

MYSTERIOUS BOULDERS FOUND IN MINE 'COULD BE UFO's'

UFO experts believe that three disc-shaped boulders found in a South Australian coalmine could be fossilised flying saucers.

A sample from one of the boulders is being analysed at Adelaide Museum this weekend, and a report is expected tomorrow.

The three boulders, one bell-shaped and two saucer-shaped, were found nine metres below the surface in the Leigh Creek open-cut coalmine.

Engineers at the mine, in South Australia's far north, estimate that the objects each weigh about 360 kilograms.

Leigh Creek residents thought at first that the objects might be fossilised sea shells.

One of the first to draw attention to them was Mr M. E. Lawrie, a Port Adelaide diver.

He was diving in a lagoon in the Leigh Creek area when the mining authorities showed them to him.

Mr Lawrie said: "One of the three objects is broken and is exactly 1.4 metres in diameter.

"They are 46 centimetres high at the centre, and they form perfect circles. They look rusty and may be millions of years old.

"They are certainly not fossilised shells."

The Australian Flying Saucer Research Society hopes to have the rocks analysed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

Mr Colin Norris, the society's public relations officer, yesterday challenged scientists to explain how the rocks came to be in a coalfield.

"It's as contrasting and remote as finding fossilised elephant bones on Mt Everest," he said.

"I hope they can't explain it.

"The more scientists can't explain it the more excited I will be because if it is unusual it is very possibly extra-terrestrial."

Mr Norris said that according to Aboriginal folklore a giant craft landed in the area thousands of years ago, and people got out and lit a fire to signal their arrival.

"I take legend to be more authentic than some of our scientific theories," he said.

Another spokesman for the society said that the Aboriginal legend tied in with scientific thought on one point.

"Scientists believe the field was burnt out after a large meteorite hit in the prehistoric era."

Leigh Creek coalmine supplies fuel to power stations at Port Augusta and Port Adelaide.

US meeting

Meanwhile, in Chicago, the man credited with starting current interest in UFOs, Mr Kenneth Arnold, 62, said this week that reported sightings of unidentified flying objects over the past 30 years strengthened the theory

that Earth might be under study by extra-terrestrial beings.

Mr Arnold was in Chicago for the opening session last night of a three-day international UFO congress, which is expected to attract 1,500 people to a series of lectures, panel discussions and screenings of classic science-fiction films.

Mr Arnold was flying his light plane near Mount Rainier, in Washington, more than 30 years ago when he saw nine brightly pulsating objects on the mountain.

Since then millions of people have claimed to have spotted a UFO. Some even claim to have been taken aboard the ships.

A recent Gallup poll showed that 51 per cent of the American public believes in UFOs.

A 1973 survey found 15 million people who

claimed to have seen them.

President Jimmy Carter, while Governor of Georgia, made a UFO sighting report along with a couple of State troopers.

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