

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 15 April 53 16/2445Z	2. LOCATION Tucson, Arizona
3. SOURCE Military & Civilian 4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS Four	10. CONCLUSION 1-2-4 (UNIDENTIFIED) 3 (AIRCRAFT) Geometry: Time (duration) might hold key to puzzle. Sighting number 3 regarded as an aircraft.
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Few Seconds 3 Min - 1 Min - 30 Sec	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Four reddish-orange objects traveling at a high rate of speed and at a high altitude were observed at time intervals. Length of each sighting varied from 3 minutes to a few seconds. Source also stated that objects appeared to be flickering and each object made a 280 deg turn. Portion of duration on inbound Vs outbound. Motion not included. Statement that path not erratic assumes constant speed.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE 1-2-4 3-4 S-NNW Orbit	
8. PHOTOS EXX (No Image) ☐ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes EXX No	

United States

2 Witnesses

IR-23-53

UNCLASSIFIED

15/2/45

FLYCRPT - Sighting of Unidentified Aerial Objects

Southwestern United States

Headquarters 36th Air Division
Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona

20 April 1953

15 April 1953

F-3

1st Lt David S. Costello

Personal Interrogation of Witness

On 15 April 1953, four separate sightings were made of unidentified bright lights. All sightings were made from 32° 12' N 110° 57' W between 2145 to 2210. Twice the lights were observed heading in a direction from north to south and then turning to a northwest heading and disappearing. The observer estimates the sightings to be at an extremely high altitude. The only known aerial activity was a C-46 aircraft departing Davis-Monthan Air Force Base at 2159 for Travis Air Force Base, California.

APPROVED:

Thomas J. Stiganac

THOMAS J. STIGANAC

Major, USAF

Asst Chief, Intelligence Division

303d Bombardment Wing, Medium

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

ATTC 117848

UNCLASSIFIED

Headquarters 36th Air Division
Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Ariz.

IR-23-53

1

2

1. On the night of 15 April 1953, four unidentified sightings of lights over Tucson, Arizona, were observed and reported.

a. The first sighting was orange-red, predominating color was orange. It was first sighted coming from the north on a heading of south then making a right turn to a northwest heading. The light appeared to slow down before making the turn to the northwest. It appeared to be at an extremely high altitude. The path was definite and not erratic. No aerodynamic features, trail, propulsion system, or sound were noted. The speed resembled that of a shooting star.

b. The second sighting also came from the north heading south. It appeared similar, but brighter, and possibly lower than the first sighting. It also turned to the northwest but had not proceeded as far south as the first sighting before it turned. The observer took three 15 second time exposures with a box camera. Because of the speed of the film and short exposures the negatives were blank when developed. While the observer was writing information his wife saw two aircraft about 2202 hours proceeding on a northwesterly heading. Davis-Monthan Base Operations verified that a C-46 departed this station at 2159 for Travis Air Force Base, California. The heading taken for such a flight would be northwest.

c. The observer suggested that the third sighting could have been a very high speed aircraft. It was a blinking bluish light, going at a very high rate of speed in a turn of about 480° then disappeared. The observer took another exposure with his camera of 15 seconds which failed to show anything when developed.

d. The fourth sighting was orange and as bright as the second observation and was seen on a northwest heading for a short time only.

2. a. Sighting #1 - 2145 - approximately three minutes duration.

b. Sighting #2 - 2200 - one minute duration.

c. Sighting #3 - 2207 - few seconds.

d. Sighting #4 - 2210 - thirty seconds duration.

3. Observations were all visual.

4. Location of observer was at 2957 East 17th Street, Tucson, Arizona, coordinates 32° 12' North 110° 57' West.

5. The observer was S/3gt [REDACTED], 358th Bomb Squadron, 303d Bombardment Wing, Medium, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson, Arizona. Sergeant [REDACTED] has three years experience as a radar observer and plotter in the Navy and USAF. He has held the following MOS's - 768, 510, and 514. Sergeant [REDACTED] has approximately seven years of service and is a career airman. He is 24 years of age and appears to have sound and reliable judgement. His observations were also witnessed by his wife.

6. Tucson weather at 2130 was clear - 40/098/68/24/ - - - 8/992.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
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-DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED


UNCLASSIFIED

Headquarters 36th Air Division
Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, Ariz.

IR-23-53

2

2

7. There was no known meteorological activity which may have caused this phenomena.

8. Four photographs were taken of these sightings. Because of the slow speed of the film and short exposure time of 15 seconds the film was blank when developed.

9. No positive type of identification was made. (Evaluation F-3)

APPROVED:

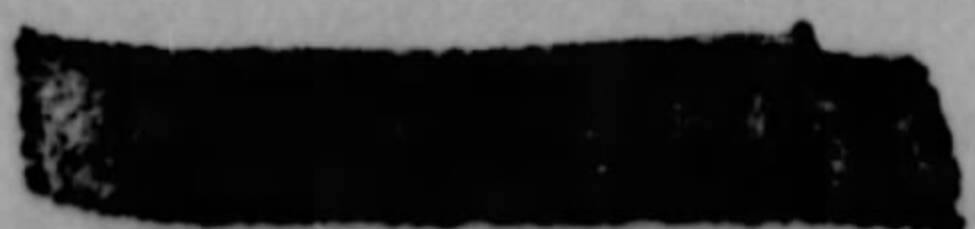
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U. S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

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?

15 APRIL 1953
Day Month Year

2. Time of day:

2145 - 2210

Hour

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?

[REDACTED]
Nearest Postal Address

TUCSON

City or Town

ARIZONA

State or Country

Additional remarks: _____

5. Estimate how long you saw the object.

Hours

20

Minutes

Seconds

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

a. Certain

b. Fairly certain

c. Not very sure

d. Just a guess

6. What was the condition of the sky?

(Circle One): a. Bright daylight
b. Dull daylight
c. Bright twilight

d. Just a trace of daylight
e. No trace of daylight
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
b. In back of you
c. To your right

N/A.

d. To your left
e. Overhead
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 | ☒ No | Don't Know |
| b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time? | Yes | ☒ No | Don't Know |
| c. Break up into parts or explode? | Yes | ☒ No | Don't Know |
| d. Give off smoke? | Yes | ☒ No | ☒ Don't Know |
| e. Change brightness? | Yes | ☒ No | Don't Know |
| f. Change shape? | Yes | ☒ No | Don't Know |
| g. Flicker, throb, or pulsate? | ☒ Yes | ☒ 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: _____

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 | 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 NO SOUND

b. Color ORANGE OR ORANGE RED FLICKERING

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.

N/A

18. The edges of the object were:

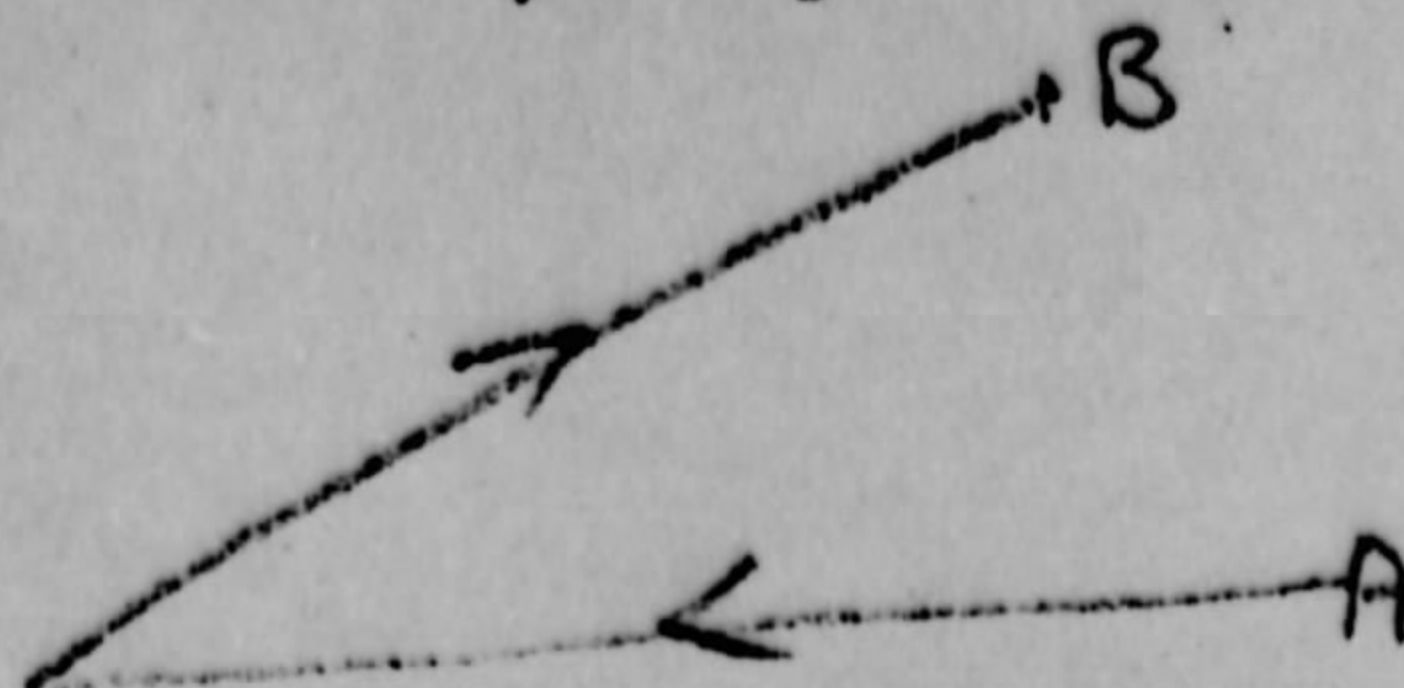
- (Circle One):
- a. Fuzzy or blurred
 - b. Like a bright star
 - c. Sharply outlined
 - d. Don't remember

e. Other _____

19. IF there was MORE THAN ONE object, then how many were there? 3 or 4 at different time intervals
Draw a picture of how they were arranged, and put an arrow to show the direction that they were traveling.

N/A

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.



21. IF POSSIBLE, try to guess or estimate what the real size of the object was in its longest dimension.
UNKNOWN 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
b. Pea
c. Dime
d. Nickel
e. Quarter
f. Half dollar

- g. Silver dollar
h. Baseball
i. Grapefruit
j. Basketball
k. Other _____

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

- a. Certain
b. Fairly certain

- c. Not very sure
d. Uncertain

23. How did the object or objects disappear from view? DISTANCE

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.

A SHOOTING STAR, LESS THE TAIL, BEING ABLE TO MAKE
A 280° TURN WITHOUT SKIDDING.

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?

WATCHING FOR SHOOTING STARS WITH MY WIFE LYING ON
MY BACK ON A BLANKET IN THE YARD.

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 |
- N/A*

28.2 How fast were you moving? _____ 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)

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <u>a. North</u> | 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 | <u>h. Northwest</u> |

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).

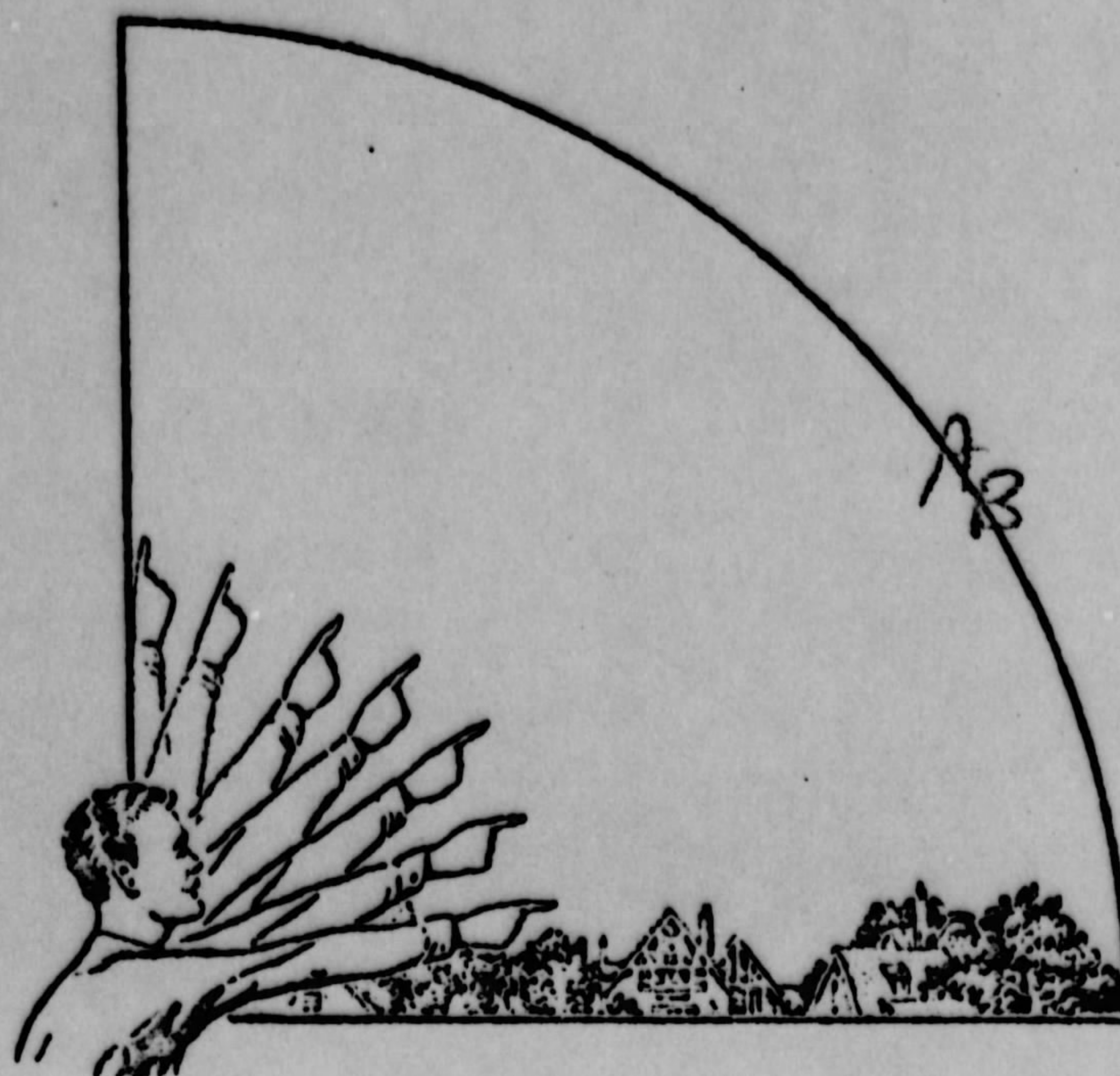
31.1 When it first appeared:

- a. From true North 0° degrees.
- b. From horizon 40° degrees.

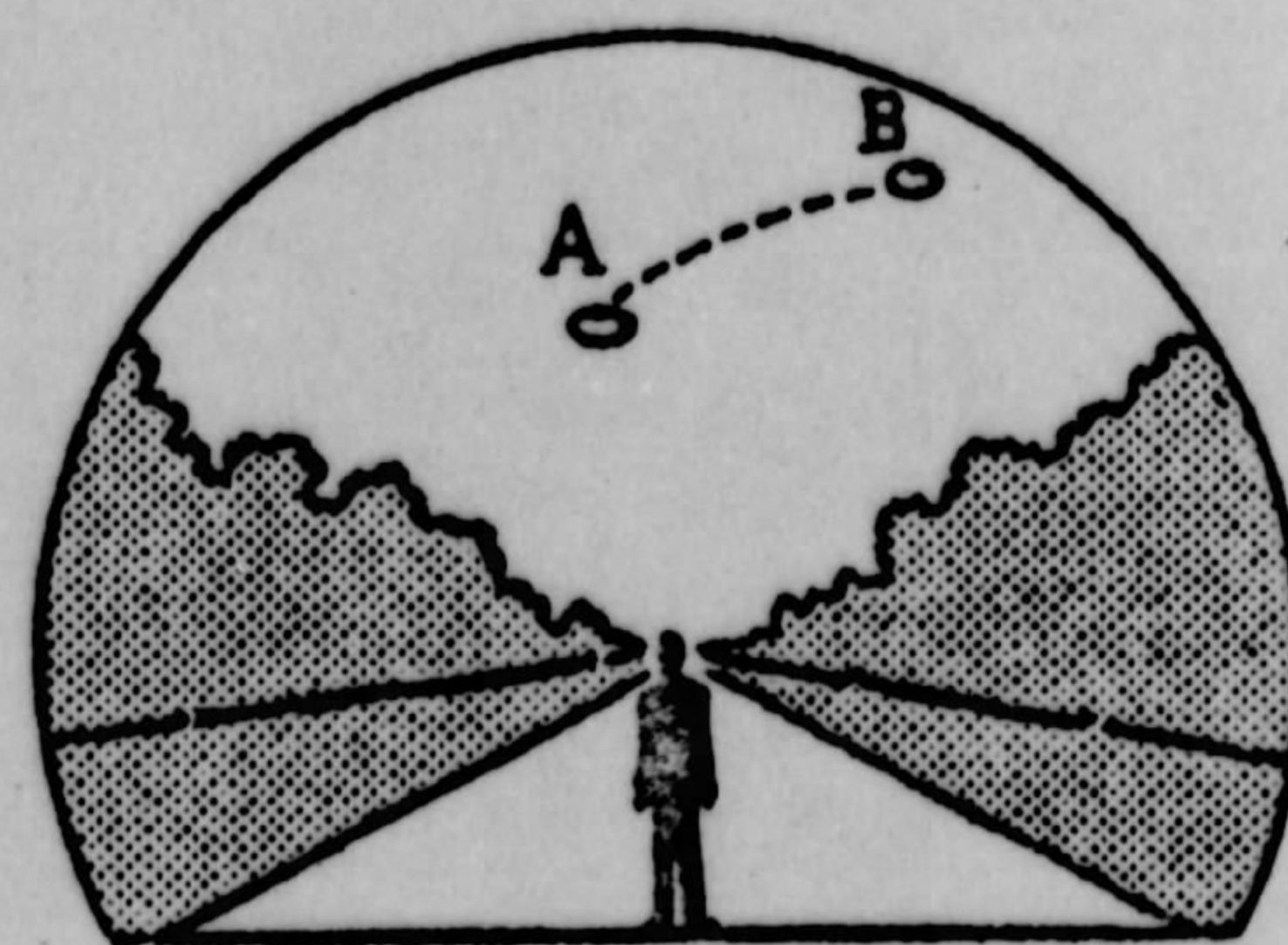
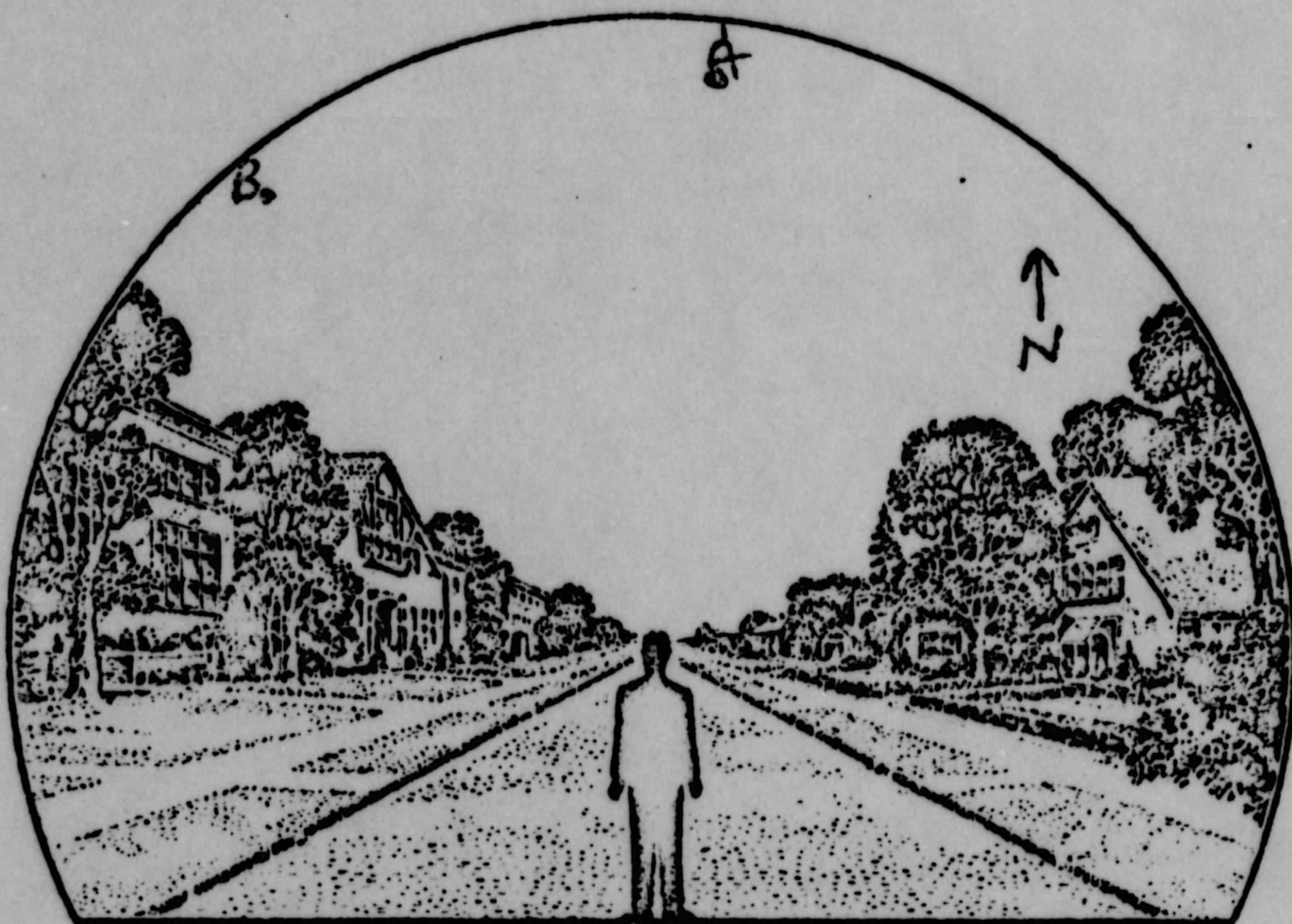
31.2 When it disappeared:

- a. From true North 280° degrees.
- b. From horizon 35-40° degrees.

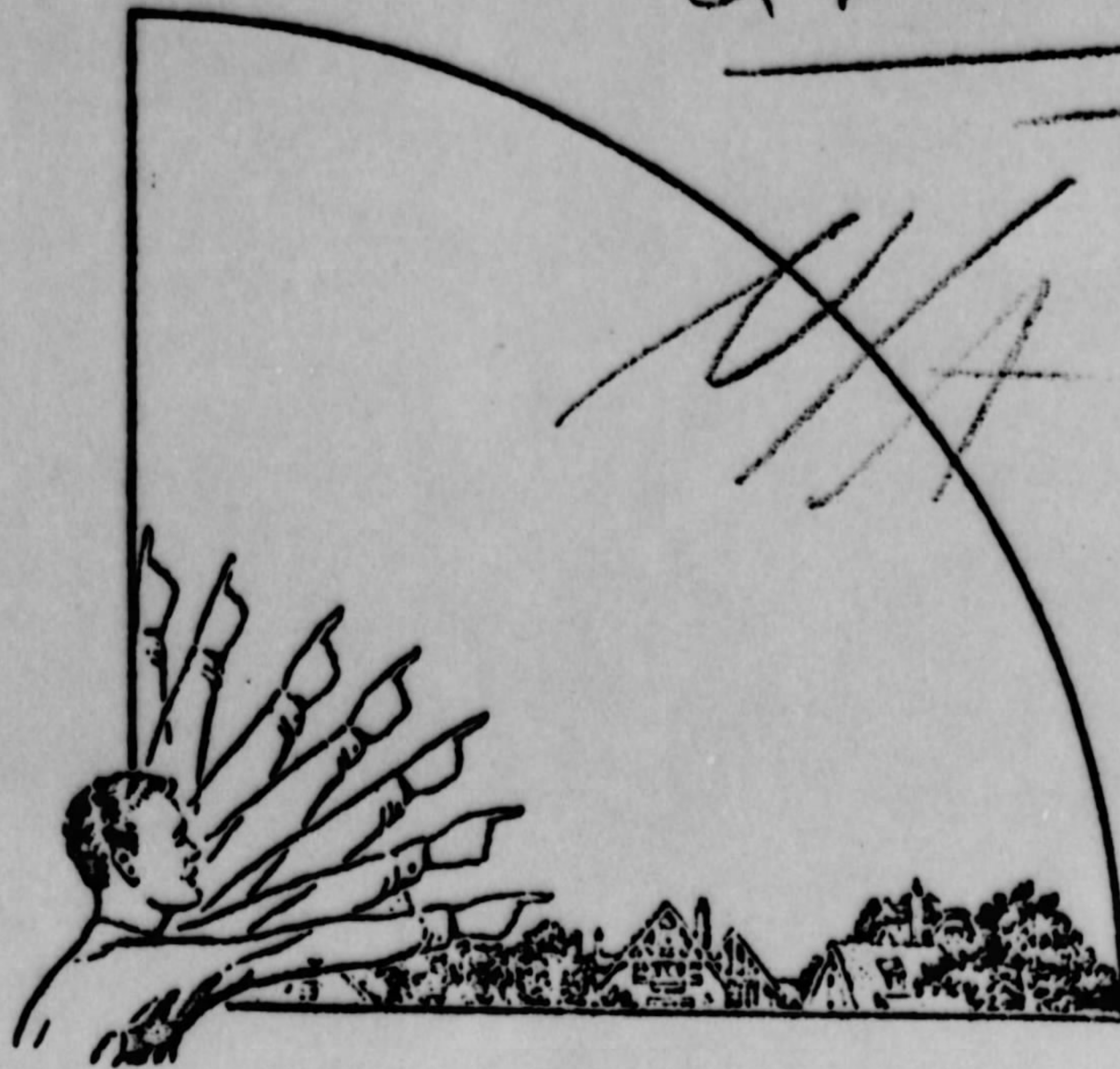
32. In the following sketch, imagine that you are at the point shown. Place an "A" on the curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *first* saw it. Place a "B" on the same curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *last* saw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



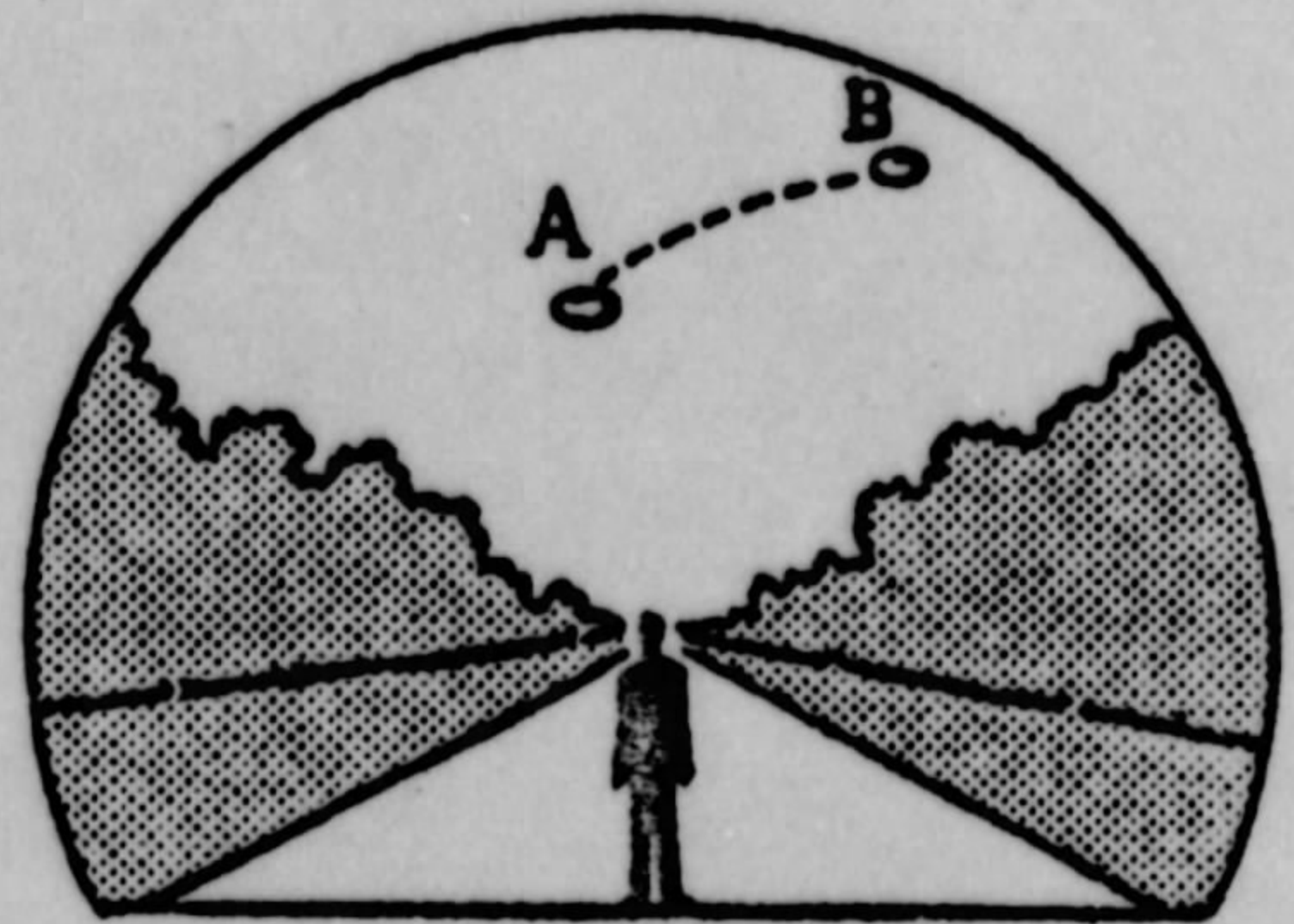
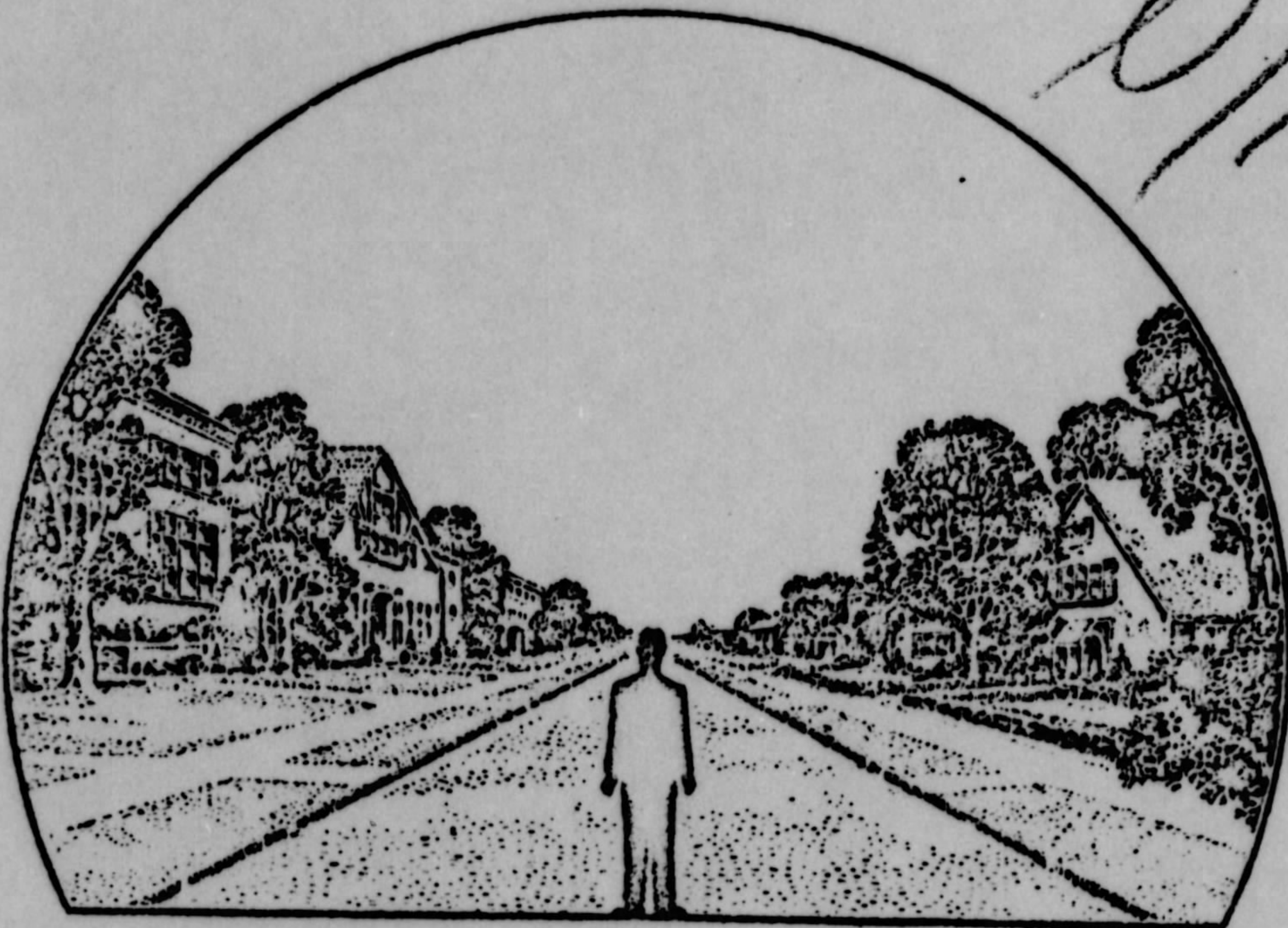
33. In the following larger sketch place an "A" at the position the object was when you *first* saw it, and a "B" at its position when you *last* saw it. Refer to smaller sketch as an example of how to complete the larger sketch.



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?

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:

[REDACTED] (WIFE)
TUCSON, ARIZONA

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?

POSSIBLY SOMETHING SIMILAR TO THE "FLYING SAUCER"
ONLY A NIGHT VERSION

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

(Circle One)

☒ Yes

☐ No

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

1500 + m.p.h.

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

(Circle One)

☒ Yes

☐ No

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

100,000 + feet.

41. Please give the following information about yourself:

NAME

[REDACTED]
Last Name

[REDACTED]
First Name

[REDACTED]
Middle Name

ADDRESS

[REDACTED]
Street

[REDACTED]
City

[REDACTED]
Zone

ARIZONA
State

TELEPHONE NUMBER

NONE

What is your present job?

CFC GUNNER B-29 TYPE BOMBER

Age

25

Sex

MALE

Please indicate any special educational training that you have had.

a. Grade school

☒

e. e. Technical school

REMOTE CONTROL TURRET MELIT

b. High school

☒

GED USAFI

(Type)

B-29 B-26

c. College

f. Other special training

RADAR PLOTTER 2

d. Post graduate

OBSERVER (ENLISTED)

42. Date you completed this questionnaire:

14

Day

MAY

Month

1953

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

(Please Print)

(Do Not Write in This Space)

CODE:

SIGNATURE

DATE

19 May 53

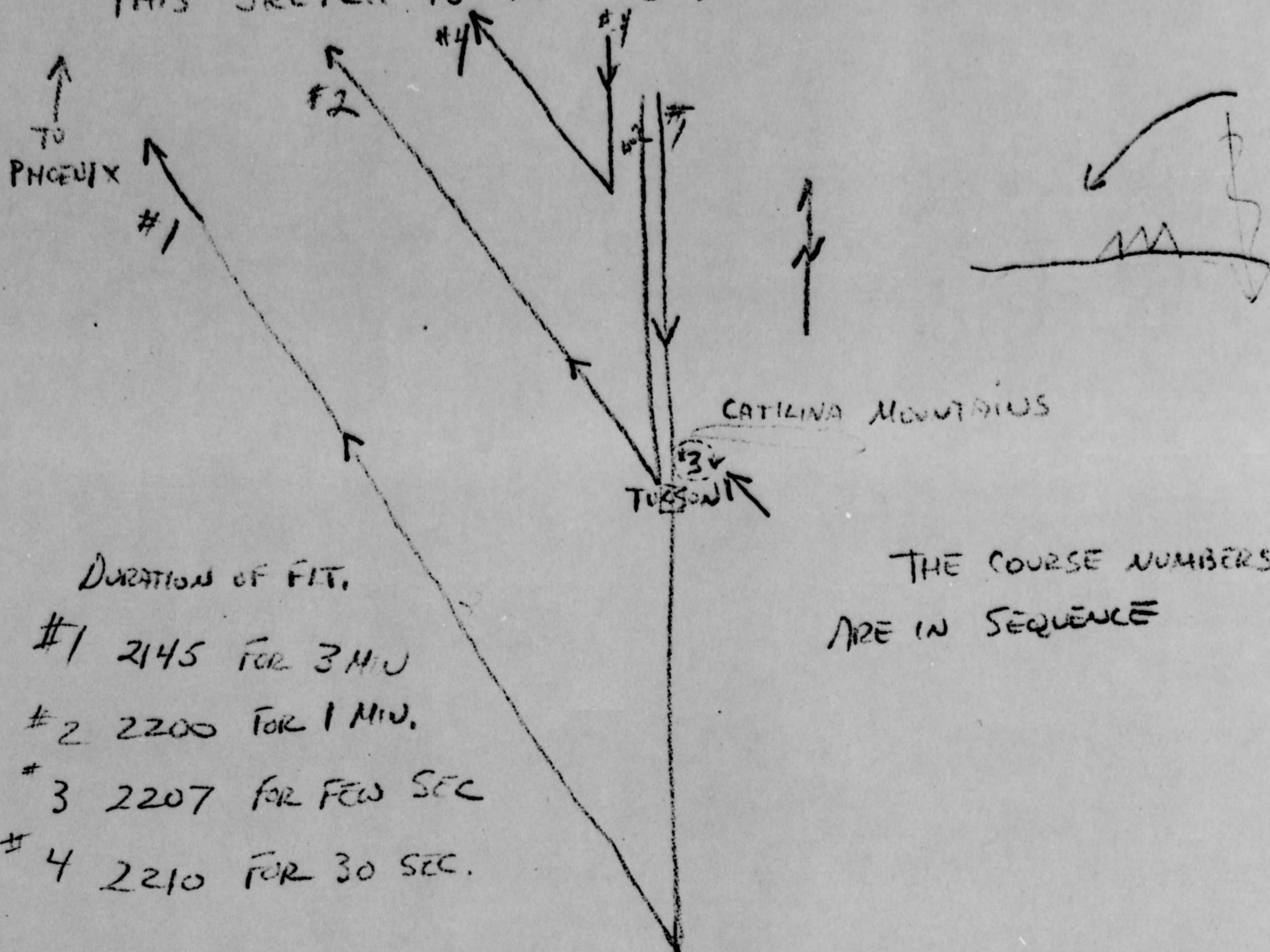
OBSERVED THREE POSITIVE SIGHTINGS ALL COMING FROM TRUE NORTH AT EXTREMELY HIGH ALTITUDE AND HIGH SPEED, MAKING A UNKNOWN "G" TURN. SKETCH ON NEXT PAGE WILL INDICATE COURSES. OBSERVE #3 WAS PROBABLE AIRCRAFT AT 15-18 THOUSAND FEET - STEADY BLUE LIGHT IN CIRCLE DISAPPEARING FOR UNKNOWN REASONS AFTER ONE COMPLETE CYCLE. APPEARED TO BE A STANDARD 360° TURN

EACH OF THE OTHER LIGHTS (#12-4) BROKE OFF A TRUE SOUTHERN COURSE APPROX 30 MILES FURTHER NORTH FROM THE LAST ONE AND HEADED APPROX 280°. THE TURNS MUST HAVE POLLED IMPOSSIBLE "G"s BECAUSE THEY WERE SUDDENLY ON A COURSE 280° FROM THE LAST HEADING MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL WHEN THE TURN.

STARTED AND WHEN IT FINISHED, IT DID NOT SEEM
TO BE AFFECTED BY INERTIA AT ALL

I HAVE OBSERVED MANY AIRCRAFT IN MANY FLIGHT
PHASES, AND NEVER SAW ANY AIRCRAFT WITH THIS PERFORMANCE

THIS SKETCH IS LOOKING DOWN FROM ABOVE



DURATION OF FIT.

- #1 2145 FOR 3 MIN
- #2 2200 FOR 1 MIN.
- #3 2207 FOR FEW SEC
- #4 2210 FOR 30 SEC.

THE COURSE NUMBERS
ARE IN SEQUENCE