

BROTHERS WHO SAW THE "FLYING SAUCER" FIRST



**Guess What—Star,
Saucer Or Spots?**

Eric (left) and Ron Webb, two poultry farmers, were the first to draw the Mundijong townspeople's attention to the "saucer."

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Saucer Or Spots?**

Flying-saucer fever gripped Mundijong yesterday when a strange object was seen hovering above the town at 10.45 a.m.

All eyes were turned skywards, telephone wires hummed, the R.A.A.F. was called in and Pressmen sped to the scene.

The luminous spot, which was judged to be between 30,000ft. and 48,000ft. from the earth, was described as a meteorological balloon. "Heaven knows what," a piece of paper, spots before the eyes, a hovering flying saucer and even a star.

In fact it was a planet—Venus—now 70,000,000 miles from the earth.

At 10.45 a.m. Eric Webb (22) and his brother Ron (20) were watching a jet plane flying over Mundijong.

As it disappeared, its place was taken by the bright white sphere.

After confirmation from a neighbour that she too could

see the object they drove half a mile to the township where they reported it to the postmaster, Mr. N. Feast.

Crowds Gather

News of the sighting spread quickly and crowds gathered in the main street, fingers pointed and heads turned.

in the main street, fingers pointed and necks craned.

Some observers, whose necks grew stiff, lay on their backs to watch the object.

Interest mounted as the R.A.A.F. reported that the plane had dropped no object over the town nor were there any balloons floating free.

At lunch time schoolchildren joined in the game of guess what and added their versatile imaginations, coloured with spacemen, to the main topic of conversation.

A sudden end came to the speculation and game of guess what when at 4 p.m. Mr. Feast was notified by the R.A.A.F. station, Pearce, that the vision was Venus.

Brightest Body

The Government Astronomer (Mr. H. S. Spig) said yesterday afternoon that Venus was the brightest celestial object with the exception of the sun and the moon.

It was now approaching its greatest brilliancy for its position east of the sun.

Until mid-October Venus would continue to get brighter after which it would rapidly move and appear closer to the

move and appear closer to the sun at sunset.

In mid-November it would pass into the morning sky.

Very clear atmosphere and the absence of cloud had also combined to make the planet more clearly visible than usual.

It had been seen all last week from Mullewa.

At present it could be seen clearly about 8 p.m. at an altitude of 45 degrees in a direction 20 degrees north of west.