

THE AUSTRALIAN SPHERES

A number of readers have asked us for latest information concerning the mystery spherical objects which fell on Australian soil during 1963. Brief reference was made to these incidents in the World Round Up section of the **FLYING SAUCER REVIEW**, but no further evidence of a conclusive nature has been received. We print the following summary of the mystery with due acknowledgements to the **UFO Investigator** (June-September issue), the official bulletin of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena of Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

The odd metal "space" spheres found in New South Wales and Australia, in April and mid-July 1963, still have not been identified, according to the Australian Minister of Supply, Mr. Allen Fairhall. Minister Fairhall stated that his inquiries to the U.S. and U.S.S.R. space agencies have drawn a blank.

The first mystery ball, 12lb. hollow sphere 14 inches in diameter, was discovered on April 8, 1963, in a desolate part of Bouilla Station, New South Wales. Mr. J. McLure, who found it, said no one else had been in the area for 50 years. Scientists failed in their efforts to open the sphere with files and hacksaws.

On April 30, Minister Fairhall told the House of Representatives that the sphere had been definitely identified as part of a space vehicle. He said it had not yet been opened as it might contain

"something of scientific interest." He added, "It's a million-to-one chance that a piece of orbiting hardware should survive the temperature of re-entry and be recovered in one piece." Australian scientists said later it might have been protected by a heat shield.

On June 28, the second "space ball" fell, in New South Wales, 60 miles from the first location. This one weighed 18 lb. and was 16 inches in diameter. It was made of the same puzzling metal.

The third sphere fell on July 12, near Muloorina, in South Australia. It was six inches in diameter and had an opening in it.

Earlier, Australian officials had said the first sphere would be cut in half for scientific examination. To date, so far as NICAP can learn, there have been no further announcements.

The highly technical work and cost required to build such spheres seems to rule out any hoax answer. Both the U.S. and U.S.S.R. have denied any connection. Even if the spheres were earth-made, all three would hardly fall by accident in this one area. To drop them there deliberately would require precise re-entry by remote-control, also retro-firing jets, which the spheres did not have.

If they were extraterrestrial, some more advanced control mechanism might be used. In this case, the Australian Government may have found the answer—and possibly a clue to their purpose—on opening the spheres. To the best of our knowledge, Australian officials have been silent as to what was discovered.

Awards for Essays on Gravity

In 1964 for our Fifteenth Year the Trustees are offering Five Awards for short Essays for the purpose of stimulating thought and encouraging work on Gravity. The stipulations follow:

(1) These Awards will be made by us on June 1, 1964 for the best 1500 word essays * on *what Gravity is, how it works and how it may be controlled.*

(2) **The First Award will be \$1000.00; the Second Award will be \$300.00; the Third Award will be \$200.00; the Fourth Award will be \$150.00; the Fifth Award will be \$100.00.**

(3) Essays must be received before April 15, 1964. One essay only will be accepted from anyone who is seriously interested in the application of Gravity to practical uses for the benefit of humanity.

(4) All essays must be typewritten, double spaced, in English, *with two carbon copies.*

(5) The decision of the Judges will be final. No essays or copies can be returned but writers are free to publish after June first. Preference will be given to essays written especially for these Awards.

(6) Please write a title covering the area of thought expressed in your essay; and a summary paragraph of 100 words or less on a separate sheet.

(7) Please attach a separate sheet giving a short biographical sketch of yourself for use by the press in case you earn an Award.

Address: Gravity Research Foundation, New Boston, N.H.
George M. Rideout, President.

* It may be less than 1,500 words; but if more the judges have the right not to accept same.