

He took the "saucer" home

SYDNEY—Mr. Arthur Fletcher, of Harcourt Parade, Rosebery, thought he saw a "flying saucer" on his way to work early in the morning.

The "saucer" appeared as a flash of silver above his head just after he had left his home.

Suddenly it went "bang" and floated towards him.

It was a balloon.

Six feet in diameter, the balloon was silvered and had an aluminium escape valve, two batteries, and a light bulb.

As it fell another balloon soared on to a building.

Mr. Fletcher took his balloon to work, then home. He was puzzled.

"MYSTERY SOLVED"

Later the mystery was solved.

The Radio Physics Division of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation said the balloon was probably theirs.

One like it—a balloon within a balloon—is sent up every day, 70,000 to 80,000 feet, to measure wind direction and speed in the upper atmosphere.

THE DETAILS

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For the technically minded;

The silvering allows scientists to track the balloon's course with radar.

The light bulb is installed so the movements of the balloon can be observed during the first part of a night ascent (radar does not work at close distances).

The escape valve is fitted to prevent the balloon inside the balloon from bursting.

Mr. Fletcher's balloon, which was seen as a "saucer" by other people, did not rise as high as it should have done, a CSIRO man said.

Usually they float far out to sea.

THEY cost little, but they can earn you a lot—the cheap cash casual advertisements in "The Evening Advocate."
