# PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **1. DATE**<br>15 Jan 61 | **2. LOCATION**<br>60 mi NNE of Duluth, Minnesota | **12. CONCLUSIONS**<br>☐ Was Balloon<br>☐ Probably Balloon<br>☐ Possibly Balloon<br>☐ Was Aircraft<br>☐ Probably Aircraft<br>☐ Possibly Aircraft<br>☐ Was Astronomical METEOR<br>☒ Probably Astronomical<br>☐ Possibly Astronomical<br>☐ Other_____<br>☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation<br>☐ Unknown |
| **3. DATE-TIME GROUP**<br>Local 1800<br>GMT 152400Z | **4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION**<br>☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar<br>☒ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar | |
| **5. PHOTOS**<br>☐ Yes<br>☒ No | **6. SOURCE**<br>Civilian + MILITARY | |
| **7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION**<br>3 sec | **8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS**<br>1 | **9. COURSE** |

**10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING** Bluish-white "shooting star" with ball of blue light and slight tail. Sighted 20,000-25,000ft, 105°. Disappeared 10,000' 090°. Burned out with red sparks.

**11. COMMENTS** Object in question was probably a meteor, one of the many that are being observed at this time. VERIFIED BY DR READ STUDY, LAWRENCE COLLEGE

SMAC

RETURN TO:
Director
Aerospace Studies Inst
ATTN: Archives Branch
Maxwell AFB, Alabama

K243.6012-1
15-31 Jan
1961

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

NNNNZCZCSCP012TCZCSCH832ZCDUA 15

RECEIVED
17 JAN 61 07 50 A
ATIC

16 JAN 61 20 54Z

1 HE2 (UFO)
2
3
44X2A

MM RJEDSQ

DE RJEDDU 24

M 161815Z

FM DULUTH ADS MUNI APRT MINN

TO RJWFAL/ENT AFB COLO

RJEDAH/30TH ADIV TRUAX FLD WISC

RJEDSQ/AIR TECH INTELL CENTER WPAFB OHIO

RJEZHQ/ASST CHIEF OF STAFF INTELL HQ USAF WASHDC

RJEZHQ/SECRETARY OF THE AF WASHDC

BT

UNCLAS DUOIN 2.

REF AFR 200-2, PARA 15, THE FOLLOWING REPORT IS SUBMITTED:

A. KOL SHOOTING STAR, WITH BALL OF BLUE LIGHT

KWL NO ESTIMATE

KEL BLUISH WHITE

KRL ONE

KTL N/A

KYL NO

KUL SLIGHT TAIL

KIL NO

1-15-61 6:00 P.M. Shooting star with ball of blue light, slight tail, burned out with red sparks, observed 3 seconds. Observed from 60 miles NNE of Duluth, Minnesota.

PAGE TWO RJEDDU 24

KOL NO

B. KOL BRIGHT LIGHT

1C03572

FORM 805 THE STANDARD REGISTER CO., DAYTON 1, OHIO, U. S. A. STANLOCK PAT. PEND.

KWL 20,000 OR 25,000 FEET - 105 DEG

KEL 10,000 FEET - 090 DEG

KRL ----

KTL BURNED OUT, RED SPARKS

KYL 3 SECONDS

C. KQL VISUAL

KWL NO

KEL LT. CHAPMAN, PILOT MADE OBSERVATION WHILE AIR BORNE

D. KQL 2400Z 15 JAN 1961

KWL NIGHT

E. KQL ----

KWL 60 MILES NNE DULUTH, NORTH OF LAKE SUPERIOR

F. KQL LT JAMES CHAPMAN, PILOT 179TH ANG, 27 YEARS, 2713 W. 3RD DULUTH, ANG PILOT, KBANK TELLER)

G. KQL LIGHT CIRUS, 25,000

KWL 200 DEG 5 KNOTS

310 DEG 10 KNOTS

260 DEG 10 KNOTS

232456



270 DEG 10 KNOTS

340 DEG 10 KNOTS

350 DEG 50 KNOTS

310 DEG 15 KNOTS

270 DEG 10 KNOTS

KEL CLEAR

KRL 15 MILES

FORM 605 THE STANDARD REGISTER CO., DAYTON 1, OHIO, U. S. A. STANLOCK PAT PEND

KTL NONE

KS) NO

H. NONE

I. PILOT MADE TWO RUNS ALONG NORTH SHORE OF LAKE SUPERIOR WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

J. NONE

K. NORAD INTELLIGENCE OFFICER. BELIEVE THIS TO BE A SHOOTING STAR.

L. NONE

M. BELIEVES SIGHTING TO BE A SHOOTING STAR.

BT

16/1957Z JAN RJEDDU

-/

LAWRENCE COLLEGE
APPLETON, WISCONSIN

Maj. William T. Coleman, Jr.
UFO Project Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information
Office of the Secretary
Dept. of the Air Force
Washington, D.C.

Dear Major Coleman:

I appreciate very much your sending me a list of your records on meteor sightings in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa for 1959-61.

You will note from the enclosed mimeographed report that I did considerable work on at least one of these sightings.

I shall perhaps take the liberty of bothering you again a year or so from now for any additional meteor reports that may have come your way.

Would it be a lot of trouble for you to give me the name and address of the person who reported the meteor from Booth Lake, Wisconsin, 6-10-59? I should like to get further information on this one if possible.

Very sincerely yours,

[redacted]

Pro[redacted]

Copy to Col. Macomber
Truax Field
Madison, Wis.

[redacted]

26 September 1961

Dear Professor:

Thank you for yours of September 15th enclosing a copy of the Mauston-Port Arthur Fireball Report.

There are two gentlemen in Madison, Wisconsin who should be able to help you on the matter of the Booth Lake Meteor sighting. [redacted] whose street address we don't have, and [redacted]t, Madison 3, Wisconsin.

We are happy to assist you anyway we can. Feel free to call on us at any time.

Sincerely,

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

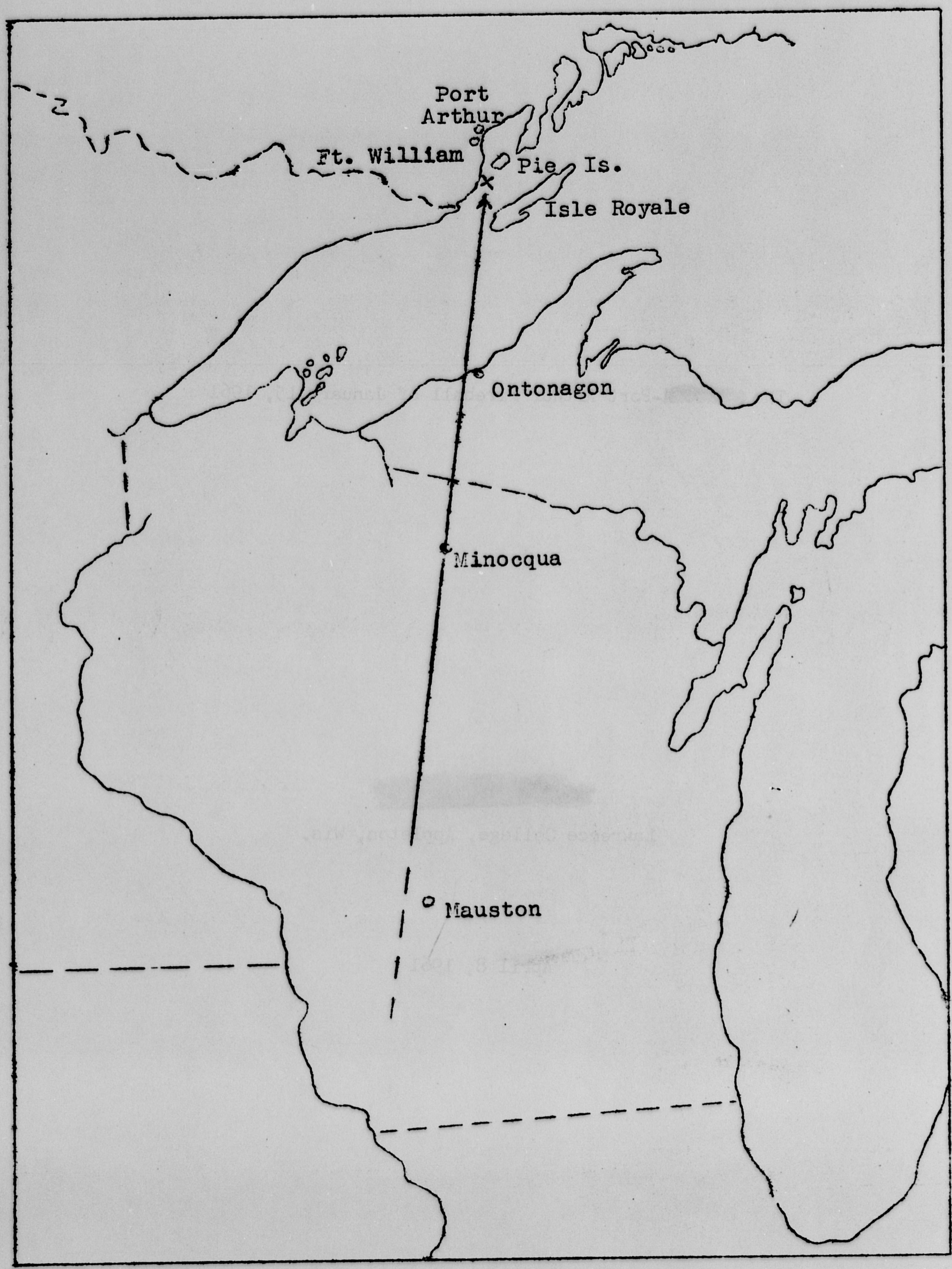
Professor [redacted]
Professor [redacted]
Lawrence College
Appleton, Wisconsin

The [redacted]-Port Arthur Fireball of January 15, 1961

[redacted]

Lawrence College, Appleton, Wis.

April 8, 1961


Port
Arthur
Ft. William
Pie Is.
Isle Royale
Ontonagon
Minocqua
Mauston

On the evening of January 15, 1961, a large fireball was seen travelling northward from points between Mauston, Wisconsin, and Port Arthur, Ontario. This came to the writer's attention through a newscast concerning the Mauston sightings presented by Green Bay Radio Station WBAY.

An immediate effort was made to secure accurate, detailed reports from the Mauston area. The Juneau County sheriff's office, Mauston Radio Station WTMV, and a Mauston newspaper, the Juneau County Chronicle, rendered active assistance. Subsequently, Mr [redacted], a Lawrence College student whose home is in Mauston, personally interviewed several of the witnesses.

Mrs. [redacted] who lives on a farm near Camp Douglas, 13 miles northwest of Mauston, reported the course of the fireball as "straight down" to the north. This suggests that the bolide passed directly over Camp Douglas, although it did not become visible until it had travelled some distance beyond.

Mrs. [redacted] saw the fireball from an automobile about half a mile southeast of Lake Delton--23 miles southeast of Mauston. To her, it appeared to be "as large, if not twice as large, as the moon". She checked her watch and noted that the time was exactly 6:10 P.M. (Central Standard Time).

Mr [redacted] was in the living room of his home at the Castle Rock Boy Scout Camp, about 13 miles northeast of Mauston. He described the fireball as "larger than the full moon" and resembling an airplane coming down in flames.

None of these observers heard any sound which they connected with the passage of the fireball.

About a week later, a letter was received from Mr [redacted] of Minocqua indicating that the same fireball had been seen in that area. The writer visited Minocqua on January 24th and collected a number of verbal reports. Additional written reports were received subsequently --thanks to the cooperation of Minocqua's newspaper, the Lakeland Times, and Rhinelander Radio Station WDBT.

[redacted] and [redacted] were in a car about 8 miles west of Minocqua. They reported the fireball as about half the size of the full moon and "shooting out sparks". It passed more or less directly overhead and was visible for at least five seconds. Twenty seconds after its disappearance they heard "rumbling or crackling" sounds.

[redacted], an eleven-year-old boy, was walking toward the barn on his family's farm just west of Woodruff, a mile north of Minocqua. He saw the fireball passing a little west of overhead and was impressed by its brilliant illumination of the snow-covered ground.

Mrs. [redacted] lives two miles west of Boulder Junction, about

18 miles north of Minocqua. She was outdoors watching a snowplow clearing the surface of a skating rink. The fireball, as she observed it, passed more or less directly overhead from south to north.

Mr. [redacted] saw the fireball from a location near Manitowish Waters, which is about 21 miles northwest of Minocqua. He thought it landed within a thousand feet to the east of him. Although he heard no sounds, Mr. [redacted] noticed a strong odor of burning sulfur in the air.

Mrs [redacted] was in a car about two miles southeast of Presque Isle, which is on the Michigan border twenty-five miles north of Minocqua. The fireball seemed to pass almost directly overhead. As it did so, the car radio faded out and she heard a "distinct humming" sound. Before it disappeared to the north, the fireball seemed to explode in a burst of greenish light and shoot fragments in all directions.

The foregoing reports are consistent with the path of the main fireball as inferred from observations in the Mauston and Ft. William areas. Some other reports were received which are apparently inconsistent, either because they involve serious errors in compass directions or because one or more other fireballs (possible fragments of the main one) were observed during the same evening.

For example, Miss [redacted] was driving south on Highway 47 and saw a fireball when she was about 16 miles northwest of Minocqua. According to Miss Walnick, the fireball seemed to come from overhead and fell in front of her--to the southeast.

Mrs [redacted] saw a fireball through the open door of the Enchanted Forest Bar about three miles northwest of Lac du Flambeau (approximately 11 miles northwest of Minocqua). She called to customers who were in the bar at the time, and they also witnessed the fireball. According to Mrs [redacted] the direction of travel was from west to east, and the course somewhat to the south.

Another observer who saw a fireball apparently falling toward the southeast was Mrs. [redacted] of Eagle River. She was driving north on Highway 51 and was about 1½ miles north of Irma--roughly 35 miles south of Minocqua. The fireball seemed to come from almost directly over the car. It left a conspicuous trail and illuminated the ground "like lightning".

Mr. [redacted] saw no fireball, but as he was walking along a road 4 miles south of Three Lakes, noticed a peculiar blue-green illumination of the sky, which lasted for several seconds. One or two seconds later he heard a dull "boom", apparently from the southeast, and simultaneously felt a distinct ground tremor. Three Lakes is about 27 miles east of Minocqua.

Another report, although it introduces an additional complication in the matter of direction, is interesting in that it lends support for the

idea that two distinct fireballs may have been seen in the Minocqua area. [redacted] a high school student, was driving south of Highway 51 about 20 miles south of Minocqua when he noticed a bright flash of white light in the sky. About ten minutes later, after he had turned off the highway onto a side road, he saw a fireball, which resembled "a burning plane", apparently falling straight down to the southwest.

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No effort was made to secure reports from the area between Mauston and Minocqua. However, [redacted] newspapers reported that the fireball was seen from a North Central Airlines plane in the vicinity of Wisconsin Rapids. In northern Michigan, inquiries were addressed to the Ontonagon newspaper and Chamber of Commerce. No response was received. It may be that the fireball could not be seen here due to weather conditions. Mrs. [redacted] in her report from just south of the Michigan border (see above), indicated that the sky to the north was overcast.

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Mrs. [redacted] mentioned above, happened to be a former resident of the Ft. William area and called to the writer's attention an article in the Ft. William Times-Journal for January 16th indicating that the Mauston-Minocqua fireball had been seen from the north shore of Lake Superior. Requests for further detailed information were addressed to the Times-Journal and the Port Arthur News Herald. Thanks to the very generous cooperation of these newspapers, a number of excellent eye-witness reports were later received by the writer. Inquiries were also sent to various other Canadian locations from which the fireball might have been seen, but these failed to produce additional data.

Two of the reports from the Ft. William-Port Arthur area are particularly interesting in that they provide an approximate "fix" on the point of impact. Mr. [redacted] was located on the north shore of Thunder Bay about 5 miles northeast of the Port Arthur city limits. He saw the fireball reach the horizon on a line just a little to the west of Pie Island. Mr. [redacted] was looking out the front window of his home near the intersection of Isabella and Ford Sts. in Ft. William. He saw the fireball appear from behind the summit of Mt. McKay and descend in an apparently eastward direction so that it reached the horizon slightly to the east of the base of the mountain. The intersection of Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted] lines puts the point of impact between the west ends of Pie Island and Thompson Island.

Three other reports were received from within the city limits of Ft. William. [redacted] a 13-year-old boy, was skating in Minnesota Park near the north city limits when he saw the fireball, looking "bigger than a star" and followed by a short trail "like a blow torch", falling to an end point 15° east of south. Mr [redacted] was in a car at the intersection of Oakwood St. and Victoria Ave. He too gave a course for the meteorite which would put the point of impact close to Mr. [redacted] line. Mrs. [redacted] was in a car (apparently

parked) near McKellar General Hospital. As soon as she saw the fireball, Mrs. [redacted]ot out of the car for a better view. She watched the fireball descend to the southeast and noted the time as exactly 6:12 C.S.T.

Two reports came in from persons located a considerable distance west of Ft. William. Mr. [redacted] was fishing near the west end of Whitefish Lake--about 36 miles southwest. He described the fireball as "about the size of the moon", and its course as nearly parallel to the southeastern horizon. The point of impact he estimated to be on a line running toward the southwest end of Isle Royale. Miss [redacted] saw the fireball through the window of a house located about 26 miles west of Ft. William. To her it looked like "a large star" with a trail like vapor behind a jet plane "but very red".

Most Canadian observers (excepting Mr. [redacted]) described the apparent size of the fireball as something between a star of extraordinary brightness and "about one quarter the size of the moon". None of them was aware of any sounds connected with the flight or impact of the bolide.

It may be mentioned that, as in the Minocqua area, several reports were received on what appear to have been other fireballs or large meteors visible the same evening.

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Since the northern part of Lake Superior is ordinarily ice-covered until well along in the spring, and thick ice is not easily penetrated even by a falling meteorite, it seemed desirable to try to initiate an air search around the probable point of impact. Accordingly, the Ft. William Times Journal and also the Ft. William Chamber of Commerce were notified that, if any small plane owners cared to look for it, a reward of $100 would be paid for the recovery of the meteorite. It was suggested that the search be concentrated between the west ends of Pie Island and Isle Royale. Whether any search was made is not known. So far, no one has applied for the reward.