



1  
00:00:07,419 --> 00:00:03,169  
about 1953 1955 somewhere in that area

2  
00:00:10,250 --> 00:00:07,429  
that early to mid 1950s but an objective

3  
00:00:12,709 --> 00:00:10,260  
phenomenon unrelated to cultural

4  
00:00:15,470 --> 00:00:12,719  
expectations can be traced well into the

5  
00:00:16,990 --> 00:00:15,480  
19th century now here's one example I

6  
00:00:21,320 --> 00:00:17,000  
found I spent a lot of time doing

7  
00:00:24,290 --> 00:00:21,330  
archival research in in anomalistic sand

8  
00:00:27,259 --> 00:00:24,300  
i found this incredibly interesting item

9  
00:00:29,570 --> 00:00:27,269  
in the december six 1887 issue of an

10  
00:00:32,659 --> 00:00:29,580  
upstate New York newspaper and it was

11  
00:00:35,360 --> 00:00:32,669  
from a letter written by a correspondent

12  
00:00:37,180 --> 00:00:35,370  
in a nearby village I'm going to read

13  
00:00:40,880 --> 00:00:37,190

you exactly what he wrote because i

14

00:00:42,319 --> 00:00:40,890

think my paraphrase might dilute its its

15

00:00:44,990 --> 00:00:42,329

impact but it's quite striking now

16

00:00:48,440 --> 00:00:45,000

remember this is 1887 nobody's heard of

17

00:00:50,569 --> 00:00:48,450

UFOs perhaps I might interest some of

18

00:00:53,240 --> 00:00:50,579

your readers if I should tell him of a

19

00:00:56,090 --> 00:00:53,250

strange phenomenon I saw at sunset

20

00:00:58,520 --> 00:00:56,100

October 24th I was sitting in a window

21

00:01:00,590 --> 00:00:58,530

looking towards the East watching the

22

00:01:04,490 --> 00:01:00,600

clouds as they rolled up from the west

23

00:01:07,070 --> 00:01:04,500

giving us a clear sunset at the South

24

00:01:09,859 --> 00:01:07,080

the forest sparkled and glistened is if

25

00:01:13,250 --> 00:01:09,869

clad in what looked to me like sparkling

26

00:01:15,469 --> 00:01:13,260

silver I began to look around for the

27

00:01:18,770 --> 00:01:15,479

cause and coming from the north was what

28

00:01:20,719 --> 00:01:18,780

I can only describe it like this about

29

00:01:23,660 --> 00:01:20,729

mid distance between the heavens and

30

00:01:26,179 --> 00:01:23,670

earth and coming at a rapid rate we're

31

00:01:28,060 --> 00:01:26,189

what looked like silver balls reminding

32

00:01:30,920 --> 00:01:28,070

me of silver coin of all denominations

33

00:01:32,810 --> 00:01:30,930

bright and sparkling tumbling and

34

00:01:35,749 --> 00:01:32,820

rushing through the air going towards

35

00:01:38,870 --> 00:01:35,759

the east and finally disappearing beyond

36

00:01:41,480 --> 00:01:38,880

the lower Stratus of clouds to winds

37

00:01:43,490 --> 00:01:41,490

were prevailing at the time the upper

38

00:01:45,770 --> 00:01:43,500

stratas of clouds going towards the east

39

00:01:48,469 --> 00:01:45,780

the lower towards the west and this

40

00:01:51,679 --> 00:01:48,479

bushel of sparkling balls below the

41

00:01:53,749 --> 00:01:51,689

lower clouds toward the east also this

42

00:01:55,910 --> 00:01:53,759

grand phenomenon was visible for about

43

00:01:59,209 --> 00:01:55,920

four minutes and was seen by several

44

00:02:01,580 --> 00:01:59,219

persons here in town can any one tell me

45

00:02:04,429 --> 00:02:01,590

from my description what it was and the

46

00:02:07,280 --> 00:02:04,439

cause of it now here we have what i call

47

00:02:10,070 --> 00:02:07,290

the core UFO phenomenon structured

48

00:02:11,480 --> 00:02:10,080

metallic and appearance capable of rapid

49

00:02:14,090 --> 00:02:11,490

even extraordinary move

50

00:02:17,630 --> 00:02:14,100

so at kenneth arnold saw on jun 24th

51  
00:02:19,490 --> 00:02:17,640  
1947 over the Cascade Mountains and what

52  
00:02:22,370 --> 00:02:19,500  
an uncountable number of witnesses have

53  
00:02:23,990 --> 00:02:22,380  
reported since objects like these can

54  
00:02:26,780 --> 00:02:24,000  
have been tracked on radar and other

55  
00:02:29,630 --> 00:02:26,790  
instruments left puzzling ground traces

56  
00:02:31,910 --> 00:02:29,640  
stop motor vehicles interfered with

57  
00:02:34,310 --> 00:02:31,920  
electrical systems and provided other

58  
00:02:37,310 --> 00:02:34,320  
kinds of evidence of their physical and

59  
00:02:38,660 --> 00:02:37,320  
technological presence reports such as

60  
00:02:41,060 --> 00:02:38,670  
these the number of them well

61  
00:02:44,480 --> 00:02:41,070  
investigated oppressively documented

62  
00:02:46,580 --> 00:02:44,490  
lend themselves almost inescapably to

63  
00:02:50,780 --> 00:02:46,590

the extra-terrestrial hypothesis and

64

00:02:54,050 --> 00:02:50,790

indeed if as XO biologically inclined

65

00:02:56,330 --> 00:02:54,060

astronomers argue our galaxy alone

66

00:03:00,560 --> 00:02:56,340

contains hundreds of millions of

67

00:03:02,630 --> 00:03:00,570

advanced civilizations a visible et

68

00:03:07,160 --> 00:03:02,640

presence is more likely than its

69

00:03:11,180 --> 00:03:07,170

opposite but if the ETH is a reasonable

70

00:03:13,520 --> 00:03:11,190

fit for hardcore UFO events the effort

71

00:03:16,280 --> 00:03:13,530

to devise a unified field theory of

72

00:03:18,830 --> 00:03:16,290

ufology is faltered and it's folded

73

00:03:21,160 --> 00:03:18,840

because as the UFO controversy has

74

00:03:24,320 --> 00:03:21,170

dragged on for more than six decades now

75

00:03:28,880 --> 00:03:24,330

UFO phenomena have grown ever more

76

00:03:31,430 --> 00:03:28,890

bizarre I wrote a book about UFOs in

77

00:03:33,470 --> 00:03:31,440

ufology in the 1960's and 1970's the

78

00:03:35,510 --> 00:03:33,480

title of it was high strangeness I

79

00:03:38,840 --> 00:03:35,520

called it that because during that

80

00:03:40,880 --> 00:03:38,850

period people began to report a range of

81

00:03:44,270 --> 00:03:40,890

literally incredible encounters with

82

00:03:46,100 --> 00:03:44,280

UFOs with bizarre UFO associated

83

00:03:49,520 --> 00:03:46,110

entities and creatures men in black

84

00:03:52,460 --> 00:03:49,530

abductions otherworldly journeys while

85

00:03:55,850 --> 00:03:52,470

unprovable though they failed to provide

86

00:03:59,590 --> 00:03:55,860

a consistent portrait of an otherworldly

87

00:04:01,790 --> 00:03:59,600

order what connected the stories

88

00:04:04,850 --> 00:04:01,800

strongly was the witnesses evidence

89

00:04:08,000 --> 00:04:04,860

sincerity and their sincere conviction

90

00:04:11,449 --> 00:04:08,010

that they had undergone vivid profoundly

91

00:04:14,780 --> 00:04:11,459

weird experiences with all the resonance

92

00:04:16,699 --> 00:04:14,790

of real encounters in the mid-1960s the

93

00:04:18,610 --> 00:04:16,709

focus of some leading ufologists turned

94

00:04:20,930 --> 00:04:18,620

to the high strangeness cases as

95

00:04:23,990 --> 00:04:20,940

indicators of what they saw as the true

96

00:04:25,070 --> 00:04:24,000

underlying paranormal foundation of all

97

00:04:28,309 --> 00:04:25,080

ufo-related

98

00:04:31,129 --> 00:04:28,319

occurrences it was undeniably true that

99

00:04:33,830 --> 00:04:31,139

the most exotic manifestations made the

100

00:04:37,369 --> 00:04:33,840

eth pale in comparison made it look like

101  
00:04:39,740 --> 00:04:37,379  
the product of a failed imagination and

102  
00:04:42,800 --> 00:04:39,750  
paranormal athira theorists insisted

103  
00:04:45,379 --> 00:04:42,810  
that UFOs were just a mask covering the

104  
00:04:47,990 --> 00:04:45,389  
face of an unknowable shape-shifting

105  
00:04:49,879 --> 00:04:48,000  
supernatural intelligence one critic

106  
00:04:54,649 --> 00:04:49,889  
quipped that such as supernatural

107  
00:04:56,899 --> 00:04:54,659  
intelligence is usually called God the

108  
00:04:58,520 --> 00:04:56,909  
more highly strange the report the

109  
00:05:01,189 --> 00:04:58,530  
harder it is to prove that some such

110  
00:05:04,209 --> 00:05:01,199  
event has happened in any ordinarily

111  
00:05:06,589 --> 00:05:04,219  
understood sense of event and happened

112  
00:05:09,409 --> 00:05:06,599  
encounters with bizarre entities in

113  
00:05:12,230 --> 00:05:09,419

otherworldly journeys tended to focus on

114

00:05:14,839 --> 00:05:12,240

one individual or a very small group of

115

00:05:18,499 --> 00:05:14,849

individuals and such experiences exist

116

00:05:20,899 --> 00:05:18,509

only in memory and testimony so what are

117

00:05:22,550 --> 00:05:20,909

we to make of all this I think we can

118

00:05:25,249 --> 00:05:22,560

get some clues if we go back to the late

119

00:05:28,249 --> 00:05:25,259

19th century and some curious stories

120

00:05:30,170 --> 00:05:28,259

that were in circulation then beginning

121

00:05:32,629 --> 00:05:30,180

in November 1896 people in California

122

00:05:36,080 --> 00:05:32,639

began report seeing strange airships

123

00:05:38,059 --> 00:05:36,090

flying overhead in over the next month's

124

00:05:40,249 --> 00:05:38,069

the reports drifted eastward into the

125

00:05:43,159 --> 00:05:40,259

Midwest and Texas and even out to the

126

00:05:45,320 --> 00:05:43,169

east coast many hundreds of reports fill

127

00:05:47,029 --> 00:05:45,330

the papers if you go back to April 1897

128

00:05:49,640 --> 00:05:47,039

look through old newspapers you're going

129

00:05:51,649 --> 00:05:49,650

to find reports mystery airships now no

130

00:05:53,749 --> 00:05:51,659

such airships were flying in America at

131

00:05:57,050 --> 00:05:53,759

the time according to aviation history

132

00:05:59,990 --> 00:05:57,060

and these reports are preserved in UFO

133

00:06:01,999 --> 00:06:00,000

books not aviation histories the reports

134

00:06:04,730 --> 00:06:02,009

were treated mostly with derision and

135

00:06:07,490 --> 00:06:04,740

the coverage and other social dynamics

136

00:06:11,930 --> 00:06:07,500

sort of prefigured the reception of UFO

137

00:06:13,670 --> 00:06:11,940

reports decades later but to those to

138

00:06:16,129 --> 00:06:13,680

those who thought the sightings were not

139

00:06:17,869 --> 00:06:16,139

just hoaxes and misidentifications the

140

00:06:21,170 --> 00:06:17,879

belief was that somebody had really

141

00:06:23,779 --> 00:06:21,180

invented an airship and there was hardly

142

00:06:26,450 --> 00:06:23,789

a small town in the land that didn't

143

00:06:29,240 --> 00:06:26,460

boast some small-town tinker who said he

144

00:06:30,890 --> 00:06:29,250

was about to master the mystery and the

145

00:06:33,769 --> 00:06:30,900

question of controlled aerial navigation

146

00:06:35,870 --> 00:06:33,779

and in fact just a few years later at

147

00:06:38,030 --> 00:06:35,880

Kitty Hawk North Carolina to small-town

148

00:06:41,510 --> 00:06:38,040

tinker's did just that

149

00:06:43,100 --> 00:06:41,520

but the provincial papers of 1897 are

150

00:06:46,280 --> 00:06:43,110

not the most reliable source of

151  
00:06:48,490 --> 00:06:46,290  
information many tall tales were printed

152  
00:06:51,860 --> 00:06:48,500  
and one variety of story almost

153  
00:06:54,440 --> 00:06:51,870  
universally rejected as suspect was the

154  
00:06:58,010 --> 00:06:54,450  
1897 equivalent to the close encounter

155  
00:07:00,260 --> 00:06:58,020  
of the third kind where people claimed

156  
00:07:02,570 --> 00:07:00,270  
that they had actually seen the airships

157  
00:07:04,280 --> 00:07:02,580  
land they had met the crews the crews

158  
00:07:05,870 --> 00:07:04,290  
were American inventors who gave them a

159  
00:07:07,610 --> 00:07:05,880  
name and said what they were doing and

160  
00:07:09,260 --> 00:07:07,620  
what they were up to and when they were

161  
00:07:13,010 --> 00:07:09,270  
going to declare their invention to the

162  
00:07:15,860 --> 00:07:13,020  
world and it was generally long assumed

163  
00:07:19,820 --> 00:07:15,870

that these stories were just pure

164

00:07:21,200 --> 00:07:19,830

fiction but has it happened you know you

165

00:07:22,400 --> 00:07:21,210

know after all you know such things

166

00:07:24,800 --> 00:07:22,410

could have happened as aviation

167

00:07:27,080 --> 00:07:24,810

historians a test how could anybody have

168

00:07:29,420 --> 00:07:27,090

experienced them well it turns out that

169

00:07:31,580 --> 00:07:29,430

apparently people did experience them as

170

00:07:35,210 --> 00:07:31,590

I found out in some research that I've

171

00:07:37,070 --> 00:07:35,220

done over the last year or two I was

172

00:07:38,930 --> 00:07:37,080

particularly interested in an incident

173

00:07:43,130 --> 00:07:38,940

that was reported in the Houston paper

174

00:07:45,620 --> 00:07:43,140

on April 21st 1897 describing something

175

00:07:48,020 --> 00:07:45,630

that is said to have happened late on

176

00:07:52,010 --> 00:07:48,030

the evening of April nineteenth just

177

00:07:55,640 --> 00:07:52,020

outside Beaumont Texas junior laguna and

178

00:07:58,880 --> 00:07:55,650

his son Charlie were returning home late

179

00:08:01,520 --> 00:07:58,890

at night and they were putting the

180

00:08:03,260 --> 00:08:01,530

horses they were on hitching the horses

181

00:08:05,990 --> 00:08:03,270

when they noticed lights and a nearby

182

00:08:08,780 --> 00:08:06,000

pasture and they walked the several

183

00:08:09,860 --> 00:08:08,790

hundred years seven hundred yards to

184

00:08:11,780 --> 00:08:09,870

where the lights were and they

185

00:08:14,870 --> 00:08:11,790

discovered it was an immense airship

186

00:08:18,320 --> 00:08:14,880

landed in their pasture and they saw

187

00:08:19,880 --> 00:08:18,330

four men moving around it they they

188

00:08:22,670 --> 00:08:19,890

described the airship is about a hundred

189

00:08:27,020 --> 00:08:22,680

eighty feet long 20 feet wide with four

190

00:08:30,250 --> 00:08:27,030

large wings and the aeronauts indicated

191

00:08:32,390 --> 00:08:30,260

that they needed water and so Lagoon

192

00:08:35,690 --> 00:08:32,400

according to the lagoans account in the

193

00:08:39,140 --> 00:08:35,700

Houston post they came into the house

194

00:08:40,880 --> 00:08:39,150

each of them carrying two buckets the

195

00:08:44,150 --> 00:08:40,890

only crew member to provide information

196

00:08:46,880 --> 00:08:44,160

and then only when asked introduced

197

00:08:48,950 --> 00:08:46,890

himself as Wilson he said that he and

198

00:08:50,450 --> 00:08:48,960

his companions had been flying the

199

00:08:51,040 --> 00:08:50,460

machine around they were going back to

200

00:08:53,560 --> 00:08:51,050

the Midwest

201  
00:08:58,420 --> 00:08:53,570  
where they had built this and several

202  
00:09:01,180 --> 00:08:58,430  
other comparable airships now the

203  
00:09:04,350 --> 00:09:01,190  
knittin on four days after the Houston

204  
00:09:07,780 --> 00:09:04,360  
post published the story the New Orleans

205  
00:09:12,329 --> 00:09:07,790  
times-picayune published an interview

206  
00:09:15,310 --> 00:09:12,339  
with a man identified as rabbi a levy

207  
00:09:18,180 --> 00:09:15,320  
levy was a Beaumont resident who is

208  
00:09:20,680 --> 00:09:18,190  
visiting New Orleans at the time and

209  
00:09:23,139 --> 00:09:20,690  
leave he told the reporter that on a

210  
00:09:25,120 --> 00:09:23,149  
recent night he had heard that an

211  
00:09:29,230 --> 00:09:25,130  
airship had landed on a farm just

212  
00:09:30,790 --> 00:09:29,240  
outside Bowman and he was enormously

213  
00:09:33,790 --> 00:09:30,800

interested in curious and he went to the

214

00:09:37,180 --> 00:09:33,800

site and in the darkness he glimpsed

215

00:09:40,150 --> 00:09:37,190

this huge airship landed in the field

216

00:09:42,579 --> 00:09:40,160

and he said I'm quoting what he told the

217

00:09:45,550 --> 00:09:42,589

pic the paper he said I spoke to one of

218

00:09:47,769 --> 00:09:45,560

the men one of the airship crew when he

219

00:09:50,530 --> 00:09:47,779

went into the farmer's house and shook

220

00:09:52,569 --> 00:09:50,540

hands with him yes he did say where it

221

00:09:54,699 --> 00:09:52,579

was built but I can't remember the name

222

00:09:56,440 --> 00:09:54,709

of the place or the name of the inventor

223

00:09:59,019 --> 00:09:56,450

he said that they had been traveling a