

about 2:30 A.M., following the same Chant Trace across the Great Lakes and out to sea near Sandy Hook, New Jersey. And there burn a pair of puzzlements: one that Mebane recognized and one that he did not.

Anyone wishing to fly an airplane (or spacecraft) on a straight course from Regina, Saskatchewan, touching each of the five Great Lakes, must be a pretty fair navigator. A map of the lakes reveals that one line, and only one line, can be drawn to intersect all bodies of water. Three of the lakes—Superior, Michigan, and Huron—present little challenge, because of their size and position. Any number of courses, fanning east from Regina, will cut across their shores. And an easy connection can be had with a fourth lake: either Ontario or Erie, but not *both*. The navigator must thread a geographical needle by clipping the western tip of Lake Ontario and the eastern tip of Lake Erie, and passing directly over Buffalo, New York.

This is the precise course laid down by the Chant Trace. (See Fig. 2.)

If there had been but a *single* Procession, this presumed navigational feat could be dismissed as chance. The objects had to follow *some* course above the surface of Earth: why not one touching the five Great Lakes? The ground track would be a tolerable coincidence, for practically anything can happen once. Twice, suspicions are aroused. Three times, and the verdict must go against coincidence and free-falling bodies.

According to Mebane, the second section of the Procession was followed by a third on the afternoon of February 10. Diligently picking his way through Professor Chant's records, the investigator for the American Meteor Society discovered that "3 dark objects passed west to east . . . repeating the Procession once more on precisely the same course as before."

All three sections of the Canadian Fireball Procession threaded the needle. Yet by following the same ground track across Earth, each section of the Procession had to fly a *different* course through space!

Does the Sun rise and set? No, it's an illusion. The Sun stands still. As solar observers aboard a rotating planet, Earth, it is *we* who are moving, completing a revolution of 360° every twenty-four hours. Continuously, our spinning globe offers a different patch of its surface to a stationary Sun. Thus, for any one part of the world—such as the Great Lakes—to be constantly bathed in sunlight, either our planet must stop rotating or the lamp of heaven, to hang above the Great Lakes, must chase this globe around and around.

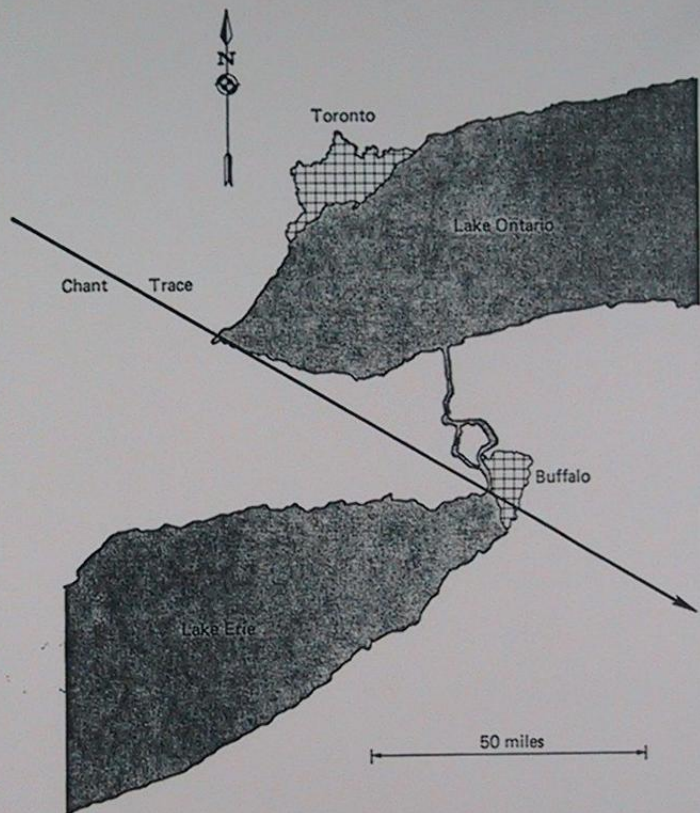


Figure 2. Chant Trace Closeup Any object wishing to overfly all five Great Lakes on a straight-line course must clip the tips of Lakes Ontario and Erie to do so. This is the precise ground-track followed by each section of the Procession: *three* groups of fiery bodies repeated this unique line across the Earth's surface.