

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,429  
about 1953 1955 somewhere in that area

2  
00:00:03,178 --> 00:00:10,259  
that early to mid 1950s but an objective

3  
00:00:07,429 --> 00:00:12,719  
phenomenon unrelated to cultural

4  
00:00:10,259 --> 00:00:15,480  
expectations can be traced well into the

5  
00:00:12,718 --> 00:00:17,000  
19th century now here's one example I

6  
00:00:15,480 --> 00:00:21,329  
found I spent a lot of time doing

7  
00:00:17,000 --> 00:00:24,300  
archival research in in anomalistic sand

8  
00:00:21,329 --> 00:00:27,268  
i found this incredibly interesting item

9  
00:00:24,300 --> 00:00:29,580  
in the december six 1887 issue of an

10  
00:00:27,268 --> 00:00:32,668  
upstate New York newspaper and it was

11  
00:00:29,579 --> 00:00:35,369  
from a letter written by a correspondent

12  
00:00:32,668 --> 00:00:37,189  
in a nearby village I'm going to read

13  
00:00:35,369 --> 00:00:40,890  
you exactly what he wrote because i

14  
00:00:37,189 --> 00:00:42,329  
think my paraphrase might dilute its its

15  
00:00:40,890 --> 00:00:45,000  
impact but it's quite striking now

16  
00:00:42,329 --> 00:00:48,450  
remember this is 1887 nobody's heard of

17  
00:00:45,000 --> 00:00:50,579  
UFOs perhaps I might interest some of

18  
00:00:48,450 --> 00:00:53,250  
your readers if I should tell him of a

19  
00:00:50,579 --> 00:00:56,100  
strange phenomenon I saw at sunset

20  
00:00:53,250 --> 00:00:58,530  
October 24th I was sitting in a window

21  
00:00:56,100 --> 00:01:00,600  
looking towards the East watching the

22  
00:00:58,530 --> 00:01:04,500  
clouds as they rolled up from the west

23  
00:01:00,600 --> 00:01:07,079  
giving us a clear sunset at the South

24  
00:01:04,500 --> 00:01:09,868  
the forest sparkled and glistened is if

25  
00:01:07,079 --> 00:01:13,259  
clad in what looked to me like sparkling

26  
00:01:09,868 --> 00:01:15,478  
silver I began to look around for the

27  
00:01:13,260 --> 00:01:18,780  
cause and coming from the north was what

28  
00:01:15,478 --> 00:01:20,728  
I can only describe it like this about

29

00:01:18,780 --> 00:01:23,670  
mid distance between the heavens and

30  
00:01:20,728 --> 00:01:26,188  
earth and coming at a rapid rate we're

31  
00:01:23,670 --> 00:01:28,070  
what looked like silver balls reminding

32  
00:01:26,188 --> 00:01:30,929  
me of silver coin of all denominations

33  
00:01:28,069 --> 00:01:32,819  
bright and sparkling tumbling and

34  
00:01:30,930 --> 00:01:35,759  
rushing through the air going towards

35  
00:01:32,819 --> 00:01:38,879  
the east and finally disappearing beyond

36  
00:01:35,759 --> 00:01:41,489  
the lower Stratus of clouds to winds

37  
00:01:38,879 --> 00:01:43,500  
were prevailing at the time the upper

38  
00:01:41,489 --> 00:01:45,780  
stratas of clouds going towards the east

39  
00:01:43,500 --> 00:01:48,478  
the lower towards the west and this

40  
00:01:45,780 --> 00:01:51,689  
bushel of sparkling balls below the

41  
00:01:48,478 --> 00:01:53,759  
lower clouds toward the east also this

42  
00:01:51,688 --> 00:01:55,919  
grand phenomenon was visible for about

43  
00:01:53,759 --> 00:01:59,218

four minutes and was seen by several

44

00:01:55,920 --> 00:02:01,590

persons here in town can any one tell me

45

00:01:59,218 --> 00:02:04,438

from my description what it was and the

46

00:02:01,590 --> 00:02:07,290

cause of it now here we have what i call

47

00:02:04,438 --> 00:02:10,079

the core UFO phenomenon structured

48

00:02:07,290 --> 00:02:11,490

metallic and appearance capable of rapid

49

00:02:10,080 --> 00:02:14,100

even extraordinary move

50

00:02:11,490 --> 00:02:17,640

so at kenneth arnold saw on jun 24th

51

00:02:14,099 --> 00:02:19,500

1947 over the Cascade Mountains and what

52

00:02:17,639 --> 00:02:22,379

an uncountable number of witnesses have

53

00:02:19,500 --> 00:02:24,000

reported since objects like these can

54

00:02:22,379 --> 00:02:26,789

have been tracked on radar and other

55

00:02:24,000 --> 00:02:29,639

instruments left puzzling ground traces

56

00:02:26,789 --> 00:02:31,919

stop motor vehicles interfered with

57

00:02:29,639 --> 00:02:34,319

electrical systems and provided other

58  
00:02:31,919 --> 00:02:37,319  
kinds of evidence of their physical and

59  
00:02:34,319 --> 00:02:38,669  
technological presence reports such as

60  
00:02:37,319 --> 00:02:41,069  
these the number of them well

61  
00:02:38,669 --> 00:02:44,489  
investigated oppressively documented

62  
00:02:41,069 --> 00:02:46,590  
lend themselves almost inescapably to

63  
00:02:44,490 --> 00:02:50,790  
the extra-terrestrial hypothesis and

64  
00:02:46,590 --> 00:02:54,060  
indeed if as XO biologically inclined

65  
00:02:50,789 --> 00:02:56,340  
astronomers argue our galaxy alone

66  
00:02:54,060 --> 00:03:00,569  
contains hundreds of millions of

67  
00:02:56,340 --> 00:03:02,640  
advanced civilizations a visible et

68  
00:03:00,569 --> 00:03:07,169  
presence is more likely than its

69  
00:03:02,639 --> 00:03:11,189  
opposite but if the ETH is a reasonable

70  
00:03:07,169 --> 00:03:13,530  
fit for hardcore UFO events the effort

71  
00:03:11,189 --> 00:03:16,289  
to devise a unified field theory of

72  
00:03:13,530 --> 00:03:18,840  
ufology is faltered and it's folded

73  
00:03:16,289 --> 00:03:21,169  
because as the UFO controversy has

74  
00:03:18,840 --> 00:03:24,330  
dragged on for more than six decades now

75  
00:03:21,169 --> 00:03:28,889  
UFO phenomena have grown ever more

76  
00:03:24,330 --> 00:03:31,440  
bizarre I wrote a book about UFOs in

77  
00:03:28,889 --> 00:03:33,479  
ufology in the 1960's and 1970's the

78  
00:03:31,439 --> 00:03:35,520  
title of it was high strangeness I

79  
00:03:33,479 --> 00:03:38,849  
called it that because during that

80  
00:03:35,520 --> 00:03:40,890  
period people began to report a range of

81  
00:03:38,849 --> 00:03:44,280  
literally incredible encounters with

82  
00:03:40,889 --> 00:03:46,109  
UFOs with bizarre UFO associated

83  
00:03:44,280 --> 00:03:49,530  
entities and creatures men in black

84  
00:03:46,110 --> 00:03:52,470  
abductions otherworldly journeys while

85  
00:03:49,530 --> 00:03:55,860  
unprovable though they failed to provide

86

00:03:52,469 --> 00:03:59,599  
a consistent portrait of an otherworldly

87  
00:03:55,860 --> 00:04:01,800  
order what connected the stories

88  
00:03:59,599 --> 00:04:04,859  
strongly was the witnesses evidence

89  
00:04:01,800 --> 00:04:08,010  
sincerity and their sincere conviction

90  
00:04:04,860 --> 00:04:11,459  
that they had undergone vivid profoundly

91  
00:04:08,009 --> 00:04:14,789  
weird experiences with all the resonance

92  
00:04:11,459 --> 00:04:16,709  
of real encounters in the mid-1960s the

93  
00:04:14,789 --> 00:04:18,620  
focus of some leading ufologists turned

94  
00:04:16,709 --> 00:04:20,939  
to the high strangeness cases as

95  
00:04:18,620 --> 00:04:24,000  
indicators of what they saw as the true

96  
00:04:20,939 --> 00:04:25,079  
underlying paranormal foundation of all

97  
00:04:24,000 --> 00:04:28,319  
ufo-related

98  
00:04:25,079 --> 00:04:31,139  
occurrences it was undeniably true that

99  
00:04:28,319 --> 00:04:33,840  
the most exotic manifestations made the

100  
00:04:31,139 --> 00:04:37,379

eth pale in comparison made it look like

101

00:04:33,839 --> 00:04:39,750

the product of a failed imagination and

102

00:04:37,379 --> 00:04:42,810

paranormal athira theorists insisted

103

00:04:39,750 --> 00:04:45,389

that UFOs were just a mask covering the

104

00:04:42,810 --> 00:04:48,000

face of an unknowable shape-shifting

105

00:04:45,389 --> 00:04:49,889

supernatural intelligence one critic

106

00:04:48,000 --> 00:04:54,658

quipped that such as supernatural

107

00:04:49,889 --> 00:04:56,908

intelligence is usually called God the

108

00:04:54,658 --> 00:04:58,529

more highly strange the report the

109

00:04:56,908 --> 00:05:01,199

harder it is to prove that some such

110

00:04:58,529 --> 00:05:04,218

event has happened in any ordinarily

111

00:05:01,199 --> 00:05:06,598

understood sense of event and happened

112

00:05:04,218 --> 00:05:09,418

encounters with bizarre entities in

113

00:05:06,598 --> 00:05:12,240

otherworldly journeys tended to focus on

114

00:05:09,418 --> 00:05:14,848

one individual or a very small group of

115  
00:05:12,240 --> 00:05:18,509  
individuals and such experiences exist

116  
00:05:14,848 --> 00:05:20,908  
only in memory and testimony so what are

117  
00:05:18,509 --> 00:05:22,560  
we to make of all this I think we can

118  
00:05:20,908 --> 00:05:25,259  
get some clues if we go back to the late

119  
00:05:22,560 --> 00:05:28,259  
19th century and some curious stories

120  
00:05:25,259 --> 00:05:30,180  
that were in circulation then beginning

121  
00:05:28,259 --> 00:05:32,639  
in November 1896 people in California

122  
00:05:30,180 --> 00:05:36,090  
began report seeing strange airships

123  
00:05:32,639 --> 00:05:38,069  
flying overhead in over the next month's

124  
00:05:36,089 --> 00:05:40,258  
the reports drifted eastward into the

125  
00:05:38,069 --> 00:05:43,169  
Midwest and Texas and even out to the

126  
00:05:40,259 --> 00:05:45,330  
east coast many hundreds of reports fill

127  
00:05:43,168 --> 00:05:47,038  
the papers if you go back to April 1897

128  
00:05:45,329 --> 00:05:49,649  
look through old newspapers you're going

129  
00:05:47,038 --> 00:05:51,658  
to find reports mystery airships now no

130  
00:05:49,649 --> 00:05:53,758  
such airships were flying in America at

131  
00:05:51,658 --> 00:05:57,060  
the time according to aviation history

132  
00:05:53,759 --> 00:06:00,000  
and these reports are preserved in UFO

133  
00:05:57,060 --> 00:06:02,009  
books not aviation histories the reports

134  
00:06:00,000 --> 00:06:04,740  
were treated mostly with derision and

135  
00:06:02,009 --> 00:06:07,500  
the coverage and other social dynamics

136  
00:06:04,740 --> 00:06:11,939  
sort of prefigured the reception of UFO

137  
00:06:07,500 --> 00:06:13,680  
reports decades later but to those to

138  
00:06:11,939 --> 00:06:16,139  
those who thought the sightings were not

139  
00:06:13,680 --> 00:06:17,879  
just hoaxes and misidentifications the

140  
00:06:16,139 --> 00:06:21,180  
belief was that somebody had really

141  
00:06:17,879 --> 00:06:23,789  
invented an airship and there was hardly

142  
00:06:21,180 --> 00:06:26,459  
a small town in the land that didn't

143

00:06:23,788 --> 00:06:29,250  
boast some small-town tinker who said he

144  
00:06:26,459 --> 00:06:30,899  
was about to master the mystery and the

145  
00:06:29,250 --> 00:06:33,778  
question of controlled aerial navigation

146  
00:06:30,899 --> 00:06:35,879  
and in fact just a few years later at

147  
00:06:33,778 --> 00:06:38,040  
Kitty Hawk North Carolina to small-town

148  
00:06:35,879 --> 00:06:41,519  
tinker's did just that

149  
00:06:38,040 --> 00:06:43,110  
but the provincial papers of 1897 are

150  
00:06:41,519 --> 00:06:46,289  
not the most reliable source of

151  
00:06:43,110 --> 00:06:48,500  
information many tall tales were printed

152  
00:06:46,290 --> 00:06:51,870  
and one variety of story almost

153  
00:06:48,500 --> 00:06:54,449  
universally rejected as suspect was the

154  
00:06:51,870 --> 00:06:58,019  
1897 equivalent to the close encounter

155  
00:06:54,449 --> 00:07:00,269  
of the third kind where people claimed

156  
00:06:58,019 --> 00:07:02,579  
that they had actually seen the airships

157  
00:07:00,269 --> 00:07:04,289

land they had met the crews the crews

158

00:07:02,579 --> 00:07:05,879

were American inventors who gave them a

159

00:07:04,290 --> 00:07:07,620

name and said what they were doing and

160

00:07:05,879 --> 00:07:09,269

what they were up to and when they were

161

00:07:07,620 --> 00:07:13,019

going to declare their invention to the

162

00:07:09,269 --> 00:07:15,870

world and it was generally long assumed

163

00:07:13,019 --> 00:07:19,829

that these stories were just pure

164

00:07:15,870 --> 00:07:21,209

fiction but has it happened you know you

165

00:07:19,829 --> 00:07:22,409

know after all you know such things

166

00:07:21,209 --> 00:07:24,810

could have happened as aviation

167

00:07:22,410 --> 00:07:27,090

historians a test how could anybody have

168

00:07:24,810 --> 00:07:29,430

experienced them well it turns out that

169

00:07:27,089 --> 00:07:31,589

apparently people did experience them as

170

00:07:29,430 --> 00:07:35,220

I found out in some research that I've

171

00:07:31,589 --> 00:07:37,079

done over the last year or two I was

172  
00:07:35,220 --> 00:07:38,940  
particularly interested in an incident

173  
00:07:37,079 --> 00:07:43,139  
that was reported in the Houston paper

174  
00:07:38,939 --> 00:07:45,629  
on April 21st 1897 describing something

175  
00:07:43,139 --> 00:07:48,029  
that is said to have happened late on

176  
00:07:45,629 --> 00:07:52,019  
the evening of April nineteenth just

177  
00:07:48,029 --> 00:07:55,649  
outside Beaumont Texas junior laguna and

178  
00:07:52,019 --> 00:07:58,889  
his son Charlie were returning home late

179  
00:07:55,649 --> 00:08:01,529  
at night and they were putting the

180  
00:07:58,889 --> 00:08:03,269  
horses they were on hitching the horses

181  
00:08:01,529 --> 00:08:06,000  
when they noticed lights and a nearby

182  
00:08:03,269 --> 00:08:08,789  
pasture and they walked the several

183  
00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:09,870  
hundred years seven hundred yards to

184  
00:08:08,790 --> 00:08:11,790  
where the lights were and they

185  
00:08:09,870 --> 00:08:14,879  
discovered it was an immense airship

186  
00:08:11,790 --> 00:08:18,330  
landed in their pasture and they saw

187  
00:08:14,879 --> 00:08:19,889  
four men moving around it they they

188  
00:08:18,329 --> 00:08:22,680  
described the airship is about a hundred

189  
00:08:19,889 --> 00:08:27,029  
eighty feet long 20 feet wide with four

190  
00:08:22,680 --> 00:08:30,259  
large wings and the aeronauts indicated

191  
00:08:27,029 --> 00:08:32,399  
that they needed water and so Lagoon

192  
00:08:30,259 --> 00:08:35,700  
according to the lagoans account in the

193  
00:08:32,399 --> 00:08:39,149  
Houston post they came into the house

194  
00:08:35,700 --> 00:08:40,890  
each of them carrying two buckets the

195  
00:08:39,149 --> 00:08:44,159  
only crew member to provide information

196  
00:08:40,889 --> 00:08:46,889  
and then only when asked introduced

197  
00:08:44,159 --> 00:08:48,959  
himself as Wilson he said that he and

198  
00:08:46,889 --> 00:08:50,460  
his companions had been flying the

199  
00:08:48,960 --> 00:08:51,050  
machine around they were going back to

200

00:08:50,460 --> 00:08:53,570  
the Midwest

201  
00:08:51,049 --> 00:08:58,429  
where they had built this and several

202  
00:08:53,570 --> 00:09:01,190  
other comparable airships now the

203  
00:08:58,429 --> 00:09:04,359  
knittin on four days after the Houston

204  
00:09:01,190 --> 00:09:07,790  
post published the story the New Orleans

205  
00:09:04,360 --> 00:09:12,339  
times-picayune published an interview

206  
00:09:07,789 --> 00:09:15,319  
with a man identified as rabbi a levy

207  
00:09:12,339 --> 00:09:18,190  
levy was a Beaumont resident who is

208  
00:09:15,320 --> 00:09:20,690  
visiting New Orleans at the time and

209  
00:09:18,190 --> 00:09:23,149  
leave he told the reporter that on a

210  
00:09:20,690 --> 00:09:25,130  
recent night he had heard that an

211  
00:09:23,149 --> 00:09:29,240  
airship had landed on a farm just

212  
00:09:25,129 --> 00:09:30,799  
outside Bowman and he was enormously

213  
00:09:29,240 --> 00:09:33,799  
interested in curious and he went to the

214  
00:09:30,799 --> 00:09:37,189

site and in the darkness he glimpsed

215

00:09:33,799 --> 00:09:40,159

this huge airship landed in the field

216

00:09:37,190 --> 00:09:42,589

and he said I'm quoting what he told the

217

00:09:40,159 --> 00:09:45,559

pic the paper he said I spoke to one of

218

00:09:42,589 --> 00:09:47,779

the men one of the airship crew when he

219

00:09:45,559 --> 00:09:50,539

went into the farmer's house and shook

220

00:09:47,778 --> 00:09:52,578

hands with him yes he did say where it

221

00:09:50,539 --> 00:09:54,708

was built but I can't remember the name

222

00:09:52,578 --> 00:09:56,449

of the place or the name of the inventor

223

00:09:54,708 --> 00:09:59,028

he said that they had been traveling a

224

00:09:56,450 --> 00:10:01,990

great deal I was so dumbfounded that I

225

00:09:59,028 --> 00:10:01,990

could not form in