PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

[redacted]

1. DATE: ~~August - 23 Sept~~ August - 6 Sept, 1961	2. LOCATION: Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin	12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other ☒ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local GMT	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE: Civilian	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: Vaired	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS: Several	9. COURSE: NNE/SSW

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Thing in sky appeared to be star but was flashing red and green. After long time started to move fm below a near star to side and then up over top of it. I called nearby TV station & police dept. getting no explanation I tried to contact weather bureau but got no answer. Finally got explanation fm Eau Claire Police. Saying probably weather balloon reflecting city's florescent lights. Couldn't think of any city direction large enough to do it, but left it go at that. Saw same thing on several occassions.

11. COMMENTS

Fm information reported it is possible that one of more objects could have been balloons, either large upper-air or smaller weather balloons. Objects also could have been a/c lights, stars which appeared stationary or which appeared as broken clouds moved with winds. Due to fact that this sighting occurred approx 2 mox. ago and did not prompt any other reports to USAF, FTD does not intend to pursue further.

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

Oct. 23

Dear Sirs:

The letter you will find is the same one I sent to General Mills' Balloon and Aerospace Systems Department in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I received an answer from [redacted], director of the department which read as follows:

"I have read with considerable interest your letter of September 6 in which you describe many strange sights which you saw in the sky in recent days.

The General Mills Company, the University of Minnesota, the G. I. Skjeldahl Company, and Raven Industries, all within a few hundred miles of Minneapolis, have been releasing many balloons. We released two on September 6. It is entirely possible that the

sights you saw re these balloons, except that your description does not fit the payloads that we happened to be flying. I wonder whether you are aware of the fact that the U.S. Air Force has been investigating for years reports by citizens of this country on strange objects in the sky. They call these sights "UFO" or Unidentified Flying Objects. Many intelligent and responsible people have sworn to seeing these sights. A book has been written about this, in fact it has been the object of a television program and articles in Life magazine.

I am taking the liberty of returning your letter which you sent to us and I suggest that you send it to the U.S. Air Force at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and get their statements. Good Luck."

I hesitated quite a while in sending this letter in the hope of gathering additional information.

On any clear nights now we are able to see some things in the sky which are similar to our previous sightings in every respect except one — they no longer move. It has been explained to me that these things could be stars with air currents causing the flashing; and so they could be, but what about the ones that moved? Up until this year, I have never seen stars ~~flashing with~~ flashing such distinct colors. Even though 7 x 50 binoculars the colors are very distinct.

I would like to add that I have not since seen anything to resemble the thing with so many lights that went over our house.

I hope you have some answers

to these questional occurrences
and that you will send them
to me as soon as possible.

Thank you,

[redacted]

Chippewa Falls, Wis

(Sept. 6 (

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to you at the suggestion of our local police department to answer a question which has several of us extremely curious. It's about some objects we've seen in the sky.

It all started about four weeks ago. We were watching a thing in the sky which appeared to be a star but was flashing red and green. After a long time it started to move from below a near star to the side and then up over the top of it. Being very excited I called the nearest TV station and the Chippewa Falls Police Department getting no explanation. I tried to contact the Kaukauna Weekly

(Duncan, but got no answer.
Finally I got an explanation
from the Eau Claire Police Depart-
ment which satisfied me. An
officer told me that it was more
than likely a weather balloon
reflecting a city's flourscent lights.
I couldn't think of any city in
that direction large enough to
do it, but I left it go at that
anyway.

About three weeks later we
saw the same thing in the
same direction, about NNE. After
watching it for a while we
started looking around to see if
there were others. Then we
saw what appeared to be the
same type of thing only quite
a way farther off in the
opposite direction, about SSW.
After standing still for about
15 minutes it suddenly started
to move very rapidly. We saw
it racing in an easterly direction

faster than any jet plane I've
ever witnessed! It moved a
long way and was still moving
when we left for home to call
somewhere to tell of what we
had seen. I contacted the
airport in Eau Claire. The man
there said he could see the one
in the north, but was uncertain
as to what it was. He sug-
gested that it might be a weather
balloon too. When I told him
of the speed of the second one
he said it may have gotten
caught in a jet stuam (to
me it seemed to move too far
too fast for that). He then
said I should call him back
if anything else developed, as
he had to make a weather
broadcast. I went outside only
to see another one as bright

as the first thing in the
west. I called him back He
told me if I really felt that
it was serious enough I
should call the Civil Defense Unit
in Minneapolis, or else the Minne
sapolis Weather Bureau. My mother
suggested I let someone else worry
about it. About three nights later
on a somewhat cloudy night four
of us noticed two such objects
moving slowly for about two hours
after the clouds began breaking up.
We didn't do anything about it.

Tonight is the clincher. I looked
to see if there were any such
objects, and sure enough, there
was one shining bright in the
north. I pointed it out to my
mother. Then I saw another
in the west. I called the air-
port. They told me to get
the number of the nearest civil
defense unit from the Eau Claire
Police Department. A police officer

told me to contact Paul Boley, head of the civil defense unit in Eau Claire. Being unable to reach him I again called the Eau Claire Police Dept. and described in detail what we had seen. The officer suggested that I call the local police in Chippewa Falls requesting that they send a squad car to witness what we were seeing. I didn't know whether to do it or not. Both my mother and I went back out to see if the object in the north was moving. It was then that something happened which I don't think you'll believe. I hope you don't consider this a crackpot's imagination or some sort of a mirage, although I probably would were I you.

(Non-the-less, this is what happened.
Something caught my eye going
overhead at about a 75° angle
to the own west from where
we stood. I pointed it out to
my mother excitedly. At first glimpse
I thought it was a plane. It
seemed to be closer than 1000 feet
from us. It was moving at
a moderately fast speed. It was
all lit up with yellowish orange
lights. It looked like an enormous
passenger plane with several windows,
with its interior lights on, although
we couldn't make out the shape,
except that it was big and long.
Quite unusual was the fact that
none of its lights were flashing.
They all burned a steady yellowish
glow. It had light on the rear
which was burning a bright orange.
I always thought planes had to
have a red light on one wing
and a green one on the other,
both flashing. This craft had

no such lights. We watched it for about 20 to ~~40~~ 30 seconds as it traveled out of sight. We listened to see if it was a plane. It made no sound! If it had been a plane as close as it seemed, surely we would have heard it.

I went back into the house and phoned for a squadcar. Two officers were amazed when I showed them how there were now two objects in the north and one in the west, all flashing red and green and moving. They got another officer to look at them. He, apparently more familiar with such problems than the other, told me again that these objects might be weather balloons and that the one that moved fast may have gotten caught in a jet blast

He said he wasn't sure, but that this would be the only explanation he could think of. When I asked him to explain the other thing with its many yellow lights and no sound he couldn't. He pointed out that usually passenger planes don't turn on their interior lights after they're off the ground. He said the only way to get any sort of concrete answer would be to write to you. He said I should ask you if any weather balloons have been released.

I'm not sure about all the dates of the sightings, but as I started writing this letter at about 11:45 P.M., September 6th, three were visible. At 12:30 they were all gone. On September 3rd we spotted two. About 2 or 3 days before that we saw three, and about 3 weeks before that we saw one. They have been appearing in the

NNE, SSW, and W from
Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

Incidentally, the man at the
airport said a woman had
called in about an hour before
I did to report a star flashing
red and green lights. She is
student at the Wisconsin State
College of Eau Claire. Although
I'm not an outstanding scholar
I have tried to reason out
these occurrences rationally,
especially since the thought of
any Homosapiens occupying
another planet would seem
to oppose my religious teachings.
But frankly, I'm at my wits
end. I hope you can help
to answer these questions which
have aroused my curiosity.

Another thing I forgot to
mention may be really coincidence,

(but I'll point it out to you anyway. The day following our first sighting the radios carried the story that Russia had a man enroute to Venus. The day following the second sighting the radios carried the story of Russia's test in the atmosphere with a large explosion. The day after the third sighting my girlfriend told me the radios were announcing that Russia had made a second atmospheric blast. I'm wondering what kind of story the radio will carry tomorrow.

Enclosed is a self-addressed, stamped envelope. I hope you will send me your answer as soon as possible. I'm sure there must be some sound explanations for these happenings.

Thank you,

[redacted]

Cuyuna Falls, Minn

C O P Y

Oct 23

Dear Sirs:

The letter you will find is the same one I sent to General Mills' Balloon and Aerospace Systems Department in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I received an answer from [redacted] which read as follows:

"I have read with considerable interest your letter of September 6 in which you describe many strange sights which you saw in the sky in recent days.

"The General Mills Company, the University of Minnesota, the G. T. Schjeldahl Company, and Raven Industries, all within a few hundred miles of Minneapolis, have been releasing many balloons. We released two on September 6. It is entirely possible that the sights you saw were these balloons, except that your description does not fit the payloads that we happened to be flying. I wonder whether you are aware of the fact that the U. S. Air Force has been investigating for years reports by citizens of this country on strange objects in the sky. They call these sights "UFO" or Unidentified Flying Objects. Many intelligent and responsible people have sworn to seeing these sights. A book has been written about this, in fact it has been the object of a television program and articles in Life magazine.

"I am taking the liberty of returning your letter which you sent to us and I suggest that you send it to the U. S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and get their statements. Good Luck."

I hesitated quite a while in sending this letter in the hope of gathering additional information. On any clear nights now we are able to see some things in the sky which are similar to our previous sightings in every respect except one--they no longer move. It has been explained to me that these things could be stars with air currents causing the flashing; and so they could be, but what about the ones that moved? Up until this year, I have never seen stars flashing such distinct colors. Even through 7 x 50 binoculars the colors are very distinct.

I would like to add that I have not since seen anything to resemble the thing with so many lights that went over our house.

I hope you have some answers to these questionable occurrences and that you will send them to me as soon as possible.

Thank you,

[redacted]

Chippewa Falls, Wis.

Sept 6

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to you at the suggestion of our local police department to answer a question which has several of us extremely curious. It's about some objects we've seen in the sky.

It all started about four weeks ago. We were watching a thing in the sky which appeared to be a star but was flashing red and green. After a long time it started to move from below a near star to the side and then up over the top of it. Being very excited I called the nearest TV station and the Chippewa Falls Police Department getting no explanation. I tried to contact the Lacrosse Weather Bureau, but got no answer. Finally I got an explanation from the Eau Claire Police Department which satisfied me. An officer told me that it was more than likely a weather balloon reflecting a city's florescent lights. I couldn't think of any city in that direction large enough to do it, but I left it go at that anyway.

About three weeks later we saw the same thing in the same direction, about NNE. After watching it for a while we started looking around to see if there were others. Then we saw what appeared to be the same type of thing only quite a way farther off in the opposite direction, about SSW. After standing still for about 15 minutes it suddenly started to move very rapidly. We saw it racing in an easterly direction faster than any jet plane I've ever witnessed. It moved a long way and was still moving when we left for home to call somewhere to tell of what we had seen. I contacted the airport in Eau Claire. The man there said he could see the one in the north, but was uncertain as to what it was. He suggested that it might be a weather balloon too. When I told him of the speed of the second one he said it may have gotten caught in a jet stream (to me it seemed to move too far too fast for that). He then said I should call him back if anything else developed, as he had to make a weather broadcast. I went outside only to see another one as bright as the first, shining in the west. I called him back. He told me if I really felt that it was serious enough I should call the Civil Defense Unit in Minneapolis, or else the Minneapolis Weather Bureau. My mother suggested I let someone else worry about it. About three nights later on a somewhat cloudy night four of us noticed two such objects moving slowly for about two hours after the clouds began breaking up. We didn't do anything about it.

Tonight is the clincher. I looked to see if there were any such objects, and sure enough, there was one shining bright in the north. I pointed it out to my mother. Then I saw another in the west. I called the airport. They told me to get the number of the nearest civil defense unit from the Eau Claire Police Department. A police officer told me to contact Paul Boley, head of the civil defense unit in Eau Claire. Being unable to reach him I again called the Eau Claire Police Dept. and described in detail what we had seen. The officer suggested that I call the local police in Chippewa Falls requesting that they send a squad car to witness what we were seeing. I didn't know whether to do it or not. Both my mother and I went back out to see if the object in the north was moving. It was then that something happened which I don't think you'll believe. I hope you don't consider this a crackpot's imagination or some sort of a mirage, although I probably would were I you. Non-the-less, this is what happened. Something caught my eye going overhead at about a 75° angle to the open porch from where we stood. I pointed it out to my mother excitedly. At first glimpse I thought it was a plane. It seemed to be closer than 1000 feet from us. It was moving at a moderately fast speed. It was all lit up with yellowish orange lights. It looked like an enormous passenger plane with several windows, with its interior lights on, although we couldn't make out its shape, except that it was big and long. Quite unusual was the fact that none of its lights were flashing. They all burned a steady yellowish golw. It had light on the rear which was burning a bright orange. I always thought planes had to have a red light on one wing and a green one on the other, both flashing. This craft had no such lights. We watched it for about 20 to 30 seconds as it traveled out of sight. We listened to see if it was a plane. It made no sound! If it had been a plane as close

as it seemed, surely we would have heard it.

I went back into the house and phoned for a squadcar. Two officers were amazed when I showed them how there were now two objects in the north and one in the west, all flashing red and green and moving. They got another officer to look at them. He, apparently more familiar with such problems than the others, told me again that these objects might be weather balloons and that the one that moved fast may have gotten caught in a jet blast. He said he wasn't sure, but that this would be the only explanation he could think of. When I asked him to explain the other thing with its many yellow lights and no sound he couldn't. He pointed out that usually passenger planes don't turn on their interior lights after they're off the ground. He said the only way to get any sort of concrete answer would be to write to you. He said I should ask you if any weather balloons have been released.

I'm not sure about all the dates of the sightings, but as I started writing this letter at about 11:45 P. M., September 6th, three were visible. At 12:30 they were all gone. On September 3rd we spotted two. About 2 or 3 days before that we saw three, and about 3 weeks before that we saw one. They have been appearing in the NNE, SSW, and W from Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

Incidentally, the man at the airport said a woman had called in about an hour before I did to report a star flashing red and green lights. I'm a student at the Wisconsin State College of Eau Claire. Although I'm not an outstanding scholar I have tried to reason out these occurrences rationally, especially since the thought of any homosapiens occupying another planet would seem to oppose my religious teachings. But frankly, I'm at my wits end. I hope you can help to answer these questions which have aroused my curiosity.

Another thing I forgot to mention may be merely coincidence, but I'll point it out to you anyway. The day following our first sighting the radios carried the story that Russia had a man enroute to Venus. The day following the second sighting the radios carried the story of Russia's test in the atmosphere with a large explosion. The day after the third sighting my girlfriend told me the radios were announcing that Russia had made a second atmospheric blast. I'm wondering what kind of story the radio will carry tomorrow.

Enclosed is a self-addressed, stamped envelope. I hope you will send me your answer as soon as possible. I'm sure there must be some sound explanations for these happenings.

Thank you,

[redacted]

Chippewa Falls, Wis.

HEADQUARTERS
FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: TD-E/Major Friend

6 NOV 1961

SUBJECT: Request for Analysis of UFO Sighting [redacted]

TO: Hq USAF (SAFOI-3c - Major Coleman)

1. FTD has received a letter from [redacted], Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, reporting the sighting of strange lights, occurring over at least a four (4) week period. The information reported is too general in nature precluding a valid conclusion.

2. From the limited information reported, it is possible that one or more of the objects could have been balloons, either large upper-air balloons or smaller weather balloons. Other objects could have been aircraft lights, stars which appeared stationary, or which appeared to move as broken clouds moved with the winds.

3. Due to the fact that this sighting occurred approximately two months ago and did not prompt any other reports to the USAF, FTD does not intend to pursue it further.

EDWARD H. WYNN
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Science
and Components

1 Atch
Ltr [redacted] dtd 23 Oct.

7 November 1961

Dear Mr. [redacted]:

Your recent letter to the Office of Aerial Phenomena has been referred to this office for reply.

Your descriptions of the objects you saw are too general and lack specific information, thereby preventing a valid conclusion. However, it is possible that one or more of the objects could have been balloons, either the large research type or the smaller radiosonde and ozonesonde types. The larger balloons (some over 300 feet in height and 250 feet in diameter) sometimes carry running lights which do not follow the configuration you have seen on aircraft. Also, aircraft lights do not always flash. The pilot can select either steady beam or flash, bright or dim. Airliners make it a practice to carry interior cabin lights on at all times from takeoff til after landing.

Since your sightings occurred approximately two months ago and did not prompt any other reports to the Air Force it is not practicable for us to pursue them further. However, I am enclosing several questionnaires for you to complete following your next sighting. The sooner you complete them and forward to us, the better chance we will have in reaching a conclusion.

Your interest in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM T. COLEMAN, JR.
Major, USAF
UFO Information Project Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information

Mr. [redacted]
[redacted]
Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin