, which appears at the ends of the spars of a ship under certain conditions.

Scientists think such lights are caused by decaying luminescent vegetable matter.

The Suffolk ghost-globe usually bounces about local paddocks and in and out of barns.

“Been here for years,” said Raleigh Outland, a 41-year-old Negro, to an excited New York reporter.

The reporter had been sent up after the globe had passed from the cow pastures into one of the main streets of the town and ran up and down a traffic light.

A crowd of 200 people milling about an intersection saw the light whizz down the traffic light standard and bowl off up the road.