

Flying Saucer at U.S. Convention

New York.—A debate grew last week among the late-staying delegates to the world's first interplanetary space craft convention at Giant Rock (California) as to whether they were visited by a flying saucer on the last night of their meeting.

The convention met at Giant Rock airport, operated by Mr. George Van Tassel, who said he had sponsored the convention at the suggestion of friends from another planet.

After dark last week, a large orange fireball blazed briefly over the convention grounds, then flickered out.

Saucer believers viewed the fiery object as a "sign" that "they" were in the area and ready to land a whirling 30ft. craft, as Mr. Van Tassel had promised.

Sceptics thought it was a flame from the near-by U.S.

flame from the near-by U.S. marine base—or a gag.

Mr. Van Tassel said the fireball was probably a "nullifier" used by visitors from other worlds to rid the atmosphere of radio-activity from recent hydrogen bomb blasts.

Mr. George Williamson, of Prescott (Arizona), who said he has been in radio contact with space ship pilots since August 1952, declared the fireball was "definite evidence of saucer activity in the area."

Other saucer "experts" later aired their pet views and described bizarre experiences to the delegates.

Mr. Truman Bethurum, of Redondo Beach (California), said he came face-o-face with a female space-ship pilot at Momon Mesa (Nebraska) in 1952.

"The captain was a pretty girl who looked 26, but was really a grandmother," Mr. Bethurum said. "She was from the other side of the moon and bossed a crew of 32 men."