

commonly tied to descriptions of Charlie Red Star. They zigzagged back and forth, up and down and appeared to be playing a game of tag with each other as they flew away.

The five stunned young people raced back to Carman and reported their encounter to the R.C.M.P.

"Things were just starting to heat up in the two weeks previous to May 24th." Anthony Britain told me. "We were spending most of our time out at the CBC tower north of Carman."

Each night, different people would gather to wait patiently for Charlie to appear. Some brought along sandwiches and coffee. Anthony Britain was armed with a movie camera, Mr. and Mrs. Major with a still camera.

Many good sightings were made in mid-May near the tower. In one case five people watched as a huge 200-foot object resembling a Ferris wheel raced right at the tower, and reversed its direction, 180 degrees without anyone seeing it stop or turn around. In a second case, two people witnessed Charlie suddenly appearing out of dense fog to fly east right close to the tower. It occurred only moments after the majority of the group had gone home. In the most spectacular sighting reported during the middle weeks of May, Charlie was reported to have been sitting right up at the top of the 570 foot tower, jumping back and forth from one side of the tower to the other.

Mrs. Tannis Major, a photographer, spent 26 nights in May and the first couple of nights in June trying to obtain a photo of Charlie Red Star. Of these 26 nights she

made sightings 19 times and took close to 60 pictures. "A lot of them are too far away," she told me. "All you get is a dot on the film."

The week following May 24th marked the heaviest part of the flap in the valley and Mrs. Major was finally able to get some good photographs of Charlie which were good enough to be placed in her slide collection.

The sightings made from May 24th to June 1st numbered close to 100. It was an extremely hot week with temperatures in the high 80's. The media was hot on the Charlie Red Star story, and as a result, hundreds of people from Winnipeg drove around Carman every night attempting to see the object.

Some people knew exactly where to be to get a good sighting. In the northwest corner of town numerous people watched nightly as Charlie flew low past their neighborhood.

"The first time we saw Charlie," Mrs. Stagg told me, "was when it flew low over our house. That was late May. I forgot the exact dates. Mrs. Major filmed that one. She was at the CBC tower and it was one of the good films that she got. I phoned her afterward and she said that it was 11:06 or 11:07."

"We were just having coffee," Mrs. Stagg continued, "and Art looked out the window and said, "There it goes. It just drifted over the house. It was a big red ball, just like a heartbeat. It was pulsating. It didn't make any sound at all and it was very low. We ran out to the fence and watched it go to the south of us. It was quiet outside, and there was no wind. The thing was silent and seemed to be floating."

"The next night," Mrs. Stagg said, "we had just arrived home when it (the object) was moving into the north, higher up this time. A lot of people were outside on the street, so I called to them and they watched it with us."

"The next night," Mr. Stagg added, "It came again-same time, just farther north of us."

"The next night," Mrs. Stagg told me, "Charlie came from the north and headed south over town. The people on the streets around us watched this one as well."

"I quickly ran into the house" she went on, "and phoned my daughter (who lives near the center of town). Her husband came out and followed it for quite a while. He followed it south for 10 or 15 miles at 60 mph. It was very low and was pacing the car. Finally he got to the point where he was running out of gas and had to stop, but when he left it, it was going straight south towards Miami, Manitoba. Charlie was low, as low as he'd ever been."

The Staggs saw Charlie more than anyone in NW Carman. They figured around 12 times. Most of their sightings occurred in this late May period. Some nights the Staggs told me there would be "several" UFOs "flying around the edge of town" at one time.

Of all these sightings, the most interesting one was when Mr. Stagg believed he had seen the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R.C.M.P.) chasing one out of town past his house.

"Whoever they were," Mr. Stagg stated, "They picked it up before I did. They went racing by my place doing at least 80 M.P.H. down the back road to the corner. I saw the object they were chasing, and I looked at it with my binoculars."

"It was close," he said, "because in the binoculars you'd swear it was going to hit you in the face. It was just like a heartbeat. I wanted to see through the entire glow around it, to see the object, but I couldn't."

"I mentioned the incident to some Mounties a few days later," Mr. Stagg continued, "but they said it wasn't them. They told me they weren't out that night."

"But it was them." Mr. Stagg said. "I know, because the car had a white door with the emblem. When they got to the corner, they turned out their lights and one guy got out to look at it. He had something he was looking through, but I couldn't tell whether it was a camera or binoculars. They stayed there for ten minutes watching it because it had landed west of the tower. Then they got back in the car and went flying back towards Britain's airport looking around, but Anthony said he hadn't seen them."

It wasn't only the Carman area that was visited by UFOs during that week. They were being seen all through the valley. In Haywood, 12 miles northwest of Carman there were numerous sightings of a pulsing red object flying around the two Haywood microwave towers.

Ten miles farther to the north, at Portage la Prairie, a couple of daylight sightings occurred close to the Southport Air Base. In the first, a woman who was an instructor on the base left the base after work to go home. She was driving south down a gravel road near the base when she spotted a saucer-shaped object flying parallel to the car over the field.

She was greatly frightened by the object, but became paralyzed with fear when her motor suddenly stopped running. As her car coasted, she glanced over at the

object and noticed that it was slowly rotating. The object appeared to be red, but as the other side rotated towards her, she noticed that it was green. It gave her the impression of having a rectangular door on it, without hinges or doorknob.

Her car slowed to a stop between two sets of trees on either side of the road. As she reached the trees, which separated her from the object, her car suddenly started again. Without even a second glance behind her, the woman put the accelerator to the floor and raced away.

Another "hot area" where numerous sightings were being made in the last week of May was the area between Elie and Marquette. The sightings made around the Marquette area were described to me by one of those involved as "regular – it's not uncommon to see them flying around this area." Close to the town of Brunkhild, the sightings centered near the 190 ft. microwave tower at the east end of town.

The sightings at the tower in Brunkhild seemed somehow connected, to three major sightings made at the microwave tower 3 miles south of Elie, or at least that's what Wilson McKennett (who had been involved in all three sightings) thought.

"I heard about the ones at Brunkhild," McKennett said. "They were around the tower there. My impression was that the tower was the logical place for them to be sighted."

Wilson, his hired hand and ten other witnesses had watched a huge UFO suddenly appear over the telephone microwave tower at Elie three consecutive nights during the last week in 1975. Each time four smaller crafts emerged, two to sit watch, one on top, and one to fly back to Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg.

It was during this week that I, as an investigator initially became involved in the research of the many sightings. I had heard the news reports that UFOs were being seen throughout southwestern Manitoba like clockwork. I figured that if it were actually there, I would like to see them for myself.

On the night of May 28th, and into the morning of the 29th, I, along with friends made the decision to travel by car to Carman where Charlie Red Star was making his regular swing through the valley.

None of us had ever seen a UFO before. We therefore spent over an hour driving around Carman searching for something unidentified with no idea of what to look for. At 12:55 a.m. it happened. As we travelled west into Carman, we sighted a red ball moving northeast over Carman. It was moving fairly slowly and was moving in an up and down motion.

We got out of the car and watched as it flew by us, past the tower and off towards Winnipeg. Looking more closely I noticed that it was not the simply red ball we had first seen. The outer part of the object was red, but the inner section seemed to consist of a smaller white portion with the white extending vertically up and down from the center. The object disappeared over the horizon in about three minutes.

Two nights later I returned with one of the people from the first night sighting. Figuring that the object would come over the same area at the same time, we decided to place ourselves on a dirt road, one-quarter mile west of Friendship Airfield.

"The ... we (sic) ... was." Said Bob

When we arrived at the spot, we discovered nine parked cars and assumed that it was the airport parking lot. That assumption was wrong. As it turned out, the owners of the cars were people from surrounding towns and from Winnipeg.

The 25 people, like ~~we~~^{us}, were there in hopes of catching a glimpse of the now famous Charlie Red Star. It was 11:00 p.m. and the majority of people had been there for over an hour without seeing anything. Looking around, we noticed other cars driving along the mile roads surrounding the area. Everyone was trying to get a good spot for the night air show. Twelve o'clock came and some of those around us became discouraged. They left, thinking that as long as they were there, nothing would appear. As time moved towards 1:00 a.m. there were only two cars of hopefuls left. The other car that was there was also preparing to leave when I told them that two nights before, a sighting had been made at 1:00 a.m., and so they decided to wait.

Just before 1:00 a.m., it appeared on the western horizon. First came one flash, then another came eight inches down in the field of vision. Shortly after, there was another flash over to one side. Whatever was coming appeared to be jumping all over the sky. Minutes passed and the flashes became closer together. Finally, it was close enough so that we could recognize it as the same object as in the sighting two nights before. It flew straight towards us and looked as if it would fly right over us. When it reached within a half mile of us, the object turned northeast towards the CBC tower.

As it crossed our field of vision, the object again seemed to bounce up and down. Once it was down range it started to jump all over the sky again. Nine people saw it

and all were speechless. What the others thought about their sightings, I don't know. I do know that I told myself, that after all these sightings in Carman it was about time someone found out what was going on.

I had two definite sightings in two nights. Little did I know that on my third trip I would have my third sighting in a row. Having had two good sightings in the week prior to June 4th, I and two other friends headed out to Carman early on the 4th to see if we could once again see Charlie. The two previous times he had appeared about 1:00 a.m., so we left the city shortly before 12:00 to be just on time.

At 12:25, we passed Sperling, Manitoba and started on the last thirteen miles to Carman. I suddenly spotted Charlie flying a mile north of the highway, over a line of trees parallel to the highway and along a set of power lines that ran in the same direction.

Of the dozen sightings I had of this mysterious object, this opportunity provided the best view of the object itself. It was well within a mile when we first spotted it, and it gradually moved farther and farther away as it crossed directly north of us.

The object was no more than 100 feet in the air, and its size seemed intense compared to the two previous times we had seen it.

The pulsing of the object was slow and extremely evident. It almost gave the impression that the object was changing shape. Because it appeared to be flying the same flight plan that had been reported by Carman residents and because it was the same object we had seen previously, we figured that the nightly flight had occurred early and that we would see nothing in Carman. We waited in Carman till 1:10 a.m. and nothing appeared.

Yet, 8 miles directly north of us something was happening. Joseph and Anna McCann were returning home at 12:15 a.m. when they spotted a red light to the west of their farm near the Haywood tower.

"We followed it for a ways," Joseph told the National Enquirer reporter, "but then we lost it. We kept on going and all of a sudden, there it was in the field, Abe Trenja's field. It was a huge red thing. The neighbor boy Alex Dufferin saw it too. It was slowly revolving and there was a silvery pink color around. Suddenly, it disappeared. I don't know how. We didn't see it rise."

"I never saw it disappear," said Anna. "Joseph said ^{that's} that's the end of it. Maybe it was our imagination. I'm going to finish my seeding." (At 1:00 a.m. Joseph was planning to head out to finish seeding his fields.)

They then turned their truck around and headed for home. Just south of their farm they spotted the object again in the field just northwest of their farmyard. "We thought it was in our field at first," Mrs. McCann told me, "but when we got to the yard we saw that it was on the other side of the road. We had about 20 horses around the yard and they were real scared. There were some stallions in the barn, and we swore they were going to knock out the side of the barn." ⁸

"There were some horses in the yard," she continued, "and the object was not far away. After the horses calmed down, we noticed that the light from the object was shining down on one of the horses and he looked bronze because the light from the

⁸ Joseph also claimed that the UFO activity had affected the 115 horses in the north pasture. He told the National Enquirer, "You know my 115 horses up in the north pasture, they're going crazy up there. They're getting wild up there. Last year they were tame but now they are getting wild. Whatever they're (UFOs) doing to them, they're getting crazy up there."

object was pink. The object itself was very bright, bright red in color, and it was revolving very slowly."

Mrs. McCann told the local paper that she was not sure whether the object had landed or whether it was hovering, but it was close to the ground and sitting on an angle. What caused it, Mrs. McCann didn't know, but it appeared to her, that there had been some movement of objects that resembled human forms around the object.

"The light, it turned slowly, slowly, slowly," she told the National Enquirer. "I said to Joseph, 'I think there is someone walking around it,' and then I said, 'No it must be from the lights.'"

Later, I questioned Mrs. McCann on this point, and found that she believed the shadows to be caused by large rotating lights on the bottom of the craft, and because of the movement of the high grass around the craft.

Mr. and Mrs. McCann watched the craft until 3:30 a.m. At no time did they try to get closer. "We were too scared to get closer," Anna said.

When they finally decided to go to bed, Anna decided to cover up the windows on the west side of the house because of the pinkish red light that was filling the rooms. They had recently built the house and had not yet put up drapes.

Randy Neuman, a 17 year old who lived with the McCann's had been awakened by this red light as well. He told the National Enquirer his story about one of two encounters he had.

"I wouldn't have believed them (the McCann's) when they told me about seeing them, but I saw it myself," he said. "I saw it about 4:00 a.m. (after the McCann's had

covered the windows and gone to bed) out in the field. I just woke up and seen the red light. It was about a hundred yards off the road. It was huge. Like from that end of the room to over here (30 feet). It was red, steady red. I watched it for five minutes and then it just took off. It was still red when it took off. All of a sudden I couldn't see it anymore. On the Sunday night I saw the object, it was almost in the same place."

"It was flashing Sunday night off and on," he continued. "I thought it was a cop car outside, so I looked and this thing was sitting in the field. It stayed about 20 minutes that time and then it took off."

A little more than four hours later, 55 miles west of Carman, Henri Francois joined the group who claimed to have seen a UFO close up on that day. "It was daylight, twenty to eight," he told the National Enquirer reporter Daniel Coleman. "I was going east on the road that passes my house, going towards Route 34 where I turn and go south 30 miles to St. Leon, where I work building houses. About 200 yards from the highway, I saw this flashing light, real bright, on the dirt road directly ahead of me, a half-mile or so beyond Route 34. I didn't know what it was. I was looking for a tractor or a car or something and the closer I got to the highway, I knew right away what it was from reports I'd heard."

"I was a little frightened," he continued. "You don't see these things every day. The object was right in the middle of the road, but not on the road. It was maybe, a foot or two off the road, because I could see a little bit of the road underneath it." "The light was on top, just bright flashes, so bright I couldn't see anything in the center of the object, but I could see the sides and they came out like wedges, like the

edges of a disk, out over the sides of the road. The edges were sort of grayish, like the atmosphere."

Francois rolled down his window, but heard nothing. He drove south 100 yards and stopped. The object was still there. He then drove to the nearest farmhouse and brought back a woman as a witness, but when he returned to the scene, the object was gone.

There was another daylight sighting nearby that occurred hours later. The case again involved the McCann's and it occurred in their 160-acre pasture about 20 miles north of the main farm. Dr. Hill, a Carman veterinarian, was with Mr. and Mrs. McCann checking their 115 horses pastured there for swamp fever. It was between two and three in the afternoon.

Suddenly, Mrs. McCann spotted the top of a round silvery object settling behind some trees north of them. She thought it to be a weather balloon and thought no more about it. The 'weather balloon' was however very close to her husband.

The huge craft passed 20-25 feet from the truck Joseph was in, at treetop level. Joseph described it to me as being made up of two "domes" making up the top and bottom of the craft. In between these two domes there was a section of clear material that resembled glass. The top was silver, and the bottom was milky white. "Like the belly of a fish" Joseph told me.

Joseph was naturally quite shaken by the sudden appearance of the object and tried to get the truck home as fast as possible, but the truck (bought new only the day before) stalled, and wouldn't restart.

"Maybe it stalled because I tried to get away so fast," Joseph told me, "but it wouldn't start." He sat and watched the object as it flew slowly into the east, finally disappearing behind the tree line.

The object, as described by Joseph to the media, was 80-85 feet in length, but this was not the actual size. His wife told me, "It was the size of the barn - at least 200 feet."

I asked Mrs. McCann why he had only reported 80 - 85 feet. She explained that Joseph was quite shaken by the sighting. He had had two sightings the previous night, and still had one to come later the same night. McCann figured that with so many close sightings in such a short time, nobody would believe him if he told them the thing was 200 feet, and he was right.

The majority of the people in the area didn't believe McCann's numerous encounters, even though most of them were seeing the same things. The incident at the pasture became only one more story the family would have to live down.

The sighting was not the end of the experience. "About 15 minutes later," Mrs. McCann told me, "there was a big whirlwind and everything was moving around. The branches were breaking off the trees. There was a rumbling sound, and you could feel the ground shake!"

In addition ashes from an area that had been burnt a year earlier swirled up some thirty feet in the air. She looked north towards the trees and saw a large grayish object rising quickly into the sky, which seemed to rapidly shrink in size as it flew away from them into the north.

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Seeking a witness to this bizarre occurrence, Mrs. McCann approached Dr. Hill who was near her. He had seen nothing because he was working on a horse. "Had he heard the noise?" she asked.

"He told me he had heard and felt it, but that it was just a bunch of moose moving through the bush. I told him there was no " moose around here, and then he told me it was a lumber wagon going through the bush."

"There hasn't been one of those things around for 20 years," Mrs. McCann exclaimed. "I told him we don't live in those days anymore."

I was extremely interested in what Dr. Hill really thought of the incident, so I visited him in his Carman office. At this point he had already discounted the incident as anything significant to the National Enquirer.

I introduced myself and asked him whether he remembered an incident that occurred while he was working on some horses in McCann's north pasture. The McCann sightings were extremely important to me for many reasons; one being that the majority of people didn't believe the McCann's.

"It wasn't a UFO," he told me. He said this despite the fact I had not yet mentioned the subject of UFOs. "I'll tell you the same thing I told the last guy who was here (Coleman from the National Enquirer). I don't know what it was, but it wasn't a UFO."

I continued to question him about what the McCann's had told me, and he confirmed all the basic details of the story. He had been looking down the whole time, and saw nothing. He confirmed that he had heard the strange noise. He also

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confirmed that he had not been looking up when it happened. He therefore did not see the debris flying around in the air.

I spoke to him about what the noise was and what it sounded like. He then spoke to me of a third sound that he believed resembled the sound heard in McCann's pasture. "Like someone slapping a board against the bottom of a truck." he told me. Hill had raised the possibility of a second unseen truck being in the field.

Coleman and I checked for the possibility of another truck being in McCann's pasture, but since there are no roads in the near area, chances of a second truck seemed remote. "It's not that I don't believe in UFO's." Hill concluded. "It's just that I don't think that there was one in the pasture that afternoon."

For the McCann's, it was only the first of many encounters with UFOs. On that same night as the incident in the pasture they had one of their most spectacular sightings. Mrs. McCann was just starting to say her prayers when her husband said "Don't say your nightly prayers. I have said them for you." As she laughed she turned to the west window and spotted a red light.

It was just south of the Haywood tower and, according to Mrs. McCann, "I knew it was something because there aren't two towers out there." It was 1:30 a.m. on the morning of the 5th *The 5th of what month?*

As the object approached the house from the west it changed in appearance from a light to a 2½ foot "glowing red ball" to a "huge saucer."

It was the most beautiful thing I've ever seen." Mrs. McCann told me. "It was flying at an angle with the top side flying at us. It was a great big thing with a silvery dome and alternating red and green lights all along the edge of the saucer."

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I questioned Mrs. McCann about these sightings on about ten occasions. Each time she described this one as "beautiful". "It was a great big thing with silvery dome and alternating red and green lights all around it. " I couldn't see the bottom. It was just like the whole thing was a tilted top with its top to me and it was flying on its edge."

I asked the McCann's how many times they had seen the object flying at an angle, because this was a peculiar oddity that arises in descriptions of UFO's. The response was immediate. Every time they had seen such things they were on an angle.

"I thought it was going to hit the house," Mrs. McCann continued, "but it made it over and landed behind the set of trees across the road (1000 ft. from the house)."

"It didn't make any noise," she told the National Enquirer. She knew there was no noise because when she went to watch it as it approached the house she had opened the window. As the object passed over the house, the McCanns rushed over to the east window with their three children to watch the object. "It crossed the road (60 feet from the house) and settled in behind a clump of trees 1000 feet east of the house," said Mrs. McCann.

At the same time Mrs. McCann called for the three children and 11-year-old Jerry, 9-year-old Lucy, and 8-year-old Connie came to watch.

Now there were five witnesses who were watching the object rise up above the trees and drift back and forth for 15 minutes before flying off towards Carman.

The most bizarre part of the story was yet to come. In three separate interviews with Mr. McCann, Mrs. McCann, and with the children when the parents were gone, I

put together the story of the "whitish creamy stuff" that was given off by the UFO as it passed over the house.

"It was the color of mother of pearl, like the northern lights, and it was beautiful," Mrs. McCann told me. "That's the closest color I can think of. It covered half of the sky so thick that you couldn't see the stars. It was very thick and you couldn't see the part of the sky where it had flown. The other half of the sky towards Carman was clear and you could see all the stars. The kids wanted to go out and look, because it was so beautiful, but Joseph told them to stay in because it might be dangerous."

"The stuff came out of the craft," she continued, "and swirled around and around in big waves till it covered half of the sky. Connie, my youngest daughter asked me if this was the end of the world. "Are the heavens going to open, and are we going to see God?" she asked. I told her it wasn't, but I didn't know what it was.

All three of the older children told me in a separate interview about their excitement over the object's exhaust.

"I saw the white stuff." Jerry McCann told me in a separate interview. "It was like the milky way if you were close up to it. It was like northern lights, but brighter than northern lights. Yet, I think it was nicer in a way. It was darker, more together."

Connie described the exhaust as "white foggy stuff". She watched the exhaust for about 10 minutes before going back to bed

"You saw it?" I asked Lucy.

"I wasn't there early enough to see it," she replied, "but I came just after it left. I saw this milky stuff, and it spread out more and more. When I saw it, there was a light, light blue color to it."

Topic
While all this was going on Joseph had raced to phone Bishop at the Dufferin Leader for the second time in one day. He had phoned earlier about the incident in the pasture and Bishop had gone to the pasture to search for clues, which he did not find. Bishop jumped out of bed and raced north out of Carman towards the McCann's 1,100 acre farm. For the second time in one day he was unlucky. He saw nothing.

The craft also had a bizarre lighting pattern to it. "They weren't just ordinary lights." Mrs. McCann exclaimed. "They were huge lights raised right off the saucer. They looked just like the lights that they used to have on the 1956 Oldsmobile."

Joseph thought they looked more like "the clearance lights on the back of trucks, oval shaped with alternating red and green lights."

"They were revolving," he continued, "and my little girl woke up, and she's eight years old. She said, "Mom, look at that diamond ring around that silvery thing." She came and watched. The other little girl woke up and she said she saw a big white steam in a circle." (The smoky white haze described by Jerry and his mother.)

"It sat across the road for a while," Mrs. McCann continued. "Then it flew off toward Carman and when it decided to go, boy did it go!"

— Two nights later the McCann's had their last sighting for a *awhile* while in what was becoming their own personal UFO flap. Anna McCann told the story.

"We had the baby (a one year old toddler) in bed between us, and I was tired of having him kick. I got up to put him in his crib and the house was all lit up red, pinkish red. Everything inside was pinkish red. Joseph was asleep, and I said, 'Joseph the barn is on fire.'"

I went and looked and didn't see anything, but I did see something red. It had a tail. It was the longest tail I have ever seen. It (the object) was an oval shaped thing, but it disappeared real fast, in a flash.

It went over the house to the east and what shocked me was when it got on the other side of the road beyond my tree (a tree in the front yard 50 yards away), I thought I saw the Dufferin Leader cameramen taking pictures. I thought the Dufferin Leader cameramen were on the other side of the road taking pictures.

I saw great bright lights, like what you see on tow trucks, but bigger and they were lighting up all my trees all orange. They were turning and turning. I called Joseph and we watched through the garage door (on the south end of the house). Those big orange lights were lighting up all my trees and then it came completely to a dead stop. That's all there was to it.

I phoned Bishop the next day and he said that neither he nor the RCMP came out so I wonder what those lights were.

The activity may have continued, but the next sighting report that I received wasn't until June 11th and 12th, this time by Jennette Frost, south of Sperling, Manitoba. The first was a classic encounter (see the account of this sighting in Chapter on Classics), the object coming within feet of her and then disappearing. The next sighting was made by Frost from a greater distance at 12:30 a.m. the next night.

On June 20th, the number of sightings again skyrocketed all through the valley. This part of the flap lasted right up until July 9th, with numerous sightings in Elm

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Creek, Miami, Sperling, and Carman. With the amount of publicity the whole UFO story had received, the Britains had retreated to UFO watching from Rachel's parents place high in the Pembina Hills overlooking the valley near Miami.

Charlie seemed to be flying after 11:00 P.M. Mrs. Frost, who by now was carefully recording all her sightings in a book, reported one June 20th at 11:00 P.M. and again on June 21 at 12:00 A.M. The Britains would work until 11:00 P.M. restoring planes, and then would make the 20 mile trip to Miami.

It was during this period that they spotted UFO after UFO. One period during the flap they made sightings six nights running. Along with Mrs. Major, they gave chase to Charlie two nights in a row, the second night seeing him "blast off into orbit". They spent a night with CBC-TV who had come out to see whether or not they could get some movie footage of Charlie as had CKY -TV.

"It came out of the fogbank that night," Britain said, "right up along the hills. Of the three guys from CBC, only one would believe what he was seeing. The other two didn't want to accept it. They came within two miles of the thing and they didn't even run the camera."

Mixed, IF Britain said 'things' then it should be things(sic)

✓ "Instead," Britain stated, "they were interested in taking pictures of us watching the things. We weren't interested in that, so we got in the car and chased the thing over the hill. We then got a good look at the thing. It was shaped like a football, not flat, and it was pulsing red."

The Britains had another sighting during this period when Martin Rugne, a cameraman for the CTV affiliate made a second trip out to see whether he could get any additional film footage.



"During this time," Britain stated, "they were appearing in bunches. We would see four, five, and six a night. One night we saw six on the ground in the Rosebank area. Numerous people made the trip with the Britains to their lookout over the valley. One gentleman, who brought his girlfriend with him to Miami, later wrote a letter back to Britain thanking him for giving him the opportunity to see Charlie. "It was the greatest night I've ever had without pot," he wrote.

It was also on June 20th, at 2:00 A.M. that Myles Lyttle, who was 12 miles east of the Britain's position looked out from his Roland home into the southwest to see "a blue and red light that had a slight orange twinge on the top".

He told the newspaper that he thought it similar to a streetlight until it started to "rise up and then lower again". According to Lyttle, it made "some north and south movements, then rose and went southwest at a fairly slow speed."

Only minutes later, another resident of Roland reported the object as "a huge fireball" flying north very low along the east side of town.

The next morning Lacy and Toby Christian found a clearly burnt cross next to the bush in their front lawn. The evening before the volunteer fire department at Roland had been called out to fight a fire in town. The fire turned out to be a blood red object flying around in town. Two years later, the area of dead grass was still visible for all to see. The Christian family lived on the east side of town.

The Christians had seen nothing that night, but, as Mrs. Christian told me, she and many others in Roland had seen the objects flying around. The stories of sightings at the end of May and June were therefore no surprise to her.



"If there's a heavy storm, then they'll be out," she told me. "It seems like the 25th to the end of the month-in that cycle." True to Mrs. Christian's theory, the sightings continued heavy through to the end of the month. On the 29th there was a huge electrical storm in the valley and Mrs. Taylor spotted Charlie sitting right over Roland as she approached town.

"It was a real terrible electrical storm that night," she began, "and the lights of Roland were out because of the storm. I saw that red glowing light on the north side of Roland. It was a huge saucer shaped thing. It was glowing red, like I suppose, metal would glow when it's hot."

July 1st arrived and with it there were two daylight sightings. The first was made by Brendon Eagle, who built the relay tower in Carman and who had made quite a success of patents he held related to augers.

"It was eight o'clock in the evening," he told me, "and it still wasn't dark. My son, wife, and I were travelling west on highway 23 coming towards Jordan Corner (one mile west of Roland). My wife was watching things bobbing up and down out her window. My son Kelly saw it and asked, "Is that a flying saucer?"

Mrs. Eagle told Kelly to keep quiet as his father was driving but Brendon heard his son and looked out the side window. "Sure enough," Eagle told me. "It was coming in at, I'd say 1,200 feet. We got out of the truck, and watched it. It was coming across from the south-southwest at a 22-degree angle. It was sitting down, lifting up and then going again. It was going up and down at terrific speeds, and it did this four or five times."



"It passed over the Jordon elevator at about 1500 feet," he continued, "and it lit up the elevator so bright that you could actually see the nails in the elevator."

"It was about 85 feet in diameter and perfectly round - so round it was unbelievable. It was saucer shaped and what astonished me was that the top and bottom travelled in two different directions."

"The bottom one spun, looking straight up to the right and the top was spinning to the left. There was a center section that didn't move, about 6-8 feet in width, and there were oval shaped windows in it. I'd say that there were about 16 windows in the whole circumference, 8 looking on the side we were on."

"It went over and landed in the field southwest of the corner where that runway is. He was in behind the bushes and my wife wanted me to chase across the field after him. I've got a four-wheel drive, so we drove the mile after him. We came to this old hanger about 50 feet wide, but that wasn't big enough because that thing was three stories high. We lost him."

Just shortly after Eagle left, a second witness reported that the object reappeared just as the runway lights were being turned on. This farmer's runway, which was only a half-mile away from where Eagle lost the object, had only gone into operation this night, and this was the first time the lights were being used for night flying.

Shortly after the lights were turned on, the object appeared, and landed momentarily on one end of the runway. It then rose, hovered, moved a little down the runway, and landed again. It rose, and landed farther down the runway. After seven landings and take-offs, the saucer shaped object had covered the entire length of the runway. It then took off, and flew away.

Between July 1st, and July 9th, the sightings came in a large flurry from Carman. Cpl. Glen Toews, the R.C.M.P. spokesman for the Carman detachment told the Winnipeg Free Press July 8th, that he had received five reports in seven nights.

"And a lot of people just casually mention it to you without filing a report." Cpl. Toews added. "There are still a considerable number of sightings, and the people that are seeing them are pretty well reliable people."

Those who had been active watchers in Carman again took up their posts to wait and watch. After a few nights in July, the reports came to me. I was told that it was still Charlie and he was coming between 10:15 and 11:10 p.m.

Mrs. Major still had not obtained the clear convincing photographs she wanted, so when the sightings began again, she set up her camera in the living room, looking out the front window west towards the Pembina Hills.

It was early in the morning, July 7th, when Mrs. Major got her first chance to get a good shot. She had gotten up to let her dog out when she noticed an object east of her house over the feedlot. Running back into her house, she retrieved her camera and pointed it out the kitchen window and took four pictures.

When Mrs. Major developed the pictures, she saw ^{WHAT} ~~that~~ ^{AWKWARD} the four pictures had taken. There on the film were four white bell-shaped objects, with the object increasing in size with each shot. The object on the final #4 frame was four times the size of the bell-shaped object in frame #1.

The photographs and sighting report were sent by the R.C.M.P. to the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics where Dr. Halliday in the Planetary Sciences Section analyzed them.

ITM

Even before Dr. Halliday received the photographs, however, the Brandon Sun newspaper phoned Dr. Halliday asking him whether he had yet seen the photographs. Dr. Halliday stated he had not yet seen them, but he would let them know when he had.

When Dr. Halliday received the photographs he analyzed them and came to the conclusion that they were the Planet Jupiter, based on time, direction of the camera, and the exposure. *No external*

The Brandon Sun printed the story discounting the July 7th Major photographs, and a Winnipeg radio station followed suit doing a fifteen-minute interview with Dr. Halliday.

ITM

The Winnipeg Free Press made the biggest story on what Halliday had said. On July 11, 1975 they ran the headline, "Jumping Jupiter! Is This Carman's UFO?" It appeared that all the hundreds of sightings would go down in flames as the planet Jupiter because of one analysis on one set of photographs.

"Those mysterious saucer-shaped objects sighted recently in the skies of southern Manitoba," wrote the Free Press, "have been identified as the planet Jupiter." they quoted Dr. Halliday, "There can be little doubt about it . . . we got the report from the R.C.M.P. and we saw the photographs. The sightings were at the right time and in the right part of the sky to be consistent with the planet Jupiter." *Reference*

The Free Press report gave many skeptics reason to say, "I told you so." It also made a great number of people in Carman very angry, and there is little doubt they would have tarred and feathered any National Research Council scientist if he had walked into Carman after the Free Press news story.

I approached Dr. Halliday for an accounting of his statement and he informed me that the Free Press account was far from his actual statement.

"At no time," Dr. Halliday wrote, "did I state that all the reports were caused by Jupiter, although, again the newspaper report may tend to generalize too much. Neither was I presenting any formal conclusions based on the Manitoba observations." This comment made by Dr. Ian Halliday was contained in a letter he addressed to me October 27, 1975. It confirmed the fact that the Free Press account may have been totally inaccurate, but it was too late. The damage was already done.

Two days later, Mrs. Major shot three more photographs, this time of the famous Charlie.⁹ These photos, like those of the 7th, were sent to Dr. Halliday, but this time there were no newspaper banner headlines telling people what was "actually" seen. Others explained the glowing oval object as a plane, but no paper printed the fact, undoubtedly because no one who had seen the photographs believed it.

All through July the sightings continued in a line running east and west from Carman to Sperling. All dozen odd reports involved Charlie Red Star.

During the first three weeks of August sightings occurred almost nightly in the Starbuck area. Bob Sanderson, who lives just south of Starbuck provided me with the names of twelve people in the town who had had UFO sightings during the first three weeks.

Sanderson himself had been involved in three sightings, the only ones of his life, all in this three-week period. The first had occurred with six friends on the old

⁹ These were to become the best photographs ever taken of Charlie. A full account of the events involved in taking the photographs can be found in the chapter "Cameras, Photographs and Charlie Red Star.

highway just outside of town. A 60-foot craft had flown towards the two cars where the six witnesses were. For 20 minutes the object hovered only feet from the road.

Shortly after, he had three encounters of hearing a beeping noise in a clearing in the woods behind the farm. "At first it was a low beep, but then it would go faster and then real high pitched. Then it would go low again. Each night the beeping went on for 5 -20 minutes."

"The third night," he continued, "there was a brilliant flash, and it looked like it had landed south west where the bush ends, and where the next field begins. I could hear branches breaking on the ground, and as I looked out my second story window I could see this bright orange glow behind the trees."

"Did you check the spot?" I asked.

"No, I told the people in town," he said, "but nobody believed me so I quit telling everybody."

Near the end of the Starbuck flap, sightings started up again in the towns south of Carman. At Carman, one of the many to sight a UFO was Kerry Kaelin along with his fiancé. Kaelin, a reporter from the local paper got a look at Charlie Red Star, who he had seen before.

Kaelin and his fiancé spotted Charlie hovering above a field northwest of Carman. In the half-hour they watched, he spotted two pairs of white lights rise up into the UFO and one pair of red lights come out of it, and descend to the ground. Occasionally, the smaller objects would move around horizontally as they moved around under the larger white craft with a red pulsating aura. His fiancé also noticed

a beam of light that shone down from the craft, but did not seem to have any particular purpose.

Mrs. Frost who lives directly south of Starbuck also sighted a UFO on the same day as Kaelin and sighted another on August 28 after the rash of sightings in the area.

September brought with it numerous UFO reports, especially ones that described landings, chases, and close encounters. September is harvest time in Manitoba, and there are a large numbers of farmers out on their fields. This might have had something to do with the number and type of sightings reported.

September 1, 1975, twelve witnesses at the McCann farm watched as a "red fireball" appeared to tail Joseph's truck as he approached the farm from the south. Joseph and his friend Pete saw nothing of the UFO behind the truck. The twelve witnesses on two adjoining farms, however, all told me how the huge object had raced after the truck, until the point McCann turned into the yard, after which "the object flipped over and zigzagged back into the south."

Two hours after this dusk sighting, the McCann family watched a second triangle shaped object as it sat in a field across from the farmyard. When this object finally left, it too flew "at a tremendous speed towards Carman."

There were also numerous sightings being reported from the Delta area north of Portage ^{La} Prairie. In one area 10 miles north of town, dozens of people became involved.

Tony Douthitt and his father were two wheat farmers in the area who had become the latest witnesses. Both Douthitt and his father were harvesting wheat

one evening when Tony noticed two orangish-white lights in the southeast sky. "They looked like the old six volt battery lights that they used on cars years ago." ¹⁰

Thinking little of the lights, Tony made a few more swings around the field, and as he was at the south end of the field turning north, he again looked up at the sky. There, almost flying directly over him, only a couple hundred feet in the air was a 30 ft. in diameter circular shaped object with two bullet shaped doors or hatches on the bottom side. They were about five feet deep on one end tapering down to nothing on the other end.

Tony described a peculiar set of lights about four feet high set up at a 45° angle into the craft on the deep end of the opening. These lights according to Jack were set so that the light would be projected out of the craft.

"The lights were honey comb lights." Tony told me. "You could definitely see the dark edges of lights. They were bluish white, but not too bright."

Tony watched in amazement as the craft flew northwest over his father who was combining at the other end of the field. "I was too amazed to think anything at first," Tony stated, "but the second I thought UFO, the lights were gone. It seemed that it knew what I was thinking."

Tony could no longer see the craft and he panned the northern sky to relocate it. A couple of minutes later it reappeared a mile northwest of him as a black silhouette against the setting sun. Now he could see the top part of the craft as it was flying away from him on an angle.

→ ¹⁰ This is exactly the same type of description given to me by Jennette Frost at Sperling who described the two lights she had seen on one object as similar to the type of lights used on old Model A cars.

"There were five windows on the side I could see," Tony went on, "and there was whitish light coming out of the rectangular windows. The light was brilliant, even though it was far away. The light was as bright as holding a 60-watt light bulb a foot away from your face. "

Immediately after the craft had flown over the horizon, Tony went to his father to ask whether he had seen the craft that had flown over him. His father reported that he had seen nothing, but at the time that Jack had seen the craft, his father was having trouble with the combine. The combine had begun to sputter and Mr. Douthitt figured that a gas line had been clogged. Although the combine almost stalled out, Mr. Douthitt managed to keep it going and after a minute or so the trouble suddenly disappeared.

The next day, Mr. McGowan discovered a rash on his left side, which was the same side the craft that had passed over. It appeared only on the left side and only on the exposed areas of his face and neck. ¹¹ "It stayed for quite a while." Mrs. McGowan told me. "It was fairly itchy for three or four days, and then it went away. "

One mile east of the McGowan farm, Don Zalusky and his wife Beverly were having numerous encounters with UFOs, but they did not tell anyone about it until March 01, 1978.

"We watched those things fly around here every fall." Don told me. "It was at harvest time in 1975 that I saw it the best. It was a huge saucer shaped thing with

¹¹ This exact reported effect from close encounters to UFOs would appear as part of the story in Steven Spielberg's "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." As the Manitoba cases were never made public Spielberg got his example from some other UFO sighting where the same thing occurred.

five windows on the side I was looking at. I saw lots but that was the only one during the day."

I showed him a drawing Tony Douthitt had drawn for me, and asked him whether it looked the same. "Yah," he said, "exactly. That's it."

Zalusky stated that he spent many nights watching the glowing red UFO fly around from his trailer along the Portage Creek near his place. Common to many descriptions of Charlie Red Star, Zalusky told me that the crafts would fly around slowly, zigzagging and appear to play tag with each other, and jump around in the air.

Like so many who made vain attempts to chase Charlie in Carman, Zalusky told me that the UFOs seemed to know what you were thinking and that they would play games with people who tried to chase them. "I tried to race after them," Zalusky told me. "I would drive down the road with my lights off, and get fairly close to them. Then, just when we were about to get a good look, the thing would shoot another mile away from me."

Don's wife Beverly also had a terrifying experience with a UFO in fall of 1975. She was one of two people to be chased down highway 240 north towards the delta.

She was driving north from Portage one night when suddenly a brilliantly lit object was right in behind the car over the trunk. The huge object lit up the whole area and kept pace with every move Mrs. Zalusky made to lose it.

She was up to 80 mph when suddenly the object backed up till it was just a small light down the road. Figuring that the object was gone, Mrs. Zalusky slowed down to

60 mph and continued on down the road. Suddenly, in a brief second, the brilliant object was again behind the car following her down the road.

Mrs. Zalusky attempted again to lose the object, but it remained right behind her. Not only could she not lose the object, but now she would have to make a right turn onto highway 227.

"I almost didn't make it around the corner," she stated, "because of the speed I was going." Nevertheless, she did make it around the corner, whereby the object suddenly flew away from the car for good. So rattled and shaken, Mrs. Zalusky returned home to tell her husband about her experience with "those UFOs."

In addition to the other person who was chased down Highway 240, there were also people being chased west of Portage, near Brandon. At Kenton, Manitoba, a woman with a van full of children was paced one morning on the way to school. At Carberry, 50 miles west of Portage, two women were trailed back to town one night by a brilliant whitish object. The experience, which lasted many minutes, terrified the women to the point where they refused to talk about what they had experienced.

Thirty miles south of Carman, Ralph Driedger, who lived just off the Canadian-U.S. border, also reported one of these bizarre close encounters with a low flying UFO. The Driedger family farm was a large one, and because of the short harvest season, there are harvesting shifts right through the night.

"It was three or four in the morning," Jacob Driedger told me. "It was a mile and a half from me, but my father was close up."

Jacob was combining in the field when suddenly the object appeared, lighting up the whole countryside. It was so bright in fact that at one point Jack stated he could

tell where it was even when it was behind him, due to the brilliant light that it was giving off.

On the mile road west of Jacob, his father Ralph Driedger was driving a truck loaded with grain. The object, no more than a couple hundred feet off the ground, flew right in front on Henry's truck.

In the account Ralph gave me of the incident, the object was moving into the northeast very low to the ground. It was cone-shaped, multi-colored, with the major color being red. He figured the object to be 30 feet in diameter.

"It came fairly close to me," Driedger stated. "It was extremely bright, and yet I couldn't take my eyes off it. In all my years I've never seen anything like it. It was frightening. I hope I never have to see anything like that again."

"I was watching it so closely," he continued, "that when it disappeared into that big cloud, I noticed that I wasn't watching where I was driving. The truck was half way into the ditch, and I just about tipped the whole load."

In October of 1975 there were more landings in the Pembina Valley. One of those, at the farm of Bill Wheatley, was only 24 miles north of Driedger's farm. This landing near Roland was the second for the town in four months.¹²

Farther up the valley, 14 miles north of the Wheatley farm, the McCanns suddenly notified Mrs. Britain that, "they were back." The record showed that there was a sudden and short flap of sightings in the Elm Creek - Carman - Sperling area. Between October 16th and October 22nd there were scores of sightings.

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¹² See Van Wyck Landing in the Chapter on Landings.

A Score is defined as "20" things. So, over 20? That is what you are saying.

The McCann family had sightings on the 16th and 19th. Both involved Ferris wheel like objects, which mystified the McCann's to no end. The McCanns were so disbelieved by the people of Elm Creek and Carman that a lot of the people at the farms around them kept quiet about what they had seen. It seemed logical that if the McCann's were actually seeing as many UFOs as they had seen that those around them would be seeing UFOs as well. It took a long time to get the neighbors to talk, but eventually, in interviews with these farmers, they admitted that they too had been seeing these UFOs all along.

Like the McCann's account, the sightings just suddenly started in 1975 and continued on fairly regularly until 1977. One farmer defended the silence of the farmers in the area by stating, "You don't talk about things like that in town. People call you cuckoo. They'll call us another bunch of McCanns."

Open ended quote
The sightings of the other farmers also came at the same time of the year as when the McCanns were reporting. Ronald Middleton, for example, was out discing at Kitty Corner, only a few miles southwest of the McCann farm on October 31, 1975. This was only twelve days after the McCanns had related to me their story about having seen the Ferris wheel like objects.

It was 4:00 a.m. when Ronald first noticed what appeared to be a bright star in the east. As he drove east down the field, he noticed that the light was getting larger and brighter. It was coming towards him. As Ronald watched the light, it moved until it reached a set of trees a mile east, where it stopped.

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Ronald could not see the shape of the orangish-white light because of the intensity, but he could plainly see that it was lighting up the entire bush. There was a bright flash coming off the object and sparks coming off one side of the object.

Ronald turned off his tractor to find that the object was making no noise. Just then, the object started to move again, and as he stated, "I decided that it was time to stop for the night."

As quickly as he could, he turned the tractor around, but by this time the object was only about 500 feet behind the tractor. The object now appeared so bright that Ronald could not see the shape or even look at it.

All around him he could see the light being cast by the object on his tail. He drove as fast as the tractor would go, but minutes seemed like hours until he finally reached the farm.

Just before he arrived at the farm, the object backed off into the east and Ronald could see it becoming smaller and smaller as it moved away.

Still, as is the case with all those people who have been chased by UFOs, the shock did not set in until the experience was over. Arriving at the farmyard, Ronald tried to light a cigarette as he looked back into the east where the object had retreated. "I tried to light the cigarette," he said, "but I couldn't because I was shaking that badly."

That November, the Manitoba area took second place for a week due to the sightings that occurred in the neighboring provinces of Saskatchewan and Ontario. In Ontario a radar tracking had been made from North Bay of two objects moving

straight up from 42,000 feet and 72,000 feet. Jets from U.S. bases were scrambled to check on the radar contacts.

After some investigation, the involved parties admitted having tracked two unidentified objects. The wire services were alerted.

Later, after NORAD read all the reviews of the incidents, they explained the whole incident as a mistake. The objects on the radar screens had only been ice crystals.

Later, in order to check whether this radar sighting was linked to any of the sightings that occurred in Manitoba, I managed to get a friend to question NORAD about their involvement with UFOs. The only positive comment we received was from one member of the force stationed at North Bay who simply stated, "You wouldn't believe what goes on here."

National Enquirer reporter Daniel Coleman had checked the Manitoba sighting with NORAD, as part of his paper's investigation of the Manitoba sightings. Coleman spoke with Lieutenant Doug Caie, Information Officer at the Canadian Forces Base in Winnipeg.

When Coleman asked Lieutenant Caie if the Canadian Forces had been following the sightings in the Carman area, Caie said that they had but that they had not picked up any targets on the radar screens. "I checked about 5 or 6 of the different sightings," he told Coleman, "and times with our own radar and with the 24th NORAD region at Minot, North Dakota, and we didn't get any correlation whatsoever."

"There was no correlation at all?" Coleman replied.

"Nope," replied Caie. "No, as far as I know the phenomenon has been reported to us, and we have a research center in Ottawa. It has been reported to them."

The November sightings started in Manitoba on November 13th when Rachael Britain stepped out of a hanger at Friendship field to see Charlie coming at her on the "beer run" from the west. She called her husband and Sam Brazil from the hangar to see the object and as the three watched the pulsing red ball fly by, a second one appeared flying in the same pattern.

Immediately, Anthony Britain phoned the R.C.M.P. Detachment. The office detached Constable Wotherspoon to witness the fly-by. He made it to the airfield just in time to see the third object appear on the horizon and with binoculars he watched the object fly by. While watching the object, Constable Wotherspoon doubted that this was anything he had ever seen before, but when the paper asked for a comment, he was less anxious to be definite. He thought that the object could have had something to do with a NORAD exercise he had read about in the paper.¹³

Immediately after the third object flew by, the Britains went to the to the R.C.M.P. office to file a report. They went, not knowing that the Staggs, another family in town had continued the chase.

Greg Stagg had been out warming up the family car for a trip to Winnipeg when he too spotted the first object as it flew by. He called his parents, who came out to see the three objects moving northeast towards Winnipeg. They jumped into the car and the chase was on.

¹³ The lack of objectivity from the officer might have come from the fact that the first two officers who had talked to the media were transferred out to less friendly environments. In Canada R.C.M.P. police many of the outposts in the north or in the bush, not exactly where many officers are dying to go. HAVE

Mrs. Stagg described the objects as doing a docking maneuver. The Britains had described the strange actions as "appearing to jockey for position". The two outside objects around the main object made big loops just before linking up to the opposite side of the ^{center} center object.

"The distance was as though they were measured." the Staggs told me. "Before the outside objects moved they were white, and then one at a time they would link up. 'A' would make a loop and come together with the center object, and then turn red. (The one in the center was always red)."

"Then, after a few minutes, it would loop back to where it was and turn white. Then 'B' would do the same thing. It was kind of queer." ¹⁴

"After losing them again, we picked them up again (east) at the Starbuck tower." Mr. Stagg said. "One was just along the ground and the other was hanging over the Winnipeg airport runway. It was about 1500 feet up and was glowing red. Every time a jet took off it would go up until it looked like a star. When the jet would make its turn, the object would drop back down again. When he was up he was white, and when he was low he was glowing red." The Staggs were in a hurry to make it to the city for an appointment, so they just left the two objects flying around on the west end of the city.

Later, while the Britains were still at the R.C.M.P. detachment office, Wayne Teal, who had remained at Friendship Airfield, witnessed the three objects flying in formation west, past the airport, back to wherever they had come from.

¹⁴ The Staggs had witnessed the same thing on May 6, 1976. This incident was different in that the Staggs described a fourth object that flew by the car very low to the ground.

November also brought with it by far the most controversial report of the entire flap. This was the disappearance of 32 registered horses from the herd owned by Joseph McCann. Combined with the many UFOs the family was reporting this story was a dynamic new development that spread like wild fire. This included a daylight sighting of a UFO at the pasture where the horses were being pastured.

Days after Joseph reported the loss, he appeared on CBC television in Winnipeg. His story was short and simple. His father had been checking the herd in the north pasture one day when he noticed that his best horse was gone. When he and Joseph tallied the 200 head, they found that they were 32 head short.

The loss was reported to the R.C.M.P. who investigated the possibility that the horses had been stolen. Their report came up negative. They found no broken fences and no evidence of tire tracks other than from McCann's half ton.

"The interviewer at CBC wanted me to say that the UFOs had stolen my horses," Joseph told me, "but I never said it. I stated that they were missing. They taped that section three times, but I wouldn't say it."

American Spelling Rumors spread all through the towns surrounding McCann's farm, about what had actually happened to the horses, but none of them stood up. One account had it that McCann had sold the horses and was trying to collect the insurance, but that story didn't hold because you have to have a body to collect the insurance. In fact, Joseph never did file an insurance claim. The most he ever did in this respect was to claim the missing horses as a loss on his income tax.

The only other story worth considering involved the possibility that McCann never had the horses to begin with, but this again was a story without factual

backing. All the horses were registered. Therefore Joseph had to produce the papers to the R.C.M.P. Secondly, of the six McCann family members I talked to, all were able to tell me the names of at least five horses that were gone.

Even with all the scorn surrounding the family, their story never changed. The scorn was more than anyone should have to live with. Mrs. McCann told me that people she had known for a long time suddenly were not quite as friendly as before. At the post office, people would act as if they hadn't seen her and walk the other way. She swore to me that she would never report another UFO sighting publicly.

I questioned the three children and found that they too had been ridiculed because of the sightings their parents had reported. "Some kids said that there was no such thing as UFOs," Connie told me. "I said that I know there are UFOs, I'm sorry."

They then said," Connie continued, "You don't really see UFOs. You're just making it up. When my father was on television, they said it was all baloney."

"When my dad was on television," Lucy told me, "some of my classmates asked me whether it was really true, and I said, 'We didn't say that the UFOs took them. That's an assumption.'"

"All I said," Jerry told me, "is that dad never said the UFOs took the horses. He's just assuming, because there's no tracks around there. Dad didn't think it could be horse rustlers, but they're good at covering their tracks, but we couldn't find any tracks. "

"When my dad was on TV," Jerry continued, "the kids at school asked me whether our horses were at the big dipper drinking out of it. Then would they be let loose."

Joseph McCann himself took some criticism from friends in town, but he, like the other members of the family, refused to back down. It was lucky for him that he was in business for himself, because otherwise, he would probably have become unemployed.

I talked to the members of the family for countless hours, together and separately. Like all of their UFO encounters, the story never changed - not then - and not two years later when I talked to them again.

It seemed then that they were indeed telling the truth about what had happened to them during the flap. Maybe, as some still contend, the horses were just stolen. In the end, I told the McCanns that if someone was able to steal 32 horses without a trace, "It became easier to believe that UFOs had done it."¹⁵

December brought two more flaps of sightings in southwestern Manitoba, but they were small in comparison to the rest of 1975. One of these sightings, however, is worth noting. It was December 22nd, midafternoon, and two government pilots were west-bound into Winnipeg at 14,000 feet. One of them was my father Robert Cameron, who told me the story. They were 20 miles north of Portage ^{La} Prairie.

My father, the flight's captain, was glancing up out of the window to see a DC-9 outbound from Winnipeg at 15,000 feet above them. Then, he noticed, off the contrail of the jet, a circular metallic object, which he estimated to be 100 feet across. It was pacing the jet.

"I sat there watching it for about a minute," he told me, "and then I got the attention of the co-pilot. His first comment was "That must be one of those UFOs.""

¹⁵ This is particularly true in light of the fact that there were three other cases where animals disappeared in heavy UFO sighting areas.

The pilot radioed the Winnipeg tower to confirm the visual object on radar.
"What have you got?" my father asked.

"I've got you, the plane behind you, and the DC-9 above you," came the reply.

"What's behind the DC-9?" he asked next.

"Nothing," came the reply from the tower.

"There's got to be something," radioed my father. "We're sitting here looking at it."

"I still have nothing."

He radioed the crew of the DC-9 but they didn't see anything, and couldn't see anything from their position. (There are after all no rear view mirrors on planes)

"We had the object for two minutes," my father told me. "One minute I watched and the other minute both of us watched. We took our eyes off it for a second to look down, and when we looked up the thing was gone." He did not dare file an official report of what he had seen.

The sightings continued into 1976 but the number of reported sightings was nothing compared to 1975. The other thing that differed with the 1976 sightings is that they had spread out all over the province along a 200-mile line across Manitoba. The sighting numbers tended to be about 50% of those in 1975, and there were only 50% of the 1976 sightings in 1977.

The 1975 sightings were the ones that were unsurpassed, especially the ones involving Charlie Red Star. Sightings continued into the summer of 1978, and they are numerous in comparisons to any other area of the world. Yet, relative to the Charlie Red Star, the rest of the sightings seemed tame.

CLASSICS

"When you hear someone else, you think, oh well, it might have been someone else. But after I saw this, nobody is going to convince me it was anything else." **Michael Perreault**

During the two years I spent covering the flap in Manitoba fulltime, I heard literally hundreds of stories, and met an equal number of people. My research method was different from the one employed by most UFO groups.

Instead of waiting for sightings to be reported to me, I set up a system of sources, one or two in each of the small towns that were involved in UFO sightings in Manitoba. Each of these people had themselves been involved in sightings, and they therefore were coming in contact with other stories. Their ears were always open when the topic of UFOs was being discussed.

system works
This ~~was a system that worked~~ extremely well.

Every month I would make a trip to my sources in the various towns to find out from them what the latest happenings were, In this way, I was able to actually follow the flap as it was moved around from town to town.

In exchange for their help, I would be required to exchange last month's most spectacular sightings to them. I would sit back, and, like a grandfather to his grandchildren, amaze them with the reports of sightings, that had occurred elsewhere in Manitoba.

Near the end of the second year, I found that story telling had become a major part of the job, so I decided to write down some of the better stories in a book so that everyone could read them. Telling the stories to four or five people at a time had become costly in that there were many days where I recall telling stories for six hours at a time when I should have been collecting them.

When I was putting this manuscript together at the University of Manitoba in the late 1970s, I would write only at night in order to avoid meeting with friends who would force me to exchange cups of coffee for the latest tidbits in the "saucer world", for which I had become known. Not being able to resist telling a story, I would sometimes kill an entire night of work telling these stories.

The stories came to be known as "classics" -stories with a new twist, or, stories where there was little doubt as to what had been seen.

Never did these story seekers ask for the latest graphs related to the number of sightings, or data related to who saw what. What they wanted to hear was a story "weird enough to test their sense of believability." Then they would be satisfied.

direct quote?

About twenty of the following stories, which now can be considered classics were the most popular. Each of these stories contains unique characteristics which brings them to the forefront of my mind when I'm asked to share about this time.

I have attempted to let the persons involved tell the story in order to keep it as close as possible to the original telling. They are stories that were told to the ^{ITALIC} National Enquirer newspaper and me. The Enquirer took a special interest in these stories because, as a tabloid paper, they seek stories that have a special element.

↓ sensationalism.

The Bobby Baker Case

Ufologists are influenced by many events in their efforts to evaluate the evidence related to this phenomenon. Two of these events are a personal sighting and interviewing people who have had dramatic UFO encounters.

In connection with the second point the Bobbie Baker case stands out as heads above most of the other encounters in the Manitoba UFO flap.

Much of the power of the story lay in the way a timid eight year old boy, Bobbie Baker, told me the story of the UFO he had seen. If it had not been for his father's questions and prodding, he probably would never have told it.

In a field as questionable as Ufology, one would not normally rely on the word of an eight-year-old boy, particularly if he is the only witness. Bobby's case was different. I can say with certainty that out of the hundreds of witnesses I talked to, no one gave me more confidence of their truthfulness than did Bobby.

The entire interview session with Bobby was done in cooperation with Lloyd Baker, whose concern for his son's well-being had caused him to report the story to Anthony Britain in Carman. Anthony in turn told me of the incident and suggested we go and talk to Bobby.

Bobby was present for the entire 30-minute interview, but seemed detached from the interview and from the world for that matter. He looked like he had been haunted ever since he had seen the object, even though it had occurred two weeks prior to our arrival.

I received word from Britain that the event had occurred on February 6, 1976. Anthony simply told me that there had been a close encounter on a farm north of Carman. Two weeks after the event, John Losics from Winnipeg and I arrived at the farm to find out what had occurred.

Bobby and his father met us at their farm. Bobby was a thin frail looking boy. His father appeared to be in his early thirties. It was a very small white house with a south facing open deck. Lloyd Baker showed us to the living room where we all sat by the front window. Stan went into the kitchen and got a chair. He placed the chair in the center of the room and asked Bobby to sit in it.

"Tell the men what you saw" he told Bobby.

Mr. Baker was inquisitive and eager to get to the bottom of what had happened to his son. Bobby, on the other hand, was not. Instead, he chose to withdraw himself. He sat himself on the floor at the far end of the room near the kitchen, hiding behind a chair.

In response to my first question he peered out from behind the chair and simply nodded. The look in his eyes and the fact that he had hidden himself behind the chair sent chills up my spine. I had a distinct feeling at the time that for some reason he expected me to attack him.

"Bobby had me kind of scared," Lloyd began, "so I phoned Britain and said to him, "Before I say anything to you, tell me what they look like." (He was aware through the local paper that Britain had numerous sightings in the previous year}.

"Anthony told me and it was as if it was coming out of Bobby's mouth," he said.

"Well, I pumped him several times," Lloyd continued, "to see whether he was fibbing me or not. He kept telling me the same thing."

While his father talked, Bobby stayed sitting on the floor behind the chair peeking out. He continued to stare at me and said nothing. He appeared not even to be listening. There was no expression on his face. His mind seemed to be somewhere else.

"You see the next door neighbor's lights?" Baker asked me. Both John and I looked out the window.

"It was just over the bushes there . . . two hundred yards, I guess." Looking out the window we could see that the view to the set of trees was unobstructed.

"Where was Bobby" I asked.

"On the front step," Lloyd said.

"Our girl, she's ten . . . I wish he'd have called her in time (to see the object)," he continued. "She said his face was pure white. My wife and I were away at the time. So was the neighbor." By the time Bobby's sister found out what was happening the object had disappeared.

At this point in the conversation I asked Bobby about the ^{color} of the object. He did not answer. He just sat and stared.

"You just tell him what you saw," said Bobby's father. Bobby said nothing.

"How big was it?" questioned Losics.

"It was big," said Bobby. He had finally responded but without any facial expression.

"Sit up, don't be shy." said his father.

"How big was it?" repeated Losics. "Was it as big as a truck, or as big as a car?"

"It was as big as a house." Bobby replied.

I produced a UFO shape chart produced by the International UFO Registry. I placed the page of shapes on the floor in front of me. "Did it look like any of these?" I asked. "Can you come and take a look?"

Bobby looked out from behind the chair. His curiosity had been captured. He crawled slowly across the floor on his hands and knees, took one look at the page of sketches. His review of the objects was quick. He pointed at a simple saucer with a rounded dome top. "It looked like this one," he said. "It had lights all over it."

He had finally decided to talk, but he volunteered very little. His father told most of the story.

Bobby had been out on the front steps of his house facing south. He happened to turn west and saw this huge saucer sitting over the bushes at the neighbor's house.

When I questioned him on the color of the object he said, "First it was green all over. Then there were all kinds of lights (separate lights, not flashing), and when it took off, it turned like blood. Then it went straight up (about 50 feet). It turned solid yellow and stopped. Then it moved over the road (100 feet south) and disappeared."

"Did it disappear or did it flyaway?" I asked.

"It just disappeared." he responded.

"Did it fade away?" I asked.

"No, it just disappeared." he insisted.

"Did it happen instantly?" I continued.

"Yeah, it just took off," Bobby maintained.

*Why use
American
spelling?
This is a
Canadian
Story!*

"Like turning off a light?" I asked.

"Yeah, like turning off a light," he said.

The only noise, according to Bobby, was the sound of a branch cracking and falling, just as the blood red object was taking off. Lloyd checked the area the next morning, and stated that there appeared to be a depression in the snow, but no one bothered to check the part of the story involving the branch.

By the way Bobby was acting, I was convinced that he had actually seen this bizarre sight, but Bobby capped the story when he related an animal reaction to the sighting.

"You forgot to tell him what the pony was doing." His father added.

"I called him and he came around," Booby stated, "and then... Then he looked up at it, and then, I said "You see that Sonny?" Then he kicked up his heels and ran to his house (small shed).

four dots are required. The last one is the period.

According to Bobby's father, just after the encounter, Bobby had had constant headaches, and the first nosebleed of his life.

Concerned over this turn of events, Mr. and Mrs. Baker had taken him to doctors in Carman, but none of them could account for either of the symptoms. Bobby missed school for the first couple of days, but the strange symptoms seemed to fade after the first week. Upon returning to school, Bobby told his story to his friends. When they started to ridicule him, the teacher came to his defense explaining that the things Bobby described could exist.

I asked Bobby whether he had experienced any nightmares about the event, but he didn't answer. Later, from his father I learned that after we had left after questioning the boy, Bobby had told his father that he had had "dreams about them."

The Bakers were deeply concerned about what had happened, but because his mother believed these things "to be of the devil", we didn't bother to check into the medical symptoms incurred.

"One thing for sure, "his father told us. "He was scared."

"In fact," Mr. Baker stated "Bobby had been so petrified" while it was happening that "he was going to shoot the saucer" with his father's 30.6 rifle that was in the house.

"The gun's probably as big as he is." Lloyd said. Then he addressed Bobby, "You're lucky you didn't try that. The rifle would have laid you right on your back end." Bobby didn't look at his father. He sat there unfazed. There was no response, verbal, or otherwise.

Crashing Plane or UFO?

While tracing some stories in the Carman area, I was told that Mrs. Frost had experienced a sighting that was unquestionable. Checking with the Dufferin Leader, ^{ITALIC} a newspaper in Carman, I found that the reason it had never been printed was because her son was the editor of the paper, and for reasons of objectivity in reporting, the story had been dropped.

In checking with the white haired, but active Mrs. Frost, I found that the story was indeed a "classic." In interviews, first with Coleman at the National Enquirer, and in a second interview with Roger Timlick and myself in March 1977 (a science student at the University of Manitoba), I got the whole story.

Sitting in the living room of her home Frost found the incident in the first of two notebooks she used to record the sightings of the last two years, the same period as the rest of the UFO sightings in Manitoba.

As recorded in her book the sighting occurred at 1:15 A.M. June 11, 1975, at the height of the first Carman flap. Because of a sick horse, Frost had been up. Shep, her mean and vicious dog, had alerted her that something was around.

"Even before you see the light," said Frost, "you know Charlie's around because Shep growls in his throat. He always looks around when there's something that he hears, and he cries and whines, a very high pitched whine."

Frost was on the back landing of her two-story house when, gazing up at the western sky suddenly the object appeared. The bottom of the object was lit up, but the top was against the night sky. It was some 40 feet away, flying about 15 feet in the air, just north of the house. "Well, I couldn't believe it."

Frost said. "I thought that it was a plane going down backwards. I was holding my breath because I thought it was going to crash into the trees. It went behind the trees over the field that low."

"There was no danger at any time of it hitting the house." she continued. "It was over the garden. It must have come over the wires. There was no noise . . . the only noise that I heard at the time was the hydro wires and they were really humming. "

"This thing was big," she said. "Well, it looked as big as the granary out back (18' x 20'). That's how big it looked. You could tell just from the width. You could see along the back of it, and I think it extended farther along the side, but that is what I could see. There was a little light and that thing flashed. It was sort of yellowish-orange. The big ones were more like car lights, the old types of cars like the old "Model T's". They sort of had yellow in them, an orange glow to them."

"The big ones were about two feet across and the little one was about a foot across and there were three or four feet between the lights."

"The thing in the middle was a brassy gold color. It was shaped like a bullet and there were these black stripes, which I could see real well. They looked about an inch broad, looking from the back step."

"I ran off the steps after it cleared the trees," she went on, "to see where it was going to land and there was nothing there. It was just gone. It sounds crazy. I guess if I hadn't seen it and someone came and told me that they had seen this, I would tell them that they were crazy."

"Anyone would because it sounds so stupid" Frost concluded.

A Saucer Visits Aspen Air Base

"You see something like what I saw," said Peter Chociemski, "and there's no doubt in your mind. Two hours . . . you couldn't follow an aircraft that long."

"We're the ones that saw it," added his 23-year-old wife, Linda. "It was a red light. Every time I think about it I get scared."