

SKETCHES

Mrs Benger said she was on her way to Adelaide with her cousin, Mrs Dorothy Simpson, her five year old daughter Marissa, Tilla - Jane 19 months, and Mrs Simpson's son Pedro 5 months.

She drew rough sketches of it for the News this week, and described it as "mushroom shaped and glowing with a bright light."

"We were about 70 miles south of Alice Springs on August 27 when I stopped the car because I was getting cold," she began her story.

"It was a clear night with a full moon and I was looking out onto the desert and thinking how terrific it was.

"Then I saw a brilliant yellow light about 7 or 10 miles away on the hills, with a green light flashing on top to the right."

Mrs Benger said she watched the light for about 15 or 20 minutes.

The light would fade out, and then return to its normal brilliance.

IRREGULAR

"It was also moving irregularly in the sky; to the right and the left, and then up and down."

"Suddenly I realised it might be a UFO, though I had never seen one before.

"I didn't believe in them, or not believe in them."

"We were not scared, it was just a big light."

"We were really excited, we realised it was only about 400 yards away, and we could have walked there in about ten minutes. We were hoping the craft would land."

Then the light disappeared, and the group drove on.

FOLLOWED

A short time later the light re-appeared on the right, swung across to the left and followed the car.

"It would go zooming ahead and stop in the sky," Mrs Benger said. "When it was stationary the mushroom shape would be upright, but when it moved it turned sideways and travelled head first.

"We wondered how, if anything or anyone was inside it, how they could be upright one minute and sideways the next."

Mrs Benger said the group could not understand on the first night (the UFO was seen on the following night) why they were not frightened.

"It was like we were mesmerised," she said.

The car then passed a road with a sign saying "8 miles to meteorite crater" (later Mrs Benger discovered the Leyland brothers had travelled to the meteor site, which was about three miles wide and 200 to 300 feet deep, and discovered Aboriginal drawings of a type of spaceman).

As they were inspecting the tyre the UFO came in to a paddock about half a mile away.

"It was about four times as high as a light pole up in the air," she said.

Later the group realised that when the UFO appeared close to the car, the headlights went very dim and stayed in that condition until the object had moved away.

The car reached a Pioneer tourist bus on the side of the road, but as they were preparing to wake the passengers up the object faded from view.

A semi-trailer was also parked further down the road, but the party was unable to wake the driver.

"Finally we came to another small car," said Mrs Benger, "but by this time we were worried about how people would react.

"You just don't wake someone up in the middle of the desert by banging on their car and expect them to look at something in the sky," she said.

The object rose higher into the sky as the sun came up, and Mrs Benger noticed it was a dull, metallic silver color with a more involved structure than she had first thought.

She said the group talked about the sighting all the next day, and even tried to make

The object appeared ahead of the car, and would then reappear behind it.

Ten miles past Pimba Mrs Benger noticed it on the right hand side of the car.

"It lifted off the ground, and lit up a perfect circle of green, iridescent light, a very distinct circle," she said.

Soon after this the car travelled past a road on the left side of the Adelaide road.

Mrs Benger looked up this road, and saw "something about 100 yards away.

"It's still in my mind "The road was about

"I was screened ruthlessly by government officials," she said. "Scientists, lecturers as well as people interested in UFO's wanted to talk to me."

Mrs Benger said she had made many tape-recordings of her experience, and fourteen people who went over them told her it was definitely a UFO.

Now she wants to make sure any further sightings in the Territory can be examined more closely.

If you are interested, her phone number is 85 2046.

"But no cranks," she said.

AUSTRALIA