

Venus Expected To Start Things

Astronomers throughout New South Wales expect a crop of flying saucer reports to appear in the Press shortly as the planet Venus brightens and approaches the earth.

One of Newcastle's foremost astronomers said this today when commenting on a statement from Professor Otto Struve that 90 per cent. of flying saucer reports were imaginary.

Professor Struve, one of the world's leading astronomers, is visiting Australia to advise on latest developments and research in astronomy.

"Professor Struve, like most astronomers, knows that when the planet Venus approaches in the orbit between the sun and the earth it takes on a bright shimmering sickie shape and appears much larger than the other planets," the astronomer said.

"Like An Egg"

"Venus becomes so bright

"Venus becomes so bright during this stage that it may be seen early in the morning and before darkness at night when it is low on the horizon. This is the moment when people imagine that they see a fast-moving object in the sky, for Venus dances up and down and sideways like an egg boiling in a pot of water. This effect is caused by the humid atmosphere.

"It is much the same as viewing something through steam and smoke," he added.

The astronomer said that the only flying saucers which scientists had seen in Newcastle were proved to be navigation lights from aircraft and migrating birds which passed over the view of telescopes.

Attended Lecture

The Newcastle astronomer had just returned from a Sydney lecture which Professor Struve gave to scientists and astronomers.

"One of the most interesting points of Professor Struve's lecture was his announcement that re-

announcement that research in America had shown that entire galaxies move through each other and collide," he added.

"An idea of the tremendous size of a galaxy may be gained when one considers that every star and planet seen by the naked eye in the sky is only part of our own galaxy."

He said that Professor Struve would shortly go to the National Observatory at Canberra for research work and lectures.
