



Hot crystals riddle after hailstorm

Western Mail Reporter

STRANGE, QUARTZ-LIKE crystals, believed to have dropped from the sky during a severe hailstorm in Haverfordwest last weekend, will be examined by officials of the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association.

The crystals, some up to a quarter-of-an-inch long, are said to change colour and generate their own heat. Some were collected by a young unemployed baker who found them scattered over his footpath, window-sill and the adjoining road.

Suggestions have been made that the mysterious crystals could be pieces of rock salt spread on the road by gritting lorries, but Preseli District Council said they did not have any lorries working in that area at the time.

The man who found the crystals, Mr. Henry Evans, aged 28, of Hawthorn Rise, Haverfordwest, said yesterday he was amazed to see them.

"I don't believe they can be rock salt from a gritting lorry because the window-sill of the house is not only five-feet high but is 25 feet from the roadway," he said.

The mystery of the crystals began early on Saturday when a hailstorm struck the area.

Mr. Evans went outside where a neighbour pointed

out reddish-brown pieces of stone scattered everywhere. "I collected about 25 of them and noticed they started to change colour," he said.

"They changed from reddish-brown to fawn and did not melt like hailstones. I also found out that holding a number in my hand they also began to generate their own heat. I thought at first they could be from a gritting lorry, but later discovered these stones were only in one part of the estate. It was all very strange."

Some of the larger stones are being sent for analysis to the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association traces department by the association's South Wales Co-ordinator, Mr. Randall Jones Pugh, of Roch, near Haverfordwest.

"There is nothing para-normal about this and it is probably just a meteorological quirk," said Mr. Jones Pugh. "They are of a quartz-like material and are definitely not rock salt."

"There have been odd showers of peculiar debris all over the world and these particles fell in a circumscribed area. It is extremely interesting and comparatively rare."

Previous showers of debris throughout the world have included small fish, blocks of ice, a flock of dead and dying ducks, a substance resembling silk, large quantities of dust and large crystals of salt.



UFO investigator Mr. Randall Jones Pugh (right) examines some of the mysterious crystals with Mr. Henry Evans, of Haverfordwest, who found them.