tectites. Some of this incandescent matter, however, followed the main orbit, which "constituted the bodies of the shower."

Necessary for the NASA hypothesis were repeated orbits by the meteor-like objects, because the scientist's calculations "failed to show any way in which all members of the shower could disappear in [only] one revolution."

During the intervening 91½ minutes, the magazine article continued, our rotating globe would have turned beneath the orbiting asteroid to slide other portions of North American geography and other observers under the sky-drama. On its next pass around the world, the Procession would be seen in an area southwest of the Regina-Sandy Hook track. "The next revolution, with a period of 91½ minutes," the NASA engineer wrote, "would have carried them over the Middle West, above the populated regions of Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri." He logically assumed that such a spectacle would have been reported in those states no less than in Saskatchewan and New York, and their brilliant performance featured in local newspapers.

For evidence supporting his theory, the scientist doggedly searched through scores of daily and weekly publications ("practically the entire collection of the Library of Congress"), for write-ups of a meteor shower on the night of February 9, 1913. Strangely, he found nothing, and admitted being "unable to locate a single article referring to the shower." Neither did he report discovery of any gem-precious tectites along the Procession's track.

Will scientists discover some unknown "law" of celestial mechanics to supply the missing pieces for the 1913 aerial puzzle? Or is a ready-made answer now at hand, as was suggested in 1969 in *Watchers of the Sky* by Willy Ley who wrote: "The whole behavior of the meteorites seemed totally strange to people of 1913, but now it can be compared with the behavior of an artificial satellite which has re-entered the atmosphere at a very shallow angle, and is carried halfway around the Earth before impact takes place."

But once again, this rationale doesn't quite fit all the facts. For in his investigation, Professor Chant meticulously plotted on a map the course of the Procession from Regina to Sandy Hook. His ground track is known as the Chant Trace. Unknowingly, he preserved evidence of an astonishing performance by the Procession, a feat unrecognized until now. (See Fig. 1.)

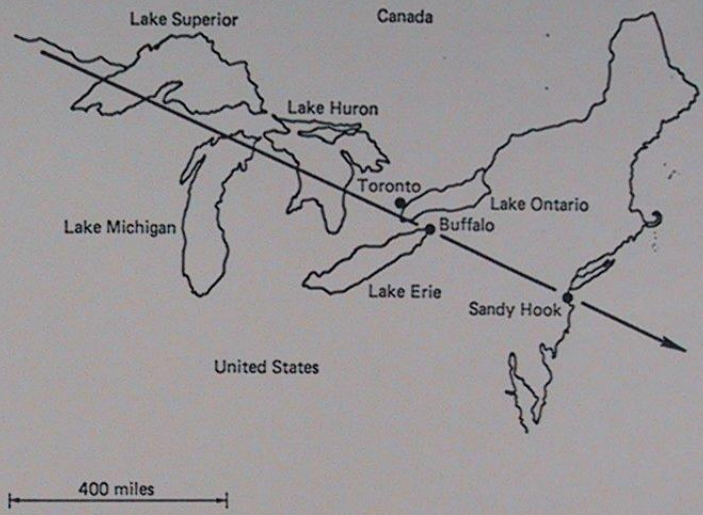

***Figure 1.* The Chant Trace** The line across the map marks the course of the 1913 Canadian Fireball Procession, as drawn by the Toronto astronomer who meticulously investigated the phenomenon. First sighted near Regina, Saskatchewan (not shown), the Procession traversed the five Great Lakes and headed southeast over the Atlantic at Sandy Hook, New Jersey.