



1
00:00:26,150 --> 00:00:08,150

[Music]

2
00:00:28,870 --> 00:00:26,160

before they were ufos

3
00:00:29,669 --> 00:00:28,880

by charles lear the very first flying

4
00:00:32,549 --> 00:00:29,679

saucer flap

5
00:00:34,470 --> 00:00:32,559

occurred during the summer of 1947. it

6
00:00:35,750 --> 00:00:34,480

began with the reported sighting of nine

7
00:00:38,229 --> 00:00:35,760

mysterious objects

8
00:00:40,069 --> 00:00:38,239

by pilot kenneth arnold on june 24th and

9
00:00:43,030 --> 00:00:40,079

hit its peak that july

10
00:00:44,549 --> 00:00:43,040

this was the first summer of the saucers

11
00:00:46,389 --> 00:00:44,559

much has been written about arnold

12
00:00:47,830 --> 00:00:46,399

siting but the sightings after that have

13
00:00:49,430 --> 00:00:47,840

been largely ignored

14

00:00:50,950 --> 00:00:49,440

for the interested student in this

15

00:00:53,029 --> 00:00:50,960

period of ufo history

16

00:00:54,630 --> 00:00:53,039

there is a document available online

17

00:00:56,470 --> 00:00:54,640

that is well worth reading

18

00:00:58,470 --> 00:00:56,480

it provides a comprehensive account of

19

00:01:00,229 --> 00:00:58,480

the flap citing a large number of

20

00:01:01,189 --> 00:01:00,239

newspaper articles that appeared during

21

00:01:03,349 --> 00:01:01,199

that time

22

00:01:06,310 --> 00:01:03,359

housed at the university of iowa is a

23

00:01:08,550 --> 00:01:06,320

thesis paper written in 1948 titled

24

00:01:10,149 --> 00:01:08,560

the flying saucers episode link

25

00:01:11,030 --> 00:01:10,159

available in the written version of this

26

00:01:13,030 --> 00:01:11,040

blog

27

00:01:15,190 --> 00:01:13,040

it was submitted by state university of

28

00:01:17,350 --> 00:01:15,200

iowa journalism graduate student

29

00:01:19,190 --> 00:01:17,360

emile earned wentergren as part of the

30

00:01:19,910 --> 00:01:19,200

requirements for his master of arts

31

00:01:21,749 --> 00:01:19,920

degree

32

00:01:23,429 --> 00:01:21,759

it is also available at the national

33

00:01:24,710 --> 00:01:23,439

investigation committee on aerial

34

00:01:27,270 --> 00:01:24,720

phenomenon website

35

00:01:28,710 --> 00:01:27,280

link available besides providing insight

36

00:01:30,710 --> 00:01:28,720

into the fervor of the time

37

00:01:33,030 --> 00:01:30,720

and the effect it had on arnold there is

38

00:01:34,870 --> 00:01:33,040

an early look at the events at roswell

39

00:01:37,350 --> 00:01:34,880

most amusing is the conclusion by

40

00:01:40,069 --> 00:01:37,360

wennergren that roswell marked the end

41

00:01:42,230 --> 00:01:40,079

of what was just a passing fascination

42

00:01:44,350 --> 00:01:42,240

in the introduction winograd notes that

43

00:01:48,069 --> 00:01:44,360

many articles refer to

44

00:01:50,069 --> 00:01:48,079

d-i-s-k-s and d-i-s-c-s

45

00:01:53,830 --> 00:01:50,079

the reader is informed that according to

46

00:01:56,469 --> 00:01:53,840

webster's international dictionary

47

00:01:57,670 --> 00:01:56,479

refers to an inanimate object whereas

48

00:02:00,149 --> 00:01:57,680

d-i-s-c

49

00:02:00,950 --> 00:02:00,159

is the preferred spelling in zoology and

50

00:02:02,950 --> 00:02:00,960

botany

51
00:02:05,670 --> 00:02:02,960
he then describes arnold's sighting of

52
00:02:08,070 --> 00:02:05,680
quote nine shiny objects and quote

53
00:02:10,070 --> 00:02:08,080
near mount rainier in washington state

54
00:02:10,869 --> 00:02:10,080
arnold told reporters that they flew

55
00:02:13,190 --> 00:02:10,879
with emotion

56
00:02:14,070 --> 00:02:13,200
quote like a fish flipping in the sun

57
00:02:15,990 --> 00:02:14,080
end quote

58
00:02:18,630 --> 00:02:16,000
the story was on page one of the june

59
00:02:20,309 --> 00:02:18,640
26th edition of the portland oregonian

60
00:02:22,309 --> 00:02:20,319
and spread to papers throughout the

61
00:02:24,390 --> 00:02:22,319
united states that same day

62
00:02:25,510 --> 00:02:24,400
not in the thesis paper is the origin

63
00:02:27,910 --> 00:02:25,520

story for the term

64

00:02:28,630 --> 00:02:27,920

flying saucers when arnold spoke with

65

00:02:30,229 --> 00:02:28,640

reporters

66

00:02:32,630 --> 00:02:30,239

he described that the craft flew

67

00:02:33,430 --> 00:02:32,640

erratically quote like a saucer if you

68

00:02:37,190 --> 00:02:33,440

skip it across

69

00:02:39,509 --> 00:02:37,200

water end quote in the june 26 1947

70

00:02:41,430 --> 00:02:39,519

east oregonian to pendleton reporter

71

00:02:42,070 --> 00:02:41,440

bill baquette wrote that arnold had

72

00:02:44,630 --> 00:02:42,080

quote

73

00:02:46,470 --> 00:02:44,640

described the objects as saucer-like the

74

00:02:48,470 --> 00:02:46,480

story went out on the newswires

75

00:02:49,670 --> 00:02:48,480

and other papers reported that arnold

76

00:02:52,150 --> 00:02:49,680

had seen quote

77

00:02:54,070 --> 00:02:52,160

saucer-like objects end quote the

78

00:02:56,070 --> 00:02:54,080

chicago sun picked up the story and

79

00:02:56,790 --> 00:02:56,080

their headline for it that same day was

80

00:03:00,070 --> 00:02:56,800

quote

81

00:03:00,630 --> 00:03:00,080

supersonic flying saucers cited by idaho

82

00:03:03,030 --> 00:03:00,640

pilot

83

00:03:03,990 --> 00:03:03,040

end quote from then on people all over

84

00:03:07,190 --> 00:03:04,000

the country began

85

00:03:09,830 --> 00:03:07,200

seeing quote flying saucers end quote

86

00:03:11,670 --> 00:03:09,840

as of june 26th arnold was famous and

87

00:03:13,270 --> 00:03:11,680

his name was forever linked in history

88

00:03:15,190 --> 00:03:13,280

with flying saucers

89
00:03:17,350 --> 00:03:15,200
soon people were seeing them everywhere

90
00:03:19,509 --> 00:03:17,360
and they became a media sensation

91
00:03:20,470 --> 00:03:19,519
papers that carried saucer stories more

92
00:03:22,550 --> 00:03:20,480
often than not

93
00:03:23,670 --> 00:03:22,560
printed them on page 1 into the first

94
00:03:25,910 --> 00:03:23,680
half of july

95
00:03:27,830 --> 00:03:25,920
while arnold was genuinely puzzled and

96
00:03:29,430 --> 00:03:27,840
interested in getting some answers as to

97
00:03:31,509 --> 00:03:29,440
what the objects might have been

98
00:03:33,430 --> 00:03:31,519
wintergren noted that the media treated

99
00:03:35,670 --> 00:03:33,440
the saucers as a novelty

100
00:03:37,430 --> 00:03:35,680
according to him the subject quote

101
00:03:39,670 --> 00:03:37,440
tickled the funny bones in the same

102
00:03:42,149 --> 00:03:39,680
manner as the bow ties and sockware

103
00:03:42,869 --> 00:03:42,159
worn by the bobby sox multitudes end

104
00:03:45,110 --> 00:03:42,879
quote

105
00:03:46,070 --> 00:03:45,120
arnold was besieged by both the media

106
00:03:48,070 --> 00:03:46,080
and the public

107
00:03:50,470 --> 00:03:48,080
his woes are described in an article in

108
00:03:52,229 --> 00:03:50,480
the june 28 portland oregonian

109
00:03:53,509 --> 00:03:52,239
he told the paper that a preacher from

110
00:03:55,270 --> 00:03:53,519
texas had called him

111
00:03:56,949 --> 00:03:55,280
the preacher told him that the saucers

112
00:03:59,990 --> 00:03:56,959
marked the beginning of quote

113
00:04:01,750 --> 00:04:00,000

doomsday end quote and he was quote

114

00:04:03,350 --> 00:04:01,760

getting his flock ready for the end of

115

00:04:05,110 --> 00:04:03,360

the world end quote

116

00:04:07,509 --> 00:04:05,120

arnold also said that when he was in a

117

00:04:09,990 --> 00:04:07,519

pendleton cafe on june 26th

118

00:04:11,030 --> 00:04:10,000

a woman came in recognized him and ran

119

00:04:13,110 --> 00:04:11,040

out shrieking

120

00:04:15,750 --> 00:04:13,120

there's the man that saw the men from

121

00:04:17,270 --> 00:04:15,760

mars he summed up what he perceived was

122

00:04:19,189 --> 00:04:17,280

the public's opinion of him

123

00:04:21,509 --> 00:04:19,199

quote half the people look at me as a

124

00:04:24,230 --> 00:04:21,519

combination einstein flash gordon

125

00:04:26,710 --> 00:04:24,240

and screwball end quote fortunately for

126
00:04:27,749 --> 00:04:26,720
arnold a man came forward with a report

127
00:04:30,870 --> 00:04:27,759
that supported his

128
00:04:33,350 --> 00:04:30,880
sighting the june 26th denver post

129
00:04:35,350 --> 00:04:33,360
reported that another pilot brian savage

130
00:04:38,070 --> 00:04:35,360
of oklahoma city oklahoma

131
00:04:40,070 --> 00:04:38,080
reported seeing a quote flat disk-like

132
00:04:41,030 --> 00:04:40,080
object come across the city from the

133
00:04:42,950 --> 00:04:41,040
southeast

134
00:04:44,870 --> 00:04:42,960
end quote he claimed to have seen it

135
00:04:45,830 --> 00:04:44,880
weeks before arnold siting made the

136
00:04:48,310 --> 00:04:45,840
papers

137
00:04:49,909 --> 00:04:48,320
according to him it had a quote shiny

138
00:04:52,070 --> 00:04:49,919

silvery color and quote

139

00:04:53,590 --> 00:04:52,080

was quote very big and moving at a

140

00:04:55,990 --> 00:04:53,600

terrific rate of speed

141

00:04:58,150 --> 00:04:56,000

end quote he noted that it quote didn't

142

00:04:59,990 --> 00:04:58,160

make any noise end quote which would be

143

00:05:02,150 --> 00:05:00,000

a common description among witnesses

144

00:05:04,550 --> 00:05:02,160

well beyond 1947.

145

00:05:05,270 --> 00:05:04,560

another report quickly followed the june

146

00:05:07,270 --> 00:05:05,280

27

147

00:05:09,350 --> 00:05:07,280

chicago tribune carried the description

148

00:05:11,909 --> 00:05:09,360

of a kansas city kansas man

149

00:05:13,990 --> 00:05:11,919

he reported seeing nine objects quote

150

00:05:14,790 --> 00:05:14,000

with one a little off to one side end

151
00:05:16,629 --> 00:05:14,800

quote

152
00:05:18,469 --> 00:05:16,639

skeptics immediately weighed in and

153
00:05:19,110 --> 00:05:18,479

accused both men of making up their

154
00:05:21,830 --> 00:05:19,120

stories

155
00:05:23,510 --> 00:05:21,840

based on what arnold had reported savage

156
00:05:24,390 --> 00:05:23,520

countered by saying he had been afraid

157
00:05:25,670 --> 00:05:24,400

of ridicule

158
00:05:27,749 --> 00:05:25,680

and that arnold's sighting had

159
00:05:29,510 --> 00:05:27,759

encouraged him to come forward others

160
00:05:30,390 --> 00:05:29,520

reported that they had seen saucers

161
00:05:32,390 --> 00:05:30,400

before arnold

162
00:05:34,150 --> 00:05:32,400

they too said that they had only come

163
00:05:36,230 --> 00:05:34,160

forward because of arnold

164

00:05:38,629 --> 00:05:36,240

an unfortunate aspect of arnold's siding

165

00:05:40,550 --> 00:05:38,639

report was that he was the sole witness

166

00:05:42,469 --> 00:05:40,560

because he appeared to be a particularly

167

00:05:43,990 --> 00:05:42,479

credible witness his story was

168

00:05:45,990 --> 00:05:44,000

considered newsworthy

169

00:05:48,790 --> 00:05:46,000

that set a precedent for editors to

170

00:05:50,950 --> 00:05:48,800

accept other single witness testimonies

171

00:05:53,270 --> 00:05:50,960

story after story appeared with a single

172

00:05:55,430 --> 00:05:53,280

witness often with an emphasis on their

173

00:05:57,350 --> 00:05:55,440

credibility as the sole support

174

00:05:58,629 --> 00:05:57,360

multiple witness reports eventually

175

00:06:01,350 --> 00:05:58,639

started being reported

176
00:06:02,950 --> 00:06:01,360
the june 28th denver post reported that

177
00:06:04,950 --> 00:06:02,960
seven witnesses who worked for the

178
00:06:07,189 --> 00:06:04,960
manitou and pikes peak railroad

179
00:06:08,469 --> 00:06:07,199
said they'd seen objects similar to what

180
00:06:10,950 --> 00:06:08,479
arnold had seen

181
00:06:12,629 --> 00:06:10,960
the june 29th portland oregonian carried

182
00:06:13,670 --> 00:06:12,639
the story of a group of friends in san

183
00:06:15,749 --> 00:06:13,680
francisco

184
00:06:17,909 --> 00:06:15,759
they said they heard quote swishing

185
00:06:20,870 --> 00:06:17,919
whistling sounds over the bay end quote

186
00:06:21,430 --> 00:06:20,880
and then saw objects quote 30 to 50 feet

187
00:06:23,350 --> 00:06:21,440
across

188
00:06:25,749 --> 00:06:23,360

end quote flying in a northerly

189

00:06:26,550 --> 00:06:25,759

direction the july 1st edition of the

190

00:06:28,390 --> 00:06:26,560

same paper

191

00:06:30,390 --> 00:06:28,400

told of a high school student and two

192

00:06:32,870 --> 00:06:30,400

nuns who claimed they had seen nine

193

00:06:34,550 --> 00:06:32,880

discs flying over legrand oregon

194

00:06:36,950 --> 00:06:34,560

wintergren noted that for the first

195

00:06:38,710 --> 00:06:36,960

three days in july flying saucer stories

196

00:06:39,270 --> 00:06:38,720

were absent from most of the larger

197

00:06:41,110 --> 00:06:39,280

dailies

198

00:06:42,950 --> 00:06:41,120

throughout the country except for those

199

00:06:45,909 --> 00:06:42,960

in the pacific northwest

200

00:06:46,390 --> 00:06:45,919

then july 4 brought a quote deluge end

201
00:06:48,870 --> 00:06:46,400
quote

202
00:06:51,110 --> 00:06:48,880
of reports that made the national news

203
00:06:53,029 --> 00:06:51,120
in the july 5th portland oregonian

204
00:06:54,870 --> 00:06:53,039
there was a story that involved multiple

205
00:06:57,029 --> 00:06:54,880
highly credible witnesses

206
00:06:58,150 --> 00:06:57,039
portland police had been put on a quote

207
00:07:00,550 --> 00:06:58,160
all car alert

208
00:07:02,150 --> 00:07:00,560
end quote after three patrolmen two in

209
00:07:04,469 --> 00:07:02,160
one car and one in another

210
00:07:05,830 --> 00:07:04,479
reported seeing objects one of them

211
00:07:08,710 --> 00:07:05,840
described the objects as

212
00:07:09,909 --> 00:07:08,720
quote aluminum or eggshell white disks

213
00:07:12,150 --> 00:07:09,919

that did not flash

214

00:07:14,390 --> 00:07:12,160

end quote many other officers were

215

00:07:16,629 --> 00:07:14,400

listed as having seen disks at night

216

00:07:19,270 --> 00:07:16,639

the july 6th edition carried an

217

00:07:20,070 --> 00:07:19,280

associated press story of 200 witnesses

218

00:07:22,550 --> 00:07:20,080

in idaho

219

00:07:23,110 --> 00:07:22,560

who'd reportedly seen a disc over hauser

220

00:07:25,670 --> 00:07:23,120

lake

221

00:07:28,309 --> 00:07:25,680

the july 5th minneapolis star reported

222

00:07:31,029 --> 00:07:28,319

that in the city of twin falls idaho

223

00:07:33,350 --> 00:07:31,039

60 picnickers observed quote several

224

00:07:35,990 --> 00:07:33,360

echelons of disks in the afternoon

225

00:07:36,870 --> 00:07:36,000

end quote a july 4th sighting reported

226

00:07:39,350 --> 00:07:36,880

by a captain

227

00:07:40,950 --> 00:07:39,360

co-pilot and stewardess aboard a united

228

00:07:43,110 --> 00:07:40,960

airlines dc-3

229

00:07:45,430 --> 00:07:43,120

received major attention and was not

230

00:07:48,309 --> 00:07:45,440

easily refuted by skeptics

231

00:07:50,309 --> 00:07:48,319

captain emile j smith himself a skeptic

232

00:07:51,029 --> 00:07:50,319

was alerted when his co-pilot ralph

233

00:07:53,270 --> 00:07:51,039

stevens

234

00:07:54,710 --> 00:07:53,280

blinked the landing lights smith asked

235

00:07:56,790 --> 00:07:54,720

him why he was doing so

236

00:07:58,150 --> 00:07:56,800

and stevens replied quote there's a

237

00:08:00,550 --> 00:07:58,160

plane approaching our bow

238

00:08:02,309 --> 00:08:00,560

end quote smith described the events in

239

00:08:03,430 --> 00:08:02,319

a letter written for the international

240

00:08:05,510 --> 00:08:03,440

news service

241

00:08:07,510 --> 00:08:05,520

he wrote that he and stevens quickly saw

242

00:08:08,070 --> 00:08:07,520

that the object was not a plane but a

243

00:08:11,670 --> 00:08:08,080

quote

244

00:08:13,110 --> 00:08:11,680

more

245

00:08:15,110 --> 00:08:13,120

and though they couldn't determine their

246

00:08:16,790 --> 00:08:15,120

quote exact shape end quote

247

00:08:18,629 --> 00:08:16,800

they noted that they were larger than

248

00:08:20,710 --> 00:08:18,639

the dc3 quote

249

00:08:21,670 --> 00:08:20,720

fairly flat smooth on the bottom and

250

00:08:23,990 --> 00:08:21,680

rough on top

251
00:08:25,990 --> 00:08:24,000
end quote smith called the stewardess

252
00:08:28,150 --> 00:08:26,000
marty morrows to the cockpit and she

253
00:08:29,430 --> 00:08:28,160
confirmed their sighting arnold would

254
00:08:31,029 --> 00:08:29,440
soon befriend smith

255
00:08:32,790 --> 00:08:31,039
and smith would accompany him on his

256
00:08:33,430 --> 00:08:32,800
investigation of the maury island

257
00:08:35,909 --> 00:08:33,440
incident

258
00:08:37,350 --> 00:08:35,919
link available arnold wrote about his

259
00:08:39,269 --> 00:08:37,360
sighting smith's sighting

260
00:08:42,070 --> 00:08:39,279
and their investigation together in two

261
00:08:44,550 --> 00:08:42,080
articles in the january 1948 premier

262
00:08:46,389 --> 00:08:44,560
issue of fate magazine he later

263
00:08:48,470 --> 00:08:46,399

recounted the events in the first five

264

00:08:50,550 --> 00:08:48,480

chapters of the 1952 book

265

00:08:52,310 --> 00:08:50,560

the coming of the saucers co-written

266

00:08:54,949 --> 00:08:52,320

with fate publisher and editor

267

00:08:55,430 --> 00:08:54,959

ray palmer according to wentergun the

268

00:08:57,990 --> 00:08:55,440

quote

269

00:08:59,030 --> 00:08:58,000

flying saucers lived a short full life

270

00:09:01,509 --> 00:08:59,040

end quote

271

00:09:02,870 --> 00:09:01,519

after quote the incident at roswell

272

00:09:04,870 --> 00:09:02,880

field end quote

273

00:09:06,630 --> 00:09:04,880

flying saucer stories appeared less

274

00:09:08,710 --> 00:09:06,640

frequently in newspapers

275

00:09:11,030 --> 00:09:08,720

finally quote an unaccountable

276

00:09:11,910 --> 00:09:11,040

phenomenon was retired to the newspaper

277

00:09:14,550 --> 00:09:11,920

valhalla

278

00:09:16,630 --> 00:09:14,560

the morgue end quote the incident at

279

00:09:19,030 --> 00:09:16,640

roswell field link available

280

00:09:21,269 --> 00:09:19,040

refers to the july 8th press release

281

00:09:23,190 --> 00:09:21,279

from roswell airfield that they were

282

00:09:24,470 --> 00:09:23,200

quote fortunate enough to gain

283

00:09:26,070 --> 00:09:24,480

possession of a disc

284

00:09:28,070 --> 00:09:26,080

through the cooperation of one of the

285

00:09:30,070 --> 00:09:28,080

local ranchers end quote

286

00:09:31,190 --> 00:09:30,080

the statement was released by the public

287

00:09:33,670 --> 00:09:31,200

information officer

288

00:09:34,630 --> 00:09:33,680

lieutenant walter hout the story was

289

00:09:36,790 --> 00:09:34,640

front page

290

00:09:38,630 --> 00:09:36,800

and the world eagerly awaited the answer

291

00:09:41,030 --> 00:09:38,640

to the flying saucer mystery

292

00:09:43,269 --> 00:09:41,040

the answer came from major general roger

293

00:09:44,310 --> 00:09:43,279

raymie that evening in a radio broadcast

294

00:09:46,870 --> 00:09:44,320

from fort worth

295

00:09:47,829 --> 00:09:46,880

where the quote disc and quote had been

296

00:09:49,670 --> 00:09:47,839

examined

297

00:09:51,269 --> 00:09:49,680

newspapers reported the story the

298

00:09:54,550 --> 00:09:51,279

following day with quote

299

00:09:56,310 --> 00:09:54,560

conspicuously small and quote headlines

300

00:09:57,990 --> 00:09:56,320

according to raymie the air force had

301
00:09:59,990 --> 00:09:58,000
recovered a weather balloon

302
00:10:01,509 --> 00:10:00,000
wintergren closed chapter four of his

303
00:10:04,150 --> 00:10:01,519
thesis with the following

304
00:10:05,590 --> 00:10:04,160
quote thereafter if the saucers flew

305
00:10:07,670 --> 00:10:05,600
they flew in silence

306
00:10:09,910 --> 00:10:07,680
because the nation's press was through

307
00:10:10,870 --> 00:10:09,920
with them their appeal had burst in some

308
00:10:12,790 --> 00:10:10,880
vague manner

309
00:10:15,509 --> 00:10:12,800
after their dramatic appearance in new

310
00:10:16,710 --> 00:10:15,519
mexico their swan song was a short one

311
00:10:19,990 --> 00:10:16,720
and faded quickly

312
00:10:22,150 --> 00:10:20,000
end quote glad the hullabaloo over that

313
00:10:38,440 --> 00:10:22,160

particular mystery ended so quickly