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Mystery in Chicago: Chutists and Balloons

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CHICAGO, Aug. 22 (AP) — A commercial airline pilot has reported that he nearly clipped a flock of parachutists, and another pilot, in a separate incident, has reported seeing several red helium balloons near his plane.

But no one else saw the objects.

Shortly after noon Thursday, the pilot of a Northwest Airlines jet told the control tower at O'Hare International Airport that he passed "four or five parachutists and that he almost hit one," said Marjorie Kriz of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Five minutes later, a United Airlines pilot reported seeing balloons.

NEW PHENOMENON

Jim Riecken

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