

PROJECT 10073.RECORD CARD

1. DATE 22 Dec 60		2. LOCATION Buckingham, Iowa		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☒ Was Astronomical Meteor ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1750 GMT 22/2350Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 7 sec		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one		9. COURSE SE-NW	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING When first spotted, it was about 45-50° high in the sky and started as an object that appeared to be a jet or satellite--a spot about the size of a large orange star. Traveled about 2-3 sec then developed a tail. Then it became white in a tear shaped ball that appeared about 100 times its original size. Behind this white spot were spots or sparks (very large) that were orange and trailed a long way behind the ball of white. Ended at about 10-15° above the horizon.				11. COMMENTS The report submitted by the witness is very similar to that received from other parts of the country this time of year. The object has all the characteristics of a meteor.	

HEADQUARTERS
AIR FORCE MISSILE TEST CENTER
AIR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA



3 January 1961

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: MTW

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Letter Regarding UFO

TO: ATIC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

The attached letter was received by this office on 3 Jan 1961.
It is forwarded as a matter of possible interest to your
organization.

FOR THE COMMANDER

E. L. Commons, Jr.
for E. L. COMMONS, JR.
Lt Colonel, USAF
DCS/Intelligence

1 Atch
Ltr, Buckingham Iowa, 23 Dec 60

Buckingham Iowa
Dec. 23 1960

Missile Base
Cape Canaveral, Florida

Dear Sirs:

I do not whether or not this information is of any value but I read in a newspaper that you wished any news of falling meteorites, satalites or objects. The phenomena I saw was extraordinary I believe.

This object started in the northeast and traveled from the southeast toward the northwest. It was about 45 to 50 degrees high in the sky and started as an object that appeared to be a jet or sattelite; a spot about the size of a large orange star. This was at 5:50 P M Dec 22 1960.

After I spotted it, it traveled about 2 or 3 seconds then developed a tail then it became white in a tear shaped ball that appeared to be 100 times its original size. This white spot traveled about 3 Or 4 seconds- behind this white spot were spots or sparks(very large) that were orange and trailed a long way behind the ball of white. This I estimate took about 3 or 4 seconds and ended at about 10 to 15 degrees above the horizon. At first I tho't a Jet had exploded but the white spot developed tooslowly for an explosion. I shall not try to estimate the distance but possibly you can figure it from the angle and trajectory of its flight. I hope that this information may be of some value to you.

Yours truly


Buckingham Iowa

12-22-60 5:50 P.M.

White light with orange sparks trailing. Viewed 7 seconds. Observed from Buckingham, Iowa.

*Sup
11 Jan 61*
AFOTN-1E2x

UFO Sighting ([REDACTED])

SAFOI-3d (L/Col Tacker)

It is requested that ATIC Form 164 (UFO questionnaire) be forwarded to Mr [REDACTED] for his completion. His address is as follows:

[REDACTED]
Buckingham, Iowa

FOR THE COMMANDER:

PHILIP G. EVANS
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Science and Components

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.

Please refer to my letter for exact date & time

1. When did you see the object?

22 Dec 60
Day Month Year

2. Time of day:

5 50
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 Buckingham Ill
City or Town State or Country

Additional remarks:

5. How long was object in sight?

Hours

Minutes

Seconds

approx 7 (Seconds)

5.1 How was time in sight determined?

Was driving on highway facing sitting and driving about 55 mph - Traveled about 600 to 650 ft.

a. Certain
b. Fairly certain

c. Not very sure
d. Just a guess

6. What was the condition of the sky?

DAY

a. Bright
b. Cloudy

NIGHT

a. Bright
b. Cloudy

7. IF you saw the object during DAYLIGHT, 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

8. IF you saw the object at NIGHT, 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. The object appeared:

(Circle One):

a. As a light

b. Shiny

c. Dark

d. Don't remember

10. If it appeared as a light, was it brighter than the brightest stars?

Yes - Because it was under with a long tail and turned to exceedingly bright light before it disappeared.

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. Flash or flicker? | Yes | ☒ No | Don't Know |
| h. Disappear and reappear? | Yes | ☒ No | Don't Know |

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

(Circle One):

Yes

☒ No

Don't Know.

IF you answered YES, then tell what

in front of: _____

14. Did the object appear:

(Circle One):

a. Solid

b. Transparent

c. Vapor

d. Don't Know

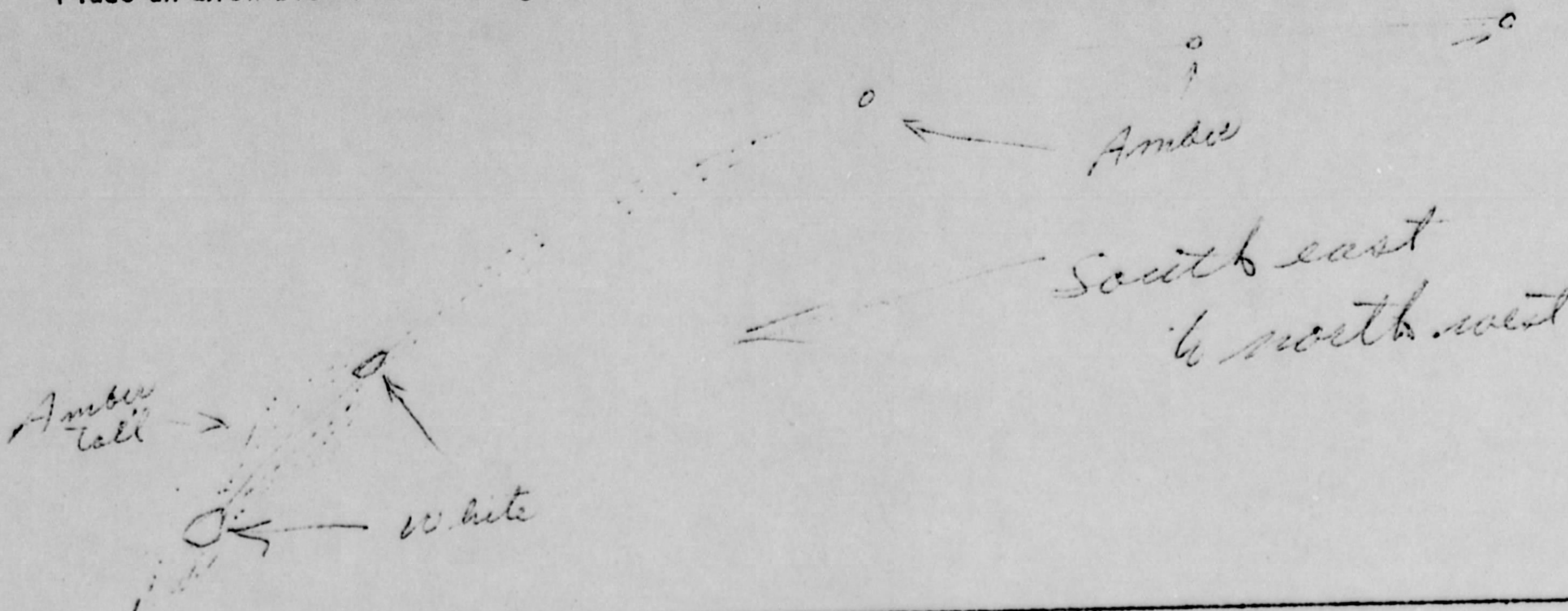
15. Did you observe the object through any of the following?

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|----|---------------|-------|----|
| 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 noise
- b. Color amber spot to white large spot with amber dust tail like tail on sky rocket.

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 only larger

c. Sharply outlined

d. Don't remember

e. Other _____

19. IF there was MORE THAN ONE object, then how many were there? _____

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 17

21. How large did the object appear to you as compared to an object with which you are familiar?

Est - 100 times as large as big star.

22. We wish to know the angular size. Hold a match stick at arm's length in line with a known object and note how much of the object is covered by the head of the match. If you had performed this experiment at the time of the sighting, how much of the object would have been covered by the match head?

Object was shape of match head, as per instructions would estimate match head would just cover object.

23. Did the object disappear while you were watching it? If so, how? *yes it disappeared as tho it had burned out because the white spot disappeared leaving a tail which also disappeared in another second.*

24. In order that you can give as clear a picture as possible of what you saw, 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.

In common language this was like the meteorites we see in multitudes at certain times of the year only this was probably 100 times or more in volume. The speed was far greater than a jet in normal flight as we see them each day or night. When first sighted it looked like ECHO but traveled many times faster and turned white.

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 (type)
- 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. 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 on a straight highway at the crest of a hill
and this was almost in the center of my driving
vision - slightly to the right of center driving vision*

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? 55 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 |
| | | | i. Overhead |

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 |
| | | | i. Overhead |

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

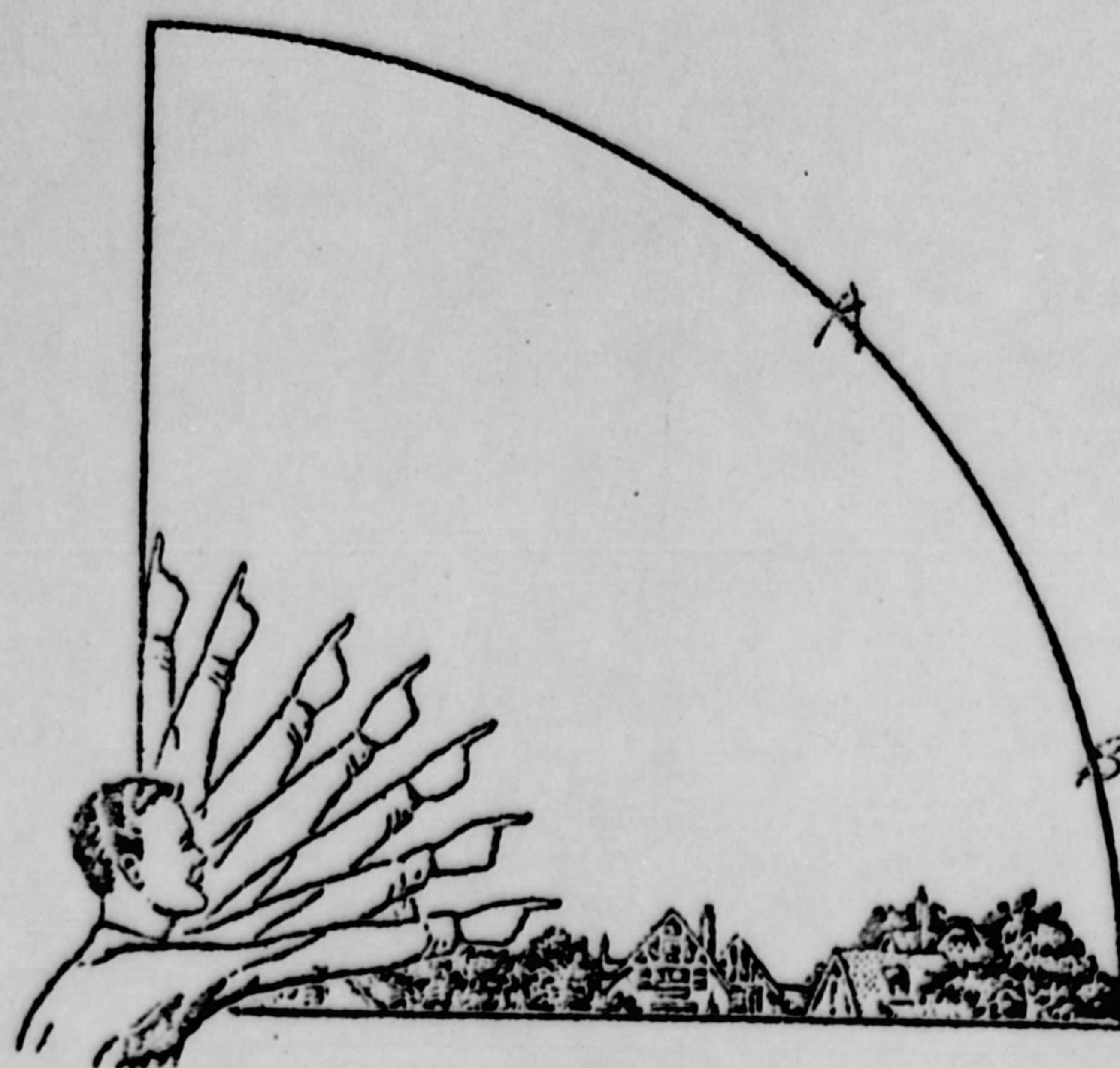
31.1 When it first appeared:

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

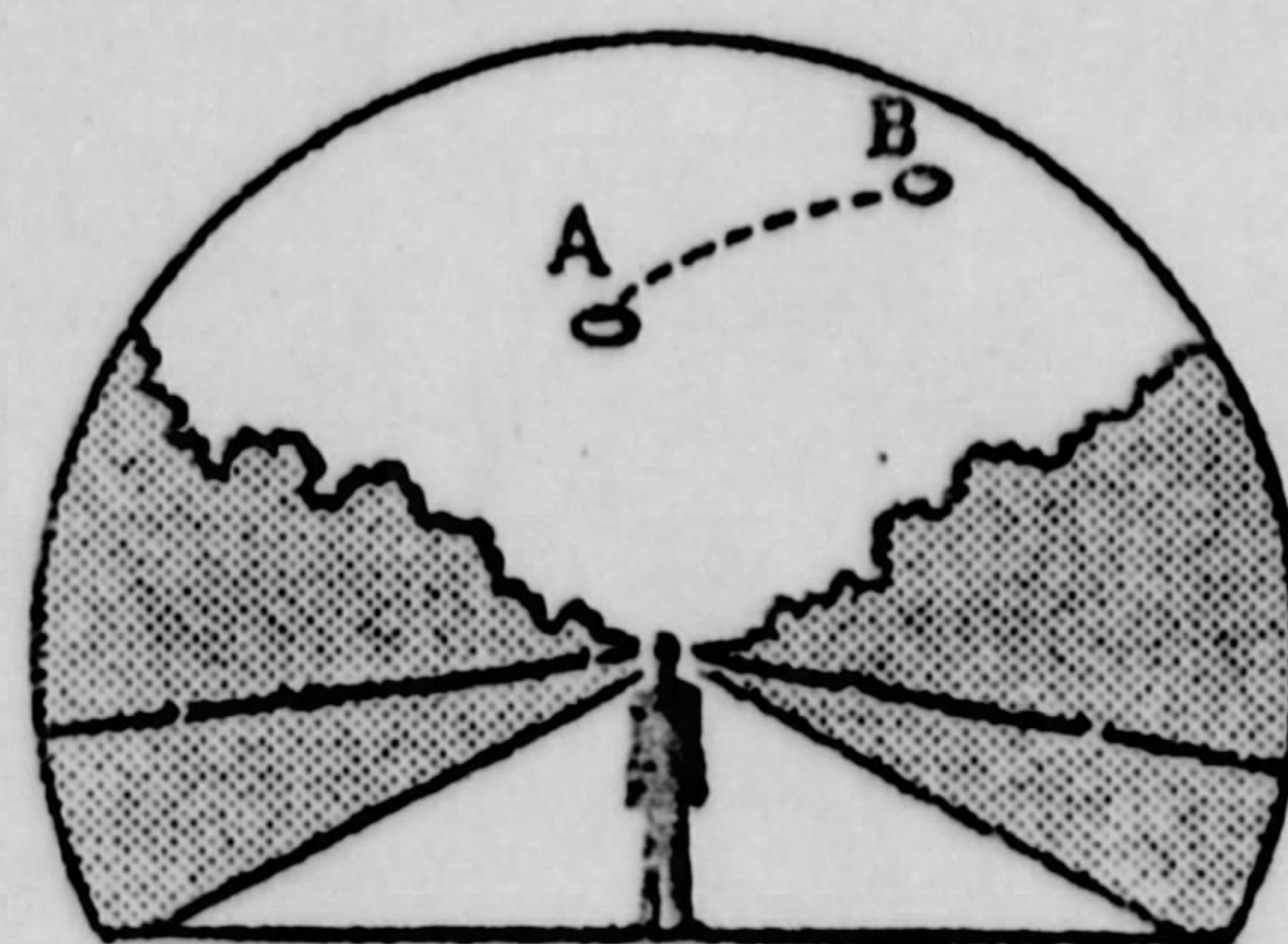
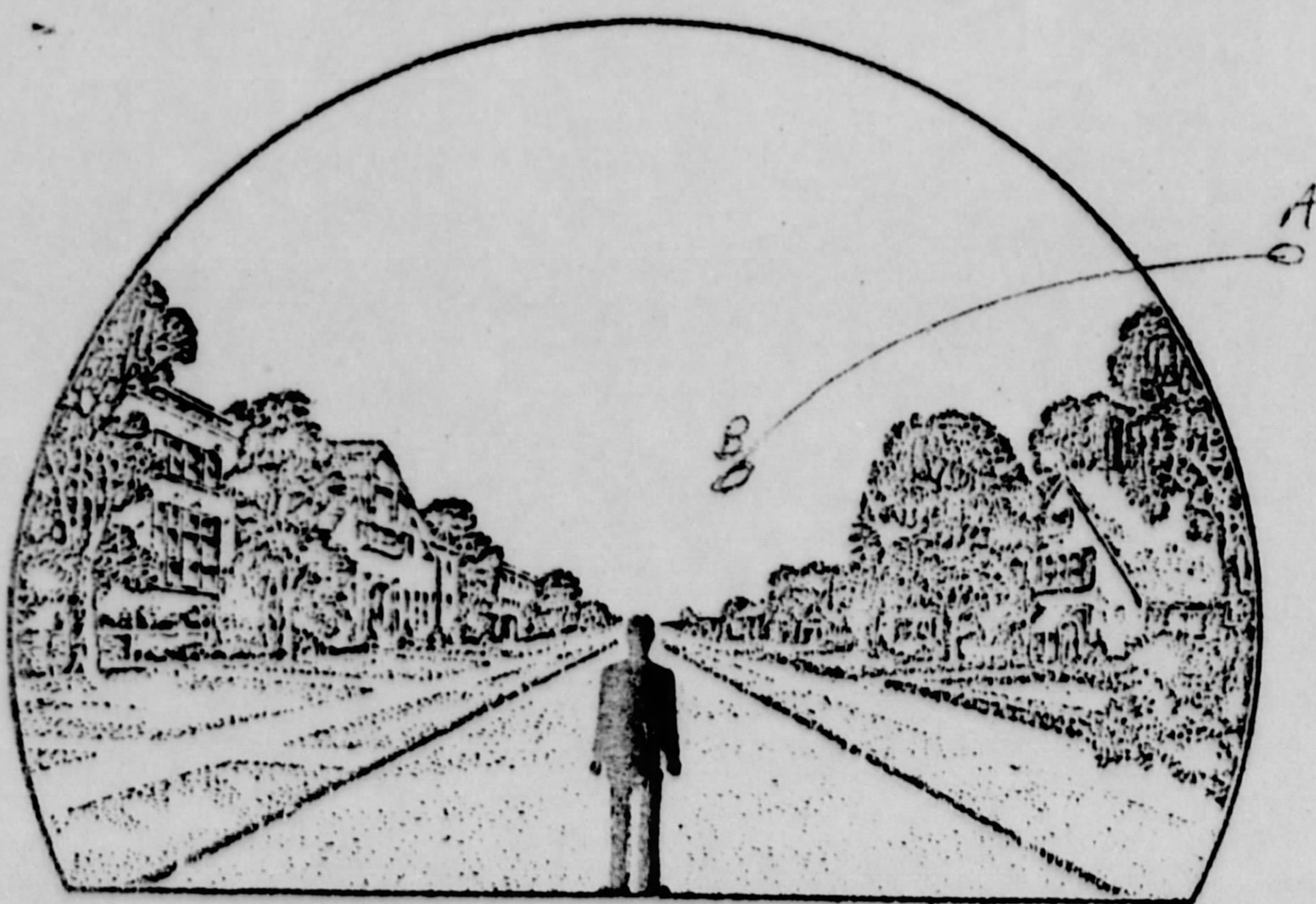
31.2 When it disappeared:

- a. From true North 20°-25° degrees.
- b. From horizon 10°-15° 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?

CLOUDS (Circle One)

- a. Clear sky
 b. Hazy
 c. Scattered clouds
 d. Thick or heavy clouds

WEATHER (Circle One)

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

35. When and to whom did you report that you had seen the object?

 Day

 Month

 Year

*to my wife and to
 Cape Canaveral the following
 day*

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:

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

(Circle One)

Yes

No

of this magnitude

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 think the object was a meteorite because
 I have never seen a satellite burn when an
 account was given by the press or radio.*

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?

Because I do not know how far away the object was. However about 10 times as fast as a jet as all see them.

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?

41. Please give the following information about yourself:

NAME

Last Name

First Name

Middle Name

ADDRESS

Street

City

Zone

State

TELEPHONE NUMBER

Age 55

Sex male

Indicate any additional information about yourself, including any education, which might be pertinent.

High School plus adult classes in bacteriology & chemistry at Iowa State Teachers College - 16 years at Rath Packing Co. Waterloo Iowa as supervisor - (16 years in General Mktg at Buckingham Iowa) Retired Iowa. 17 years as [redacted] at Buckingham, Iowa. Still [redacted] at Buckingham, Iowa from active business left 1959.

42. Date you completed this questionnaire:

Jan 19 1961
Day Month Year

I am not interested in sensations but only in anything that might help to secure the welfare of our wonderful nation.

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

BUCKINGHAM, IOWA

(Please Print)

SIGNATURE

DATE

Jan 19-1961

(Do Not Write in This Space)

CODE: