

Astronomer Saw Strange Object in Sky

MELBOURNE: A Melbourne astronomer has reported seeing an "unidentifiable object like a rectangular sheet of aluminium" flying over the southern suburbs

He is Mr. John W. Boyle, 41-year-old vice president of the British Astronomical Association's Victorian Branch.

Mr. Boyle, who is a cartographer with the Lands Department, has been interested in astronomy for about 26 years, but he said last night: "I've never before seen anything in daylight that has been as puzzling to me.

"I have always kept an open mind on the things that people claim to have seen in the sky. Now I am convinced that there is something peculiar going on."

Mr. Boyle sighted the object from St. Kilda at 11 a.m. on Sunday, January 3, as he was taking his four-year-old son Ian to the

beach. He saw it for 15 to 20 seconds.

"My first impression was that it looked like a piece of paper being blown along by the wind—but it was a calm day, with little wind," he said.

"As it rocked from side to side it flashed in the sunlight like a sheet of aluminium. Each time it flashed a purplish halo appeared around it."