

THE AUSTRALIAN NOV 6, 78

THE WHOLE TOWN'S TALKING ABOUT UFOS

By ELIZABETH JOHNSTON

UFO fever is gripping the little town of St George in southern Queensland.

Constable Neville Johnstone confirmed yesterday that there had been two sightings by a number of people within the past five weeks.

"The description they have given is of a triangular shape about the size of a fridge with a glowing sort of white light," he said. "Some say the object followed them along a road and then disappeared behind them.

"The people involved are responsible, well known around the district. We don't doubt they have been seeing something very unusual.

"Five or six people saw one at the same time — all responsible people. "One fellow took a shot at it. His

father told him: 'Don't shoot the damn thing it might shoot back.'"

Sightings have been made at Rosehill Station, owned by the Beardmore family, on September 29, and near St George Hospital about three weeks ago.

Among the people who have seen UFOs at St George are a former MP, Mr Eddie Beardmore, his son John, a former shire councillor and the town's newspaper editor, Mr Max Pringle.

Their descriptions tally except for coloring, which ranges from either a stark white light to a glowing orange ball the size of a refrigerator which chases cars at tree-top level.

A sighting on September 29 involved a group of youths who said they were chased across country by a glowing red object. At times the object

swooped in front of their car and they had to brake to avoid it.

During one of the swoops the car's engine stopped.

When they reached Rosehill homestead the youths, who included Mr John Beardmore's son Murray, shot at the object. They claimed it spun round and lifted off to the west.

Mr Beardmore said he went outside when the terrified youths arrived home and saw an orange ball receding.

"It was moon-sized by the time I got in the car and went after it," he said.

"We lost sight of the light some miles from the house but picked it up again later in the east. It disappeared about 11 pm."

John and Eddie Beardmore and Mr Pringle all report seeing a similar object 18 months ago.