

## SOLAR OBSERVATIONS ON A TRIBUTARY TO FERRON CREEK

BY

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Many of the panels along one of the tributaries of Ferron Creek have extremely good potential for solar interaction. Because they occur in a select, contiguous geographical unit they were selected to be observed throughout the year on all the important solar dates. Those observations should be able to provide obvious differences in shadow positions for all the seasonal changes from one extreme position of the sun to the other, on a set of cliffs that have a north-south axis that face east. By checking the types of shadow movement over this and other sets of cliff faces that have orientations to the other directions and the sun, we should be able to increase the degree of accuracy in predicting types and times of suspected interactions. Because of cloudy skies only about half of the observations for 1988 were possible. So far the 1989 observations have been too cloudy to make up the missing periods to complete the observations for this site.

When the total observations necessary to complete that project are completed they will be presented with other site information in two other presentations. First, as a test of the total percentage of panels within a defined site that perform as solar interacters, and second, as a means to test the types of characteristic shadow movements on various types of cliff faces depending on their form, angle and direction to the sun.

There is one panel here, however, whose observations are nearly complete, and the interactions are important to the considerations of our study of interacting Double Entities. Because of this panel's setting, simple nature, and limited number and types of elements present and their seemingly specific placement, it was felt that this panel would also be a good test of whether or not every element on some panels may participate or be functional in marking differences in the sun's position throughout the year. On such panels, how many elements marked the corresponding seasonally changing positions of the shadows (Fig. 1)?

This panel roughly faces north of northeast. Because of the elevation of the opposite canyon rim, Equinox sunrise is almost perpendicular to the panel (Fig. 2A). The panel is set back in about six feet beneath a very prominent overhang. On the right is a large block of sandstone that has dropped slightly from the ceiling. The left side of the panel is open and the cliff turns back away from the observer about six feet from the left-most figure.

There are six elements, numbered A to F in Figure 1, that make up this panel. A few other odd smudges of pigment and scratches occur along the cliff below and to the right that may compose another possible disconnected section of this panel. The major reason for selecting this site was the construction of Figure 1A. At this point in our solar observations we have literally observed hundreds of interacting circles and spirals since 1981. Because of

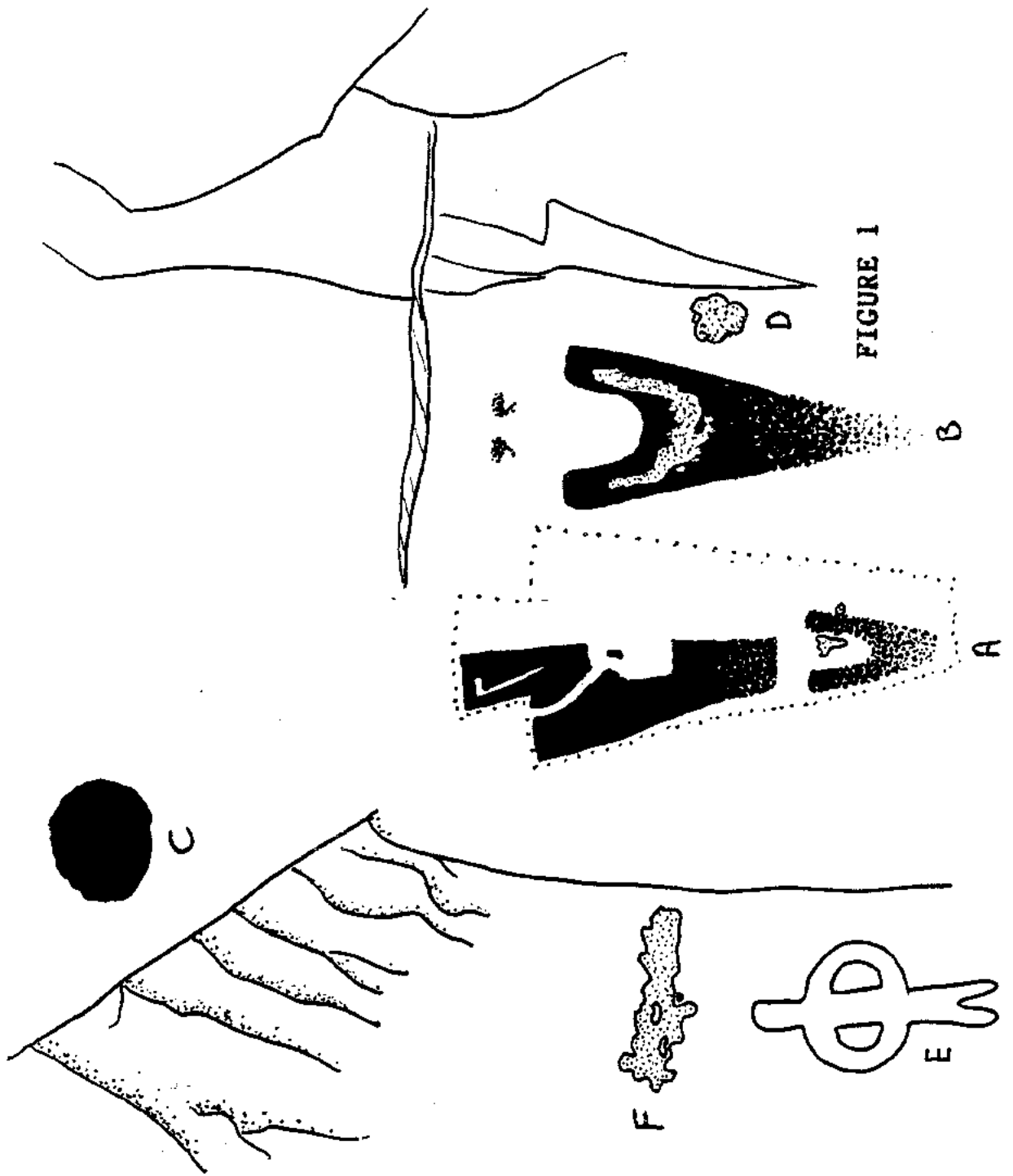
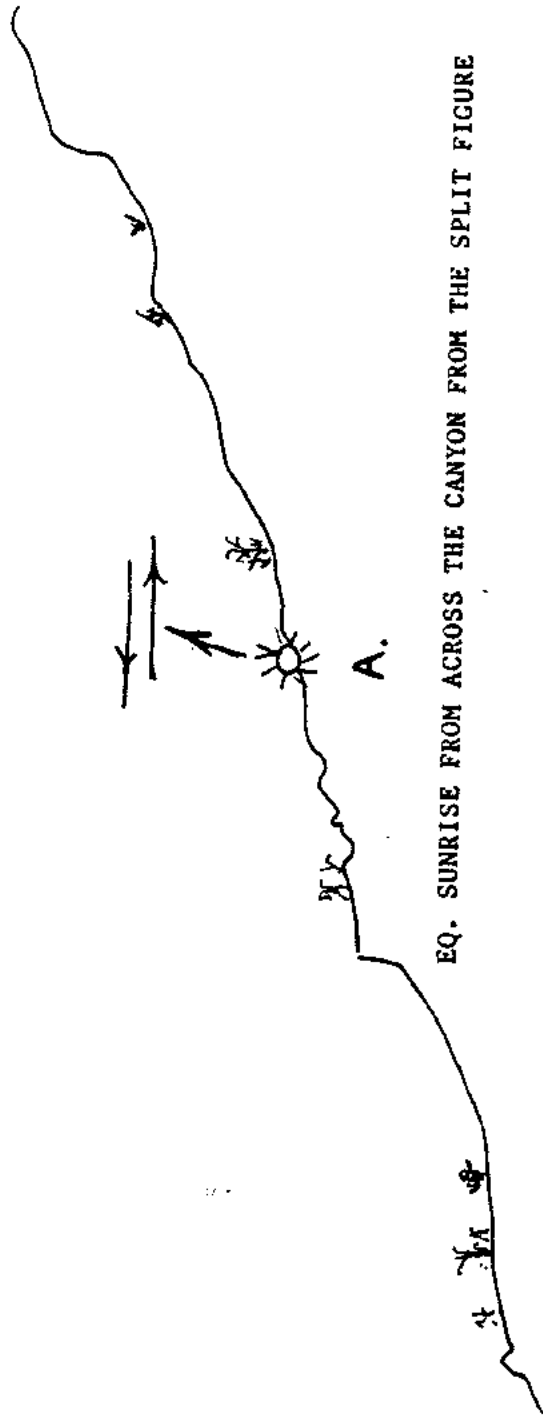
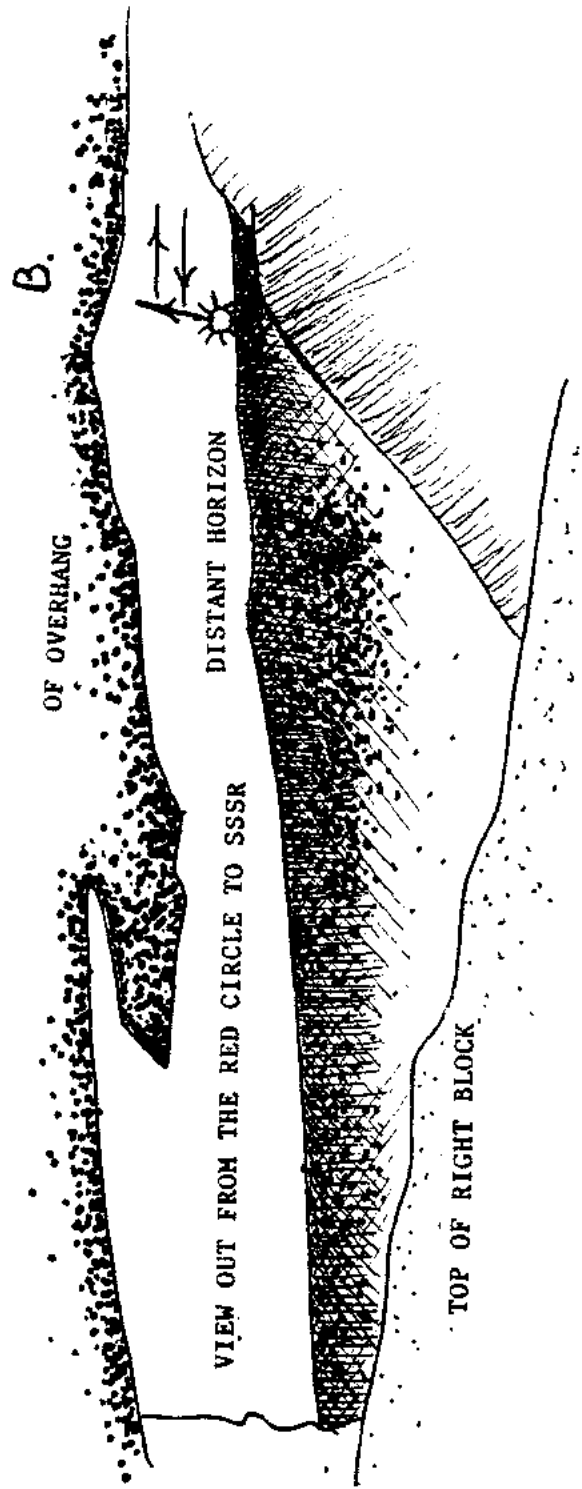


FIGURE 1



EQ. SUNRISE FROM ACROSS THE CANYON FROM THE SPLIT FIGURE

FIGURE 2



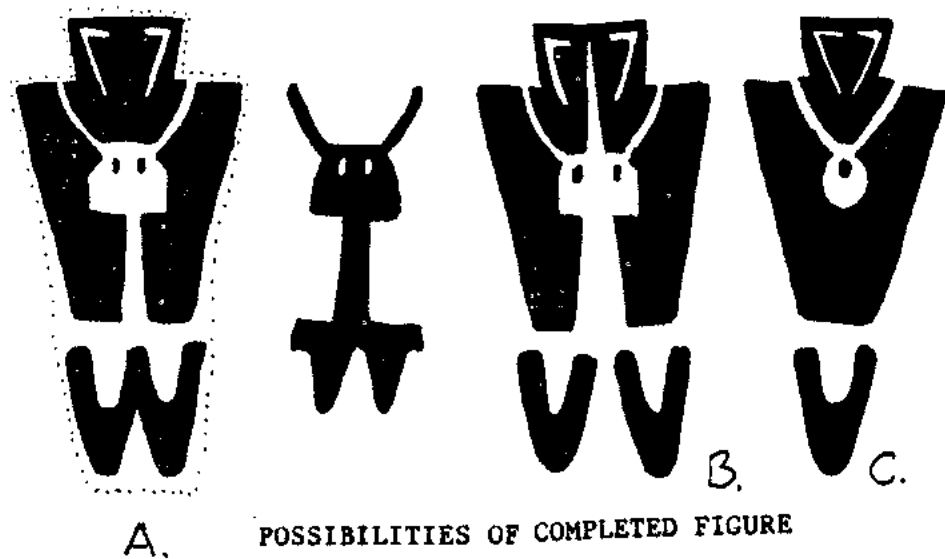


FIGURE 3

SPEAKING THE TRANSFORMATION

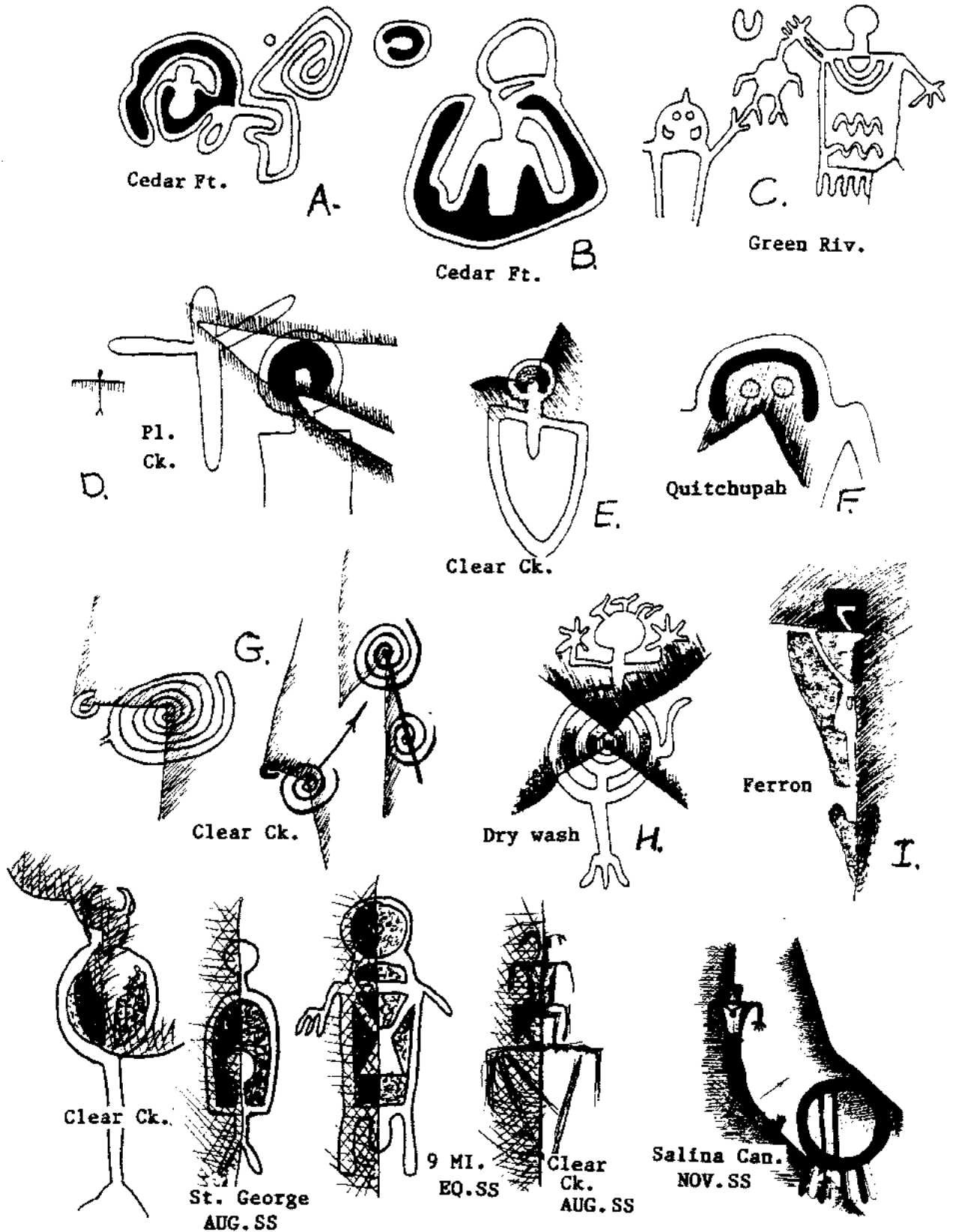


FIGURE 4

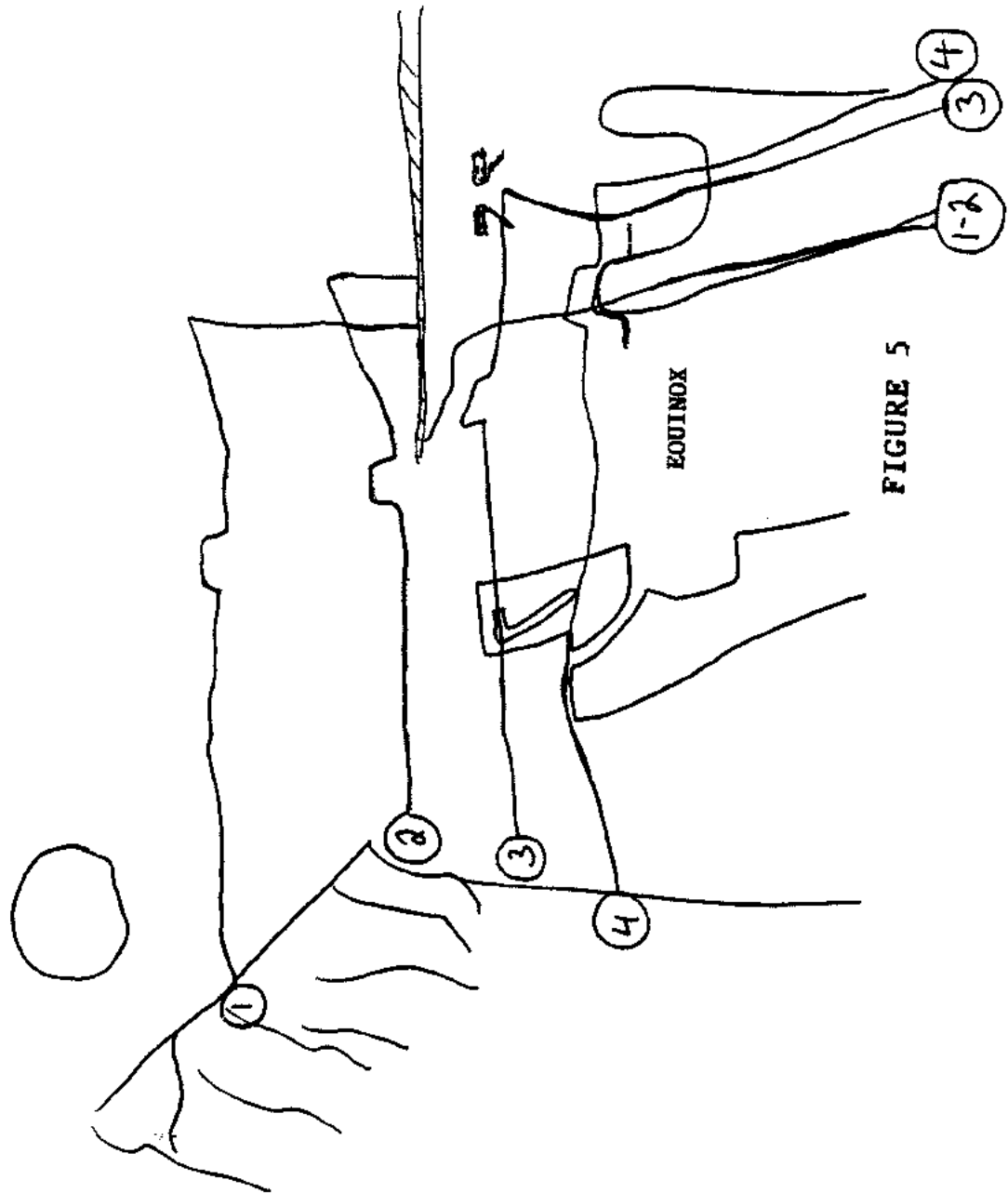


FIGURE 5

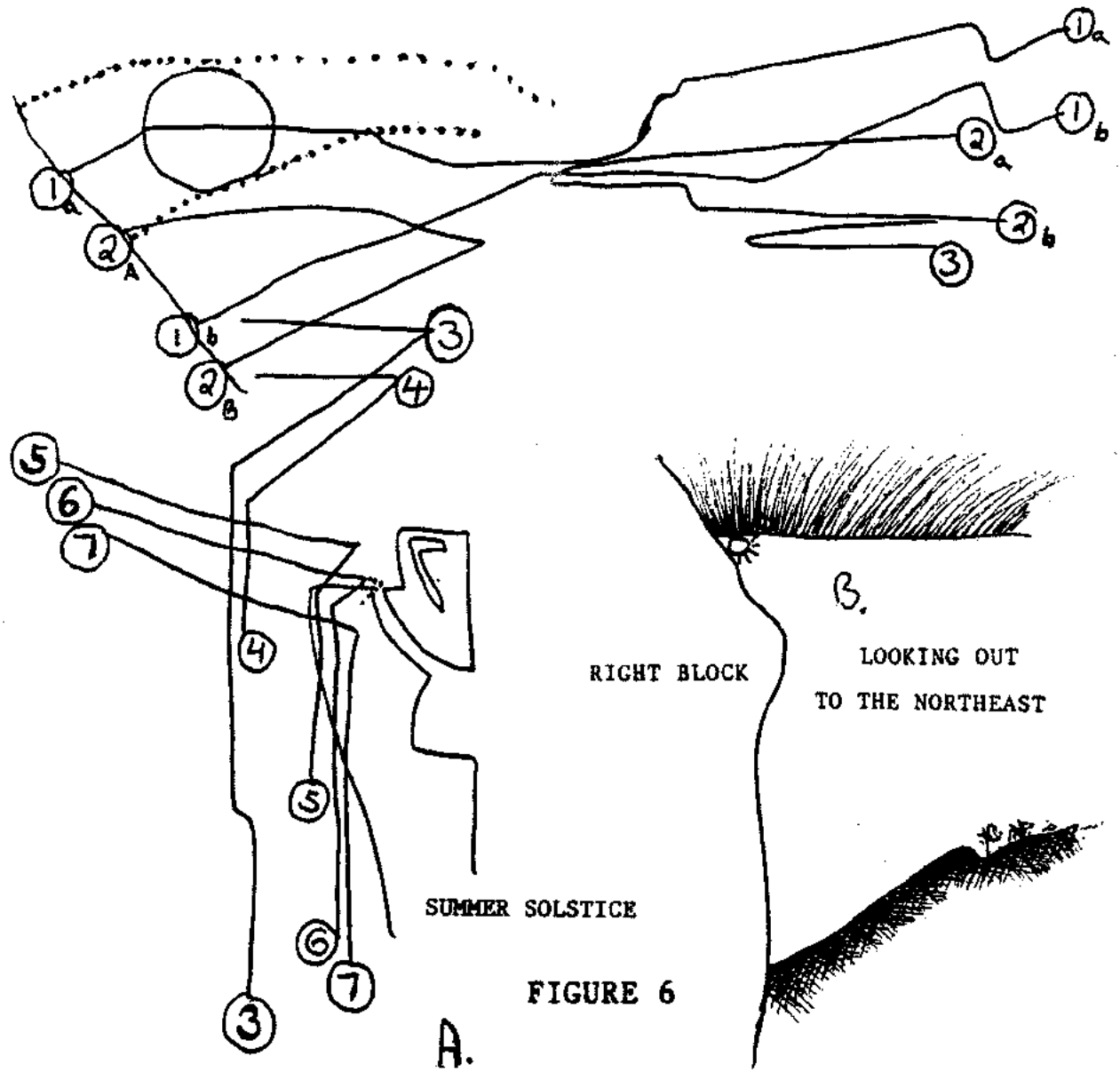
finite amount of information derivable from observing simple solar symbols it was felt that more important cultural relationships could be identified by observing more complex types of elements. Early during our first observations, my wife Judith and I discovered the phenomenon of Symbolic Solar Interactions. Because these types of interactions continued to repeat in about six different categories (c.f. Warner ndl), the direction of our research has been to select and observe other figures that fall into these categories that do not particularly express any obvious solar related symbolism. One of these categories is what we have defined as Double Entities (Warner 1987A, 1990, 1991A,B).

Double Entities are figures that in very unusual ways create the enigmatic concept of mysticism. They are usually various combinations of two or more human or human and animal forms that seem to portray an image possibly representing the shamanic ecstatic experience (i.e. an altered state). The emerging entity, often incomplete, is attached to various parts of the body. Figure 1A is a very unusual figure. At present there are only three other known half figures in Utah rock art. This figure, painted in reddish pigment represents the left half of the body. It has a negative (nonpainted, natural cliff color) eye and tear streak that drops diagonally down from the outside of the eye toward the center of the body. This direction for a tear streak is unknown in any other Fremont figures, or any others for that fact. All other known examples splay outward from the inside of the eye, or straight down. An example of the more conventional type of tear streak occurs on Figure 1B and others in the vicinity. The form of the tear streak alone would place some significance on this figure.

The head of Figure 1A is separated from the body by a thin inward curving, unpainted line. The inward bulging section suggests that this is a necklace with half a pendent, cut in half along the central axis of the body. Within the negative interior space of the pendent itself is a painted oblong dot. The waist narrows below the base of the pendent and then there is another space void of pigment above another painted section of the figure. This creates a half figurine form anthropomorph without arms or legs. Below the terminus of the main part of the figure the pigment forms an odd V shape that begins to deteriorate toward its base. From that point the weather has more access to the panel from underneath the protective overhang.

In carefully examining that area it does not appear to be an actual extension of the lower extremities of the figure, but some type of symbolic feature. The possibility that the pigment could have been washed out from between the upper and lower segments and from the missing half is totally out of the question because the majority of the figure is out of the weathered pattern. The line along the central axis is too precise to be the result of washing and there is no evidence of water in that area. If there was a washing effect on the panel, the existing painted area of the figure would also have been affected. There is also a small section of mud that was probably applied anciently within the design that has not been washed away. Similar sections of applied mud create other elements or parts of elements (Figs. D, F and necklace of 1B).

If this painted image was traced on a sheet of plyofilm and then flipped





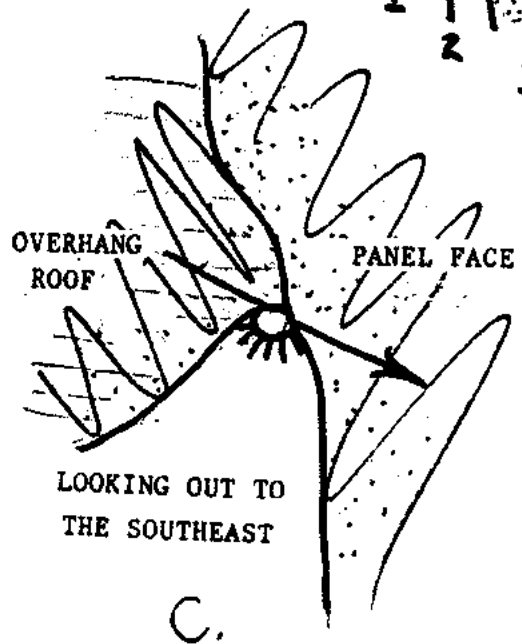
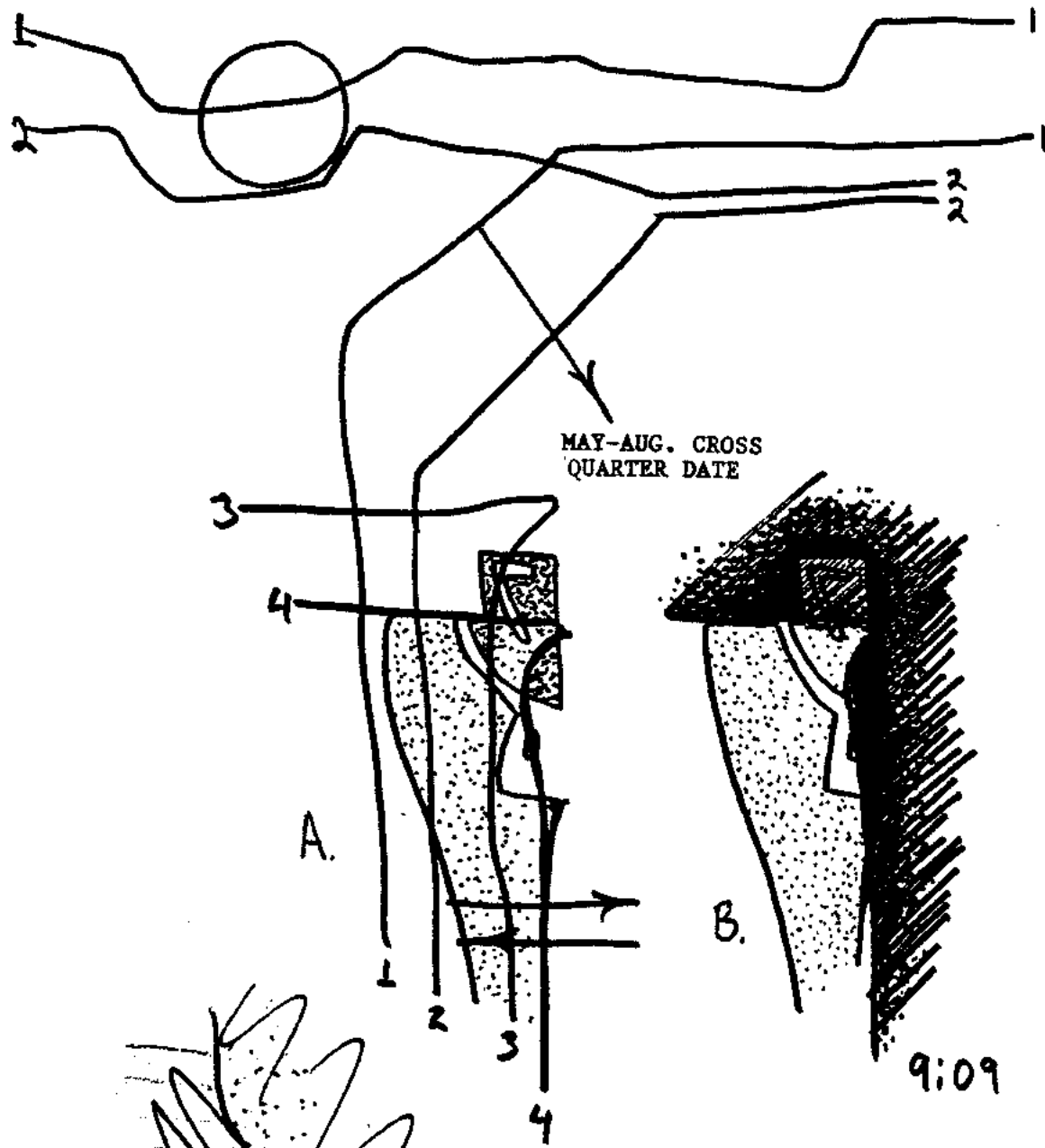


FIGURE 7

over it would provide an idea of what the figure would have looked like had it been whole. Where that fold should be made could be debated but it would look something like the drawings in Figure 3. The image within Figure 3 creates some very interesting possibilities. The single dot within the pendent now suggests an eye-like situation giving it the impression of being a face. That seems logical. The next consideration is, does the negative figure within the now complete body represent another somewhat stylized anthropomorph like a Category Number 4 Double Entity (a figure within a figure). Depending on where the fold was made depends on that exact shape and possibility. The most logical and likely form to us is that represented in Figure 3A, or 3B which almost looks like a figure with breasts. Since that is debatable we will leave those as strong possibilities.

There is one more piece of evidence that suggests that this half figure was intentional and that it has a very special significance. While checking the surface area of the missing half to the right, it was noticed that the surface of the cliff face had been prepared. Before the left half was painted the creator of this image rubbed the surface of the stone to smooth out the rough spots. This, however, was not done like many of the examples of Barrier Canyon Style figures or some of the Salt Creek Faces like the Davis Family, where a wide circular section of the cliff beyond the painted area was rubbed smooth. This is the only known example currently identified that has only had a precise area abraded that is the exact shape of the pigment to be applied as well as its complete form. The fact that this is so precisely formed and completes the painted figurine form adds to the esoteric or mystical nature of the symbol. The dotted line around Figure 2A indicates the complete and precise figurine form that was abraded. The precision of that abraded area predicates that the duplicated form in Figure 2A is probably the right one since 2C does not fit that pattern. The abraded form possibly represents that spirit, the unseeable half, that was to be temporarily set free.

The presence of the mud also raises some interesting questions. It seems obvious that it is not a recent application. It seems to have been applied anciently but after the painted figures since it forms a band across the waist of Figure 1A and a necklace for Figure 1B. The exact purpose for the placement of the mud in the shape and location of 1D and 1F seems to be answerable by observing the movement of the shadows. It was obvious enough that if someone wanted to make a mark on the cliff that could be removed later after other solar dates were observed, he could make several adjustments by simply applying pieces of mud. By doing that he could construct multiple interacters or take advantage of the most prominent or significant shadow form and movement.

Figure 1B at first seemed to be a body with a plunging neckline without a head until upon close examination two very faintly pecked eyes with outward descending tear streaks were found. No face or head outline is identifiable, which duplicates more closely the type of anthropomorph representations in the Northwestern portion of the state rather than here. This figure also lacks arms and legs. The mud that forms it's necklace is still in fairly good condition.

Figure 1C is a red disk placed on the cliff above a diagonal ridge with

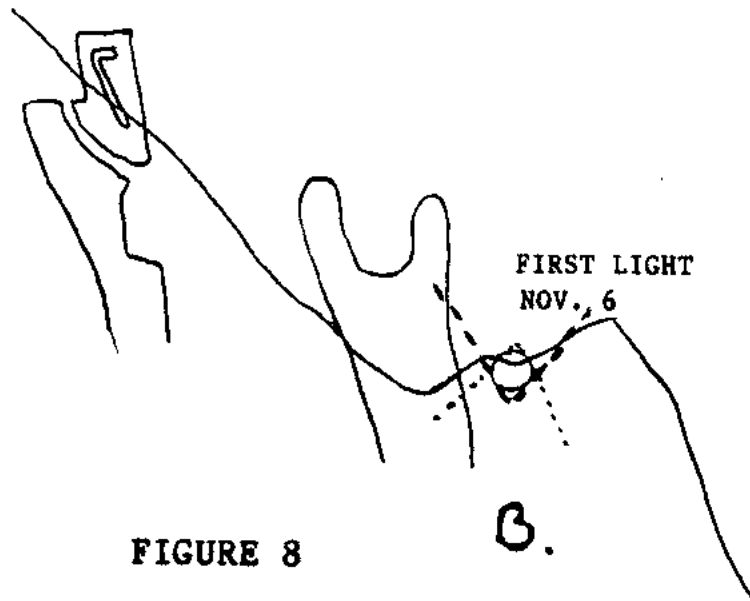
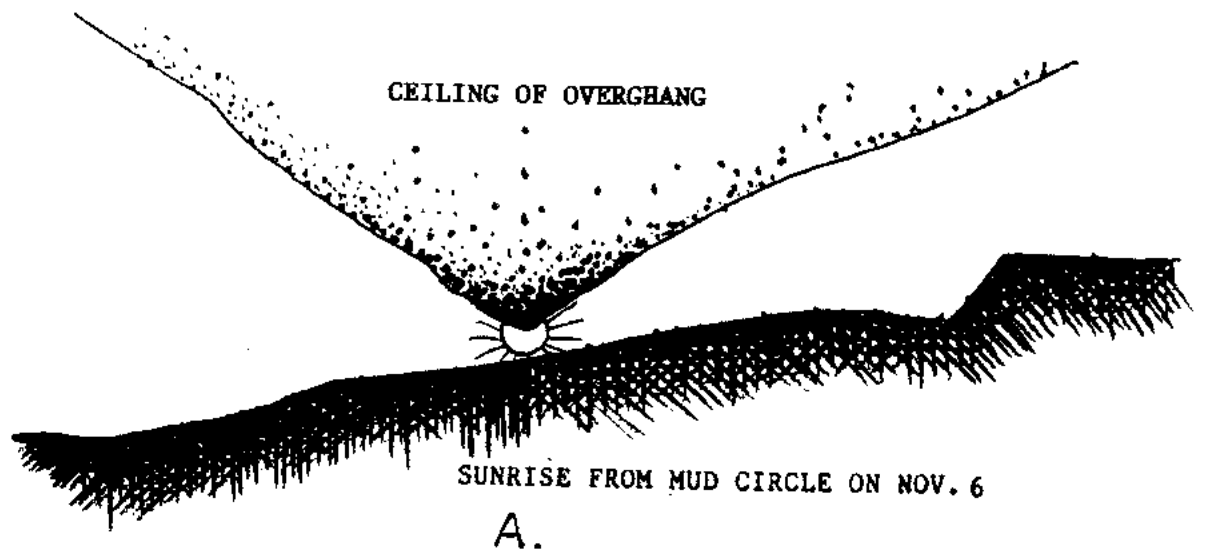


FIGURE 8

ripples that extends out from the cliff face. This position next to that physical feature seems to suggest a sunrise over a canyon rim.

Figure 1D is a small circular glob of mud. Figure 1E is a very faint white figure whose arms join the body forming a bisected circle and a variant of a Double Entity (Warner this vol). Figure 1F is a horizontal band of mud centered above figure 1E.

Because of the placement of the red circle and the round dab of mud, it seemed possible that they could have marked extreme positions of the sun on the panel (high left and low right). The positions of Figures 1A and 1B seem to be placed to interact on the diagonal descent of the angle of light between 1C and 1D. A good prediction and a good test.

Now for the significance of the prediction. Even though the intention of these interactions aren't 100% verifiable, they are still worthy of consideration. Therefore, if the half figure is indeed a representation of an altered state, the possibility that the horizontal roof and the vertical right wall would create an angle of light that would not only come out of the mouth of Figure 1A but simultaneously split the figure in half along the existing vertical half axis would be extremely symbolic. If it would do that on an important solar date that may strengthen the fact that these ancient mystics did in fact use the sun to help them kick out of their physical shell (to split themselves in half so to speak so their spirit could be set free). So far we have watched many Double Entities interact, but the idea that they needed to speak that transformation was important (as some sources suggest) and that that was represented on the cliff is too tempting.

Several examples in our files seem to graphically represent that concept (Fig. 4A-C), but we hoped to see it in a solar interaction that would be more dramatic than Figure 4D and H. That find would be a greater credit to their ingenuity and creative abilities (another example of this will be illustrated in the article on solar observations at Quitchupah, this vol.). The exact meaning, or significance of that type of interaction cannot be precisely determined but it can be narrowed down between probabilities. One possibility easily visualized is that it was constructed as an impetus for their initial experience. Imagine that after having made the affirmations that were produced on the cliff, and after whatever other preparations and ordeals were endured, that at the moment the sun was first visible at the junction of the two sections of rock (Figs. 6B, 7B), the vision came. Even though this is very subjective and speculative, the overwhelming amount of evidence of solar interacting Double Entities seems to indicate a significant dependence on solar observations as an impetus for their release (or at least one mode of finding that release).

By continuing to watch other such figures we will have a greater source of information to draw from. Many of the new examples add differences and nuances that suggest additional insights that continue variations of the same old theme.

The first solar observations were on Equinox. At that time the light first appeared above the left shoulder of Figure 1B and then an angle of light

came down to cross between the pecked eyes and across the approximate area of its mouth (Fig. 5 line 3). Also notice the small notch of light to the right of the angle that penetrates the face. It descends down to cup the figures shoulder very precisely. The out of mouth conjunction heightened our anticipation of the interaction of Figure 1A. On Summer Solstice we returned to observe the edge between the light and shadow bisect the small red circle. The shaft formed a point of light that lowered down to the shoulder of figure 1A just left of the top of the necklace (Fig. 6 line 6). That position was too far left of where we had anticipated it to be. To test how far the shadow would move in one week I returned to see it join the shoulder about a quarter of an inch to the right of the Summer Solstice interaction (Fig. 6 dotted lines).

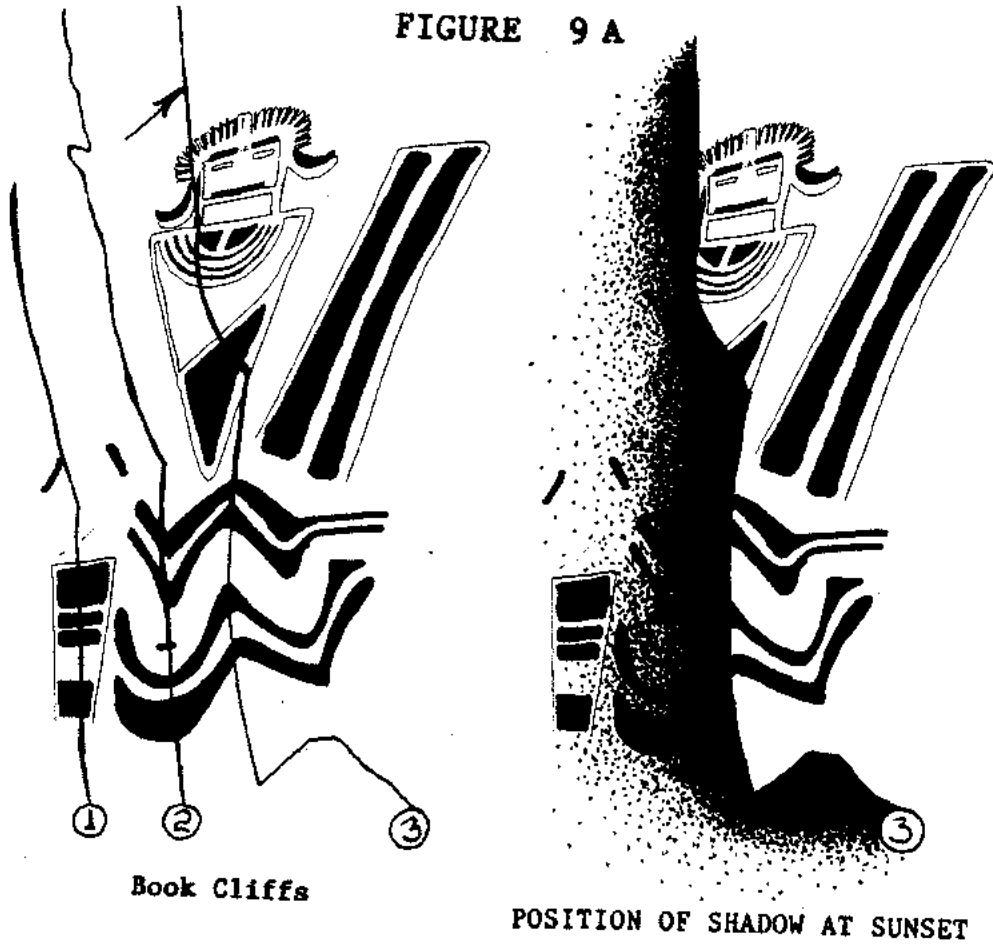
The next observation was on the August or Summer Cross Quarter date halfway between Summer Solstice and Equinox. At that date the point of light descended down to come out of its mouth and bisect the body by running down the central axis of the body, conforming beautifully to our expectations (Fig. 7B). The two opposite facing arrows across Line 4 indicates that this interaction moves into this position then on out and then later returns.

On Summer Solstice there was a thin bank of clouds on the horizon that blocked the initial light formation on the cliff until the sun rose above it. The position of the solar disk was still visible on the horizon, however (Fig. 2B). On the date seven days later, the cloud bank reoccurred so that the position of first light on the panel before that represented when the sun rose above the clouds and it appeared as illustrated in Figure 6 lines 1a above and 1b below could not be observed. The time between when first light would have occurred on the cliff and lines 1a and b was approximately the same as between lines 1a, b and 2A, B. If that is the case then it is possible that the little red circle could have been bracketed within a shaft of light (dotted lines Fig. 6) formed by the light coming over the top of the right block. In that case it may be a sun symbol marking the extreme upper right position at Summer Solstice.

Figure 1D marked the position to see the sun rise so that it was bracketed by the point of the overhang and the horizon (Fig. 8A). Later it disappeared into the cliff at the angle between the ceiling and the panel face with ones head in front of 1D.

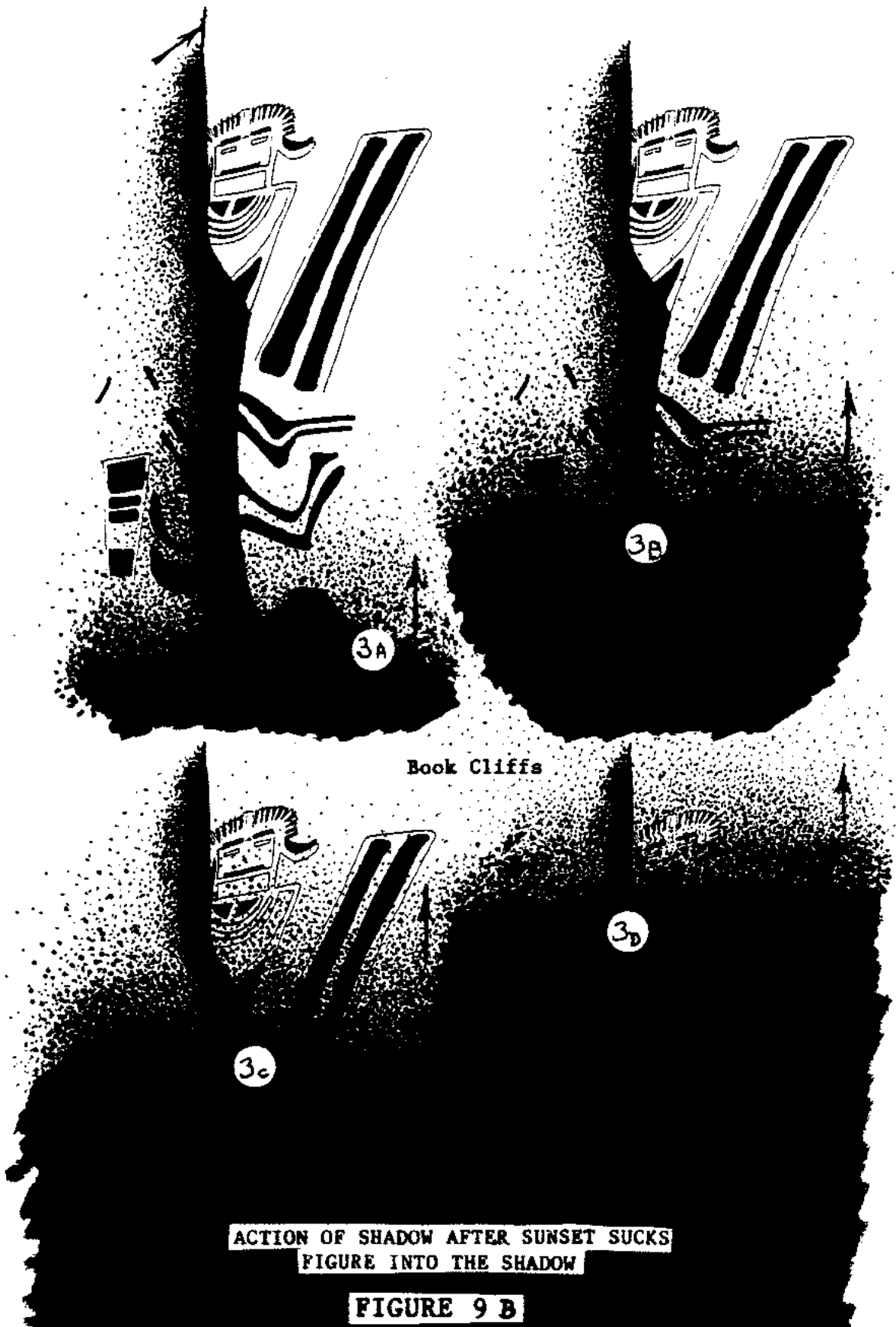
The significance of the splitting in half action on this figure as a symbolic area of interaction is obvious. Since that type of interaction, on that type of half figure only occurs once to our knowledge so far, it was decided to wait till other examples were found to create a new category of Symbolic Solar Interaction. After observing that one, an interaction on a figure in the Red Ledges of the Molen Reef was found to split the figure in half at first light. The diffused light gradually, literally opens him up providing the same basic splitting symbolism (c.f. Solar Observations Red Ledges this Vol.). Later another figure in the Book Cliffs was observed to be split in half at last light. This complicated composition seems to represent a mystical half figure with a complete figurine form as a "figure within a half figure," (a Category Number 4 DE), protruding out from the open half. When the vertical shadow splits the central axis of the half figure and the

FIGURE 9 A



Book Cliffs

POSITION OF SHADOW AT SUNSET



center of the smaller whole figurine form in half (Fig. 9 Lines 1-3), a horizontal form of defused light moved up, creating an awesome vision of the visible half of the half figure, remaining in the light, being sucked into the darkness (Fig. 9B, Lines 3A-D). Viewing all three of these together and comparing them with other Double Entities that are anticipated to be split in half at first or last light, it becomes necessary to create a new category of Symbolic Solar Interactions. Each of these illustrate that there was a close connection between the desire for that altered state, the split in halfness and solar observation. These are still new areas of investigation that have not been reported by anyone else up to this point. Yet I continue to find example after example. I believe that something important is going on, and that these figure refer to the same concepts as most Double Entities. All these discoveries together will have an important part in understanding the greater part of rock art sites since the Double Entity symbolism seems to occur virtually everywhere.

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