

Streamers Mistaken for Searchlights

Washington Witnesses Rare Display Of Red and Green Northern Lights

A rare display of Aurora Borealis or "Northern Lights" were seen over Washington last night, astronomers at the Naval Observatory reported.

An astronomer reported seeing vertical, bright streamers which he at first mistook for searchlights. He said some of them were red. Other observers saw some green ones.

The astronomer said: "Northern Lights" are seldom seen this far south. At full intensity they cover the sky with shifting curtains of Vari colored light like draperies waving in the wind.

"Northern Lights" are especially common during periods of sun spot activity, instances

of which have been reported recently.

The Aurora Borealis is caused by rays of electrically charged particles from the sun that are affected by the earth's magnetism colliding with gases in the earth's atmosphere.

The lights are nearly always present in most parts of the sky. They are seen most often in the far northern and far-southern regions.

The lights occasionally appear in the northern United States, usually beginning faintly before midnight, increasing to a bright, flickering glow, then disappearing slowly.

Radio and television reception is often interrupted by the sun spot activity accompanying

appearance of the lights. No interference was reported late last night.