

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 5 Aug 1951		LOCATION Herkimer, New York		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☒ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>2330</u> GMT <u>06/0430Z</u>		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3 - 5 seconds		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one			
		9. COURSE South			
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Solid obj, flickered, length 2-3X width described as spherical red obj with green tail. No sound. Intensity constant. Outline fuzzy or blurred. Straight, level flight. Disappeared in SW behind trees after 60 deg arc of movement. Low speed, low altitude assumed by witness. (Reported in 1953)				11. COMMENTS Meteor sighting.	

Dept. of Defense
U.S. Air Force
Office of Public Information
Washington 25, D.C.

Dec. 4, 1953

Sirs:

Subject: "Flying Saucers"

Note D. E. Keyhoe's book, Flying Saucers from Outer Space, lists in his appendix, a "Form A, U.S. Air Force Technical Information Sheet", I wish to request a copy of this form.

Do not claim to have seen a "Flying Saucer," but, if you're interested, will report a fire ball, seen in level flight in the Hudson does some time ago. Inquiry regarding same was made at the time to the Hayden Planetarium — They had no reports at the time of fire balls, thought it meteoric. Was seen near midnight, wouldn't venture guess as to its altitude but wouldn't say it was at great altitude. Will fill out your form to best of my ability — Air Force can evaluate it, I have no opinion, will report only what I saw.

Sincerely,

Jamaica 35, N.Y.

Noted:
Lester
12 Dec 53

7-3712-36

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

8 Dec 53

MEMO FOR Captain Hardin

Would you please send this man a questionnaire? I have made no reply to his letter.

Thanks

Lt White

We do not know of any special meteor which was seen on the date you mention, but records of these do not appear until later, in the magazines.

It might have been an ordinary airplane, perhaps; we cannot tell as well as you. There were no special meteor showers due on that date, but very often there are "spurious" meteors, that is, those not belonging to any particular shower, which fall and are seen, singly. Some of them are slowly moving objects; others move fast. We have seen them of the color you mention. We would mention that the height and distance, as witnessed, are quite deceptive; the objects are usually farther away than supposed.

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?

5 AUG. 1951
Day Month Year

2. Time of day:

11
Hour

30 (about)
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?

BIG MOOSE, WEBB TOWNSHIP, HERKIMER Co. NEW YORK.
Nearest Postal Address City or Town State or Country

Additional remarks: Was camped off Eagle Bay-Big Moose Road, north side, in the woods,
Elev. 1900', location: L. 43°47'49" N, Lo. 74°50'50" W (approx.).

5. Estimate how long you saw the object.

0
Hours

0
Minutes

3-5
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

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 | <u>No</u> | Don't Know |
| b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time? | Yes | <u>No</u> | Don't Know |
| c. Break up into parts or explode? | Yes | <u>No</u> | Don't Know |
| d. Give off smoke? | Yes | <u>No</u> | Don't Know |
| e. Change brightness? | Yes | <u>No</u> | Don't Know |
| f. Change shape? | Yes | <u>No</u> | Don't Know |
| g. <u>Flicker</u> , throb, or pulsate? | <u>Yes</u> | 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
- b. Sun glasses
- c. Windshield
- d. Window glass

Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes

No
No
No
No

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

Yes
Yes
Yes

No
No
No

NONE

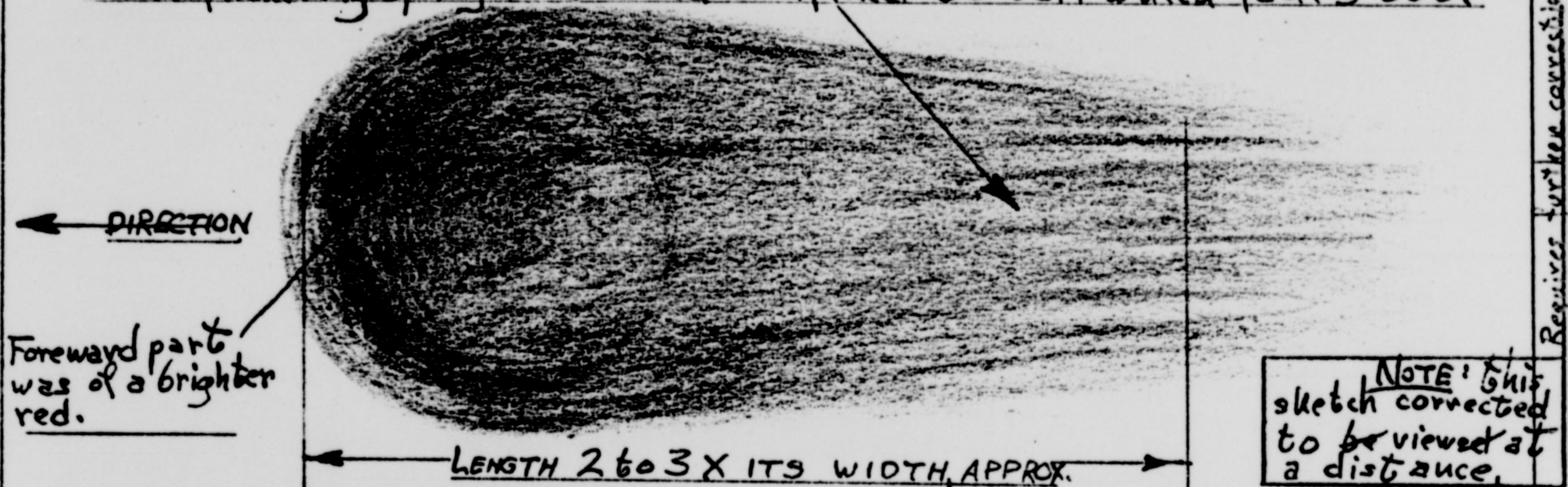
16. Tell in a few words the following things about the object.

a. Sound In the silent night of the quiet forest, absolutely no sound heard.

b. Color Spherical reddish object partly obscured by vivid green light which surrounded it and streamed behind it. No dimming nor brightening seen.

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.

Some flickering of light seemed confined to tail which fades out.



DURING THE INTERVAL SEEN, THE LIGHT WAS STEADY AND CONSTANT.

18. The edges of the object were: However, The general spherical form was fairly distinct.

(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? Only one seen.

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.

A _____ B

Steady, straight, level, unwavering flight.

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

Can only say that it appeared to be a sphere and of a solid nature. And I say 'sphere' since in observing its approach and departure it did not "change shape" thruout such change of view as was permitted by the angle of view and the objects 'declination' in it.

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 In the woods

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

Was awakened from sleep by snapping of deadwood, got out of sleeping bag to investigate, shortly afterward while on log skid trail attention drawn overhead by oncoming light which was seen in opening between trees — noise in woods found to be caused by a bear.

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? _____ 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. <u>Northeast</u> | 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. <u>Southwest</u> | 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:

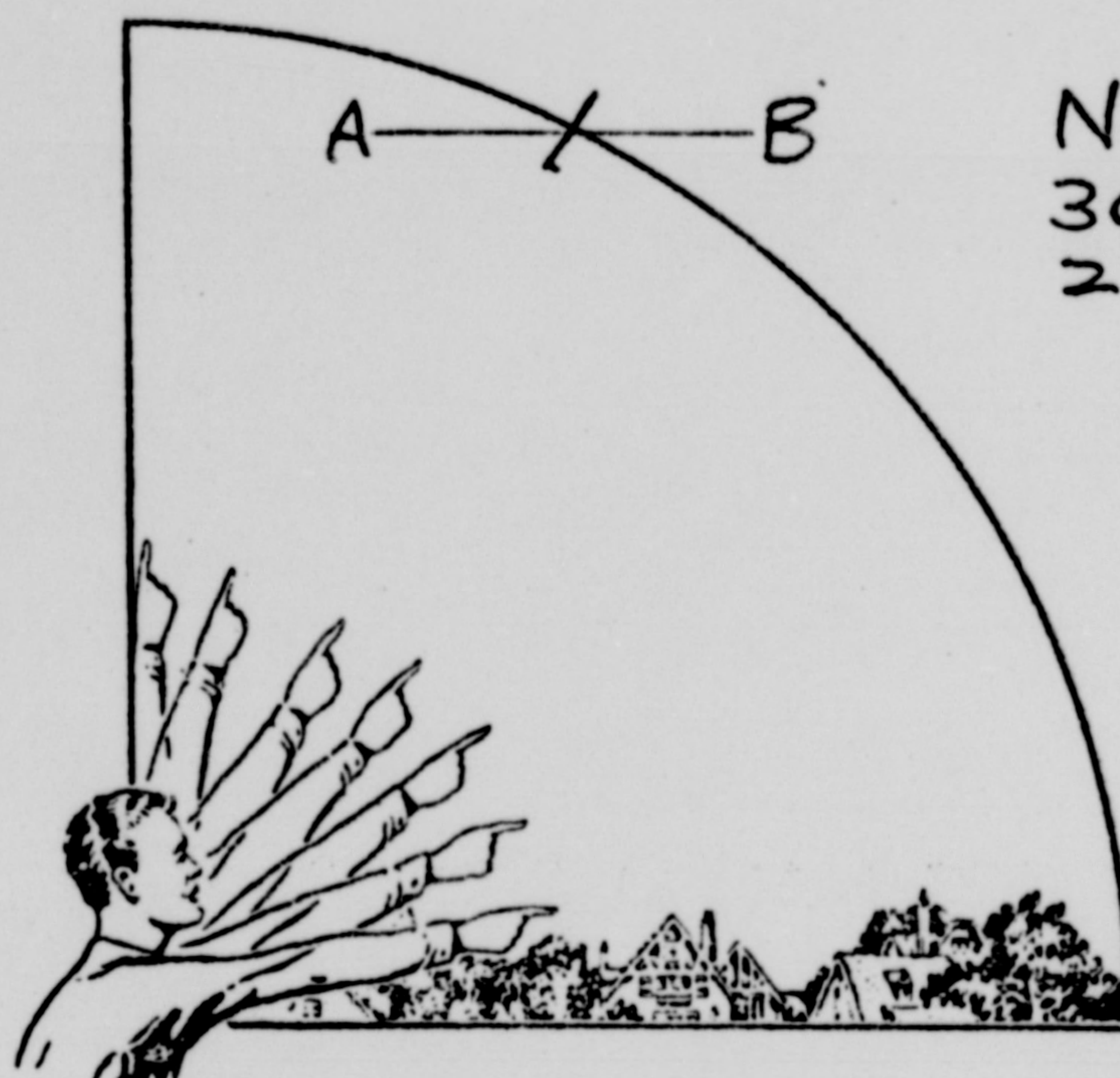
- a. From true North ± 40 degrees.
- b. From horizon ± 60 degrees.

31.2 When it disappeared:

- a. From true North ± 220 degrees.
- b. From horizon ± 60 degrees.

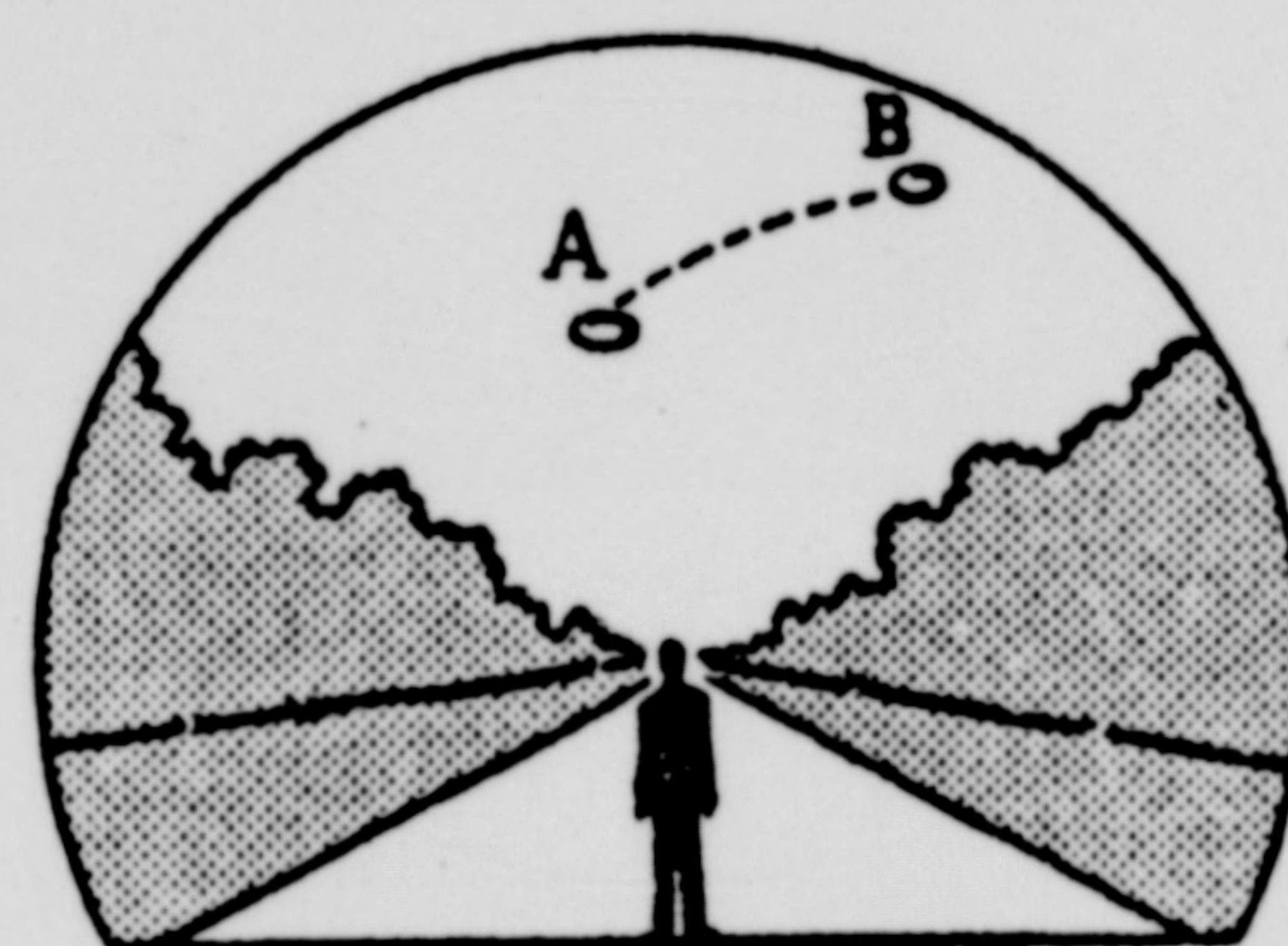
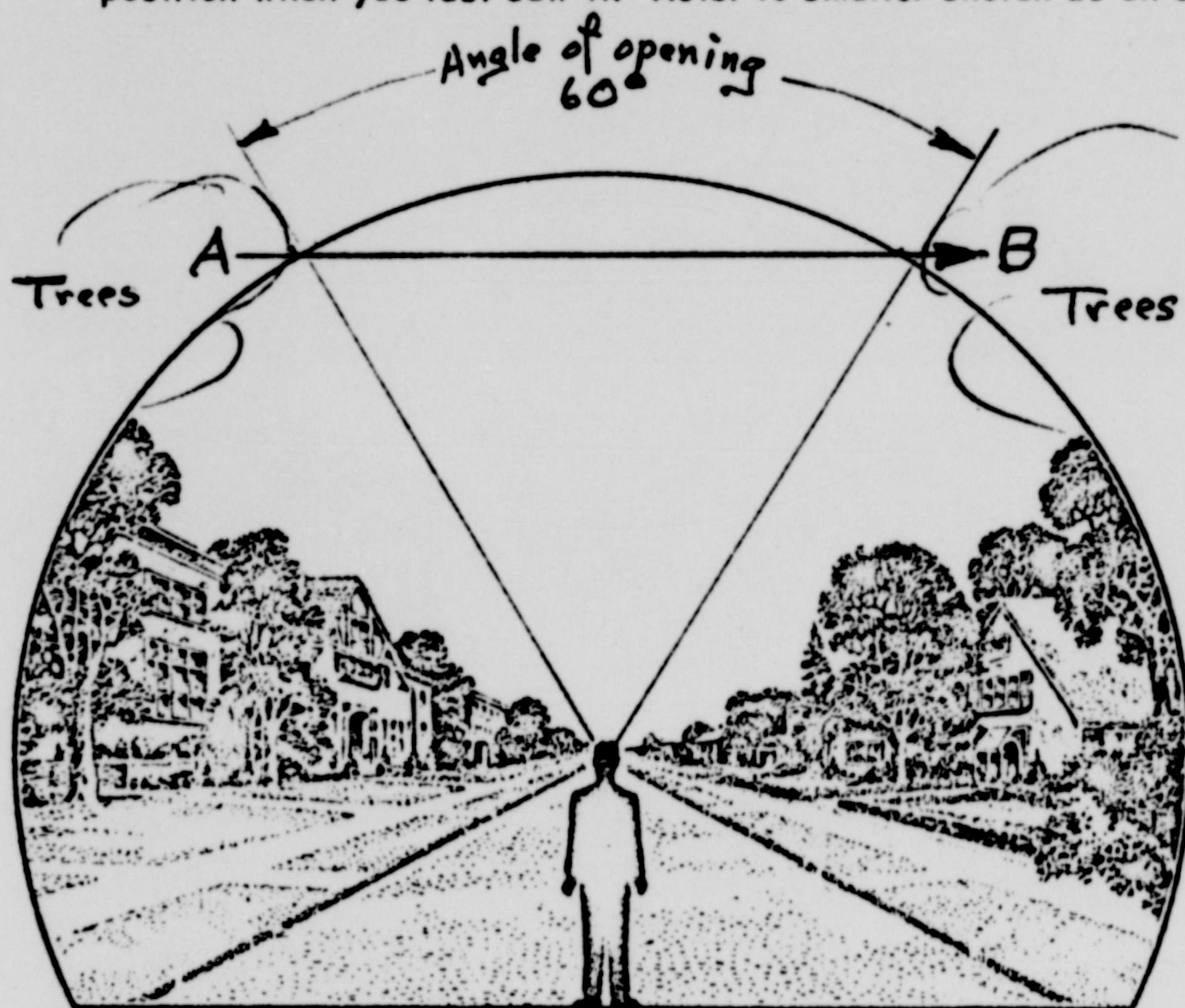
THIS COURSE AS PLOTTED UPON A MAP SEEMS TO BE ON A LINE FROM NEAR SARANAC LAKE TOWARDS ROME, N.Y.

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.



Not more than
300 from the
zenith.

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.



Surrounded by trees, angle of view
probably not more than 60°.

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?

1) 2 SEPT. (?) 1951. To Hayden Planetarium
 2) 18 DEC. 1953. To Major Donald E. Keyhoe, USMC (RET.)
 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:

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? Originally as a "fireball," evidently celestial phenomenon; have wondered about its low altitude, level flight, and speed that did not seem 'supersonic' as well that its form seemed to be perfectly round, e.i., seemingly too symmetrical for a meteor.

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? 200-300 m.p.h. at most.

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? 3000-6000 feet.

41. Please give the following information about yourself:

NAME _____
Last Name First Name Middle Name

ADDRESS _____
Street City Zone State

TELEPHONE NUMBER NONE

What is your present job? TOOL & DIE MAKER (AIRCRAFT)

Age 46 Sex MALE

Please indicate any special educational training that you have had.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| a. Grade school <u>X</u> | e. e. Technical school <u>Aviation.</u> |
| b. High school <u>A little.</u> | (Type) _____ |
| c. College <u>None</u> | f. Other special training <u>FLIGHT INSTRUCTION</u> |
| d. Post graduate _____ | <u>25 YEARS AGO.</u> |

42. Date you completed this questionnaire:

DEC 21 DEC. 1953
Day Month 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)

SIGNATURE _____

CODE:

DATE Dec. 21, 1953.

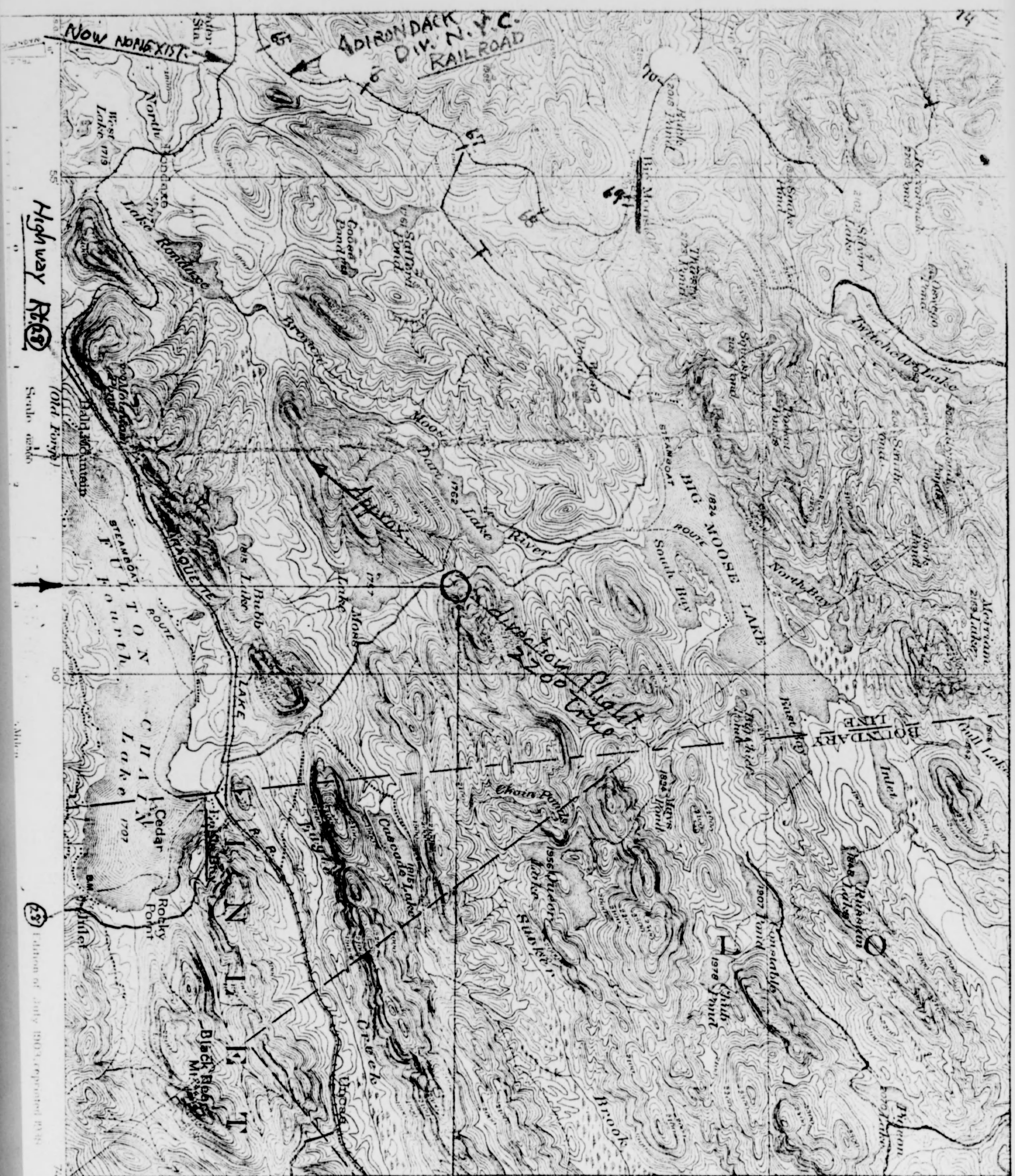
Additional information below to numbered questions of the Questionnaire.

4) Latitude and longitude, as given, was determined from the Geological Survey topographical map, Big Moose, N. Y., Quadrangle, section of same enclosed.

16b.) This green light resembled neon light, of somewhat lighter shade, but of similar glow — it lit up the ~~area~~ somewhat just before it came into view over the trees.

31) Subject to correction as have intended to return to observation site to take compass bearings which were neglected at the time.

32 & 33) Since the log skid trail and opening between trees still probably exist, these angles may be determined more precisely at the observation site and to secure declination as well as the azimuth for question 31.



Highway Rt. 62

(Old Route)

Scale 1:50,000

23

Edition of July 1903, reprinted 1978

ARROWS ON MARGIN OF MAP POINT TO SITE OF 'FIREBALL' OBSERVATION.

35) Reply from the Hayden Planetarium is enclosed — now regret having cut this letter down (in 1951), don't recall who replied, or signed, this letter.

39-40) The question of the object's altitude and speed has long bothered me. At one time I believed it may well have been at much greater altitude. My original impression was that it was just over the tree tops and that someone might have belatedly been indulging in firing rockets (Fourth of July only a month gone) but this was an isolated and uninhabited stretch of road near midnight, and the object's flight path was level; and then wondered how it could even be without the exhaust or running lights of our aircraft — no sound whatsoever! Would say speed estimation more correct than altitude estimation — This latter I can only repeat what I've constantly come back to: it seemed to be just over the tree tops!* And it certainly could not have been at such great altitudes associated with meteors and shooting stars (one which was seen immediately after the passing of this object — and which was very distant in the background). Not only did it seem to be at low altitude, the fact the reddish sphere was

(see page 3)
* However, not so low as to have lit up the foliage on the trees over which it passed. Also, I recall, that since it

Additional note to Question 40:

If the following problem can be solved, believe a reasonable check upon the object's speed and altitude is possible. (Have been searching for some means by which these could be determined — the answer lies therein if a value can be assigned to the intensity of the object's light) A second or so after I became aware of a light overhead the object came into view (duration seen, answered in question 5). Problem, how far could the object's glow be evident to be noticeable under the circumstances this object was seen? What intensity was its light when the object was distant enough to appear the size approximately of a "grapefruit"? What, then, was the object's size? If these can be solved, then it will be possible to solve fairly definitely the object's altitude as well as speed since we have, a) duration seen, b) angle of view, and, c) object's declination, as well, d) time extent of the object's glow radius (above).

It has had me licked — would you let me know results if above can be solved? — I'd really be interested!

Diagram enclosed, page 5.

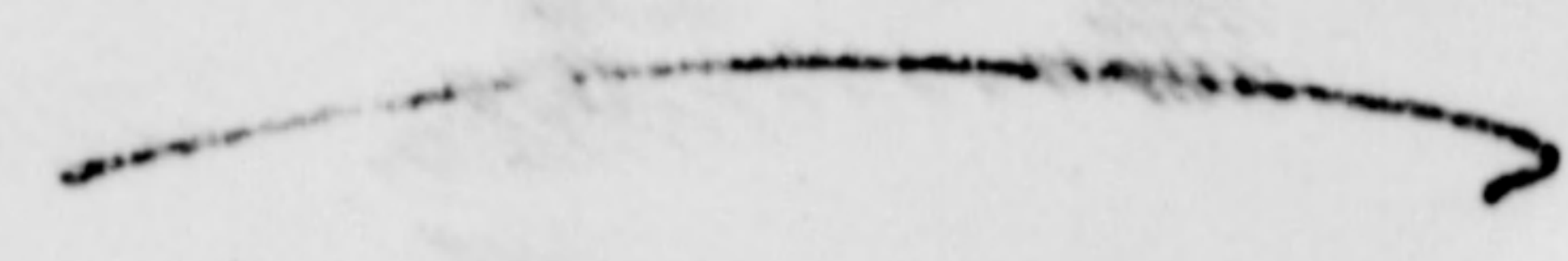
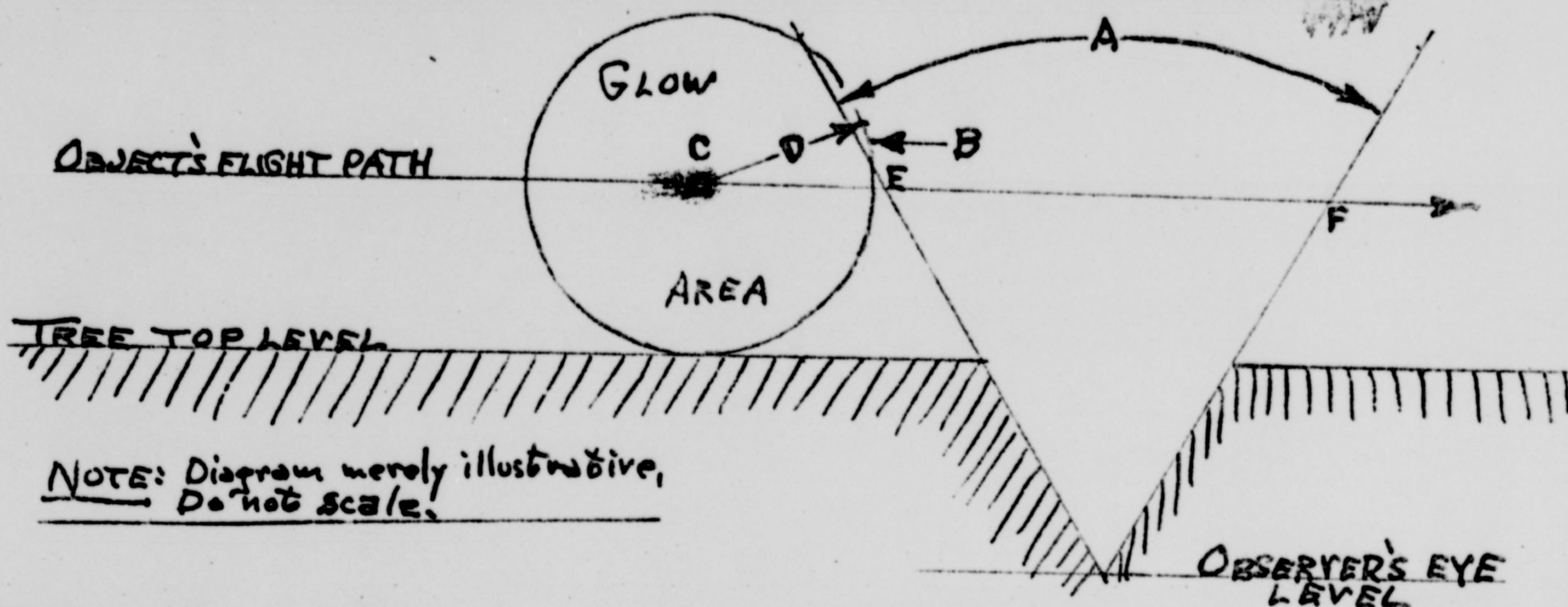


DIAGRAM ILLUSTRATING PROBLEM ON PAGE FOUR.



Where "A" is the Angle of View, about 60° , as permitted by opening between trees.

"B" Glow from unseen object first become visible.

"C" Unknown position of object at moment its glow become visible.

"D" Unknown radius of the object's "glow." Presumably not lower than this over the trees since object's glow did not light up foliage on trees as it approached nearer, i.e., had the object been lower and since intensity of light increases the nearer it approaches, or is approached, that is, enough to appreciably light up the foliage as to be noted.

"E" Where object itself become visible about a second after its glow was first noted.

"F" End of object's visible flight path of 3-5 seconds duration and being of unknown altitude and speed. Object's declination about 30° from zenith.

Dec. 21, 1953.