

Blinding Fireball Turns Night to Day Over Mexico

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CHIHUAHUA. Mexico. (UPI)—A blinding blue-white fireball, believed to be a meteor, turned night into day across Mexico and the southwestern United States early Saturday, then pounded to earth like a bomb.

"The light was so brilliant we could see an ant walking on the floor," said Guillermo Asunsolo, a Chihuahua newspaper editor.

"It was so bright we had to hide our eyes."

The light from the fireball was sighted for at least 1000 miles along a line stretching from Central Arizona deep into the super-

stition-ridden outlands of Northern Mexico.

"The people, especially the people in the small villages, are very alarmed," Asunsolo said. "They say this is an announcement that the world will soon end."

Asunsolo and other witnesses in the two countries indicated the suspected meteor thundered to earth in the almost impassable terrain of the Sierra Madre Mountains south of Chihuahua and north of Durango, Mexico.

"We ran up to the roof and saw a very big round ball moving from south to north," he said before the object crashed. "It was not red, but an intense blue-white."

Reports from such mountain towns as Parral, Santa Barbara de Oro and Valle Allende said the Mexican residents saw the fireball and felt it pound to earth. Asunsolo said the impact created "a tremendous tremor" that shook the ground for hundreds of miles so hard that "some windows broke."

But Dr. Ronald Schors, an astronomer with the Jet Propulsion Lab at Pasadena, Calif., who was visiting the McDonald Observatory at Fort Davis, Tex., said the fireball might have broken up and never landed. He said the tremors felt by residents might have been caused by a sonic boom created by the fireball streaking through the night sky.

Candidates Reluctant On City Council Race

Will anybody run for City Council in 1969?

That was the question at City Hall Saturday as Fort Worth marked an all-time record—the latest date in city history by which no one had filed for city office.

As of Saturday, only four weeks remained before the final deadline for candidates to announce for city office.

Always before, at least one candidate had filed by Feb. 8.

Two years ago, Mayor Willard Barr announced for re-election a full two months ahead of the deadline.