

Sighting 'Shakes' Scientists

Some of the nation's top scientists are "pretty shook up" about the mysterious flying objects sighted in New Mexico and West Texas skies this week, said Charles Capen Wednesday night.

Capen, connected with several scientific projects at White Sands Proving Ground, N. M., and the Physical Sciences Laboratory at New Mexico A&M, said, "This is something that hasn't happened before.

"The scientists have heard the cry 'wolf' so much they don't get excited easily, but some of the top scientists are pretty shook up "about this thing."

Capen said the subject of the objects was "pretty hushed up" at White Sands Wednesday, although they had been the principal topic of conversation earlier in the week.

"They just weren't talking about it today," he said. "The topic of conversation has switched back to Sputnik II and the possible launching of a Russian lunar rocket."

He said instruments had been set up by White Sands Proving Ground and the Las Cruces Astronomical Society in hopes of catching a glimpse of a rocket if one was launched during the lunar eclipse early Thursday.

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If a rocket was launched, Capen said the cameras possibly would catch a silhouette of the rocket or a flash of color going toward the moon.

MANY SEE VENUS

Many El Pasoans thought they saw one of the mysterious flying objects Wednesday night. But it was identified as the planet Venus.

Venus, according to Capen, is closer to earth than usual during this time of year.

"The planet appears in the west, near the horizon," he said, "and haze in the atmosphere could give it a redish color. The planet will move closer to the earth until the first week in December, when it will be bright enough to cast a shadow.

"This sort of thing happens quite often, but people weren't aware of it until they began watching the sky for the satellites and flying saucers."

The first mysterious object sighted was near Levelland, Texas, early last Sunday, where autos were stalled in the vicinity of the object. More cars were stalled near Orogrande, N. M., Monday, when an object of similar description was sighted there.