

'85 Baum

This UFO, spotted by a high school art teacher and his daughter near McHenry, Illinois, had a black top, blue sides, and a red-gold metallic bottom.

“I Know What I Saw...”

Much the same words have been used by many bewildered witnesses to UFO events. Readers who themselves have never gone out to interview such witnesses can hardly appreciate the poignancy of such a remark. This particular case was witnessed by a high school art teacher and his nine-year-old daughter, Kristin, who one late-spring afternoon were watching for birds in a game refuge area. The father told us, “I think it’s something my daughter and I will share for the rest of our lives. It’s a moment that no one can ever take away from us.”

Of course “I know what I saw...but I don’t know what I saw” could apply equally to a misidentification by the witness of something quite natural but seen under unusual circumstances. It is here that the skill and knowledge of the interviewer enters: he brings to the interview his ability to listen carefully to voice intonations and to identify body language and to note the way the witness comports himself as the event is once again re-lived. These are things totally un-

available to someone reading a printed account of the event. In more cases than not, there have been several witnesses to the event; the skilled investigator independently interviews each one, preferably at the actual site of the event, whenever time and funds permit. Remember, at present, to the best of our knowledge, there are no paid professional UFO investigators.

TYPE: DD(CE-1)
DATE: May 23, 1983
TIME: 7:30 P.M. CDT
DURATION: 1-3 minutes
WITNESSES: 2
PLACE: Countryside near McHenry, Illinois

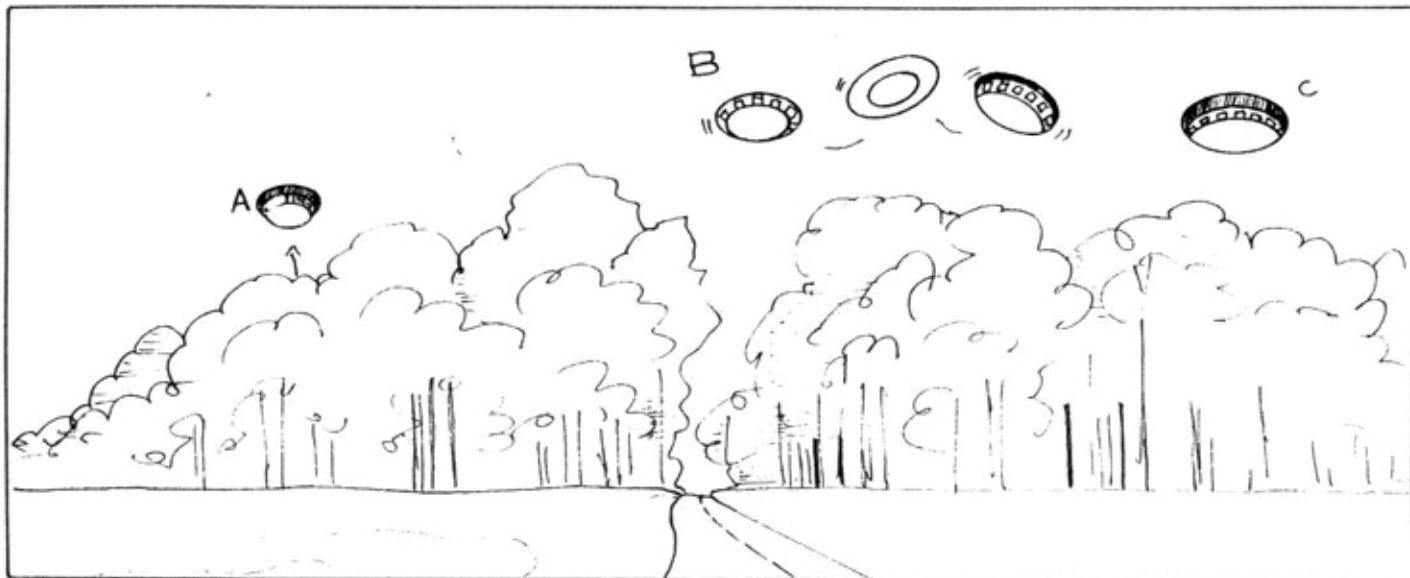
The accompanying drawings of the object and its trajectory were taken directly from sketches submitted by the artist-witness (who wrote to the Center almost immediately after the event and included the drawings). Original artwork was in color so it is not re-

produced here. The interviews did not take place for good reasons until more than a year later. It was apparent that the event was still indelibly etched in the minds of the two witnesses...there was no essential difference between the written description and the verbal statements over a year later.

While parked in their car in an isolated pond area frequented by wild birds, in the early evening while the sky was still quite bright, the father called his daughter’s attention to a strange object which he had seen rise from behind the trees (see A). It rocked violently then quickly leveled off, traveling about 25 yards above the tree line (B), and was about 250 yards from the car. Obvious solutions like a balloon or an advertising plane or other small plane were quickly ruled out. The object was going somewhat cross-wind (“I’m always aware of the wind direction, I hunt, and I always set my decoys with the wind.”) and was completely silent. It was

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...But I Don’t Know What I Saw”



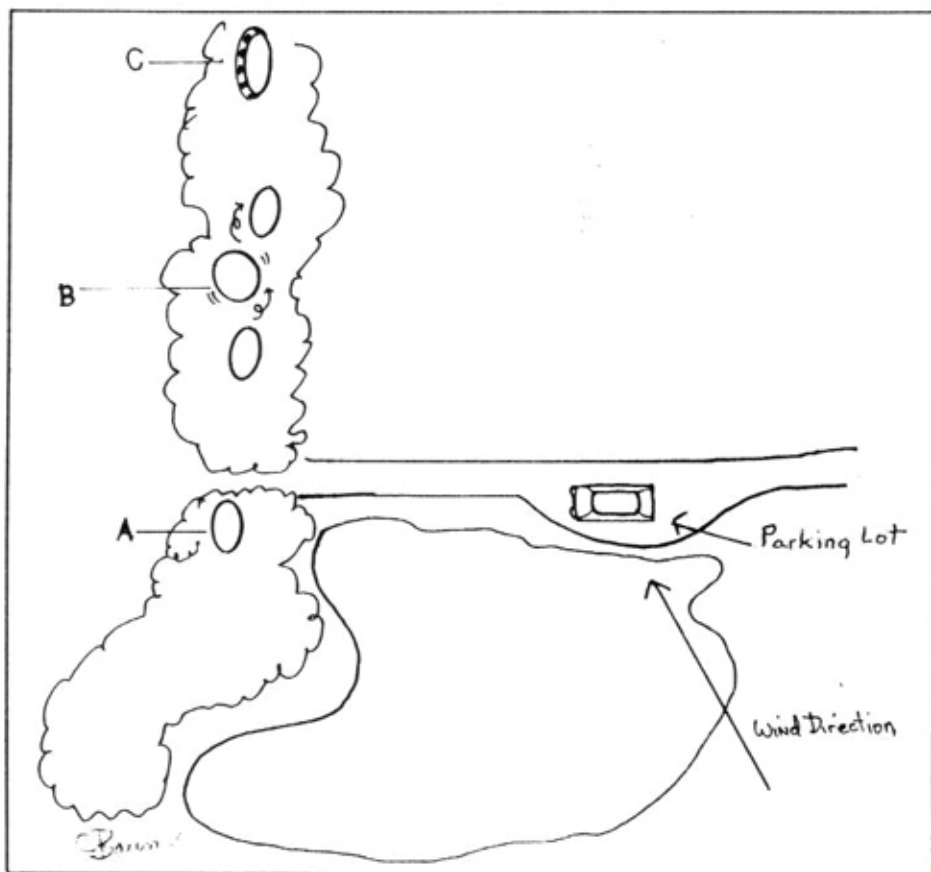
In the above diagram, the witnesses viewed the UFO from the parking lot as it rose from behind the trees (A), rocked violently, then levelled off 25 yards above the tree line (B). It was travelling cross-wind well below the stall speed of an aircraft, and it was completely silent (C).

travelling definitely below the stall speed of an aircraft. The object itself (C) was very sharply outlined and its color, particularly the bottom part, was unusual. "My father paints, you know," said Kristin, "and he'd never seen a color like that." A red-gold metallic color comes closest. [Ed. note: it is possible that the bottom reflected the light of the setting sun.]

Shortly after Kristin's attention was called to it by her father, they both related that the object suddenly seemed to lose control. In separate interviews they said they thought it was going to crash into the trees below. It rocked violently, giving the observers a chance to see portions of the top and bottom, and then as suddenly, it levelled off and proceeded at a faster clip into the distance, following the contour of the land. Kristin added, "It was real close. It was oval and didn't have a propeller. If it'd had a motor, we could've heard it."

Asked what they thought about the incident now, more than a year later, the father said, "We talk about it quite often, but we don't dwell on it. I teach at the high school and I told some of the people what I had seen, but mostly I got razzed."

It's too bad the witnesses didn't have a color camera with them. We do have, however, the drawing by an art teacher (who, we can surmise, is probably a good observer of details), done immediately after the event.



This aerial diagram shows the same motions as the diagram above. From their car in the parking lot, the witnesses were approximately 250 yards from where the UFO rose, rocked, and travelled over the tops of the trees.