

'Flying Saucers' Set West Coast City by Ears

Portland, Ore., July 4. AP. The "flying saucers"—or maybe they were something else—staged a wild Fourth of July celebration today that aroused more hullabaloo than ten years of firecrackers.

Scores of citizens—including every branch of police in the area—reported seeing what they thought were silver disks sporting madly about overhead. Excited residents jammed newspapers and police switchboards with calls, and the police issued an "all cars" broadcast.

The reports came shortly after a flight of B-29 bombers, followed by P-51 fighters, passed over the city. One theory was that a saucer-minded citizenry had misinterpreted the flash of high-flying fighters.

The first saucer reports came from southeast Portland, where residents said flying disks were sporting above the Onka amusement park. Two police patrol cars said they saw these, too, "On by the sun, going east."

A few minutes later Sheriff Martin T. Pratt's deputies reported seeing "20 in a line going like hell in the west." Officials at the state police, the Vancouver, Wash., sheriff's office, and the Vancouver city police said they, too, saw shiny, flashing disks flying very high.

At Eugene, 125 miles south, E. F. Smith, an assistant cashier for the Southern Pacific Railroad, said he saw silvered disks being dropped from a plane. He didn't see them land, though.

The Oregonian, deciding to take a personal hand in the mystery, dispatched a reporter and photographer on a saucer-hunting safari. "There is nobody up here but us and the birds," reporter Paul Swing told his paper after flying throughout the area at a 10,000-foot altitude. "On second thought, there are no birds, either."

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