

US Navy tests on 'saucer nests'

BRISBANE, Monday.—Tests used by the US Navy on suspected "flying saucer" bases in America will be used tomorrow by Queensland University physicists on samples from the "saucer nests" found at Tully.

"If we get a positive result from the tests we will at least know that what was seen at Tully was not a conventional aircraft or a natural phenomenon," university laboratory assistant Mr S. Seers said today.

Mr Seers, who is in the university's physics department, is also the Flying

ment, is also the Flying Saucer Research Bureau president.

"Similar nests to those in Tully were found in the US after reported sightings of unidentified flying objects," he said.

"The US Navy's tests found that grass from around the nests had a rad-

around the nests had a radiation count of 100 a second compared with a normal count of one a second. In addition the roots had been charred."

These would be two of the factors tomorrow's tests would be examining. The grass from Tully would arrive early tomorrow and tests should be finished by tomorrow afternoon.

A spokesman for a Brisbane helicopter company said today the "nests" could not have been caused by a helicopter.

"A 'copter's rotor might flatten the grass, but the grass would soon spring up again and it wouldn't die," he said.

Mr George Pedley, a banana grower near Tully, said he saw a saucer-like aircraft take off from swamp land last Wednesday. He found a "nest" of flattened reeds and grass 30 feet in diameter. Since then two smaller "nests" about half this size have been found.

The motorist, Mr Lee Marshall, 21, of Katanning, said he noticed a row of bright lights on the brow of a distant hill as he was driving towards Katanning at 12.30am.

"They looked like the lights of a semi-trailer, and I did not pay much attention," he said. "Then as I

tion," he said. "Then as I drove over the crest of a hill, I was blinded by a bright yellow light."

Mr Marshall said he stopped his car, turned out the lights, and saw a large object hovering about half a mile away. It had a revolving top like a lighthouse tower, and omitted bright red, yellow and green lights.

The object shifted about in the sky, varying between about 50 and about 2,000 feet in altitude, and made a noise like swarming bees, Mr Marshall said.

"I watched, unable to move, for nearly 1½ hours," he said. "Then the lights appeared to become brighter and the object soared off towards Katanning at a terrific pace."

He arrived home about 2 am and woke his parents, Mr and Mrs W. Marshall, and his 19-year-old brother, Ken. All four watched the object for about 15 minutes as it circled the town before heading away to the south-east, he said.