

installations, the space program, and new weapon tests. The microwave tower theory had not gotten any press as far as I could tell. *my research suggests.*

So when I learned that in some towns, people went to the local tower to UFO watch, I paid attention.

In April, May, and June of 1975, for example, the CBC tower just north of Carman became a regular meeting place for those who were out trying to see Charlie Red Star. A Rachael Britain told me it was such a popular place, "You'd go out to see people you hadn't seen for months. We'd bring along coffee and sandwiches and have a real get together."

At a lecture in Starbuck, Manitoba, I mentioned that microwave towers might have something to do with where UFOs were going. After the lecture many of the students came up and stated that they knew this already. Apparently in August 1975, many of the students had seen an object around the 1066-foot tower just outside of Starbuck.

Sitting by the towers paid off many times for those who went out to sight UFOs there. The famous CKY-TV film clip was taken at the Carman CBC tower. "We stationed ourselves at the tower and pointed the camera west. There was an alleyway between the lights at Stevensfield and the Haywood tower. The UFO seemed to fly between them and the CBC tower."

*WHO SAID
THIS?*

Three photographers who had come out a number of times with me had a dramatic close encounter at the same tower. Two others and I had a dramatic sighting that involved a UFO that flew by the Brunkhild tower twice during the sighting.

*Change one
of these*

Jennette Frost lived 12 miles east of the CBC tower at Sperling. In her description of the numerous times she saw Charlie, she mentioned not only that the UFO had used the tower but also affected the towers.

"Whenever I saw it coming from Carman that tower would just glow! Oh, it would look about that broad (indicated a couple inches) from here. It always seemed to affect the towers."

"It didn't always come from the same place," she continued, "but you often saw it coming from Carman, and just north of the tower. The tower would be glowing at the time."

Even Brendon Eagle, who constructed the Carman CBC tower, had seen a UFO at the tower. "I saw one at the four to five thousand foot level over the radio tower at Carman," he told me. "It hovered there. I wonder if they're using that tower. They might be using the beam of frequency for guidance."

The Carman tower was the main tower where UFO sightings were coming from, but they were coming from other towers as well. Frost south of Sperling, was recording everything in a diary. ^{1 cap}

"One night Doug (her son) and I were pumping water into the cistern." Frost wrote. "You have to stay with it till it's done. At 11:30 as a severe thunderstorm approached, I saw Charlie sitting and pulsating in the sky straight north of Brunkhild, not too high up. It stayed there stationary for some time and then approached the Brunkhild tower very slowly. It then dropped down on the east side of the tower below the top red light. It hovered there for a few seconds and then moved in an easterly direction."

I received reports from researcher Samuel Sedaris that there were numerous sightings being made at the two towers just on the edge of the town of Haywood Manitoba northwest of Carman. As for my own reports I could only find a half a dozen reports of UFOs near the Haywood tower. One such sighting came from Marcel Viugnier at Rathwell, Manitoba.

"I saw something out this way (east) one night," he told me. "I said, 'There's a UFO over by the Haywood tower. Later people said that they were coming to the power station at Haywood."

Many sightings occurred near the telephone tower at Elie, Manitoba. In one, McKennett and a dozen other people watched five UFOs, one big and four small come to the tower three nights in a row.

"It was west of here," McKennett stated. "Close to the microwave tower and the mother ship seemed to be close to the tower."

There were trips being made to the Starbuck tower as early as May and June 1975. Mrs. Tannis Major in Carman was already aware from circulating stories that the UFOs were being seen around the tower. Working from her own reports, she went to Starbuck on many occasions in hopes that she might catch a photo of one of them.

"We went to the CBWT tower at Starbuck", she told me. "I took a whole slew of pictures there because there were quite a few of them there."

Even on the last day of the long two-year flap a Mrs. Krutcher made a sighting on Sept. 29, 1976. It was of an object that flew by the Manitoba Telephone Systems tower at Morden, Manitoba.

Ferris Wheel

Carman, Manitoba provided good evidence for the objective existence of a UFO, because most people were reporting the same red pulsating object. Charlie Red Star was the most reported type. The reports were so common that skeptics began to state that everyone was repeating the story, regardless of what they saw.

In the Carman area, however, there was a second major unreported type where descriptions were quite similar.

As opposed to Charlie with a blood red beating heart appearance, there was a second Ferris wheel type that was never publicized. There were 12 witnesses in 1975 that reported to me of seeing a giant red Ferris wheel flying through the sky.

The first person to catch a glimpse of this unusual sight was the late Carl Major from Carman. The incident occurred May 12th, and was told to me by his wife. "He was going south," Tannis stated. "The day before CKY took that film. He was going south to see what's what. He joined us later on and he said, "I'm pretty darn sure I saw one because it was the shape of a Ferris wheel, lights all around.'"

The next witnesses to report the "Ferris wheel" were the McCanns who had watched the giant wheel moving towards Carman.

"It was just like a Ferris wheel at the fair," Joseph told me, "except it was ten times the size."

Mrs. McCann told me the same thing in another interview. "'It looked like a giant Ferris wheel at the fair," she said.

"Was it on the ground?" I asked.

"No, no!" she replied. "It was in the sky and it was rotating as it moved towards Carman. There were spokes just like a Ferris wheel."

"Was it at an angle?" I asked.

"No", Mrs. McCann replied. "It was on its side, slowly rotating. It looked exactly like a huge red rotating Ferris wheel."

Most of the witnesses living near McCann's farm had failed to report their sightings for fear of being associated with the McCanns and their little green men friends. Most of the neighbors were, however, quietly seeing them. These neighbor stories became known to me when one witness ratted out another. Once it became known that one person had seen something they would end their recounting of what they had seen by saying, "I wasn't the only one who saw it you know." Eventually, the names of neighbors and what they saw was being related to me. After approaching them, two reported anonymously to me that there was indeed such a thing. They had seen the red Ferris wheel type object. They pleaded with me that I keep it secret. They didn't want to go down the road of ridicule that the McCanns knew so well.

*A better choice
of words perhaps?*

The last witnesses to see the Ferris wheel were a group of five people who had gathered at the CBC tower north of Carman to watch for Charlie. Britain, one of those present described the sighting this way, "I had the 7 x 50 binoculars and it got in close enough so that I could see it. It was about 1 to 1 ½ inches across in the glasses. It looked like a huge flaming Ferris wheel, with the whole outside flaming

hot, with the reflection on the inside of glinting metal. It had a very pronounced halo on the bottom corner with actual little fingers licking out. "

"Then it came up to us. It was flying a bit higher that night," he continued. It was 2000-2500 feet up. ²⁴ I searched behind me for the movie camera when someone said, "Hey! It's going the other way!"

"It backed out of there, exact reverse course – 180 degrees and at about 300-400 mph. It's hard, however, to estimate speeds at night."

Getting Rid of a UFO

Any ufologist who files UFO reports continuously runs up against stories where people were chased down the highway by a low flying UFO. Manitoba was no exception. In filing the Manitoba cases, however, I discovered a second bizarre yet common occurrence that the people were describing.

That similarity was that on numerous occasions, people being chased down the road by a UFO found that the object "flew off" when they made a 90 degree turn onto another highway or into their yard.

In one case two girls were heading southwest from Winnipeg to the town of Manitou. It was near sunset when a huge flaming object appeared on the driver's side and paced the car for many miles. They reported that there were now two red objects in the sky, one in the east and the sun in the West. According to the two girls there was a considerable difference between the two.

²⁴ This compares to Charlie who usually flew 1,000 feet or lower.

Coming up to Highway 3, the girls turned west. At this point the object vanished. Mystified by this event the girls drove around looking for the object, but saw nothing.

In another case an unidentified woman from Kenton, Manitoba told me that a blood colored object paced her car as she was driving six children to school in Kenton, Manitoba.

"Well, when we got to the corner where we turn off to go west toward Kenton", she said. "The kids could hardly wait to get to school. We turned west and the darned thing just vanished. We don't know where it vanished or anything."

This case, as bizarre as it may seem, occurred in broad daylight. Daylight close encounters were few and far between.

Perhaps the best example of this phenomenon was the case that involved two school principals who were being followed down the road by a UFO. The two, Mrs. Marnie Herb and Mrs. Phyllis Johnson had a saucer hovering only a few feet over their car as they were returning home to Sanford, Manitoba 15 miles west of Winnipeg.

The two were so petrified by what that was happening, that Mrs. Herb who was driving, decided to turn into a farmhouse along the road. At the precise moment that the car made the turn onto the farmyard driveway, the object just shot away.

"It just lifted," Mrs. Herb said. "That made me wonder. The house is right close to the road. It just disappeared immediately at that lane."

The craft shot off west to the Brunkhild microwave tower and the two could see it clearly sitting by the tower. It appeared to be finished with them so Mrs. Herb pulled the car back on to the road and continued on north towards Sanford.

Within seconds the object was back over the top of their car. "It came back," Mrs. Herb stated. "We saw it put its lights on and it came back, sat above us, and followed along with us."

At the main highway Mrs. Herb sped across the highway (with a 60mph speed limit) right through the stop sign, and into town. Here again the object lifted and shot into the northeast over Winnipeg.

Beams

One of the odd similarities that became apparent after studying hundreds of UFO reports across the province was that in a sufficient number of cases, the UFO reportedly projected one or more beams to the ground for one purpose or another.

This phenomena, it should be noted, is has been reported in other cases around the world. In the famous Travis Walton abduction in November 1975, the five witnesses near Travis stated that he had been hit and lifted from the ground by a blue-green beam of light projected by the saucer shaped object just off in a forest clearing.

At the same time that the Manitoba flap was starting up, April 1975, Mr. John Womack told his own story about a UFO contact he had in the Tennessee Valley.²⁵

²⁵ Womack, John. "I was picked up by a UFO" Helms Publications 1975

"The most incredible thing happened," he recalled. "From the bottom of the machine, a beam of light several feet thick began moving slowly towards the ground. After a few seconds had passed, the column of intense light reached the ground. I couldn't believe my eyes when the light, instead of stopping at the ground continued to spread out over the meadow. The light flowed over the area like some sort of foggy spirit until it almost reached the road."²⁶

Months after Womack's experience in Tennessee, beams of light were reported in connection with Manitoba sightings. It was mid-May 1975 when Britain, Martin Rugne, and twelve other witnesses watched from the Pembina Hills as Charlie projected a triangle shaped beam of light onto the ground before dropping into the trees.

"We were looking towards Morden," stated Britain, "and it was moving slowly south towards the U.S. border. Suddenly it started zigzagging across the bush lower and lower with every zigzag. It got down over the bush and stopped."

"It stopped pulsing red, and turned solid red," he continued, "and then there was that beam that came out from it. It was like a triangle but it had definite edges. It wasn't a light. It was a definite beam. The beam was so intense that it took on a reddish-white tinge."

In August 1975, more witnesses five miles east of Carman saw the same thing. Larry First, who was one of the people, described the same zigzagging, the beam, and the sudden vertical descent. The only variation from the object seen from the Pembina Hills was that this time the beam was blue.

²⁶ This flow property of light was similar to light coming off an object that was sitting on a car in April 1976. It looked much like smoke that floated around and moved more like a fluid than a beam.

On July 13, 1976, Anton Olson and Hubert Drosen were just about to turn into Cardinal Manitoba, when they noticed a peculiar light in the northeast.

"It had form," Anton commented. "It was not just a light. It was an object."

"It was peculiar," he continued. "It was red - mostly red with some blue lights. It was moving west towards Elm Creek. It was swerving back and forth at a very high rate of speed and at LaRouge it stopped. Then there were pulsations in the sky. They were bluish- bluish white and it started to drop down."

"It would move down," stated Hubert," and then stop. Then it would move down a bit farther and stop. All the time it moved down there was a beam of light projected down to the ground. The beam was moving around. It looked like it was trying to find a good place to land."

"It came down about Elm Creek," Anton added, "and we watched it until it was down."

In another August 1975 case, ¹⁷²²⁰Dufferin Leader reporter, Kerry Kaelin reported seeing Charlie on the morning of the 17th at 12:35 AM. "The movements of Charlie were erratic," he reported to the paper. "It would drop down to the ground quickly and rise up again moving occasionally horizontally, but remaining in the same general area."

In connection with two smaller objects that had left the craft and descended to the ground, there was as Kaelin reported "a tail of light that shone down from it."

There were other cases when beams were reported coming from crafts. In the dramatic triangle case I was involved in (See "The Triangle Close Encounter" in the Ground Light Chapter) Danny Penner reported that the object in the air, projected a

beam of light down on to (or close to) two ground lights we had been bugging with flashlights a half mile south of our position on Highway 205E south of Morden.

Finally, in a case that occurred in the Riding Mountain National Park northwest of Carman, Carl Bachmanek and Paul Dawkins reported to me that they had been standing on the edge of a lake one night, when they noticed a peculiar light on the opposite shore.

The object moved towards them to the center of the lake, where it projected a beam of light into the lake. The beam, according to Carl, penetrated the lake right to the bottom. Slowly the beam started moving towards them. Both Carl and Ron watched as the beam moved up onto the shore, and right onto the two men. "I knew the beam was on us," Carl told me, "but I couldn't feel anything."

The beam began to retreat after a few moments, back on to the ground at their feet and back into the water. Where it had gone next, neither man could tell me, because they had long since turned and run from the area.

Animal Reactions

Just outside of Ottawa there is a government communication station called Shirley's Bay, where in 1953 and 1954 the Canadian government gave authorization for a bizarre experiment. A small hut, supplied by the Defense ^Rresearch Board, was moved onto the property. It was known as the "flying saucer observatory. Its purpose was to detect "flying saucers".

Semi colours

Five different monitoring systems were set up to detect 1) change in the gravitational field; 2) change in noise; 3) change in magnetic field; 4) change in gamma ray backgrounds; ^{and} 5) mass changes in the atmosphere.

Likewise today, small companies in Canada and the U.S are putting out a vast array of "UFO Detectors" designed so that UFO investigators will be alerted when a UFO flies by. Most of these detectors work on the principal of ^echange in magnetic fields.

It was found through cases like the one at Falcon Lake, Manitoba on May 20th, 1967 where a UFO landed that magnetic fields could be affected by the presence of a UFO.

In the case at Falcon Lake, Stefan Michalak, a geologist, discovered that the needle on his compass was spinning erratically when in the forest opening area where the UFO had landed. Likewise, a former member of the Canadian Defense Research Board told me that animals were used in the 1950's in Canada to detect the presence of UFOs.

The UFO sighting reports of the Manitoba UFO flap showed a similar ability of animals to detect UFOs. The reaction of animals seemed to be particularly strong when UFOs were landing. The evidence, both from Manitoba cases and from former government work showed that animals are somehow capable of detecting some sound or sight that is out of the human perceivable frequencies.

In the 1967 Falcon Lake case the animal reaction that alerted Michalak was the "frightened cries of a flock of geese." When the geese reacted, Michalak looked up in time to notice the object landing fifty yards from his position.

In the 1975 Manitoba sightings, probably one of the most dramatic animal reaction cases occurred when a glowing red craft settled itself down in a field a half mile northwest of the McCann farm, north of Carman. Present at the farm were 20 of the 200 horses owned by Joseph McCann.

"We thought it was in our field at first." Mrs. McCann told the National Enquirer. ^{if MC}
"We had about twenty head there. The horses were real scared."

"It was hovering not far from the horses," she continued. "They stampeded, but later settled down."

Months later, I questioned the McCanns on the reactions of the horses and discovered a fact that proved to be quite interesting.

On the McCann farm there is a 200-foot barn where the horses were kept. Of the 20 horses present at the time, only a couple horses were in the pasture west of the house and south of the object. The rest of the horses were in the barn, which offered no visual contact with the object. These horses, unable to see the object, were according to Mrs. McCann, the horses that had the most severe reaction to the presence of the hovering object.

"They really went wild." she told me. "Joseph and I thought that they were going to pull the barn down. This lasted only for a minute and then everything stopped. No more than a minute - then dead silence - you could hear a pin drop."

The stallions could not see the object from inside the barn, and it is most likely that the horses detected the object by sound. This sound had to be outside the human audible frequency, because the McCanns reported hearing nothing from the object only 500 feet away.

The McCann's account of the short period in which the horses reacted, and the unusual silence, is an observation common to other landings. Consider for example, the account of Mrs. Mary Berezuik, who sighted two objects with four windows in each, which settled down in a swamp $3/4$ of a mile north of her home at Sundown, Manitoba, just north of the United States border.

At 3:15 a.m. on the morning of February 15, 1977 Mrs. Berezuik heard her dogs howling and hurried out of the house with a .22 caliber rifle in anticipation of finding a stray dog attacking her cows. Arriving outside, she fired two shots into the air to scare away whatever was bothering the animals.

She looked at the cows and noticed that they appeared to be extremely frightened by something. "Their eyes," stated Mrs. Berezuik, "were glaring bright red, like flashlights."

Mrs. Berezuik stated that suddenly it became "quiet" and "unnaturally still". So much so, in fact, that Mrs. Berezuik became frightened and hurried into the house. It was through the north window, seconds later, that she saw the two objects slowly dropping into the swamp.

The third case I recorded dealing with this unusual silence was a second similar case experienced by Mrs. McCann. She had been awakened early in the morning by the sounds of her two dogs barking. She got up and went out fearing that someone was stealing gas.

When she got out, she sighted an object in the direction of the Haywood tower, but figured that a second object was right down the road behind a hedge of trees. She was quite frightened because the dogs were still barking and the birds were

making a racket as well. Suddenly, all the animals stopped making noise, and for the second time in a year, Mrs. McCann experienced that peculiar eerie silence.

"There was absolutely no sound at all," she told me. "I thought that that thing had landed again, so I started to walk out to the road to see past the set of trees in front of the house."

As she was walking down the driveway to the road, the larger of the two dogs placed itself in her way. He pulled at Mrs. McCann's legs and would not allow her to go out to the road. After a few minutes of struggling to get past the dogs, Mrs. McCann gave up and returned to the house.

A year before the Manitoba UFO flap began there was a famous landing case at Langenburg, Saskatchewan, just a couple miles from the Manitoba border. The farmer was Edwin Fuhr. His animals exhibited actions which indicated that they knew long before Fuhr that something unusual was at the farm. The reaction involved strong reactions from neighborhood dogs and cattle that broke through a fence during the events.

Fuhr's sightings involved seeing "five small metallic domes" in his farm field. The incident occurred on Sunday morning, September 1, 1974, at about 10:45 a.m. An interview with Ted Phillips at the Center for UFO Studies shows, however, that the object might have been in the field all night.²⁷

"Well, he (dog) barked, when was it?" Fuhr told Phillips. "Saturday night, they barked; the neighbor's' dogs barked too. They all barked at the same time Saturday night, about midnight (the night before the reported event). Then they barked at

²⁷ Hynek, J.A. and Vallee, J. "The Edge of Reality" Chicago, Henry Regnery, 1975 Appendix A. Page 273

about 3:00 in the morning. Jack, our neighbor had a babysitter who was frightened because the dogs were barking and when Jack came home, he said the dogs were still barking."

"On Monday night about 10:30 the dogs were barking. My dog had been out in the field and he had backed up to the house. He wouldn't go into the field. He usually follows me, but this time he wouldn't go out there. On Tuesday morning I found the ring there."

"When I heard the dogs barking Monday night, I thought, 'It could be out there again, but even if it is, no way am I going out there.'"

Phillips asked Fuhr if the neighbor's cattle were disturbed.

"Yes," said Fuhr, "the cattle were making a lot of noise that Sunday morning. The fence was broken in four places. The Saturday night after, (Sept. 14) the dogs were barking again and we found that one."

An interesting point to consider is the type of barking done by the dogs. Usually dogs bark to protect their property or the property of their master. They will charge a mailman and come as close to him as is safe. Here, however, we find a barking which exhibited fear, ~~on behalf of the dogs.~~

"My dog had been out in the field," said Fuhr. "He backed up to the house. The dog wouldn't go out into the field again, though in the past he usually did. This reaction is hardly the reaction of the dog protecting his master. It seems more one of fear, or an irritation caused by some unusual noise."

A very similar event occurred at the farm of Howard Rempel, south of Carman. It was 4:15 a.m. May 2, 1975, eight months after the Fuhr experience. Here, all the animals in the valley were affected.

The Rempel farm lies at the base of a valley high in the Pembina Hills. The reported craft passed low over two farms before it finally settled in Rempel's front lawn. These farms belonged to Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Stevens.

"The two dogs at Wheeler's farm and my dog started howling long before the object appeared," Mr. Stevens told me.

It was Tina, his wife, however, who first became aware that something unusual was happening. She awoke to find that it was suddenly daylight out, even though it was only 4:00 a.m. The light seemed to be fading, and Mrs. Stevens realized that something very unusual was passing over the house. Her husband did not wake up in time to see the object, but though the object was gone, he too had had a weird feeling. "By the way my wife was reacting, and by the funny feeling I had, I figured that something must have been in the yard."

"The dog was howling outside," Mrs. Stevens continued, "and our two cats were at the window screaming. Not meowing, or crying, but screaming. I've never heard anything like it before. I went to the door to go out and see what was going on, but with the reactions of the animals and the weird feeling I had, I never did."

Moments later, the object landed one mile south in the front yard of the Howard Rempel farmyard. There, both the chickens and the dogs reacted towards the presence of the object. The chicken all raced across the yard and stood in bunches around the house. The dogs were under the steps.

ITALIC

"The dogs woke us up with their barking." Mr. Rempel told the National Enquirer. "This usually means the horses are out or something. We looked out the window and immediately noticed that there was a light in the corner of the driveway out there."

"I was really tempted to go outside," he continued, "but the dogs wouldn't go down there. They stayed right by the house barking. I figured if they weren't going out there, I wasn't either."

At Carman there was an interesting reaction from a horse involved in a close encounter north of town. Seven year old Bobby Baker stood on the deck on the south side of his house when a large saucer descended and sat inches above the neighbor's tree maybe 50 yards away.

Standing next to him as the saucer appeared was his pet stallion Sonny. Just as Bobby noticed the craft, he drew the horse's attention to the object. "When he saw it" Bobby told me, "he kicked up his heels and ran to his house."

In the summer of 1975 and April 1978 there were numerous UFO sightings, landings, and Sasquatch sightings near the former Southport Air Force Base, just south of the town of Portage ^{la} Prairie, Manitoba. It was the same area where 32 horses from the pasture of Joseph McCann had disappeared in 1975.

There were two major Sasquatch sightings reported along the houses that sat on a road just south of the base fence. There were strong indications at the Sasquatch sightings that UFOs were involved. At both Sasquatch sightings the dogs of the area reacted strangely. One of the dogs near the air force base was a vicious Great Dane and was therefore chained to the house at all times. Yet, when the reported

Cap Air Force Base

Sasquatch was spotted looking in the kitchen window, only a few feet away, the dog froze and didn't even growl. It was a dog reaction similar to a UFO presence.

During 1975, Sasquatch sightings at the Indian reservation south of town the dog present also froze. Yet, there was also a dog that tried to attack during the first Sasquatch sighting near the air base. Right across the street from where the Sasquatch was sighted I was told that the larger of the two chained dogs took a run towards the house across the street during the sighting.

The dog had taken a run right across the length of his chain towards the road. The owner reported he just about choked to death by the force of hitting the end of the leash. When the owner unleashed the dog he headed right toward the bush where 18 inch prints were later found running along the creek and up into a clearing in the bush.

Shortly before 6:00 a.m. on January 19, 1978, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Ryshytylo and their son Tony watched eight small UFOs and two large UFOs hovered over their farmyard in Rosburn, Manitoba. They were so close that the objects covered 30 degrees of the horizon. Because it was so early in the morning, the family would probably never have seen the objects, had it not been for the barking of their farm dogs that woke them up.

And so, perhaps in the future, researchers will find a way to use animals as their UFO detectors and discover, what it is that the animals are picking up, and reacting so strongly to. Such a method might get researchers on the sense of a sighting while it is happening rather than days or weeks after the sighting has occurred.

Jennette Frost had many sightings during the two year UFO flap. She used such an animal detection method. She used her dog Shep to help her know when it was time to watch the skies.

When *you* enter the Frost farmyard there is a sign that reads "Do not leave your car until the dog is chained." Shep was not a dog to be frightened by anyone or anything. When UFOs were around, however, the vicious nature of the dog changed to a cringing fear.

"That dog always growls when things are around." stated Mrs. Frost. "He always gets excited. He'll look up into the sky. He looks around. There's something that he hears, and he'll cry or whine deep down . . . a very high pitched whine."

During the flap of 1975 - 1976 Frost sighted many UFOs just by following the reactions of the dog. "Every time the dog acted up, I'd check the sky, and on every occasion there'd be something flying around."

Hum?
Roaring Hydro and Telephone Wires

In the countless tales of UFOs that fill book after book, there are references made to UFOs being attracted to power lines.

In
~~Here~~ in Manitoba we had many similar cases not only with hydro lines but even more frequently with telephone lines. Just before the first sighting occurred in the valley near Carman, Mr. Hay, who lived in Starbuck, witnessed a saucer shaped craft flying low along a set of hydro lines north of town. It was to be the first of many such cases.

As mentioned previously Jerry and Tracy Moore witnessed a UFO as it hovered over the lines near the farm near the Saskatchewan border.

"It shot down two rays to the lines," stated Leslie. "Where the rays touched the lines, the lines turned red."

It remained there for about five seconds after which it then flew north to a second set of power lines near his brother Jerry who was working in the field. This time, the red and silver craft shot down eight beams onto the hydro lines.

"The beams were thin at first," Jerry told the local paper, "but got bigger when they touched the lines. The beams didn't retract. They just disappeared after five seconds."

Ufologists generally keep an eye out for this particular type of sighting report, because it shows how the object might be getting its power, or how it works.

As well as stories of UFOs being attracted to hydro lines are stories of UFOs being around telephone lines. These stories are not researched as much because there are no known effects such as blackouts often attributed to UFOs and their attraction to hydro lines.²⁸

Because I actually heard the noise and taped it, I think it relevant to pull similar cases to get some idea as to why UFOs should sit above hydro and telephone wires.

My own particular case did not involve hydro, but telephone lines. This might seem unusual, but in Manitoba there appeared to be as many reports over telephone

²⁸ Probably the most famous case of UFOs, hydro and blackouts is the many reports during the great northeast of 1965. Many UFO sightings were seen just before the blackout, and many think UFOs may have played a role in what happened. Even the Office of Emergency Planning named "unknown phenomena" as one of the things that was being looked into in their investigation of what caused the blackout. They never did come to a conclusion.

Is there a name attached to this 1965 great blackout? If I recall it was traced to a breaker switch in NY state.

lines as above hydro lines. This led me at the time to believe that communications might be just as important as power.

It was late July 1976. I had driven to the abandoned road south of Sperling where the ground light called "Little Charlie" was usually found. Danny and Toby Penner, and Rob Wheeler were with me. It was just after dark, and there was nothing on the road, except for the two tiny green lights, that were there when Little Charlie was not flaring. After unsuccessfully trying to get the object to flare, we continued on west for the Pembina Hills to see if we could see anything flying around the valley.

We returned at 2:30^{AM} and discovered Little Charlie sitting on the road, at a point where the telephone end going south. After taking five pictures we moved to the next mile road east, and watched another ball coming down the road and collide with Little Charlie.

Because my only success at getting close to the ground lights was by walking after them, we decided to take the movie camera and walk the mile across the field to see whether or not we could get close to it. Danny explained what happened:

"We kept one coming closer and closer and shooting some more film. When we got to the road they seemed as far as when we had started after it, and that's after walking a mile across a farmer's field. Then we heard what we thought to be hydro lines, but they actually were the telephone lines humming really loud. We looked around and came to the conclusion that maybe the object was taking power, but it couldn't take power from a telephone line."

We then saw these two objects that we knew as "the objects at the end of the road" right on top of the telephone lines. "I don't know why," said Brian, "but we saw so many objects that night. They were all over the place."

Asked what the appearance of the two objects was over the lines, he responded: "The ones that were sitting over the telephone lines were both an orangey color and further down the road you could see the green ones that we had seen earlier. They were bright orange lights, but they were so bright that they looked white -close to white."

"When we first went after them, it was close to 2:30 in the morning." Danny explained. "It took us 15 minutes to walk down there and we spent about five minutes trying to figure out what was causing the noise."

Later calculations at the sight placed the objects 13 telephone poles south down the road. It was fairly light out, as the sun was ready to rise. Danny shot some film. *At 2:45 AM?*

"I finished the roll off," he stated. "There really wasn't much film left, so I finished it off. Through the lens you couldn't see them too bright, but I could see the outline of the poles, and you could see them changing their intensity of light and color - brightening and dimming." *No cap? check*

Later in the summer of 1976, I was just south of Elm Creek with some University students when I heard some strange noise. This time I had my tape recorder and taped thirty seconds of the sound.

The next day the sound was put on an oscilloscope to see what wave pattern arose. There on the scope was a double wave pattern, one high frequency and one very low.²⁹

At one of the main hydroelectric developments at Kettle Rapids in Northern Manitoba I was told that workers had reported numerous UFOs. The workers reported that sightings occurred almost daily, during construction, of mysterious lights flying up and down the river.

Manitoba hydro people also let me in on the fact that during the long Carman flap of 1975 that a major drain was occurring on the line heading to Winnipeg. A hydro spokesman who answered my questions about this report I had had from two hydro employees failed to confirm the fact that there had been a heavy drain off the lines.

Some of the landings that occurred in Manitoba also seemed to indicate that high-tension lines seemed central in at least some of the cases. Mr. Mike Pomehichuk of Rossburn, Manitoba found 14 swirled spots in his grain field. Many were near a high-tension line running by his farm and one was directly under it.

North of Portage ^{la} Prairie, Betsy Clinton and I found 12 horseshoe shaped areas in a pasture where the grass was burned out and refused to grow. Many of these were near high-tension lines running in an east-west direction along the south side of the pasture.

²⁹ In a North Dakota tape supplied to me by Richard Faflak of a woman who was taping from one tape recorder to another when a UFO flew close to her house, the same double sine wave appeared when put on the oscilloscope.

The next day, Clinton and her son found a new horseshoe mark that had just been made where the grass was burnt and bushed down. This was also directly under a hydro line.

Finally, Mrs. Frost reported that in seeing the large craft that nearly hit her house, there had been a noise associated with it. Roger Timlick who was there at the interview asked her what noise the craft had made.

"None at all." replied Frost. "The only noise I heard at the time was the hydro wires. They were really humming. That thing always affects the hydro lines. You can pretty well tell when it's coming. It (the object) must have come over the wires."

A Peculiar Form of Light

There are many different types of lights to be found in the sky on a clear night. Those of identifiable origin give off a light of a repeatable and well-known nature.

Stars in the night sky twinkle a white to yellow-white color. Planets on the other hand appear larger and glow rather than twinkle. While elevated high over the horizon, their color will be basically the same as a star, but when their nightly course brings them close to the horizon, they will appear reddish-orange, because of the amount of atmosphere the observer is looking through.

Planes, on the other hand exhibit a series of lights to tell others in nearby airspace that they are around. These are called navigation lights and are the same for all planes. The right wing tip has a small green light, the left wing tip, a red light. In the middle, on the bottom of the fuselage, there is a larger red beacon, which

rotates once per second. On the tail one can see a xenon strobe light, which looks like the flash of a camera. It too repeats its cycle once per second.

The only time these navigation lights are not visible is when the plane has its landing lights on. These resemble car headlights except that they are much brighter, and some of the larger commercial jets have three landing lights.

This list of lights, when compared to the numerous reports of nocturnal lights or nighttime UFOs, leaves a lot of lighting formations and types unexplained. They seem simply enough not to be products of our technology, unless government bureaucracy has secretly sanctioned a second group of flyers to fly at night with whatever lights they please.

Yet, what if these unidentified lights are of an alien technology? If they wish to remain hidden, why do they set lights around their craft for all to see? Are they afraid of a mid-air collision?

Are these lights indicators that they want to land at our airports? These simple lights therefore pose a problem, and deserve a much more important place in history than Ufologists have been willing to give them. The majority of UFO reports involve light of one type or other. That is how they are detected. Yet, what is the light's source and why is it there?

Of all the thousands of reports in Manitoba to report light of one type or another, the most famous was the lighting of "Charlie- Red-Star". The object seemed to give off red light from its entire surface. Those who saw Charlie close up were not even too sure of the shape because of the great amount of light. "It looked," many people said, "like a great big fireball."

Like most odd similarities within UFO reports, the lighting formations seemed to have a purpose. Most people who had time to consider the problem related the light to the propulsion of the craft. Different formations and colors were translated into different maneuvers and speeds. Red was slow and low. White was high and fast.

Two lighting similarities arose, however, that seem rather unconnected to anything. They were the daytime light and the dead light.

Time and time again, witnesses reported to me experiences they had had where the UFO had lit up the entire countryside. They had experienced where an object lit up the entire countryside. They stumbled around trying to describe the unbelievable, but rarely did they find words to adequately describe the amount of light coming off the object.

Usually they described it as being daylight at night. "It came down the river," Mrs. Herb told Coleman and me, "and it was just like the sun had come out. It was just as bright as the brightest day in summer. You could see the shadow of every tree in the bush."

"It was 500 to 1000 feet in front of the tractor over the bushes," witness Ron Middleton told me, "and it was so bright it lit up the entire bush." Not only did it light up the bush, it lit up the entire field Ron was working on. It was so intense a light that he could not look into it without hurting his eyes, and at that point he decided to turn around and go home.

"When I saw it," Frederick Clinton told me, "it was just off our yard behind a set of bushes. There were four or five bright lights that lit up the entire bush. It was terribly bright. I woke up. It must have flown right over the house."

Mrs. Tina Stevens also awoke one night in the spring to find that it was suddenly as bright as day at 4:00 a.m. "I didn't see the object," she stated. "I was much too scared to go to the window, but I did see the light. I tried to get my husband up, but by the time he got up, whatever it was, was gone."

In a landing in Letellier, Manitoba near the United States border, a farm family was alerted to the fact that something was happening, when in the middle of the night, it suddenly became daylight. The next day a huge circle of young sunflower seed plants were found dead in a field a half-mile west of the house.

Finally, Brendon Eagle, a successful inventor, saw the brilliant light one evening at dusk. Watching the light closely, he calculated what might be causing such a light.

"It was at about the 1500 foot level," he said. "And it passed over the Jordon Manitoba grain elevator. It was so bright you could see every nail in the elevator. It had arc ray lighting on it. That's what it was. It was arc ray lighting. It's one of those arc welder's lights. We're starting to get lights somewhat like them now."

In addition to these daylight lights, the reports showed a type of light which was reported as a dead light. It failed to illuminate anything around it.

The main example of this phenomenon I will draw from my own experience while researching the ground lights in April of 1976. Standing 100-150 feet from a ground light which was a couple feet in diameter, I noticed that it was sitting low, down between two dikes in a drainage ditch.

It was also touching a white painted bridge running north and south over the drainage ditch. Even though the extremely bright object was touching the bridge, it managed to throw no more light on the bridge than two candles would.

The "internal light hypothesis" was developed. It seemed best at describing what numerous witnesses and I had seen. Most, like me, reported that the entire object was giving off this light. It was not limited to any one section of the object. It was not a light on an object, but the object itself.

Thus many Charlie Red Star sighters reported the light "a terrific glow" or like "heated metal". Again, as with the ground lights, reports stated that this glow, all over the surface of the object made it very hard to determine the exact shape of the object.

This characteristic is extremely important³⁰ and many have attempted to link this type of light to the propulsion system of the craft. More importantly, the "dead light" phenomena is important because Ufologists constantly confuse the distinction between "light" and a "glowing light" when filing reports. The light is thrown off; the glow just spills over. A dead or glowing light is important because it cuts out almost all of the natural light forms known to man.

Flying on an Angle

Almost all of the hundreds of UFO books written include a section of pictures showing the vast array of unidentified objects people have been lucky enough to photograph. The majority of these show an object tilted to one side or the other, or in other words, an object flying on an angle.

³⁰ More discussion of the "dead light phenomena" can be found in the chapter of Ground Lights.

Logically, such a strange flying angle must represent an important purpose because it is uncommon to present aviation technology. Present day planes are still basically designed on the principle of throwing a rock, and are therefore designed to cut the air as clearly as possible.

The strange reported flying angle is also important because it rules out hallucination and hoax as possible explanation of the Manitoba UFO flap sightings. Those hoaxing their reports would be expected to describe normal flying characteristics that are well known, and hallucinations would produce descriptions that would be all over the map without any common elements.

For such a glaring characteristic about UFO flight, it is funny that little has been written about why the saucer should be found tilted in flight.

In the Manitoba UFO experience, sightings reporting angled flight were extremely common. In fact, of those people who saw the UFO during the day or were close enough at night to see the object clearly, the observation of horizontal flight almost never occurred.

The tilt was almost always described. Manitoba researchers whose interest it was to discover how UFOs are powered gave numerous explanations of this peculiar angle. Of these, only one hypothesis showed [✓]promise.

Regardless of why UFOs should appear to fly on their "edges", the fact remains that countless reports described the phenomena. Because of the scarce mention of the phenomena in UFO literature, I was able to use this oddity to validate the reliability of each report.

It was very unlikely that any of the witnesses could have read about the angle. It was something that they had to have experienced. Such was the case with the UFO reports that were given to me by the five members of the McCann family. Because the family had had so many close encounters with UFOs, very few people chose to believe anything they said.

I had been talking to Mrs. McCann about the half dozen times she witnessed UFOs flying right in and around the farm in late May of 1975. "It was a great big thing," Mrs. McCann told me concerning one UFO that had almost hit the house.

"It had a silvery dome on it with red and green lights around it. I couldn't see the bottom. It was just like the whole thing was tilted up with its top to me, and it was flying on its edge."

"What do you mean, on its edge"? I asked.

"It was flying sideways," she replied. "It was sort of on an angle."

"Just this one?" I asked.

"Oh, no!" she responded. "All of the ones we saw did that. They all flew on an angle."

It was things like this that convinced me the McCann's were telling the truth despite the disbelief in the town. I was one of the few who knew the object was flying on an angle and I kept it to myself.

It appeared to me that Mr. and Mrs. McCann had had an actual experience. I wondered about the children. Would they report the same strange flying tilt described by their parents.

In the spring of 1976 I got to talk to the McCann children without their parents there. Sure enough, the three McCann children told me in that interview that on four separate occasions they too had seen the particular tilt. It seemed to back up that these children with very limited life experience had seen something. The children were also holding to their stories despite tremendous criticism they were receiving from children at school.³¹

The degree of this angle did vary from one account to another, running from a low of 20 up to a very commonly described 45 angle.

The phenomena of having the leading edge up, or with the bottom of the saucer facing the direction of motion, was the most common description.

Mrs. Krutcher, who watched a UFO make four passes over Morden, Manitoba, told me that the object was flying bottom side forward. Such a motion, she told me, reminded her very much of how a Frisbee flies.

Mrs. Krutcher was very accurate in her description. A circular spinning Frisbee can be made to fly with, its leading edge up from a horizontal axis. The similarity between the two might mean more than we think.

Perhaps the most dramatic example of the angle came in a report that was part of the CKY-TV film. The angle was even given a name – “the unloading position” when witness Bishop spotted Charlie ~~Red~~ Star on the ground.

³¹ The children told me that after their parents openly reported that they had lost 32 horses, they became the butt of jokes from other children. One of the most common was people asking the kids if the horses were expected back any time soon from their trip to drink at the big dipper.

Bishop stated: "It was sitting at an angle of 45 degrees...much like seeing a drive-in movie screen from the side." Bishop's report, although unusual, shows that this tilt might have more to do with UFOs than in just the way it flies.

Others

As well as the numerous similarities already mentioned, there were many others supported by other Manitoba reports. They were, nevertheless, just as hard to account for, and therefore, just as indicative of an actual reality.

Take for example the large number of reports of UFOs flying at a car, beside it, over it, or close in behind it. Over a three-year period, these pacing accounts were found ⁱⁿ on 17 reports.

All those questioned made reference to other peculiar similarities that seemed to be directly linked to their experience. In every case, their car was the only one around; in other words, there was rarely an independent witness to the experience.

In almost every case, the driver either tried to catch up to the UFO in front of him, or away from the *UFO* beside, over, or behind him. It was no surprise to hear of frightened drivers racing down a dirt road at 80 or 85 mph.

In every case the witnesses failed to catch up or get away. They would report that if they stopped, so would the *UFO*, and if they would speed up, the UFO would do the same. In the five cases where the witness chased the UFO, everyone reported, "It knew what I was thinking." Their common opinion was that the UFO was playing with them, letting them catch up, and then pulling away.

Another major similarity that surfaced in the pacing cases was involved with the fact that all the UFO pacings occurred at night.

In four cases, the witnesses reported that it seemed to be the lights of the car that seemed to attract the UFO. Twice during the 1975 flap, Joseph and Anna McCann reported a *UFO* that flew directly at the truck at a terrific speed. Joseph turned out the lights, which caused the object to stop and back up down the road.

A couple of months later, a group of seven teenagers reported exactly the same phenomena. They had been traveling down an abandoned highway when a huge saucer shaped object flew to within 100 feet of them.

"It was moving back and forth." Bob Sanderson told me. "When I shut my lights out, it started to leave. When I turned my lights back on, it would come towards us again. So, I left the lights out."

Nine months later, the final example of this phenomenon was mentioned by Linda Chociemski who sat with her husband watching a saucer hovering near the car on Highway 8, north of Gimli, Manitoba.

"We were watching it," she stated, "and it seemed that every time lights would come down the highway, it would back up. When there were no lights, it would come closer to us."

Ufologists have always questioned why a UFO would travel from another solar system simply to chase cars around. In the 1990s Dr. Steven Greer who headed up the UFO organization CSETI took endless criticism over the fact that he took out groups of people into various American sites to attempt contacts with UFOs. One of the key elements of making communications was to flash lights at the objects.

Greer would have no support in the UFO community, but in Manitoba, witnesses who had had close encounters with a UFO would have very well received Greer. There was a clear link in Manitoba sightings between light and the UFOs.³²

Finally, oddities that arose from the reports included the fact that the UFO would fly within an inch or two when flying over a house or tree, or along a hydro line.

UFOs reported at night were almost always reported as moving very slow, between 10 and 80 mph. Numerous times words such as "crawling" and "floating" were used to describe the snail's pace being made by the nocturnal craft.

UFOs seen during the day, however, were described hovering or moving extremely fast. Independent witnesses told me that there was probably a lot of daylight UFOs except that they were hard to see because of their high speed. Luck was a word that was usually equated with having seen a daylight disk.

³² Similarly, experiences with ground lights showed that the small ground lights were very sensitive to light. The correlation here was much more repeatable.

CAMERAS, PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CHARLIE RED STAR

"That's the best (photography) you can do at night. You can't do any better, unless the thing, unless the thing ends up in my own back yard at noon hour, but that's a different story. Then I'll give them lunch too." **Professional photographer Mrs. Major talking about her three best photographs of Charlie Red Star.**

"It had a pattern to it that wouldn't have been any meteor or comet, or anything like that. It changed. It moved so quickly across the screen. It was calculated by NASA, and NBC also looked at it, and about 20 scientists in the United States at the time it was hot. They estimated to be going 32,000 (m.p.h.) My calculation was at 120,000 mph. I was plotting coordinates as the thing moves across the screen, and you'll never get a picture like that again. There's no way that you can try. There it is. Get it. It just went right across the camera while it was running, which was something else. A fluke."

Dustin Hope - producer at CKY TV

"We always conjured up new and different thoughts that someone was playing tricks on us...we didn't know where we were going to get on it. I think it was 100% luck because that was Allen's first filming. **Dorsey Roberts - former television reporter taking about the UFO film capture.**

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One of the most important aspects of the Manitoba UFO flap was its great regularity. In early and mid-1975 Charlie-Red-Star would fly low over the same general areas of the province. Many photographers took time from their lives to be present.

As I discovered in the photographs I took, it was not a simple matter of going out, getting photographs, and publishing them around the world. In fact, looking back, the problems greatly outweighed the fact that Charlie was around.

The mid 1970s was a time from a different generation. There were no digital camera^s, no video cameras, and no VCRs. All we had at our disposal was 35mm cameras, and 8mm movie cameras. Television stations like CKY and CBC from Winnipeg had 16mm television cameras, but their interest at filming Charlie always centered on some film crew getting paid to get a film. Those who worked trying to photograph Charlie knew this was a lost cause, because there was a lot of waiting and a lot of luck of being in the right place at the right time.

Taking pictures at night in an almost pitch-black countryside is an art in itself. The camera required a tripod and a cable release in order to take the time exposures that were required. Moving a tripod around and then getting camera set up on it quickly if something was seen was often comical.

Using a tripod also cut down on the mobility of the work, both in moving the camera from one place to another, and in moving the camera from one part of the sky to another.

It was hard to take notes describing each photo while working in the dark. It was also hard to keep track of exactly where in the large valley you were at any one

point because of the dark and because there were few landmarks. There were often no trees, farmyards or anything else.

My personal experience is that it was necessary to know the camera like a blind man. Light could not be used in setting up as one completely loses their night vision at a time when it is most needed. When things start to happen during a sighting, they happen terribly fast, leaving no time to be fiddling with dials and focus settings.

The settings were generally set up before hand, and anything that had to be changed during the sighting had to be done in the dark by feel.

No one can better attest to this than Mrs. Tannis Major, a professional photographer in Carman, who spent every night for a month waiting outdoors to get the one picture of Charlie that would prove the object was no a figment of the imagination.

"I saw the darned thing," she said. "I was at Anthony Britain's airfield and saw it there at a distance. Low and behold, he (a CBC cameraman) had to put his bright spotlights on me. Well you don't see anything for a long time. So finally they shut them off and I got my night vision back."

"I saw it again," she continued. "Bingo, on went the lights again. Three times they pulled that stunt. I told them that if they did not get lost with that thing I would knock the spotlight right out of their hands. I said, 'Get lost. I don't want you here.' But they wanted news. I told them they were going to get news."

Another of the big problems that occurred in trying to film Charlie-Red-Star was putting up with the paranormal occurrences that took place. This is an aspect that every photographer in the area would swear to.

A good number of the films and pictures did not turn out, and no one was ever able to answer why. It became a situation where, "If it could go wrong it did." It was safe to say that those who tried to take photos often spent more time trying to figure out why photos ^{awkward} hadn't taken then they did taking the photos.

Mrs. Major, the most active photographer in the early days of the UFO flap around the Carman area spent 4-5 hours a night, for 27 nights in May 1975 waiting in the countryside for a chance to take one photo that would pay off.

"I was out there all the time with my camera," she told me, "because I just didn't believe...well first of all I was a little skeptical till I saw it...it's the same as a chair. You have to believe it because you see it. It's just there."

She felt that if she could photograph the object, the resulting picture would show the true nature of the phenomena. "There will b e a number of non-believers, you might as well say. To make sure of it I was going to put it on film," she told me sitting in her kitchen. "That was my aim - to put it on film in case it's a phenomena - but then it wouldn't show up."

When I first met Mrs. Major I was taken by a story that she told which outlined her experience with the paranormal aspect of catching Charlie on film. "Wherever you go to film it," she told me, "make sure that there is a piece of glass between you and the object." I looked at her in disbelief, but it was apparent she was serious in what she was saying.

"There must be something with glass," she continued. "It might work in the same way as radar and tin foil. If you don't shoot behind glass you are not going to get a picture. Charlie knows what you are thinking."

This whole idea of glass, thought waves, cameras, and flying saucers sounded insane at best, but I realized that Mrs. Major had something going for her. She had (and still has) the best UFO photos out of the many pictures that were taken. I too took photographs and brought with me nine different photographers at one time or another. We got nothing as good as what Mrs. Major had.

To back up her contention that glass was a necessary component to good photos, she related to me a story I would come to hear many times – the story of the “blast off.”

The people present on the night in question were Mrs. Major, the Britains, and Sam Brazil.

The car they were in was just north of Morden when Charlie³³ appeared flying right at them. “It was coming lower and lower,” Mrs. Major recounted. “I said to Anthony, ‘If I can get a darn good shot that’s clear and we can see the shape of it, then I’m going to get myself a nice silver colored station wagon.’”

“Everything was ready,” she continued. “I had it in the viewfinder, when Anthony says ‘Tannis, here comes your station wagon.’ “But when I was ready to shoot it was lights out.”

“Lights out” as Tannis Major described was an event most Carman witnesses had experienced. It had happened to Mrs. Major many times, and it happened to me, and to the photographers who accompanied me.

“One time I went out sighting with Mrs. Frost,” Mrs. Major continued. “We stayed in the car because the mosquitoes were waiting for a good banquet. Then we saw

³³ See the section called “The Blast Off-The Second Night” in the chapter on Classics.

the darn thing. I had it in the viewfinder and I shot a picture of it through the windshield. I said to Mrs. Frost, "I wonder if that theory is correct? I'm going to get out. I am going to find out."

As she went to take another photo the object disappeared.

A couple of months later I experienced the same thing. During the spring of 1976, I had mentioned to people in Winnipeg that UFO sightings were so heavy in the Carman-Sperling area that I could take them and show them a UFO every night.

Karl Bachmanek, owner of a camera repair shop in Winnipeg, and his assistant Paul Dawkins took me up on my challenge. They quickly gathered up their high-speed film and telephoto lens. They picked up a third photographer John Losics and they were ready to go.

I in turn called up Robin Davies, who at the time was a student at the University of Manitoba. I told him tonight was the night as he had expressed an interest to try and film the phenomenon.

Paul and I were driving out of the city, when we noticed Bachmanek standing at the side of the highway flagging me over. He told me that they had brought the wrong telephoto lens and that they would be going back to the city to get the right one. It was almost dusk so we agreed to meet at a place in Carman known as the Fireside Lounge.

As Paul and I passed Sperling on our way to Carman, I noticed a blinking light in the field. I asked Paul to stop and get out his camera just in case.

We pulled off Highway 3, onto Highway 205 East, and Paul began to set up his camera. After shooting 20 pictures Paul commented, "That's the most unbelievable thing I've ever seen in my life. I hope that this film picked it up."³⁴

The filming had taken quite a while and we suddenly realized that the other car with Bachmanek, Losics, and Dawkins were now probably way ahead of us. We jumped in the car and raced to Carman. When we arrived we found that not only were they ahead of us, they had been to the Fireside Inn and had already left.

John Losics had been out with me before and we had been at the CBC radio tower just north of Carman. I figured that is where he had gone. We headed north out of Carman for the tower.

No sooner had we begun the trip when we saw the red pulsing Charlie "Red" Star flying low along the tree line just east of the tower. "If those guys went where I think they are," I told Paul, "that thing is going to fly right over them!"

I pulled off the highway and asked Paul to quickly take a picture. He quickly set up his tripod and prepared to photograph the bright orange red object move right at the tree line. ~~Microseconds~~ ^{milliseconds} before Paul pushed the cable release the object dropped ~~down~~ ^{milliseconds} below the trees. "It's gone," He said. "I don't think I got it in time."

Paul wasn't able to get a picture, and as we found out later on, the other car didn't get a photo either. They had been in the place that I thought they had gone, and they did get a good look at it.

³⁴ For a complete account of this sighting event see 'The Bouncing Light' in the Chapter It's Funny they Should be the Same."

They had been parked on a bit of a hill facing north. The object approached the car from behind. John Losics saw it first. "Boy it was close," he told me. "I told the others there it is but they asked where?"

Losics was in the back of the two-door car when he spotted the object out of the back windows. He fought to get out of the car so he could get a good look. With all the commotion Bachmanek and Dawkins did not take any of their equipment with them when they left the car.

"They stood there and just looked at it," Losics continued. "Those skeptics had to convince themselves what it was before they would get out their cameras. When they realized what it was, they ran to the car to get their cameras, but before they could get a picture, it dropped below the trees. It was right there, half a mile away, maybe."

As Losics told me about the object dropping out of sight before they could film it, I reflected back to the words of Tannis Major who had told me Charlie knew what you were thinking, and that you should try and have a piece of glass in the way when trying to photograph the object. She told me it had happened to her many times. Now it had happened to us. It happened to Britain one time when he was at the CBC tower with his movie camera. It had happened one other time to me when I spotted it with my movie camera in hand at Elm Creek north of Carman. Perhaps Charlie did know when to disappear.

This lights out situation became so common and so disturbing that those involved in filming in the area would do whatever they could think of to counteract the disappearing phenomena.

Britain commented about his attempt with four other witnesses to film Charlie, "The thing is, that those rascals, whoever they are have a way of being known when they are being watched, because it didn't change course until we jumped out of the car and were watching it. It suddenly reversed directions and sped away. I don't imagine it was any more than about thirty seconds to a minute at the most when it stopped and went backwards."

"In fact," he went on, "we've gotten to the point when we see the thing, we'll think of how the weather is. . .everything but concentrate on it, which is impossible to do. If they were receiving thought waves, it doesn't work when you are sitting in a car, because you are shielded. This has been our experience anyway."

Another bizarre occurrence was the relationship between the distance of the object and the number of things that would go wrong with the photograph. It appeared from the experience of the photographers that the closer the object came, the greater the chance that something would go wrong with the film or the lens that wouldn't be set properly.

Like with the lights out phenomena, all of the photographers in the area experienced this as well. Mrs. Major had experienced it, but not knowing that it had happened to others, she blamed the processor.

"Mrs. Frost and I took a whole lot of pictures at the Starbuck tower because there was quite a few of them there, Mrs. Major told me. "It was processed and turned up nothing. I gave them a piece of my mind. They told me that it had been underexposed and I told them that it hadn't been underexposed. I said that it hadn't

been because I used the same ASA as I used for the B&W and I knew that the B&W could take it."

Mrs. Major had processed the black & white herself, and therefore she told the film processor, "You just messed it up yourself."

Regardless of who was to blame, future experiences by others would show that blank negatives were not a rare phenomenon. Take, for example, the experience of John Losics and two straight rolls of film that the processor told him, "Did not even go through the camera."

I had been present while these 40, 200 ASA color slides were taken, and neither John nor I could believe the explanation for the lack of pictures. Both of us felt the tension on the film advance when we were shooting the pictures. The first role had to be loaded at John's home, and therefore in the light with ample light to see that the film was on the spool.³⁵ Neither of us recalled ever not getting the film on the spool.

The objects had been closer on this night (March 28, 1976) than they had ever been before – under a mile away. We used time exposures, up to 30 seconds long. We therefore felt that they could not be underexposed. Nevertheless, when the two films were put on micro-fiche readers, there was nothing there.

The next night Davies took 60 photos of which only 6 turned out. Of these six, only two corresponded to anything that we had seen. The other four were good photos but we had no idea of what objects we had filmed. The Winnipeg

³⁵ Not getting it on the spool might happen in the field because loading a camera was done often just by touch because of the pitch black condition, and the fear of losing night vision by turning on a light to change film while something was flying around.

planetarium had three printed. I sent the originals to researcher Wendelle Stevens who was one of the foremost UFO photograph experts. They never arrived.

The first time I personally tried to film Charlie, I had a similar experience. I was filming two miles west of Elm Creek Manitoba. The object over the field north of me was extremely close. I shot an entire role of film using one-second exposures.

The object appeared to be only a few feet off the ground and it was flying back and forth across the field like a typewriter carriage. It would fly slowly to the east pulsing red, then stop and turn green. Then it would shoot back across the field in a second or so, turn to a pulsing red and then head back slowly across the field.

I had heard the stories of photo troubles, but felt that it wasn't all that hard and my film would prove it. I felt I had succeeded my first time out. When I got home I discovered just how wrong I had been.

Just before dusk I had taken a picture in Carman, and coming out to Elm Creek I had left the aperture at F5.6 which was not correct for shooting in pitch darkness. I did not get any photos.

$$\text{EXPOSURE} = \text{ISO/ASA} + \text{FSTOP} + \text{SPEED}$$

Bad pictures as well as no photos were common. Mrs. Major had reported taking 60 photographs in one good session with only 7 that were worth printing. Davies had taken 80 in one session with only 10 that were worth printing. John Losics had one session with 50 photos of which none were worth printing. Photographer Jonathan Black took a session of 20 and got two worth printing. I took 100 and got 2. It was something one hated to admit, but it happened and we couldn't explain it.

The type of equipment the photographers were using didn't seem to matter. We used film from 25 ASA color up through 500 ASA. We used lens from 50mm to 3000mm. We used exposures from 1/30 second up to one minute. *Too slow for very dark nights*

There were disagreements among photographers as to what should be used. One would suggest the use of short lens and high-speed film; because they believed exposure was the problem. Another photographer however would say that the power of the telephoto was the problem. Should we go for exposure or close up detail? Neither really worked and the mystery was never solved.

The Major Photographs

"I have to admit my personal attitude has been to look for some natural phenomena, but Mrs. Major's photographs have triggered my interest. I'm inclined to ask – What is it we've got here?" **Mr. B. Franklyn Shinn, then Director of the Winnipeg Planetarium**

The Major photographs taken by professional photographer Tannis Major of Carman were without question the best that were taken during the entire UFO flap. Not only did she get hundreds of pictures of a UFO, she captured clear shots of Charlie Red Star, which meant a lot to town people because it confirmed the reality of what they all had seen.

SIANT—
FIRST TIME
I SEE THE
FORMAT
CORRECT.

It was then a surprise to me that when Daniel Coleman, UFO reporter for the National Enquirer in Lantana Florida, came to Manitoba to do a story on the long and prolonged flap of sightings, he had heard nothing of these photos.

Coleman had, however, talked to Mrs. Major during his first trip to Manitoba in June 1975. In his report to associate editor John A. Cathcart back at the paper, Coleman stated, "Perhaps the record for UFO watching was set by Mrs. Tannis Major, the freelance photographer who was determined to get a good picture of a UFO. Sometimes accompanied by her husband, she went out for 26 days in May and June watching for UFOs before rain forced her to stay in on the 27th day in order to keep her camera dry."³⁶

Mrs. Major told Coleman in a June 4th interview that she was out to get a picture of "Charlie Boy." It was not until a month later, on July 9th, that Mrs. Major's dream was realized.

Mrs. Major's house is just south of town and directly east of Britain airstrip. Mrs. Major's front window faces directly at the airstrip across the road to the west. Consequently, when Charlie would fly the beer run most of the flight would be visible through the Major front window. Mrs. Major knew this as she had seen Charlie flying the route many times before.

Therefore it was no surprise to anyone visiting the Major house to find a camera with a long telephoto on a tripod in the living room pointed out through the front window.

³⁶ Bob Pratt's report to associate editor John M. Cathcart, June 17, 1975, Carman UFO #12, 588, page 11

"I figured if he ever showed up," Mrs. Major told me, "I would be ready for him. You haven't got time to set up the camera when it happens. This way, I'm shooting with everything I've got and I'm also shooting through glass. That's important."

It was July 9 at almost 11:20^{PM} when Mrs. Major happened to look out the front window and saw Charlie west of Carman near Stevensfield. The object appeared to be flying just above the tree line, moving from south to north, and therefore, from left to right in the front window.

"I knew it was a UFO right off the bat," she told me. "If you've seen a number of them already, you know right away it's a UFO. I didn't waste any time. I had everything set up already. This was the time to shoot and fast."

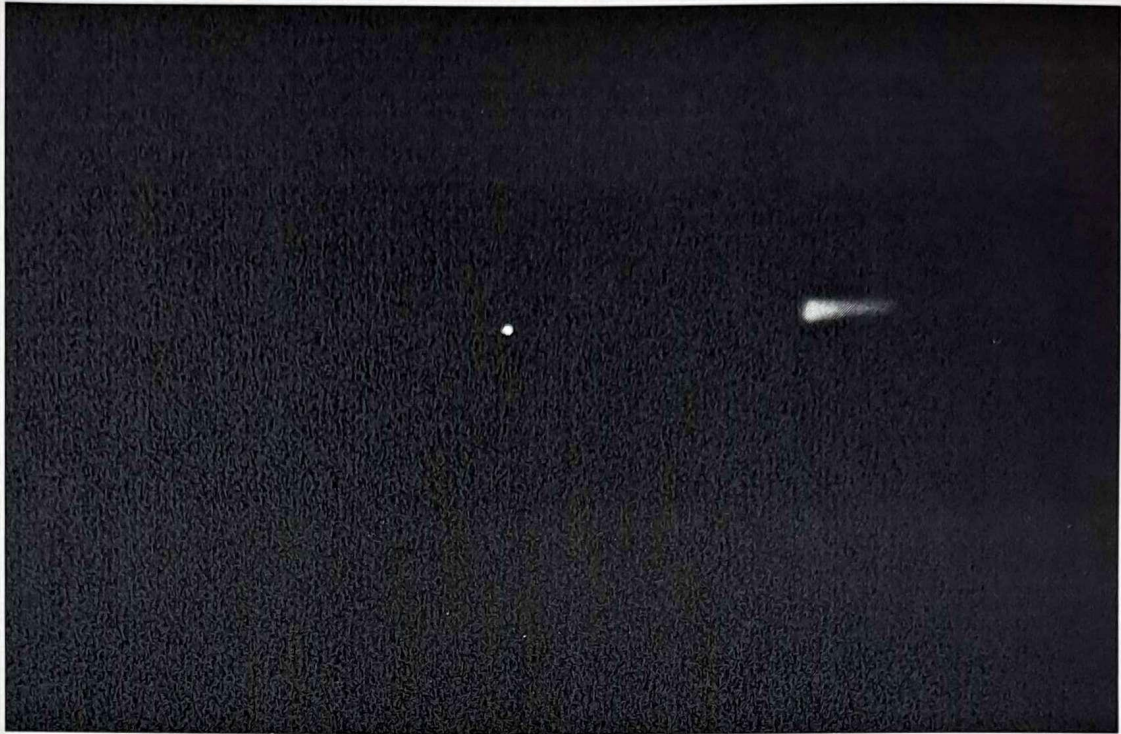
A lot of glass
The object, according to Mrs. Major, was moving rather slowly, and so she set her shutter speed for one second. The camera, a Canon VLB, had a Vivitar lens with a three times telephoto-extender which brought the lens up to 615mm. The lens was wide open, giving it a t-stop of about 3.5 - 3.8.

The film used was a surplus Hollywood movie film, type 5247 that is a very fine grain film. She shot the pictures at 200 ASA and had it pushed to 400 ASA at developing (as the film allows for varying ASAs to be used).

Multiple Color Systems in Portland, Oregon developed the pictures. The blow-ups were done by Winnipeg Planetarium artist Elliot Slater.

All three photos in the series were taken with one-second time exposures. The only movement of the camera was made by Mrs. Major between shots to keep the object in the field of vision of the powerful telephoto and to follow the object as it moved to the right in the window.

Estimating the object to be six miles away, Mrs. Major shot her first photo.

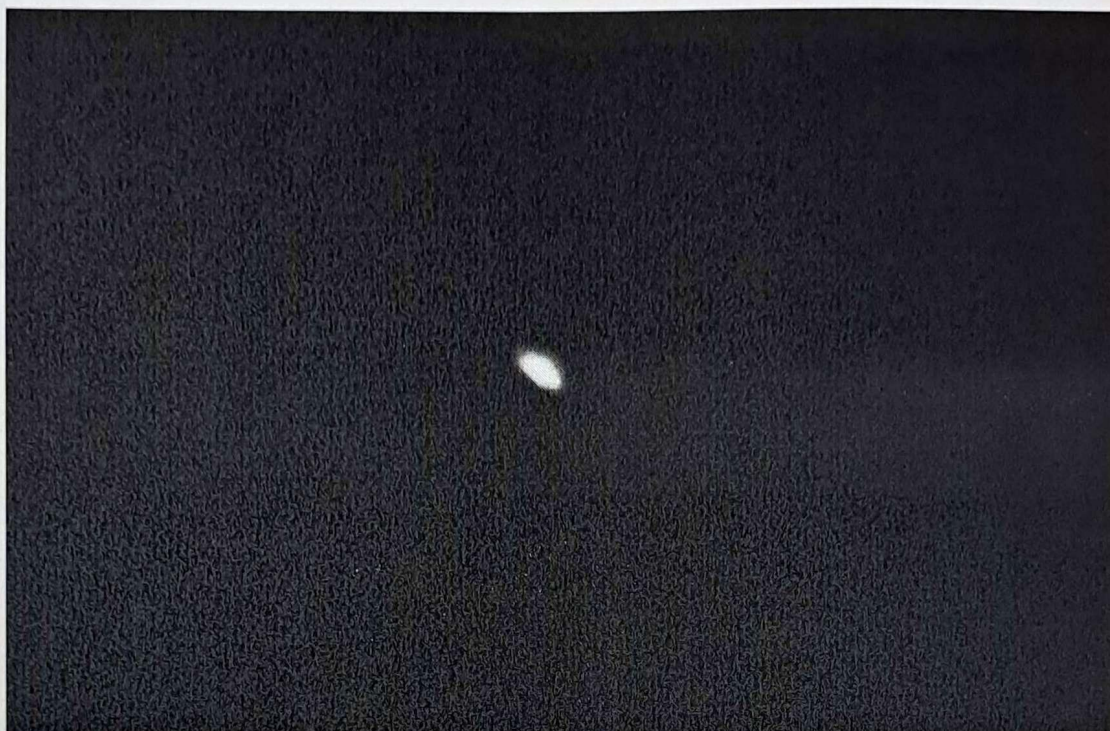


The time was 11:20^{PM}. The developed photo showed a pulsing object; moving from left to right in the picture, with a definite trail indicating object motion. This developed photo showed an apparent change in the angle of the object.



Mrs. Major said that the object appeared to be banking east and towards her. There again was a trail left by the one-second exposure indicating motion. In the second photograph taken one minute later, the object is still moving but now seems to be tilted on its side.

The third and last photo in the series was taken one minute later and is the one that best illustrates what Charlie actually looked like to people like myself who were lucky enough to see it.



In the third photo taken one minute later, just before the object disappeared the one-second exposure shows no movement from the object. This remains as the object that was familiar to most residents of the area.

The developed picture showed no horizontal motion, and therefore appeared to be hovering motionless in the sky. The coloration was similar to the description given by people who had seen it. It was white with a red corona, and similar to two photos elsewhere in the world – one from a Concorde Jet in France and the other taken by Ralph Mayher.³⁷

Just after taking the third picture, Mrs. Major told me it was lights out time. The object just suddenly disappeared.

³⁷ This picture was taken by Ralph Mayher on July 29, 1957 in Miami Beach. See Zechel, Todd, "The CIA and UFOs" Official UFO" September 1977.