

RARE NORTHERN LIGHTS DISPLAY IN SOUTHLAND

Aurora's Blood-Red Glow Observed Over Widespread Region

The blood-red glow of an aurora borealis, luminous phenomenon of the Arctic regions, spilled over to light the Southland skies early today.

The borealis, also called "northern lights," is a common sight in the northern regions, but it seldom is seen this far south, and it caused a commotion of calls to police; Sheriff's deputies and newspapers by startled observers.

Confirmation of an aurora was contained in a report received by the U.S. Weather Bureau at International Airport, from a pilot flying over Seattle, who remarked about the "very good aurora borealis" he had just seen.

Radio Signals Fade

And at the Police Department's Central Communications in Los Angeles, operators reported they had trouble with fading radio signals, which is commonly associated with the electrical disturbance of an aurora.

It lasted at least two hours. A. H. Holmstead, night assistant at Mt. Wilson Observatory, said he first saw a red glow in the sky, to the northwest, at 11:30 p.m. At 1:30 a.m. a fireman's daughter in Altadena said the ruby-tinted light was reflected on the window panes of the house.

Changes Slowly

Whittier Police Officers Guy Gilmore and Blaine Johnson watched the mantle of red in the sky from their patrol car. It appeared to be circular, they said, blood red in color toward the center and fading at the edges. It changed in size as it moved very slowly southward, according to their observations.

A resident in Fullerton said it looked as if "one fifth of the sky is lit up." In Downey, south of Whittier, observers said the light was almost maroon in color, it was so deep.

Calls came from Tujunga, Sunland, Malibu.

The glow was believed spread by reflection on an

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