

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 2-11 Nov 61	2. LOCATION Del Mar, California		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical <i>Meteors</i> ☒ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT _____	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Civilian		
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION aprox 3 sec	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1 ea time	9. COURSE Descending	☒ Other <i>Naval Gun Fire.</i> ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Objts reported by witness reentry of any known satellites. Major witness indicates that signatures are those of a missile reentry, however they are closer to matching meteors that missiles. Witness suggests that these were practice shots fm some unknown source. If this theory is accepted then it would be necessary to locate firing site of short which appeared to come fm within North America continent. Present info concerning capabilities of other countries indicate that no weapon could have been fired along these azimuths which could reach San Diego unless it was fired fm within our continent. There were several meteor showers which occurred during period of this sighting. It is concluded that these meteors plus an occasional sporadic fireball probably accounts for sightings. <i>ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS INDICATES THAT SOME OF THE VERTICAL OBJECTS MAY BE FROM NAVAL GUNFIRE PRACTICE AT SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND.</i>			

UFO ANALYSIS SHEET

1A

Location DEL MAR CALIFORNIA

Date 2-11 Nov, 196, Hour (Z) _____

WX _____

Description _____

Direction of Motion _____

Satellite: (AFCIN-4F3, Phone 69219) ☒

Astronomical Phenomena (Meteor, Comet, Planet, etc) POSSIBLY METEORS

Radar Analysis (AFCIN-4E1) N/A

Natural Phenomena (Ball Lightning, etc) _____

Aircraft, Balloons, Airships, etc. _____

Other _____

Evaluation of Source Reliability PROBABLY GOOD

Analysis and Conclusions: THE OBJECTS REPORTED BY THE

WITNESSES WERE DEFINITELY NOT CAUSED BY

THE RE-ENTRY OF ANY KNOWN SATELLITES.

THE MAJOR WITNESS INDICATES THAT THE

SIGNATURES ARE THOSE OF A MISSILE

RE-ENTRY, HOWEVER THEY ARE CLOSER TO

MATCHING METEORS THAN MISSILES. THE

WITNESS SUGGESTS THAT THESE WERE FIRE
SHOTS FROM SOME UNKNOWN SOURCE. IF
THIS THEORY IS ACCEPTED THEN IT WOULD
BE NECESSARY TO LOCATE THE FIRING
SITE OF THE SHOTS WHICH APPEARED
TO COME FROM WITHIN THE NORTH AMERICAN
CONTINENT. PRESENT INFORMATION CONCERNING
THE CAPABILITIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES
INDICATE THAT NO WEAPON COULD HAVE
BEEN FIRED ALONG THESE AZIMUTHS
WHICH COULD REACH SAN DIEGO UNLESS
IT WAS FIRED FROM WITHIN OUR CONTINENT.

THERE WERE SEVERAL METEOR
SHOWERS WHICH OCCURRED DURING
THE PERIOD OF THIS SIGHTING.
IT IS CONCLUDED THAT THESE
METEORS PLUS AN OCCASIONAL
SPORADIC FIREBALL PROBABLY ACCOUNTS
FOR THESE SIGHTINGS.

Frank.

Part 1. Sources:

Source A: Mr. [REDACTED] Missile Expert assigned to the General Atomic Division Convair Atlas Plant, San Diego, California. Telephone [REDACTED] ext [REDACTED]

Source B: Mr. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Convair Plant Nr 1. Telephone Nr: [REDACTED] ext [REDACTED]

Source C: Mr. [REDACTED], FAA Contractor, San Diego Approach Control.

Part 2. On 3 occasions, 4, 6, and 7 Nov 61 Source A saw what he considered to be a missile re-entry. All observations were between the hours of 2000 and 2100 local time. Weather at the time of each sighting was CAVU. Source A stated that: all three sightings were approximately three seconds in duration and were the brightest things that he had ever seen. Each sighting appeared to be the same; that is an upside down missile trajectory which appeared to ^{leave} send smoke or falling parts in its lighted trail. He offers as a possibility some sort of ablation on the re-entry vehicle.

Part 3. On the night of 6 Nov 61 Source A was standing in his back yard when he observed the UFO. Being a former artillery man he measured the trajectory in mills by use of his fingers. His estimate of the trajectory was that it was at least 500 mills in length and possibly 1 1/2 to 2 mills in width. He states that his line of vision was WSW and at an angle of approximately 22 1/2° to the horizon. He determined track by _____ with respect to his home and the angle of sight by measuring the distance from where he stood at the time of observation; the height of his house and determining the angle by trigonometry. (Note. Missile trail length could conceivably be greater than 500 mills as Source states that it disappeared from his line of sight behind the top of his home).

Part 4. On 7 Nov Source A ~~stated~~ started asking and calling others to see if they had observed similar UFO's. As a result a contact with Source C revealed to Source A that Source C had seen a UFO on the night of 3 Nov 61 from Lindburgh Tower Municiple Field. An interview with Source C revealed the following information:

Time: between 2000 and 2100 hours local.

Weather: CAVU.

Sighting: high.

Direction of sighting: SW.

Remark: Source C stated that it was similar to a meteor, but in all his experience he had never seen one so bright. He further stated that it appeared to emit smoke for about 10 seconds after the lighted trail disappeared.

Part 5. Source A states that he observed the same UFO on the night of 7 Nov and on 9 Nov. Received a call from Source B stating that Source B, a good friend of Source A, had seen a similar UFO to the SW of his home. Source B was not available for interview.

Part 6. Source A states from consulting various members of the Convair Plant and utilizing the information available to him he estimates heights of UFO's to be in the vicinity of 100,000 to 150,000 ft. And that in that part of UFO's to be 30 miles W San Diego (sighting of 6 Nov 61); NW, NE, and S of San Diego (did not specify which UFO's correlates to the sightings on 3, 7, and 8 Nov). He further states that if some one is firing ~~411~~ missiles for adjustment on San Diego, they have a perfect bracket, and are now ready to fire for effect.

Part 7. Due to other commitments, Intelligence this headquarters is unable to perform any additional collection efforts on this subject. Request you advise as to what format and what addresses you desire for dissemination of this material.

Submitted via telephone 15 Nov 61, Major Hanton, Intelligence Officer, Los Angeles Air Defense Sector, Norton AFB, Telephone for Sage, ext 81887.

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?

4
6
7
Day Month Year

2. Time of day:

2000
2100
2400 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: _____

5. How long was object in sight?

Hours

Minutes

2 1/2

Seconds

5.1 How was time in sight determined?

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

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

a. Sound NO

b. Color WHITE

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.

1ST

W-OF S

STRAIGHT UP AND DOWN

2ND

W-OF N.

STRAIGHT UP AND DOWN.

3rd

N-S

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? _____

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.

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

LARGER THAN REGULAR METEOR TRAIL

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?

HALF OF LITTLE FINGER AT ARMS LENGTH

23. Did the object disappear while you were watching it? If so, how?

TRAIL ALL SEEMED TO DISAPPEAR AT
SAME TIME

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.

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

- a. Inside a building
 b. In a car 2nd
 c. Outdoors 1st & 3rd
 d. In an airplane (type)
 e. At sea
 f. Other _____

26. Were you (Circle One)

- a. In the business section of a city? 2nd 3rd
 b. In the residential section of a city? 1st
 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?

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? 40 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 <u>1st</u> | h. Northwest <u>2nd</u> |
| | | | 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 _____ degrees.
 b. From horizon _____ degrees.

31.2 When it disappeared:

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

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

(Circle One)

Yes

No

20-30 miles

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

20,000/sec

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

(Circle One)

Yes

No

20-30 miles high

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

Sex

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

42. Date you completed this questionnaire:

Day

Month

Year

THIS INFORMATION IS AS RELAYED BY MAJ. [REDACTED]
U.S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET
AIR DEFENSE SECTOR, NORTON AFB, CALIF. IT WAS OBTAINED
VIA TELCON BETWEEN [REDACTED] & INDIVIDUALS LISTED HEREON, SEE

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.

9 NOV. '61 DUTY OFFICER REPORT, FOR FURTHER INFO. AND BACK OF PAGES 8 & 9, THIS FORM,

1. When did you see the object?

a. 4, 6, 7 Nov '61
b. 3
c. Day Month Year

2. Time of day: 2000-2100
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?

a. CONVAIR - SAN DIEGO
b. CONTROL TOWER MUNI AIRPORT
c. CONVAIR - SAN DIEGO
Nearest Postal Address

SAN DIEGO
City or Town

CALIF
State or Country

Additional remarks:

5. How long was object in sight?

Hours

Minutes

3 +
Seconds

5.1 How was time in sight determined?

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? *No Comments*

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*

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? | <u>Yes</u> | No | Don't Know |
| e. Change brightness? | Yes | No | <u>Don't Know</u> |
| f. Change shape? | Yes | No | <u>Don't Know</u> |
| g. Flash or flicker? | Yes | No | <u>Don't Know</u> |
| h. Disappear and reappear? | Yes | No | <u>Don't Know</u> |

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? *No Comments*

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|----|----------------|-----|----|
| 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. No Comments

a. Sound _____

b. Color _____

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.

No Comments on Shape

18. The edges of the object were:

No Comments

- (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? _____

Draw a picture of how they were arranged, and put an arrow to show the direction that they were traveling.

5 INDIVIDUAL SIGHTINGS OF SAME NATURE:

4, 6 & 7 Nov

BY MR.

3

"

BY MR.

8

"

BY MR.

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.

No Comment

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

No Comment

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?

No Comment

23. Did the object disappear while you were watching it? If so, how?

No

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.

No Comment

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?

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. 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).

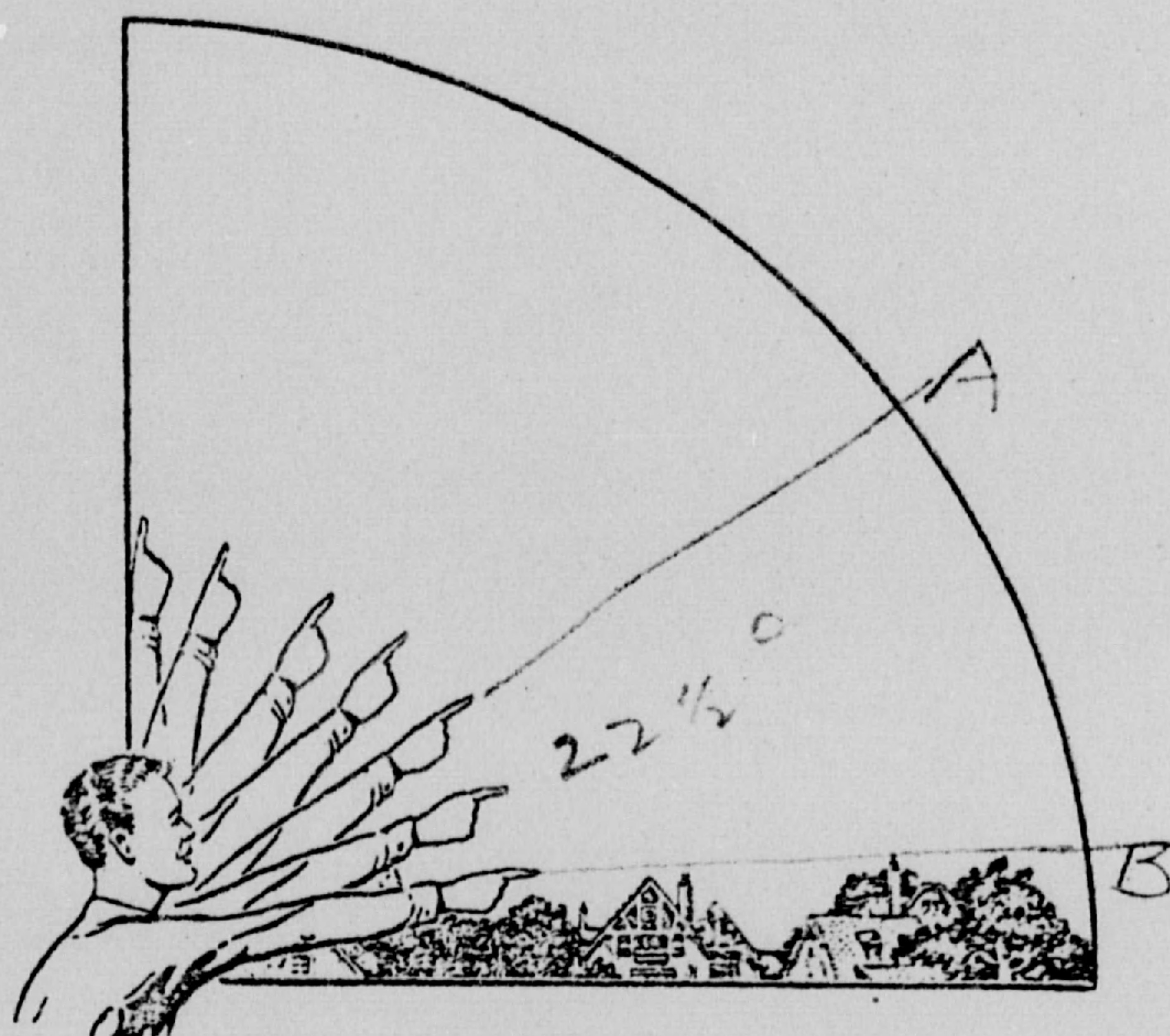
31.1 When it first appeared:

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

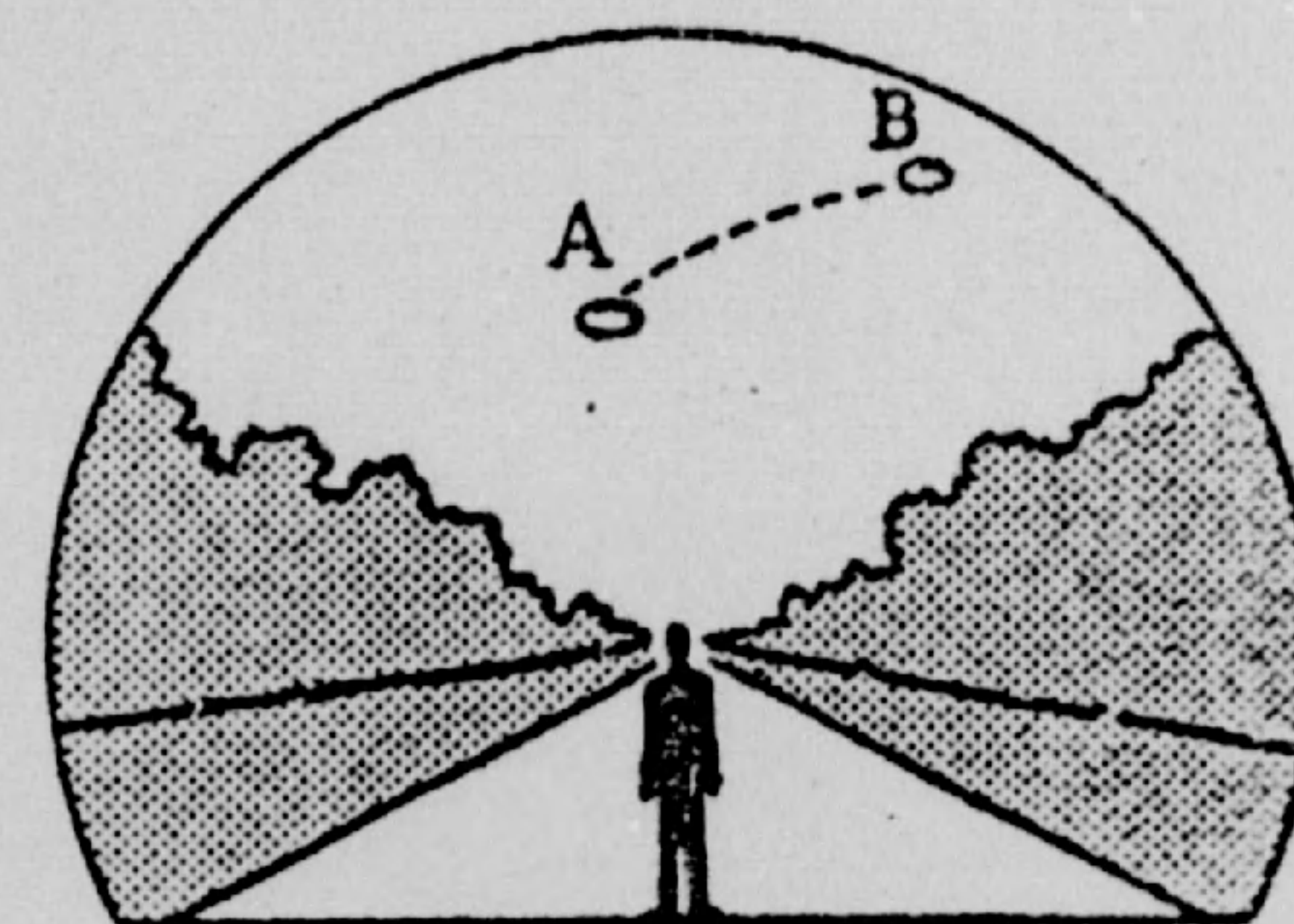
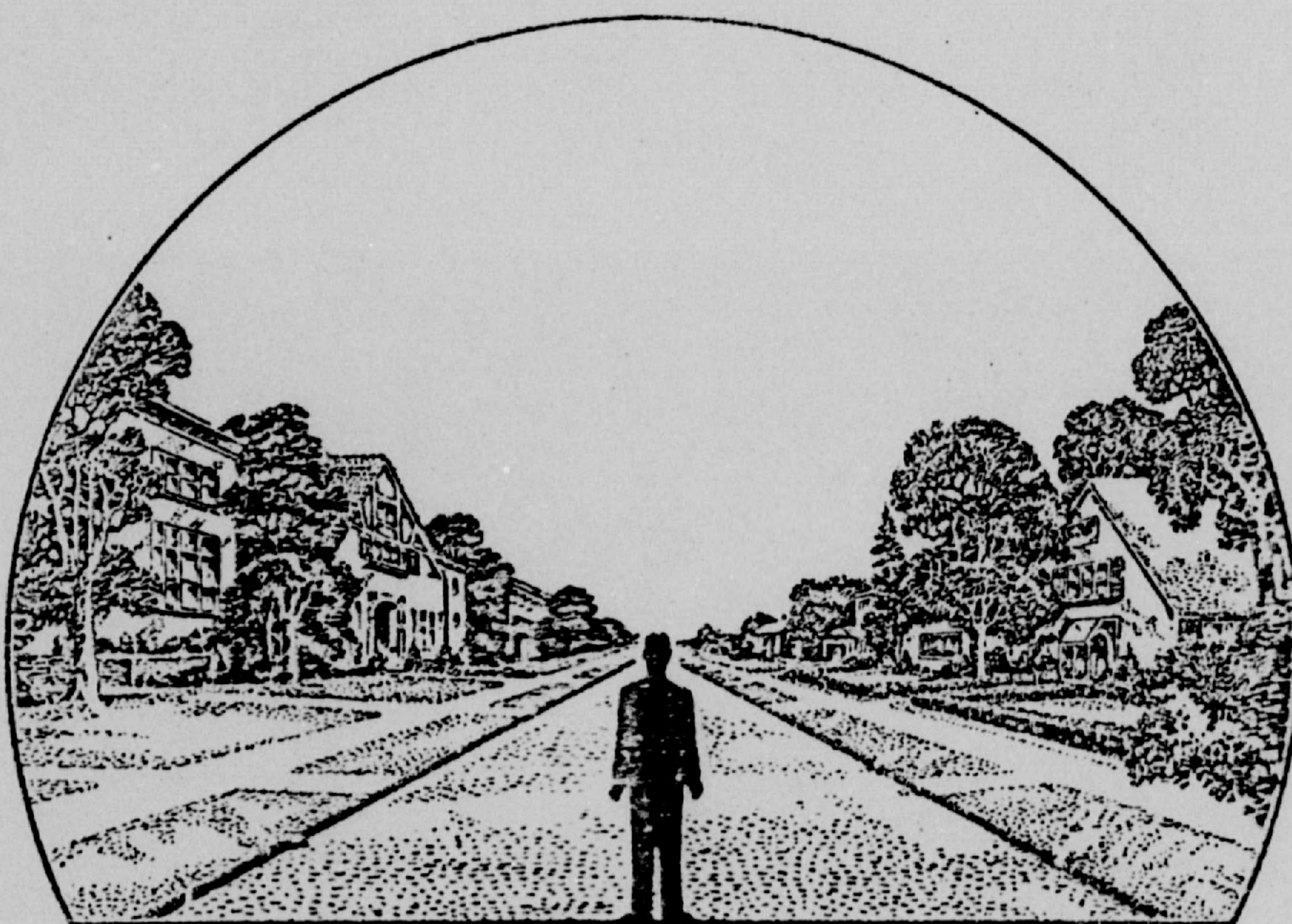
31.2 When it disappeared:

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

CONTACTED BY MAIL ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

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:

No Comment

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?

No Comment

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

No Comment

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 _____

FROM FTD TO CITE AS AUTHORIZATION FOR TDY."

I RELAYED INITIAL REPORT TO MAJ. FRIEND, VIA
TELCOM (AUTH. NR. 330-37) WHO INSTRUCTED ME
TO HAVE MAJ. [REDACTED] REPORT 1 AUG AFR 200-2
& TO CHECK WITH COMMANDER PACIFIC FLEET FOR
REPORTS ON IMPACTS IN THE AREA OF INTEREST,
THIS INFORMATION WAS RELAYED TO MAJ. HENTON
(AUTH 330-FO). MAJ. [REDACTED] WILL FILE AN INTERIM
REPORT BY TWIX ASAP & A COMPLETE REPORT WILL
FOLLOW. MAJ. [REDACTED] DUTY PHONE IS NORTON AFB, EXT 81887;
HOME PHONE IS 628-5757, SAN BERNARDINO, CALIF.

Harry E. Baumgartner Jr
Capt. USAF
FTD Duty Officer

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

(Circle One)

Yes

No

No Comment

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

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? 30 mi @ sea from San Diego @ IMPACT

41. Please give the following information about yourself: INFO SUPPLIED BY:

NAME MAJOR [REDACTED] Last Name First Name Middle Name

LOS ANGELES AIR DEFENSE SECTOR,

ADDRESS NORTON AFB CALIF Street City Zone State

HE OBTAINED IT FROM ?

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

Age _____ Sex _____

MR. [REDACTED] SAN DIEGO
[REDACTED] ext [REDACTED]
MR. [REDACTED] SAN DIEGO
SAN DIEGO APPROACH CONTROL
(THRU NORTH ISLAND NAS)
MR. [REDACTED] SAN DIEGO

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

MR. [REDACTED] IS MISSILE EXPERT FOR GENERAL ATOMIC DIVISION, CONVAIR-ATLAS PLANT, SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

MR. [REDACTED] IS [REDACTED], CONVAIR PLANT #1, SAN DIEGO

MR. [REDACTED] IS FAA CONTROLLER, WORKING AT SAN DIEGO MUNICIPAL (LINDBERG), ADJACENT TO CONVAIR.
(OVER)

42. Date you completed this questionnaire:

7

Day

NOV

Month

61

Year

I QUOTE MAJ. [REDACTED] TELCON:

"MR. [REDACTED], ON 4th, 6 & 7 SITED "TRAJECTORIES". HE WAS CERTAIN THAT THESE WERE NOT METEORS, MR. [REDACTED] IS THE MISSILE EXPERT FOR GENERAL ATOMIC DIVISION, CONVAIR ATLAS PLANT, SAN DIEGO. IN CHECKING, MR. [REDACTED] DETERMINED THAT MR. [REDACTED], AN FAA CONTROLLER, WORKING AT SAN DIEGO MUNICIPAL (LINDBERG), WHICH IS ADJACENT TO CONVAIR, SITED A "TRAJECTORY" ON 3 NOV, FURTHER, THAT MR. [REDACTED] CONVAIR PLANT #1, OBSERVED A "TRAJECTORY" ON 3 NOV. ALL OBSERVATIONS WERE BETWEEN 2000 & 2100 LOCAL TIME, FOR 3 TO 5 SECONDS. EACH WAS THE "BRIGHTEST" SUCH EVENT ANY HAD SEEN, TWO OF THE THREE REPORTED SMOKE BEHIND, AFTER THE BRIGHT FLASH OF THE TRAJECTORY. WEATHER, ON EACH DATE WAS CAVU, MR. [REDACTED], ESTIMATING A VERTICAL COVERAGE OF 22^{1/2}°, USED COMPUTER FACILITIES TO ESTIMATE THE FOLLOWING, FOR 7 NOV OBSERVATION:

TRAJECTORY LENGTH - 500 MIL DURING TIME OF ILLUM.

" WIDTH - 3-5 MIL

" HEIGHT - 100,000' TO 150,000'

" IMPACT - 30 mi @ SEA FROM SAN DIEGO

" " (OTHER THAN 7 NOV); NW, NE, & S of
TIAJUANA

THE THREE HAD KNOWLEDGE (SOME) OF EXPECTED U.S. ACTIVITY IN THE AREA FOR THE PERIOD. THEY CONCLUDED THAT THEY HAD SEEN:

- a) SOME US ACTIVITY UNKNOWN TO THEM; OR
- b) IF THE CAUSE WAS PYROTECHNICS, THE PYROTECHNICS WOULD HAVE HAD TO BE ABOVE 75,000'; OR
- c) SOMETHING OTHER.

THEY WANTED SOME EXPLANATION & INFORMED MAJ. [REDACTED]. THEY WANTED TO INFORM THE PRESS; MAJ. HENTON DID NOT APPROVE, INSTEAD CALLED US. (AUTH NR. 330-FN)

MAJOR [REDACTED] REQUESTS THAT A MESSAGE BE SENT TO COMMANDER, LAADS, NORTON AFB, ATTN: LAOIN, INDICATING NEED (OR DESIRE) FOR FOLLOW UP. HE HAS NO PROBLEM GETTING TRAVEL MONEY; HIS CO HAS GRANTED VOCO, BUT HE NEEDS SOMETHING

Del Mar, California
17 November 1961

Dr Allen Hynak
Dearborn Observatory
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois

Dear Dr Hynak:

As you requested by telephone, 16 November 1961, herewith is a summary of the information on "fire-trail" sightings in the period 2-11 November. Although this information was acquired piecemeal, it is listed in chronological sequence as it occurred.

2 November 1961: [redacted], an FAA observer for five years, on duty in the tower at Lindberg Field, San Diego, observed between 2000 and 2100 hours a bright trail described as starting over Mount Soledad on the east edge of La Jolla and extending NE to SW in direction toward the ocean. [redacted] stated that he had never before observed a trail with such characteristics and that my description of the standard "signature" of the three trails which I later observed also described the 2 November trail. The time of this sighting can be more closely established by consulting the log at Lindberg Field since [redacted] was in communication with a pilot airborne at the time. The pilot works for Convair, extension [redacted], is named [redacted].

this is the description of 8 Nov Trail - see below. 2 Nov trail was SW of San Diego.

4 November 1961: About 2000 hours from the patio of my home, address above, I observed a vertical "fire-trail" at an azimuth of about 200 degrees or about 20 degrees west of south, at elevations above the horizontal from about 40 to 20 degrees, mean elevation about 30 degrees. The trail was very broad, perhaps 3 to 5 miles wide (6400 miles equals 360 degrees), was traced out over a period of two or three seconds, then vanished abruptly with no afterglow. There was no fireball visible, no buildup in the trail; that is, the trail was uniform over its entire length and at the instant of disappearance was visible over its entire length. Striations or sparks trailed from edges of the trail. It was a brilliant white or blue white color. There was no sound. My first thought was that the trail was that of a pyrotechnic projected downward from an aircraft, but the angular velocity and geometry eliminated this possibility for any reasonable altitudes. The observation was consistent, however, with a reentry burnout from about 30 to 20 miles altitude and velocity of about 20,000 feet per second. On the latter basis as an assumption, the trail was about 50 miles from Del Mar. At such a range, the trail would have had to have been two or three hundred yards wide. Returning to the pyrotechnic rocket hypothesis, and accepting a constant velocity of about 1500 feet per second as possible from, say, 9,000 to 6,000 feet altitude, one would expect to have seen either the aircraft or a rocket trail of luminous gas or have heard some sound within less than thirty seconds. None of these phenomena were observed; and for greater altitudes, the uniform velocity of the trail is not compatible with such higher velocities in an atmospheric trajectory. By consequence, I concluded that I had witnessed the reentry and burnout of one of the many satellites in orbit, although the vertical trace of the trail and the uniform width were cause for some doubt on this hypothesis.

5 November 1961: About 1900 hours Air Controlman 1st [redacted] observed "a long, bright trail with sparks" SW of San Diego from the Pacific Drive-in Theatre in Pacific Beach, a location next to highway 101 and about on the dividing line between the Pacific Beach and La Jolla sections of San Diego. The axis of the parking lot for patrons and the movie screen in this drive-in points somewhat south of southeast. [redacted], who is stationed at the North Island Air Station, a naval installation, was off duty at the time. He had been on duty in the tower at North Island at some time between 2-8 November, however, and was questioned therefore about any unusual sightings of fire trails. His report was passed on to me by Commander Mitchie, Operations Officer at the Miramar Naval Air Base whom I called first about the trails on 8 November 1961.

6 November 1961: About 2100 hours I observed another, the second, fire trail having a signature identical to that observed on 4 November 1961 and at about the same vertical elevation, vertical span and horizontal width (that is, several miles wide), and with about the same angular velocity from a point on highway 101 off National City of San Diego. I was driving north on the highway and the section of the highway directly along which I observed the trail points along an azimuth of about 340 degrees, or about 20 degrees west of north. The description of the trail observed 4 November fits in every respect the trail observed 6 November.

7 November 1961: About 2000 hours as I walked to my car in the north parking lot at General Atomic, which is located just east of highway 101 in Torrey Pines in northern San Diego, I observed a third trail identical to the previous two sighted on 4 and 6 November except for one feature. Whereas the first two trails had been vertical, this trail tilted or arced down steeply from the north to the south with a shallow but noticeable curvature. The direction of view was at an azimuth of about 250 degrees or about 20 degrees south of west. All other features of the sighting, that is elevation, span, width and angular velocity were about the same as those of the two earlier sightings. A tangent to the arc at the center was at an angle from the horizontal of perhaps 70 or 80 degrees.

8 November 1961: About 2000 hours a trail was observed by three different observers, two in San Diego and one in Oceanside which is thirty miles north of San Diego. This sighting could not possibly have been one of a trail in the lower atmosphere because of the wide separation of observations. The three observers were:

[redacted] who also observed the 2 November trail, was driving south in Pacific Beach and described the trail as "overhead" from NE to SW. He did not see the entire trail. In transcribing my notes, I mistakenly gave his description of this trail under the 2 November note on the previous page. The 2 November trail was described simply as being SW of San Diego. [redacted] lives in Pacific Beach, telephone [redacted] or can also be reached through Mr. Larson, FBI, telephone [redacted]

[redacted] described the trail as "over Mission Beach", viewed from his home in San Diego. Mission Beach is south of and adjoining Pacific Beach. [redacted] works at Convair Plant #1, telephone [redacted] extensive [redacted]

[redacted] observed the trail as a vertical trace to the south of Oceanside on a line between Torrey Pines and Del Mar. Since both observers in San Diego observed a curved trace and [redacted] observed a vertical trace, the trajectory appears to be roughly on a line through San Diego and Oceanside. Such a line extends in the direction of the Klamath-Siskiyou peninsula. [redacted]

description of direction as being NE to SW is not necessarily inconsistent with such a direction since he was near the end of the trajectory and a slight offset could produce a skewed impression of direction.

11 November 1961: About 1955 hours four observers witnessed a fire trail of about the same description as the earlier sightings to the north-east, at about 60 degrees above the horizontal. The trace was almost horizontal and was from right to left or from "south" to "north". The trail had, according to Dr [redacted], a slight tilt of perhaps 30 degrees to a north-south line, above on the right or south and below on the north or left. After discussing this point with [redacted] I concluded that a question of semantics could be involved; that is, the trail was from upper right (south) to lower left (north) at a tilt of 30 degrees to the horizontal. As for [redacted] sighting in Pacific Beach, near the end of trajectory appearances can be very difficult to interpret or even describe. The left or northern half of the trajectory passed just below the bottom star in Cassiopeia. Dr [redacted] saw the trail from San Diego. My sixteen year old son and two friends also saw the trail from Del Mar, a point about ten miles north of [redacted] house, but the boy's description matched [redacted] even to the point about the position of the trajectory passing just below Cassiopeia. [redacted] said that the angular velocity did appear to be slow for a meteorite, from his experience. He said that the appearance of the trail also agreed with my description of the standard "signature" of all the other trails sighted.

On the evenings of these sightings the weather was very warm and the sky brilliantly clear, due to what is locally termed a "Santa Ana" condition, a hot desert east wind. After my initial sighting on 2 November, I spent several hours at different times in my patio to see if some sort of meteorite shower was in progress between 1900 and 2200 hours. During this entire watch period I saw only three small meteorite trails, all having a very fine trace and angular velocity of two to three times that of the trails above described. All trails had the build-up in intensity so characteristic of many meteorite trails and the afterglow of gas recombination. I have seen one bolide, in France near Paris just before dusk in 1955. This phenomenon bore no relation in its behaviour to the sightings described here. The bolide had a distinct and clearly visible fireball, left a clearly visible trail, stopped and exploded with a sound audible after an interval of time and was later reported to have been observed over a distance of hundreds of miles by various observers in France.

May I suggest that some sort of publicity in San Diego County may serve to provide you with more information from more observers. My initial reaction to the possible implications of these sightings to national security has restrained me from promoting any publicity on the subject. In any case, the preceding covers the information I have up to date.

Very truly yours,
[redacted]