

Astronomer Says "Saucer" May Be Meteor

The director of the Riverview Observatory, Father D. O'Connell, said last night the "flying saucer" which people reported they had seen early on Saturday was probably a bright meteor.

Seven men—one in Parkes and six in the Sydney area — said on Saturday that they saw the "saucer" about 6 a.m.

They said it was a cigar-shaped object, well lit, which flew silently and fast.

Last night the "Herald" received telephone calls about every quarter of an hour reporting "flying saucers."

Reports of "flying saucers" also came from north-eastern Victoria and from Adelaide.

Father O'Connell said last night: "The accounts given by people when they see

by people when they see something unusual are normally a little confused.

"The descriptions which were given, however, had nothing that would be inconsistent with the theory that the men had seen a meteor.

"Of course, a meteor would be travelling at a speed closer to 100,000 miles an hour than to 450, and would be far, far higher than these people estimated.

"But to the untrained eye, under certain conditions, it might well appear to be quite close and moving more slowly."

Father O'Connell said the meteor would not have been

meteor would not have been seen at any observatory, because nobody would be watching at 6 a.m.

SOUTHERN REPORTS

Mr. Kelvin Ellis, of Hawkesbury Road, Westmead, and his fiancée, Miss Roma Crittenden, of Weston Street, Harris Park, said they saw the "flying saucer" over Bargo, in southern N.S.W., while they were travelling towards Sydney on a motor cycle about 6 a.m. on Saturday.

They said its description was similar to reports published in "The Sunday Herald" yesterday.

Mr. Ellis said a car load of people passing through Bargo also saw the "flying saucer." He spoke to the motorists about it.

Mr. J. Carmody, interstate truck driver, of Station Street, Wentworthville, said he and his wife saw the "flying saucer" while they were driving through Benalla, in northern Victoria, at 3.30 a.m. on Saturday.

At Wangaratta, in north-eastern Victoria, Mr. Bob Luke, railway signalman, said yesterday he saw "an

object like a tremendous

rocket cross the sky to the east of Wangaratta at 6.10 a.m. on Saturday.

"A guard named McInerney saw it too, from the window of his van, as his train was leaving Benalla," he said.

"It was too big to be an ordinary rocket, and too slow to be a meteor."

FROM THE SEA

Mr. G. Preston, of Malabar Road, Malabar, said he saw a "flying saucer" in Sydney at 8.20 last night.

He said he saw the object for about three minutes as it was coming in from the sea at a great height.