



1
00:00:06,230 --> 00:00:03,669
monster of the ufo

2
00:00:08,629 --> 00:00:06,240
by charles lear much has been written

3
00:00:10,310 --> 00:00:08,639
about the 1952 flatwoods monster

4
00:00:11,270 --> 00:00:10,320
encounter in braxton county west

5
00:00:12,870 --> 00:00:11,280
virginia

6
00:00:14,709 --> 00:00:12,880
it is a bizarre tale that received

7
00:00:16,790 --> 00:00:14,719
national press coverage at the time

8
00:00:18,870 --> 00:00:16,800
and is still celebrated today as part of

9
00:00:20,550 --> 00:00:18,880
west virginia's weird history

10
00:00:22,870 --> 00:00:20,560
you can have your picture taken in one

11
00:00:25,429 --> 00:00:22,880
of five giant flatwoods monster chairs

12
00:00:26,070 --> 00:00:25,439
located in various areas around braxton

13
00:00:28,070 --> 00:00:26,080

county

14

00:00:29,990 --> 00:00:28,080

and you can visit the flatwoods monster

15

00:00:31,830 --> 00:00:30,000

museum in the town of sutton

16

00:00:34,389 --> 00:00:31,840

with all of the focus on the monster

17

00:00:35,510 --> 00:00:34,399

itself certain aspects of the case tend

18

00:00:37,590 --> 00:00:35,520

to be overlooked

19

00:00:39,670 --> 00:00:37,600

for one thing this was the very first

20

00:00:40,630 --> 00:00:39,680

report of a creature associated with a

21

00:00:42,630 --> 00:00:40,640

ufo

22

00:00:44,549 --> 00:00:42,640

for another the case was looked into by

23

00:00:47,470 --> 00:00:44,559

some of ufology's very first

24

00:00:48,790 --> 00:00:47,480

private investigators on september 12

25

00:00:50,869 --> 00:00:48,800

1952

26
00:00:52,950 --> 00:00:50,879
reports of fireballs flying through the

27
00:00:54,709 --> 00:00:52,960
air came into newspaper offices and

28
00:00:56,869 --> 00:00:54,719
police stations from all over the

29
00:00:58,790 --> 00:00:56,879
southeastern united states

30
00:01:00,709 --> 00:00:58,800
searches were made for the most likely

31
00:01:01,430 --> 00:01:00,719
suspects downed planes and fallen

32
00:01:03,830 --> 00:01:01,440
meteors

33
00:01:05,590 --> 00:01:03,840
and none were found then in braxton

34
00:01:06,390 --> 00:01:05,600
county west virginia in the town of

35
00:01:08,870 --> 00:01:06,400
flatwoods

36
00:01:10,630 --> 00:01:08,880
a group consisting of six boys ranging

37
00:01:12,310 --> 00:01:10,640
in age from 10 to 17

38
00:01:13,750 --> 00:01:12,320

were playing football in the fading

39

00:01:15,510 --> 00:01:13,760

hours of daylight

40

00:01:17,590 --> 00:01:15,520

one of the younger boys caught sight of

41

00:01:18,630 --> 00:01:17,600

a fiery object in the sky and alerted

42

00:01:20,390 --> 00:01:18,640

the others

43

00:01:22,070 --> 00:01:20,400

they watched as it flew over them and

44

00:01:23,350 --> 00:01:22,080

then seemed to land in the nearby

45

00:01:25,270 --> 00:01:23,360

farmer's field

46

00:01:27,030 --> 00:01:25,280

they were eager to investigate and ran

47

00:01:29,429 --> 00:01:27,040

to the home of kathleen may

48

00:01:30,630 --> 00:01:29,439

mother of two of the boys eddie 13 and

49

00:01:32,630 --> 00:01:30,640

freddy 12.

50

00:01:34,310 --> 00:01:32,640

the group of boys excitedly told her

51
00:01:36,469 --> 00:01:34,320
what they had seen and one of them

52
00:01:37,670 --> 00:01:36,479
17 year old eugene lemon found a

53
00:01:39,510 --> 00:01:37,680
flashlight

54
00:01:41,270 --> 00:01:39,520
mrs may joined them as they went up the

55
00:01:43,350 --> 00:01:41,280
hill that led to the farm

56
00:01:45,270 --> 00:01:43,360
the following account comes mostly from

57
00:01:46,069 --> 00:01:45,280
one witness fourteen-year-old neil

58
00:01:49,190 --> 00:01:46,079
nunley

59
00:01:50,710 --> 00:01:49,200
ahead of the others

60
00:01:52,469 --> 00:01:50,720
as they went up the hill they saw a

61
00:01:54,149 --> 00:01:52,479
reddish pulsating light

62
00:01:56,389 --> 00:01:54,159
they passed through a gate in the fence

63
00:01:57,190 --> 00:01:56,399

around the field and dutifully closed it

64

00:01:59,109 --> 00:01:57,200

behind them

65

00:02:00,550 --> 00:01:59,119

as they got closer they encountered a

66

00:02:03,429 --> 00:02:00,560

fog that had a quote

67

00:02:05,190 --> 00:02:03,439

pungent irritating odor end quote the

68

00:02:05,990 --> 00:02:05,200

fog became thicker as they approached

69

00:02:09,830 --> 00:02:06,000

the light

70

00:02:11,190 --> 00:02:09,840

quote it was just like a big ball of

71

00:02:13,030 --> 00:02:11,200

fire end quote

72

00:02:15,110 --> 00:02:13,040

he said he couldn't estimate the size of

73

00:02:15,910 --> 00:02:15,120

the light but others described that it

74

00:02:18,309 --> 00:02:15,920

was quote

75

00:02:20,150 --> 00:02:18,319

as big as a house end quote with the

76
00:02:22,470 --> 00:02:20,160
focus on the light no one noticed a

77
00:02:23,270 --> 00:02:22,480
figure near the hilltop 15 feet to the

78
00:02:25,510 --> 00:02:23,280
left

79
00:02:26,550 --> 00:02:25,520
lemon then looked over and saw two spots

80
00:02:28,550 --> 00:02:26,560
of green light

81
00:02:30,309 --> 00:02:28,560
thinking they were animal eyes he aimed

82
00:02:31,990 --> 00:02:30,319
the flashlight at them and revealed a

83
00:02:33,830 --> 00:02:32,000
tall humanoid figure

84
00:02:35,990 --> 00:02:33,840
the figure had a red face with two

85
00:02:37,589 --> 00:02:36,000
openings like eyes that projected beams

86
00:02:38,309 --> 00:02:37,599
of greenish orange light over their

87
00:02:40,390 --> 00:02:38,319
heads

88
00:02:42,229 --> 00:02:40,400

around the face was a dark hood-like

89

00:02:43,350 --> 00:02:42,239

shape that came to a point like the ace

90

00:02:45,270 --> 00:02:43,360

of spades

91

00:02:46,550 --> 00:02:45,280

not only described the body as being

92

00:02:49,110 --> 00:02:46,560

dark and colorless

93

00:02:51,110 --> 00:02:49,120

but others said it was green mrs may

94

00:02:52,470 --> 00:02:51,120

said she saw folds as if the body was

95

00:02:54,390 --> 00:02:52,480

draped in fabric

96

00:02:56,470 --> 00:02:54,400

most of the witnesses agreed that the

97

00:02:57,350 --> 00:02:56,480

body from the waist down was not clearly

98

00:02:59,190 --> 00:02:57,360

visible

99

00:03:00,869 --> 00:02:59,200

whether or not the figure had arms was

100

00:03:03,670 --> 00:03:00,879

another area of disagreement

101
00:03:05,910 --> 00:03:03,680
mrs may said she saw claws because the

102
00:03:06,949 --> 00:03:05,920
figure was under a limb that was 15 feet

103
00:03:09,110 --> 00:03:06,959
off the ground

104
00:03:10,309 --> 00:03:09,120
its height was estimated to be around 10

105
00:03:12,229 --> 00:03:10,319
feet tall

106
00:03:13,750 --> 00:03:12,239
lemon fell back with the screen as soon

107
00:03:15,670 --> 00:03:13,760
as he saw the figure

108
00:03:17,509 --> 00:03:15,680
nunley said it came toward them but

109
00:03:20,070 --> 00:03:17,519
moved along an ark that would take it to

110
00:03:22,149 --> 00:03:20,080
the ball of light 50 feet down the hill

111
00:03:23,589 --> 00:03:22,159
according to him its movement was even

112
00:03:24,949 --> 00:03:23,599
and not like walking

113
00:03:27,430 --> 00:03:24,959

as it moved toward the light the

114

00:03:28,390 --> 00:03:27,440

witnesses fled during their exit their

115

00:03:30,630 --> 00:03:28,400

panic was such

116

00:03:31,990 --> 00:03:30,640

that no one bothered to open the gate

117

00:03:34,229 --> 00:03:32,000

mrs may reportedly

118

00:03:36,229 --> 00:03:34,239

cleared it in a single leap the story

119

00:03:38,630 --> 00:03:36,239

made the local papers that sunday

120

00:03:40,550 --> 00:03:38,640

and by monday the news was national it

121

00:03:42,789 --> 00:03:40,560

caught the attention of grey barker

122

00:03:43,750 --> 00:03:42,799

a man then living in nearby clarksburg

123

00:03:45,670 --> 00:03:43,760

west virginia

124

00:03:48,149 --> 00:03:45,680

who had been born and raised in braxton

125

00:03:49,910 --> 00:03:48,159

county barker was a frustrated writer

126
00:03:51,509 --> 00:03:49,920
and science fiction fan who ran a

127
00:03:53,750 --> 00:03:51,519
theater booking agency

128
00:03:54,789 --> 00:03:53,760
he contacted ray palmer publisher of

129
00:03:56,710 --> 00:03:54,799
fate magazine

130
00:03:58,309 --> 00:03:56,720
and offered to investigate and write an

131
00:04:00,309 --> 00:03:58,319
article for the magazine

132
00:04:02,149 --> 00:04:00,319
palmer accepted his offer and gave him a

133
00:04:04,070 --> 00:04:02,159
deadline the article was due the

134
00:04:06,630 --> 00:04:04,080
following monday and barker had only

135
00:04:09,110 --> 00:04:06,640
that weekend available to investigate

136
00:04:11,110 --> 00:04:09,120
when he went to braxton county kathleen

137
00:04:11,670 --> 00:04:11,120
may and eugene lemon were in new york

138
00:04:13,270 --> 00:04:11,680

city

139

00:04:15,190 --> 00:04:13,280

they had been invited to tell their

140

00:04:17,349 --> 00:04:15,200

story on the television show

141

00:04:18,870 --> 00:04:17,359

we the people the only witnesses

142

00:04:19,990 --> 00:04:18,880

available that first day were the

143

00:04:21,909 --> 00:04:20,000

remaining boys

144

00:04:24,469 --> 00:04:21,919

and barker was able to interview them on

145

00:04:26,950 --> 00:04:24,479

tape he was most impressed by nunley

146

00:04:29,670 --> 00:04:26,960

whom he described as being quote a very

147

00:04:32,070 --> 00:04:29,680

level-headed and unimaginative youngster

148

00:04:33,990 --> 00:04:32,080

end quote he was able to interview lemon

149

00:04:35,909 --> 00:04:34,000

and mrs may the following day

150

00:04:37,990 --> 00:04:35,919

the article was printed in the january

151

00:04:39,670 --> 00:04:38,000

1953 edition of fate

152

00:04:41,430 --> 00:04:39,680

and marked the beginning of barker's

153

00:04:42,950 --> 00:04:41,440

life in flying saucers

154

00:04:44,790 --> 00:04:42,960

he went on to become the chief

155

00:04:47,110 --> 00:04:44,800

investigator for the short-lived

156

00:04:48,629 --> 00:04:47,120

international flying saucer bureau link

157

00:04:49,270 --> 00:04:48,639

available in the written version of this

158

00:04:51,110 --> 00:04:49,280

blog

159

00:04:53,270 --> 00:04:51,120

founded his own publishing company and

160

00:04:55,110 --> 00:04:53,280

wrote several books on the subject

161

00:04:57,030 --> 00:04:55,120

he was a colorful and controversial

162

00:04:59,030 --> 00:04:57,040

character who was less interested in

163

00:05:01,110 --> 00:04:59,040

solving the flying saucer mystery

164

00:05:02,710 --> 00:05:01,120

than he was and using it as a source of

165

00:05:04,790 --> 00:05:02,720

creative inspiration

166

00:05:07,990 --> 00:05:04,800

he wrote about the braxton county case

167

00:05:10,550 --> 00:05:08,000

in more detail in his classic 1956 book

168

00:05:12,550 --> 00:05:10,560

they knew too much about flying saucers

169

00:05:15,110 --> 00:05:12,560

while barker was in braxton county

170

00:05:15,830 --> 00:05:15,120

he ran into another investigator ivan

171

00:05:18,230 --> 00:05:15,840

sanderson

172

00:05:19,990 --> 00:05:18,240

who was on assignment for true magazine

173

00:05:21,029 --> 00:05:20,000

and the north american newspaper

174

00:05:23,029 --> 00:05:21,039

alliance

175

00:05:24,469 --> 00:05:23,039

sanderson was a well-known cambridge

176

00:05:26,150 --> 00:05:24,479

educated naturalist

177

00:05:28,310 --> 00:05:26,160

who wrote books and articles on the

178

00:05:30,150 --> 00:05:28,320

subject during his travels he had

179

00:05:31,749 --> 00:05:30,160

developed an interest in creatures that

180

00:05:33,670 --> 00:05:31,759

were described in legend but were

181

00:05:36,310 --> 00:05:33,680

undocumented by science

182

00:05:38,230 --> 00:05:36,320

he coined the phrase cryptozoology for

183

00:05:40,150 --> 00:05:38,240

this unique field of study

184

00:05:42,150 --> 00:05:40,160

sanderson had an interest in all things

185

00:05:42,950 --> 00:05:42,160

unusual and fit the profile of a

186

00:05:45,029 --> 00:05:42,960

fourteen

187

00:05:46,950 --> 00:05:45,039

link available he and barker would

188

00:05:48,950 --> 00:05:46,960

develop a lasting friendship

189

00:05:49,990 --> 00:05:48,960

both would be regular guests on the long

190

00:05:52,390 --> 00:05:50,000

john nebbel show

191

00:05:53,909 --> 00:05:52,400

link available which was the first radio

192

00:05:55,270 --> 00:05:53,919

show to feature discussions on the

193

00:05:57,590 --> 00:05:55,280

paranormal

194

00:05:59,790 --> 00:05:57,600

sanderson's investigation was thorough

195

00:06:03,270 --> 00:05:59,800

and was described in the september 12

196

00:06:05,110 --> 00:06:03,280

1954 charleston west virginia daily mail

197

00:06:07,510 --> 00:06:05,120

according to that account he enlisted

198

00:06:09,430 --> 00:06:07,520

the aid of earl walter and bird ash

199

00:06:11,990 --> 00:06:09,440

members of the charleston chapter of the

200

00:06:14,070 --> 00:06:12,000

national speleological society

201
00:06:15,909 --> 00:06:14,080
together they made an extensive survey

202
00:06:17,749 --> 00:06:15,919
of the area interviewed five of the

203
00:06:19,670 --> 00:06:17,759
young witnesses repeatedly

204
00:06:21,510 --> 00:06:19,680
and found other area witnesses who had

205
00:06:23,830 --> 00:06:21,520
observed fireballs

206
00:06:25,029 --> 00:06:23,840
sanderson focused on the fireballs and

207
00:06:26,950 --> 00:06:25,039
determined that five

208
00:06:29,510 --> 00:06:26,960
objects had passed over the area

209
00:06:31,830 --> 00:06:29,520
traveling from northwest to southeast

210
00:06:33,510 --> 00:06:31,840
he issued a 26-page report that was

211
00:06:34,150 --> 00:06:33,520
carried by newspapers all over the

212
00:06:36,870 --> 00:06:34,160
country

213
00:06:37,749 --> 00:06:36,880

and at least one in britain sanderson

214

00:06:40,150 --> 00:06:37,759

was recorded

215

00:06:42,629 --> 00:06:40,160

link available describing his findings

216

00:06:44,790 --> 00:06:42,639

to john neville in 1953.

217

00:06:47,029 --> 00:06:44,800

during the interview sanderson described

218

00:06:48,629 --> 00:06:47,039

six objects and speculated that they

219

00:06:50,469 --> 00:06:48,639

were spaceships having trouble in a

220

00:06:52,309 --> 00:06:50,479

polluted atmosphere

221

00:06:54,309 --> 00:06:52,319

william and donna smith of downey

222

00:06:56,070 --> 00:06:54,319

california were on their way home

223

00:06:58,469 --> 00:06:56,080

when they stopped to investigate the

224

00:07:00,950 --> 00:06:58,479

story their findings were reported in

225

00:07:02,070 --> 00:07:00,960

the civilian saucer investigators winter

226

00:07:04,150 --> 00:07:02,080

1953

227

00:07:06,710 --> 00:07:04,160

quarterly bulletin number two link

228

00:07:08,390 --> 00:07:06,720

available they added significant details

229

00:07:10,790 --> 00:07:08,400

not mentioned by barker or

230

00:07:11,830 --> 00:07:10,800

sanderson according to their report the

231

00:07:14,070 --> 00:07:11,840

quote monster

232

00:07:16,070 --> 00:07:14,080

end quote emitted a mist that covered

233

00:07:18,550 --> 00:07:16,080

the may boys faces with an oily

234

00:07:20,070 --> 00:07:18,560

substance their throats later swelled to

235

00:07:22,309 --> 00:07:20,080

where they couldn't swallow

236

00:07:23,749 --> 00:07:22,319

eugene lemon was affected in a similar

237

00:07:25,909 --> 00:07:23,759

manner and still had pain

238

00:07:27,110 --> 00:07:25,919

two weeks later furthermore lemon's

239

00:07:29,510 --> 00:07:27,120

mother reported that

240

00:07:31,830 --> 00:07:29,520

at the time of quote the landing end

241

00:07:33,990 --> 00:07:31,840

quote the house shook violently and the

242

00:07:36,790 --> 00:07:34,000

radio went off for 45 minutes

243

00:07:39,350 --> 00:07:36,800

and then came on again by itself finally

244

00:07:41,270 --> 00:07:39,360

the smiths located a 21 year old woman

245

00:07:42,790 --> 00:07:41,280

who'd been confined in a clarksburg

246

00:07:44,710 --> 00:07:42,800

hospital for three weeks

247

00:07:46,070 --> 00:07:44,720

after reporting a similar encounter with

248

00:07:48,150 --> 00:07:46,080

an odiferous quote

249

00:07:49,749 --> 00:07:48,160

monster end quote a week before the

250

00:07:51,830 --> 00:07:49,759

flatwoods incident

251

00:07:54,629 --> 00:07:51,840

so where was the air force storing all

252

00:07:56,550 --> 00:07:54,639

this donald kehoe pondered that question

253

00:07:59,350 --> 00:07:56,560

in his 1953 book

254

00:08:00,790 --> 00:07:59,360

flying saucers from outer space he wrote

255

00:08:02,790 --> 00:08:00,800

that he spoke with albert m

256

00:08:05,189 --> 00:08:02,800

chop of the air force press desk at the

257

00:08:06,469 --> 00:08:05,199

pentagon according to chop the air force

258

00:08:08,550 --> 00:08:06,479

had ignored the incident

259

00:08:09,670 --> 00:08:08,560

but kehoe later heard otherwise from

260

00:08:12,070 --> 00:08:09,680

other sources

261

00:08:13,830 --> 00:08:12,080

according to them air force intelligence

262

00:08:15,990 --> 00:08:13,840

quote worked through the west virginia

263

00:08:16,710 --> 00:08:16,000

state police securing all the details

264

00:08:18,710 --> 00:08:16,720

end quote

265

00:08:20,390 --> 00:08:18,720

and followed up by sending two men who

266

00:08:22,790 --> 00:08:20,400

posed as magazine writers

267

00:08:24,629 --> 00:08:22,800

and interviewed witnesses the project

268

00:08:26,629 --> 00:08:24,639

blue book file in the case contains

269

00:08:27,909 --> 00:08:26,639

news clippings but no record of the

270

00:08:29,909 --> 00:08:27,919

investigation

271

00:08:31,990 --> 00:08:29,919

there is however an intriguing document

272

00:08:34,310 --> 00:08:32,000

that mentions soil samples from another

273

00:08:36,389 --> 00:08:34,320

case that had characteristics similar to

274

00:08:38,550 --> 00:08:36,399

those of soil from flatwoods

275

00:08:40,550 --> 00:08:38,560

it ends with the requests that quote the

276

00:08:41,269 --> 00:08:40,560

utmost priority be given to the lab

277

00:08:44,149 --> 00:08:41,279

analysis

278

00:08:44,550 --> 00:08:44,159

of subject samples end quote it seems