

Three "flying saucers"

SUNDAY, 23RD JANUARY 1966 2

Uni. to test 'saucer nests'

BRISBANE, Sun. — Scientists at Queensland University will examine samples of mud and dry reeds from north Queensland's "flying-saucer nests."

THE samples were taken from three "nests" in the Tully district.

Mr. George Pedley, a banana grower, found the first one, after he had seen a blue-grey saucer-shaped object rise about 25 yards in front of him.

He was driving his tractor through a swamp.

He said he heard the saucer take off with a loud hissing noise.

He went to the spot where it had been and found the reeds had been dried out in a small circular area.

They also had been swept in a circular pattern.

Mr. Tom Warren, a cane farmer, and Mr. Hank Penning, a school teacher, found the other two nests while they were walking around the lagoon a few miles away.

The lagoon is on a property owned by Mr. Albert Pennisi, near Tully.

Today Mr. Pennisi waded into the swamp to pick some of the reeds.

He said something had sucked grass roots and

mud to the top of the water.

He said some reeds and mud would be flown to Brisbane tomorrow.

Mr. R. Russell, a member of the committee of the Queensland Flying Saucer Research Bureau, said tonight radioactivity tests should help to decide if the "nests" were a freak of nature or had been caused by something.

MONDAY 24 TH JANUARY 1966

spotted

● Policeman saw "bubbles"

BRISBANE, Sat. — Three separate reports of flying objects mystified people in North Queensland this week.

One report came from Cooktown Police Sergeant R. Hagerty.

Sergeant Hagerty was driving with his wife on a lonely road on Thursday night when they saw "bubbles" about 30 inches in diameter floating above the road.

He drove over them and they disappeared beneath the car.

He said later: "We think they were probably weather balloons."

However, a RAAF spokesman said today there still was no explanation for the three mystery sightings.

● Hissing noise

The first sighting came last Monday when Tully farmer George Pedley was driving his tractor.

In broad daylight he saw an object on the ground about 40 yards away.

It made a loud hissing noise, then rose and hovered above the trees before dipping and taking off at high speed.

Since then scores of people have visited the spot where Mr. Pedley saw "the thing."

All have confirmed that the brush in a circular area was mysteriously flattened.

There was no sign of burning.

Last night Mrs. M. Hyde of Mareeba, North

Queensland, told police she had spent every night for a week watching a large mysterious object in the sky.

She said it appeared in the eastern sky about 10 p.m. and remained until 2 a.m.

Sometimes it turned over and its lights went out.

Then it shot off at high speed, but soon reappeared again.

'FLYING SAUCER



HANK PENNING

From "The Sun's" special investigator Ben Davie

TULLY, Monday. — Space fever has gripped this little Queensland township following discovery of "three flying saucer nests" in nearby marshy country.

Hundreds of people from all over north Queensland are pouring into the area to inspect the "nests."

Along with the influx of visitors have come wild rumours about the origin of the nests and the "spaceship" sighted by local farmer George Pedley, 27.

In bars and at the breakfast table people are talking of little else.

Arguments are raging between a little hard core of sceptics and the overwhelming number of "true believers."

RADIOACTIVITY

But the evidence is mounting that something is going on, and local authorities are taking the matter seriously.

Only a few people doubt Pedley's word that he saw a strange saucer-shaped craft take off from one of his paddocks last Wednesday.

Pedley's sighting was only one of dozens reported in the Tully area during the past two months.

No one doubts the existence of the three "nests," one of which was found by Pedley and two by farmer Tom Warren and schoolteacher Hank Penning.

Just about everyone in the town has been out to inspect them.

The R.A.A.F. has taken the reports seriously enough to ask for clippings from the "nests."

These have already been collected by local police sergeant Vince Moylan.

"WAR DEVICE"

They will be examined for traces of radio-activity.

A special R.A.A.F. team also will investigate any further flying saucer sightings from the area.

A special series of questions will be put to any person seeing what he believes to be a flying object.

"This whole business has the whole town mystified—and a little frightened," local furniture manufacturer Rob Black told me today.

"A lot of people here believe that what George Pedley saw was a spaceship from another planet.

HIDEOUT

BIG AIR FORCE INQUIRY

"Nobody has talked about anything else since last Wednesday.

"You'll find very few who think it was a hoax or an illusion.

"Most people seem to think that the only logical explanation is that the Government is testing a new war device up here and doesn't want to say anything about it."

The first nest found by George Pedley covered an area of 30 feet in diameter.

It was in a swamp, and the reeds had been flattened in a clockwise direction.

"If I had mentioned this a week ago you could have called me a madman," Pedley said today.

"But now I'm convinced that what I saw was a flying saucer or a

space ship of some kind."

It was 9 a.m. when Pedley heard a loud hissing noise and saw, 25 yards in front of him, a "space ship" rise swiftly out of a swamp called Horseshoe Lagoon.

Pedley said the craft, blue-grey, about 25ft across and 9ft high, spun vertically to about 60ft before moving off to the south-west.

"It was all over in a few seconds," he said.

"It moved at a terrific speed."

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Strine-gers from outer space



"ADLARS WEFOWN SUMMON OOSPEEGS OW LANWITCH!"

Saucer 'nests' riddle

Residents of many towns of Northern Queensland are flocking to Tully to see the mystery "flying saucer nests" in a swamp near the town.

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Albert Pennisi, who owns the area around Horseshoe Lagoon, told me about the "space ship" dreams he had in the week leading up to George Pedly's sighting.

"I'd get them almost every night," he said. "And they were beginning to worry me."

"I couldn't understand them."

"It was always the same. This thing like a giant dish would come out of nowhere and land nearby."

"And I would watch it in my dream and get real afraid before it went away."

"Then on Wednesday morning about five o'clock my dog suddenly seemed to go out of its mind."

"It was howling like a mad thing and raced off toward the lagoon."

2 NESTS

Next day, Mr Warren, of Euramo, and Mr Penning, discovered two more "nests" near the first one.

News of these finds brought a horde of sight-seers to the scene, near Euramo, seven miles from Tully.

They came from Cardwell, 28 miles away, from Innisfail, 35 miles north and even from Ingham, about 60 miles south.

Whole families drove into the area at the weekend to see the "nests" and settled down near by to picnic lunches.

I heard the first of the new rash of rumours as far south as Townsville, 135 miles away.

A taxidriver told me about the elderly Tully man who said he had seen saucer-like objects for several days.

"Everyone thought 'well, he's getting on,'" said the taxidriver.

"But when the nests were found people started taking notice of him."

Bill Kelly, a Tully pensioner, told me over his morning wash, "of all the places in Australia these things are supposed to have landed on a useless marsh near Tully."

SCEPTIC

"Takes some believing, doesn't it?"

But local businessman Bob Black said he visited the scene a sceptic and came away convinced "there is something in this flying saucer business."

"I don't think those nests were made by crocodiles, like some people say," he said.

Shire Clerk, Mr J. W. Pender, said, "I can't believe in flying saucers."

"But nobody has yet come up with a logical explanation of what has been happening."

"And the nests have added a touch of mystery."

TUESDAY 25TH JANUARY 1966

2 U.F.O. OVER TOWN

At KATANNING, Lee Marshall, 21, said the flying object had a revolving top like a lighthouse. It made a noise like swarming bees and disappeared after two hours.

[WEST. AUST.]

MORE 'SAUCER NESTS' FOUND



From "Sun" special investigator Ben Davie

TULLY, Tuesday.—Two more "flying saucer" nests were discovered yesterday close to the three found since last Wednesday.

One of the nests is a floating platform of clotted roots and weeds apparently torn by tremendous force from the mud bottom under 5 feet of water.

Samples of earth and reeds from the nest have been rushed to the Physics Department at Queensland University for tests.

Cane farmer Lou Larchi and his nephew, Van Klaphake, of Grafton Road, Casula, N.S.W., discovered the latest two "nests."

Mr Larchi said he thought they were older "nests" than those previously found.

STINGS

"I did not believe in flying saucers before, but I do now," Mr Larchi said.

"The nests could not possibly have been caused by whirlwinds. A whirlwind would have whisked everything away."

Yesterday I drove down the mile-long track past acres of sugar cane to the Horseshoe Lagoon where the nests were located.

This is crocodile country, a place of swamp and stagnant water. A 10-footer was seen here only last week.

It is a place for wood pheasants and kingfishers and blue-green

Floating in swamp

butterflies among the palms and pandanus trees.

There are ants which hang their nests from the branches of blue-gum saplings.

And there are mosquitoes and huge black flies that sting like blazes.

As far as I am concerned, if the Martians want the place they can have it.

I saw the clearings in the reeds where "they" took off and it was as everyone had described it.

In a circle, roughly 30ft in diameter, the reeds had been cut and flattened in a clockwise direction.

I am none the wiser. In such things I will believe any story of explanation—until a better one comes along.

And there have been some beauties — the playground of crocodiles in love, the birthplace of whirlwinds and, of course, flying saucers.

With he was hard-headed, life-long Queensland, Alex Bordujenko, a former racehorse owner, who now makes book on the Townsville

One of three "nests" found near Tully in Queensland. Samples of the grass in the nests have been sent to the R.A.A.F. who will make tests for radio-activity. One nest was about 30 feet across.

BOTTLES

Most Tully people discount the whirlwind theory. They say the weather was fine and whirlwind-free on Wednesday.

Most people, too, rule out the possibility of a practical joker at work.

The difficulty of working in a swamp would have spoiled the joke before it started.

That, it seems, leaves flying saucers — and a surprising number of people rae braving the sniggers of their friends and are accepting that explanation.

About 1,000 car-loads of visitors have made the pilgrimage to the swampy wonderland since Thursday.

Weird behaviour of Tully television in recent weeks is blamed by many residents on "flying saucers."