

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 8 Dec 55		2. LOCATION Chama, New Mexico		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft Helicopter ☐ Probably Aircraft ☒ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 08/2330Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 8 sec		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE unk	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING 1 obj, shaped like body of panel truck blue gray in color. Seemed to have black pipe projecting from sides, source had never seen helicopter but thought it might be one.				11. COMMENTS Possible Helo.	

THIS CASE INCLUDES

A CLIPPING FROM

LIFE MAGAZINE

Multi

Log 4E4

16

HEADQUARTERS
4602d AIR INTELLIGENCE SERVICE SQUADRON (ADC)
ENT AIR FORCE BASE
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

AISOP

2 FEB 1956

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Object (UFOB) Report

TO: Commander
Air Technical Intelligence Center
ATTN: AFOIN-4EL
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

1. On 26 January 1956 this headquarters was informed by the Office of Special Investigation (OSI) that a UFOB had been sighted one mile east of Sublette Station, New Mexico, by Mr. [REDACTED], railroad conductor for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.

2. Although this organization felt that the sighting was in the realm of the nebulous and did not warrant a follow-up investigation, it was decided to telephonically complete an ATIC Form 164 with the SOURCE to prevent the report from filtering into governmental agencies other than USAF and to avoid possible unfavorable publicity. At the same time Mr. Hinton was informed of the responsibilities of this squadron and of ATIC with respect to analysis, investigation, and release of evaluations to the public.

3. Forwarded herewith are two letters from Mr. [REDACTED] concerning the sighting and a completed ATIC Form 164 for your information and action deemed necessary. Further investigation of this sighting is not deemed necessary because of its failure to meet investigative criteria, the lack of a preliminary report, the elapsed time, and the definite overactive imagination of the SOURCE.

3 Incls

1. Ltr, 30 Dec 55
fm Mr. [REDACTED]
2. Ltr, 20 Jan 56
fm Mr. [REDACTED]
3. ATIC Form 164

John M White Jr
JOHN M WHITE JR
Colonel, USAF
Commander

*base file
no further action
LH*

CHAM(NEW MEXICO.
DECEMBER 30, 1955

MR. VERN HALLENBECK
COLO. SPGS. COLO.

DEAR VERN:-

SURE ENJOYED HEARING FROM YOU XMAS AND GLAD TO GET THAT RED FLASHING LANTERN AND ALSO VERY GLAD TO GET THE JUMPE AGAIN AND HAVE WONDERED A MILLION TIMES WHAT EVER BECOME OF I I ALMOST TOOK THE CABOOSE APART LOOKING FOR IT AND YOUR ~~XXXX~~ PACKAGE WAS A COMPLETE SUPRISE TO ME. THANKS AGAIN!

AND HERE IS SOMETHING ELSE I WANT YOU TO KNOW AND IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT CONCERNS COL. HEITMAN OR SOME OTHER MILITARY MAN. PLEASE READ THE ATTACHED CLIPPINGS THAT I CUT FROM A LOCAL PAPER SEVERAL DAYS AGO. THEY TELL ABOUT DIFFERENT PEOPLE SEEING A "THING" IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF COLORADO AND I WANT COL. HEITMAN TO KNOW THAT MY REAR BRAKEMAN AND MYSELF SAW THIS X "THING" THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 8TH AND IT WAS NOT HIGH IN THE AIR NOR WAS IT GOING AT A HIGH SPEED. WE SAW IT ABOUT A HUNDRED NORTH OF THE TRACK ONE MILE EAST OF SUBLET STATION AND IT SEEMED TO BE TRYING TO GET INTO THE AIR AND JUST BARELY CLEARED A ROW OF 30 FOOT HIGH ASPEN TREES AND THE WENT RIGHT DOWN OUT OF SIGHT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HILL--- YOU KNOW "OVER THE HILL". THIS IS NOT A PIPE DREAM. VERN, LEROY SHELL AND I WATCHED IT SEVERAL SECONDS FROM THE CUPALO OF OUR CABOOSE AND WONDERED IF IT COULD BE A HELICOPTER IN TROUBLE. NEITHER OF US EVER SAW A HELICOPTER IN THE AIR AND WE WONDERED IF THE ROTOR BLADES TURNED SO FAST THEY COULD NOT BE SEEN. WE COULD NOT SEE ANY BLADES ABOVE THE MACHINE BUT IT LOOKED LIKE ITXMAN HAD ONE OR TWO BLACK PIPES STICKING OUT EACH SIDE. JUST ABOUT A FOOT OR SO. THE "THING" SEEMED ABOUT THE SIZE OF A SMALL PANEL TRUCK BODY AND WAS A BLUE-GRAY COLOR.

AND HERE IS SOMETHING ELSE THAT MIGHT INTEREST SOMEONE. ABOUT 6 OR 8 WEEKS AGO A BLOND BAREHEADED YOUNG MAN CAME DOWN TO THE DEPOT HERE IN CHAMA AND WANTED TO SEE SOMEONE WHO WAS FAMILAR WITH THE TERRITORY WHERE THE RR TRACK RUN BETWEEN ANTONITO AND CHAMA. I TOLD THIS FELLOW THAT I KNEW EVERY FOOT OF IT LIKE I KNEW MY BACK YARD AND THEN HE PULLED OUT SEVERAL AIR PHOTOGRAPHS OF THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY AND WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS VERY PART OF THE COUNTRY WHERE THIS "THING" WAS A FEW WEEKS LATER. HE TOLD ME HE WAS WORKING FOR SOME MAP MAKERS. AND THIS FACT MIGHT MEAN SOMETHING---THE "THING" AT THIS TIME WAS ABOUT 75 AIR MILES FROM LOS ALAMOS.

HAPPY NEW YEAR--VERN--TO YOU AND ALL THE OTHER FOLKS OUR CREWS KNOW AND PLEASE DO NOT THINK SHELL AND I WERE HAVING A PIPE DREAM LAST DECEMBER 8TH. REGARDS TO ALL

Red #1

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Walt

Alamosa Colorado
January 20, 1956.

Col. C. L. Heitman, Jr.
Chief of Staff
Fort Carson, Colorado.

Dear Colonel:-

Yours of 12 January 1956 regarding the flying machine my rear brakeman and myself saw one mile east of Sublette on date of 12-8-55. Was in a barber shop this afternoon getting my fringe of hair trimmed up (one buck and a quarter for five minutes work) and I found this picture of a new type of plane in Life magazine. Here is the exact type of plane or "thing" that LeRoy Shell and I watched for several seconds and what I described to you ~~XXXXXX~~ and ~~Vern~~ as looking ~~XXXX~~ like small panel truck body.

Here is an exact picture of the outfit we saw getting over those quaken asp trees east of Sublette but I do beleive the "thing" we saw was somewhat larger than this appears in the attached picture. The outfit we saw had black pipes sticking out each side and we were close enough to see that the pipes were square ~~X~~ instead of round.

The little description below the big picture says that this out fit is very new but I think that some one has it in actual ~~XXXXXX~~ service in this country. I sure ^{hope} your Air Force intelligence at Ent Air Force base in Colorado Springs gets on the job and find out just what kind of stunt this outfit is mixed up in 70 Or 75 air miles from Los Alamos.

I wish you all the luck in the world at your new station in Tokyo and will look foward to the day when I can see all you folks again. Tell Vern "Hello" and with the very best of regards,

I remain,

Sincerely yours,

~~W. L. Heitman~~
~~W. L. Heitman~~

Box ~~100~~,
Alamosa, Colorado.

incl #2

This form completed telephonically, 26 Jan 56

Form A

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?

8 12 55
Day Month Year

2. Time of day: 1630

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?

Nearest Postal Address

City or Town

State or Country

Additional remarks:

Chama New Mexico
One (1) mile east of Sublette Station,
New Mexico

5. Estimate how long you saw the object.

Hours

Minutes

7 to 8
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

d. To your left

e. Overhead

f. Don't remember

but #3

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

N/A

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?:

N/A

(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:

Disappeared behind a group of aspen trees

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:

Appeared between observer and afore mentioned trees

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
b. Sun glasses Yes
c. Windshield Yes
d. Window glass Yes

No
No
No
No

- e. Binoculars Yes
f. Telescope Yes
g. Theodolite Yes
h. Other

No
No
No
No

Leroy Shell

W. Hinton

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

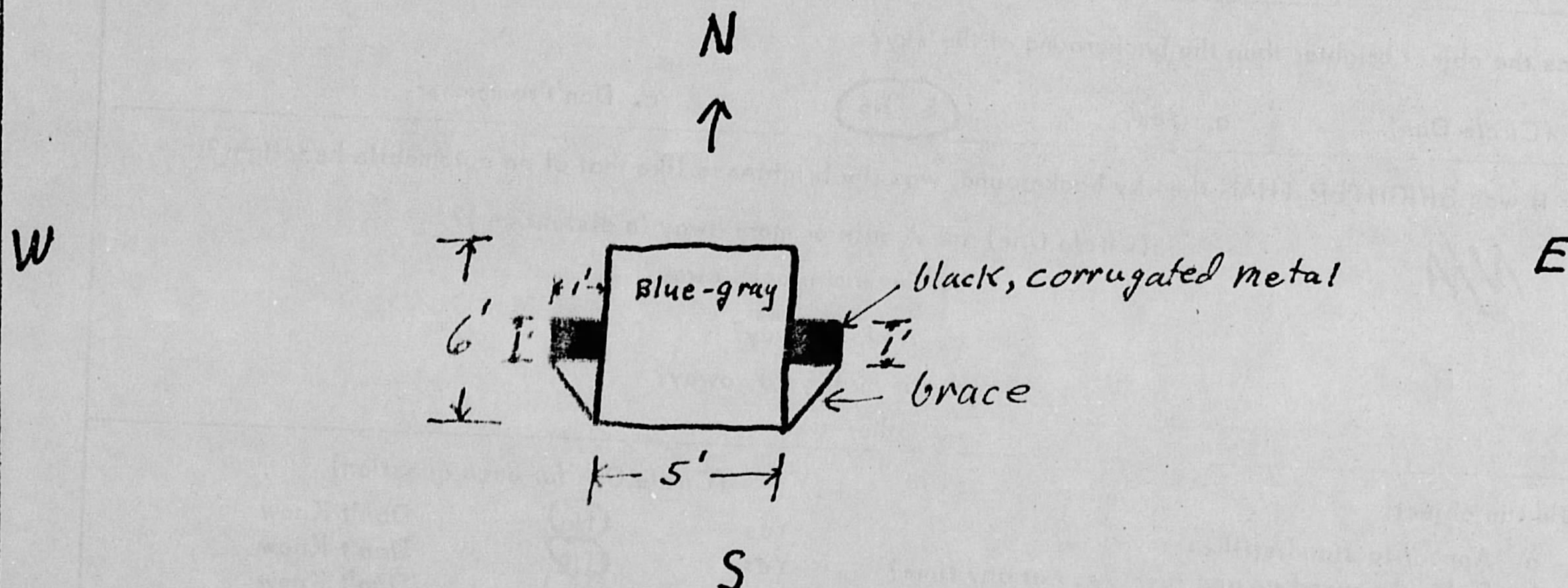
a. Sound

None

b. Color

Body of object: blue-gray
Pipes on side: black

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? N/A (one object)
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.

See attached

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

6' 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 |
| b. Peg | h. Baseball |
| c. Dime | i. Grapefruit |
| d. Nickel | j. Basketball |
| e. Quarter | k. Other <i>SOURCE unsure</i> |
| f. Half dollar | |

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

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| a. Certain | c. Not very sure |
| b. Fairly certain | d. <u>Uncertain</u> |

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

Disappeared behind clump of aspen trees

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.

SOURCE had never seen helicopter but thought it could have been one; but felt it was more likely an object similar to the attached photos (taken from LIFE magazine).

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 Train caboose

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 Open mountainous country

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

Riding in caboose of train watching country-side. Motion of object attracted observer's attention.

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
- b. Northeast

- c. East
- ☒ d. Southeast

- e. South
- f. Southwest

- g. West
- h. Northwest

28.2 How fast were you moving? 15-18 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
- b. Northeast

- c. East
- d. Southeast

- e. South
- f. Southwest

- g. West
- h. Northwest

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

- a. North
- b. Northeast

- c. East
- d. Southeast

- e. South
- f. Southwest

- ☒ g. West
- 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).

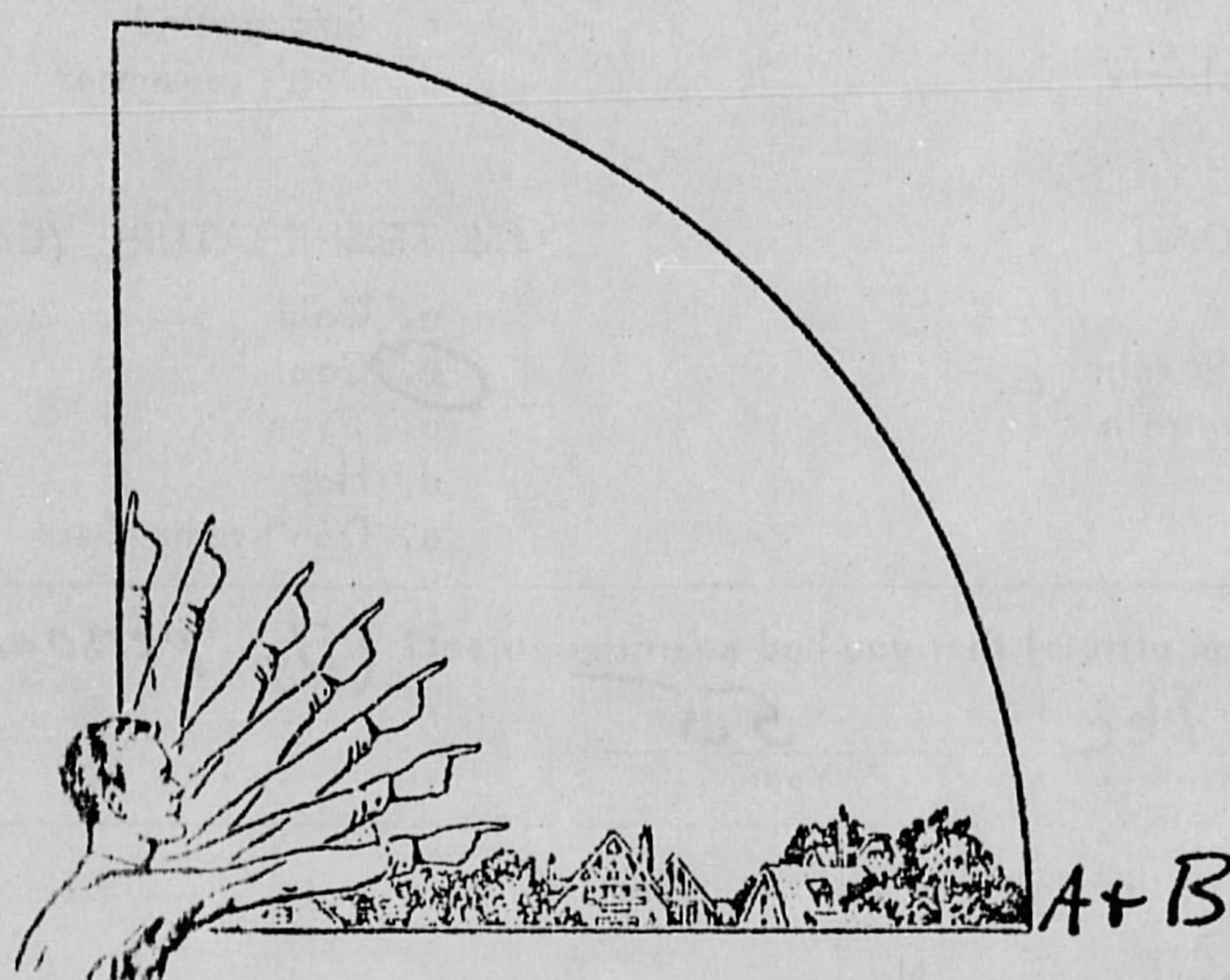
31.1 When it first appeared:

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

31.2 When it disappeared:

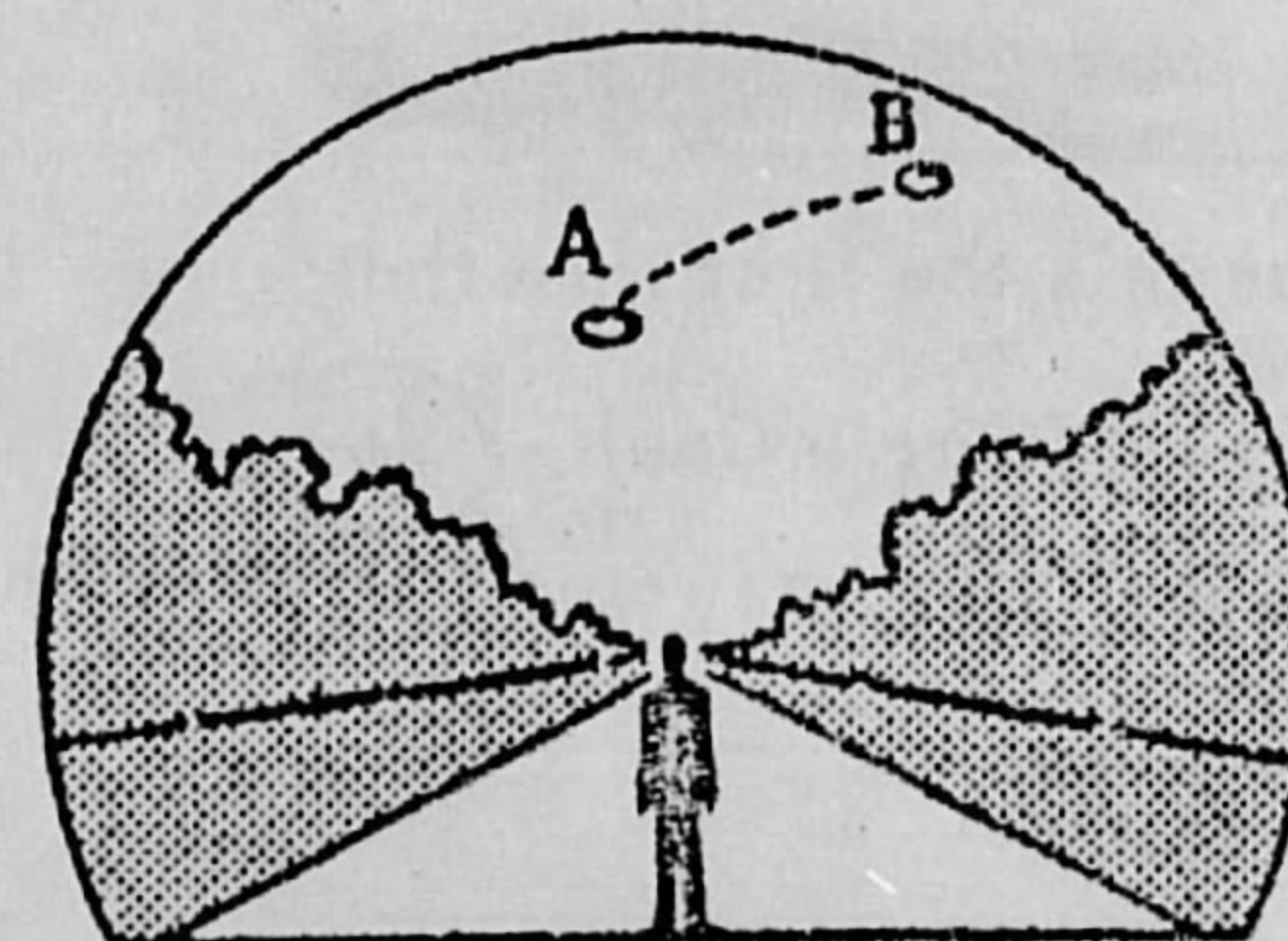
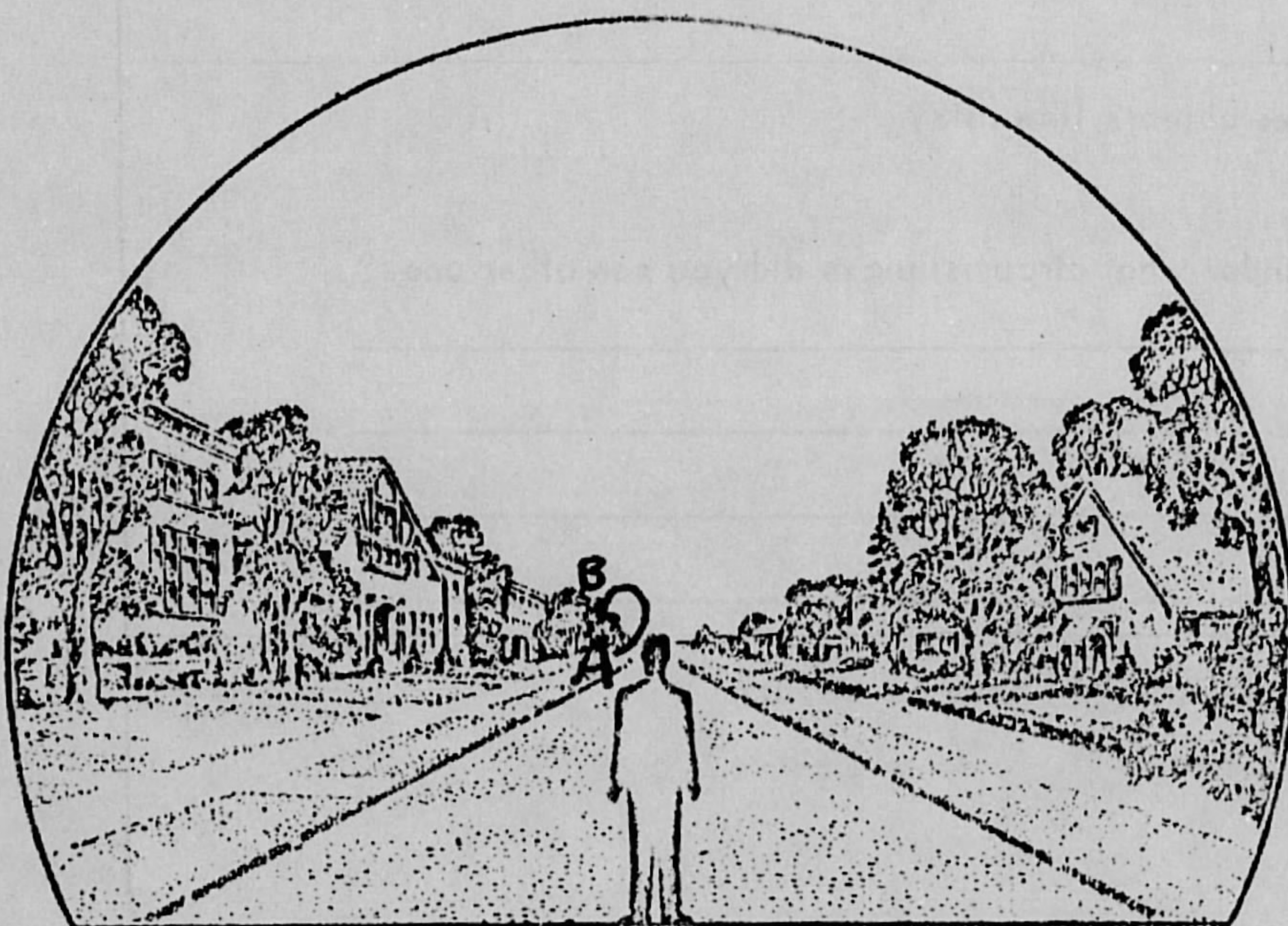
- a. From true North 315° degrees.
- b. From horizon 0 degrees.

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.



See attached

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? (By personnel letter)

30

Day

Dec

Month

55

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:

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
Alamosa, Colo.
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

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 helicopter

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?

6-10 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?

Initially 60 feet. Finally 100 yds

41. Please give the following information about yourself:

NAME

Last Name

First

ADDRESS

Alamosa

City

Zone

Colo

State

TELEPHONE NUMBER

What is your present job?

railroad conductor (40 yrs)

Age

61

Sex

M

Please indicate any special educational training that you have had.

a. Grade school

✓

e. e. Technical school

none

b. High school

2 yrs

(Type)

c. College

none

f. Other special training

none

d. Post graduate

none

42. Date you completed this questionnaire:

26

Day

Jan

Month

56

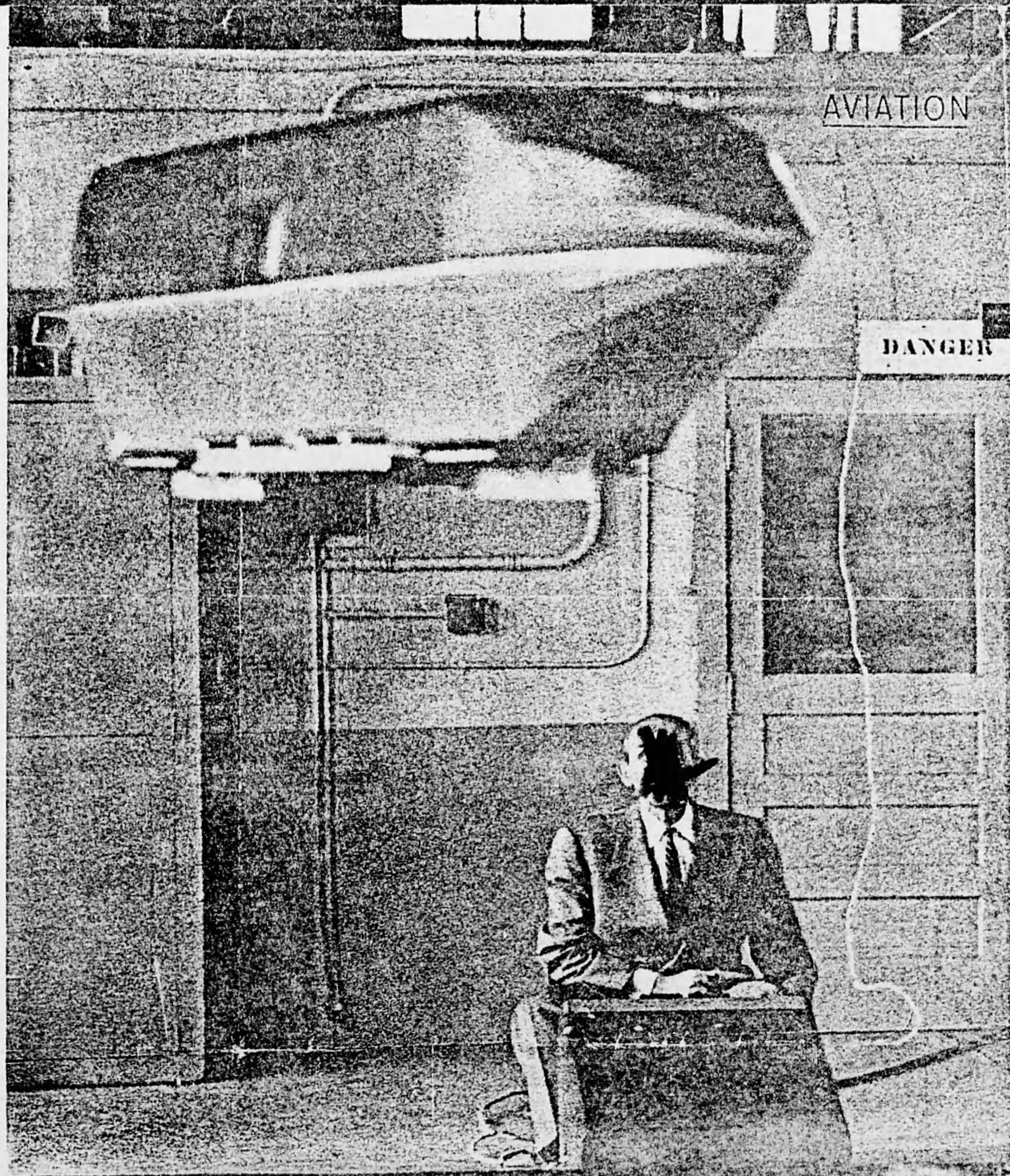
Year

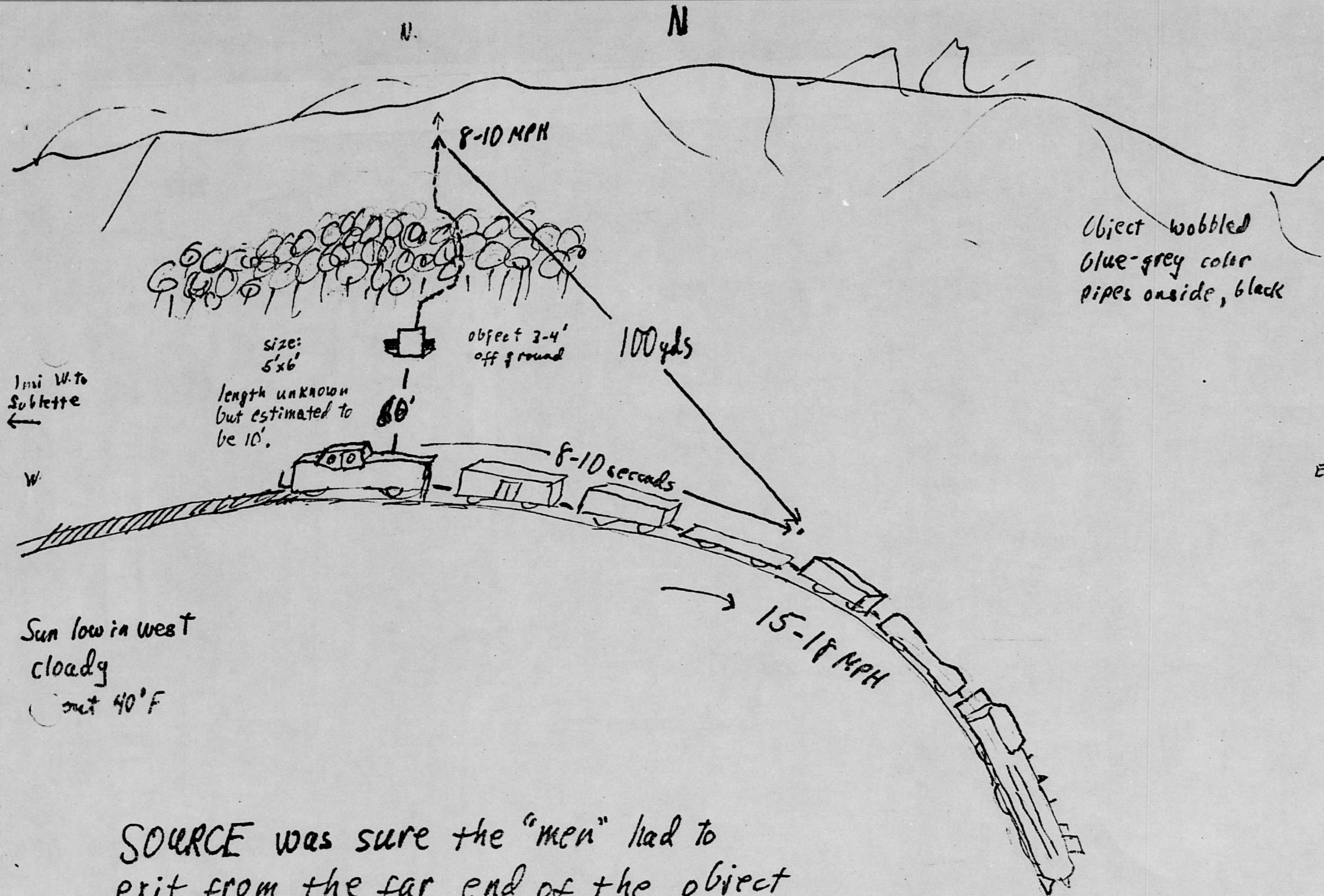
The following information was given by SOURCE:

- a. The "dude" who came to depot in Chama, New Mexico, "had accent like a Dutchman" and drove away in Chrysler car. "Dude" had "mysterious air about him".
- b. "Thousands of dollars spent on logging road in this area but road never used."
- c. "Rich Texans bought up land in this area and closed it to fishing." "No trespassing enforced."
- d. "I see strange lights, like flash lights, moving in Las Tiñas Canyon, sometimes."
- e. Source impressed with fact that "Los Alamos is only 70-75 miles away."

AVIATION

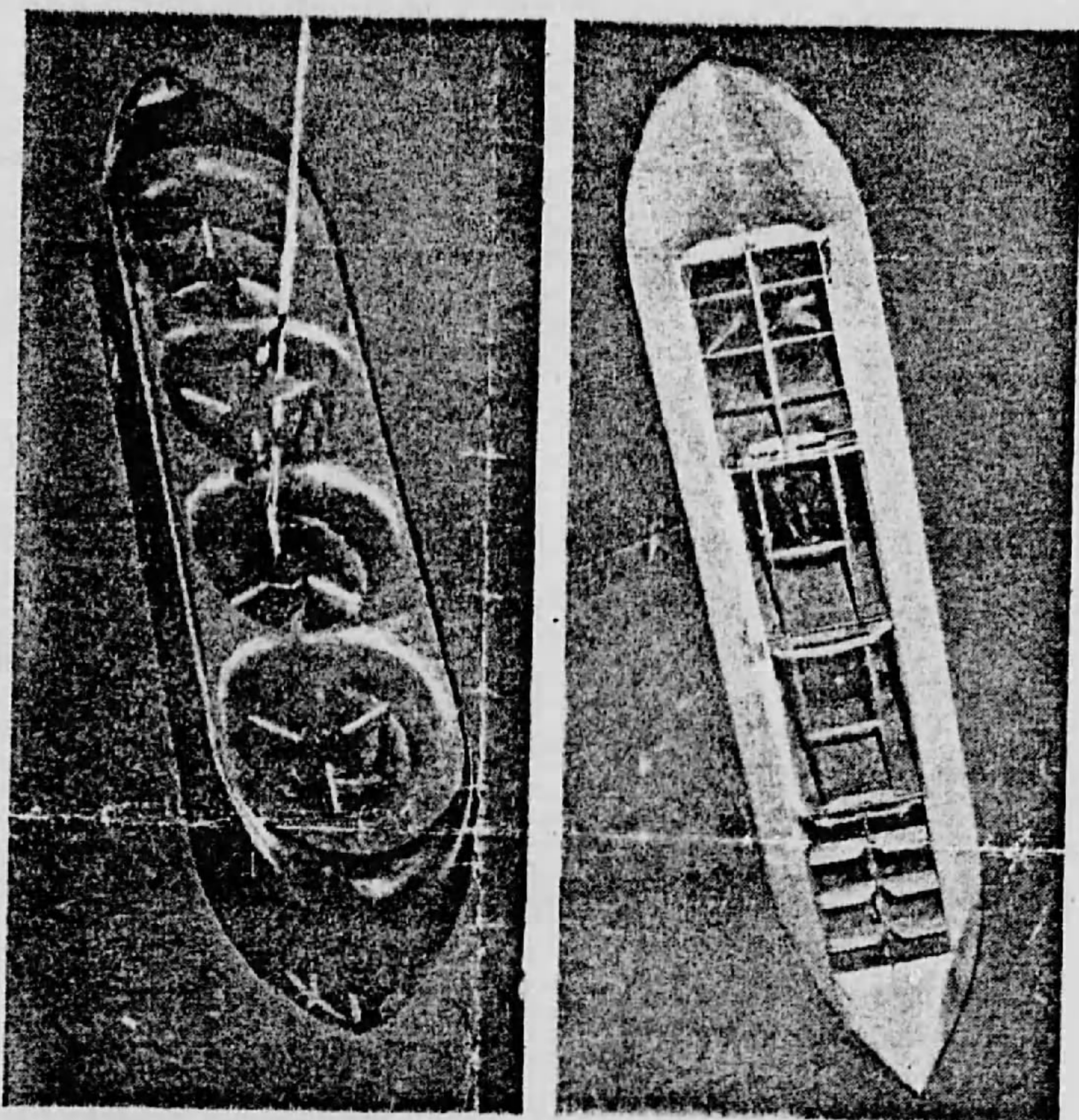
DANGER





SOURCE was sure the "men" had to exit from the far end of the object because he could not discern any available exit on the end closest to him.

AIRBORNE AERODYNE SLOWLY CIRCLES ABOVE HANGAR FLOOR, GUIDED BY INVENTOR LIPPISCH AT CONTROL PANEL



AIRCRAFT'S POWER PLANT is set of fans which draw air through top of model (*left*), expel it past louvers in its belly (*right*). When louvers tilt backward, plane goes forward. When they tilt forward, plane goes backward; when open, plane hovers.

AIRCRAFT WITH NO WINGS

A cigar-shaped object without wings or tail droned through the air last week inside a hangar in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It was the Aerodyne, a revolutionary model aircraft designed by Alexander Lippisch, German aeronautics expert who now works for the Collins Radio Company. The Aerodyne is driven by fans which blast air past louvers in the belly with enough force to keep it airborne. By tilting the louvers the Aerodyne can be moved forward, backward or made to hover.

Since the wings of conventional planes heat up and cause drag at supersonic speeds, Lippisch thinks the wingless Aerodyne foreshadows the design of future jet-age aircraft. Suspecting that he may be right, the Office of Naval Research has given him a sizable sum to further his research.

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