

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE & TIME GROUP 26 Jan 67	2. LOCATION Coffee, Illinois (Multiple)
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION Poss AIRCRAFT
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	description is similar to an aircraft with an electrical advertising sign. Object had light about same brightness of aircraft. Object had a shape of a clam and a helicopter. Ob- ject disappeared in distant darkness.
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 15 minutes	
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground Visual	
7. COURSE NW	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

Air Agency CE-19-27
 Pilot Training
 Examiner Service
 Rental
 Taxi
 Ambulance
 Aerial Advertising
 Aircraft Sales-Service
 Certificated Repair Station No. 3229

P. O. BOX 59

PHONE 943-3222

Lawrenceville, Illinois 62

January 16, 1968

Department of the Air Force
 HQ Foreign Technology Division (AFSC)
 Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433

Attn: Hector Quintanilla, Jr., Major, USAF

Dear Sir:

In reply to your request for information concerning our night advertising, I will submit the following:

Our advertising is done with an electric sign which is programmed to accept and display moving letters.

The sign is mounted on a Cessna 172D (N2673U) in a horizontal position under the aircraft. It is constructed in three sections, and is extended or retracted by using electric winches and nylon rope.

The sign measures eight feet wide and thirty-five feet long when extended. The letters move from the rear forward, and measure eight feet by four feet.

Under normal circumstances, the entire message of approximately 60 letters and spaces will repeat itself every 20 seconds.

During the time the sign is extended and lighted, it is flown through the air at an airspeed of 55 to 60 miles per hour. For transporting it from one location to another, the bulbs are not lighted, and it would appear to be a conventional aircraft.

This apparatus, when viewed from a side position of more than a half mile can cause some of the effects on the public which you are concerned with. That is to say that it is not readable from that distance, and will appear to be a string of lights moving around some object . . . creating a very busy pattern of light, not discernable as a definite object.

On moonlit nights, the aircraft can be distinguished, and reports of an aircraft on fire are quite common.

When operating this sign, we are required by the wording contained in our waiver to maintain contact, or forewarn the FAA through Flight

WABASH VALLEY AVIATION CO.

LAWRENCEVILLE-VINCENNES MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Air Agency CE-19-27
Flight Training
Flight Examiner Service
Aircraft Rental
Taxi
Ambulance
Aerial Advertising
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Service Stations or Air Traffic Control Towers.

We are not waived to fly lower than existing regulations allow, and we operate in strict adherence to these rules.

However, we have found that in many cases, we are accused of operating at altitudes lower than the minimums . . . a situation we believe is caused by the effect of the moving lights. We have experimented with this matter by asking control towers to estimate our altitude, in which case they always estimate it to be considerably lower than we actually are.

I am enclosing one of our advertising folders in lieu of a photograph, since it is not easy to take a good picture of this rig. The drawing depicts the general appearance.

I am also enclosing a copy of our waiver, with the idea in mind that if ever there is a question on a given night, you might determine the presence of one of these signs by contacting the FAA, and that would be providing the operator complied with his waiver commitment.

Our area of operation is legally the Continental United States, but we are operating mostly in the state of Illinois, Indiana and Missouri. We have operated in Kansas, Kentucky and Iowa.

We received two sets of information requests from you . . . one for Wabash Valley Aviation Co., and one for [REDACTED]. I wish to inform you that we are one and the same person.

If we may be of further service to you in your efforts, please let us know.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Encl: 2

Copy for Hynes
and include letter
of Jan. 28.

* NOT FOR "GENERAL PUBLICATION" *
This is furnished as a service
only to the U. S. Govt. forces.

A/C possible
26 Jan 67
Coffee, Ill.

U.S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION

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. 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?

26 JAN. 1967
Day Month Year

2. Time of day:

9 to 9:15
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?

on Highway 185

[REDACTED]
Nearest Postal Address

Coffeen
City or Town

ILL 62017
State or County

5. How long was object in sight? (Total Duration)

Hours

15
Minutes

Seconds

a. Certain

b. Fairly certain

c. Not very sure

d. Just a guess

time is length
I was watching

5.1 How was time in sight determined? Car clock

5.2 Was object in sight continuously?

Yes

No

6. What was the condition of the sky?

DAY

a. Bright

b. Cloudy

NIGHT

a. Bright

b. Cloudy

Overcast, though time
of full moon.

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

See 6.6. above

8.2 MOON (Circle One):

- a. Bright moonlight
b. Dull moonlight
c. No moonlight
d. Don't remember

~~pitch dark~~ overcast after ice storm

9. 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

after ice storm

10. The object appeared: (Circle One): described in 19, below)

- a. Solid
b. Transparent
c. Vapor
d. As a light
e. Don't remember

(with lights as described in 19, below)

11. If it appeared as a light, was it brighter than the brightest stars? (Circle One):

- a. Brighter
b. Dimmer
c. About the same
d. Don't know

11.1 Compare brightness to some common object:

"Attached" lights about same brightness as airplanes!

12. 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 _____

13. Did the object:

(Circle One for each question)

- a. Appear to stand still at any time?
b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time?
c. Break up into parts or explode?
d. Give off smoke?
e. Change brightness?
f. Change shape?
g. Flash or flicker?
h. Disappear and reappear?

Yes	No	Don't know
Yes	No	Don't know
Yes	No	Don't know
Yes	No	Don't know
Yes	No	Don't know
Yes	No	Don't know
Yes	No	Don't know
Yes	No	Don't know

These apply only to my 15 minutes' observation.

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

No.

15. 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: _____

16. 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: _____

Trees along the creek-bed

17. Tell in a few words the following things about the object:

a. Sound

None noticeable

b. Color

Not much light available. Seemed lustreless — like our U.S. Army Olive Drab.

18. 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?

An area 3'x5' would have been covered by the match head. (Using wood, kitchen match). This would be about 1/2 of its length and 1/5 or 1/6 of its height.

19. 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.



20. 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? 10 mph - hovering

21. 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? 300 feet

22. 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 _____

23. 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 _____

24. IF you were MOVING IN AN AUTOMOBILE or other vehicle at the time, then complete the following questions:

24.1 What direction were you moving? (Circle One)

a. North

c. East

e. South

g. West

b. Northeast

d. Southeast

f. Southwest

☒ h. Northwest

24.2 How fast were you moving? 15 miles per hour. (ready to turn north)

24.3 Did you stop at any time while you were looking at the object?

(Circle One)

☒ Yes

No

Stopped and turned off lights

25. 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

Both

☒ Yes

☒ No

g. Theodolite

Yes

☒ No

d. Window glass

Yes

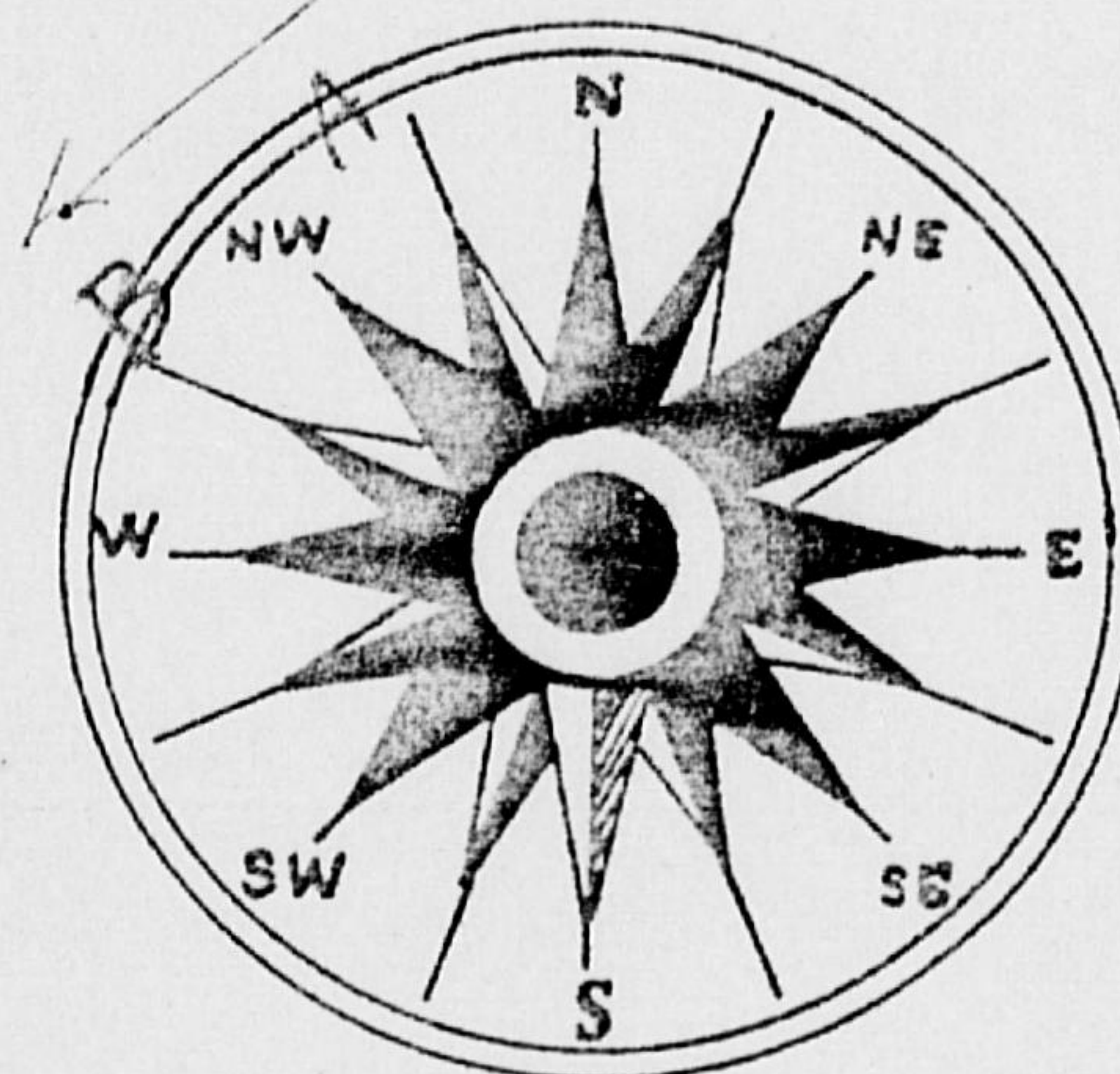
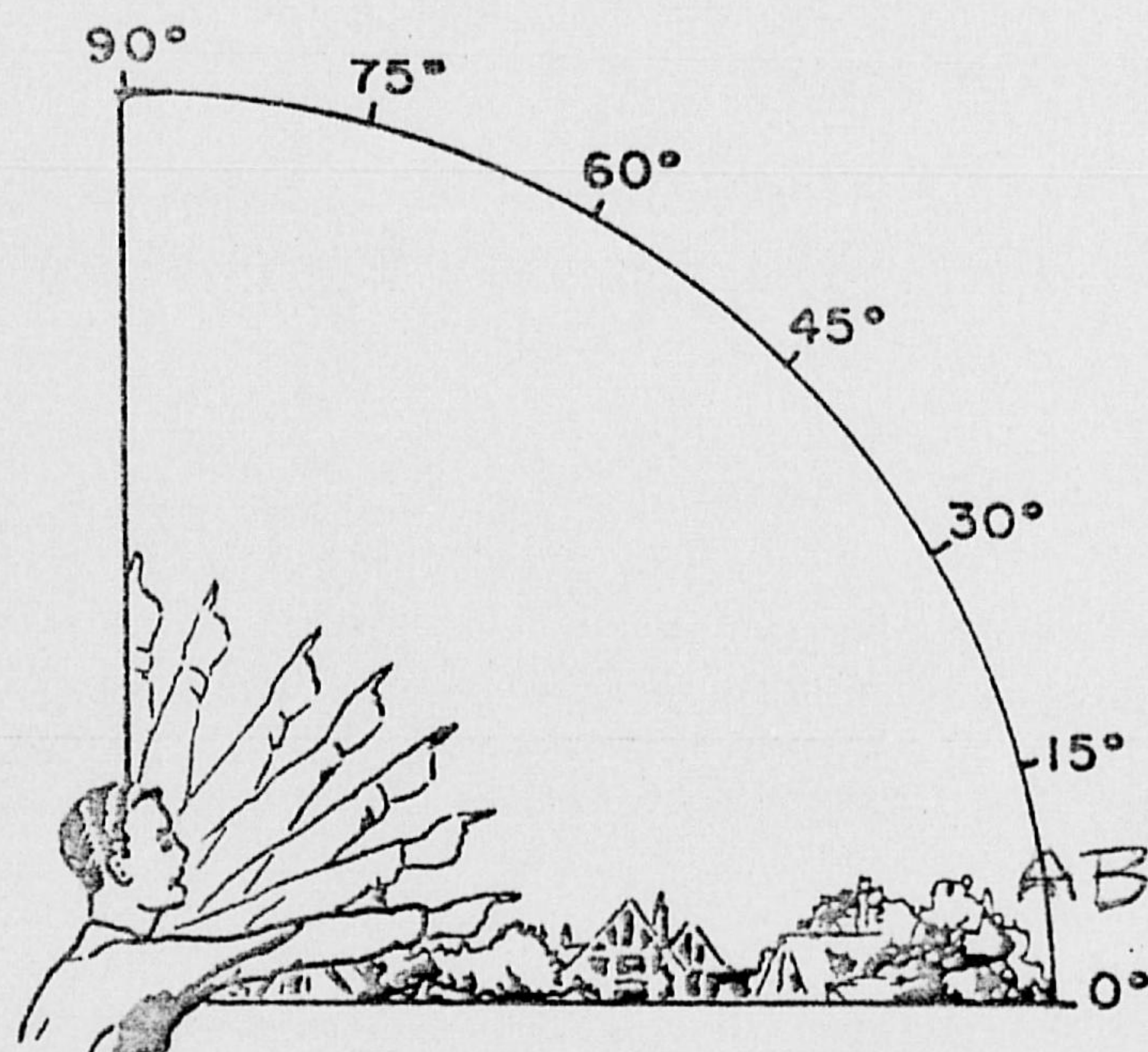
☒ No

h. Other had window down part-time.

26. 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.

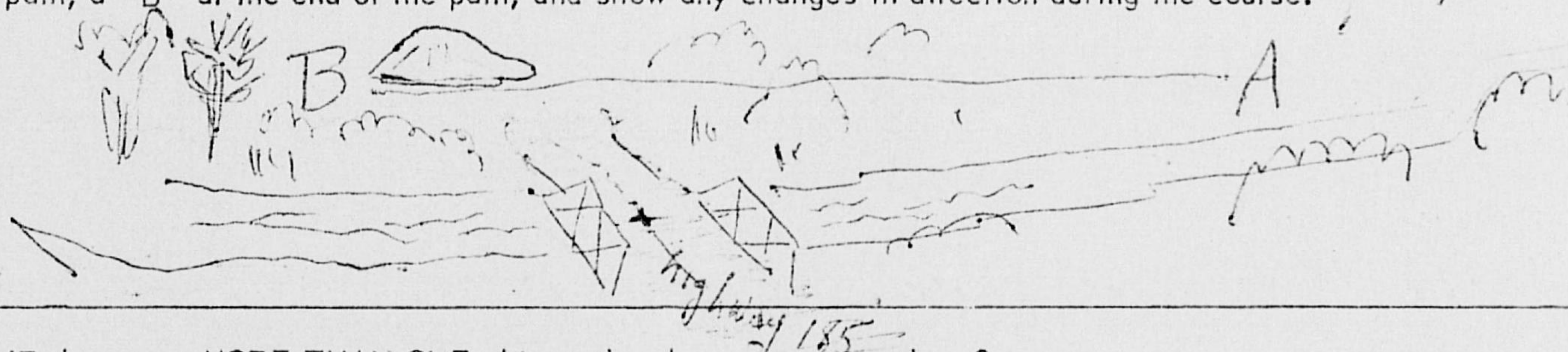
Combination of a clam and a helicopter!

27. 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. Place an "A" on the compass when you *first* saw it. Place a "B" on the compass where you *last* saw the object.



Same height and angle

28. 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.



29. 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.

only one

30. Have you ever seen this, or a similar object before. If so give date or dates and location.

Yes - October 20, 1966 above "backwaters"
just north of Lawrenceville, Ill. near intersection of
Highway 161 and No. 50

31. Was anyone else with you at the time you saw the object? (Circle One) ☒ Yes ☐ No

31.1 IF you answered YES, did they see the object too? (Circle One) ☒ Yes ☐ No

31.2 Please list their names and addresses:

Wife, [REDACTED]
Same Address.

(for Oct. 20, 1966 Sighting only)

For the Jan. 26 sighting - I was alone.

[REDACTED] reports he saw this object on
[REDACTED] NIGHT, JAN. 29, 1967 same place. (This was
without my having told him of my
sighting, incidentally.)

32. Please give the following information about yourself:

NAME

Last Name

First Name

Middle Name

ADDRESS

Street

City

Zone

State

TELEPHONE NUMBER

AGE

SEX

47 Male

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

Methodist minister. Do not drink. Sane.

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

28

Jan.

1967

Day

Month

Year

Joe H. Wilson, Chief, Information Div., Scott AFB, Ill.

62225

34. Date you completed this questionnaire:

20

MAR.

1967

Day

Month

Year

35. Information which you feel pertinent and which is not adequately covered in the specific points of the questionnaire or a narrative explanation of your sighting.

See my letter of Jan. 28, 1967.

This describes the "action" and "movement" of lights on the vehicle.

Also — in that letter, dates not given. They are given in this report, as they had been noted on our appointments calendar — which I had overlooked when I wrote to Joe Wilson at Scott.

In section 19, above, the right end of the vehicle appears as a sort of "rudder", at the rear of the vehicle, not an error in the sketch.

In both sightings, there was shallow water, but the vehicle was not an optical illusion from headlight reflections (the angle, and also because I turned off my lights in the Jan. 26, 1967 sighting.)

The Oct. 20, 1966 sighting: Speed about 40 mph, motion West to East, as I traveled south. That sighting brief — lasted perhaps $1\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, and vehicle disappeared in distant dark.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION (AFSC)
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO 45433



REPLY TO
ATTN OF

TDET/UFO

15 March 1967

SUBJECT

UFO Observation, Jan 67

TO:

Rev [REDACTED]

Fillmore, Illinois 62032

Reference your unidentified observation. The information which we have received is not sufficient for a scientific evaluation. Request you complete the attached FTD Form 164 and return it in the envelope provided. Thank you for reporting your observation to the Air Force.

JAMES C. MANATT, Colonel, USAF
Director of Technology and Subsystems

1 Atch
FTD Form 164 w/envelope

TDET, UFO OFFICIAL FILE COPY

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE
SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILLINOIS 62225



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: CSNOID

1 Feb 1967

SUBJECT: Sighting of Airborne Vehicle

TO: Project Blue Book Information Office
SAF-OI
Wash DC 20330

1. The attached report was submitted to this headquarters by the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
It is forwarded to your office as per instructions of Project Blue Book, 1 Feb 66.

2. Though this is the first such report submitted to Hq AFCS, we have in the past received requests for information concerning Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). We would appreciate receiving copies of any Air Force handout on UFOs.

FOR THE COMMANDER

Joe H Wilson
JOE H WILSON
Chief, Information Division
Office of Information

1 Atch
Ltr from Rev [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Jan 67 w/sketch

*Send 164
b7D*

FILLMORE PARISH — THE METHODIST CHURCH

BOX 98, FILLMORE, ILL. 62032 & BOX 176, COFFEEN, ILL. 62017

PHONE: FILLMORE 71

January 28, 1967

Air Force
Communications Service,
Scott AFB, Illinois

SUBJECT: Sightings of strange vehicle, airborne.

TIMES: Autumn evening and also a January 1967 evening.
(dates not remembered exactly, but with the
latest sightings, thought I should send this.)

DESCRIPTION: Similar to large helicopter, but with no
rotors visible, and no apparent sound. (Please
see attached sketch).

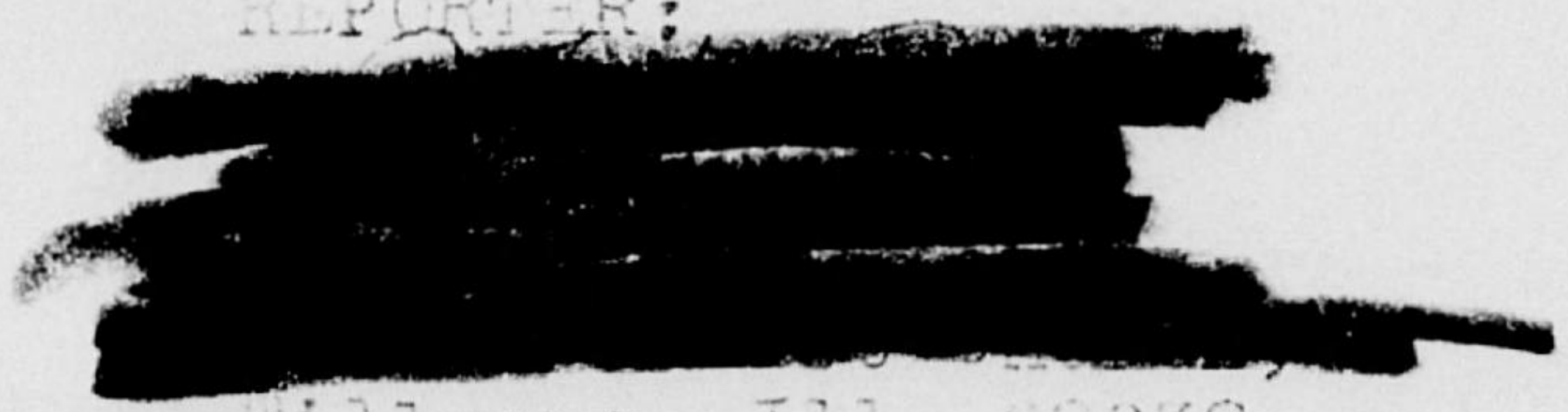
The "colored lights" on the side seemed to
progress from right to left as one sees
messages on a theater's marquee. There was
no particular order in the red, green, and
white(or yellow) lights that seemed like
moving windows, and they moved right to left
fast enough that they could not be counted.

At intervals, what appeared to be first white,
or yellow, light appeared to be projected from
the underside of the base of front(left) and
back(right) of the vehicle, and seeming to
change to a sort of red color as it was
directed as a projection to the ground, much
the same, or as the landing light of a plane is.

Vehicle was perhaps 300 feet up, and appeared
to be maybe 50' long, but this was indeterminate,
and the relative size of the vehicle was hard
to guess at that height. (It seemed quite big).

Inclement weather did not seem really to diminish
one's view of the vehicle, either time, but I
noticed that no clear color could be made out on
the body proper---just as though it were lustre-
less paint or metal such as was used in WWII.

REPORTER:

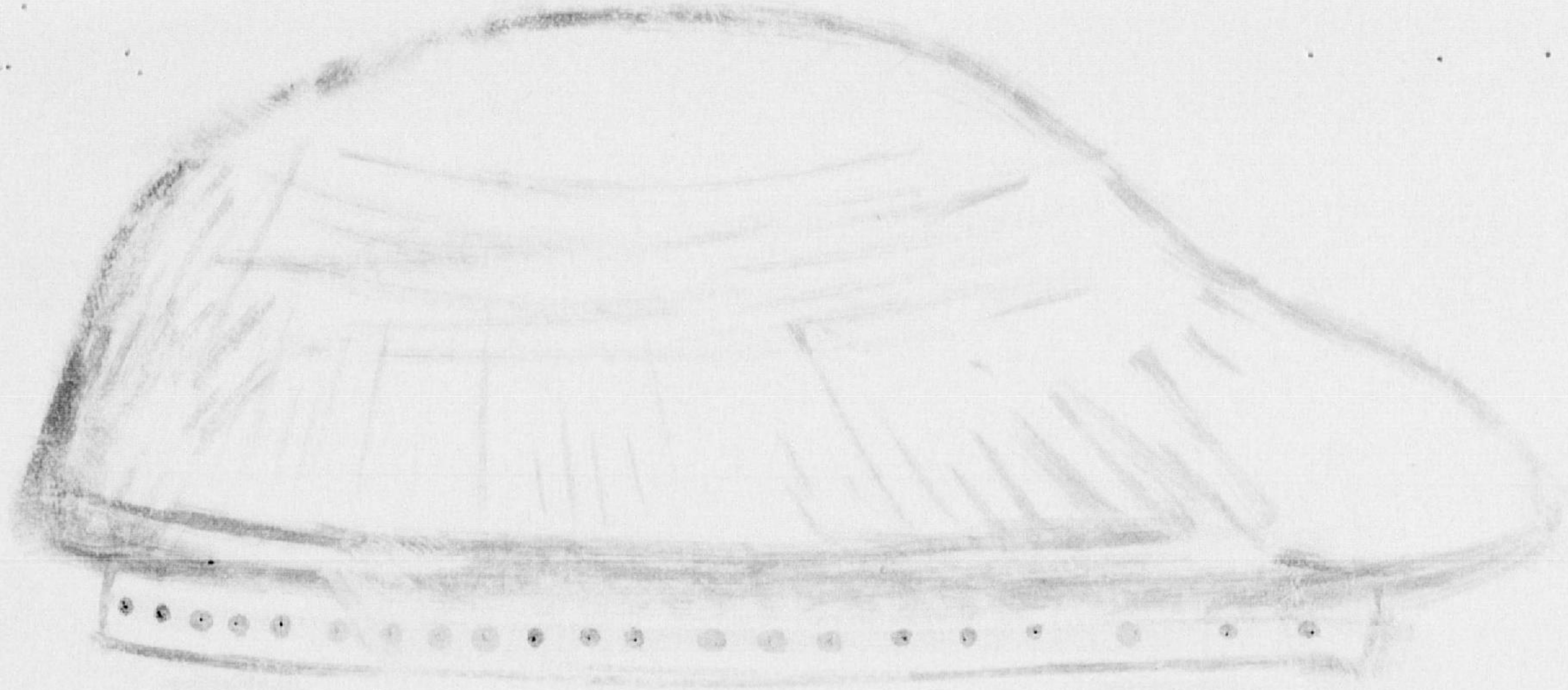

Fillmore, Ill. 62032

p.s.: this is sent for your information purposes
only, and is not intended for news media,
etc. Thanks!



Right
(REAR)

Left
(FRONT)



LEFT
(FRONT)

Right
(Rear)