

Type of Report: Close Encounter of the First kind – Nocturnal Lights at Close Range

Date of Report: November, 2002

Investigator: Craig R. Lang MS, CHt – MN MUFON

Date/Time of Sighting: 11 October, 2001 8:45 PM CST for approximately 5 minutes.

Place of Sighting: Lake Elmo MN - 10th Street, between Hwy 19 and Manning Ave.

Local Evaluation: Unexplained

### Witness Description

The witness is a 51 year old (at the time of the sighting) female. She is employed as medical technical worker (details withheld for anonymity). She holds a college degree and additional professional training. She indicates that her vision is correctable to 20/20 with glasses, which she was wearing at the time of the sighting. She indicates that her health and hearing are good. She has had on other major sightings or anomalous experiences.

Additional Note: Her mother also had a sighting two days earlier, which we are investigating. This will be described in a subsequent report.

### Sighting Background

The witness contacted me by telephone, and subsequently attended the November, 2002 Minnesota MUFON meeting. I subsequently interviewed her, and investigated possible prosaic explanations. At this point, I have not found any consistent non-anomalous explanations for this sighting.

### Investigation, Activity Log and Interviews:

The witness initially called me in November 2002, and attended the Nov 9, 2002 MUFON meeting, where she described her sighting.

I interviewed her on 12 Nov 2002

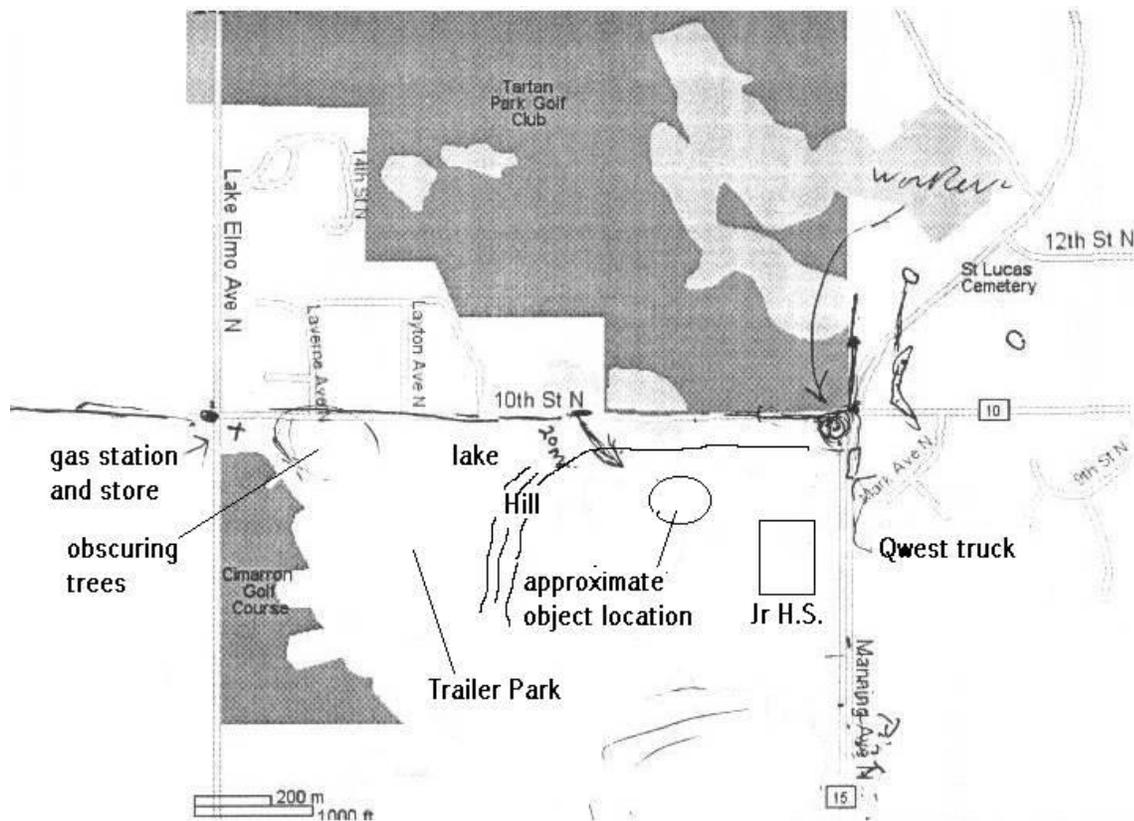
I interviewed her mother on a separate but related sighting on 14 Nov, 2002

Subsequent calls with primary witness in November, December, of 2002 and January 2003 to determine possible investigation paths.

2 January, 2003 call to Junior High School  
12 January, call to police/fire/sheriff offices  
2 Feb, 2003 contacted nearby residences.  
29 March, 2003 Draft report.

### Sighting Account

The witness was driving east on 10<sup>th</sup> street, which passes along the south boundary of Lake Elmo park reserve. While on 10<sup>th</sup> St., just after having turned onto it from Hwy 19, well prior to reaching the intersection with Lake Elmo Ave N., she noticed a bright light directly ahead in the distance (low the eastern sky).



**Figure 1: Map of sighting location**

She often sees aircraft in this direction and initially felt that the light might have been an approaching airplane. As she watched, she noted that the light was getting brighter, and at this point she felt that it no longer resembled an aircraft.

At a point about ½ of the way between Hwy 19 and Lake Elmo Ave N. she noted that the light was accompanied by a second light. She theorized that this might be a helicopter. She rolled down the driver's side window to listen for any sound, but did not hear anything unusual.

She came to a stop at the stop sign at the intersection of 10<sup>th</sup> St. and Lake Elmo Ave N. At this point, she noticed that the light had brightened still further, and now appeared to be more of a chevron shape. She felt at this point, that the object was considerably larger than an aircraft. She also noted that it appeared to be descending, and moving to the right.

As she accelerated east from the stop sign at the intersection with Lake Elmo Ave N. her view of the object was briefly obscured by some trees. A moment later, when she had moved past the trees, she observed a large chevron shaped row of lights (see object description, below) at the tree line, to the right of the road. The object appeared to be atop, or behind, the hill to the south of the road, and seemed to be hovering at treetop level.

She slowed the car to a speed less than 20 MPH (typical speeds on this stretch of road are about 60MPH), and rolled down the right window. She observed that the object lit up the tree tops, and appeared to have a length of about "six tree-widths". She describes feeling a sense that this was "not normal", and seemed menacing.

She arrived at the stop sign at the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> St. and Manning Ave. and turned left onto Manning Ave. She observed in her rear view mirror, that the trees were lit up, apparently from the object, but was unable to see the object at that point.

She noted that there were several Qwest (Telephone Company) workers at the intersection, apparently working on a telephone utility box at the corner. She observed that they did not seem to notice the nearby lights.

### Object Description

The following drawing is a witness sketch of the object as she observed it just over the tree line. She describes the length of the light formation as being equivalent to approximately four to six tree-widths.



**Figure 2: witness sketch of lights/object above tree line**

Note: Although a structure associated with the lights is suggested by the drawing, she indicates that she was not able to discern any platform or structure, and that the lights were as bright as those of an athletic field. She describes the lights as being extremely bright, lighting up the tree tops. They were white, and did not vary in position, form or intensity. They appeared to be circular in shape, although the brightness made it difficult to discern actual shape.

### Additional Witnesses:

None are known. At least one nearby residence had a clear view of the object's apparent location behind the junior high school. A check with nearby residents indicated that they had not seen anything unusual at the time of the sighting.

A check with the principal of the junior high school indicated that no unusual activity had been reported there, and that no activities were underway that night, such as sports events, etc. (see phenomena check, below for more on this possibility).

In addition, there were several other potential witnesses which have not yet been located or contacted:

The primary witness indicated that there was a telephone company repair truck on the south-eastern corner of the Manning Ave. – 10<sup>th</sup> St. intersection. Workers were outside of the truck and may have noticed the lights, although there was no indication of this.

The primary witness also indicated that there was other traffic on the road. Thus, other drivers may have noticed something unusual.

A check with the sheriff's department indicated no other police calls regarding UFO sightings, but there was one noise complaint regarding a recreational all-terrain vehicle on a trail behind the trailer park. It is possible that someone associated with this might have observed the event.

### Weather Conditions:

The witness describes the weather conditions as clear and calm.

The weather conditions (obtained from the Weather Underground website ([www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com)) for the night of October 11, 2001 were as follows:

Few (if any) clouds at 6500 feet

Wind: calm

Temperature: 48 deg F. Dew Pt: 40 deg F. Humidity: 85%

Visibility: 10+ miles (unlimited)

This corresponds closely with the witness' description.

### Natural and Artificial Phenomena Check:

The following are possible null hypotheses for this sighting:

Initial sighting of light in the eastern sky: Possible aircraft on approach. This possibility can not be eliminated based upon the witness' description of the light as she first saw it. The description of the subsequent "chevron" shape, and her impression of the size of the object once it had brightened, argues against (but does not conclusively refute) this explanation.

In addition, both the witness and her husband are knowledgeable regarding aircraft. She indicates that she often sees aircraft on approach to MSP airport from the location of the sighting. Thus the probability is somewhat reduced that she would have misidentified an aircraft on approach.

The close-up sighting of the lights at the tree line: Explanations considered were sports or emergency lighting. A check with the school indicated that there were no outdoor sporting events that evening. Furthermore, the school principal indicated that night sports activities were played at the Sr. High School, rather than at this location.

A check with the sheriff's office and the Lake Elmo fire department indicated that there were no reports of unusual activity, and no emergency exercises. There were no events which would have employed a large battery of lights.

### Other Possibilities:

The "non-null" hypothesis would be that the object was an anomalous craft, which had descended from the eastern sky, and had landed in the field behind the junior high school.

### Sighting Evaluation:

Close up sighting: Unexplained.

Initial lights in eastern sky: If we assume that the approaching-aircraft explanation does not apply then this can be classed as a probable unexplained.