

After receiving the developed pictures back, Mrs. Major told me during our interview that the federal police force known as the (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) had come to here to get copies of the photos.

This shocked me, as I had heard the story of the RCMP but had heard a different version. I thought that Mrs. Major had gone to the local RCMP office and offered them copies of the pictures. Mrs. Major, however, insisted that the officers had come to her asking about the photos and requesting copies.³⁸

Copies of the photos were sent to the Institute for Astrophysics, Planetary Sciences Section of the National Research Council, which had the job of receiving UFO reports filed by the RCMP, Transport of Transport, military, and any other federal organization that might be approached with UFO sightings.

Some of the reported sightings did get a brief analysis from two of the main people in the Planetary Sciences Section. Dr. A.G. McNamara, head of the department, and Dr. Ian Holiday were the scientists who did analysis on the various Manitoba sightings that were sent there.

Since the Canadian Defense Department had dropped their official investigation into UFOs the Planetary Sciences section was charged with receiving and evaluating UFO reports from around the country.

³⁸ The local RCMP officers had had sightings of Charlie Red Star and had talked to reporters. Both officers involved in this incident were transferred out shortly after, and the local RCMP officers never claimed to see anything again.

McNamara, who did much of the analysis on the Manitoba UFO sighting reports made his position on UFOs public in an article he had written entitled "UFOs: What are They?"³⁹ In the summary of the paper McNamara laid out his personal belief,

Two thousand years of observation and thirty years of rather intensive collection (15,000 reports in the USAF Project Bluebook and 1500 in Canada) and examination of reports have not yielded any positive sighting or artifact of extra-terrestrial origin.

This is despite the fact that McNamara and his colleagues did almost no proper investigation of cases being sent to their office. "It's a matter of priority,"⁴⁰ McNamara told the National Enquirer. "We've got a lot more important areas to investigate and we can't put a lot of effort into chasing down these things which, in general, lead to naught."

Therefore not many researchers took the opinions of the National Research Council too seriously. The analysis made by McNamara about a sighting report was usually a guess made off the top of his head after a brief glance at the sighting report. It lead some investigators to wonder "If this is the quality of the research at the National Research Council, what about the rest of their research in other areas that were being paid for by taxpayers."

In one Manitoba case, for example, a handwritten notation at the bottom of the sighting report suggested the sighting might have been caused by a Frontier Airline flight from Winnipeg to Las Vegas. This was absolute nonsense to anyone who had

³⁹ From: "Journal of the Canadian Air Traffic Controllers Association" Vol. 8, No. 1, 1977 p. 9- 12.

⁴⁰ Notes - An interview with Bob Pratt, National Enquirer, August 3, 1976.

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done sighting work in the area. We all had clearly heard the Frontier flight go over every night. It was so high up that it was not visible beyond a faint view of the plane's strobe light. It was going in exactly the opposite direction as Charlie-Red-Star's beer run, and it happened only once every night for a couple of minutes.

I for example had been at the Planetary Sciences Section in Ottawa twice looking over the sighting reports. They were kept by a secretary in a filing cabinet in her office, and the analysis was something done on Friday afternoons when there was spare time.

While there, I interviewed Dr. McNamara. I was impressed with his sincerity about the whole UFO thing. He gave me the distinct impression that he was a UFO disbeliever but he also came across as a person who was not very knowledgeable about the subject. He was not even familiar with the material in the filing cabinet that he was responsible for analyzing for the public.

When I brought back the NRC analysis that McNamara had determined the Charlie-Red-Star sightings were the nightly Frontier Airlines flight most of the people who had taken photographs laughed. Mrs. Major, however, was upset to put it lightly.

"What makes me so mad," she exclaimed, "is that Ottawa has the gall to say it's an airplane. I wish they would get smart enough to say either they don't know what it is, or that it is a UFO and don't know where it comes from, instead of making up a fairytale. Unless I'm still living in the era of the Wright brothers to call that a plane - that's idiotic."

In August 1976 I showed my prints of the three best Major photographs to Coleman who had come to Manitoba for the National Enquirer to do a story. He was interested in using them in his story about the UFO flap, so we talked to Mrs. Major to discuss the present state of UFO affairs and the results of her past UFO photographs.

I brought out my prints, which were 16x enlargements, but discovered that Mrs. Major had obtained some 64x blowups. These showed very clear images, and in picture #3 had showed a small bluish field on the lower edge of the object.

Coleman got prints from Mrs. Major and took them back to Florida with him. In September he phoned me and outlined a problem that had come up with the photos.

Coleman had taken the photos to various photographic people in Florida, and all confirmed that the object was indeed unidentified. None of the experts, however, would put their name behind their analysis. We discussed what we were going to do.

It was apparent that it was not a plane as had been stated by the RCMP and the NRC. The problem was to get someone with a qualified background to declare it was not a plane and go on the record about it.

I talked with about 30 people ranging in background from a PH.D in Astronomy to a nature photographer. Once they heard they were dealing with UFO photographs they usually stated that they were not qualified to make an assessment, without even seeing the photographs.

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Finally, after two days of phoning I had two people who would cover the various aspects requested by the National Enquirer editors. They requested that I find out if the three main Major ^{take} could be ~~photo~~ ^{images} of a meteorite, a fireball, or a plane.

To cover the aspect of a plane I asked for the opinion of Murray Sutherland, Chief of the Tower at the airport, and the head of Air Traffic Control in Winnipeg.

I provided him with a two-page summary of how the photographs had been taken, the weather conditions, and photographic equipment that had been used to take the pictures.

Sutherland read over the report carefully, and then asked me, "What do you want me to do?"

"In your opinion," I asked, "could this be a plane, if what Mrs. Major says is true?"

"In my opinion," Sutherland said and then paused, "it looks like no plane I'm familiar with. Just to be sure, I'll call in one of my supervisors, Dick Cowan, and get a second opinion."

When Cowan arrived in the tower, he too read over the report and looked at the photos himself.

"In your opinion," I repeated, "If what Mrs. Major says is true, could this be an airplane?"

It took Cowan a long time to answer the question. He answered as he held up photo #3. "The only thing that this might be is the back end of an F-104. This of course would mean,

1. An F-104 was flying around Carman without anyone reporting the sound of a jet.
2. It would mean that the jet was moving away from Mrs. Major when she clearly remembered it coming toward her.
3. The central color of an F-104 would be bluish.
4. A jet would not account for the first two photos in the series.

The analysis from these two men, who I was told “knew airplanes better than anyone in the city”, was an emphatic “no” to the object being a plane.

Next I took the pictures to Robert Millar (M.Sc.) head of the Planetarium at the University of Manitoba, who read over the report and looked at the photographs. Again I asked the question, “In your opinion, could this be a meteorite or fireball, or any other astronomical phenomena that you are familiar with?”

He looked up as if I had just tried to tell him that one and one was six. “Not if what she says is true,” he said. “No way.” The only thing close he told me was a fireball.

Walking over to a photo filer, Millar pulled out a number of photos and said, “Look at this. This is a fireball.”

I looked at the three photos that he presented as he pointed out, “See how it breaks up. It was much different than those photos.” He added that fireballs take a long period of time to cross the sky, and are usually well tracked. Major’s photos, on the other hand were all taken in a two-minute period of time.

The authenticity of the photos had been backed up. I called Coleman and related the analysis that had been given to me by the three men. It appeared that the Major photos had gained credibility.

Caught – Then Lost Again

In the two years that I spent looking into the flap of UFO sightings in Manitoba, I was always told how much photographs would mean toward solving the mystery of UFOs. When I had viewed the Major situation and some of the other cases where people tried to film the UFOs, I had to reconsider how important any one photo of a UFO was. In Manitoba, for every photo that turned out well there were 100 that did not turn out or which were very poor.

Many of the photographers got to the point that we believed a good photo was “usually an accident.” Not only this, but in a couple of cases the photos came up out of order or didn’t correspond to anything that we had seen all night.

The straw that broke the camel’s back on this issue for me was a roll of film that I shot on July 27, 1976. This sighting turned out to be the best and most bizarre. It was also the last of the photo I would take in 1976.

I had left the Britain house about 10:15 P.M. and headed eight miles north of Carman. This brought me to a road directly across from the McCann farm where there was a ground light I wanted to photograph. After shooting a few pictures I moved southeast onto Highway 305E where there were two other ground light positions.

Positioned on Highway 305 I noticed a white light in the sky directly east and at about a 40 degree position in the sky. Its appearance was similar to the landing lights on a landing aircraft coming directly at the camera where the three lights appear as one. There were no other lights on the object such as a strobe. It appeared to be flying southwest directly away from the Winnipeg International Airport.

My camera was set up with a 500 ASA color film, a 50mm lens, and a cable release for the camera. I prepared to take a shot even though I was in the middle of what appeared to be scattered thunderstorms. The sky was overcast, the clouds were low, and there were sounds of thunder both north and south of my position.

The object was moving at an incredibly slow speed. I appeared to be moving directly towards Carman to the south and I had plenty of time to shoot.

The first time exposure was a minute, the second ten seconds, and the third three minutes. The third photo I hoped would provide the most information for a number of factors. There was a low clouds ceiling and high humidity.

When I finally got the film back the lights of the town showed up well and there was enough time for the film to pick up the horizon as well. Secondly, the developed film showed that the object had only trailed across $\frac{3}{4}$ of the film frame during the three-minute exposure. Here was proof at just how slow the object had been moving.

As the object moved closer to Carman it suddenly started to pulse. I now had to consider that it might be a plane landing at Carman. The idea was ruled out for a number of reasons.

1. If it had have been landing at Carman it would have been a small plane and would not have had such a strong landing light on it.
2. There was no strobe at any time visible on the plane.
3. It was moving from my left to right which meant that there should have been a green navigation light visible. There was none.
4. The speed seemed much too slow for a plane.
5. To land at Carman it would have had to be a small plane, which wouldn't be flying in thunderstorms.

Nevertheless at 11:25 P.M. I found myself racing back to Carman to see if the runway lights were on at either of the two airports. Not surprising, both airstrips were shut down for the night. I checked the sky and saw nothing, so I headed for home driving out east on Highway 3.

At Homewood Manitoba, nine miles east of Carman, I caught sight of a brilliant light. The orange crystal light was hovering just over the horizon as I grabbed my camera to take a photo. I released the shutter and caught it. I believed it would be a good picture because of all the UFOs I had ever seen, this one was the biggest. The object seemed to be continuing its movement towards me and at the same time getting brighter.

I gave the first shot (frame 10) a ten second exposure. Worried for the first time that the film might be overexposed, I pushed back the exposure to one second for frames 12, 13, and 14. I was not aiming the camera as I was watching as the shape of

the object began to form. Then with a brief glance down to the camera, I looked up and the object was gone.

I took my notepad and copied the exposures of the five photos that I had just taken. Then when I panned the horizon with my binoculars I noticed that the object was still there, now a small white ball against a black overcast sky. It was higher on the horizon and was moving east about 10 degrees from its previous position.

The object then turned red without a flash or pulsation. It was not very bright so I shot a 60 second exposure (frame 15) hoping to pick it up.

As I stood watching the object, I noticed that it was about to cross in behind a telephone pole along the highway. Figuring this would be a way of getting a frame of reference on the film I moved to the next frame and shot a thirty second time exposure.⁴¹

By this time the object had moved quite far down the road. I quickly put the camera in the car and sped off down the road after it. At Highway 248S I turned south for a half a mile and set up the camera. The object turned again and was moving back towards the highway in the direction of Sperling (4 miles from my position). I shot a 40 second time exposure and then a 60 second time exposure. It changed from a solid red object pulsing every two seconds to a brilliant crystal white light. Looking at the film later, the change in the object was apparent.

⁴¹ When I received the developed film back, I looked for the frame where it had crossed behind the telephone pole. It was clearly visible; a long red line across the horizon with a break in the line. Few pictures have all items. It was one of the few photographs where the picture corresponded to what was actually seen.

The first object turned north at Sperling and I shot Frame 19, which was a 15 second exposure. It was now 12:20 and the major part of the sighting had now taken 20 minutes.

I had taken 13 pictures of the objects in the sky. I realized that they were good – perhaps even better than Mrs. Major's photos.

The next morning I took the film to a photo shop in the downtown area and requested that the film be left uncut. In this way, no one could claim that the film had been assembled from a number of different photos. All the frames would be numbered and I had a history of exactly what had occurred on each frame. They would provide evidence of one hour of UFO sightings in the main UFO flap area.

When I finally picked up the developed film I raced home to view it. Placing the film near a light and using a magnifying glass the prints could be seen quite clearly.

Nine of the thirteen prints turned out; the best profession to date. The five taken of the brilliant crystal light were very clear, and the differences in the time exposures between frames 10 and 11, and 12, 13 and 14 were apparent.

Four of the pictures had horizons because of the high humidity that had existed that night. The towns had cast up round circles of light into the night sky. That, combined with the objects in the picture had given me excellent frames of reference.

Needing someone to back up these pictures for me, I immediately sent out the pictures for analysis. In my eagerness to get some backup for the film, I sent the photos off to Wendelle Stevens in Tucson, Arizona. It was said that Stevens had perhaps the best UFO picture collection in the world. He had produced books and articles for many UFO publications.

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Later through the National Enquirer I learned that the photos had never arrived at Wendelle Stevens. I wrote him to find out if this was true. Stevens wrote back, "Pictures lost in the mail is a maddening situation. No other mail gets lost, but when you send a new and sensitive picture through the mail the chance is high that it will never reach its destination."

Then in reference to a possible "Men in Black" connection he added, "I have a case now where pictures were separated and mailed in separate envelopes from different mailboxes, and neither reached me. How do you account for that? Also at the time when these photos should have arrived, my house was searched professionally from top to bottom, completely, and nothing was taken. I was told that four conservatively dressed men were seen in front of my house during the 1.5 hours I was gone. Nobody ever saw them before or has seen them since."⁴²

The CKY Film

*Very few people want to do anything unless they get paid for it. Martin and I were out on our own. We were receiving no pay. We just wanted to go out because this intrigued us. Wednesday we got the film, and the next night we had to beat people off with sticks, the ones who wanted to come out. **TV reporter Dorsey Roberts***

⁴² In many important UFO sightings, mysterious Men in Black or MIBs sometimes haunt the case. They harass witnesses and in the Steven's case, seem interested in destroying any important UFO evidence. From a letter by Wendelle Stevens February 23, 1977.

The story of the CKY film will probably go down as the biggest and most bizarre story of the entire Manitoba UFO flap. Once the film was taken on May 13, 1975 and was aired to the city of 600,000 in Winnipeg, it caused a deluge of people and cars to appear on back roads around Carman looking for the object.

The CKY film was a mixture of bizarre occurrence, faith, perseverance, and lady luck. It was one of those times when everyone and everything worked to create a state of being. On this night it was certainly all connected.

Those involved had their own spin on the capturing of Charlie Red Star on tape. Martin Rugne, who took the film, said "the film was a disaster for me from start to finish." Dustin Hope, a producer at CKY who was involved in the filming, called the capture of Charlie Red Star on tape as "a fluke."

At the time of the CKY filming there were probably only about three dozen UFO films around. It was in the days before the video camera that revolutionized UFO filming. Now there are thousands of UFO films. In 1975 you either talked a TV station into filming or you used an 8mm camera with a small three minute roll of film which was not a good nighttime media, and was very expensive to shoot.

The CKY film is one of two films taken during the Manitoba UFO flap. The other was a film taken of one of the ground lights in the spring of 1976. Both films were unique in that the photographer went out to film the UFO. It was not a random event.

Opinions of the film varied. The most quoted comment about the film was the comment made by J. Allen Hynek, at the Center for UFO Studies. He was in Winnipeg

on February 7, 1976 to give a lecture at the University of Manitoba's Festival of Life and Learning.

CKY-TV and the Winnipeg Planetarium went out of their way to screen the film for Dr. Hynek who commented after seeing the film that it was "the best nocturnal light film he had ever seen."

Hynek asked for and received two copies of the film. He was supposed to make an announcement about the film later but it never came. It is doubtful if any investigation took place because Dr. Hynek did not interview any of the witnesses involved in the shooting of the film.

People involved in the shooting of the film tried to contact Dr. Hynek to get his analysis of the film, but were not able to get a reply. The Winnipeg Planetarium and I also attempted to contact Dr. Hynek about the film but we were also unsuccessful.

Even the CKY television tried to contact Hynek about the two copies of the film he had taken with him, but they were unsuccessful. In March 1976 I spoke to CKY producer Dustin Hope on this matter. "I think that's almost rude of the professor," Hope stated, because that's his forte. I know he's a busy man, but not too busy to answer. I waited for him too. He promised to send back his hypothesis but he never did."⁴³

Rugne, who actually took the film, had a similar comment. "I don't know if he was serious about the whole thing. I never heard from him again."

The film itself got little play when it was first shot. CKY showed the film on air for two days, and did an eleven-minute special on it. They then forgot about it. The

⁴³ Personal interview with Dustin Hope March 16, 1976.

Carman Dufferin Leader who had one of their reporters as part of the team that did the filming only gave the film 21 lines. The National Enquirer heard the whole story but only mentioned it in passing when they did a story on the landing radiation patches found where Charlie had been sitting.

Those who were present for the actual filming were

Martin Rugne	A film editor at CKY-TV
Dorsey Roberts & wife	Television reporter
Jeff Bishop	Publisher Carman Dufferin Leader
James Kaelin	^{ITALIC} Dufferin Leader reporter
Anthony Britain	Carman Air Owner
Rachael Britain	Britain's wife
Al Harpley	Film Editor

Although many people saw the film, the full story of how it was filmed was never released. Here is the whole story of exactly what happened.

In April and May of 1975 Charlie-Red-Star was flying his famous beer run out of the Roseisle hills west of Carman towards town and then turning around the northwest side of town.

Britain and his wife knew more than anyone about Charlie's pattern and acted as tour guides, leading teams of people around town to watch for a Charlie fly by.

Britain, seeking proof for what they were seeing, contacted CKY-TV and assured them that if they sent out cameras, he would show them Charlie ~~Red~~ Star.

CKY took up the offer and sent out four reporters out to Carman on Monday May 11th. Dorsey Roberts, then a reporter for CKY, moving to CBC TV where he was interviewed, was one of the few to have spent four consecutive nights on the back roads around Carman. We were out two nights prior to the filming. Roberts told me, "The night of the filming and the night after. So I was out there a total of four nights."

"Monday night," he said, "we saw nothing. Tuesday night we went out and that's when we saw the thing down at the end of the roadway. The people who had seen this thing before said, "That's it!"

"There was a fellow with us by the name of Eddie Griffin," Roberts continued. "He was another reporter from the station who was out on his own. He got his car and went flying down the road towards it. We saw the thing and kept our eye on it, but then it disappeared. We never saw it again that night, but I understand someone else saw it in a different location, but still around Carman."⁴⁴

"The camera man who had been with us," Roberts went on, said 'that's enough of this!' They went back and filed for overtime. The news director just about hit the roof. He said that no cameraman could go out unless he went on his own time. Nobody would go."

Therefore on the night when the actual film was captured, only Roberts and Rugne showed up to film Charlie. That's when the luck and scandal began.

⁴⁴ See "It's Funny That they Should be the Same – The Ferris Wheel"

When the film was broadcast the on May 14th, CKY credited the filming of the film to cameraman Martin Rugne. This was not true. Rugne was not a cameraman. As he told me he had never shot a camera before in his life. The news director had said no one could go out except on his or her own time. No cameraman volunteered to come so Rugne took the station camera out in hopes of getting a shot.

"Rugne was running the processing lab at CKY," Roberts explained. "He kept begging CKY to let him use a camera to get some experience, but CKY kept dangling a carrot in front of his nose. No one would go on Tuesday, so Martin went, and that (film) was his first assignment as a cameraman."

On the night of the filming, ten people showed up in hopes that this would be the night. According to the article that appeared in the Dufferin Leader ^{ITALIC} "The sighting was made about 11:00 P.M., with the first UFO sighted on the ground NW of Graysville, Manitoba."⁴⁵

Everyone was gathered two miles north of Carman when the object was first sighted. Jeff Bishop, Kerry Kaelin, and Al Harpley got into their car to chase the object, which was down the road west of them. They headed a mile north to stay out of the way of Rugne who was at the CBC tower with his camera pointed down the road at the light. The men also realized that the night before the light had disappeared when people drove right at it.

When they were a mile north, the team of men traveled west towards Stevenfield where the object appeared to be sitting.

⁴⁵ Dufferin Leader, Wednesday, January 7, 1976 page 5.

"We went west five miles and then went south," stated Bishop. "Just before we got back to the road that the UFO was on I said 'Stop the car before we get to the mile road because we don't want to jeopardize our position.'"

The Britains along with reporter Roberts and his wife had gone south and then west to approach the object from south of it. "This thing was just down the road from us," Britain said. "It kept rising and falling like a blood red moon, through the trees." So we said, "There has to be something out there."

"Just before we left, the cameraman (Rugne) was running down the road with his camera," Britain told me. "I was standing there right beside him and I said to myself, 'Boy, is that guy wasting his film. That's just before he got the shot of the thing lifting off and lighting up the whole horizon.'"

"Talk about a surprised fellow when I saw that on television," said Britain of the airing of the CKY film. "Weren't we surprised?"

The Britains and Roberts had headed south in the opposite direction of the Bishop car in order to come out on the other side of the object. "Instead of going west," said Britain, "we went east not realizing that we had to go two miles before you could get back onto the road we wanted."

"We put the binoculars on it and you could see it clearly," Roberts said. "It seemed to be more or less sitting there."

Britain tried to close in on the object when suddenly in Britain's words "It popped into the air. It jumped straight up. It hovered and then moved over a bit, hovered again, and then headed for the CBC tower."

The two couples watched the objects with binoculars. "It wasn't moving fast," said Britain, "so we started racing back." I kept telling Dorsey, "those guys at the tower are going to look right in.'

Meanwhile Bishop, Kaelin, and Harpley appeared to have been the ones who scared Charlie into the air. The problem was they didn't know where it had gone. They were looking around for it when it was now high above them.

✓ "I could see this big glow behind some trees less than half a mile away off to the right and ahead of us," Bishop told the National Enquirer. ^{ITAC}

"It was smoky red, with a hazy glow, and to me the thing was higher than the tree, maybe 50 feet tall. It was about 20 feet thick and was sitting at an angle of about 45-degrees. The edges were fuzzy and not well defined. It was much like seeing a drive-in movie screen from the side."

Meanwhile, Harpley was using the microwave tower at Haywood Manitoba to get his bearings as to where they were in the dark. "I swung back," he told the Enquirer, ^{ITAC} "and the glow was gone. It was gone before I could see it again. We drove around the section, but we never saw anything else."

The car with Bishop, Kaelin, and Harpley had come within half a mile of the object. This was confirmed when the Winnipeg planetarium found significant radiation in the field where the object had been sitting. (See Chapter on Landings for a full report.)

Meanwhile Rugne was back at the tower with the camera pointed down the road at the glowing light that was increasing and decreasing in intensity. He was trying to determine when to shoot. It was completely dark out so he had no perspective. All

he could see in the viewfinder was the light. He decided that the next time it brightened up he would shoot, which turned out to be a lucky decision.

As the object made its next brightness intensification, Rugne started shooting his first ever television film clip. As he began to shoot, the object suddenly jumped up in the air. Then it started flying northeast back towards the camera. As it did Rugne panned the camera following its flight path.

“Rugne told me that he had seen it come tracking across the sky, and that’s when he followed it, Roberts told me in an interview. “He panned it and then stopped the camera... that was great foresight on his part...to stop the camera and let the object move through the frame, so that later someone could tell how fast the object was moving.”

“I shot, I would say, roughly between thirty and fifty feet of film by the amount of time,” Rugne stated. “Let’s say about 80-degrees from left to right.”

“From 10 o’clock right up to 12 o’clock,” Rugne said, “the camera was moving. I was panning with it. After 12 o’clock and up to 12:10- between those three or four degrees, that was the only time that the camera was stationary. Once it went through the camera, I picked it up again, and I followed it up through to about 2 o’clock.”

Rugne and Roberts made it back to Winnipeg about 2:00 a.m. They drove by the station and dropped the film at the station for processing. Neither was prepared for the controversy that would soon break out, or the fact that the weirdest part of the story was yet to come.

The most bizarre aspect of the developed film was the order of the sequences. "We (Rugne and himself) always conjured up interesting things, that someone was playing tricks on us," Roberts told me. "All the filming was done on the same ^{Roll} of film, and it was shot in this order: 1) The light at the end of the road. 2) The flash and the jumping into the air of the object. 3) The tracking across the sky."

"Yet, when we got the film back from the lab," Roberts continued, "the whole sequence was reversed for some reason. Yet, the film hadn't broken in the lab. It wasn't that they had edited it back together wrong. When it came to us, the tracking across the sky was first and the other portion was on second. It was backwards."

From any standpoint of camera logic, this is impossible, but those who saw the film claimed that it had happened. Unfortunately, the evidence was about to be lost.

"When I shot the original footage," Rugne angrily recalled, "there was 45-50 feet of film or something like that. I was out till 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning. About noon, all these characters (CKY film editors) had already chopped the film up and the only thing that was left was two eight inch pieces, and they had thrown the rest away."

"Now I've got the last two eight inch pieces," he continued. The pieces that everyone sees, but they had thrown everything away before and after. I tried to find the rest of the film, but no one could tell me where they had thrown it."

"Everyone said, 'I don't know. I don't know.'" Rugne said angrily. "Those suckers, either through gross stupidity or something else, they threw it out. I cannot to this day comprehend how anyone could be that stupid, but they apparently were that collectively stupid."

"The reversal of the sequences can't be proved now," Rugne went on, "because they threw away the rest of the film. If they had left the film from start to finish in its entirety, a whole set of circumstances could be brought forward. There were a lot of things that were strange about this film...it just goes on and on...rather strange."

The reason that 97% of the film ended up in the garbage raises the next bizarre aspect of the film. There was nothing on the film anytime that Rugne was panning the camera, even though he could see it in the viewfinder while he was shooting. The editors seeing nothing on these portions of the film simply cut out the portions and threw them in the garbage.

Roberts concurred. "The portion that Rugne panned for some reason never turned out."

"Why," said Rugne, "I don't know. The chemicals on the film react to light. They can't tell the difference between a UFO and something else." Yet only when the camera was stationary (when it was sitting on the ground, and when Rugne stopped the camera at 12 o'clock to get a frame of reference with a star he saw in the north) did the film capture the light emitted by Charlie.

Even more spectacular were the strange things that were discovered when the 16 inches of film was studied ~~frame-by-frame~~. The portion where the object jumped into the sky was only three 1/24th of a second frames. On the CKY film the object can be seen sitting on the ground.

"It was rising up and down," Rugne said. "I was using a farm light for reference and every time it would rise I would push the camera a little to the south and shoot."

This part of the film can be seen for about a dozen frames before the object jumped. It was suddenly there. It made its motion to jump."

Roberts described to me the three frames of film that made up the jump. It was part of an eleven minute special that he produced about the film later for the station.

"In the first frame the object was right in the corner, and then for one frame the whole horizon lit up and you could make out the trees and the rolling land. In the third frame it moved up into the left corner...the actual movement had taken place in 1/24th of a second."

In viewing the film, one can see that in the second flash frame the UFO has already jumped over half the frame, and the object is over 5 miles away. How many feet the object actually jumped is not presently known, due to the fact that Dr. Hynek and NASA, the two major agencies that worked on the film, never released their results.

The flash is the most interesting part of the film. For one ^{1st second} 1/24 sec. frame and one frame only the whole western horizon lights up, just as the object is lifting off. There are two distinct sections of light cast on the horizon. There is a large arc of light in the south, and a similar smaller arc of light in the north. Directly below the UFO on the frame there is a space where no light is cast.

Dustin Hope, the CKY spokesman for the film, described the flash and surrounding events like this, "How I can best explain it with the little physics that I know of is warped time. I asked the professor (J. Allen Hynek) about warped time and the flash on the horizon with a foreground and a background, and the UFO between them, so that I couldn't say that it was a car light or anything like that. It

was not a car light because the beam was shining in two different directions, just as strong as when it, so called disappeared, UFOs would have to do to get from one place to another. That's what I found interesting...that it might have defied the speed of light."

Even though there were ten witnesses who were present when the object lifted off, the only person who claimed to have picked up the flash when it lifted off was Roberts.

"At this point," continued Hope, "we don't know what warped time is – the speed of light? If they were able to break it, that's what a UFO would have to do to go from one place to another. That's what I found interesting...that it might have defied the speed of light."

"You know," Roberts told me, "I kind of thought that I saw something at the time, but nobody else standing around me at the time saw it or said anything, so I thought that maybe my eyes were playing tricks."

"I said to myself that I hadn't seen the flash, he continued, "then I saw it on the film, I remembered that it reinforced what I had seen. It happened so quickly. It was only one frame in the film."

The only possible natural explanation for the appearance of the flash on the horizon is what is called a flash frame. Rugne brought up the idea and then immediately ruled it out, as a very weak possibility because it only appeared on one frame. "It had fifty feet to do that." He said. "It seems unreasonable that one should suddenly appear at this point in the film."

The more logical explanation of the flash frame is that it is caused by the massive energy that would have been involved in lifting a 50-foot craft high up into the air in $\frac{2}{24}$ [↑] of a second.

On the second portion of the film there is another bizarre sequence. Rugne had stopped the film to allow the UFO to fly through the frame. He remembered looking through the viewfinder. "It wasn't going too fast," he said. "It just seemed to float by."

This brief eight-inch piece of film also showed a strange wave pattern. It was not flying in a straight line. Instead it appeared to be moving up and down from crest to trough to crest.

Charlie Red Star had been observed flying this way even with the naked eye by many observers. The action was called bobbing, like the bobber in the water on a fishing line. On the night of the CKY filming the speed was fast enough that no one reported bobbing visually. The assumption was that the slower the speed, the longer the frequency of the wave and the more apparent the bobbing would be.

When the CKY film was slowed right the bobbing wave motion became apparent. The object came from the left (west), dropped down into the wave, then rose back up as it passed right out the right side of the lens field of vision.

"The object," according to Rugne, "Was actually flying a second wave." When the film was slowed down frame by frame, it was found that there was a small wave motion that followed the single large wave."⁴⁶ Rugne pointed out another

⁴⁶ For future reading on this wave theory see Chapter on Charlie Red Star.

interesting aspect that was discovered in this section. He pointed it out me as we screened the film one frame at a time.

As the object dropped down into the wave, it seemed to be rotating. The red object gets a small black line through its middle. This appears and disappears at regular intervals as the object moves to the bottom of the wave. Once the object starts back up the other side of the wave, this phenomena stops, but the object continues to pulsate.

The most unusual aspect of the second segment is the trailing objects. Directly behind the UFO, the film picks up a second object following the second wave, which resembles the echo on a radar screen.⁴⁷

To make the problem more complex, detailed analysis discovered that there were more echoes than the visible one. There was the one that trailed Charlie. There was also one at B and C. A NASA analysis, according to Rugne, even showed an echo in above Charlie at D.

It was however the main echo behind Charlie that everyone was interested in. When Hynek first screened the film he stated that this effect might be linked to the inter-dimensional theory.⁴⁸

It was plainly apparent, but nobody wanted to attempt the interpreting of just what it was. Most people didn't even have an idea, and it might have been the appearance of the echoes that scared everyone off when it came time for hypothesis.

⁴⁷ The image was a faint, cloudy image in comparison to the actual object.

⁴⁸ This theory toys with the idea that UFOs are somehow we are able to pop from one to another, or maybe move to a parallel world.

AWKWARD,

Those present at the filming said nothing. "I watched it all the way," Britain told me, "and there was only one object. That I am sure of, and yet the film picked up two."

Hope at CKY told me his theory that the echo might have been a burn. "We had several photographers look at it," he stated, "over the years since it was shot...this could have been a burn on the film, because after all this is a movie film, there could have been a trail left on the emulsion."

When Rugne and I screened the film, we checked this particular aspect, and found that this explanation had to be wrong. When Charlie leaves the picture on the right, the echo is still there and remains there for many frames to come until it too flies out of the right of the picture.

The echo became something that was talked about by everyone, but explained by no one. It just became another mysterious occurrence on the CKY film.

According to Roberts, all sorts of people screened the film the day after it was shown. Like those personally involved, they believed what they saw, but no explanation whatsoever for what their eyes were seeing.

^uWe showed it to people at the Planetarium," Roberts said, "and we showed it to some Air Force pilots that the Armed Forces base sent over who were trained in night flying and night observation."

"They took a look at the film," he said, "and all they could say was that 'as far as we're concerned it was definitely a UFO.' " They couldn't explain what it was. We ruled out every other possibility such as swamp gas and helicopters because we

No such thing as a helicopter base

checked all the helicopter bases, and got nothing. It was not an airplane...that's the film we got, and there wasn't much of it, but what there was very exciting."

The film was to make CKY famous in Carman. As Britain told me, "The CKY guys got so that they wouldn't come to our place. They wouldn't come to the airport, because they wouldn't dare go through town with the CKY car. As soon as anyone saw the car, whether they wanted to watch for UFOs or not, they would follow it."

The night after the CKY film was taken (~~Thursday~~^{date?}), CKY sent out some people in hopes of getting a second movie. Roberts described what happened. "CKY is a funny place...very few people want to do anything unless they get paid for it. Martin and I were out on our own. We were receiving no pay. We just wanted to go out because we were intrigued by this. ~~Wednesday~~^{date}, we got the film, and the next night we had to beat people off with sticks, the ones who wanted to come out. We had three cameramen, Martin and two others. We set ourselves up in a triangle pattern, so that if we sighted this thing we'd get a fix on it with three cameras and be able to pinpoint its location. Unfortunately we never saw it again. We stopped after that. I was getting to the point I was spending eight hours out there. Physically we just couldn't take it anymore."

One would think that after all this interest and work on the brief 3.5 seconds of film; CKY would have been telling the world how good the film was. This was not the case. Their attitude was as odd as the film itself. "As far as I am concerned, it was legitimate," Hope said, "and everything that he (Rugne) did, as well as how he presented it was legitimate...that's over and done with now."

"We haven't heard of someone who's a physicist or an astronomer who's had a look at it," he continued, "someone who says that this explains the unexplainable. I haven't heard of anyone."

The unexplained mysteries of the film did not end at this point. In March 1977, I interviewed Rugne and met with him to get a copy of the film. At first he was very cautious about admitting that he had the film. Finally he admitted that he had the original and that so many strange things had occurred with the film that he wished sometimes it had never occurred. In making copies of the film, for example, some copies had gone missing. "I'm terrified of getting those things printed again," he told me, "because they almost lost them the first time I got them printed." He finally agreed to make a third generation copy for me and when I went to pick it up; screened a second generation copy for me at the Winnipeg's CKND TV station where he was working at the time.

It was during this interview that Martin also told me a story that had been kept totally secret in the whole controversy that surrounded the film. This new fact surrounded the fact that he had never shot a TV camera for a story prior to capturing Charlie Red Star on film.

On the night of the film the acting news director had stated that no one could go out and shoot the film unless they went on their own time. When they returned with the film it suddenly became a priceless piece of real estate, and the dilemma began.

CKY controlled the film but they had not paid anyone to take it. Further the guy who took it wasn't a cameraman because none of the regular CKY cameramen would go out. If these facts surfaced, the station would look very bad not only in Winnipeg

but also around the world, as there were demands for the film from the national network and foreign networks such as NBC TV.

In response to my question of whether he had been paid for taking the film, Rugne replied, "Yeah, eventually, but it was more out of shame than anything else. They wanted to get publicity (for the film) and they wanted me to go on their little TV show. If I were to say that I never got any money for it, they would say 'What?'"

"So they gave me a hundred bucks and told me to get lost," he continued. "It was really nowhere near the overtime that I should have made, like three nights till 2:00 a.m., or four nights... no, a week till 2:00 a.m. They gave me a hundred bucks. That's the way it went."

When Rugne left CKY he took the original two eight inch pieces with him, and CKY's involvement with the film was over.

In the spring of 2003 a local film documentary producer approached me to put together two half hour documentaries on Charlie Red Star and the UFO sightings that occurred during the 1975-76 UFO flap. The discussion went along well and I told him the whole story of the television film and the fact that Rugne now had the actual film. He said nothing, but when he told me that he planned to sell the documentaries to the station I knew the idea was finished. Not surprisingly, the producer never phoned back.

The Second Film

There was a second movie taken in addition to the one done by CKY-TV. It was never taken to the television station for showing, and still to date, less than 12 people have seen the original footage. This was a film that I took on April 1st, 1976.

Like the rest of the photographers that got film, I considered the shooting of this film to be an accident. The film was taken at night with an 8mm Bell & Howell movie camera using 160 ASA color film. The film was taken on April 1, 1976. The location of the filming was a bridge 10 miles south of Highway 3 on the McDonald Municipality line.

With me at that time was my friend Matt Cline. On this particular night we had stopped at the intersection of Highway 3 and 205E to wait for UFOs to fly by. It was just outside of the town of Sperling, Manitoba. It was shortly after 7 P.M. and the sky was beginning to darken. We had arrived at dusk as it was at this time when the UFOs would often fly.

After 10 minutes of patient waiting, nothing had appeared. We noticed, however, that there were some strange red/green lights that were starting to appear around us. They looked like airplane navigation lights. At first there were just three of them – two to the south of us in the direction of the town of Kane, and one northeast towards the town of Brunkild.

The lights were similar to farms lights from the various farms, except that these lights were very much the wrong color. You could clearly see which of them farm lights and which were the new lights. As it got darker the number of red/green lights increased. We decided to investigate, as there did not appear to be any UFOs flying around.

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24?

We drove down Highway 205, which headed in an easterly direction. Arriving at the first mile road we looked north and south and saw nothing. We continued down to the second mile road and looked south. There in the middle of the road was one of the red/green lights. I looked at it with a pair of 7x35 binoculars. It appeared to be about a half mile down the road. Tomas, who was driving, turned down the road.

We drove south to the next mile road, and yet the object did not appear to have gotten much closer. The red/green light still sitting in the middle of the small gravel road now appeared to have turned into a brilliant orange ball. It was hard to tell the size but we guessed a number of feet. It was much smaller than the road that was about 12 feet across. We stopped and looked around.

We noticed that it was now dark and we were completely surrounded by orange lights. The orange light on the road in front of us was a single light, but most of the ones in the fields appeared as double oranges sitting one on top of the other.

After spending some time studying this strange situation we discovered that all the farm fields were flooded with water. It looked like a huge lake on both sides of the road. In some cases the water was right up to the roads. The reason, therefore, that the orange lights were doubled up is that each orange light was reflecting off the water below it giving the impression that there were two sitting on top of each other.

It should be mentioned that the bottom image was an exact replica of the top object and it took a while to figure out that we were looking at a reflection. This could be because there was no wind on this evening and the water was very still. The temperature was just above freezing which was normal for that time of year.

Now the road in this area is completely flat. The area in prehistoric times used to be the bottom of a huge lake, and topographic maps showed almost no changes in elevation for miles. Being a mile road the road is completely straight. Being prairie farmland there were no trees, except for the odd one where there was a farm field. This road had only two farm yards on it, one right at the corner as you come off Highway 205 and an abandoned farm yard six miles down on the east side of the road.

We drove another mile south and stopped. The light still appeared to be the same distance down the road, and was still just as bright. We drove both with and without our lights.⁴⁹ We drove another mile and another until we had driven eight miles south.

At that point the road changed. There was a wooden bridge that crossed over a drainage ditch where water was being drained off the fields. The bridge rose perhaps three feet above the elevation of the road.

When approaching the bridge we noticed that the orange ball was sitting on the left side of the bridge. In comparison to the size of the bridge it seemed small. It appeared to be hovering above the water just below the level of the bridge. When we arrived up on the bridge the light was suddenly gone. We assumed that this disappearance meant that the orange ball was somewhere under the bridge. We got out with our flashlight and started to check around. It was hard to see under the bridge because the level of the water was almost level with the bridge, and there

⁴⁹ Because these roads are perfectly straight we often traveled down these roads at high speeds without our lights on. There was enough light from the moon to faintly see the road, and we were sure there would be no turns. We often drove with no lights as early on we learned that the ground lights were very sensitive to light.

were still piles of snow along the banks of the drainage channel, which prevented us from getting our heads low enough to actually look under the bridge.

Finding nothing in a short search we continued south down off the bridge. There was no light visible on the road, but there was a small farm off to the right at the next mile road. We traveled the half-mile to the next mile road, and seeing nothing turned around to go back north. Looking north down the road we could clearly see the orange light, this time sitting on the south dike.⁵⁰ About half way back to the bridge, I saw that the object had started to move towards the bridge along the top of the dike. Its motion was erratic and bouncy, somewhat like a person with a limp trying to run.

We were almost back to the bridge when this happened. I yelled for Matt to stop the car, at which time I jumped out and started running down the road with my 8mm movie camera. The ball dropped down between the two dikes and was lost to sight.

When we arrived back on the bridge the light was again gone. Again Matt and I got out of the car and this time we thoroughly looked for the orange ball. After a number of minutes of looking around and under the bridge we headed north back towards highway 205 where the journey had begun.

We had traveled north about a quarter mile with no sight of the ball on the road. I looked back and again saw the orange ball this time sitting on the bridge. I told Matt to stop, and suggested that rather than driving back to the bridge we should walk. Maybe we could sneak up on it.

⁵⁰ There is a dike on either side of the drainage ditch to prevent the water from flowing back onto the fields. The land here is so flat that the water must be channeled away.

With the car still facing north, we started off on the approximately one quarter mile south to the bridge. Matt held the binoculars and I had my 8mm movie camera.

Knowing that the object could take off at any moment I took seven steps and shot three seconds of film. I took seven more steps and again took three seconds of film. The object had taken off twice and I was determined to record as much as I could before it disappeared. Again I took seven steps and three seconds of film. We were getting closer and closer as the tension built.

As we closed in, I kept asking Matt what he could see in the binoculars. Not until we were 150 feet away did he say anything. "I think I see a shape," he said.

"What does it look like," I asked. There was no response. In fact to this day Matt never told me what he saw, and we got a lot closer than 150 feet.

The next thing we knew we were right up to the bridge and the object was still there only maybe 50 feet away. I took another three seconds of film. It was an eerie sight. The object appeared round and very bright, about two feet in diameter, and as orange as an orange. The light was so intense it might have been another shape. There were no edges visible that I could see. I assumed the object was inside the bright glowing haze

It was sitting on the right side of the bridge only inches from the wooden side of the bridge. My mind could only think of one thing. Why was this extremely bright object not lighting up the side of the bridge inches away? It was so bright it should have been lighting up everything for 100 yards. Yet the object was just casting a soft glow of a light on the side of the bridge. It was for this reason I always referred to

the light from then on as a “dead light.” It became a distinguishing mark of the ground lights.

I was at the point of decision. I was close enough to make a run for it. I only had to run up the approach to the bridge and a couple feet to the light. I mentally made plans to make a run at it and jump on it. I whispered my plan to Matt.

Matt had been looking around with the binoculars. When I told him I was going to make a run for it, he said, “It looks like there is something coming down the road.” I turned and saw what appeared to be a car coming from the north. We had left the car in the middle of the road so I looked through the binoculars.

I exchanged my camera for the binoculars and looked north towards the car. What I saw amazed me. It looked like the sun was rising up over the car in the north. There was one sitting right on the car. It was a half circle on top of the car and as wide as the car. Down the sides of the car right to the ground was orange diffuse light that looked a bit like smoke, except it did not dissipate like smoke. It looked like there was a small fire inside the car caused by the glowing light down the sides.

I said, “Matt, there’s one sitting right on top of the car!!” I started to run towards the car. Matt joined me. I am sure I had not taken more than six steps when I realized what had happened. I stopped and looked back at the bridge. Sure enough, the orange ball was gone. We had been had. Half way back to the car I stopped and shot some footage.

I looked through the binoculars again and now it looked like the car was on fire. The object had moved and now appeared to be sitting on the front hood of the car.

You could see it through the back and front windows. The inside of the car was lit up. The same orange smoky light was hanging down the sides of the car.

Realizing that the one at the bridge was gone we continued our run to the car. By the time we got there, the orange ball had gotten down in front of the car and was gone. We suspected that it had gone into the water.

When I arrived back the first thing I did was put my hand on top of the car. I wanted to see if it was hot. There was nothing noticeable. I took out my flashlight and looked at the top of the car, but saw nothing out of the ordinary. Our hearts were pounding both from the run and from the bizarre nature of events that were occurring one after another. Matt said very little. He was looking in the car.

After a couple minutes of this I looked back down the road to the bridge and low and behold there at the bridge was the orange ball sitting on the bridge again. I said, "It's back at the bridge. Let's go back." Matt stated he had no intention of going back. I insisted, as I was sure I could get even closer. Matt resisted stating that he wanted to go home. As it was his car, that's exactly what we did. The only comment he made during this entire period of frenzy was "How did he know we had left the car."

I shot a long pan film shot of the western horizon to catch a view of just how many of the oranges objects there were. We then headed home to tell the story.

On the way home Matt said nothing about what had occurred. He was quite shaken. He had not been involved in the many 1975 UFO sightings around Carman and this was therefore something new to him. He did tell me that the first thing he did when we arrived back at the car was to check twice for the keys, which he had left in the ignition.

During questioning by friends the next day, Matt's brother, Darryl, asked him whether he actually believed the second object at the bridge had been used as a decoy to pull us away from the object at the bridge. Matt replied, "It sure gave me that impression."

Ground Light Photography

During the period of March 1976, a whole series of ground lights were discovered on the back roads of southern Manitoba. Most were within 20 miles of Sperling, Manitoba.

A lot of photography was done on the ground lights because there were quite a few of them and they did not really move around unless bothered by cars. We could basically shoot all the photographs we wanted.

During the time we filmed ground lights, there were a great number of photographers that came to try their hand with a camera. Films varied from 200 ASA right through to infrared. Lenses varied from 50mm to powerful 3000mm 60+ [?] Extender lens.

On the night that Matt and I discovered the ground lights, I was not too sure of what we were seeing, because we were dealing with a totally new phenomenon. The phenomenon was first seen at about 10:45 P.M. on the night of March 23rd, 1976. Jonathan Black, Reg Peters, and myself were driving north of Elm Creek on the highway headed for the Trans-Canada Highway and back to Winnipeg. Down the

road we suddenly noticed a set of peculiar lights. The intensity of the lights varied from nothing to a flaring brilliant orange.

The number of lights also varied. Whenever a car would come in behind it, the bottom light would disappear and the remaining orange light would move a number of feet off the west side of the road. As soon as the car would pass, the objects would reappear and move back to their original position.

After watching the lights for five minutes, we made many vain attempts to find “natural explanations” for what had happened. We considered parked cars, someone fixing a tractor off the road, and the possibility that the road was not level and we were looking at a series of cars approaching us from miles away.

After taking a number of pictures of the strange set of lights, we moved up the road to attempt to determine A) if the road was level. B) whether or not there were two cars ahead of us. That would give us an explanation for what we were seeing.

We drove up to where we thought the lights were and found nothing. There was nothing in front of us anymore. The road turned out to be flat and straight right up to the TransCanada highway, which was 20 miles ahead. Only one car passed us in this whole time and we were left with no explanation to explain the strange lights we had seen. It was not until April 1 at the drainage ditch were I started to understand what we might be dealing with.

I received a report of the ground lights from Rocky Reimer the day before I shot the film at Sperling, and before I discovered just how many things there were on the back roads of the Pembina Valley.

Rocky told me that he had noticed these "orange lights" while driving in the Sperling area. He assumed that they were the rear lights of snowmobiles but he found it curious as they were all over the place.

The night after I shot the 8mm film of the ground light at the bridge Matt and I returned to see if we could duplicate the performance of the night before. We took along Johnny Deakin, a friend of Matt's.

I brought with me the movie camera and a new 50-foot role of film. We approached the road from the east this time and never did make it to the bridge because there were orange lights all over the place. Two different cars took turns racing down the road chasing them. We tried to walk up to so some with the movie cameras, but were never able to get as close as we had the night before.

Looking back we probably didn't succeed because we did not concentrate on one object. We would see one orange ball close to a road and chase it down one road. Seeing one on another road we would turn and chase it.

The other problem we had is that we did not keep an accurate log of what we were filming. Any orange ground light that looked bright would be filmed. When screening the film we realized that we couldn't tell what objects we had been filming because in the darkness there are no frames of reference. We ended up scrapping the movie footage.

When the water disappeared from the fields the objects all moved onto the roads. The other thing they did is change color to a brilliant arc welding white light. When they weren't flaring they were a triangle of small dim lights. (See Chapter on Ground Lights for details)

*Grant -
Do you have
permission
to publish
last names
from these
people?*

Once the objects moved to the road their numbers dropped dramatically, down to maybe a dozen sites around the valley. The best and most reliable light still seemed to be on the road south of Sperling where the April 1st film was shot.

This gravel road was ideal for a number of reasons:

1. Topographic maps showed that the surrounding area was almost perfectly flat for miles. Therefore there was no reason to worry about seeing something miles away because it was at a different elevation.
2. There was a seven-mile stretch of road where there are no farms, so there was little worry about cars coming down this abandoned road, or farm lights throwing us off.
3. There was an ideal and very active light on the road. It was called Little Charlie because it produced a similar color pattern in photos to Charlie Red Star. This photo was taken on 200 ASA color film, and was compared to the Major #3 photograph. (White in the middle with a yellow and then red corona around it)

There are many stories of our attempts to get close to Little Charlie to obtain a good photograph, or better yet capture him. Almost every imaginable plan was tried. I will deal with three of the ideas we tried of the maybe 75 attempts.

These six different methods were used to try to get a better picture.

- a) Flashing Lights at the object. By far the most successful method.

b) Chasing it. This was the most often tried and least successful. On April 4th, the night after getting 50 feet away, we had two cars that chased numerous lights around for hours. These chases occurred at 2[↑]mph, 70 mph, with lights, ^{and} without lights.

On one occasion, the Britains, Barry Johnson, Audrey Johnson, and myself chased Little Charlie south down the McDonald Municipality road for a distance of 15 miles, and never got any closer than when we started.

On the trip back down the road towards 205 Little Charlie went up to a brilliant full flare and followed the car closely all the way back down the road.

c) Jumping out of a car. Because Little Charlie had followed us back down the road we decided to try pushing Little Charlie south down the road and having someone jump out of the car half way down. The brilliant plan was that Little Charlie would follow the car back down the road right past the person hiding in the ditch with a movie camera.

This method was tried when Jorg Poor from the University of Calgary and his brother asked me to go to the road to see Little Charlie. Along with Danny Penner, who had been before, we visited the road where Little Charlie showed up as usual. Discussing the plan with Jim he agreed to give it a try. Jorg would drive and we would push the object down the road. At a mile road two of us would jump out. The car would continue to push Charlie back, then drive north past us for three miles. He would wait there for five minutes and then come and pick us up. If the plan worked the object should be coming about ten feet away from our position.

We waited until Charlie flared and we were off down the road. Three miles into the 7 miles, Danny Penner and I jumped into the ditch. Jorg and David continued down the road.

Danny and I could barely see the car when it made its turn three miles south of us. In a state of great excitement we checked our 35 mm camera and 8mm movie camera as the car approached.

Little Charlie, however, did not arrive. According to Jorg and David it followed the car for a while and then disappeared. It seemed like a long time before the car came back to pick us up. Just as it approached to pick us up Little Charlie went into a full flare. After we got into the car it followed us all the way back to Highway 205

d) Approaching from a different direction. This attempt to get close for a picture did meet with some success a couple times. The first time it was tried it worked very well.

I was returning back home with Danny Penner, Toby Penner, and Rob Wheeler from a night of sighting in the Pembina Hills west of Carman to Winnipeg. The return trip led me right past the Highway 205 turnoff only a couple miles from where Little Charlie sat.

I turned south but instead of going two miles east before turning south I decided to go straight south three miles and then east two miles to the McDonald Municipality Road. Little Charlie usually sat one half miles south of here right where the telephone line ended. (Past this point there were no houses and therefore no need for a telephone wire) I hoped that I might trick Little Charlie and get close. I prepared the camera and headed south.

The trick worked. There, a short distance down the road was an object that had flared to the point the light was right across the road. I stopped the car and pulled out the camera and tripod. Danny grabbed the binoculars and checked to make sure it was Little Charlie and not a car.

Danny said it was Little Charlie, and I quickly shot one photo. The object immediately ended its flare turning into the classic two dim green lights we had seen so often.

I was about to get out the flashlight to force a second flare, when a dog from a nearby farmhouse began to bark. We moved another mile east and looked back. Little Charlie was flaring again.

I was setting up the camera and tripod again when someone started yelling that there was another object coming down the road right at Little Charlie who was now a mile and a half southwest of us across the field.

I watched with binoculars as the object moved over the mile road we were on. There were no red taillights. Everyone realized we had another ground light heading right for little Charlie. Pandemonium broke out. I was racing to set up the tripod and camera for a shot. It was apparent something spectacular something was about to happen.

Realizing that I was not going to get the camera set up in time, I sat and watched what would happen. My impression is that the two objects had collided. It was like looking at a huge explosion in absolute silence. The lights went to many times the light intensity like an explosion and then dimmed right down.

Danny described it this way, "As soon as it got either behind it, or up to Little Charlie, all of a sudden there was this really bright light with the combination of the two lights, and then after a while it dimmed down and the other one left.

I continued to set up the tripod in hopes that the objects would separate again. After about twenty seconds they did, and using a cable release I was able to capture the event on a filmed time exposure.

It was 2:30 A.M. now. Despite this, Danny and I decided we should walk across the field at Little Charlie. It had already been a good night of filming and we hoped we could sneak up on it. We walked through the field, which turned out to be very wet and muddy. We shot some 8mm film as we got closer. Little Charlie did see us coming, because when we finally arrived at the road we noticed that he now appeared to be sitting.

All of the still shots we took that night turned out and were some of the best we ever got. We shot all 50 feet of the 8mm film. It however did not turn out, which was strange because Danny said he could clearly see it in the lens which means it should turn out.

- e) Tracking across a muddy field ?
- f) Using a powerful 60x telephoto lens. The lens was provided to us by Carl Bachanek and Paul Dawkins. They had a good look at Charlie Red Star just north of Carman at the CBC tower. In coming to see Little Charlie they had brought along a 60x telephoto lens to get a good photo. They had been warned that it was very hard to get close.

The date was May 13, 1976, exactly a year to the day from the taking of the CKY film. There were scattered clouds, with a three quarter moon. The temperature was chilly. Present from Carman were the Britains, and Jack McKinnon who was employed as an analyst of aerial crop photographs.

Through the telephoto we could see a single orange light with a reddish border. The picture was very fuzzy and wavy because the lens was not only amplifying the object but also the dust and heat coming off the road.

Britain and I had seen the ground lights dozens of times and we had come to the conclusion that the reason the object was so far down the road was in part because of the lens.

We learned nothing from this attempt to photograph the ground lights with the powerful telescopic lens. We got no photographs and we learned nothing that we didn't already know.

LANDINGS

“They’re out there – no doubt about it.” Edwin Fuhr who discovered five swirled circles and a saucer in his canola field.

During the two-year flap of UFO sightings there were to my knowledge probably twenty landings in the Manitoba area. Some landings were witnessed, and others were discovered later as swirl patterns in the grain crops, or burnt circles in the farm fields. The different landings were part of a worldwide phenomenon which came to be known as UFO landing trace evidence.

The landing in Manitoba may actually have started a few miles ^{WEST?} east in Langenburg Saskatchewan late in September 1974 when five swirled patterns were found in the canola field of Edwin Fuhr, along with one silver disk which was still spinning in one of the circles when Fuhr found the circles. The “saucer nests” and Fuhr’s sighting made headlines across Canada and the world. They were investigated by the FBI along with the RCMP who’s tracking dogs refused to enter the circles.

The number of Manitoba landings was not high in light of the number of sightings. The landings do however represent a phenomenon that has come and gone in ufology. At the time of the Manitoba UFO sighting flap, landing of UFOs were common around the world. The same went for sightings of aliens in and around the landing site.

Now thirty years later, landings and sightings of aliens around the landing site are no longer recorded. This is a well-documented fact that gets very little discussion in UFO literature.

In order to obtain "trace samples" from a landing sight, the ufologist must be on the scene as soon as possible. In most cases, due to the witness suppressing the event, this was not possible for the majority of the cases in Manitoba. Members of the Winnipeg Planetarium, however, did some analysis.

The Little Man

Probably the most bizarre landing case occurred near the town of Bagot, Manitoba, which is about 20 miles NW of Carman. Rather than writing up a summary I include the full notes that I made after interviewing the witness.

This is the account of a UFO sighting made by Terry Orlando who lives at Bagot, Manitoba. The account of the event was given to me March 15th, 1978. The account took place in 1972 or 1973.

It was 1:00^{am}, and Mr. Orlando was traveling east towards Bagot, Manitoba in a truck with his girlfriend. He spotted a light in a field to the north of the road he was on. Out of curiosity he stopped his truck on a crossover road (a small crossing road over the ditch where the tractors and combines can drive onto the field from the road.) He then walked out into the field to see what was going on.

As he approached the object he noticed that it was a saucer shaped craft that was sitting in the field. He walked to within 100 yards of the object and stopped, fearing

to go any closer. He could see heat waves coming off the object and could hear a low humming noise.

The craft was about twelve feet across and about 8 feet high. On the top of the saucer part of the object Terry could see a dome with something resembling three antennae sticking out. On the top of each antenna was a red light.

The craft was a glowing yellow color with a brilliant white light coming off the edge of the saucer. Terry could see no doors or windows.

Fearing to get any closer to the craft Terry began to walk in a circle around the craft. He continued around the craft looking for something on the craft that would give him a hint about what the thing was. He walked half way around the craft where he became aware of the fact that the craft was now between him and his girlfriend who he had left in the truck. He decided to turn back taking the same path back around the saucer.

He arrived back at the truck that was parked 100 feet down a mile road off the main road. In order to get back on the main road he had to back up right on to the main road.

As his truck turned to back onto the main road his lights naturally swung across the field. In the lights someone became visible walking down through the ditch. The "little man" as Terry described him was completely dressed in silver.

The little man did not seem to notice the fact that he had been seen, or at least it didn't seem to bother him. He simply walked down into the ditch and back up the other side heading towards the saucer.

Orlando figured that the little man had made a large circle walking in behind the truck. Terry's girlfriend came to the same conclusion because she suddenly became very frightened. Terry decided to take her home as quickly as possible. When ~~she~~ ^{they} got to her place he dropped her off and raced back to where the saucer had been sitting.

It was ten minutes later when he arrived back. He saw that the saucer had now lifted off the ground and was hovering in the air shimmering. After a few minutes it flew off into the northwest, at an incredible speed described as a bolt of lightning going up into the sky.

Such a story would have been questionable had it not been for the events that followed the initial sighting. Orlando's neighbors went out into the field two days later where Orlando had seen the craft sitting.

The field had recently been cleared of trees and brush, and the man found ~~that~~ ^{AN} the area where the stumps and grass was burnt. They could also see footprints where Orlando and the mysterious visitor have been walking.

A couple of days after the sighting R.C.M.P. officers showed up at Adam's place, even though Orlando had not reported the sighting. They asked him a whole bunch of questions about what had happened and what Orlando had seen. They were, according to Orlando, a bit shocked by what Orlando had told them.

Later, Orlando received a call from a man in Ottawa. The man identified himself, but Orlando couldn't remember his name. When I asked him what the man had asked him, he replied, "The same things you are asking." Later, the man phoned back again and asked the same questions again.

Years later, I got to see the declassified R.C.M.P. files on UFOs. I looked in 1972 and 1973 and found no evidence of The Terry Orlando story or the Ottawa investigation. These types of stories of UFO cases disappearing from official government files do not surprise me.

More Little Men

Six miles south of ~~Carman~~ and two miles east of Carman is the Roland, Manitoba farm of Bill Wheatley. The Wheatley family was a famous family in the area for their growing of giant pumpkins. In fact Bill's father Roger held the Guinness Book of World Record for a 423 pound pumpkin.

In October of 1976, (the same year as the world record pumpkin) Bill, and a group of other combiners, ^{were} ~~was~~ combining cattle corn. Wheatley stated that one of the combines (operated by a neighbor Devlin Faester) came across a 25 foot swirled area of corn. Figuring that the combine had broken down Bill went over and saw the combiner staring at the 4" to 5" high corn now swirled down to 12 to 18 inches. (Anyone who has ever tried to pull corn and break it up to dispose of it at the end of the season will know the pressure that would have been required to do this)

Bill told what he found to the National Enquirer⁵¹.

We got off and looked closer. You could see burnt marks up, say, 6 to 8 inches from the ground. The stalks go up 6 inches, and then they are burnt for a little bit, 3 or 4

⁵¹ Interview with National Enquirer reporter Bob Pratt 8/28/76.

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inches. (The burn marks were only on the stalks at the edge of the circle. It was on both sides of the stalk and looked like it had been done with a blowtorch.) It was easy to see.

Then I guess we noticed the tracks, really odd tracks. I've never seen anything like them in my life. They were round – I guess maybe 5 inches in diameter, almost perfect circle as I remember it. You see it had rained a few days before, so these showed up quite well. They were sunk in the ground about an inch.

They were approximately 5 to 6 inches in diameter but there were little marks to each one of these. It was just a round pad mark and there were little claw marks (very thin) about this size...and they sunk into the ground about an inch. It was something very heavy but it didn't look like they were machines.

They looked like some kind of animal because these claw marks would go away from the spot but they didn't follow a pattern like an animal would (to the way it walks) but this didn't have a pattern. It was just helter-skelter and yon.

It didn't have a pattern, and wherever these claw marks seemed to be, there were cobs picked off the corn. The ears were picked right out of the husks. You wouldn't have noticed unless you went and grabbed the husks and there was nothing in it. You know how the husks are dry in the fall. The husks were hanging there and there was no ear inside of it. It was gone! This is what was really weird, as far as we were concerned.⁵²

⁵² I first read the National Enquirer interview with Van Wyck in 2004. I interviewed William probably the year after Coleman from the National Enquirer. Although I have misplaced my notes what William Van Wyck states in this interview is identical to the story I recall him telling me.