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FIVE-STATE WHATZIT

Well, It Sure Was Some Ball of Fire

It has been pretty well established today that the "mass of flaming, incandescent material" which flashed across the sky over Washington and five eastern states last night was a meteor, a flying saucer "as big as a washtub," or a mass of flaming, incandescent material.

The Naval Observatory, the Weather Bureau and observers at National Airport lean toward the meteor theory.

Scores of Washingtonians, who saw it, leaned in all directions. Police remained stolidly upright, and the FBI had no comment.

HOW IT LOOKED

But citizens here, in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio couldn't be silenced.

They said:

- "Suddenly this thing came swooping down from the eastern skies. It looked like it was right above the housetops. It was a ball of bright greenish fire with a long tail." (This was a housewife).

- "I thought it was a flying saucer. I thought it was a flare at first—that is, I thought it was a flare until the darned thing swooped down—and then up again. It seemed to follow the contours of the road." (Army veteran).

- "It looked at first look like a plane on fire, it was that big. It

was sun-colored with a tail." (Suburbanite.)

- Shaped like a star "about as big as the inside of a tennis racket." (12-year-old boy.)

SHOCKING

Four Frederick farmers saw "a ball shooting across the horizon."

Near Washington, three United Press correspondents said it was like this:

- "A rocket with a fiery tail . . . It shocked us, it looked so close." (Frank Eleazer.)

- "A big magnesium flare . . . It gave off sparks." (Robert Loftus.)

- It plunged out of the sky "very fast," like a plane shot down in the war. It was trailing a tail of flame."—(John A. Goldsmith.)

George Lincoln, of 756 S. Greenbrier-st, Arlington, saw something "about as big as a washtub. I was sure it was going to crash, some place," he said.

A Maryland state trooper, sitting out his lonely vigil atop Negro Mountain in far Western Maryland, said "it" passed over him, too.

Times-Herald _____
 Wash. Post _____
 Wash. News _____
 Wash. Star _____
 N.Y. Herald Tribune _____
 N.Y. Mirror _____
 N.Y. Compass _____

Date: SEP 13 1952

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 NOT RECORDED
 56 SEP 19 1952

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 58 SEP 24 1952

Flying Saucers

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