

FIRE-BALLS SCARE WELSH

POLICE patrol cars and coastguards were called out to track down "balls of fire" that frightened Welsh coastal villages last night.

The patrol cars were sent in answer to appeals from families who telephoned Glamorgan Constabulary headquarters at Bridgend.

Coastguards were alerted to help in the search.

The balls of fire—vivid red—lit up sand dunes and farms at Kenfig, near Port Talbot.

Mr. Dan Rees, of Kenfig Farm, told me, "Two great red flashes

VILLAGES

seemed to come from the direction of Port Talbot as if they had been fired from the Abbey Steelworks.

"The sky glowed as they passed overhead in the direction of Cornelly. I have never seen anything so brilliantly red."

A 16-year-old girl and a quarry workman reported seeing three "balls of fire." Scores of other people said they saw mysterious lights at about the same time.

Coastguards who scoured the beaches found nothing. Patrol cars returned from a street-by-street search of villages with nothing to report.

The coastguards discounted the possibility that the lights were flares from the sea.

Police headquarters said: "We have no definite theories about the fireballs. Nobody seems to know what they are."

The R.A.F. Meteorological Offices at Rhoose and Pembroke Dock said they had received no reports on the flashes. Neither could they offer any explanation.

Western Mail,
Tuesday, Jan. 22nd
1957.