

1

00:00:00,588 --> 00:00:19,907

This series presents information based in part on theory and conjecture.

2

00:00:19,907 --> 00:00:24,427

The producer's purpose is to suggest some possible explanations, but not necessarily

3

00:00:24,427 --> 00:00:28,427

the only ones to the mysteries we will examine.

4

00:00:28,427 --> 00:00:39,926

They've been reported at dusk or in the dead of night.

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00:00:39,926 --> 00:00:53,425

In clearings amid still woods and fields in lonely farm country.

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00:00:53,425 --> 00:00:57,425

Sometimes they come in silence, sometimes with quiet thunder.

7

00:00:57,425 --> 00:01:03,425

Often they leave marks in the earth, signals of their passing.

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00:01:03,425 --> 00:01:09,425

They've been seen but fleetingly, and their extraordinary presence creates a frightening mystery.

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00:01:09,425 --> 00:01:16,424

In fields from West Virginia through Wisconsin to Oregon are the beginnings of answers.

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00:01:24,424 --> 00:01:36,423

On June 24th, 1947 an Idaho businessman named Kenneth Arnold was flying his private plane near Washington's Mount Rainier.

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00:01:36,423 --> 00:01:41,423

He saw nine disc-like objects moving rapidly along the horizon.

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00:01:41,423 --> 00:01:46,423

Arnold said they moved erratically, like saucers, skipped across a pond.

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00:01:46,423 --> 00:01:50,423

Flying saucer thus became part of our language.

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00:01:50,423 --> 00:01:58,422

After the Mount Rainier sighting, unidentified flying objects were reported all over the country, an astonishing number of them.

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00:01:58,422 --> 00:02:05,422

And the sightings have continued to this day.

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00:02:05,422 --> 00:02:10,422

A chill morning in Mellon, Wisconsin.

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00:02:10,422 --> 00:02:13,422

Quiet fields and quiet people.

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00:02:13,422 --> 00:02:17,421

Yet something remarkable happened on the Mellon Town Road.

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00:02:17,421 --> 00:02:25,421

Something that would have seemed incredible if it hadn't happened to people as down to earth as the town of Mellon itself.

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00:02:35,421 --> 00:02:40,420

Philip Baker works in a mill on the same job for more than 20 years.

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00:02:40,420 --> 00:02:47,420

He's grown up here and passed on to his children a love for the land, a love for planting and harvesting his own crops,

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00:02:47,420 --> 00:02:52,420

for cutting wood to warm the house in the long Wisconsin winters.

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00:02:52,420 --> 00:02:58,419

He was an officer in his union once, but stepped down because it meant too much time away from his wife Shirley and their kids,

24

00:02:58,419 --> 00:03:02,419

Monty, Jeff, Jane and John.

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00:03:02,419 --> 00:03:09,419

The most important things to the Baker family are hard work and being together.

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00:03:09,419 --> 00:03:13,419

They were together the most incredible night of their lives.

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00:03:13,419 --> 00:03:17,419

It was March 13, 1975.

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00:03:20,418 --> 00:03:25,418

I was carrying two cats. I was walking to the garage.

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00:03:25,418 --> 00:03:30,418

And I got by this corner, right by the house here.

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00:03:30,418 --> 00:03:38,418

And I looked and there was this weird object, funny noises, and it was really bright and I didn't know what I should do.

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00:03:38,418 --> 00:03:43,417

So I was going back and forth and finally I threw the cat in the garage.

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00:03:43,417 --> 00:03:49,417

And then I ran to the house around the corner and I couldn't get the door open.

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00:03:49,417 --> 00:03:56,417

When I first saw it, I was standing approximately right here, but I couldn't get too good of a view of it because the brush and the trees were in the way.

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00:03:56,417 --> 00:04:01,416

So then I went back into the house and I got my coat on.

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00:04:01,416 --> 00:04:05,416

My two youngest boys and Jane were following me.

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00:04:05,416 --> 00:04:10,416

We went over here and we had a better look at the object that was sitting on the road.

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00:04:10,416 --> 00:04:17,416

And my curiosity still wanted me to get a better view of it.

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00:04:17,416 --> 00:04:23,415

So we walked down. Of course the ground was covered with snow.

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00:04:23,415 --> 00:04:27,415

My car was sitting here in the driveway.

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00:04:27,415 --> 00:04:31,415

And of course there were snow banks on the side of the road.

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00:04:31,415 --> 00:04:38,415

So there's where I got my estimate of the size of the object, approximately 12 feet in diameter.

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00:04:38,415 --> 00:04:41,415

But also with the markings in the snow.

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00:04:41,415 --> 00:04:46,414

And I would judge the object at the center of it was approximately 6 feet high.

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00:04:46,414 --> 00:04:49,414

It was like a turtle.

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00:04:50,414 --> 00:04:56,414

My two boys and my girl started to proceed here closer.

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00:04:56,414 --> 00:04:59,414

My girl told me not to go any closer to it.

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00:04:59,414 --> 00:05:01,414

She ran back in the house.

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00:05:01,414 --> 00:05:03,414

He was going to go walking up to it.

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00:05:03,414 --> 00:05:09,413

And I went back to the house and told my mom that he was going to go up there and get closer to it.

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00:05:09,413 --> 00:05:11,413

And she came out and she yelled at him.

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00:05:11,413 --> 00:05:16,413

My wife came out and hollered at me and told me not to be foolish and go any closer to it.

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00:05:16,413 --> 00:05:22,413

Not knowing exactly what the object was on the road.

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00:05:22,413 --> 00:05:25,412

And of course I did get a very good view of it from here.

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00:05:25,412 --> 00:05:29,412

As there was nothing blocking my vision on the road.

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00:05:35,412 --> 00:05:40,412

Montgomery was looking up upstairs windows where he got his view of the object.

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00:05:40,412 --> 00:05:43,412

We went in the house and we called the deputy sheriff.

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00:05:43,412 --> 00:05:50,411

And when the deputy said hello, there was a boom and it was gone.

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00:05:50,411 --> 00:05:53,411

I went out and I couldn't see it anymore.

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00:05:53,411 --> 00:05:56,411

The sheriff came and he saw nothing.

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00:05:56,411 --> 00:06:03,411

That can be a pretty lonely feeling to have witnessed something incredible and be unable to produce evidence.

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00:06:03,411 --> 00:06:06,411

Loneliest of all perhaps for the Baker children.

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00:06:06,411 --> 00:06:09,410

They would want to tell their story to friends at school.

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00:06:09,410 --> 00:06:12,410

But who would have thought that they were going to be able to do that?

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00:06:12,410 --> 00:06:14,410

But who would believe them?

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00:06:14,410 --> 00:06:16,410

Oh, Monty, my oldest boy, he was all upset.

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00:06:16,410 --> 00:06:19,410

He told my other two boys, don't say anything.

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00:06:19,410 --> 00:06:21,410

Don't say anything to kids at school.

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00:06:21,410 --> 00:06:23,410

We don't want nothing of this to get out.

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00:06:23,410 --> 00:06:25,410

And of course Janie was in tears.

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00:06:25,410 --> 00:06:27,410

She says, well, I know what I saw.

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00:06:27,410 --> 00:06:30,409

She says, you trying to tell me I'm crazy or something?

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00:06:30,409 --> 00:06:32,409

She says, I know what we saw.

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00:06:32,409 --> 00:06:34,409

She says, don't try to tell me.

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00:06:34,409 --> 00:06:36,409

I didn't see anything because she said, I know I saw it.

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00:06:36,409 --> 00:06:38,409

And she was in tears and everything else that night.

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00:06:38,409 --> 00:06:43,409

And of course the undershirt, I apologize when he left me off here because I thought, well, now we didn't find anything.

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00:06:43,409 --> 00:06:45,409

He'll think I'm a little off too.

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00:06:45,409 --> 00:06:47,409

He said, no, no, don't forget about it.

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00:06:47,409 --> 00:06:49,408

I said, well, let's, I said, OK, let's forget about it.

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00:06:49,408 --> 00:06:51,408

I said, but don't tell anybody.

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00:06:51,408 --> 00:06:53,408

I, as a matter of fact, I even mentioned, I said, don't tell anybody.

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00:06:53,408 --> 00:06:58,408

I said, just forget it then because I said, I didn't, let's drop the whole story.

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00:07:00,408 --> 00:07:03,408

Mellon has a newspaper, the weekly record.

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00:07:03,408 --> 00:07:08,408

Editor Jasper Landry knows just about everybody in Mellon by first name.

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00:07:08,408 --> 00:07:15,407

I've known Mr. Baker for about 30 years and he and his family have been here a long time.

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00:07:15,407 --> 00:07:28,407

And when this story broke on the UFOs, he asked me not to put it in the paper because of the anxiety his family was being put through by callers and curiosity seekers.

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00:07:28,407 --> 00:07:31,406

And so I thought that I wouldn't.

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00:07:31,406 --> 00:07:33,406

And he was very appreciative.

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00:07:33,406 --> 00:07:36,406

I honored his wish to not have attended.

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00:07:36,406 --> 00:07:38,406

The story got around anyway.

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00:07:38,406 --> 00:07:44,406

Of this country lane where the Baker family saw something big and metallic with red and green lights.

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00:07:44,406 --> 00:07:48,406

Something that was gone almost as soon as it came.

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00:07:50,406 --> 00:07:52,405

My name is George Rhee.

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00:07:52,405 --> 00:07:54,405

Mellon, Wisconsin.

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00:07:54,405 --> 00:07:57,405

I am the undersheriff of Ashland County.

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00:07:57,405 --> 00:08:05,405

On this night in question, I answered a complaint to Philip Baker and I arrived at the site and I investigated it.

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00:08:05,405 --> 00:08:10,405

And I firmly believed that the Baker family did see an object.

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00:08:14,404 --> 00:08:17,404

Sheriff Rhee had good reason to believe Baker's story.

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00:08:17,404 --> 00:08:21,404

He may have arrived at the Baker house too late to see anything there.

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00:08:21,404 --> 00:08:27,404

But when he left, a second call came to investigate reported lights in the sky.

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00:08:27,404 --> 00:08:31,404

Rhee and seven deputies from two counties raced across country roads.

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00:08:35,403 --> 00:08:38,403

Sheriff Rhee would sight a bright object darting in the sky.

103

00:08:38,403 --> 00:08:41,403

Call on his radio for another car to intercept it.

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00:08:41,403 --> 00:08:44,403

And the object would dart away.

105

00:08:44,403 --> 00:08:48,403

Sometimes to briefly join another hovering in the sky.

106

00:08:48,403 --> 00:08:54,402

One of Rhee's deputies said the light given off by the objects was so intense he could read a newspaper by it.

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00:08:54,402 --> 00:08:59,402

And when it passed over another patrol car, the police radio went dead.

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00:08:59,402 --> 00:09:08,402

To this moment, no one knows what it was that George Rhee and seven county policemen chased that night in Wisconsin.

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00:09:14,402 --> 00:09:16,401

Dig Chimney, West Virginia.

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00:09:17,401 --> 00:09:25,401

It has been suggested that the overwhelming percentage of UFO sightings occur in small towns and rural farmlands for good reasons.

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00:09:25,401 --> 00:09:28,401

The view is less obstructed for one thing.

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00:09:28,401 --> 00:09:35,401

The residents are more likely to be looking up at the sky, more sensitive to the changing lights above.

113

00:09:37,400 --> 00:09:43,400

It's about 9.30 in the night we were driving north on 119 towards Clinton.

114

00:09:43,400 --> 00:09:48,400

And then my wife saw some intensely bright lights in the sky.

115

00:09:48,400 --> 00:09:54,400

And she commented that this was the brightest airplane light that she'd ever seen.

116

00:09:54,400 --> 00:10:01,399

I looked up and there was this big diamond shaped object with big flat ends right above the treetops.

117

00:10:02,399 --> 00:10:10,399

Carol Critchfield pursued his UFO to the spot where he saw it set down and found marks that could have been made by landing gear.

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00:10:14,399 --> 00:10:19,398

Critchfield is a foreman in a big chimney chemical plant.

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00:10:19,398 --> 00:10:24,398

He's not the sort of man who is often called on to take lie detector tests.

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00:10:24,398 --> 00:10:28,398

But he knows how incredible his story must sound.

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00:10:28,398 --> 00:10:33,398

I am Ian Criswalf from the Criswalf Security Agency in Wheeling, West Virginia.

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00:10:33,398 --> 00:10:42,397

Myself and a team of investigative specialists conducted extensive polygraph testing of Mr. Critchfield.

123

00:10:44,397 --> 00:10:55,397

The lie detector or polygraph is a sensitive device for recording changes in body temperature, rate of breathing, electrical impulses in the skin and heartbeat.

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00:10:56,397 --> 00:11:03,396

Preliminary tests established normal parameters which if exceeded during the actual test indicate deception.

125

00:11:03,396 --> 00:11:13,396

This is the blood pressure pattern, this is the skin sensitivity pattern and this is the breathing pattern.

126

00:11:13,396 --> 00:11:19,396

A lie detector test cannot prove whether or not Critchfield saw a UFO.

127

00:11:19,396 --> 00:11:23,395

It can only indicate whether he believes he is telling the truth.

128

00:11:23,395 --> 00:11:25,395

Is your last name Critchfield?

129

00:11:25,395 --> 00:11:26,395

Yes.

130

00:11:28,395 --> 00:11:31,395

Do you intend to answer all of my questions truthfully?

131

00:11:31,395 --> 00:11:32,395

Yes.

132

00:11:33,395 --> 00:11:43,394

Are you being completely truthful to the best of your belief concerning the object which you described and saw in the written statement describing the events of June 12th, 1975?

133

00:11:43,394 --> 00:11:44,394

Yes.

134

00:11:53,394 --> 00:11:58,394

Are you being truthful when you say that in the first 35 years of your life you have never lied to a police officer?

135

00:11:58,394 --> 00:11:59,394

Yes.

136

00:12:03,393 --> 00:12:12,393

Are you being completely truthful when you say that you have no knowledge of how the burn spots and other evidence were created other than by the object described in your written statement?

137

00:12:12,393 --> 00:12:13,393

Yes.

138

00:12:19,393 --> 00:12:20,393

The test is now over.

139

00:12:20,393 --> 00:12:21,393

The test is now over.

140

00:12:30,392 --> 00:12:37,392

On the first question here concerning Mr. Critchfield's name, there was no reaction in any of the tracings.

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00:12:37,392 --> 00:12:43,392

On the second question concerning the, does he plan to answer all questions truthfully?

142

00:12:43,392 --> 00:12:46,391

Again, there were no reactions indicating deception.

143

00:12:46,391 --> 00:12:58,391

On question number three concerning the object that Mr. Critchfield described in a written statement previous to this examination, there were no reactions, significant of deception.

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00:12:58,391 --> 00:13:06,390

On the question concerning the burn spots and the other evidence left by the object, there were no reactions indicative of deception.

145

00:13:06,390 --> 00:13:15,390

In his opinion, Mr. Critchfield has told the complete truth about all statements concerning the object he cited on June 12th, 1975.

146

00:13:18,390 --> 00:13:34,389

It would be unusual indeed if a man not noted for vivid imagination and guile could invent a story about a UFO, and then control half a dozen involuntary body functions in such a way as to fool a sophisticated machine and experience technicians.

147

00:13:35,389 --> 00:13:45,389

Much easier to believe that something extraordinary happened on a hilltop in Big Chimney, West Virginia, something that touched Carol Critchfield's life and left him wondering.

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00:13:45,389 --> 00:13:55,388

Some men like Ted Phillips are dedicated to finding answers for the growing number of perplexed people who have had UFO experiences.

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00:13:55,388 --> 00:14:05,388

Phillips is an amateur scientist and UFO investigator.

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00:14:06,388 --> 00:14:12,387

Phillips has taken soil samples at dozens of reported UFO landing sites.

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00:14:12,387 --> 00:14:20,387

He and his fellow investigators have amassed reports of no less than 60,000 UFO sightings in the

past 30 years.

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00:14:20,387 --> 00:14:23,387

Many of these were fairly easy to explain.

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00:14:23,387 --> 00:14:27,387

Conventional aircraft, weather balloons, flocks of geese.

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00:14:27,387 --> 00:14:31,386

But more than 900 cases remain unexplained.

155

00:14:31,386 --> 00:14:38,386

Phillips has an important ally in his search, the University of Kansas Aerospace Science Laboratory.

156

00:14:38,386 --> 00:14:42,386

It is the place he sends soil samples for analysis.

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00:14:42,386 --> 00:14:52,385

Dr. Critchfield has been a professor of the field of field research at the University of Kansas Aerospace Science Laboratory.

158

00:14:52,385 --> 00:14:57,385

Dr. Edward Zeller is the man in charge.

159

00:15:05,385 --> 00:15:16,384

Zeller believes it would be unscientific to ignore UFO reports and that the techniques of hard scientific analysis can be put to work finding answers.

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00:15:17,384 --> 00:15:21,384

Medford, Minnesota

161

00:15:23,384 --> 00:15:32,383

Medford provided Dr. Zeller with a test sample and a remarkable story told by Janet Kaye provides the background.

162

00:15:32,383 --> 00:15:45,383

On the night of November 2, 1975, I was sitting here doing my homework and I looked out the window and right above the blue building, I saw a UFO come down out of the sky.

163

00:15:45,383 --> 00:15:53,382

And it landed behind the building and behind the building is a football field. It landed there.

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00:15:53,382 --> 00:15:59,382

There were two other witnesses, Janet's mother Helen and her brother Jerry.

165

00:15:59,382 --> 00:16:07,382

A lot of people in town saw it. I don't know how many people saw it and told us the next day that they saw this thing up in the sky.

166

00:16:07,382 --> 00:16:14,381

As we pulled around the driveway here, I noticed up by the blue shadows.

167

00:16:14,381 --> 00:16:19,381

I noticed up by the blue shadow over there that there was something in the sky.

168

00:16:19,381 --> 00:16:25,381

So I pulled out of the driveway and turned down here and maybe we could get closer to it.

169

00:16:25,381 --> 00:16:28,381

So we just went over this way.

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00:16:28,381 --> 00:16:33,381

And you could just see it real good before the trees. It was definitely right there.

171

00:16:33,381 --> 00:16:40,380

And we just drove up here and by that stop sign there, the railroad tracks were a fence across so we couldn't go any further.

172

00:16:40,380 --> 00:16:46,380

And we just noticed it. It was just coming right in front of the trees and we just stood here a minute

173

00:16:46,380 --> 00:16:52,380

until we saw it just glide over the top of the trees and then it was gone.

174

00:16:52,380 --> 00:16:59,379

Well a couple days later after we saw the UFO go down, I saw a lot of people over here looking at something.

175

00:16:59,379 --> 00:17:07,379

So I came over here and I found this big brown spot on the football field where the grass had been burned.

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00:17:07,379 --> 00:17:12,379

As you can see the blue building is right over there and the burn spot is right here.

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00:17:12,379 --> 00:17:18,378

It's right in line with the window we saw the UFO come down from.

178

00:17:22,378 --> 00:17:30,378

Now this happens to be the sample from the Medford site number two which does show some strange luminescence properties.

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00:17:30,378 --> 00:17:36,378

And so I'd want to make sure that the sample that I'm dealing with is not in itself radioactive.

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00:17:36,378 --> 00:17:43,377

And I don't find that it is. I don't see any evidence of increased radioactivity.

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00:17:43,377 --> 00:17:49,377

At the time it wasn't scary. It didn't frighten me when I looked out the window and I saw it.

182

00:17:49,377 --> 00:17:56,377

I didn't get scared or anything. But afterwards when I realized that what I had seen was unexplainable.

183

00:17:56,377 --> 00:18:04,376

That's when it started to get scary. And then when they found the patch on the football field, well that got a little worse.

184

00:18:04,376 --> 00:18:08,376

Furnace ready to be inserted here into the light chamber.

185

00:18:08,376 --> 00:18:16,376

And now we've inserted the sample which is on the electric furnace into the chamber and we're going to start eating it.

186

00:18:16,376 --> 00:18:24,375

It's been six months since we saw the UFO go down. And as you can see the bird spot is still visible.

187

00:18:27,375 --> 00:18:33,375

I just wish I knew what it was. Don't you think so?

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00:18:33,375 --> 00:18:43,374

Yeah. I mean if it was something from another country or something the army was putting up in the air, I wish they'd come and tell us that this was it.

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00:18:43,374 --> 00:18:49,374

And that just leave us out here thinking that it was something from some outer space place.

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00:18:49,374 --> 00:18:52,374

I'd be satisfied with any kind of explanation.

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00:18:52,374 --> 00:19:00,374

Well we're going to start off here by looking then at the glow curves which I ran about two months ago on the Menford site.

192

00:19:00,374 --> 00:19:06,373

And if we look at the curve at the center of the site we see that there's just a very small rise here.

193

00:19:06,373 --> 00:19:09,373

That is the luminescence peak is very small.

194

00:19:09,373 --> 00:19:17,373

At the edge of the site as we proceed along here at the edge of the site we discover the intense luminescence.

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00:19:17,373 --> 00:19:24,372

Now this luminescence that we are observing is apparently the result of some sort of radiation effect.

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00:19:24,372 --> 00:19:31,372

It looks at least as though that particular sample at the edge of the site has been subjected to some kind of high energy radiation.

197

00:19:31,372 --> 00:19:36,372

If I had never seen a UFO I wouldn't believe in it.

198

00:19:36,372 --> 00:19:41,372

I wouldn't believe me if I were you.

199

00:19:42,372 --> 00:19:48,371

Because I have nothing to show you. I can't say, you know, I saw this.

200

00:19:48,371 --> 00:19:50,371

I just have nothing. All you have is my word.

201

00:19:50,371 --> 00:19:53,371

But there is more than just Mrs. K's word.

202

00:20:03,371 --> 00:20:08,370

In a recent Gallipole 15 million Americans claimed to have seen a UFO.

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00:20:08,370 --> 00:20:10,370

15 million.

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00:20:10,370 --> 00:20:17,370

The same poll showed that 51% of the adult population is convinced that flying saucers are real.

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00:20:19,370 --> 00:20:26,369

For those who haven't seen one this is a recreation of what Carol Critchfield saw on a hilltop in Big Chimney, West Virginia.

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00:20:31,369 --> 00:20:39,369

The artists used the same technique that a police artist would use in recreating the features of a suspect from the descriptions of witnesses.

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00:20:41,369 --> 00:20:47,368

And this is what Philip Baker saw on the town road in Mellon, Wisconsin.

208

00:20:56,368 --> 00:21:01,368

Helen Kaye and her children saw this object land on a football field in Medford, Minnesota.

209

00:21:02,368 --> 00:21:12,367

The last systematic attempt by the U.S. government to investigate UFOs was conducted by the Air Force and was called Project Blue Book.

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00:21:12,367 --> 00:21:16,367

Project Blue Book ended in 1968.

211

00:21:16,367 --> 00:21:24,367

The Air Force had by then investigated more than 11,000 UFO sightings and found explanations for all but 676.

212

00:21:24,367 --> 00:21:30,366

The Air Force seemed to have no interest in the sightings it could not readily attribute to earthly phenomena.

213

00:21:31,366 --> 00:21:36,366

Perhaps it's time to approach the question of UFOs again without bias.

214

00:21:36,366 --> 00:21:43,366

For we can only hope that if we are being studied by aliens it is with more thoroughness and care than we have focused on them.

215

00:21:44,366 --> 00:21:50,365

Coming up next, more UFO lore as we set off in search of UFO cover-ups.

216

00:21:50,365 --> 00:21:57,365

Then, Papi Boynton and his fliers used some captured enemy planes for a raid on a Japanese aircraft carrier in the Black Sheep Squadron.

217

00:21:57,365 --> 00:22:03,365

And tonight, history under cover opens the files on the cover-up of the attack on the USS Liberty.

218

00:22:03,365 --> 00:22:10,364

The captain and crew believed the unmarked planes that attacked them and killed 34 sailors were in fact Israeli.

219

00:22:10,364 --> 00:22:12,364

That's at 8 o'clock tonight.

220

00:22:12,364 --> 00:22:15,364

But stay tuned now for in search of, here on the History Channel.