

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 29 Nov 59	2. LOCATION West Barnch, Michigan		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 30/0015Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar		
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE Civilian		
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3 secs	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS eight	9. COURSE NNW	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Eight evenly spaced objs in view for 3 secs Direction NNW. Emerged in front of observer on the horizon & went up into the clouds at great speed. Objs glowed red. At first believed to be reflections fm red tower lights, however upon retracing the same course this was not apparent. Objs were assumed to be elliptical about 30 ft long.		11. COMMENTS Indications are that a reflection of some sort was observed, however there is not conclusive evidence to support this analysis & the case is listed as insufficient data.	

To Whom It May Concern;

A friend of mine and I saw what we thought must be flying saucers on our way north on highway 76 just south of West Branch Michigan, 9¹⁵ pm Sunday 29 Nov. 59. There were about eight of them in succession evenly spaced. They emerged from the horizon ahead of us arking north and up thru the clouds with speed I have never seen before. They glowed red. We thought of the possibility of it being a reflection from some radio station aerial lights ahead of us. There were only three lights on each aerial. We turned around and went north again over the same stretch of highway and we didn't see them again. I have seen many missiles fired when I was stationed at Fort Bliss Texas and I never saw any missile move out as fast as these things seemed to. They didn't seem to accelerate. They went the same fast speed all the way up. Of course our observations could have

been not real keen on that. We reported the
signing to the state police in West Branch.
In our way back south the next day we stopped
to find out if anyone else had reported it
and were sorry to hear that none had.

Would you please tell me if you identify
them or not, and what you think they were
or might have been?

Respectfully yours

~~_____~~

~~_____~~

Dearborn Mich.

29 NOV 59
SAFOI-3d/Maj Tacker/mhb/72291

~~21 November~~ 21 December 1959

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

This is to acknowledge your undated letter regarding the sighting of an unidentified flying object on Sunday, 29 November, south of West Branch, Michigan.

Your letter contains insufficient information for a valid conclusion. Therefore, request you and your friend complete the attached Air Force questionnaire in regard to this sighting and forward the completed paper to the Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, for analysis and evaluation.

Sincerely,

Inclosure

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

Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dearborn, Michigan

0226
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

✓
Comeback OI-3d
Reader OI-1

100 DEC 31 12 40

001

U. S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

This questionnaire has been prepared so that you can give the U. S. Air Force as much information as possible concerning the unidentified aerial phenomenon that you have observed. Please try to answer as many questions as you possibly can. The information that you give will be used for research purposes, and will be regarded as confidential material. Your name will not be used in connection with any statements, conclusions, or publications without your permission. We request this personal information so that, if it is deemed necessary, we may contact you for further details.

1. When did you see the object?

28 Day 2nd Month 59 Year

2. Time of day: _____

9 Hour 15 Minutes

(Circle One): A.M. or P.M.

3. Time zone:

(Circle One): a. Eastern
 b. Central
 c. Mountain
 d. Pacific
 e. Other _____

(Circle One): a. Daylight Saving
 b. Standard

4. Where were you when you saw the object?

Nearest Postal Address: _____ City or Town: West Branch State or Country: Mich.

Additional remarks: Drive north on highway mil 70 a few miles south of West Branch

5. Estimate how long you saw the object.

_____ Hours _____ Minutes 3 Seconds

5.1 Circle one of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to Question 5.

- a. Certain c. Not very sure
b. Fairly certain d. Just a guess

6. What was the condition of the sky?

- (Circle One): a. Bright daylight d. Just a trace of daylight
 b. Dull daylight e. No trace of daylight
 c. Bright twilight f. Don't remember

7. IF you saw the object during DAYLIGHT, TWILIGHT, or DAWN, where was the SUN located as you looked at the object?

- (Circle One): a. In front of you d. To your left
 b. In back of you e. Overhead
 c. To your right f. Don't remember

8. IF you saw the object, at NIGHT, TWILIGHT, or DAWN, what did you notice concerning the STARS and MOON?

8.1 STARS (Circle One):

- a. None
- b. A few
- c. Many
- d. Don't remember

8.2 MOON (Circle One):

- a. Bright moonlight
- b. Dull moonlight
- c. No moonlight — pitch dark
- d. Don't remember

9. Was the object brighter than the background of the sky?

(Circle One): a. Yes b. No c. Don't remember

10. IF it was BRIGHTER THAN the sky background, was the brightness like that of an automobile headlight?:

- (Circle One) a. A mile or more away (a distant car)?
- b. Several blocks away?
 - c. A block away?
 - d. Several yards away?
 - e. Other

11. Did the object:

(Circle One for each question)

- | | | | |
|---|-----|-------------------------------------|------------|
| a. Appear to stand still at any time? | Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Don't Know |
| b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time? | Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Don't Know |
| c. Break up into parts or explode? | Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Don't Know |
| d. Give off smoke? | Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Don't Know |
| e. Change brightness? | Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Don't Know |
| f. Change shape? | Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Don't Know |
| g. Flicker, throb, or pulsate? | Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Don't Know |

12. Did the object move behind something at anytime, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One): Yes No Don't Know. IF you answered YES, then tell what it moved behind: They went through the clouds

13. Did the object move in front of something at anytime, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One): Yes No Don't Know. IF you answered YES, then tell what it moved in front of: _____

14. Did the object appear: (Circle One): a. Solid? b. Transparent? c. Don't Know.

15. Did you observe the object through any of the following?

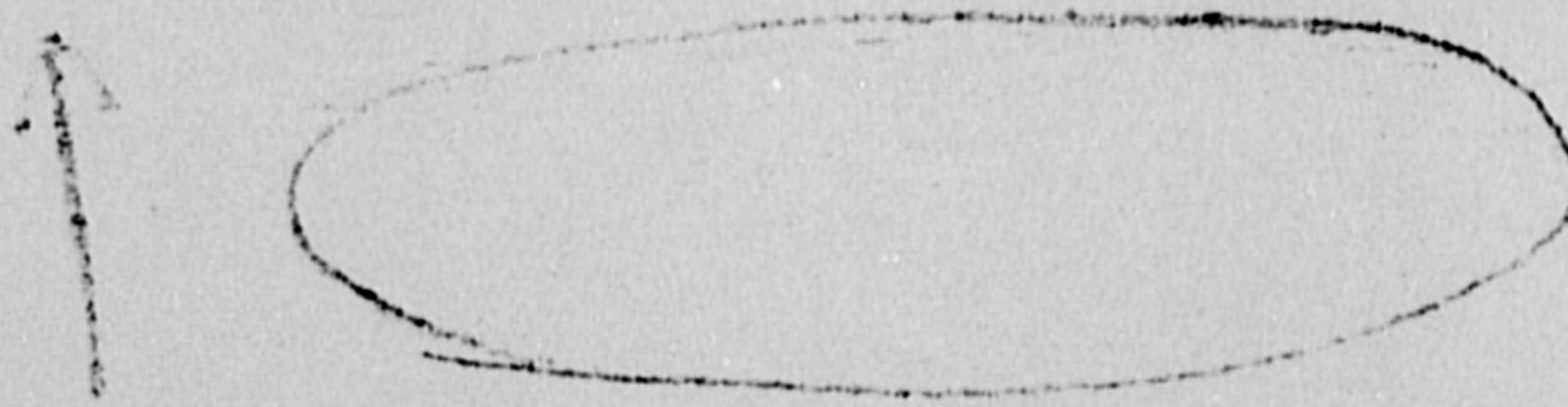
- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|----|----------------|-----|----|
| a. Eyeglasses | Yes | No | e. Binoculars | Yes | No |
| b. Sun glasses | Yes | No | f. Telescope | Yes | No |
| c. Windshield | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes | No | g. Theodolite | Yes | No |
| d. Window glass | Yes | No | h. Other _____ | | |

16. Tell in a few words the following things about the object.

a. Sound _____

b. Color red

17. Draw a picture that will show the shape of the object or objects. Label and include in your sketch any details of the object that you saw such as wings, protrusions, etc., and especially exhaust trails or vapor trails. Place an arrow beside the drawing to show the direction the object was moving.

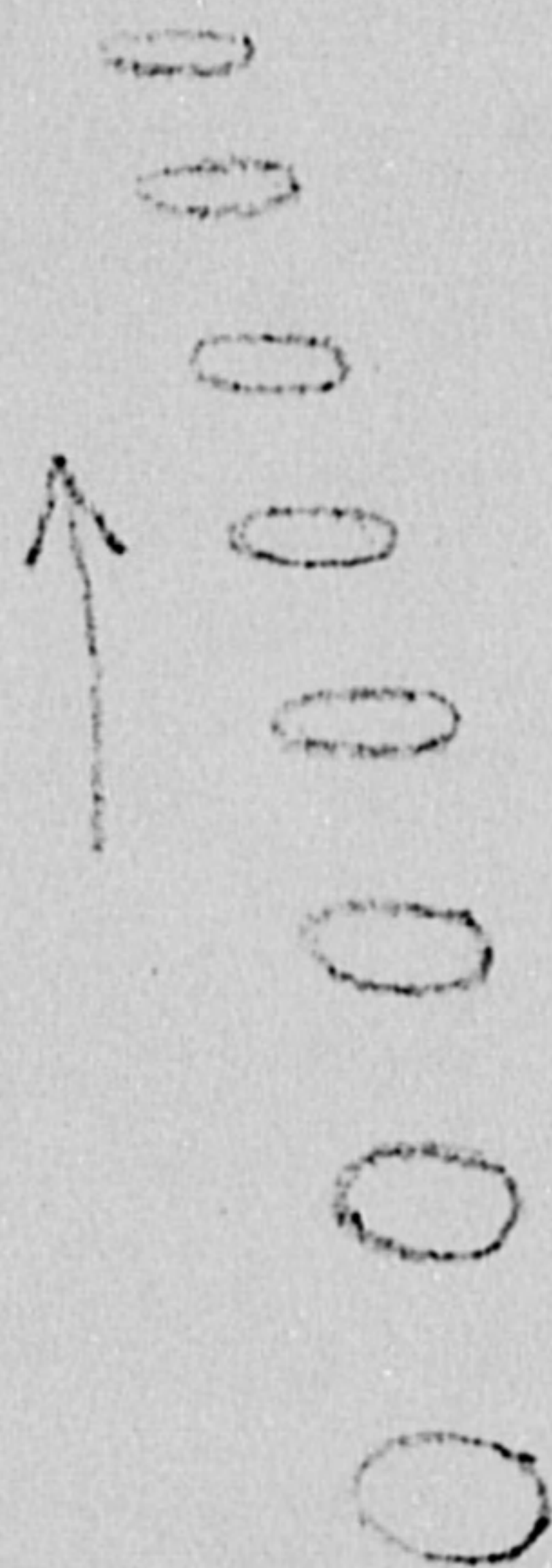


18. The edges of the object were:

- (Circle One):
- a. Fuzzy or blurred
 - b. Like a bright star
 - c. Sharply outlined
 - d. Don't remember

e. Other _____

19. IF there was MORE THAN ONE object, then how many were there? about 8
 Draw a picture of how they were arranged, and put an arrow to show the direction that they were traveling.



20. Draw a picture that will show the motion that the object or objects made. Place an "A" at the beginning of the path, a "B" at the end of the path, and show any changes in direction during the course.



going approximately north, north west

21. IF POSSIBLE, try to guess or estimate what the real size of the object was in its longest dimension.
30 feet.

22. How large did the object or objects appear as compared with one of the following objects held in the hand and at about arm's length?

(Circle One):

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| a. Head of a pin | g. Silver dollar |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> b. Pea | h. Baseball |
| c. Dime | i. Grapefruit |
| d. Nickel | j. Basketball |
| e. Quarter | k. Other _____ |
| f. Half dollar | |

- 22.1 (Circle One of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to Question 22.)

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| a. Certain | <input checked="" type="radio"/> c. Not very sure |
| b. Fairly certain | d. Uncertain |

23. How did the object or objects disappear from view? They disappeared in a series of a definite place

24. In order that you can give as clear a picture as possible of what you saw, we would like for you to imagine that you could construct the object that you saw. Of what type material would you make it? How large would it be, and what shape would it have? Describe in your own words a common object or objects which when placed up in the sky would give the same appearance as the object which you saw.

They were too far away

25. Where were you located when you saw the object?
(Circle One):

- a. Inside a building
 b. In a car
 c. Outdoors
 d. In an airplane
 e. At sea
 f. Other _____

26. Were you (Circle One)

- a. In the business section of a city?
 b. In the residential section of a city?
 c. In open countryside?
 d. Flying near an airfield?
 e. Flying over a city?
 f. Flying over open country?
 g. Other _____

27. What were you doing at the time you saw the object, and how did you happen to notice it?

Driving a automobile

28. IF you were MOVING IN AN AUTOMOBILE or other vehicle at the time, then complete the following questions:

28.1 What direction were you moving? (Circle One)

- a. North c. East e. South g. West
 b. Northeast d. Southeast f. Southwest h. Northwest

28.2 How fast were you moving? 50 miles per hour.

28.3 Did you stop at any time while you were looking at the object?

(Circle One) Yes No

29. What direction were you looking when you first saw the object? (Circle One)

- a. North c. East e. South g. West
 b. Northeast d. Southeast f. Southwest h. Northwest

30. What direction were you looking when you last saw the object? (Circle One)

- a. North c. East e. South g. West
 b. Northeast d. Southeast f. Southwest h. Northwest

31. If you are familiar with bearing terms (angular direction), try to estimate the number of degrees the object was from true North and also the number of degrees it was upward from the horizon (elevation).

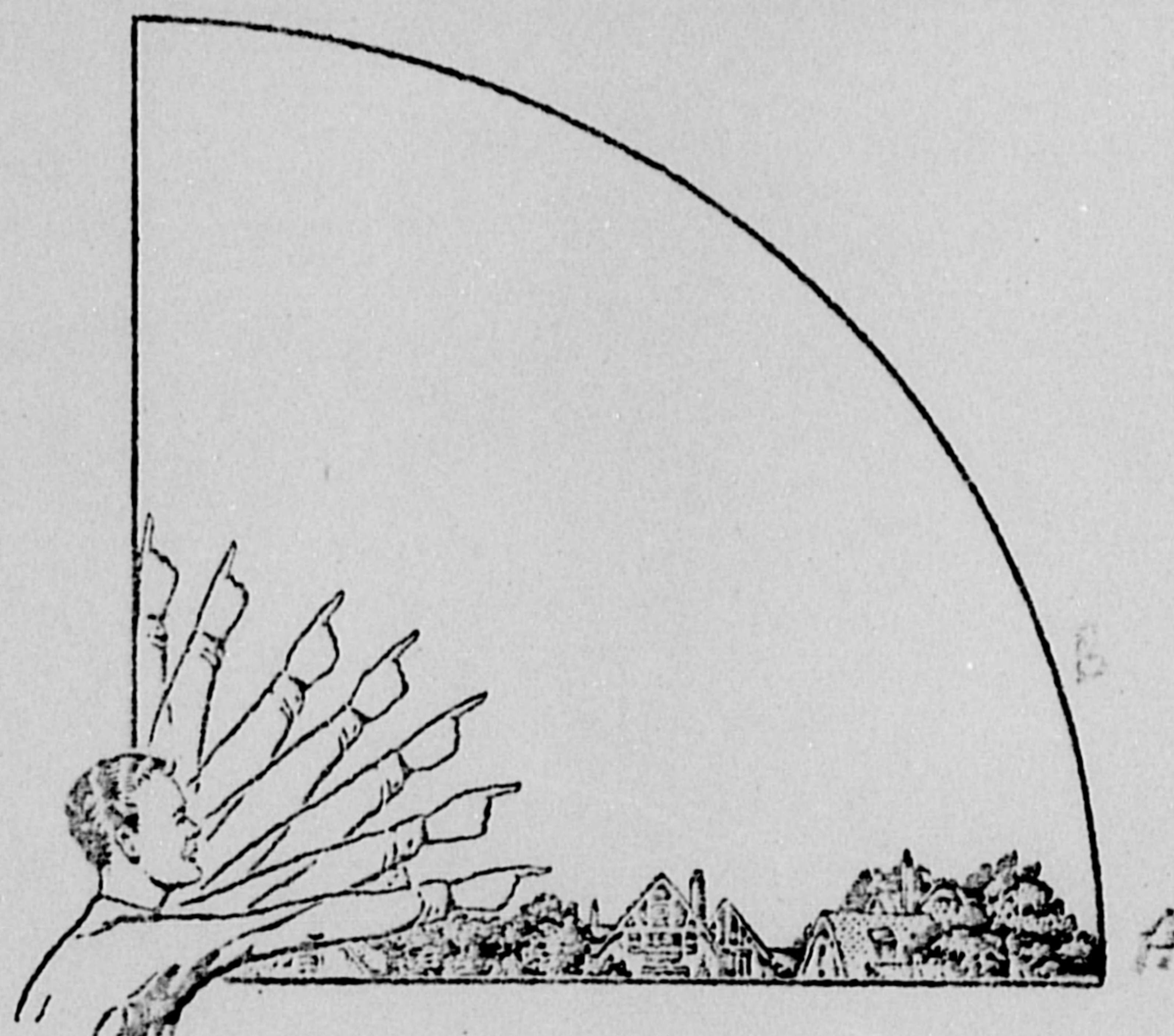
31.1 When it first appeared:

- a. From true North 30 degrees.
 b. From horizon 65 degrees.

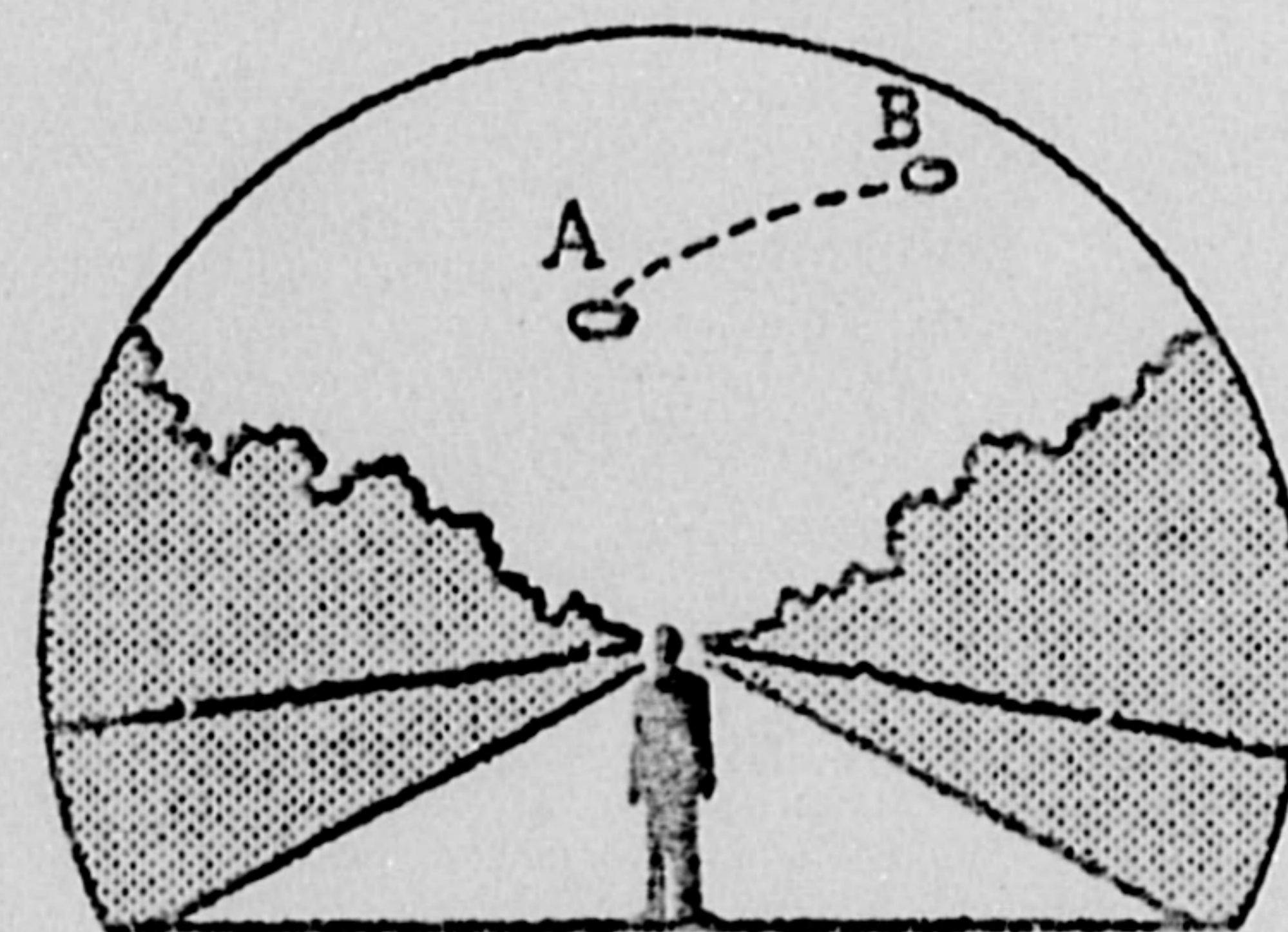
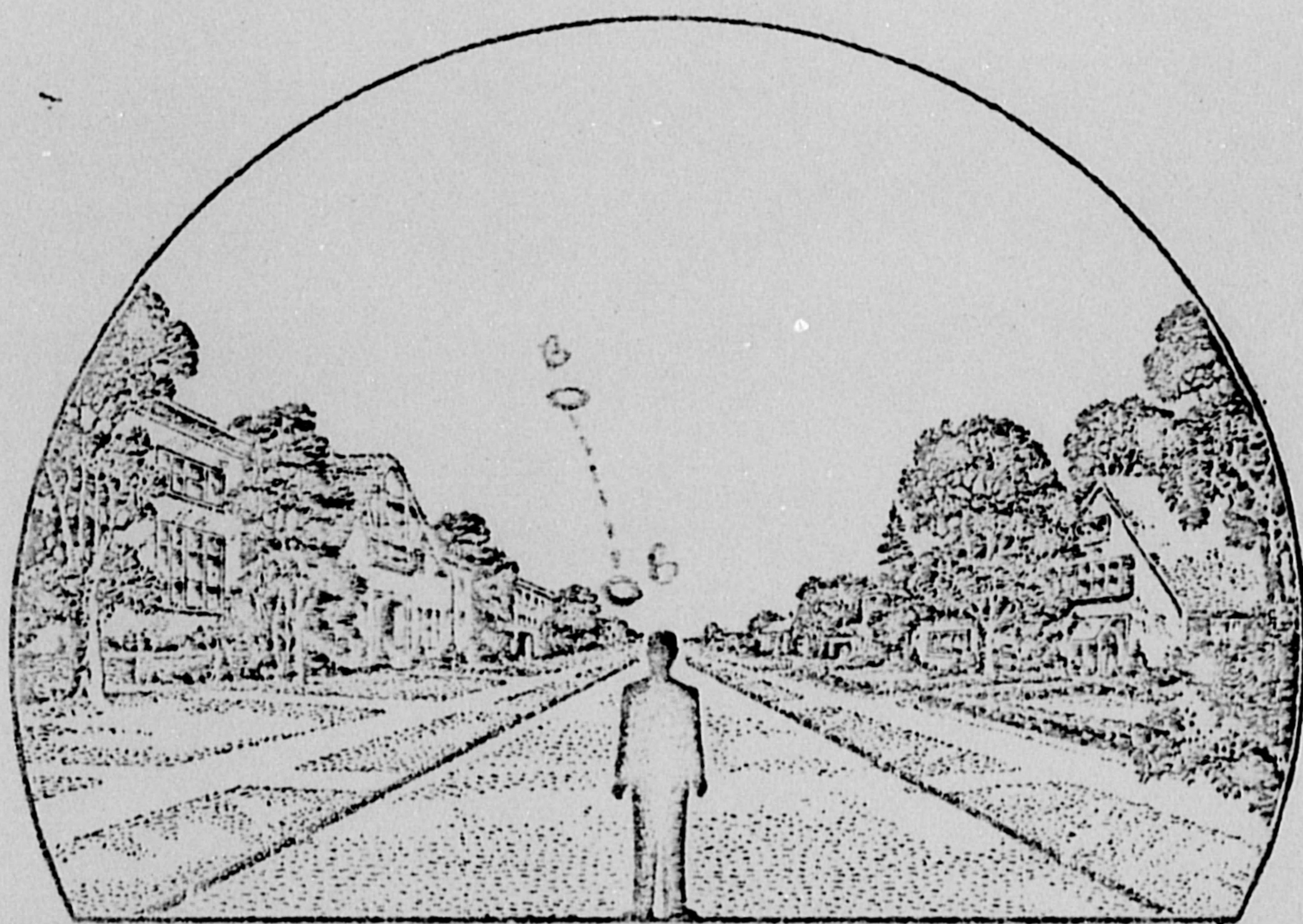
31.2 When it disappeared:

- a. From true North 30 degrees.
 b. From horizon 45 degrees.

32. In the following sketch, imagine that you are at the point shown. Place an "A" on the curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *first* saw it. Place a "B" on the *same* curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *last* saw it.



33. In the following larger sketch place an "A" at the position the object was when you *first* saw it, and a "B" at its position when you *last* saw it. Refer to smaller sketch as an example of how to complete the larger sketch.



34. What were the weather conditions at the time you saw the object?

34.1 CLOUDS (Circle One)

- a. Clear sky
- b. Hazy
- c. Scattered clouds
- d. Thick or heavy clouds
- e. Don't remember

34.2 WIND (Circle One)

- a. No wind
- b. Slight breeze
- c. Strong wind
- d. Don't remember

34.3 WEATHER (Circle One)

- a. Dry
- b. Fog, mist, or light rain
- c. Moderate or heavy rain
- d. Snow
- e. Don't remember

34.4 TEMPERATURE (Circle One)

- a. Cold
- b. Cool
- c. Warm
- d. Hot
- e. Don't remember

35. When did you report to some official that you had seen the object?

23 2/28 59
 Day Month Year

36. Was anyone else with you at the time you saw the object?

(Circle One) Yes No

36.1 IF you answered YES, did they see the object too?

(Circle One) Yes No

36.2 Please list their names and addresses:

~~_____~~
~~_____~~
 Warren, Michigan

37. Was this the first time that you had seen an object or objects like this?

(Circle One) Yes No

37.1 IF you answered NO, then when, where, and under what circumstances did you see other ones?

38. In your opinion what do you think the object was and what might have caused it?

I don't know

39. Do you think you can estimate the speed of the object?

(Circle One) Yes No

not sure

IF you answered YES, then what speed would you estimate?

2000 m.p.h.

40. Do you think you can estimate how far away from you the object was?

(Circle One) Yes No

not sure

IF you answered YES, then how far away would you say it was?

10 ^{mi} feet

41. Please give the following information about yourself:

NAME [redacted] Last Name [redacted] First Name [redacted] Middle Name [redacted]

ADDRESS [redacted] Street Dearborn City Mich Zone State

TELEPHONE NUMBER [redacted]

What is your present job? Brakeman

Age 25 Sex male

Please indicate any special educational training that you have had.

- a. Grade school 9
- b. High school 2
- c. College _____
- d. Post graduate _____
- e. e. Technical school _____ (Type) _____
- f. Other special training _____

42. Date you completed this questionnaire:

25 Day Dec Month 59 Year

U. S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET
(SUMMARY DATA)

In order that your information may be filed and coded as accurately as possible, please use the following space to write out a short description of the event that you observed. You may repeat information that you have already given in the questionnaire, and add any further comments, statements, or sketches that you believe are important. Try to present the details of the observation in the order in which they occurred. Additional pages of the same size paper may be attached if they are needed.

NAME [REDACTED]
(Please Print)

(Do Not Write in This Space)

SIGNATURE [REDACTED]

CODE:

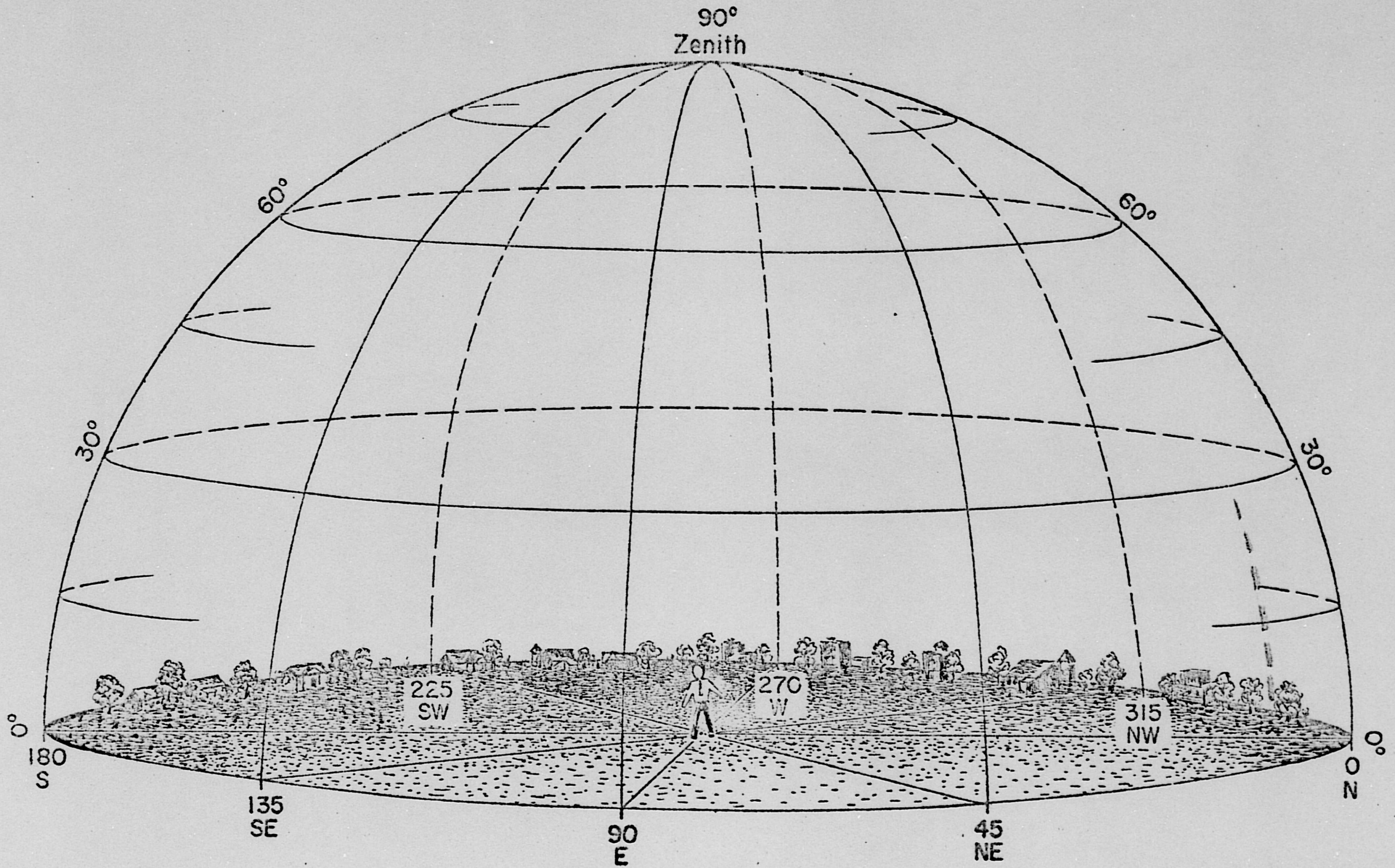
DATE 5 Jan. 60

A friend and I were on our north on a deer hunting trip. We were going north on highway 76 a few miles south of West Branch when suddenly some red glowing round thing emerged from the horizon. They were in a straight line and equal distance apart. My friend said to me "Did you see that" I said "yes" He said "what did it look like to you?" I said "Flying saucers" He said "That's what I was thinking" Well it may have been power of suggestion but they looked disk shaped to me because they seem to get egg shape and smaller as they rose. They all disappeared at the same place and I wondered why. We thought it might have been a reflection of some kind so to make sure we turned around and then went north again over the same portion of highway. We didn't see them again. My friend suggested that they might be 40 mm. tracer bullets. We stop and reported the sighting to the state police in West Branch. Later we decided the reason they all disappeared at the same place is

probably that they went through the clouds. One thing that impressed me much in the uniformity of flight, and they didn't seem to accelerate as they rose but they seemed to go faster than any missile I ever saw (I was stationed at Fort Bliss in the army). The only reasoning against them being tracer bullets that I can think of is that they seemed so large and they seemed to flatter as they sarked away from us.

Will you please tell me if you identified it or not? If you did, what was it? Did any radar pick it up?

On our return trip we stopped at the state police office to see if anyone else had reported it, and found that none had. We had thought that anyone who had been driving north on that highway and looking at the road ahead of them would have seen them.



UFO ANALYSIS SHEET

92

Location WEST BRANCH MICHIGAN.

Date 28 NOV 59 Hour (Z) 1415

WX CLOUDY, DRY - COOL.

Description RED OBLATE SPHEROID - SHARP OUTLINES

3 OBJECTS TRAVELING IN A LINE

TOWARD THE NNW. OBJECTS APPROXIMATELY

30 FEET IN LONGEST DIMENSION.

Direction of Motion NNW

Satellite: (AFCIN-4F3, Phone 69219) _____

Astronomical Phenomena (Meteor, Comet, Planet, etc) _____

Radar Analysis (AFCIN-4E1) _____

Natural Phenomena (Ball Lightning, etc) _____

Aircraft, Balloons, Airships, etc. _____

Other _____

Evaluation of Source Reliability UNKNOWN

Analysis and Conclusions: | T IS BELIEVED THAT THE WITNESSES SAW A REFLECTION OF SOME SORT HOWEVER THERE IS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO ALLOW A CONCLUSION -



AF Discoverer VII in Orbit; Recapture of Cone Set Today

Gear Weatherproofed To Facilitate Return

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif., Nov. 7— (UPI) — The "weatherproof" Discoverer VII satellite, carefully groomed for a significant U.S. scientific breakthrough, roared into orbit today.

The goal of the shot is to recover a 310-pound capsule from the 19-foot long satellite, after the satellite has made 17 passes over the earth's poles.

The recovery attempt, a 700-to-1 shot at best, will be made tomorrow afternoon by planes and ships in a massive "ballpark" in the Pacific ocean, southwest of Hawaii.

The near-fantastic recapture attempt will be made 27 hours from the time of launch, according to calculations.

fact the satellite entered orbit is in itself regarded as a particular success.

It would be the first recovery of a man-made object from orbit — "the most significant achievement to date in space," Air Force officers said.

Discoverer VII achieved a precise orbit around the world and the recovery try would be made 27 hours after launch by nine net-trailing cargo planes over the Pacific ocean.

Unlike previous satellites in the program, the Discoverer VII has been weatherproofed with special equipment, including heaters, insulation and absorbent paint. This was done to keep tiny mercury batteries warm. The batteries, which should cause the parachute to pop open at 10,000 feet, apparently did not operate in two previous Discoverer shots because it was too cold.

THE AIR FORCE announced that orbit had been achieved three hours after the thor-busted Discoverer VII arched into the sky at 12:28 (3:28 EST).

The recovery attempt was paramount in U. S. preparations for today's shot, although the

The Air Force said "preliminary data" obtained by tracking stations in Hawaii and Alaska showed the satellite to be in orbit, with radio signals coming in "loud and clear." The orbital period for the satellite will be 95 minutes. It will be 550 miles from the earth at its furthest point, and 101 when it draws closest to the earth, the Air Force said.

THE LAST Discoverer launching was Aug. 19, and since that time project engineers have worked dedicatedly to "insure as much a chance of success as possible."

"When we do catch this thing — and it very well could be this time — we'll have outdone the Sputniks," one high Discoverer official said.

"This achievement is the next step in getting man into space where he can do us some good," the officer added. "It's more significant but less spectacular than the Luniks. The Luniks probe outer space, true, but it will be a long time before we're ready to send a man out there."

One precaution taken on this satellite to insure as much a chance of success as possible was to keep out the cold air as it whirled around the world at 18,000 miles an hour.

U. S. Fires Research Rocket

5-Stage Missile
Goes 1,050 Miles
Into Atmosphere

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10—(UPI)—A five stage Army research rocket dubbed "The Strongarm" was successfully fired 1,050 miles into the upper atmosphere today, the highest ever recorded for the launching station at Wallops Island, Va.

The vehicle was launched by the Army in cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space administration to measure electron densities. The Army said the data would be valuable in the intercontinental ballistic missile and anti-missile missile programs.

The rocket assembly stood taller than a five-story building, but considerably shorter than the missiles used for satellite launchings and military shots of intercontinental range.

It was fired at 7 a.m. and finally plunged into the Atlantic ocean about 800 miles away from the NASA launching pad about 20 minutes later. The rocket was designed to reach a speed of 17,000 feet a second at burnout.

Scientists from the Army ballistic research laboratories at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., aided by a University of Michigan team, used an Army Honest John rocket, two Nike-Ajax boosters, a modified Recruit and a scaled down Sergeant to ram the nose cone into the upper atmosphere.

* * *
IN ANNOUNCING the shoot, the Defense department said that it was one of a number planned by various agencies in connection with the U.S. program from International Geophysical cooperation in 1959.

Information on the experiment will be made available to all nations participating in the international geophysical year program.

Warren Berning, project chief for the ballistic research laboratories, said Army experts and NASA primarily are interested in how ionization decreases with altitudes above 167 miles, and measurements will be taken to furnish a profile throughout the upper flight of the rocket.

UPI A48HC

MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIF., NOV. 17--(

UPI A49HC

MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIF., NOV. 17--(UPI)--A MYSTERIOUS OBJECT OBSERVED BY A NUMBER OF PERSONS FLOATED OUT OF THE SKY YESTERDAY ON A RED AND "WHITISH" PARACHUTE AND SANK IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

WHAT WAS IT AND WHERE DID IT COME FROM? NOBODY SEEMS EVEN ABLE TO HAZARD A GUESS.

LIFEGUARD BUD STEVENSON SAID THE OBJECT DANGLING AT THE END OF A "LARGE" PARACHUTE WAS ABOUT TWO TO THREE FEET LONG, APPEARED TO BE METALLIC AND WAS SQUARE AT THE TOP AND CYLINDRICAL AT THE BOTTOM.

AN AMERICAN AIRLINES TRAINING PLANE FOLLOWED THE PARACHUTE AND ITS MYSTERIOUS OBJECT DOWN FROM 5,500 FEET IN THE AIR. THERE APPEARED TO BE NO OTHER PLANES IN THE AREA AT THE TIME, SAID THE CREW.

A NORTH AMERICAN AVIATION HELICOPTER GOT TO THE SCENE ABOUT A MILE AND A HALF OFFSHORE AND HOVERED OVER THE FLOATING PARACHUTE SO A BUOY COULD BE PLACED BY LIFEGUARDS BEFORE THE WEIGHT OF THE OBJECT PULLED THE CHUTE UNDER.

THE COAST GUARD CONDUCTED A SEVERAL HOURS' LONG SEARCH. COAST GUARD SHIPS DRAGGED A MILE-SQUARE AREA IN ABOUT 46 FEET OF WATER BUT WERE UNABLE TO LOCATE ANYTHING. A COAST GUARD SPOKESMAN SAID CURRENTS IN THE AREA MIGHT HAVE SWEEPED IT OUT TO SEA OR BUNDLED-UP THE PARACHUTE AND OBJECT INTO A SMALL, COMPACT MASS WHICH WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO LOCATE.

THE NAVY'S MISSILE STATION AT POINT MUGU, NORTH OF THIS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL CITY, WAS QUESTIONED ALONG WITH SURROUNDING AIR FORCE, MARINE AND ARMY INSTALLATIONS, BUT ALL DECLINED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE OBJECT.

THE COAST GUARD SAID THERE WERE NO OTHER PLANS AT PRESENT TO ATTEMPT TO LOCATE THE OBJECT.

R335A..

Sodium Cloud Shot Lights East's Sky

Space Agency Rocket
Ejects Vapors Seen
Hundreds Of Miles

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18—(UPI)—A man-made sodium cloud, visible several hundred miles away, was ejected into the upper atmosphere at dusk today from a rocket fired 150 miles into the air above the Wallops Island, Va., government test center.

The national aeronautics and space agency (NASA), which conducted the test, said it was designed to obtain information about the action of the winds at high altitudes. It was the first of three planned for this week as part of International Rocket Week.

Within minutes after its firing at 5:17 p.m., the rosy-hued cloud was sighted over a wide area of the Atlantic seaboard as it caught the rays of the setting sun already below the horizon at sea level.

Cloud Is Spotted

Several points in Connecticut reported spotting the luminous vapor. Residents in Schenectady in upper New York state said it looked like a simple red cloud with a little tail on it.

Residents in Springfield, N. H., and Quincy and Springfield, Mass., also reported seeing the vapor.

NASA conducted its first sodium cloud experiment Aug. 17. It also was seen over a wide area.

NASA said the experiment was designed "to obtain geophysical information on upper wind activity," including its velocity and direction and to test the rate of spreading vapors at high altitudes.

The cloud was ejected into the upper atmosphere by a two-stage Nike-ASP launching rocket. Equipped with a timing device, the rocket began pouring out the vapor at an altitude of 50 miles, continuing until it reached its peak of 150 miles.

Visible For Miles

Residents of Richmond, Va., about 100 miles west of the launching site, said the cloud was not nearly as bright or large as that touched off by a similar experiment in August.

The U. S. weather bureau at Richmond said it received "dozens and dozens" of telephone calls from excited persons when the first cloud was seen but had received only one inquiry about tonight's shot.

Lon Backman, a newsman for radio station WRVA who stood on the roof of a Richmond hotel to witness the shot, said the cloud was visible for about a half hour.

"It appeared perhaps a little bigger than a star but did not glow as bright," Backman said. "As it faded into the darkness a smoky glow, violet in color, became barely discernible."

Flotilla At Ready For 'Catch'

Hope to Snag Discoverer VIII Capsule From Sky

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif., Nov. 21—(UPI)—A flotilla of naval ships and Air Force C-119 "Flying Boxcars" stood ready today to snatch a Discoverer VIII satellite capsule out of the sky or sea.

Joint sea-air forces were based somewhere in the mid-Pacific near Hawaii in an area called "the ballpark" to capture the parachute-rigged capsule from the satellite soaring as far away as 1,000 miles from earth.

Discoverer VIII, 78 feet long and weighing 1,700 pounds, roared successfully into orbit over a polar route yesterday. It was boosted into space by a Thor ballistic missile and thrust into an orbital velocity of 18,000 miles an hour by a second stage rocket.

WITH THE LAUNCHING went America's hopes to become the first nation to capture a man-made object from space. Neither the U.S. nor the Soviet Union, as far as is known, has made such a recovery.

Four earlier attempts were made by the Air Force but failed when the capsules were never sighted after their ejection. One plunged prematurely into the Arctic.

A capsule linked to Discoverer VII failed to eject because of an electrical system malfunction but scientists were more optimistic about the present attempt.

They said they have weather-proofed the satellite to withstand cold temperatures in space that caused tiny mercury batteries to freeze before activating the capsule. The capsule weighs 310 pounds and measures 27 inches in length and 33 inches in diameter.

ODDS WERE quoted at 700-1 against recovery. The feat if successful would be "the most significant achievement to date in space," the Air Force said. It is a necessary step on the path toward orbiting a human into space.

Discoverer VIII was scheduled to unleash the capsule some 27 hours after yesterday's launching at 2:25 p.m. EST and 17 passes over the North and South Poles.

Aircraft planned to snag the object from the sky as it parachutes back to earth while ships prepared to pluck it out of the sea. The capsule is designed to float after it strikes the water.

Before the radio-controlled ejection can be accomplished, however, the satellite must be in position and stabilized properly in orbit.

1959

Monday, 23rd November 1959. Observed by the Rev. Albert M. Ririka, of the Anglican Mission, Menapi, Papuan Priest. Also by Japhet Kirakai, Mission teacher and Cecil Kaibea, a Native Medical Assistant (Administration).

Time. First seen by Cecil about 7.30 p.m. Observed by Father Albert and Japhet at about 8.30 p.m.

The sky was cloudy to the north and west, but comparatively clear to the east (over the sea and Goodenough Bay). The observers were on the Mission Station at Koyabagira, one of the Outstations of Menapi and about 15 miles S.W. from there. The station is right on the shore with a clear view to the east and southeast across Goodenough Bay to the ranges of Boianai and Dogura. Boianai is approximately 20 miles across the Bay (or a bit less). They saw a brilliant illuminated disc (or sphere?) in the sky in the direction of Boianai. It was above the level of the mountains but not at a high elevation. It was approximately half the size of the full moon, but much brighter. The light was pure white, and did not change. Beneath the bright object (which he described as "like a plate") was a dark "boat-shaped" object, like a black cloud. They watched the round object slowly descend until it slowly disappeared "into" (or behind?) the black "cloud" being gradually eclipsed until it went out. The bright object did not reappear. But the black object was still visible in the same position an hour later. Fr. Albert estimated the time from his sighting of the bright object until its passing into the dark object to be about ten minutes. But Cecil the NNA said it had been there since 7.30.

There are a number of curious points about this sighting.

First: The bright object could not have been the moon, which does not rise until about midnight or later, and in any case is now only a small crescent.

Second: Although at first the "disc" was giving out a brilliant light so that the black "cloud" stood out against the glow in the sky, when the "disc" passed behind the "cloud" the glow disappeared, suggesting either that it had extinguished

THE A. P. R. O. BULLETIN

its light, or that it had passed into the black object, which must then have been a solid object, not a cloud.

Third: The black object never moved during the whole sighting, nor did it change its boatlike shape (pointed at both ends) or its size. It was in the same position an hour later. Surely, had it been a cloud, it would have moved or changed its shape in a fraction of this time. I have never known a cloud to remain stationary and the same shape for more than five minutes, let alone an hour. This suggests that the object was a solid craft of some sort, probably a Mother Ship. Japhet (the teacher) is sure that it was a craft, as his school children claim several times to have seen "things like boats in the sky" passing over Koyabariga at night. I remember hearing this in July, when the sightings were at their height.

These witnesses are absolutely reliable, Fr. Albert particularly so. He is well educated, steady, unimaginative and completely truthful person.

(Signed) Witness M. Ririka
Japhet Kirakai

Recorder: Norman E. G. Cruftwell
Note: Boianai is 20 m (app.) from Koyabagira. The thing appeared over Boianai, but must really have been much nearer to Koyabagira.

N.E.G.C.

29 November 1959
Miami, Florida

On Nov. 29 U.S. Navy Pharmaceutical Aviation Technician Joseph John Rehill photographed a "sudden flash", which showed 5 white objects in the sky, one which was followed by a faint streak over Miami, Florida.

U. S. NAVY MAN PHOTOGRAPHS UAO

Miami, Fla., 29 Nov. 1959—Joseph John Rehill, 39, U. S. Navy pharmaceutical-aviation technician, was focusing his camera at an empty parking lot. Catching a glimpse of a "sudden flash," he snapped the shutter. When the transparency was developed, it showed five white spots in the sky—one of them followed by a faint streak.

Interrogated by N. F. Garity of S.P.A.C.E. (267 Alhambra, Coral Gables, Fla.) Rehill was not too cooperative. He admitted that he had had a session with Air Force Intelligence officers. They had examined his Argus C-3 camera as well as the complete set of transparencies from that particular roll of film and had found no evidence of fakery, he said. And yet this man with 19 years of naval aviation service says he did not scan the sky after taking the picture to see if the UFOs were still there.

DECEMBER 1959 SIGHTINGS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>EVALUATION</u>
1	Kalispell, Montana	[REDACTED]	Aircraft (REFUEL OPR)
2	Greenville, Mississippi	Military	Insufficient Data
3	Alpha, Ohio	[REDACTED]	Aircraft
8	Riviera Beach, Florida	Multi	Other (MISSILE)
11	N Pacific (E of Hawaii)	Military	Astro (METEOR)
14	New York, New York	[REDACTED]	Insufficient Data
18	Victoria Island, Canada	Military (RADAR)	Insufficient Data
19	Burgoon, Ohio	[REDACTED]	Insufficient Data
21	Berlin, Germany	[REDACTED]	Astro (METEOR)
23	W of Albuquerque, New Mexico	Military (RADAR)	Balloon

ADDITIONAL REPORTED SIGHTINGS (NOT CASES)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>EVALUATION</u>
Dec	Universe	Science News Ltr	
Dec	Cheshire, Ohio	Newsclipping	
1	Fontana, California	Newsclipping	
1	Oakland-Fremont Area, California	Newsclipping	
10	Caanan, Connecticut	Newsclipping	
10	Willoughby, Ohio	Newsclipping	
16	Junction, Texas	Newsclipping	
16	Rapid City, South Dakota	Newsclipping	
17	Fulton, Mississippi	Newsclipping	
22	Oakdale, California	Newsclipping	
29	Boston, Massachusetts	Newsclipping	