

Chociemski, his wife, and four year old daughter were driving north to their home in Gimli, Manitoba after a night of shopping in Winnipeg. It was around 10:00 P.M. and they had driven 20 miles when Peter spotted the object near a micro-wave tower northeast of Clandeboye, Manitoba.

"When I first spotted it, it was just a blinking red light." Peter told Coleman. "It looked like an airplane, but after a couple of miles I noticed that I was passing the light. I was going approximately 60 miles per hour and started passing it. It didn't really seem to have a speed to it, most of the time it was just standing still."

"Peter never showed it to me for a long time," Linda stated. "Then he said, "Look at that light in the sky - it's going the same speed we are and it seems that we are keeping up with it" "so we followed it up to Gimli and got about a mile from town or so when it crossed the road and was going into town. Then it went into the Aspen Air Base (west of town), and crossed over the road (east) and continued on. We followed it north of Gimli to Walter Zdanowicz 's place."

The object was going so slow that Chociemski decided to pull ahead of it. Pulling onto Zdanowicz 's yard, Chociemski summoned Zdanowicz to come and see the object.

In conversation with Coleman and me, Zdanowicz confirmed the whole incident and described how the object had made two passes over his house from the highway into the west. He made it in time to see the triangle of lights fly over his house the first time and agreed with Chociemski's interpretation of what the object was.

"Peter said that he was going after it again, so he went back to his car, and I went back to my shed." Zdanowicz told us. "A couple of minutes later I noticed that Peter

was still in the driveway. The thing had made a big circle and was coming back. It flew over the house a second time, and that's when Peter started chasing it again."

Meanwhile, in the car, Peter and his family were watching the erratic movements of the craft. "We were watching it and it seemed that every time lights would come down the highway, the object would back up." Mrs. Chociemski said. "When there were no lights it would come closer to us. We didn't have any lights on in the car, and we were just watching it. We couldn't hear a sound."

"Peter was watching with binoculars" she continued, "and then it started going back (south) so we followed it without lights for a while."

The object headed back south down Highway 8 and turned west down highway 231. When it arrived in Gimli, Peter and his family were hot on the tail of the object.

"The object was within 1/10 or 1/8 of a mile from the highway," Peter said. "It went over to David Roman's place. That's when I really saw it close. I pulled into David's yard and it was close . . . maybe 50 yards."

"It was just on the south side of his house," Peter continued, "and it was so low you could have hit it with a rock if you threw hard enough. It was about the height of the ^{TV} antenna." He jumped out of the car, ran to Roman's house and began pounding on the back door. Roman was alone inside, watching television when he heard the noise. Thinking it to be his son, he made no move to answer the door. As the banging continued, however, he got up to see who was there. Finding Chociemski standing there urging him to come outside, he figured Chociemski to have had an accident or to be drunk. But at the insistence of his newly arrived visitor, he decided to go and see what the emergency was all about. In a later

conversation with Coleman and myself, Roman admitted, "I'm sure sorry that I didn't hurry."

While Peter was getting Roman out of the house, his wife and daughter were waiting in the car, 50 yards from the hovering object. For them, the night's fun was over.

"When Peter went to the house," Mrs. Chociemski told Coleman, "it started coming lower and lower and that's when I saw it. It was the shape of a saucer, and had these little windows."

"It came down," she continued, "and landed, and when it landed, the lights went out and we couldn't find it. Sherri was so scared. She was saying, "Let's go home." When Peter got back into the car I told him that I wanted to go home. I was pretty scared. I wanted to leave it, but Peter didn't want to. He wanted to follow it, but I was too scared to look at it."

Returning to the car a few minutes later, Peter turned the car lights into the field south of the farm in an attempt to see the landed saucer. They couldn't find it, so they turned off the lights and waited for Roman.

"About two seconds after we shut the lights off, the craft lit up and it took off again and landed on the runway. (Aspen Air Base, ½ mile east of Roman's farm) It went east," Peter said, "and landed like a helicopter."

Finally, Roman appeared and Chociemski tried to point it out to him. "He was trying to point it out to me," Roman recalled, "but I couldn't distinguish it from all the hangar lights at the air base. He knew which one it was, but I couldn't see it."

Roman got in his truck, Peter got into his car, and they started after it, heading east towards the base.

"We went driving around," Peter said, "with no lights or anything, and we came back to the yard, and talked for a while. Roman still didn't believe me. All of a sudden, the lights came back on, blinking."

"It went along the ground maybe a hundred yards," Peter continued, "and lifted off and went south. The funny thing about it was that Roman said, 'It's an airplane,' but it gave a roar when it took off and then went silent."

"Now that I saw," Roman said. "It was a light rising into the south of the base. It made a low rumbling noise, but this only lasted for a few seconds. I worked at the base for 21 years (clearing snow from the runways), and it didn't sound like a plane to me. Which runway it came off, I don't know, I couldn't tell, because of the distance. It was moving too slowly to be a plane, and it was moving off into the south."

Upon seeing the light take off, Peter hopped into his car and sped off after it again. Roman, still uncertain as to what was happening, declined to go.

"I followed it for miles," Peter said. "It was going back to Winnipeg Beach, 4 - 5 miles from here. It was after midnight when we left it. My car was running low on gas, and my wife was after me to leave, so we just left it, hovering over the treetops."

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The National Enquirer was extremely interested in this case and in a landing that occurred south of Mrs. Doris People's farm, four miles east of the Roman place. When Coleman and I talked to Mrs. People, we found that she too had been involved in the Chociemski sighting.

People and her 13 year old daughter had been driving home, west on Highway 231 one night, which she was sure was the same night as the Chociemski encounter.

"Whatever it was, it was sitting in Roman's yard," she told us. "From the road it was about a block. Not even a block, because I said to the girl, 'It's funny that they're having a wiener roast at this time of the night.'"

Mrs. People estimated the object to be about half the size of the barn. Chociemski and his wife had the object described to be taller.

"It was about 30 feet in diameter," said Chociemski, "roughly - I don't know . . . 15 feet . . . 12 feet high. You could see the outline when it was lit up. It had rectangular windows (wider than tall) around it; 4 or 5 on the side that I could see. They were about 2/3 the way up the craft. The lights coming out of the windows were different colors. They would get brighter and duller."

Mrs. People, however, only got a brief glimpse of the object. "I drove right on by," she said. "I didn't take notice of it until after I saw this thing (referring to the object that landed down the road from her farm) and I heard that Peter had seen it."

Asked whether she had discussed the event with Roman, she answered, "No, because no one would believe me." I thought, "No, I'm not going to say anything."

There were strong indications from my sources at Gimli Collegiate that a number of the students had been involved in the Chociemski affair, but those people did not wish to get involved.

Still with the number of witnesses, the similar times, and the closeness of the sighting, the Chociemski case must be considered a classic.

Four days after Chociemski sighted the first object, he and five others made a spectacular sighting at the plant at which they were employed north of town and east of Highway 8 where Chociemski had chased the first object. This was a fairly lengthy sighting, and the R.C.M.P. was involved.

Peter told the story to me, but then stated a couple of months later to the National Enquirer that he could not talk about it. I recognize Peter's desire not to talk about it, and include reference to the incident only to show that there were quite a few sightings in the Gimli- Fraserwood area during this week of April 1976.

Three Pilots "Just Astounded" May 1975

italic
why are we going backwards here?

"Well, it seems to me that he had seen them before," Mrs. Roger Pitts told me, "but I don't think that they impressed him as much as this one. They could have been this, or they could have been that. But this one I really think shook him up. He kept hearing about them, but to actually experience one that closely, to see the shape."

That, in short, is what was told to me by the wife of Roger Pitts, pilot for Ontario Central Airways, twenty-seven years in the air, logging 17,000 hours flying time, in all types of airplanes from small aircraft on floats right up to Boeing 737 jets.

The incident took place May 6, 1975, only seven days before the famous CKY-TV film was shot in Carman, and during the period of the heaviest flap in Manitoba history. Instead of the sighting taking place over the flat wheat fields of Southern Manitoba, Pitts's sighting took place at Berens River, 200 miles northeast of Carman.

Here, bush country and lakes extend for hundreds of miles. Only the odd isolated settlement gave indications of any people inhabiting the area.

The three pilots, Roger Pitts, Ralph Dickenson and Manuel Hernandez were bound for Aspen Air Base in Gimli from the port of Churchill on Hudson Bay. As Pitts described the weather and time, "It was about noon. It was clear and there was very little cloud, scarcely any cirrus. It was a clear day."

"There were three of us," Pitts said. "We were southbound with a DC-3 at 6,000 feet and we were coming up on Lake Winnipeg. Over to our right, we spotted an aircraft or what appeared to be an aircraft, coming towards us at quite a distance. It drew closer and we (Pitts and Dickenson) were both watching it, trying to determine what it was. We noticed then that it wasn't flying straight and level. It was flying at an angle of 45 degree bank, but it was still coming straight towards us."

"It didn't turn around," Pitts said in astonishment, "it just went directly in the other direction, straight away from us. Without changing its angle of bank or anything else, it went away off into the distance away from us, and ^{if DOTS REQUIRED} a puff of smoke appeared. An odd shape - like a small cloud...And it disappeared in that." ?

"Then," Pitts continued, "Another one appeared over towards our right, approximately 20 miles farther over to our right, and all we got out of it was a dot and a puff of smoke. It disappeared."

"Then", he added, "The one that we previously watched reappeared, and came back towards us . . . and did the same thing, disappeared again. "There's just no way that anything I know of could come directly towards us and not turn around to retreat."

"The first and third ones, 10 degrees off their track, were the best ones to get a look at." Pitts went on. "Dickenson and I watched the first one. We drew Hernandez's attention to it and he came from the back to look at it. By this time it was receding and he couldn't see it as well as we could . . . we yelled at him, but he took his time coming up. It was slanted down to our right."

Asked if he got a good look at the shape, he said, "Actually, yes, well, I would say just a flat cylindrical shape. I didn't get a real good look at it to see if it had any windows. I couldn't distinguish color (except to say it was dark). All I could see was the form at that distance."

Asked about the size he said, "There was really nothing to gauge any size to it, but we could plainly see that it was coming towards us."

Pitts was asked by the National Enquirer ^{ITAC} to comment on the whole affair in light of his experience in the air. "He'd just heard rumors of some sightings in the Sioux Lookout, and Thunder Bay, Ontario area the previous day. It's a few hundred miles to the southwest of where we saw the sighting." Pitts answered, and then went on, "I thought to myself that in view of the rumors I'd actually say, that I felt that I had seen something that I couldn't describe, that I could say that that was a UFO. This is what my thought was. I've never gone out of my way deliberately to look for them, but we've had some reports from some of our airline pilots on Transair. We've had some people who have seen them."

"I felt at that point that mine was an actual sighting, something that I couldn't explain in any other way than that it could have been a UFO, he said. "I've wished

ever since I saw it that I had gotten a better look at it, but certainly what we saw was something that I couldn't explain in any other way."

Almost two years after I talked with Mick Yexley, a friend of Pitts's, and an experienced bush pilot and engineer in Gimli. Yexley had his own hair curling UFO story, and therefore, had a common interest with Pitts.

A Disk Visits Friendship Field

Jackie Answers, an audiovisual technician at the University of Manitoba, and I were driving into Carman July 23, 1976 in an attempt to film the ground lights. It was about a half hour before sunset.

Jackie and I had hoped to be in position 8 miles north of Carman before the sun set so that we could watch exactly how the "ground lights" at that particular location appeared.

Coming up to Haywood, about 8 miles east of Carman on Highway #3, we both noticed an egg shaped cloud south of our position in a line that would place it near Roland, Manitoba (1) "What's that out there?" asked Jackie, who was driving.

"I've been watching it for a while," I responded. "It looks funny, but it's probably just a cloud."

Jackie retorted that there were no clouds in sight, and looking around, I found him to be right. He wanted to stop to shoot some movie film, but I insisted that we keep on driving so as to arrive at our appointed spot by sundown. "We can watch while we drive." I said.

It was a solidly outlined object sitting 15-20 degrees off the horizon. It was quite dark, almost black, but this I attributed to the angle of the sun. We watched it for about five minutes, in which time it never changed shape. Suddenly, at a point when neither of us was looking, it disappeared. We continued on without stopping at Friendship Field.

Two nights later, I walked into the main hangar at Friendship Field and found a crowd of people talking. Britain spotted me and said, "Boy, did you miss a beauty!"

Hunter Ames, one of Britain's assistants, I had been told, saw one during the day. "He was always telling us we were seeing things," laughed Britain, "and now he says that anything we have seen is a wheelbarrow compared to the thing he saw."

When they told me that it had appeared like a cloud and that the cloud "was the only one in the sky", I cut them off and asked whether Ames had seen the cloud in the south.

"Yeah," said Britain, "how did you know that?" "I saw it." I responded.

I checked the time of the sighting and found that Ames had sighted the object 15 minutes after we had. A couple of days later, I met Ames who told me the whole story, including reference to "wheelbarrows" and "hanging pictures."

"You never seen anything like it," Ames told me. As he said this Britain began to chide him about his former skepticism. The criticism didn't bother Ames in the least. He simply continued with his story until he was finished.

When Coleman was in Carman I suggested that he talk to Ames. We taped the interview in the Carman Motel. "The sun was just setting." Ames began. "I was out at the airport. I go there quite often to visit. I never noticed anything until I walked out

into the field. While he (Anthony Britain) was taxiing down the runway (toward the south) I noticed this gray cloud above him. It was a long way away, and egg shaped. The first thing that I thought was, 'Gee, that's a funny looking cloud.'"

"Britain took off, and as soon as he took off, this gray thing was underneath him," he continued. "He made a circuit east and I could see this gray thing again. I was standing there looking right at the cloud, never turning my head. My eyes subconsciously followed this gray streak in the air and my eyes were looking at a saucer right over the sunflower field (halfway down the runway.) That's how fast it moved you know. My head was still facing where I was watching (the cloud) and my eyes were on the saucer (over- head).

"So I looked at the saucer and it hung there perfectly stationary for about 10 seconds." he went on. "It hung there like a picture hanging on the wall. You could actually see it spinning. You could see the streaks where the portholes would be. It was spinning clockwise, I'm sure."

"There was a purple halo around it . . . and the saucer itself was the same color as the sky." Ames said. "Like if it hadn't been for the halo, and if it hadn't been stopped, I wouldn't have seen it, because it came up so fast. All around was this halo, the perfect shape of the saucer. The saucer was the same color as the sky, invisible. You'd never see anything in the day. They go so damned fast."

"Was it right side up?" asked Coleman.

"Oh, no." shot back Ames. "It was hanging with the bubble down. Well, actually, what it looked like was one of those kids' toys, but it's got this extra bubble on the bottom." Later, the spin was estimated to be 1,000 R.P.M.)

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"It was a lot deeper than the pictures I've seen," Ames went on. "I guess it could be 80 feet in diameter anyway . . . and I couldn't get over the depth of it . . . I'd say it would be 60 feet between the top and the bottom of the bubble. I never realized it, but that thing . . . I'm sure it saw me watching it. As soon as it noticed I was watching it, it just backed off. It faded back into that same cloud formation . . . then all of a sudden, you could actually see the arc of it. It left black stuff, like the color of the cloud part, just left behind little tinsels in the air."

"And fast." he exclaimed. "You never saw anything so fast in your life. It was just remarkable. It went away just as fast as it came. From the time I started looking at it, for about 4 or 5 seconds it was only about another 5 seconds before it made this arc in the sky and was gone."

"Those things seem to take off from scratch," he added. "I imagine it was going 1000 M.P.H. just like that. They really poured the coal to it when they took off. It was half a mile away before I even realized that it had started to move."

Britain, who was flying the four seat Mooney plane, saw nothing. "I was climbing at the time." Britain told me. "Your nose is up and you're lucky if you can see over the nose. It just knew where the blind spot was."

Someone else, however, had seen it. Three days later, Kip Faux (a carpenter in Carman), came up to Ames and told him that he and his son had seen the whole thing from Stevensfield (eight miles west of Carman). He told Ames, "You remember the night you saw that thing? My boy and I were looking at it and we saw this gray cloud moving along the horizon. I told my son, "There's a flying saucer, and as soon as I said that, it made this arc in the sky and was gone."

It was a classic case, two witnesses 8 miles west of Carman, and two witnesses 8 miles east of Carman, and one witness right under it, also in Carman. It would have been a much better case, however, if I had I followed the rule I had laid down to all photographers I had taken out, "shoot first, ask questions later."

Had I followed this rule, I would be showing a movie film instead of telling the story with words, which does the story no justice.

The Blast Off - The First Night

Why is the story line going backwards?

It was the last few days of June 1975. The weather was hot and extremely dry. The Pembina Valley was experiencing its fourth flap of UFO sightings in two months. The people in Carman were again taking up their nightly watches for Charlie Red Star.

Anthony and Rachael Britain had posted themselves at the top of a steep hill, in the Pembina Hills just southwest of Miami, Manitoba. This location provided a beautiful view for 70 miles into the Pembina Valley, and it also provided a hideout for avoiding the huge crowds that were gathering at Britain's airstrip in Carman.

In the early months of the 1975 Carman flap, Charlie could be seen appearing at the U.S. border about halfway between the former KCND-TV tower on the border and the town of Walhalla, N.D. After crossing the international border, Charlie would start to drop altitude until, at Roland Manitoba, he would be not more than 1,000 feet off the deck.

The plan of those who watched from this loft in the hills was to spot Charlie early and then attempt to drive down into the valley towards Roland in order to cut him off. The Britains had seen this flight path numerous times - the flight over the border, up to Carman and then back south along Highway 3, past Jordan, and back into the states. Most of the time the object was pulsating red and resembling a beating heart with a bluish-green field on the forward side.

This night, however, a new lighting formation appeared. "When we first saw that thing from the hill at Miami, it had a blue light and a white light." Anthony said to his wife. "As a matter of fact, this night we thought it was an airplane. Paul Sanders was with us, and so was Ian Harris." Rachael said, "That's a UFO," and we said "it was a plane."

"I don't know why we said that," Britain said. "Because of the lighting it was all wrong. We were convinced it was an airplane even though it made no sound." We chased it across country," he continued, "and we chased it quite a ways, and got fairly close to it because it made its usual swing up to Carman. We caught it cross-country and waited for it. As it came up we got fairly close to it."

"We hit a dead end road," he said, "and watched it with binoculars, and we figured, hell, that's got to be an airplane because it's not going fast enough."

"The next day about 2:00 p.m.," Britain told me, "I got a phone call from a woman who lives south of Roland." She said, "You know, I don't like to bother you, but last night a UFO scared me and my two kids." So I said, "O.K., where were you?" and she told me, "Well, we were driving home to the farm; we were about 2 miles south of

Roland. This thing came over us, and lit up the whole road. It made no noise, and it was about 1000 feet up. It had a white light and a blue light on it."

Britain asked her what time this had happened. She answered, "About ten minutes to 11:00." Britain said, "Lady, at about ten minutes to 11:00 we were watching the same object just four miles west of you. We came to the conclusion that it was a plane."

"That was no plane!" she exclaimed.

"The time and position are identical." Britain told her.

"I shut off the engine." she continued. "It didn't stall. Then I rolled down the window."

"Did you get out?" Britain asked.

"No way." she said. "I looked up at it. There was just no sound."

I asked Britain what the woman's name was. He said that she had given it, but that he hadn't written it down. Therefore, I had been told a good double witness sighting and had nothing to back it up. A year after the sighting, however, I was in Roland Elementary School spilling forth my tales to the Grade 4's, 5's and 6's. Even before I began, a small girl in the first row put up her hand.

"I've seen a UFO," she said.

"Where was this?" I asked.

"Just south of town," she responded.

"Where was the UFO?" I asked.

"Right over the truck." she answered.

"Who was with you?" I probed.

"My Mommy and sister." she answered.

"Bingo," I thought to myself, "I haven't even begun to talk and I have what I came to Roland for." The trip to the Elementary School had been a long shot in finding the family, but it had paid off.

The woman turned out to be Mrs. Jean McMahon. She confirmed the story to me. She also confirmed phoning Britain with regard to what she had seen. She had seen it near the end of June.

The Second Night - Charlie Takes Off

On the second night, a car salesman and one of the few night pilots in southern Manitoba had joined the Britains at their private sighting spot high in the Pembina Hills.

"After that night," Britain told me, "Brazil's life would never be the same."

It was the usual routine. Charlie appeared at the border and started his descent towards Carman. Tannis Major, the photographer, and the Britains were off to the car in a shot. They moved quickly in an attempt to cut Charlie off.

Brazil, the rookie, was not so sure. "He felt sorry for us because he was sure that we were chasing an airplane" Britain told me with a chuckle in his voice.

They headed off into the valley after Charlie, but as if Charlie had seen the posse coming, he cut short the loop and headed back long before he got to Carman. "Consequently," Anthony and Rachael told me, "we were behind him by the time we got to the highway in the valley."

Nevertheless, they sped off south down Highway #3 after him. As with the sighting of the night before, the lighting formation had begun as a blue and white light. "As we chased it," said Britain, "the light changed to a pulsating red light, and from then on we never lost sight of it."

"Then it went from a pulsing red to a steady red," Britain stated, "so it changed configurations three times while we watched it."

Brazil, however, was still convinced it was a plane. He told Britains that it would go back to the west and land at Jordan. Instead, Charlie headed south into North Dakota. "It disappeared ^{OVER} ~~on~~ the horizon into the U.S., and the four of us decided that the night's fun was over, so we turned around and started back for Carman," Britain stated.

"Suddenly we noticed that it was coming back at us, and as it was coming back, it was not pulsing; it was solid red."

Everyone got out of the car and watched as the object moved north, closer and closer to their position. As Britain watched it with his 7 x 50 binoculars, Tannis set up her camera for a picture she would never get.

"It almost got close enough for Tannis to get a picture, but not quite." Britain stated. "She got the camera set up, trained on it, telephoto lens and all, but what are you going to take a picture of? One little light? She waited too long. She was waiting for it to get a little closer, and all of a sudden one light went off, the other dimmed, and she was beat."

The whole episode about the lights dimming down, and then shutting off was a complex affair, and the inquisitive mind of Anthony Britain had a lot to say about it.

As the object approached, Britain handed his binoculars to Brazil, whose plane theory was now shot down in flames. He watched it for a while and then cried out, "It's changing its altitude."

When Britain got his binoculars back, he confirmed Brazil's observations. "It had shifted itself on its edge," Britain said. "Just as it flipped on the angle, many other things happened. It got close enough so that I could actually see it against the starlight---the shape of the thing. You know. The disk shape of the thing . . . you put together two plates and you get sort of a cigar shape. It had two lights on the edge of the disk."

"It had two running lights from each side." Britain went on. "When it went on an angle, the bottom light went out and the top light sucked down. The top light was the only one that remained."

Everyone thought it had disappeared, I could see with the binoculars that it was still there. It had just sucked down its light the same way as when you short out a welder." He referred to a drawing he had just made. "There was a haze here," he said. "Like St. Elmo's fire. Some type of field, but it was actually like little fingers of flame, just the same as the one that we saw at the tower."

To prove his point he got a color drawing that had been done by Brian James of Winnipeg. Just as Britain was now telling me, there was a field protruding out of the side of a cigar shaped object.

"It disappeared from us as it moved in a long arc upwards. The lights started to come on as if it no longer needed the power," Britain said. "As the power came back

on, it got brighter and brighter. Brazil told me that without the binoculars he could see it getting brighter as it moved off into space."

"It picked up speed," continued Britain. "Soon it was going so fast that I said, 'See, it's going from that star to that star to that star. It achieved orbit in 35 seconds, from the time it flipped on its side, which is faster than any man made machine.'"

From this observation, which was one of the best Britain was to make out of his numerous sightings of Charlie Red Star, he drew up a list that outlined the things he believed were going on.

1. It was manned because it went out in a long, large arc.
2. I believe the drive is electronic, because of the sucked down light, and the fact they shut the other one off to conserve power.
- 3) They weren't using anti-gravity because they wouldn't have put on the angle and the long bank. They were setting up the best G. angle.
- 4) They conserve energy because they didn't go into orbit to the south, the direction it was travelling, but arced to the east, so they could use the spinoff off the ground.
- 5) Their most economical cruising speed is between 60 and 80 mph.
- 6) They like to fly not more than 1000 feet or usually less. When they set up for blast-off, they were below 1000 feet.
- 7) It had a halo under it, after an angle. It looked like St. Elmo's fire, or blue mist, some type of magnetic field.
- 8) Power came back on (light got brighter) as it achieved orbit. This would mean less power drain.

9) Orbit in 35 seconds, counted from suck down until it was gone. No noise. We were within 5 miles, maybe as little as 3 miles. It was hard to tell at night.

The Third Night

According to Britain, Brazil saw the same thing again six months later, in December 1975. Brazil and his wife were driving east to Winnipeg on Highway 2, and had just passed through Starbuck, Manitoba. Near the Starbuck tower, his wife saw an object on the ground, and pointed it out to Sam, asking him whether it was a yard light.

They slowed the car and watched it. It didn't look right. It was little and red and didn't have the same halo around it that is found around a yard light.

"All of a sudden it took off." Britain stated. "Same circumstances, it went into orbit, but this time he was on the other side of it. It went into orbit over them."

"It made a bank and headed up and into the east just as the one at Morden had done. "This time," said Britain, "it left a definite trail."

Charlie Goes to School

While appearing on the biggest radio talk show in Winnipeg called the CJOB "Action Line", a call came from a woman in Kenton, Manitoba. She phoned in and related the fact that she had had an unidentified object trail her during the day. I asked Peter Warren, host of the show, to get her number. After the show ended, I

checked to see where Kenton was, and found it to be 170 miles west of Winnipeg, where there had been a fair amount of UFO activity during the period August 1975 through August 1976.

Coleman had been with me on the talk show. When I arrived at Coleman's motel room, I told him the case looked good enough to investigate, so, together we taped a phone interview with the woman, who refused to give her name for publication.

The woman was a housewife on a farm, and she had a part-time job driving children to school in a small van. It was the fall of 1975, and the woman was driving with three of her own children as well as other children. It was 8: 30 a.m., and the van was traveling south towards Kenton when one of her children suddenly cried, "Mom - look at the sun!"

"I looked," she told us. "Then I looked again and told them, "Kid's, that's not the sun." "It was fiery red and was in the shape of an ice cream sundae. That's what it looked like, like it had a cherry on top of it. We really couldn't distinguish any marks on it, except for a couple of strips around the top. We could see it rotating around, and it kept ahead of us a wee bit."

It wasn't very high in the sky because the bottom part of the object became blocked out when they passed behind some high trees. The trees, however, gave her an idea of the size. "To me it looked as high "as an elevator," she said. "It was enormous, it really was."

"As high as an elevator?" asked Coleman in surprise. (A grain elevator is 70-80 feet high)

"Well, I would say about as high." she responded. "You know that's approximate because it was unbelievable, unbelievable...period."

"You could look at that thing," she continued, "and when you turned your eyes around you couldn't see it at all. You were blinded for a minute or two." She stated that the object was flying along beside them on the east side, so Coleman asked her whether or not what she had seen might not have been the sun.

"No way." she shot back. "In my own mind I'm positive that it was not. It wasn't shaped that way and we couldn't see it rotate if it had been the sun."

In addition to these items, the woman mentioned actions of the object that I was to find in other independent cases. "I stopped the van twice," she stated, "and each time I stopped the van and backed up . . . I got a funny feeling when that thing stopped . . . and then when I moved it would move on."

After about five miles, they turned to go west. Again, she described a weird phenomenon that was common to other cases. "When we got to the corner where we turned off to Kenton to go west, we could see it a bit . . . it was still going south . . . the kids could hardly wait to get to school. After that, the object had simply vanished."

The effect upon the woman in the case was interesting. "I really didn't believe in the darned things," she told us, "but I'm so positive that it had to be something like that. I mean, seeing is believing. I was so excited. I didn't know how to describe it. I was shook up. I had two girls in the van who were really terrified by this thing. They turned white and didn't say a word. The boys were just the opposite. They were excited."

THIS IS
THE CORRECT
FORMAT

The case is a good one---daylight, numerous witnesses, and small but important parallels to other cases in Manitoba. It was referenced on an open line show in Brandon that there were similar sightings the same day, but we were unable to check this fact.

Seeing them in Bunches

The following classic story is actually the accounting of a two-day rash of sightings that occurred in the areas of Starbuck, Elie, and Portage ^{la}~~La~~ Prairie. It occurred during the first week of August 1976. The importance lies in the fact that more than one UFO was seen on each occasion, and that all of them were travelling to the same point north of Portage ^{la}~~La~~ Prairie. In addition all witnesses described objects moving at a high speed, which was rarely reported during the Manitoba flap.

First to spot the objects were a group of people who operate the Frontier Portage Motel on the east side of the large town in Portage ^{la}~~La~~ Prairie. Those involved were Mickey, Spencer, and Chad Watt, Debbie Sanu, and Dorothy Sanu. Debbie, a middle aged woman, was the one that made everyone aware of the fact that a UFO would be around in August.

"I read everything I could get my hands on (UFO material)." she told me. "I've told the kids about them and gotten them interested. I told them about the August flaps around here. They're supposed to be quite prominent in this district of Manitoba. The kids were looking for them and they found them."

"Micky, the youngest, got to see them first," she went on. "For most of the night" he told me. "I noticed that there were about five lights in the eastern sky and that they were standing still. When it got dark you could see them better so I went and got my binoculars and looked at them. I asked Debbie what she thought they were and she said they were UFOs, so we went into the house and got everyone out. They were there about two hours steady. Not moving. Then they started to move and they disappeared across the sky." The five objects had been stacked up in the sky in the east over Elie, Manitoba. A common element to everyone's story was the fact that once they started to move, they started to multiply. Everyone told me that when they disappeared in the northwest, there were nine of them.

"I was watching them when they got north of us." Debbie stated. "I noticed all of a sudden that there seemed to be all kinds of them. They were in a nice little formation. They were all individual. They weren't captive or anything. They were all individual blobs."

Mike, who had the binoculars for the longest period of time saw the "objects go into formation" and drew exactly how it happened. He was "amazed at how quickly they go into formation and with such precision." The drawing he made had seven objects, as they were lining up, and nine when they assumed the tight formation. He, like everyone else, stuck to the story that they had multiplied out of nowhere.

Another element agreed upon by all of those that I talked to, was the fact that the objects did not accelerate (this was a common element in other cases such as Amess). They were just suddenly going at an incredible speed.

"They picked up speed real quick after sitting there for two hours." Terry told me.
"Then they went vroom."

"Boy, they could go," added Debbie. "When they wanted to go there was no gaining speed, they just went."

The formation was described by Mike as "like a horseshoe with one side longer" and by others as sort of a rounded V. In respect to the drawing Mike made, he stated that he could see the shapes of the crafts, and that he could see that each had three lights on it.

As to the color and position of the lights, he stated that he'd rather not say, as he was not too sure. "It all happened so fast." Mike said.

Chad and Spencer Watte were very skeptical of Debbie's tales before they made the sighting, but they had both turned 180 degrees in their thinking.

"Micky, the oldest boy came in and drew them right away," said Debbie. "Then he phoned Allen at CFRY. He phoned because he had always scoffed at me. He said, 'I've seen them. I can't believe it.'" "So he was really enthused, and he phoned the radio station."

I checked with the announcer known as "Allen" at CFRY who confirmed the bizarre account of being flooded with phone calls. He didn't recall exactly how many calls had come in during the two to three minute period, but it was a lot. He thought perhaps ~~10-12~~. *ten to twelve*

"They were all describing the same thing," he told me. There was no place to file the reports so he simply phoned the Portage Air Force Base tower to check whether

they had seen anything. The answer was no. Allen then sent out someone to the area where everyone was describing the objects, but it was long over, and the fellow came back empty handed. He had not recorded the names of any of the people who phoned. As he told me, "There was no need to."

Allen's involvement with UFOs, however, was not over. The next night he would receive another call, this time from Ben Dyck, who was a resident of Starbuck and a third year agriculture student at the University of Manitoba. Coleman and I just happened to stumble on to Dyck when we were in Starbuck looking for directions to the farm of Wilson McKennett.

We went to the restaurant to ask directions and as we were leaving I mentioned to the men there that we were trying to locate McKennett with regards to a UFO sighting he had had. The flap was heavy in this area and I thought perhaps these people had been involved. Two of them jumped up from their table and proceeded to tell us of their involvement. Dyck was the one we became interested in.

"My friend, Karl Bandeau and I had been painting his car." Ben told us. "We got thirsty and decided to go for some beer. We pulled out about 15 minutes before dusk. We just pulled out and had driven about half a mile when all of a sudden I saw a small bright cloud about to the northeast, and it was about 10,000 feet altitude, ten times the height of the Starbuck tower which is 1000 feet."

"I said to Karl, Hey, look at that weird cloud, have you ever seen anything like that? He said. "Yeah, that is weird," and I said to him, "I've never seen a cloud separate from the pack like that. That's no cloud. Put down the throttle and go after it!"

*IF More than
1 speaker,
they
should have
separate
paragraphs.*

"So we went after it," continued Ben. "It was a small cloud, and if you looked at it long enough, like maybe 5-6 seconds, you'd see that it was almost changing shape. It was pulsating. I don't know, like a small pulsating cloud."

"We started following it," he said. "We couldn't gain on it. We were heading west, and it was over to the northwest of us. We were doing about 60 M.P.H. and we'd gone for two minutes. By that time it was 30 miles away . . . we stopped two miles from the La Salle River, and got out to watch it."

*INCONSISTANT
Format.*

"I was going about 90 mph as I calculated it." Ben went on. "It was effortlessly gliding across the sky, and it was just going . . . no noise . . . no sound . . . no vapor trails, nothing. It just glided and then it went right past Elie . . . and I thought it was somewhere between Elie and Portage ^{La} Prairie. All of a sudden, another one came up. Out of the horizon to the right of this object at about half the altitude of the first object, say 5,000 feet, another one comes gliding out. By the sun's rays it looked like a small red cloud. It came up, this small object, and they sat there and maintained their position relative to each other."

After flagging down Allen and Dell Shade from Starbuck, they continued to watch the "second one" ^{o period}

Ben explained. "It was like it just faded into the sunset. It just moved quickly right into the sunset and was gone. The other one stayed for about 20 seconds and then took off. It seemed like it probably veered off north of Portage ^{La} Prairie. We followed it until it was just a pinpoint in the sky, and then it was gone."

"Allen said that it was a plane," Ben stated, but where was the vapor trail, where was the noise, why was it moving at 900 m.p.h. I didn't say anything. I didn't want to

argue. Dell said, "Yeah, it looks like a small cloud; the same thing I described it as, and she said it was right over Starbuck and then it started to move."

About 9:30 Allen got to a phone, telephoned CFRY in Portage, and told his story. "He told the same thing I described now," Ben told us, "and he says before you go any further, that's pretty well the same thing a dozen people described last night."

Just after making the phone call, Ben told us a jet had come over leaving a vapor trail. The jet was about 2,000 to 3,000 feet lower.

"The object took off northwest and the jet was going west?" Coleman asked him. ↙ ?

"No, the object was gone." Ben replied. "The jet came over about 30 minutes later."

"There was no comparison between this thing and the jet?" Coleman asked.

"Absolutely not," he said. "I would say the jet was 10 times the size of this thing."

Beams and Circles

After investigating hundreds of sightings in the two year flap, such stories as the above became a dime a dozen. Depending upon your patience with such things, you could collect them as bizarre as the following case related to me by Chris Sedaris, a prominent UFO researcher in Winnipeg who spent hour after hour tracing some of the hundreds if not thousands sightings.

The case, Sedaris told me, happened in October of 1976, on a farm south of Austin, Manitoba. It was a nice fall day and the farmer involved was out disking at about 2:00 in the afternoon. There were no clouds in the sky. Suddenly, as the

farmer was driving along, it started to rain. Rather taken by the whole affair, the farmer looked up and confirmed to his startled mind that there were no clouds above him. Yet, it was raining lukewarm rain in a circle that extended a radius of about 20 feet from his tractor.

He got off his tractor, walked out to where it wasn't raining, and felt the ground. It was dry. He walked back into the rain and felt the ground. It was damp. Not knowing what to do to correct the situation, he got back on his tractor and drove out of the circle, and then the rain stopped. He told Samuel that the rain had lasted 3 - 4 minutes.

While lecturing at Starbuck Junior High School, I ran across a very similar case. I had completed my lecture, and answered questions for about 30 minutes. After about five attempts the principal finally got the students back into their classrooms.

One small and timid boy remained behind. "Can I talk to you?" he asked.

He told me that he and his family had been driving at night on the highway outside of Starbuck, when they suddenly found themselves surrounded by a circle of green light, which extended beyond the edges of the two-lane highway.

The family, quite astonished by the turn of events, got out to see where the green light was coming from. "It didn't come from anywhere," he told me.

"You looked above you?" I asked.

"Yeah, there was nothing there." he said.

"And yet this light extended all the way around the car?" I asked.

"Was it bright, could you see the road easily? Could you read a newspaper by the light?" I queried.

"Oh yeah." he said. "It was really bright." Like the farmer south of Austin, the whole affair lasted 3- 4 minutes. Then the lights went out. The family got back in their car, and drove off, probably wondering what the world was coming to.

Then there was Michael Perreault's case, at West Hawk Lake, east of Winnipeg. This area, as opposed to the flat farmlands of Austin and Starbuck, is on the Canadian Shield and is hilly and forested. It was the fall of 1974, about the same time as the famous UFO landings at the Fuhr farm in Langenburg, Saskatchewan.

"There was a light hovering above me and Brock Taveras." Perreault told me. "There was a low cloud ceiling and the object was in the clouds." Both had the impression that there was a light revolving around a circular object in the clouds and that this light projected down a beam that was fixed on some point upon the cliff for some reason.

"It seemed like some guy on the ground with a flashlight, a high intense flashlight, which he was rotating in the air." Perreault continued. "The round object was in the clouds, and it was moving around in a circle. I figure the beam would be about a foot and a half across . . . It was a very strong light. It lit up everything."

"You could really see the light. Boy, Brock and I were just vibrating, we were shaking."

The object followed the car for a period, rotating around, and when they stopped the car, the beam suddenly appeared on the cliff beside them. I said, "People are always talking about UFOs. If there's one up there, I want to see the cotton pickin' thing."

Ricky told me. "The point was no more than 200 yards away from us, 100 - 200 yards. Ken left the car, running and we headed up the cliff. When we were on our way up, the thing took off. It didn't make any sound really. It just took off like a shot. I've seen some fast things, but that was the fastest. We watched it disappear. As we were on our way up to it, it sort of shut the light off, but there was still a light in the clouds, whatever it was. You could still see a light in the clouds. It sure was something that would put a spooking into a guy. It was something else!"

"It took off like a flash." Taveras was to tell me in a separate interview. "All you could see was this spark that went down the road, along the bush line. It was above the trees on my side. I was even scared to come back."

Although this case was similar to the previous two, it acquired its bizarre quality from what happened to Michael Perreault a few months later, at his home in Winnipeg Beach.

"It was just after Christmas, January 1975." Ricky began. "I was sound asleep in my bed, and I couldn't get out of my bed. It was as if you were to get this intense electric shock, and you can't let go. It was that feeling that I had. I couldn't let go. In fact, I did smash my right wrist against my desk when I did break free of it. I was conscious while this whole thing was going on. I ripped the whole bed apart - everything. I thought to myself for damn sure those Martians are coming to get me, and I told that to the guys at work. They told me "Now you're really cracking up."

Charlie Goes Sight Seeing

Britain as a prominent citizen in southwestern Manitoba, and as a public figure related to the UFO flap received a lot of calls from around the province telling him of UFO sightings that were happening in other towns. One such case phoned in to Britain was a classic case phoned in by a woman who had been trailing a Greyhound bus driving down Highway 2 heading for Winnipeg. The date was January 21, 1976. The bus was just west of St. Claude, Manitoba when the woman stated the bus stopped right on the highway.

The woman told Anthony that she noticed all the people were suddenly getting out of the bus and looking north. She stopped her car as well to see what all the commotion was about. There, in plain daylight was a huge metallic disk, flying along the tree line.

The woman further reported that on the other side of the object there was a group of snowmobile riders who had also stopped their machines. They were also standing there and were watching the silver disk. That was the story that was given to Britain.

I talked to Samuel Sedaris, who worked on a lot of sightings in Haywood and St. Claude where the sighting occurred. He told me that the story had even captured a few lines in the local French paper of the district. "I talked to the ski-doers," he stated, "but couldn't get a straight story. Some said that they had seen it but some said they didn't see anything."

We had been told that the bus was a Greyhound, but Greyhound denied being involved. The same denial came from the other two bus lines that go along that

highway. The woman who phoned Britain had not left her name, so the story although a classic tale was a dead end.

Estimates of the number of people involved run in the sighting ran as high as forty. Two Ufologists, Samuel Sedaris, and I turned over every lead we had. Although we could confirm the whole affair, we could not obtain enough statements to complete the story of just what happened, and who was involved.

Charlie Powers Up

Then, there was the case of the two brothers, Jerry and Tracy Moore in Dunleath on the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border. The object was sighted first by Leslie, who saw the object hovering above some high voltage lines south of the farm. "It then headed for the power line which feeds our farm house, and while it hovered over the lines, it shot two rays to the line." Leslie told the paper. "When the rays touched the lines, they turned red, and the yard light dimmed."

The object, described as red on top and bottom, with a silver section in the center, then headed north of the farm where Leslie's brother Jerry was working in a stubble field. Jerry told the paper that he saw it coming from the south. "It moved so fast, it was just a streak with no sound at all."

Now the reader knows the relationship

Over the power lines at Highway 10, the craft again shot beams to the three power lines. "The beams were thin at first." Jerry said, "But they got bigger when they touched the lines. The beams didn't retract into the UFO. They just disappeared in about five seconds."

From there the UFO took off at a high speed, and a sharp angle into the northern sky. Leslie was now on his bike, headed into the field to tell his brother what he had seen, but his brother had seen the same thing. They remained in the house until their parents arrived. "After that," said their father Joe Moore, "they wouldn't go into the field again."

Joseph McCann at his farm north of Carman told a similar story. The family had countless experiences with UFOs in the air and on the ground. It was one of the stories that Marc took a lot of criticism for telling.

The McCann farm used a lot of power, but as Joseph told me during the flap period it started using a lot more. Joseph fought the hydro supplier but he found it a bit hard to convince them that they should lower his bill because a flying saucer was stealing power when no one was watching.

And Yet More

After two years of investigation of these 'classic' cases, I found that these sightings occurred in front of crowds of people more often than would be expected. Asked a thousand times to account for why UFOs were seen where they were, I usually responded that the sparse population of the area was a major factor.

Here, however, the opposite situation arose. Instead of an object doing its tricks in front of one or two persons, it was doing its thing in front of huge groups. It only helped to confuse the situation.

Consider, for example, the case of seven junior high students in Starbuck who got the scare of their lives during a heavy flap of sightings that occurred in the area during the first three weeks of August 1975. The leader of the group, Bob Sanderson, told me the story. Later, while lecturing at the school, I was able to confirm the story with the others who were involved.

"They, Cathy Wall and three of her friends were driving right behind me." said Sanderson. "They were following me because my transmission was gone, and all I had was reverse. I was driving backwards down the old highway outside Starbuck. It was about a mile (west) down the road. I was backing up down the road when I saw this blue light. I thought that it was an airplane or something. It went over Starbuck where it circled and turned around. I could see that it was now a red light, and I noticed that it started to come towards me. It was pretty big. The length of it was maybe 60 feet. It came about 150 feet away."

"This was at night, he recalled. "I opened my window to see if I could hear anything but all I could hear was a sort of rushing sound. It was moving back and forth, and I shut my lights off when it came back on again."

He told me that it had been rotating. It was shaped like two plates together - no dome. There was a blue light on one side and a red light on the other side. Other than the two lights, the craft was not lit up.

"It was dark." Britain said. "All I could see was the outline against the sky."

All five were now petrified and Bob got in the girl's car and raced back to Starbuck in order to get two friends to witness this.

"When we came back," stated Bob, "it had started to leave. It was a bit in the distance. It always sat level, about 10 feet off the ground. When it left, it was gone. Just like one minute it was there and the next minute it was not there."

"While the whole thing was going on," he went on, "I didn't believe it. When it started in closer, it scared the hell out of me. That's why I turned my lights off."

In another case related to Coleman and myself, eleven people were involved. The incident occurred July 23, 1976, in Arborg, Manitoba. Gary Maturchuk, a youth counselor in Winnipeg and a third year student at the University of Winnipeg, who related the story to us, had led a group of teenagers to the area for a weekend of camping.

It was about 11:00 P.M. Thursday night. The group had just arrived from Nasa Beach, and most of the kids had gone to bed. Some of them, including Maturchuk, had remained up and were sitting in the van talking.

About 3:30 in the morning one of the kids saw a very bright light above them. The people in the van got out, and climbed on top of the van to get a better look. After a few minutes the object started to make erratic movements as it dropped into the south. Apparently the kids were making a lot of noise because now everyone was out watching it.¹⁶

In a jerking motion the object dropped below the trees east of them. By now, according to Maturchuk, everyone was watching. When it disappeared, some of the

¹⁶ In a jerking motion was identical to that described by the Lehmann children in 1975, and to Zazulinski's case in April 1976. I also saw it on the second night I saw a UFO in Carman in June 1975. It was called the bouncing ping-pong ball by the Lehmann children, and that's exactly the way it looked. – like a white ball bouncing randomly in the sky.

kids went back to bed, but some remained in hopes that they would get another glimpse of the spectacular light display.

Five minutes later, in the same spot where the object had disappeared, there appeared a most spectacular sight, and the few watching it received the fright of their lives. There, moving south through the trees, they could see the object.

The object was fairly close to them, and the five witnesses got three good looks at the object. It was moving behind the trees, which surrounded the camp on the east side, and appeared only when it entered the clearings in the trees. According to Maturchuk, everyone described seeing only parts of the object because of the sparse trees in the clearings.

The object was projecting a bright light down on the ground. The light was described as simply white, ^{and} ~~but~~ quite intense.

Reactions to the sightings, according to Maturchuk, varied. Seeing was of course, believing, and the yells of the lucky five again woke up the rest of the campers. They, however, didn't see the second part of the sighting because it all happened very quickly. "Some," Maturchuk told us, "couldn't believe what they had seen, and some were quite terrified by the whole thing."

IT'S FUNNY THEY SHOULD BE THE SAME

"It is not reasonable to assume that hundreds of ordinary normal people whose words we would readily accept under more mundane circumstances, for instance as witness to an automobile accident, should suddenly become liars, fools, neurotics, and otherwise quite incompetent observers. I have interviewed many of these people myself and am convinced that they are sane, sober, honest folk who are reporting to the best they can something that they really did witness. I will concede that maybe some of these people did not do a good job of observing as someone who was better trained might have done, but within limits I believe they did honestly report what they saw."

Wilbert B. Smith who headed up the Canadian government investigation in flying saucers from 1950-1954

In the late 1970s when this manuscript was first being put together, there began a movement away from the extraterrestrial theory as the most logical answer to the UFO mystery. The theory that was coming into vogue at the time was the inter-dimensional theory. It proposed that UFOs might originate in some other dimension and that they were just popping in and out of our dimension.

Those supporting the inter-dimensional theory pointed out that there were many paranormal things that occurred around UFOs sightings. They referenced cases

where UFOs disappeared into thin air, people near crafts being cured of illnesses, and people who claimed telepathic messages from UFOs.

One of the main reasons for the withdrawal of the extraterrestrial theory was the wide variety of crafts and beings that were being seen. It was as if no two UFOs were ever the same. Was it possible, critics of the extraterrestrial theory questioned, that so many different races of beings would suddenly appear at one time?

Jacques Vallee one of the key proponents of this new paranormal theory theorized.

UFOs exist in some other reality; that at least in part, its manifestations are shaped in the contents of the human mind. This is what we call the 'reflective factor', which is the central tenet of the para-ufological hypothesis.

There is no doubt that this theory had a lot of evidence to back it up, and there are many cases during the Manitoba flap that could be used to support the multi-dimensional theory, or a theory that involved the human mind being a key factor in UFO sightings.

Like any coin, however, there is always another side. The Manitoba UFO flap evidence supported a theory that there is a common technological element at work.

In opposition to Vallee idea of a "reflective factor", after many interviews with witnesses who exhibited "common factors" in their stories. These common factors completely contradicted a reflective factor as being the core of the UFO phenomena,

and it also provided support for witnesses that they were accurately reporting what they were seeing.

Important to the “common factor” was the thing that some of the elements described by people were very unusual items that would not be expected to be popping out of multiple people’s minds. It is for this reason that I have chosen to write a chapter of things characterized by “It’s Funny They Should be the Same.”

Many people for example told me that when a low flying UFO passed over them or their house it would light up the countryside like it was a bright sunny day. Such experiences are totally unknown in the everyday world. Such a description is common only to UFO sighting reports.

Now if I had heard the “lit up the countryside” story only once I could go along with the notion that it arose from the mind of the viewer. The description, however, was actually quite common. It supported the hypothesis that UFOs lighting up the countryside as they appeared was actually a real event supported by a collective reality.

One man told me that a UFO a mile away was “so bright that you could only look at it for a few seconds before your eyes started to water.” Again, it was a story that sounded far-fetched until the fact is raised that I heard five other people tell the same story.

Many witnesses described saucer shaped crafts that had small windows around the middle. This sounds like something that people could make up, even though 40 years later people no longer report windows in UFOs.

The most common oddity reported by Carman witnesses described the disk as being triangular. "It's not what everyone else saw," I was told, "but I am sure it was a triangle shape." I myself saw this object a number of times including once close up. In 2014 triangle sightings are the most commonly reported UFO shape but in 1975 reports of triangle UFOs were almost unheard of. The odd shape being described seemed again to describe a collective reality.¹⁷

What I hope to describe in this chapter are the "common factors" in the Southern Manitoba sightings during 1975 and 1976. Taken on their own they made no sense. They were unusual things not seen in daily life.

If the human mind was the key factor in UFO sightings as maintained in the inter-dimensional theory, then cross-indexing the sightings should show very few common elements. Moreover, the reported described events should be related to everyday human experience, or to the modern understanding of technology.

In many cases in Manitoba this expected situation did not dominate. Instead of people, for example, telling me that the object flew in a straight line (based on the common knowledge that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line) people reported that the object was bouncing up and down or zigzagging all over the place. Instead of people telling me that the saucer was flying straight and level like all flying machines in the modern world, people told me that the object flew along at an angle of 20-45 degrees.

¹⁷ Many years after the Manitoba UFO flap there appeared many reports of triangles. The 1990s brought the famous cases of triangles being seen and tracked by military in Belgium, and by a dramatic series of triangle sightings witnessed by most of Phoenix Arizona in 1997. This led to many new reports of triangles all over the world. It should be kept in mind that triangles were a collective reality many years before.

The people who described their sightings to me usually had done very little reading in UFOs. The odd "it's funny they should be the same" items that arose would be described usually just in passing. The witness would usually say, "You know one funny thing I noticed was..." *4 periods*

What arose from the various UFO sighting reports were a series of common occurrences that made no sense. They were things as distinctive and odd as a bank robber with red nail polish on his fingernails, or a man wearing glasses with no lenses. They became collective reality observations that represented events that probably happened as described.

The Small Discs

"This Keith Chester was describing to us what they looked like. We were looking and he said, 'Holy Moses, there they go now!' There were three of them in formation and they were all wobbling. They were wobbling and were deep red or blood red." **Mick Yexley**

Of all the collective reality oddities that were reported in Manitoba, the most impressive took place in the summer of 1975.

In 10 independent observations witnesses reported seeing a large craft drop off and later pick up smaller crafts. As usual most of the sightings were never reported and it was only after extensive interviewing in the area that the similarity arose.¹⁸

¹⁸ In the 1990s and 2000s reports of objects being dropped off by a large object in the sky would become common place in sightings from around the world. In these reports the number of objects ranged from a couple to hundreds. Many of these (especially in Mexico) were video -taped and can be found on U-tube.

The first person to report seeing the small discs was Mrs. Jennette Frost who lived south of Sperling, Manitoba. The sighting occurred on May 11, 1975 just as the flap was starting up.

On the same night that Mrs. Frost reported seeing the craft and smaller objects numerous people were with a Winnipeg television crew in Carman trying to film Charlie Red Star. They sighted Charlie but didn't get a shot. Had they been in Sperling 11 miles away they might have got the film of the century.

"I rubbed my eyes a couple of times," Mrs. Frost exclaimed. "I couldn't believe what I was seeing."

Looking north towards the town she watched a red shaped disc approach the town from the direction of Carman. Reading from one of her notebooks, in which she filed the many sightings she had during the 1975-76 UFO flap, Mrs. Frost described the start of the bizarre sighting.

There was a red light the size of the rising moon. Sighted about 1-¼ miles west of Sperling travelling in a bobbing undulating fashion as it approached the grain towers (in Sperling) where it suddenly glowed a bright red and increased in speed terrifically. Then the light disappeared into space, and as I looked for it, it reappeared in the near vicinity north of town.

As she watched it she noticed that the east side (right) of the object suddenly glowed brilliant red. "There was a short interval," she said, "and then this thing glowed and the discs came out."

She pointed her finger to the diagram in her notebook as I looked on. "They came out this side," she stated. "All four came out there, and as they did the east side of the craft glowed. It would really glow when the disks would come out. Then when the disk would come down (toward the ground) it would glow at the top."

"As I sat rubbing my eyes a couple of times, I couldn't believe what I was seeing." Frost continued. "Then the next one came out, so I kept looking and looking. There was an interval of about five minutes. Then it glowed on the east side and the next one came out. There were four of them and they came in intervals of about five minutes (each)."

Frost wrote that the small disks came out at a 45-degree angle, westward towards the ground. "They were not quite as big as the big saucer," Frost stated, "but you could definitely see that the smaller ones were saucer shaped on top, like a saucer upside down. It was not a flat disc. They were a metallic color, sort of metallic blue, a bright metallic blue or bluish green."

"I looked out that window many times after that," she concluded, "to see it again, but I didn't."

During the same month the exact same thing was being seen in two other towns in the area. One of the towns was Elie, 37 miles directly north, and Carman, 11 miles to the west.

The witness in Elie was Wilson McKennett. Again, like most of the sightings that were made, it was not discussed with anyone outside of a small group of friends. In

August of 1976, Bob Coleman from the National Enquirer came to the area to interview witnesses. Together Coleman and I went out to talk to Mr. McKennett.

When we arrived at his place, we were under the impression that he had been the only witness, but when we talked to him we found out that there had been a dozen witnesses to the event. The event occurred in the last week of May 1975, a couple weeks after Mrs. Frost's sighting.

"It happened about 11 P.M. or midnight," McKennett began. We saw it three nights in a row. We were seeding. We were going around the field, eh. So one time we got around there's nothing, and the next time we turn the corner there it is."

Just like the sighting made by Mrs. Frost in the south, the Elie witnesses stated there were four smaller objects. "It was west of here," McKennett said, "close to the (telephone) microwave tower. The mothership seemed to be close to the tower."

"How long did you watch it before you saw the smaller ones," Coleman asked him.

"Oh, not even five minutes," he replied. "The four small ones came out of it. When they first came out they seemed to be in position, you know, four even positions. There were two above and two below. The two below were explorers. The other two above it just stayed on guard above it. From there one of the explorers headed towards Winnipeg (east) and one headed towards Portage la Prairie (west)."

McKennett reported that when the two explorers flew away and returned they flew in an up and down motion "just like little waves." This would be something that many people seeing Charlie Red Star described as one of his main characteristics.

Immediately I realized how close the account was to the story that had been told by Mrs. Frost so I asked him about the color of the objects.

"All pretty much the same color," he replied. They were brighter than a star but the same color. The mother ship was real bright. It was the brightest and the biggest.

Spelled correctly this time

It's hard to tell how much bigger than the small ones it was, but it was so bright that if you watched it for a couple of minutes it would make your eyes water."

According to McKennett, the small objects that traveled towards Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie seemed to get where they were going in 2-3 minutes. After about 30 minutes they returned, gathered themselves in around the glow of the larger bright craft, and the whole army of objects moved west towards Portage la Prairie. At that point McKennett said "it seemed to move quite fast." The whole event had taken about 45 minutes in which McKennett stopped his tractor and watched.

Other witnesses to the event were his father and mother who lived a mile east, his two brothers, and a hired hand who was so upset over the event he refused to leave the tractor during the entire sighting.

The next two nights McKennett and many of his witnesses watched exactly the same objects do exactly the same thing.

Meanwhile in Carman, Mrs. Freda Waterman stated that she had seen something quite similar. She lived right on the Boyne River that ran through Carman, so she had seen Charlie many times, because the river was on Charlie's beer run. During an interview with me she related that one night Charlie was not alone.

"There were three objects," she told me in May 1976. "There were two red and one big silver one."

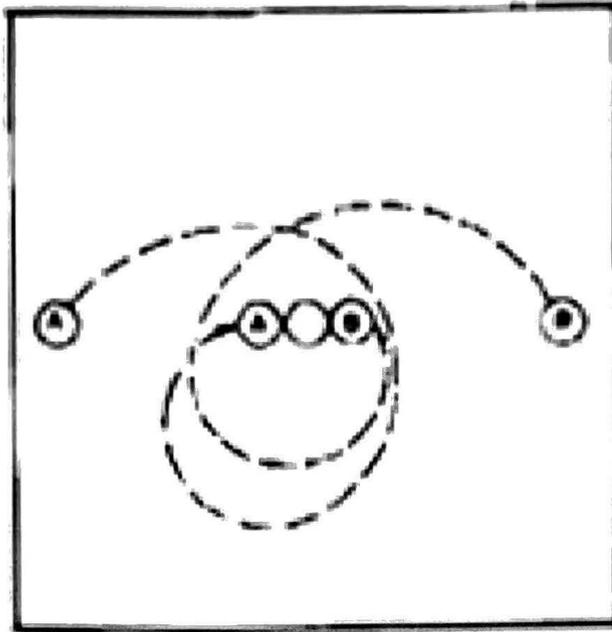


Figure 1. The Docking Maneuver

"The big silver one used to hover over my house every night, she said. You could hear it. It made noise, something like a tea kettle."

"The two red ones were always around when we heard this big silver one," she continued. "You'd go out and look, and they would be around, except they were flying lower down along the tree line. Sometimes we would see the small red ones dock up with the big silver one."

Freda described the complex docking maneuver where the objects would take turns linking them to the big silver object. "The middle one was always the silver one," Freda said, "and the red ones always linked to the top, never to the bottom."¹⁹

¹⁹ This identical docking maneuver was sighted just north of Elm Creek by Francis Stagg and her husband on November 17, 1975 and May 6, 1976.

The final reference to the small disk stories is one coming from Kerry Kaelin, a reporter for the ^{ITAC} Dufferin Leader newspaper.

This sighting took place in August 1975 during a brief flurry of sighting activity that took place along Highway 13 between August 11 and August 21st. Kaelin and his fiancé Janet Robertson had spotted Charlie Red Star as he hovered over a field north west of Carman.

Kaelin reported to the newspaper “we saw two pairs of lights rise up into the UFO and one pair of red lights come out of it. They descended to the ground in the half hour that we watched the object.”

He estimated that the time they first noticed the craft to be about 12:35 A.M. on a Sunday evening. “The movements of Charlie were erratic in that it would drop to the ground and rise up again moving occasionally horizontally, but remained in the same general area.”

“The UFO was a small white light with a pulsating red area, said Kaelin. “At times the whole craft would just about disappear and then the light would brighten. He said that there was a tail of light that shone down from it. Eventually the UFO disappeared to the northwest.”

Triangles

If I were asked to design the classic model of a UFO, I would undoubtedly base it on the many reports over since 1947 that describe a disk shaped object with a cupola on it.

It was for this reason that I was confused when I first heard Joseph and Anna McCann telling me that they were seeing triangle shaped UFOs. I hardly knew what to think. Looking back almost 40 years later it may have been the beginning of something new, as triangles now are reported much more often than saucer shapes.

spell it out.

The McCanns, more than any other witnesses in the entire flap area were met with scorn and disbelief for their numerous and sometimes bizarre UFO sighting reports. When they reported that 32 of their PMU horses had disappeared, many of the townsfolk had had enough. The reaction to their involvement became so bad that Mrs. McCann told me when she would go into the town post office; people would turn and walk the other way.

I had talked to them and their children many times so I knew they were probably telling the truth. I also knew that their farm north of Carman was in the general direction where many Carman citizens said they saw the object going when it left town.

Britain is the person who got the UFO fire going with his high profile sightings, but it was the McCanns who poured fire on the UFO stories and took the story beyond a run-of-the-mill tale. As many of their stories were controversial, it was perhaps only appropriate that the McCanns should have started the triangle stories. Yet, in the end, I only filed their stories and waited.

In the spring of 1976, I started to get other reports that indicated the McCanns were not alone in their triangle sightings.

In March 1976 I spoke with Freda Waterman who had been one of the many witnesses to the 1975 Charlie Red Star flybys. She told me that Charlie was only one of two crafts that flew low at low altitude through the valley.

“There was a big silver craft,” she said, “that used to drop off smaller red crafts. The silver craft used to sit right above the house every night and you could hear something like a tea kettle. On the top of this silver craft were two red lights and a green one which rotated like beacons.”

In our conversation Freda stated that the silver craft with the triangle light pattern on it stationed itself over her house in Carman from April 10 – April 30, so she had been first. The McCanns didn’t report seeing the triangles till the last week in May. The McCann’s full UFO story included five separate triangle sightings between May and October 1975.

The McCanns reported that their first encounter with a triangle occurred when they saw an object which had a solid yellow line forming the three sides of a triangle. They stated that there did not appear to be anything inside or outside the lines.

The McCanns at the time were returning home along the main highway towards their farm which is one mile west of the highway. They had turned onto the mile road that went to their house when suddenly the huge yellow triangle flew over their truck. The triangle was sitting on an angle and moved at a high speed.

Joseph immediately slowed down and turned off lights. Immediately the triangle reversed direction at a high speed and remained stationary down the road.



**Figure 2. - The road from Highway 13 where the UFO sat over the McCann truck.
Note the flat terrain.**

Joseph turned the truck lights back on and continued on down the road. Instantly the triangle raced towards the truck at a terrific speed, so Joseph turned off the lights again. The triangle reversed itself away from the truck and hovered over the road some distance away.

Totally unaware of what this might be and why it happened, Joseph left the truck lights off and made the remaining trip to the farm in the dark. Upon reaching the farm, both Joseph and Anna hurried into the house where they remained with the lights off and the doors locked.

"It moved at a speed you couldn't imagine," Anna told me more than once. "It moved so fast back and forth. We kept the lights off in the house because we were afraid it would come to the house."

Jerry, their son, stated that the triangle was still sitting in the field after the truck arrived home. "I watched it just sitting in the northeast field," he said.

The second triangle witnessed came not to long after the first. Similar to the first one, the border edges were made up of a solid lighting pattern. This time the light was white as opposed to yellow on the first triangle.

The triangle was again flying at a very steep angle. It was coming in a northwest direction from Carman. According to Anna the triangle was very low and was again flying at a very high rate of speed.

The young Lucy McCann sighted the third triangle on Labor Day, 1975. The McCann children were sitting on the front lawn with three cousins who were visiting from Winnipeg. Mrs. McCann was in the trailer next door and Joseph McCann and a friend Pete were approaching the farm on a gravel road from the south.

In March 1976 I had come to talk with the McCanns only to find that they were not home. The children told me that they would be home soon, so I sat with the children to wait. I took it as a chance to question the children about what they had seen without any influence from their parents.

It was during this interview that I discovered that only Lucy had seen the Labor Day triangle. The other children thought that she was talking about the first one that

had followed the parents to the house in May. Lucy insisted that this was a distinct sighting.

Here is a section of that interview.

Lucy: Yeah, I saw it over there (south). I can't describe the yellow. It's a yellow, but it flipped over, and I never knew how a triangle could turn into a red ball.

Grant: The triangle flipped?

Lucy: Yeah, and it turned into a red ball. It started to bounce up and down, and then it chased the truck. We thought it was chasing the truck.

Grant: Were the lights on the triangle connected or were they just spots of light?

Lucy: It was like a solid triangle. Not like the one across the road. (Referring to the first triangle seen by the their parents) It seemed to be coming slant down. Then it sort of flipped while it was coming, and then it was coming backwards. It seemed to go behind the bushes at Corans and then it popped up again. Then it zigzagged all over the place and left."

The fourth triangle the McCann's were to witness was seen east across the road from their farmhouse, sitting in the field. This triangle had red, green, and white lights, which formed the corners of the triangle instead of solid lines. In an area around the triangle a red light was bouncing around.



Jerry McCann, one member of the family who saw it, believed that he remembered it the best. He described it this way.

Jerry: The one across the road had red, green, and red lights on it.

Grant: Were the lights separate ^{or} ~~of~~ connected?

Jerry: No, they were separate. There was a red light that was sort of revolving around it. It would go to different spots but it would stay near the triangle.

In the spring of 1976, other people including myself began to see triangles. The objects were definite triangle shapes, unexplainable as such things as planes, weather balloons or other natural phenomena used by skeptics to talk themselves out of tight corners.

In 1976 it was not the McCanns who were giving triangle reports because the sightings made shifted to the Carman Brunkhilds area. Before the year would be over there would be 15 sightings of triangles by 38 witnesses. No matter how unorthodox they were, the sightings indicated that there was something real that had invaded Manitoba skies.

Common to all the 1976 sightings was the fact that the triangles flew at very low altitudes. The triangles in 1975 were reported moving very fast, while the 1976 reports filed showed extremely slow moving objects.

Barbara Pelletier, who had a triangle fly right over her and her boyfriend near Brunkhild, described her experience this way.

"It moved our way and came right over the car, and it was shaped like a triangle," she told me. "It wasn't that high. You could see the shape of it. I could see how high it was. There were big lights in the corner of the triangle. There was a red one in the one corner and two blue ones on the other sides. There were a couple of lights

forming the sides of the triangle. They were white, about four or five forming the sides of the triangle.”

In the spring of 1976 I was lucky enough to be present at five sightings where triangles were seen. This is because various cameramen were out in the flap area trying to photograph UFOs.

I noticed during my observations that other highflying UFOs accompanied each low flying triangle. (See the section on “Bouncing Lights” later in this chapter) The triangles were just as others had described them; low at less than 1,000 feet.

The simultaneous appearance of the triangle and the bouncing light was an unusual combination, but important in the entire UFO mystery, because Manitoba was not the only place to experience the bouncing lights.

Dr. Harley D. Rutledge, Chairman of the Physics Department at Southwest Missouri State University, researched the identical phenomenon.²⁰

Because of Rutledge’s position he was very hesitant about talking about his discoveries. He told me in a letter dated March 24, 1977, “We value our reputations more than life itself.”

Dr. Rutledge and his team of researchers had over 70 experiences with the bouncing lights. He estimated the speed at over 5,000 mph, and he reported, “Detecting unusual radio waves which he believed were being emitted by the objects.”

²⁰ Steven’s, Wendelle “UFO Tracks in the Sky” from *UFO Report fall 1975. Vol. 2, No. 5.*

According to Wendelle Stevens it was on May 25, 1975, during his research on the bouncing lights that Rutledge reported "watching a large triangle over the Farmington area at an altitude of 2,000 feet."

Although there were descriptions of low flying triangles in Missouri, Minnesota,²¹ and Manitoba during 1976, the coloring of the objects varied considerably.

The most prevalent triangle report was of an object with a light at each corner. In Manitoba where triangles were all over, the most common color combination was red, red, and green. 20 people in eight sightings saw this object, and in these sightings the object was flying with the ~~blunt~~^{base or side?} end of the triangle forward.

While the object maintained a stable altitude only the two lights could be seen. Light A would sometimes be seen flashing and sometimes not. When the green light would suddenly appear the object would rise up in altitude until it could no longer be seen. The object would move up very slowly.

I was with three other people when we made a couple^{of} triangle sightings including a dramatic one close up.²² It was 9:16 P.M. according to notes that were being taken that night. Danny Penner yelled out to me that he saw something flying off near the Brunkhild microwave tower. The object with two distinct red lights just cleared the tower and continued its slow flight into the southwest.

Just after clearing the tower a green light suddenly became visible as the object began a slow ascent into the sky. During the next 14 minutes I watched as the object moved higher and higher until it was just a small red light in the stars.

²¹ Coleman's report to the National Enquirer concerning a sighting in Two Harbors, Minnesota.

²² This sighting described in detail in the Chapter on Ground Lights. A second identical sighting was made at Homewood Manitoba on March 19, 1976.

One hour later, the same triangle would dramatically reappear and fly right over the front of the car only a couple hundred feet up, as we sat on a Highway 205E, 8 miles south of the microwave tower.

"I figured that it might have been the same craft I saw go over the tower," Danny stated. It reappeared in the same direction as the other one had disappeared in. (south west), and it looked exactly the same from what I could see. "It could have been the same craft." I responded.

When the triangle reappeared and came in close to the car I was looking up at the object with my binoculars. I noticed an interesting characteristic that would be described by many other witnesses. The object through my binoculars covered my entire field of vision. The three lights forming the corners of the triangle appeared to be 5 or 10 feet across. Yet for such large lights they were not lighting up anything in the center of the triangle. This same phenomena had been reported about the triangle on March 19th, and so I made it a point to look toward the middle of the triangle at its closest point. There was nothing there. Just three well shaped lights forming a triangle.

The sightings of the triangles continued right into 1977. On March 6th, 1977, for example, David Rosenfield, a pilot who flew out of Friendship Field, phoned Britain and reported that there was a UFO on the western horizon.

Britain and his wife hurried to look out the west window on the second floor of their house. Britain described the scene, "The thing was real close, no more than two miles away. Through the binoculars I got a real good look at the thing."

"I had the object in view for five minutes," he continued. "Just as it was dropping behind the trees along Highway 245 I could see that the corners of this object had definite red lights. In between the lights there was what looked like red neon lights."

"Now that V shape or triangle is not a guess at the shape of the thing," he told me. "Rosenfield saw it too. There was definite spacing between the three lights. The neon structure reminded me of heated metal. We had a real good look at it. It was there for five minutes."

Rosenfield, meanwhile, followed the object eight miles west to Stevensfield and stated that the object spent its entire time flying back and forth between the Haywood tower and the lights at Stevensfield. He had it in sight for 30 minutes. Rosenfield's impression of the triangle is that they "were lights on the bottom of the saucer."²³

Towers

During the years 1975 and 1976, the sightings of UFOs in Manitoba were almost a daily occurrence. Manitoba had become one of the highest sighted areas if not the highest.

What attracted these objects to Manitoba? No one ^{theory} answer seems to provide even part of the answer. Nevertheless, whatever attracted Charlie and his friends, one

²³ Exactly the same three light triangle description was given to me by a family of six living north of Carman. Just as the Manitoba UFO flap was ending triangle articles started to appear in UFO magazines around the world. Examples are Richard Hall's article "The Weirdest UFOs I have Known" from *Official UFO*, May 1977, page 20. Also see James A. Hudson's "Trail of the Triangle UFO" from *True Flying Saucer UFO Quarterly No. 7*

thing can be said for sure. They sure seemed to be seen around the many microwave and television relay towers.

These towers might have provided some form of visual guidance. They might have been important because they were the source of large amounts of communication.

Spotted across the flat Manitoba prairie are television, radio, and television towers. They range from 190-foot tower at Brunkhild to the 1400 footer at Pembina, North Dakota.

From the reports I saw it appeared that if there was a UFO sighting there was often a microwave tower nearby. This, of course, may have been coincidence because the towers were visible from long distances away.

Many reports had UFOs flying from tower to tower or at one particular tower. For example, in a case at Sanford Manitoba, two women were confronted by a UFO that hovered right over their car. In their story the Brunkhild tower 10 miles away was a key part of the story.

"Then it lifted and headed for the tower at Brunkhild," Mrs. Phyllis Johnson stated. "We could see it all the way over to the tower and back. There was just this one light. It went straight over. We could see it all the way to the tower and back, just this one light."

In the car with Mrs. Johnson was her friend Mrs. Herb who told her, "That's what they do, you know."

In 1975 when the UFO flap was going on, there were many articles in magazines and journals about the attractions UFOs seemed to have with power lines, military