

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 18 Jan 59		2. LOCATION La Crosse, Wisconsin		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☒ Was Astronomical Meteor ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1800 GMT 18/2400Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☐ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION not given		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one		9. COURSE West	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Newspaper reported asked about sighting and enclosed clipping. No case in file. Only information received was the clipping. Obj was sighted by many witnesses over a fairly large area. Described as a flash of light flying at a high rate of speed.				11. COMMENTS In view of the wide area over which the obj was observed and the description of a fast flying light, the obj is considered as a meteor.	

The La Crosse Tribune Co.

A LEE GROUP NEWSPAPER

FOURTH AND CASS STREETS

La Crosse, Wis.

Jan. 26, 1959

Headquarters,
United States Air Force
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

This report is a little late but I hope you will be interested enough to help us out.

The enclosed clipping will explain what I am after. Is it just another in a series of reports you are compelled, due to lack of information or release, to add to the heap? Or is there some light you can possibly shed here?

Any help you can give will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

encl: news clipping

18 JAN 59

19 February 1959

[REDACTED]

This is to acknowledge your letter of 26 January 1959 concerning news story on an unidentified flying object seen over La Crosse, Wisconsin, on 18 January 1959.

A thorough search of our records indicates this particular sighting was not reported to the Air Force.

A check with Air Force radar and weather stations in the area failed to disclose any vehicle or balloon in the area at the time which would cause the effects described in the news article.

The fact that Civil Aeronautics Administration personnel and local airport officials saw nothing unusual is also considered significant.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE J. TACKER
Major, USAF
Executive Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information Services

[REDACTED]

The La Crosse Tribune Company
Fourth and Cass Streets
La Crosse, Wisconsin

1020 FEB 10 12 04

Local

La Crosse Tribune

SECTION TWO
Monday, Jan. 19, 1959

9

NO EXPLANATION

Fiery, Fast-Flying Object Seen In Sky

West Salem and La Crosse residents early Sunday reported seeing a fiery object in the sky traveling at a very high rate of speed.

But officials at the Civil Aeronautics Administration and United States Weather Bureau facilities at La Crosse Municipal Airport could shed no light on what it was. The officials personally had not witnessed anything new in the sky at that hour.

★ ★ ★

At West Salem, it was reported, several persons in various places saw a bright flash of light about 6 a.m., traveling from east to west.

Ross Fuller was driving on Highway 16 and said the light shone brightly into his car. Joe Larson, a resident at a hotel downtown, witnessed it as did a Mr. Hendrickson of Northern State Power Co.

Oscar Storandt said he was at home when he noticed a bright light flash through the window about the same hour but he attributed it possibly to a passing car.

★ ★ ★

Finn A. Johnson, a meteorological technician at the USWB, reported to his administrator, that

several persons called at about 6 a.m. to report the incident. Milo Novotny, CAA official, said the office had no record of unusual sky happenings and that a log on aircraft showed no mention of "foreign" objects at that hour.

The sun, according to weather bureau records, did not rise in this area Sunday until 7:35 a.m., discounting that as a factor in the report.

MEMO ROUTING SLIP		NEVER USE FOR APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS, REFERENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS	
1 NAME OR TITLE	Major L. J. Tacker	INITIALS	CIRCULATE
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	SAFIS-3 OSAF	DATE	COORDINATION
2			FILE
			INFORMATION
3			NECESSARY ACTION
			NOTE AND RETURN
4			SEE ME
		Holmlund	
		La Crosse, Wisc.	SIGNATURE
REMARKS Larry- According to our records, we have not received a report on this incident. Since we do not have any information other than that contained in the clipping, we can not make any valid conclusion. We know of no balloons or other vehicles in the area at the time that would cause the effect. The fact that CAA and local airport officials saw nothing unusual is significant.			
FROM NAME OR TITLE		DATE	
Ted Hieatt		9 Feb 59	
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION		TELEPHONE	
AFCIN-4X3		55266	