



1
00:00:42,310 --> 00:00:27,670

[Music]

2
00:00:48,069 --> 00:00:44,229

pancakes from the ufo

3
00:00:51,029 --> 00:00:48,079

by charles lear in 1961 major donald e

4
00:00:52,950 --> 00:00:51,039

keough usmc retired was the director of

5
00:00:54,310 --> 00:00:52,960

the national investigations committee on

6
00:00:56,389 --> 00:00:54,320

aerial phenomena

7
00:00:58,549 --> 00:00:56,399

that year he and his organization were

8
00:01:00,229 --> 00:00:58,559

making life difficult for the air force

9
00:01:02,470 --> 00:01:00,239

with criticism of their ufo

10
00:01:04,229 --> 00:01:02,480

investigation project blue book

11
00:01:05,750 --> 00:01:04,239

this was nothing new but now they were

12
00:01:06,390 --> 00:01:05,760

close to getting open hearings in

13
00:01:08,870 --> 00:01:06,400

congress

14

00:01:09,789 --> 00:01:08,880

to address their criticisms then on

15

00:01:13,750 --> 00:01:09,799

april 18

16

00:01:16,310 --> 00:01:13,760

1961 joe simonton a 54 year old plumber

17

00:01:18,390 --> 00:01:16,320

handyman and part-time chicken farmer

18

00:01:20,789 --> 00:01:18,400

reported a ufo encounter involving

19

00:01:22,590 --> 00:01:20,799

humanoids and offered physical evidence

20

00:01:24,070 --> 00:01:22,600

not usually associated with

21

00:01:26,070 --> 00:01:24,080

extraterrestrials

22

00:01:28,070 --> 00:01:26,080

this was a strange case with a single

23

00:01:29,910 --> 00:01:28,080

witness but blue book director

24

00:01:31,109 --> 00:01:29,920

robert friend thought the air force

25

00:01:33,109 --> 00:01:31,119

should get involved

26
00:01:35,030 --> 00:01:33,119
he mistakenly thought that nycap would

27
00:01:36,950 --> 00:01:35,040
turn the case into a big story

28
00:01:38,069 --> 00:01:36,960
and accuse the air force of shirking its

29
00:01:40,069 --> 00:01:38,079
duties

30
00:01:42,950 --> 00:01:40,079
simonton first told the story to his

31
00:01:45,270 --> 00:01:42,960
friend via county judge franklin carter

32
00:01:48,069 --> 00:01:45,280
carter had been a ufo enthusiast since

33
00:01:50,149 --> 00:01:48,079
kenneth arnold's 1947 report

34
00:01:52,069 --> 00:01:50,159
carter interviewed simonton and wrote an

35
00:01:53,030 --> 00:01:52,079
exclusive report for gray barker's

36
00:01:55,429 --> 00:01:53,040
publication

37
00:01:56,149 --> 00:01:55,439
the sausarian bulletin according to

38
00:01:58,469 --> 00:01:56,159

simonton

39

00:02:00,149 --> 00:01:58,479

he heard a loud noise over his farmhouse

40

00:02:02,230 --> 00:02:00,159

in eagle river wisconsin

41

00:02:04,469 --> 00:02:02,240

he described it as sounding something

42

00:02:07,109 --> 00:02:04,479

like the screech of automobile wheels

43

00:02:09,109 --> 00:02:07,119

as a car goes around a sharp bend fast

44

00:02:10,070 --> 00:02:09,119

he looked out a window and saw a shiny

45

00:02:12,470 --> 00:02:10,080

metal object

46

00:02:13,350 --> 00:02:12,480

descend and land in his driveway it was

47

00:02:15,750 --> 00:02:13,360

shaped like

48

00:02:17,030 --> 00:02:15,760

two plates or balls one inverted over

49

00:02:19,510 --> 00:02:17,040

the top of the other

50

00:02:20,309 --> 00:02:19,520

he went outside and a door opened in the

51

00:02:22,150 --> 00:02:20,319

object

52

00:02:24,630 --> 00:02:22,160

a five-foot humanoid appeared in the

53

00:02:26,550 --> 00:02:24,640

doorway and as simonton approached

54

00:02:27,750 --> 00:02:26,560

the man tilted his head back and made

55

00:02:29,910 --> 00:02:27,760

drinking motions

56

00:02:30,790 --> 00:02:29,920

he handed simonton a metal vessel with

57

00:02:34,229 --> 00:02:30,800

two handles

58

00:02:35,030 --> 00:02:34,239

and simonton said oh water simonton went

59

00:02:37,110 --> 00:02:35,040

into his house

60

00:02:38,229 --> 00:02:37,120

filled the vessel and then returned he

61

00:02:40,070 --> 00:02:38,239

handed the vessel up

62

00:02:41,270 --> 00:02:40,080

and the man touched his forehead with

63

00:02:43,750 --> 00:02:41,280

the tips of his fingers

64

00:02:45,830 --> 00:02:43,760

and then pulled them away simonton took

65

00:02:47,750 --> 00:02:45,840

this to be a gesture of gratitude

66

00:02:49,990 --> 00:02:47,760

and he gave a military salute in

67

00:02:52,390 --> 00:02:50,000

acknowledgment during this exchange

68

00:02:54,869 --> 00:02:52,400

he noticed two more occupants all three

69

00:02:57,110 --> 00:02:54,879

were wearing what simonton described as

70

00:02:58,550 --> 00:02:57,120

a one-piece tunic with no buttons or

71

00:03:00,710 --> 00:02:58,560

zippers that i could see

72

00:03:02,229 --> 00:03:00,720

but with a hood up over the head the

73

00:03:04,710 --> 00:03:02,239

clothing was made from

74

00:03:06,869 --> 00:03:04,720

what looked like a black jersey material

75

00:03:09,670 --> 00:03:06,879

they all looked human but were smaller

76
00:03:10,949 --> 00:03:09,680
simonton described them as being swarthy

77
00:03:12,790 --> 00:03:10,959
like italians

78
00:03:14,869 --> 00:03:12,800
the two other occupants seemed to be

79
00:03:15,670 --> 00:03:14,879
tethered one to a control panel he was

80
00:03:17,190 --> 00:03:15,680
working with

81
00:03:19,190 --> 00:03:17,200
and the other to what seemed to be a

82
00:03:20,869 --> 00:03:19,200
stove with no visible flame

83
00:03:23,030 --> 00:03:20,879
the one at the stove appeared to be

84
00:03:23,750 --> 00:03:23,040
cooking and this attracted simonton's

85
00:03:26,149 --> 00:03:23,760
interest

86
00:03:27,830 --> 00:03:26,159
the occupant with the vessel noted this

87
00:03:30,229 --> 00:03:27,840
and picked up what looked like four

88
00:03:32,309 --> 00:03:30,239

pancakes and gave them to simonton

89

00:03:34,710 --> 00:03:32,319

he then shut the door and simonton could

90

00:03:36,949 --> 00:03:34,720

barely see a trace of where it had been

91

00:03:38,789 --> 00:03:36,959

as he was describing all this to carter

92

00:03:40,229 --> 00:03:38,799

it dawned on him that the object had

93

00:03:41,190 --> 00:03:40,239

been hovering during the entire

94

00:03:44,070 --> 00:03:41,200

encounter

95

00:03:45,670 --> 00:03:44,080

after the door closed the craft rose up

96

00:03:48,390 --> 00:03:45,680

tilted and then took off

97

00:03:49,589 --> 00:03:48,400

there was a backwash that caused a pine

98

00:03:52,149 --> 00:03:49,599

tree with an eight to nine

99

00:03:53,429 --> 00:03:52,159

inch trunk to bend completely back the

100

00:03:55,429 --> 00:03:53,439

trees sprung forward

101
00:03:57,030 --> 00:03:55,439
wobbled and then stayed upright with no

102
00:03:59,030 --> 00:03:57,040
noticeable damage

103
00:04:00,229 --> 00:03:59,040
carter asked simonton if he had the

104
00:04:02,390 --> 00:04:00,239
cakes with him

105
00:04:03,509 --> 00:04:02,400
simonton then pulled a rolled up package

106
00:04:05,270 --> 00:04:03,519
out of his pocket

107
00:04:07,190 --> 00:04:05,280
he unrolled it and took out three of the

108
00:04:08,149 --> 00:04:07,200
four pieces of food stuff that had been

109
00:04:10,390 --> 00:04:08,159
handed to him

110
00:04:13,030 --> 00:04:10,400
he had eaten one while it was still hot

111
00:04:15,509 --> 00:04:13,040
and reported it tasted like cardboard

112
00:04:17,030 --> 00:04:15,519
carter described them as oblong about

113
00:04:17,749 --> 00:04:17,040

three and a half to two and a half

114

00:04:20,069 --> 00:04:17,759

inches

115

00:04:21,270 --> 00:04:20,079

fairly thick but perforated clear

116

00:04:23,189 --> 00:04:21,280

through with holes about the

117

00:04:25,110 --> 00:04:23,199

circumference of a lead pencil

118

00:04:27,670 --> 00:04:25,120

he noted that they smelled like goose

119

00:04:30,550 --> 00:04:27,680

grease and were flexible like rubber

120

00:04:32,230 --> 00:04:30,560

carter was a nycap member ran a ufo club

121

00:04:33,830 --> 00:04:32,240

and held meetings at his home

122

00:04:35,270 --> 00:04:33,840

he asked if he could have one of the

123

00:04:37,830 --> 00:04:35,280

cakes for analysis

124

00:04:39,749 --> 00:04:37,840

and simonton gave him one carter sent a

125

00:04:40,950 --> 00:04:39,759

piece of it directly to donald kehoe

126

00:04:42,950 --> 00:04:40,960

along with a letter

127

00:04:44,870 --> 00:04:42,960

the story made the local paper was

128

00:04:45,830 --> 00:04:44,880

picked up by the newswires and went

129

00:04:47,909 --> 00:04:45,840

national

130

00:04:49,590 --> 00:04:47,919

carter told reporters the kehoe and

131

00:04:52,390 --> 00:04:49,600

nycap were analyzing

132

00:04:54,390 --> 00:04:52,400

a pancake from outer space without any

133

00:04:55,749 --> 00:04:54,400

confirmation from nycap that they were

134

00:04:57,590 --> 00:04:55,759

willing to do so

135

00:04:59,909 --> 00:04:57,600

not wanting to be associated with the

136

00:05:01,510 --> 00:04:59,919

story kiho told reporters

137

00:05:03,029 --> 00:05:01,520

that he had returned the material

138

00:05:04,870 --> 00:05:03,039

without analyzing it

139

00:05:06,150 --> 00:05:04,880

according to carter in his story for

140

00:05:07,990 --> 00:05:06,160

sausarian bulletin

141

00:05:09,990 --> 00:05:08,000

he never received the material from

142

00:05:12,070 --> 00:05:10,000

kehoe nor any acknowledgement

143

00:05:13,670 --> 00:05:12,080

that they'd received it from him he

144

00:05:15,830 --> 00:05:13,680

wrote another letter to kehoe

145

00:05:17,029 --> 00:05:15,840

and it was answered by nycap secretary

146

00:05:19,990 --> 00:05:17,039

richard hall

147

00:05:21,830 --> 00:05:20,000

hall explained that nycap was engaged in

148

00:05:22,710 --> 00:05:21,840

very important liaison work with

149

00:05:24,870 --> 00:05:22,720

congress

150

00:05:25,749 --> 00:05:24,880

and they did not propose to compromise

151
00:05:27,909 --> 00:05:25,759
this work

152
00:05:30,550 --> 00:05:27,919
for the sake of an unproven and you must

153
00:05:32,550 --> 00:05:30,560
admit fantastic sounding claim

154
00:05:33,990 --> 00:05:32,560
adding to the insult the material was

155
00:05:36,150 --> 00:05:34,000
still not returned

156
00:05:37,990 --> 00:05:36,160
carter responded with an angry letter to

157
00:05:40,550 --> 00:05:38,000
kehoe telling him he should change the

158
00:05:42,230 --> 00:05:40,560
name of its organization from national

159
00:05:43,110 --> 00:05:42,240
investigations committee on aerial

160
00:05:44,950 --> 00:05:43,120
phenomena

161
00:05:47,590 --> 00:05:44,960
to national suppression of aerial

162
00:05:49,430 --> 00:05:47,600
phenomena carter had accused kehoe of

163
00:05:50,629 --> 00:05:49,440

doing what he'd been accusing the air

164

00:05:52,870 --> 00:05:50,639

force of doing

165

00:05:54,710 --> 00:05:52,880

kehoe was personally criticized by other

166

00:05:57,029 --> 00:05:54,720

ufo investigators

167

00:05:59,990 --> 00:05:57,039

an article on the last page of the july

168

00:06:03,430 --> 00:06:00,000

august 1961 nycap publication

169

00:06:05,830 --> 00:06:03,440

ufo investigator response titled

170

00:06:07,749 --> 00:06:05,840

facts behind the pancake story it

171

00:06:09,590 --> 00:06:07,759

justifies nycap's handling of the

172

00:06:11,590 --> 00:06:09,600

material sent to them by carter

173

00:06:13,990 --> 00:06:11,600

and points out that carter had spoken to

174

00:06:15,510 --> 00:06:14,000

the press without consulting them

175

00:06:17,270 --> 00:06:15,520

it then tells the story of the

176

00:06:19,430 --> 00:06:17,280

material's journey into the hands of

177

00:06:20,070 --> 00:06:19,440

civilian saucer intelligence of new york

178

00:06:22,870 --> 00:06:20,080

member

179

00:06:23,830 --> 00:06:22,880

lex mebane who is then a nycap advisor

180

00:06:26,469 --> 00:06:23,840

as well

181

00:06:27,350 --> 00:06:26,479

the cake was sent to nycap board member

182

00:06:29,350 --> 00:06:27,360

professor c

183

00:06:31,670 --> 00:06:29,360

a mani who was planning to give it to

184

00:06:32,550 --> 00:06:31,680

his colleague chemistry professor nathan

185

00:06:35,990 --> 00:06:32,560

meltz

186

00:06:38,230 --> 00:06:36,000

back to nycap

187

00:06:39,350 --> 00:06:38,240

nycap then sent it to me bane who was a

188

00:06:41,110 --> 00:06:39,360

chemist himself

189

00:06:42,790 --> 00:06:41,120
and he did a preliminary test to

190

00:06:45,830 --> 00:06:42,800
identify the fat content

191

00:06:48,550 --> 00:06:45,840
he identified it as hydrogenated oil he

192

00:06:50,629 --> 00:06:48,560
wanted to do a chromatographic analysis

193

00:06:52,469 --> 00:06:50,639
that would cost one hundred dollars and

194

00:06:54,230 --> 00:06:52,479
an isotopic examination

195

00:06:56,629 --> 00:06:54,240
that would cost one hundred and eighty

196

00:06:57,110 --> 00:06:56,639
dollars it is explained in the article

197

00:06:59,749 --> 00:06:57,120
that

198

00:07:01,749 --> 00:06:59,759
due to nycap's financial difficulties we

199

00:07:04,710 --> 00:07:01,759
do not feel justified now

200

00:07:05,510 --> 00:07:04,720
in spending 300 on additional pancake

201
00:07:08,790 --> 00:07:05,520
analysis

202
00:07:10,629 --> 00:07:08,800
when more urgent projects require funds

203
00:07:13,350 --> 00:07:10,639
robert friend heard about the case on

204
00:07:14,550 --> 00:07:13,360
april 26 from the duluth minnesota air

205
00:07:16,469 --> 00:07:14,560
defense sector

206
00:07:18,469 --> 00:07:16,479
he then spoke with carter who told him

207
00:07:19,350 --> 00:07:18,479
that he'd sent material to kehoe and

208
00:07:21,749 --> 00:07:19,360
nycap

209
00:07:22,390 --> 00:07:21,759
friend called scientific consultant jl

210
00:07:25,510 --> 00:07:22,400
and heineck

211
00:07:27,510 --> 00:07:25,520
at around 10 45 a.m and said he thought

212
00:07:29,510 --> 00:07:27,520
it would be advisable to learn more

213
00:07:30,950 --> 00:07:29,520

about the case before nycap turned it

214

00:07:33,270 --> 00:07:30,960

into a big story

215

00:07:35,589 --> 00:07:33,280

heinek agreed to fly out immediately he

216

00:07:37,430 --> 00:07:35,599

took along two northwestern university

217

00:07:39,749 --> 00:07:37,440

graduate astronomy students

218

00:07:41,749 --> 00:07:39,759

walter weller and john tumlin they

219

00:07:42,390 --> 00:07:41,759

located simonton and interviewed him at

220

00:07:43,990 --> 00:07:42,400

his farm

221

00:07:45,830 --> 00:07:44,000

he repeated his story and it was

222

00:07:47,270 --> 00:07:45,840

consistent with what had been published

223

00:07:49,350 --> 00:07:47,280

in the various accounts

224

00:07:51,749 --> 00:07:49,360

they went to dinner and heinek attempted

225

00:07:53,830 --> 00:07:51,759

to draw him out on various topics

226

00:07:54,950 --> 00:07:53,840

heinek noted that people passing by the

227

00:07:56,790 --> 00:07:54,960

table would greet him

228

00:07:58,230 --> 00:07:56,800

as though he were a very respected

229

00:07:59,909 --> 00:07:58,240

member of the community

230

00:08:02,390 --> 00:07:59,919

heinek went to the bar and started a

231

00:08:02,710 --> 00:08:02,400

conversation it was his impression from

232

00:08:04,550 --> 00:08:02,720

this

233

00:08:06,390 --> 00:08:04,560

and other talk he'd heard around town

234

00:08:07,830 --> 00:08:06,400

that most of the people in eagle river

235

00:08:09,670 --> 00:08:07,840

believed simonton

236

00:08:11,990 --> 00:08:09,680

heineck's biggest problem with the case

237

00:08:13,830 --> 00:08:12,000

is that it involved a single witness he

238

00:08:15,589 --> 00:08:13,840

advised that the air force should hold

239

00:08:16,629 --> 00:08:15,599

to the practice of not investigating

240

00:08:18,309 --> 00:08:16,639

such cases

241

00:08:19,909 --> 00:08:18,319

and that this should be noted when

242

00:08:22,309 --> 00:08:19,919

discussing this case

243

00:08:24,150 --> 00:08:22,319

he added that the air force should state

244

00:08:25,110 --> 00:08:24,160

that this particular case was only

245

00:08:27,830 --> 00:08:25,120

investigated

246

00:08:29,990 --> 00:08:27,840

because of its possible nuisance value

247

00:08:31,189 --> 00:08:30,000

simonton gave heineck a sample of one of

248

00:08:32,630 --> 00:08:31,199

the pancakes

249

00:08:34,709 --> 00:08:32,640

it was sent to the food and drug

250

00:08:36,949 --> 00:08:34,719

administration where a microscopic

251

00:08:39,029 --> 00:08:36,959

analysis showed the presence of fat

252

00:08:40,310 --> 00:08:39,039

starch buckwheat holes wheat bran and

253

00:08:42,310 --> 00:08:40,320

soybean holes

254

00:08:44,870 --> 00:08:42,320

they concluded that it appeared to be a

255

00:08:46,949 --> 00:08:44,880

piece of ordinary buckwheat pancake

256

00:08:48,710 --> 00:08:46,959

in regard to simonton's sighting the

257

00:08:49,910 --> 00:08:48,720

conclusion on the project blue book

258

00:08:52,310 --> 00:08:49,920

record card is

259

00:08:54,150 --> 00:08:52,320

hallucination this case proved

260

00:08:56,389 --> 00:08:54,160

disastrous for nikap

261

00:08:57,269 --> 00:08:56,399

they were experiencing serious financial

262

00:08:59,430 --> 00:08:57,279

difficulties

263

00:09:00,630 --> 00:08:59,440

and now they were facing harsh criticism

264

00:09:02,310 --> 00:09:00,640

from their peers

265

00:09:04,710 --> 00:09:02,320

they were being distracted just when

266

00:09:06,949 --> 00:09:04,720

they were close to success with congress

267

00:09:08,230 --> 00:09:06,959

richard hall wrote in a letter to mibane

268

00:09:10,230 --> 00:09:08,240

accordingly this

269

00:09:11,430 --> 00:09:10,240

contact d case couldn't have happened to

270

00:09:12,949 --> 00:09:11,440

the worst time

271

00:09:25,200 --> 00:09:12,959

those in project blue book might have