April 25, 1961

Prof. C.A. Maney
Department of Physics
Defiance College,
Defiance, Ohio

Dear Charles:

The enclosed artifact is allegedly an extraterrestrial pancake! What next.

The minute I read the covering letter I knew this story would be an ideal set-up for the newswires who just love to carry the most ridiculous of "contactee" stories. My fears were justified because within an hour UPI was on the phone; their Chicago bureau had notified them that the "pancake" had been sent to us for analysis and they wanted our reaction. I told them NICAP was highly skeptical due to the nature of the report, but that we would make an attempt to analyze it and check up on the report. I emphasized that our case rested on serious reports from many competent observers. It remains to be seen what kind of publicity will result. Needless to say, we want no publicity based on such a case unless and until we are able to state something concrete about the artifact and the originator of the report.

Unfortunately we have no Subcommittees in the Eagle River area, and the nature of the report gave me pause in regard to who might analyze the substance. Perhaps it would be better to ignore the case, but we want to be objective and the claim apparently is made in all seriousness. Could you or Prof. Meltz analyze it privately for us? UPI also expressed an interest in knowing the results of our investigation; which creates another touchy problem. If we tell them anything at all, we could do so without mentioning any names.

I have received a complete estimate from the publisher I mentioned for our book, totalling about $2000 for 2000 books bound and delivered to Washington. I am holding a conference with the backers tonight or tomorrow night. We may have to cut the print order to 1000, but at any rate I will draft a contract for your approval if the backers are willing to go ahead with it. Sincerely,

Dick

MRS FLORENCE E CUMMINS
ROUTE 3 BOX 172
STANLEY WISCONSIN

April 28, 1961

APRA
11323 14th Ave. N. E. Seattle, Wash.

Dear Mrs. Larson:

I am writing again about UFO tales from Northern Wisconsin. I got a copy of the Milwaukee Journal Sunday Paper which carried the story, by a Journal special correspondent. It has some features different from the Eau Claire Leader story I sent air mail; as this is a specially interesting story (I think) I'll copy it here.

FLYING SAUCER'S CREW LANDED TO FILL JUG, STATE MAN REPORTS.

Journal Special Correspondence.

Eagle River, Wis. Authorities are investigating the alleged landing and contact between three men in a "flying saucer" and Joe Simonton, about 55 years of age. Simonton is a plumber who lives about four miles outside of Eagle River.

Simonton claims that he received three small pancake shaped pieces of food from the visitors ~~from outer space.~~ He turned over one of the cakes which was about three inches in diameter and perforated with small holes, to Vilas County Judge Frank Carter. He said the judge would turn the cake over to authorities.

The claimed landing of the "flying saucer" was said to have occurred about 11 a.m. last Tuesday.(Apr. 18) But Simonton said he was reluctant to spread the word, realizing some would claim his experience was preposterous.

He said he was attracted to his yard when he heard a noise outside, and the saucer--

gleaming silver "brighter than chrome"--had landed in his yard. He said it was about 12 feet from top to bottom and about 30 feet in diameter. 2

Simonton said a hatch opened about five feet from the ground, and he could see three men in the machine. He said one of the men, dressed in a black two piece suit, held up a jug, which appeared to be of the same material as the space ship. The man motioned to indicate he would like water.

Simonton said he took the jug, hurried to the house to comply, and brought it back to the men. He judged that they were about 5 feet in height and weighed about 125 pounds. He said they were smooth shaved and appeared to resemble those of Italian descent.

He does not recall hearing them speak to each other or to him. Simonton said he looked into the interior of the space ship and that all the interior appeared black, the color of wrought-iron.

He said he could see several instrument panels and he could hear a slow whining sound, like the hum of a generator.

"It appeared one of the men in the ship was frying food on a flameless grill of some sort," Simonton said. The intruder motioned to indicate an interest in their food. He said one of the men, also dressed in black but with a narrow red trim along the trousers, handed him three of the small cakes, which he has shown to authorities in Eagle River.

Simonton said the visit did not seem more than five minutes. He said the large hatch snapped shut and that it was machined so smoothly you could scarcely detect where the hatch was when it was closed.

He said the ship took off rapidly to the south and that there was a blast of air

that bowed near-by pine trees.

He said it climbed at a 45 degree angle and disappeared in a couple seconds.

He recalls that along the edge of the saucer he noted exhaust pipes six or seven inches in diameter.

Simonton has lived at that location for about 30 years.

Thursday, April 27, there was another item in the Eau Claire Leader, as follows:

FLYING SAUCER STORY DOUBTED.
Eagle River, Wis. (UPI)
The National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena at Washington, D. C., is analyzing "outer space pancakes" which a Eagle River plumber says three men in a "flying saucer" left with him last week.

A preliminary report from the committee said it was "highly skeptical" of Joe Simonton's account of how a trio of men touched down in his back yard in the flying saucer and exchanged the food for a jug of water.

The committee said it would know by Friday or next Monday whether the ingredients of the pancakes are conventional flour or "star-dust."

Simonton made his announcement about the saucer visit during the weekend. While some people may doubt his story, the townspeople here don't.

The editor of the weekly newspaper, Dan Satron, said Simonton is regarded by the town as a very trustworthy man.

"People aren't challenging the story," Satron said.

o O o

There was another story from that neighborhood today, Friday the 28th. Rhinelander (AP) A 20-year-old Oneida County farm youth, his mother, and four other persons told authorities Thursday they saw a flying saucer.

"I wouldn't have called you, sheriff," said Brant Lorbetske, "but others saw it too."

Lorbetske and his companion, Tom Hunt, 17, a neighbor, were in the farm yard of the Lorbetske home at Sugar Camp, about 14 miles northeast of Rhinelander, when they reported seeing the saucer overhead. Three other Lorbeske children, ages 7, 10 and 14, said they saw the saucer, too.

o O o

I'll send you a road map of Wisconsin; so you can study the locality and guess at the terrain of these incidents--or alleged incidents. (At least there were the pancakes, evidently--according to the news item, NICAP has one.)

It seems to be wild, summer resort country. Note the State Forest in the immediate vicinity. We lived in that northern country until after I turned nine--in Sawyer co. between Hayward and Cable, near the Bayfield county border. It was poor farming county but wonderful scenery. It was a logging region at the turn of the century when we were there. You might compare with Dr. Fontes account of UFO surveillance of a wild region of Brazil.

Florence Cummins

UFO SIGHTING EAGLE RIVER
Wisconsin
27 April 1961

We are at the Tony Lorbetske farm residence about 12 miles east of Eagle River where another saucer sighting was reported Thursday, April 27. The first person to witness the second sighting is Tom Hunt. Is that correct?

Yes, Sir.

And how old are you?

Seventeen, Sir.

Can you tell us what you saw?

At first I didn't realize it was a flying saucer or an unidentified object. I thought it was a plane. I was just looking at the moon.

What time of day was this?

This was about 25 or 20 till seven, and I noticed it had a funny shape to it.

Was that during the evening?

Yes, during the evening, and I told Brent and he looked. He didn't believe me at first and he wasn't going to look. I told him to look. I jumped out of the car to look and he looked too. Then he ran in the house and told his mother and brother and sister.

When Tom reported this sighting to you, Brent, what was your first reaction?

Well, we were sitting in the car at first and when he first said "Brent, you want to see a flying saucer?" and I said "Youre crazy" and he says "I ain't kidding you Brent." I jumped out of the car and looked and sure enough. I couln't believe my own eyes, but there it was right before me.

Can you describe what it looked like?

Oh, it was a big discular object probably between 40-50 feet in diameter and around 15 feet high, I would say. And it was like if you would put two pie plates together--that is roughly what it looked like. It had more of a rounded top.

What direction did it seem to be flying in?

It was flying from north to south.

Can you tell me how high it was--any way of estimating that?

Oh, I would say probably 4 or 5 thousand feet high.

Are you familiar with other type of flying object; helicopters, satellites? You have seen all of these in the air before?

Yes, I have seen them.

And this object definitely was not an object of this type?

No it wasn't, Sir.

What did you do then after you and Tom had gotten out of the car and were watching this object? Then you called your family out, is that correct?

That is true. We watched it for a short period of time, and I ran into the house and said "Ma, you want to see a flying saucer?" She just sort of snickered at me: she thought I was joking. I says "I'm not kidding, Ma." I says "Come to the window." She came over by the window and looked out and she agreed.

Well, was it a joke, Mrs. Lorbetske?

No, it wasn't a joke. I saw it in the sky just as plainly as the boys described it.

Could you describe it in your own words for us?

Well, in my own words, I would say that it was--the first words I said were that it was as Joe Simington had seen it in Eagle River.

He is the plumber in Eagle River who reported that he even visited with the inhabitants of the saucer?

That is right.

Are you familiar with Joe Simington? Have you known him before?

No, I have never known him.

I see. When Joe first reported that he had seen a flying saucer, that he had talked with the inhabitants, what was your reaction when you heard that story?

Well, I didn't believe it.

How about now.

Well I believe it moreso, yes, of course.

When did you see this flying object, Adrian?

I was just in the house, and Brent came in and told us to look out of the window. It was maybe about 20 till seven when I looked out the window.

And what did you see?

Well, it seemed to me just like the guy in Eagle River described it---Like two bowls or pie plates put together. It seemed to me the same on the top as it was on the bottom.

Could you tell how fast it was going? How long did you sight it in the sky?

Well, I saw it for maybe two or three minutes. That's all.

Brent, have any military authorities or governmental agencies questioned you about this sighting?

No, they haven't.

There has been no attempt made to get in touch with you?

No, Sir.

Are any of you people familiar with Judge Carter, the judge in Eagle River? Tom, how well do you know him? Have you ever heard him speak on the subject of flying saucers?

No, I have never heard him speak on the subject of flying saucers.

I understand that there is an agency or a society within Eagle River which concerns itself with the study of unidentified flying objects. Are any of you people familiar with this organization, or members of it perhaps?

No, we aren't.

THE DEFIANCE COLLEGE
DEFIANCE, OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
CHARLES A. MANEY

April 29, 1961

Dear Dick:

Since Prof. Maltz is in the hospital and cannot possibly be in a position to return to the laboratory for some time, I am regretfully returning to you all of this material on the Eagle River Wis. contact case.

I wonder if Dan chemist friend Alexander Melbane of CSI New York City could make an analysis. Also there is our NICAP Board Member the nuclear chemist Col Robert B. Emerson of Louisiana.

There is a remote possibility that this case is genuine.

The cake could be divided into 2 or 3 parts for independent analysis by different persons.

It appears to be getting mouldy, rapidly, the last several hours.

Thanks so much for letting me see this material.

Sincerely,
Charles

May 2, 1961

Alexander D. Mebane
245 West 104th Street
New York 25, N.Y.

Dear Lex:

Enclosed is one slightly moldy extraterrestrial pancake. So what else is new? I recommend immediate refrigeration of the artifact before reading further.

In case you have not heard of this "contactee" case I am enclosing the original letter from Judge Carter and newswire story. We sent the pancake to Prof. Maney hoping Prof. Meltz could analyze it, but Meltz has been hospitalized and Prof. Maney suggested you. Can you do anything with it? Any analysis you could conduct discreetly would be appreciated.

This case has caused a furor for the following reasons: Simonton is well known in the community and local people believe him. He is backed by Judge Carter. Hynek flew up at the request of ATIC and interviewed Simonton. Other sightings in area. Within a few days two AF B-47's crashed in the area after reporting "strange balls of fire" (as two midwest newsmen have now told me independently.)

At first we were saying that, since an analysis was requested we would do it, but we dissociated ourselves from the "contactees" and expressed strong skepticism due to the past record of similar cases. The AP, UPI, Newsweek, etc, starting clamoring for information and the analysis report. Now we are saying that the incident is receiving attention all out of proportion to its importance, that our case rests on well-substantiated reports of an altogether different type, and that very likely we will have nothing further to say on the matter even though we will accumulate information on the case as time permits.

Off the record, hearings have been indicated for this session of Congress, very shortly. This came from a Congressman whom Don talked to recently, and we are getting ready. They may be executive sessions, but we will insist on maximum possible news coverage. Accordingly, this "contactee" case couldn't have happened at a worse time. It's almost enough to make me accept Davidson's "ZYA" case in modified form. Hastily,

Dick -

Copy of May 9 letter to Judge Carter
Sent AM May 9, 1961

FRANK W. CARTER
County Judge, Vilas County
EAGLE RIVER, WISCONSIN

Major Donald E.Keyhoe
Director of N I C A P
L536 Connecticut Ave
Washington,D.C.

RECEIVED
MAY 8 1961
NICAP

Dear Sir:- Re Joe Simonton Sightings Tuesday April 18,1961

On Friday April 21st,1961 I mailed you a letter in reference to an alleged sighting of an UFO here on the Joe Simonton property 4 miles west of Eagle River,Wisconsin,and also included therein one of the alleged "pan cakes" that said Simonton claimed he received from the three 5 foot men or occupants of said space machine.I mailed it on to you for ANALYSIS.

I have had NO acknowledgment of the contents as yet.The metropolitan newspapers all over the country(Midwest) as well as TV stations,are stating definitely that you were RETURNING the "cake" un-analyzed .

Is this true? In one way,I wouldnt blame you because the Publicity this case has aroused has made me tired of answering phones,letters etc. One day alone,I had six(6) different Metropolitan newspapers telephone me and take time answering their many questions.And TV stations have come here,as well as UFO fans,as well as writing from all over the world.One wrote Simonton today from Australia, and many of them do not even enclose a stamp. They expect Joe to drop everything and answer their many questions.They all wanted to know my personal opinion and I replied:"I am waiting for the Jury to bring in THEIR verdict"and then I would comment.Meaning the report on the Analysis.

You and I have not believed in these so-called "CONTACT"stories.And here was an opportunity to actually TEST one of them.Was this a HOAX or was it legitimate?The analysis might have told the tale.Who knows? Hold the cake longer and why not analyze it,because you represent the NICAP as a National INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE".Do you really mean this or this too a hoax?Here is a chance to investigate one specific alleged contact sighting with a real or alleged exhibit other than a mere sighting.But IF YOU DO REFUSE TO ANALYZE it,then return same and I'll send it to our U of Wisconsin for analysis.If analyzed,I shall remit my 196L dues of $5 and will be proud to renew member ship; but if not analyzed,then WHY SHOULD I RENEW?

Yours for Determining the TRUTH
Frank W Carter
Judge Frank W.Carter
Eagle River,Wis

Simonton informed me that 23 chicken died since April 18th and thought maybe that may have been caused by the alleged Saucer.He sells eggs to customers in town here ,and the sheriff, County Agricultural Agent and myself drove out ,from a Health standpoint,to see IF the eggs might be affected by Radiatio We took one diseased chicken to a local vet who "thought" the chicken MIGHT be sick from Food deficiency,and becoming cannibals,pecking at each other where feathers drop off and kill each other. No Geiger was used however.

Eau Claire, Wisc. Leader 23 Apr 1961

Flying Saucer Crew Drops in, Shares Cakes

EAGLE RIVER (AP)—Joe Simonton, 55-year-old plumber, reported to Vilas County authorities Saturday that a flying saucer carrying three men landed on a clearing of his rural property last Tuesday, obtained a jug of water, gave him three small cakes and then took off without speaking a word.

SIMONTON TOLD his story to Dist. Atty. Calvin A. Burton, County Judge Frank Carter Sr., and Dan Satran, co-editor of the Vilas County News. He turned over one of the cakes to Judge Carter who was reported to have sent it somewhere for analysis.

Satran said this is the story related by Simonton:

The saucer landed on his property shortly before noon Tuesday. It was a gleaming silver "brighter than chrome" and appeared to hover over the ground instead of landing. It was about 12 feet from top to bottom and about 30 feet in diameter.

A hatch opened and one man got out. He was dressed in a black two-piece suit, held up a jug and indicated that he wanted it filled with water. Two other men were inside the ship and Simonton could see an instrument panel. All the men were about five feet tall and weighed about 125 pounds. They were smooth shaven.

Simonton filled the jug with water and gave it to the man who remained outside the ship. One of the men on the ship then handed Simonton the three cakes. The cakes were about 1-8 inch thick and about 3 or 4 inches in diameter.

THE MEN GOT back into the ship, a hatch was closed and the craft took off, going up and forward at the same time. It disappeared in a few minutes. The ship had exhaust pipes, six or seven inches in diameter protruding from the saucer.

1961, April 18

Rec'd: MAY 8 1961 -- NICAP

Simonton Case

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA
1536 Connecticut Avenue N. W.
NOrth 7-9434 Washington 6, D. C.

REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT(S)

This form includes questions asked by the United States Air Force and by other Armed Forces' investigating agencies, and additional questions to which answers are needed for full evaluation by NICAP.

After all the information has been fully studied, the conclusion of our Evaluation Panel will be published by NICAP in its regularly issued magazine or in another publication. Please try to answer as many questions as possible. Should you need additional room, please use another sheet of paper. Please print or typewrite. Your assistance is of great value and is genuinely appreciated. Thank you.

1. Name Mrs. Paul Cooper & Daughters — Place of Employment
   Address Route 2, Ft. Atkinson, Wisc. — Occupation Housewife
   Education
   Special Training
   Military Service
   Telephone 33964
2. Date of Observation April 18, 1961 — Time Between 6:30 & 7:00 ~~AM~~ PM C.S.T. Time Zone
3. Locality of Observation R.D. Ft. Atkinson, Wisc.
4. How long did you see the object? 3 & 5 min. ~~Hours~~ Minutes ~~Seconds~~
5. Please describe weather conditions and the type of sky; i.e., bright daylight, nighttime, (dusk), etc.
6. Position of the Sun or Moon in relation to the object and to you.
   We were east — the object was traveling north & sighted in the west
7. If seen at night, twilight, or dawn, were the stars or moon visible?
8. Were there more than one object? no If so, please tell how many, and draw a sketch of what you saw, indicating direction of movement, if any. North making an westward curve
9. Please describe the object(s) in detail. For instance, did it (they) appear solid, or only as a source of light; was it revolving, etc? Please use additional sheets of paper, if necessary. seemingly
10. Was the object(s) brighter than the background of the sky? yes
11. If so, compare the brightness with the Sun, Moon, headlights, etc. — it was similar to sunset reflected on jet streams — but they were not as long as a jet stream is.
12. Did the object(s) — (Please elaborate, if you can give details.)
    a. Appear to stand still at any time? No
    b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time? No
    c. Break up into parts or explode? No
    d. Give off smoke? Perhaps
    e. Leave any visible trail? ~~perhaps~~ No.
    f. Drop anything? No
    g. Change brightness? No
    h. Change shape? No
    i. Change color? No.
13. Did the object(s) at any time pass in front of, or behind of, anything? If so, please elaborate giving distance, size, etc, if possible.
14. Was there any wind? No If so, please give direction and speed.
15. Did you observe the object(s) through an optical instrument or other aid, windshield, windowpane, storm window, screening, etc? What? No.
16. Did the object(s) have any sound? No What kind? How loud?
17. Please tell if the object(s) was (were) —
    a. Fuzzy or blurred. — No
    b. Like a bright star. — yes
    c. Sharply outlined. Yes

18. Was the object —

a. Self-luminous? perhaps
b. ~~Dull finish?~~
c. Reflecting? perhaps
d. Transparent?

19. Did the object(s) rise or fall while in motion? No

20. Tell the apparent size of the object(s) when compared with the following held at arm's length:

a.	Pinhead	d.	Nickel	g.	Orange
b.	Pea	e.	Half dollar	h.	Grapefruit
c.	Dime	f.	Silver dollar	i.	Larger

Or, if easier, give apparent size in inches on a ruler held at arm's length.

curved bright streak - curved as a comet might be if orbiting

21. How did you happen to notice the object(s)? sunset reflected on it - out lining

22. Where were you and what were you doing at the time? Dishes at a window - then we went out to observe it.

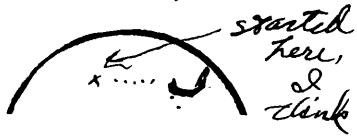
23. How did the object(s) disappear from view? Curved - but on a straight way north seeming to go slightly west -

24. Compare the speed of the object(s) with a piston or jet aircraft at the same apparent altitude. - it seems to travel more slowly than a jet but was deeper in space -

25. Were there any conventional aircraft in the location at the time or immediately afterwards? If so, please elaborate. No.

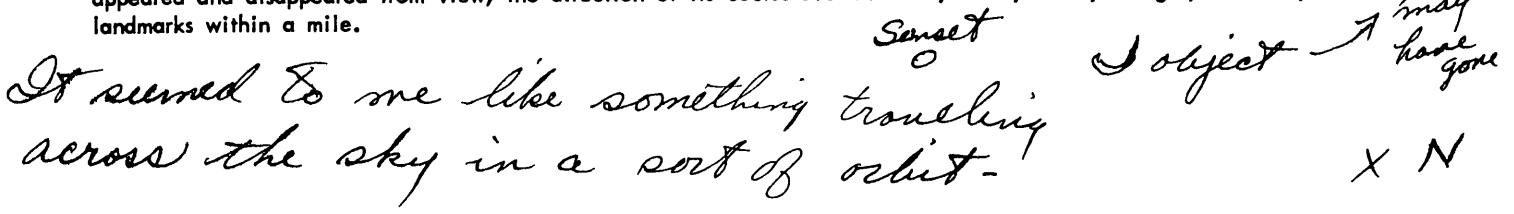
26. Please estimate the distance of the object(s). no idea.

27. What was the elevation of the object(s) in the sky? Please mark on this hemisphere sketch:



28. Names and addresses of other witnesses, if any.

29. Please draw a map of the locality of the observation showing North; your position; the direction from which the object(s) appeared and disappeared from view; the direction of its course over the area; roads, towns, villages, railroads, and other landmarks within a mile.



It seemed to me like something traveling across the sky in a sort of orbit -

30. Is there an airport, military, governmental, or research installation in the area? I don't know, but not very near.

31. Have you seen other objects of an unidentified nature? If so, please describe these observations, using a separate sheet of paper. No

32. Please enclose photographs, motion pictures, news clippings, notes of radio or television programs (include time, station and date, if possible) regarding this or similar observations, or any other background material. We will return the material to you. We noted this on the same day as the man concerned on enclosed clipping reported, this appearance but we didn't know of course at the time.

33. Were you interrogated by Air Force investigators? By any other federal, state, county, or local officials? If so, please state the name and rank or title of the agent, his office, and details as to where and when the questioning took place. No.

Were you asked or told not to reveal or discuss the incident? If so, were any reasons or official orders mentioned? Please elaborate carefully. No.

34. We should like permission to quote your name in connection with this report. This action will encourage other responsible citizens to report similar observations to NICAP. However, if you prefer, we will keep your name confidential. Please note your choice by checking the proper statement below. In any case, please fill in all parts of the form, for our own confidential files. Thank you for your cooperation.

You may use my name. ( ) Please keep my name confidential. (✓)

35. Date of filling out this report: 5/5/61

Signature: Mrs. Paul Cooper

Attached to Cooper sighting report.

Tells of Swapping Jug of Water for 3 Cookies With Flying Saucer Crew

EAGLE RIVER, (AP)—A 55-year-old plumber said Sunday his story of trading a jug of water for three cosmic cookies in a silent bit of swapping with three men in a flying saucer kept his telephone ringing all weekend.

Joseph Simonton, who also operates a chicken farm, said the calls started pouring in after the story broke in newspapers and over radio and television.

One of the cookies was sent to Donald E. Keyhoe in Washington, D. C., director of the unofficial National Investigating Committee on Aerial Phenomena, which has accused the Air Force of concealing facts about flying saucers.

This is the story Simonton told Dist. Atty. Calvin A. Burton of Vilas County:

The saucer landed on his property shortly before noon last Tuesday. It was a gleaming silver, brighter - than - chrome machine and appeared to hover over the ground instead of landing. It was about 12 feet from top to bottom and about 30 feet in diameter.

Out of a hatch that opened popped one man dressed in a black suit who held up a jug and indicated that he wanted it filled with water. There were two other men inside the saucer. Simonton saw an instrument panel.

All the men were about five feet tall and weighed about 125 pounds. Not one spoke a word to Simonton or each other.

Simonton filled the jug with water and gave it to the man who remained outside the ship. One of the saucer trio then gave him three cakes, about one-eighth inch thick and three or four inches in diameter.

The man got into the ship with the jug of water, the hatch snapped shut and it took off. Simonton said the ship had exhaust pipes six or seven inches in diameter.

Burton said that Simonton "sounded sincere" and added that the plumber had a good reputation in the community. Simonton told the district attorney he was reluctant to talk about the incident earlier because some people might think it preposterous.

Simonton gave one of the cakes to County Judge Frank Carter Sr. The judge was supposed to have sent the cake somewhere for analysis but no one knew where.

Carter, Judge Frank W.

May 9, 1961

CONFIDENTIAL

Judge Frank W. Carter
Eagle River,
Wisconsin

Dear Judge Carter:

Thank you for your letter of May 7 regarding the claims of Mr. Joe Simonton. We did receive the "cake", much to our surprise, without any advance notice that you had announced this to the press. Ever since, we too have been plagued by phone calls and it has eaten into our valuable time so much that we were forced to make no further comment publicly.

I should like to explain a few things to you with the understanding that this is a privileged communication for your private information only. In view of the past history of so-called "contactee" claims, and the subsequent exposure of many of them as frauds, we can only adopt a position of extreme skepticism in the present case. If Mr. Simonton is telling the complete truth it is unfortunate that he will suffer for the "sins" of previous "contactee" claimants.

You have put us on the spot somewhat by announcing, before consulting us, that we would analyze the "cake" and announce the results publicly. In effect, it seems you expected that we would accept Mr. Simonton's story at face value and be willing to link ourselves publicly with it. Again in view of the past history of such claims, this would make us appear uncritical indeed. We are engaged in very important liaison work with Congress which may well lead to hearings on UFOs, and we do not propose to compromise this work for the sake of an unproven and, you must admit, fantastic sounding claim. Accordingly, we do not wish to have any further publicity in connection with this claim unless strong supporting evidence is forthcoming.

It is extremely doubtful that analysis of an apparently ordinary pancake would prove anything at all, to begin with, and to announce negative or neutral results would only make us look like fools for bothering with it in the first place. However, because we realize you are serious about your part in this case we have arranged for an analysis by a competent chemist who said he would send a report to you in his own name.

CONFIDENTIAL

Again, I stress that this analysis is being done only as a favor to you by a private party at our request. We are very dubious of the whole affair, and when the analysis is made we do not wish to be named in connection with it.

One good reason for our attitude is the type of news reporting you quote as saying we are returning the "cake." I have been interviewed by several newsmen about this, and stated only that we would have no further comment on it and would gather evidence as time permits, but that we intend to continue concentrating on well-substantiated sightings by scientists, pilots, and other trained observers. The ludicrous nature of the story is ready-made for ridicule...and distortion. It is also a rather incredible story, and it is up to claimants in such cases to substantiate their stories; not for us to disprove them.

We had heard about the effects on the chickens and would like to have any written reports by health agents, etc., which might help to shed light on the story. If these effects can be documented it would go a long way toward showing that something strange did happen on April 18. If in the long run there is no substantiation of any kind, and it comes down to a choice of accepting Mr. Simonton at his word or remaining skeptical, we shall remain skeptical. Only the strongest kind of evidence could ever convince critical people that such an incident really happened, and we deal only in things that we think we can prove.

I trust that this will clarify our position. If not, I would be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Hall
Secretary of NICAP

RH/h

June 29, 1961

Alexander D. Mebane
245 West 104th Street
New York 25, N.Y.

Dear Lex:

In view of the strains and frustrations here while we are fighting for survival, I am amazed at how restrained my letter to Judge Carter is. My true feelings are that he is a stupid clod, and if his last, long, ranting letter is any indication of his reasoning ability, I wonder how many innocent people reside in Wisconsin jails. Grrr! I am enclosing his letter and my reply. He wants the "cake" returned, so if you want to wash your hands of the whole affair please return it to him or to me.

To date we don't have one single bit of first-hand evidence on this case aside from the "cake." Even the people who went to Eagle River to investigate for us are mad at us, and other Wisconsin members who have no conception of the situation here are raking us over the coals for not making a big issue out of it. Our "investigators" have never been heard from. Maybe they suffered the same fate as Simonton's chickens. I am losing all patience with otherwise sensible members who (1) try to tell us what we should do in touchy situations while (2) having no inkling of our handicaps.

Part of the reason for the above outburst is that we know Ray Palmer and Judge Carter (through Palmer) are planning a double-barrelled assault on NICAP in re: Simonton. Carter will have an open letter, probably along the lines of the enclosed. Now I couldn't care less what Palmer thinks or says, but unfortunately he has influenced quite a few NICAP members (which doesn't say much for the members.) Now that we are on the verge of bankruptcy I fully expect the "Return of James Moseley" with some additional nonsensical "exposé" about NICAP. The crackpot vultures in Washington are already circling, apparently thinking they will inherit NICAP. They have another think coming. We are down but not out, and are sending an emergency letter to all members in a last-ditch effort. Newsweek, July 3, p. 7, reports the impending hearings, and if we are able to get open hearings and hang on long enough to see that they are effective, we will gladly fade away.

Sincerely,

Dick

June 29, 1961

Judge Frank Carter
Eagle River,
Wisconsin

Dear Judge Carter:

I am sorry to be so slow about answering your letter of a few weeks ago inquiring about the alleged extra-terrestrial artifact, but other matters of more basic importance to us (chiefly a fight for survival of NICAP) have taken priority.

Since you and a few other NICAP members in Wisconsin doubt our judgment and motives in this matter, I will make no further attempt at explanation of our policy. However, your efforts and those of the other members, in effect, have been directed toward preventing us from carrying out our usual policy in the case of "contactee" claims. Ordinarily we do try to investigate them to the best of our ability, quietly without publicity unless something definite is determined. Polemics on such claims serve no useful purpose, and in fact do a great deal of harm since they distract attention from well-established factual evidence.

Since you and the others will not let us conduct this investigation in our own way, I am forwarding copies of the current correspondence to the scientist who has the artifact with the request that he return it to you. In the event that he is in the midst of an analysis, he may want to retain a small portion; this was being done at his own expense and it would be unfair to him to have to stop in the middle of any tests. At any rate, you will be hearing either directly from him or from me again shortly in regard to returning the sample.

In closing, I request that you re-read my letter of May 9. I also repeat my request for additional documentary evidence from health officials in regard to the reported effects on Mr. Simonton's chickens.

Sincerely yours,

Richard H Hall

Secretary of NICAP

cc: Lex Mebane

FRANK W. CARTER
County Judge

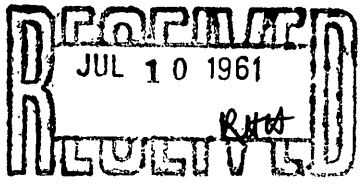
Office of COUNTY JUDGE

VILAS COUNTY

•

EAGLE RIVER, WISCONSIN

July 7th, 1961



Major Donald E. Keyhoe
NICAP
1536 Connecticut Ave, N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Major:- Re Joe Simonton affair

I now write you definitely to send me the name and address of the chemist in New York City (I believe you wrote me) that you turned the Simonton pancake over to for chemical analysis. I sent this to you April 22, 1961. And still have no word from him. I do not even know his name or address.

Yours,

Frank W Carter

Judge Frank W. Carter,
Eagle River, Wisconsin

FC:AC

Vilas COUNTY Vacationland
WOODS · WATERS · WILD LIFE
WHERE NATURE SMILES FOR MILES AND MILES

Civilian Saucer Intelligence
of New York
RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS
245 West 104th Street, New York 25

Richard Hall
N I C A P
1536 Conn. Ave. NW
Washington 6, D.C.

July 18
1 9 6 1

Dear Dick:

I have been, as is habitual, extremely remiss about the pancake, and I was relieved when Isabel reported that you did not seem seriously concerned about it--I suppose because there are worse things than that to worry about. It is really shocking to think that my laziness has got you into such very bad odour with the Wisconsin people. I think you might at least have given them to understand that it was not your fault, but your consultant's. Well, the prod that has got me off my tail here is Jim Moseley's finding out that I had the pancake. I have no intention, you may be sure, of letting his people get their mitts on it (I used to respect Jim's intelligence if not his moral standards, but not since his protracted association with Yonah!), but it now becomes imperative to justify possession of the evidence by doing something with it.

Personally I have done nothing since May, and all I did then was to weigh it (8 grams), extract some of the fat, and take IR and UV spectra, which I enclose (I have other copies.) These show nothing out of the ordinary. All common cooking fats look much alike in the IR, and all that this curve shows is the expected features. It is a fat melting at about body temperature, not a permanently liquid oil such as olive oil or corn oil; not butter (no odour); probably a hydrogenated-oil shortening of the common sort. Regret to say that I haven't yet tested it for cottonseed oil, which if positive, it seems to me, would be good evidence against extraterrestrial origin. (The test is a red colour given with elemental sulphur, and is produced by gossypol, a cottonseed contaminant of phenolic nature which is not mimicked by any other common edible oil. Hydrogenation, I think (I must verify this first) doesn't alter the gossypol or suppress the characteristic test colour.)

A testing laboratory here, Food Research Labs, offered to do a gas chromatographic analysis on the fat for $100. This would reveal all the fatty acids present and would give a good idea of the probable composition of the fat. However, I thought this would not be a very critical test for extraterrestrial

origin: it's not unlikely that a couple of unidentifiable acids would be detected, but this would leave us with the formidable problem of isolating and identifying them before the significance of this idiosyncrasy could be evaluated. I would rather not run head-on into that sort of problem with this small a sample! So far as the fat is concerned, I don't plan to go beyond the gossypol test now.

What I do want to do, as I mentioned 'way back in the first place, is isotope examination. This is unfakable; if any peculiarity is found, it would be highly significant. Damn those spacemen for being so human!--for it means that their planet of origin (obviously not one of our local set) must have been virtually identical with our earth. This means that the upper-atmosphere status there, as influenced by the local sun, must be very close to what it is here--and that one can't hope to find any very radical deviation from terrene isotope-ratios. Nevertheless I can't think of anything better to look for. C^{14}/C^{12}, D/H, and (if possible!) O^{18}/O^{16} ratios ought to be determined. Up until last week I had taken no action on this--no excuse, just usual sloth. Then I finally stayed home one day (I somehow can't seem to do any UFO work when at the lab) and got on the phone, finding a local firm which does C^{14} dating commercially. (I hadn't realised this service was available on a commercial basis.) The sample is large enough; the time taken will be 4 or 5 weeks (!--but the counting has to be continued over a very long time, because the activity is so weak); the cost $180; and the sample, or most of it, will be completely burnt up in the process.

But I have still not sent out the specimen, because the other assays have not yet been arranged for. Curiously enough, although it is possible to have so delicate a determination as C^{14} done commercially, it is not possible to have a deuterium assay done. It seems that all the mass spectrographs are in universities and large companies (principally petroleum refiners.) What to do?

What I did was to call up our friend Dr. H. and put it to him. Among other news on pancake analyses which I'll summarise in a moment, he remarked that he thought there's a mass spectrograph at NYU which is sometimes used by ATIC in UFO examinations. (Yes! in UFO work! I must say I was rather taken aback to hear that anything so thoroughgoing as this was practised by ATIC--it was quite out of keeping with the contemptuous attitude I had always had for their UFO "research". Perhaps this won't surprise you as much as it did me.) He thought Major Friend might make this available for the deuterium assay on the pancake, and was going to speak to him about it.

Well, I am only just writing to the Friend now--we shall see how well

he lives up to his name. (Of course I won't mention NICAP--it would simply be a red rag to a bull.) I hope H.'s optimism is justified.

The reason I'm still hanging on to the sample is that the O^{18} will certainly not be determinable after the material has been burnt--if that can be done at all, it will have to be done on a bit of intact pancake. Why is the O^{18} important? Because in terrestrial waters it correlates pretty closely with deuterium: see graph of Harmon Craig, Science 133 (1961), 1702. Deuterium content can vary quite a bit, and therefore this by itself is not a very sharp test of terrestrial "normality"; but the proportionality of D to O^{18} is a great deal more critical. Whether it will be possible to get this datum on the pancake I don't know--only the man who actually uses the mass spectrograph could tell me.

I'm afraid that's as far as we've got as of this writing.

I shall write to Judge Carter and apprise him that he is off base in his every-other-word-capitalised philippics: what is holding up his pancake analysis is not NICAP prejudice, as he so readily enjoys believing, but the simple fact of human frailty. I suppose he won't believe it! As for returning the specimen--fat chance! He may have the legal right to demand it, but he's not going to get it. I shall tell him it's already out of my hands (which may be true very soon) and that it's too late now to recover it.

Have you been given the Air Force analyses on the other pancake? If not, I shall send you the copies I expect to get from ATIC. Two groups of analysts were given samples; one did a perfunctory job, the other a more thorough one (acc. to H.) Both concluded that it was "just an ordinary pancake." Exactly what they did I don't know, except that it was checked for radioactivity. This is important, as something unshielded in the upper atmosphere will pick up characteristic "activities", and I gather they looked for those. Nothing found. (But, in a shielded spacecraft, I should suppose that nothing should have been found.) Also, the cake was analysed for "fats, protein, carbohydrates, ash", etc., a useless determination that naturally gave the results one could predict from looking at the thing in the first place; and for emission spectrum of the ash. Dr. H. didn't think any controls were run on the latter with normal baked goods, so that I presume the findings don't mean much. (Except that no obviously unusual element was noticed.) In short, it seems that none of the ATIC tests could be considered very significant. We will know better when we see the reports.

Incidentally, H. gave Simonton a clean bill for reliability of character

(the only factor in the case that justifies going to all this trouble about it) and was toying with "hallucination" as a way out. He thought that a man living alone might have such a vivid dream that he thought it was real--wanted to know whether we knew any psychologists who could speak with any authority about this. (We know two: they are both pretty sad specimens. Do you know any one who actually knows the score on this sort of thing?) As for the pancakes, it would have to be assumed that Simonton had cooked 'em the night before, saw them on the table in the morning, and confused them with the events of his dream. How silly can you get!? (I suppose this is going to be the official AF "explanation": it has the main qualification, anyway, viz., complete inapplicability to the case.)

Sorry to have taken all this paper to say so little, when you are so bedeviled by more urgent affairs. No answer required, at this point!

I have not sent anything yet in response to the desperate appeal, because my checking account was not large enough; but a contribution is forthcoming in a few days. I was more relieved than I can say to hear from Isabel that you had had a pretty good response to that appeal. I hope you can hang on until the damned congressmen actually get their show on the road.

With very best regards to Don,

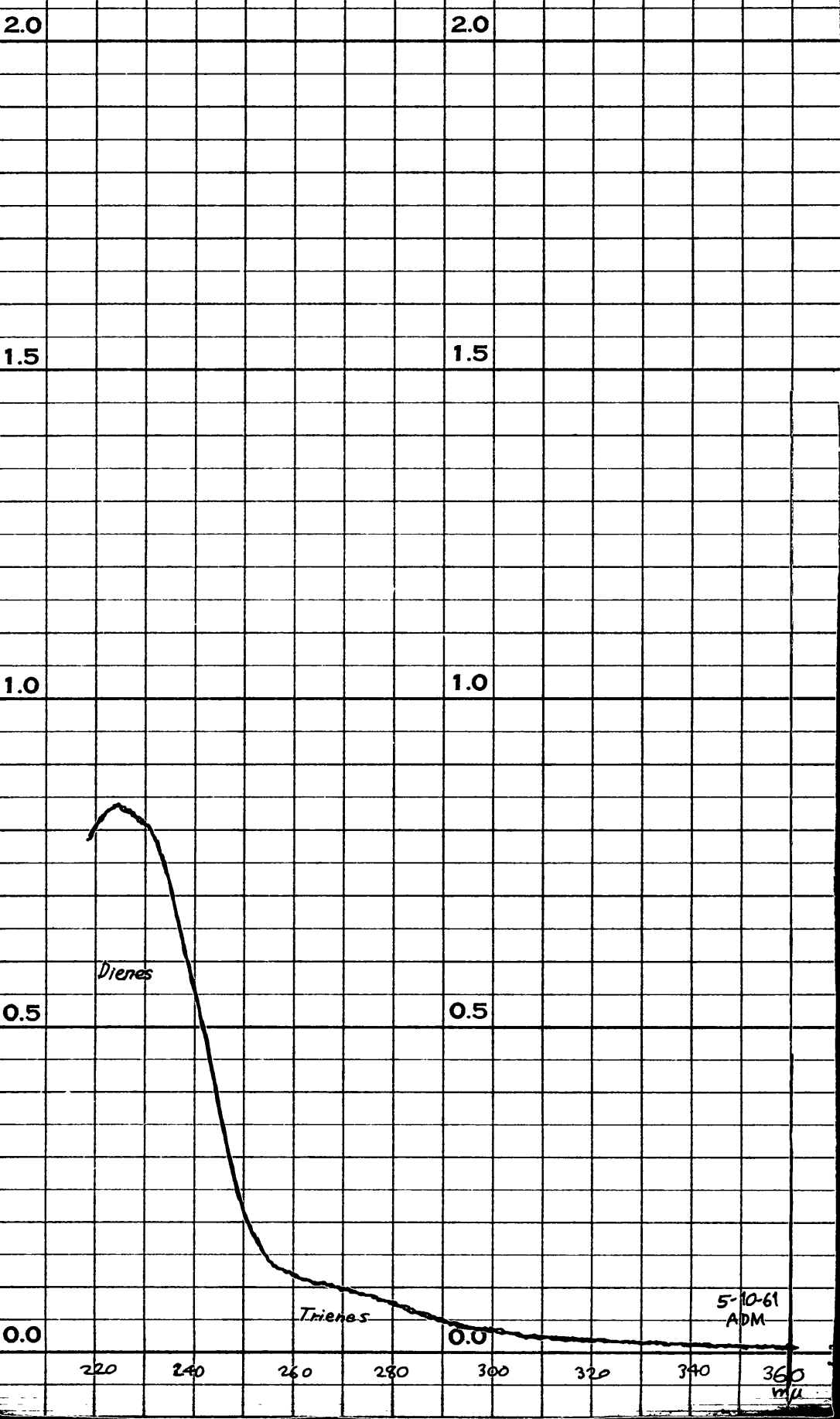
Lex.

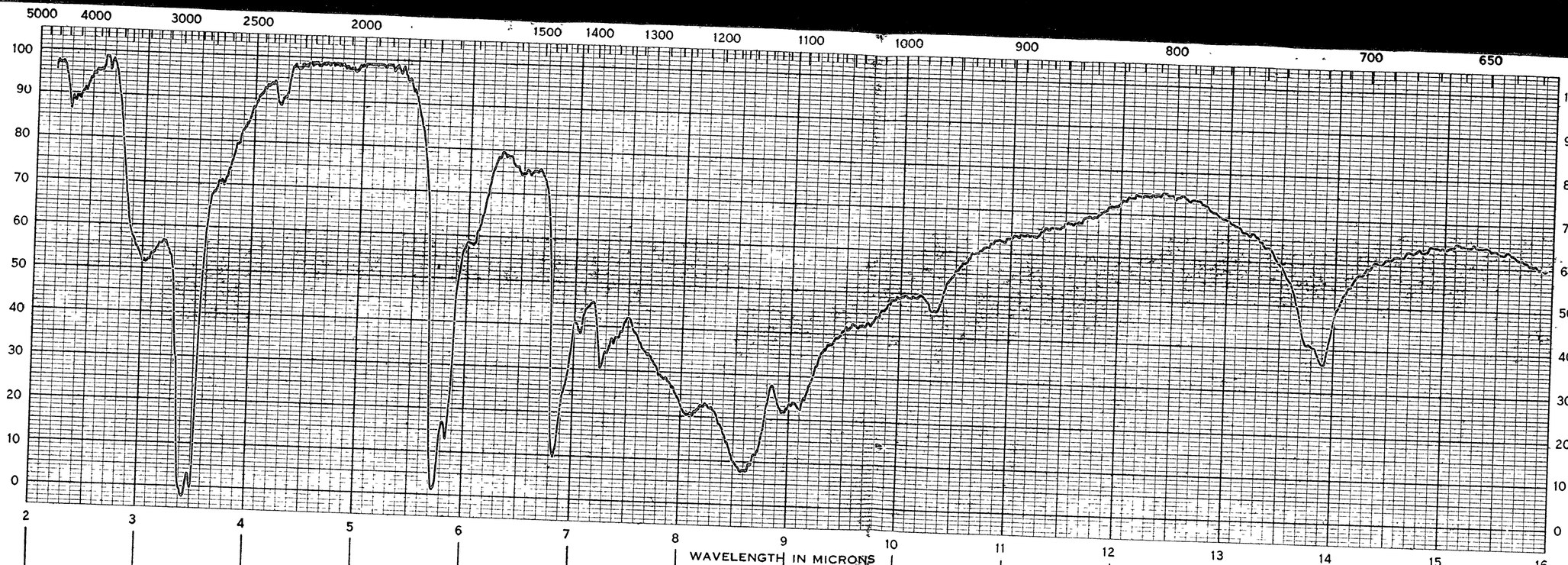
P.S. Ted's in summer stock at the St. John Terrell Music Circus, as Isabel probably told you--he's a real pro now, has his Equity card and all. Did well in school last season, too, in spite of doing full-time acting at the same time. At least he has a good excuse for neglecting UFOs.

P.P.S. I forgot to mention, although it's obvious, that even if Joe Simonton's pancake seems to be "of the earth earthy", it still doesn't prove his story a lie (or, if we want to be silly about it, an "hallucination".) These confounded humanoid spacemen could perfectly well have bought their provisions in Uzbekistan--or, for that matter, in Wisconsin--and if they were sensible spacemen, they did.

OIL FROM SIMONTON "SPACE PANCAKE"

Approx. 80 mg/l. in trimethylpentane
(run in 5-cm cell) → A_{max}^{224} 0.84
∴ $\alpha \approx 2$ (ca. 3% of conjugated dienes.)





SPECTRUM NO. _____

DATE 5-11-61

SAMPLE OIL FROM SIMONTON "SPACE PANCAKE"

SOURCE _____

STRUCTURE

PATH ? mm

SOLVENT Neat, between salts

CONCENTRATION _____

PHASE _____

COMMENTS A triglyceride oil of some kind.

ANALYST _____

Beckman

INFRARED SPECTROPHOTOMETER

member

La Marche Mfg. Co.

CONSTANT VOLTAGE RECTIFIERS AUTOMATIC BATTERY CHARGERS

Constavolt Orgelectra Recharjer Constavolt Signa-Matic

3955 25th Avenue Schiller Park, Illinois Telephones: Suburban: 678-6855 Chicago: TUxedo 9-5830

9

RECEIVED AUG 17 1961 cmw

La Marche, Austin

Dear Mr. Heyhoe:

On May 7 of this year a good friend of mine, Joe Simonton, of Eagle River, Wisconsin, sent you a "pancake"? taken from a flying saucer.

There is every reason to believe that this "Pancake"? was given to Mr Simonton for a good reason. This pancake was sent to you for analysis, and now has been given.

Please answer at your earliest convenience.

Austin La Marche

File with Simonton case

La Marche, Austin

August 19, 1961

Mr. Austin La Marche
3955 25th Avenue
Schiller Park, Illinois

Dear Mr. La Marche:

In reply to your recent letter, the current UFO INVESTIGATOR has a story on the "pancake" analysis. The news reports on this were badly distorted.

We have never called Mr. Simonton a liar or anything of the sort. We simply do not have enough evidence to warrant making an issue out of such a sensational case.

It would be helpful to us in our evaluation if you would give us more information about your friend Mr. Simonton. This would be kept confidential if you so request it.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Hall
Secretary of NICAP

RH:cmw

From: La Marche, A. — Simonton, F. J. To:

National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena
1536 Connecticut Ave., NW
Washington 6, DC

Richard Hall

LA MARCHE MFG. CO.
3955 23th Avenue
SCHILLER PARK, ILLINOIS

SUBJECT	DATE	DEPARTMENT
	8-30-61	

FOLD ∨

MESSAGE

Dear Mr. Hall:

According to ~~him~~ Mr. Simonton, you have been unable to get the "Pancake" tested. I wish to get the "Pancake," and I will have it tested at no cost to you, and give you both the analysis.

SIGNED

REPLY

DATE OF REPLY	REPLY TO

We have been analysing the "Pancake" and nothing unusual has shown up as yet. You may wish to get in touch with the Chemist, A. D. Mebane, 245 W. 104 St. New York 25, New York to see if you can be of any assistance to him. Thank you for your offer.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED Richard Hall

DEPARTMENT

RETURN THIS COPY TO SENDER

Dear Ray (Schultz)

My cousin and I stoped in at Joe Simonton's place the other night. He said that his chickens weren't just dieing from no reason. He said that people were always walking into his hen house and scareing his chickens. So when one chicken gets hurt and draws blood then the rest will peck it to death.

He said that the news spread all over the world. He has been getting letters from all over the world, like England & Japan. There hasen't been a day that someone hasen't come to see him about the saucer. He has lost two plumeing jobs allready because people are always bothering him. So now when people come in he sells them his story that he had printed for $1.00 a copy.

I couldn't tell weather Joe was lying or not because I'll believe just about anybody that claimes they have seen a flying saucer because I believe that they do come from other planets. I don't think that he is lying because he sticks to his story.

Joe ~~says~~ that the men on the flying saucer must have been people from another world because their faces looked smoother then anybodys face here on earth and when they looked at you they seemed to see clear through you. He said that they had ~~piercing~~ piercing eyes that gave him goose pimples, and it seemed that they could ~~seemed to~~ read his mind.

He sure is mad at the airforce because they take his pancakes that he got from the space men and never tell him a word of what they have found. Lombard analized one of the pancakes but they couldn't find out what they were made of. Joe has only one pancake left.

It sure is a funny looking pancake. It isn't anything like our pancakes because it is very thin and is full of small holes that go right straight through it.

The jet plane route used to be right over Jas house but now it bypasses Eagle River. That shows you the Air Force is concerned over his story.

Pat Fitzpatrick

NORTH 4-7070

ISOTOPES, INC. 123 WOODLAND AVENUE, WESTWOOD, NEW JERSEY

October 30, 1961

Mr. Alexander D. Mebane
Division of Organic Chemistry
Ortho Research Foundation
Raritan, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Mebane:

I am enclosing a graph which I hope will supply the graphic illustrations of the results of our analysis. As you can see, it by no means exemplifies the epitome of draftsmanship !

The value, ΔC^{14}, is the variation in per cent from the value of the standard value for the U.S. NBS radiocarbon dating standard. The rise in this value from 1954 to 1959 was due to "artificial" C^{14} introduced into the atmosphere by nuclear explosions. The decay of the value from 1959 on, is mainly due to uptake of C^{14} by the oceans (which are by far the largest reservoir in the carbon cycle) during the time of bomb test moratorium.

The values shown on the graph are fairly close to average values for environmental carbon during the indicated times. The actual value for an organism may vary a few percent depending upon its geographical location, sources of carbon, and various other factors. None of these should produce any radical variation in the C^{14} content.

The statistical error on the values shown is about 1 to 2 percent. If these were to represent world wide values, the spread should probably be about + 4%. Because of the location of the bomb test sites, values for the southern hemisphere usually run for a few percent lower than those for northern hemisphere samples.

Many measurements have been made on environmental samples since about 1957. Although only a few are plotted here, the others fall in well with this data.

I hope this information will satisfy your needs. If you have further questions, please contact us. We will be glad to help in any possible.

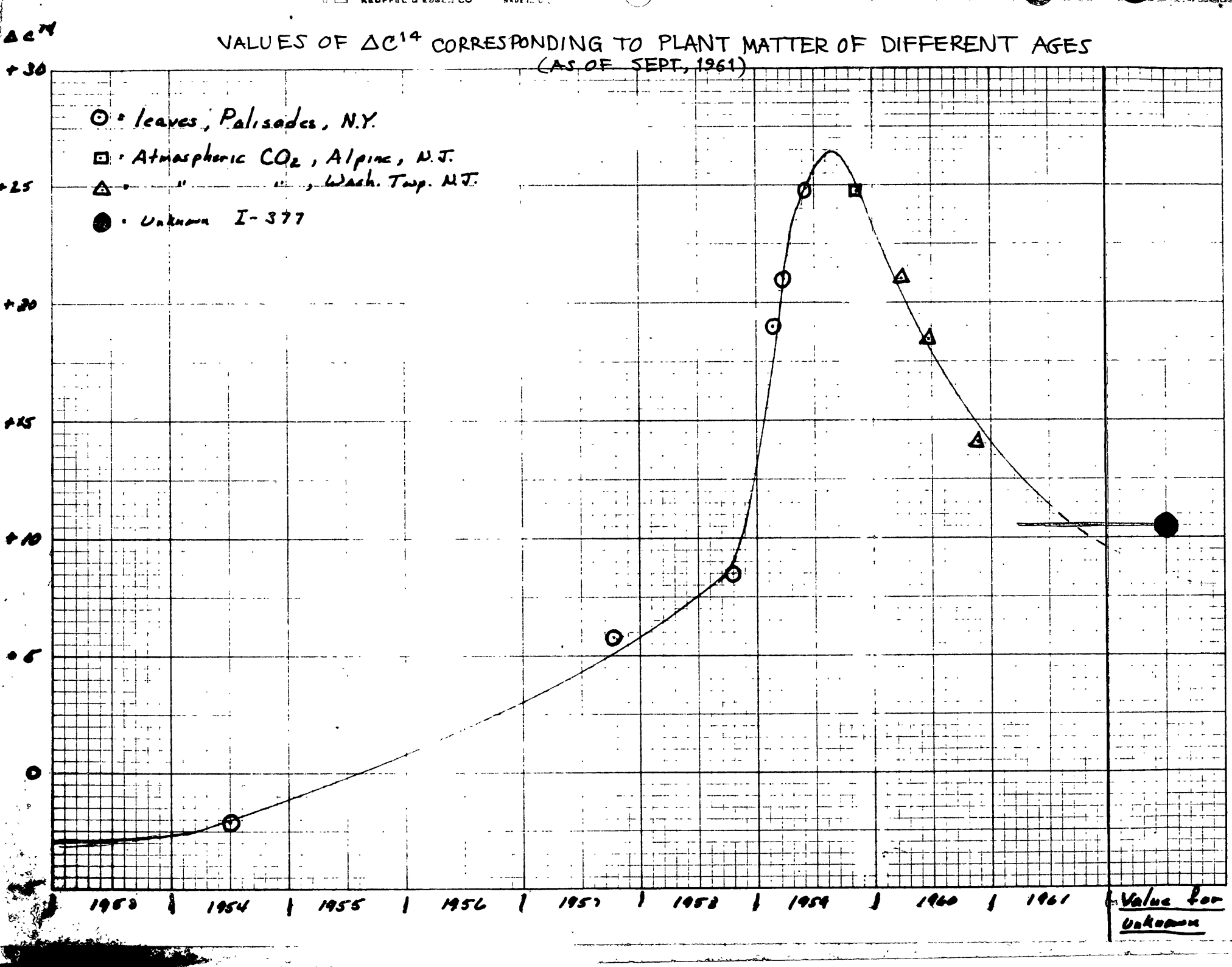
We look forward to serving you again soon.

Sincerely yours,

ISOTOPES, INC.

Milton Trautman
Project Director

Enclosure


VALUES OF ΔC14 CORRESPONDING TO PLANT MATTER OF DIFFERENT AGES
(AS OF SEPT., 1961)
Δc14
+30
+25
+20
+15
+10
+5
0
⊙ : leaves, Palisades, N.Y.
□ : Atmospheric CO2, Alpine, N.J.
△ : " " , Wash. Twp. N.J.
● : Unknown I-377
1953
1954
1955
1956
1957
1958
1959
1960
1961
Value for unknown

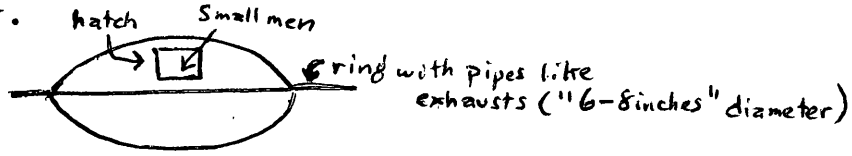
JOE SIMONTON CASE

(Notes from tape sent by LaPorte, Indiana, Subcommittee. Part I. is read from pamphlet issued by Simonton, copyright 1961; Part II. Comments by members of Subcommittee.)

Part I. (Simonton)

Was sent copy of the AF analysis of his pancake, but "they said" he couldn't use the report.

There were three men and three"control boards" visible (in the landed saucer). One man didn't even look up; neither did man cooking pancakes. After Simonton gave him water, the man saluted with the back of his hand. Simonton gestured, looked down, man handed him four pancakes. The panel closed, and saucer (30 ft x 12 ft high) took off straight up, levelled off and flew away horizontally.



The outside of the saucer was very bright. It did not sit on the ground, but hovered above it. Made sound like generator or electric motor. There were no windows. The inside was black, the color of wrought iron. Control boards 2 ft high by 4 ft long. Belts or cables were hooked at men's sides. Men were dressed in black two-piece suits, no (visible) buttons or zippers. Turtle-neck sweaters. Feet weren't in sight. Caps fit low to ears or eye-brows. Men were about 5 ft. tall, 120 pounds, looked Italian (swarthy?) about 25-30 years old. White stripe down sides of trousers on man who gestured for water.

When given pancake, Simonton immediately tasted it. It was still hot; tasted like cardboard. Wasn't scared at time, but since then--after reading some books--is a little scared.

Interviewers have since interfered with his work (as a plumber) and he hasn't made a penny from it (plumbing or the 88 saucer incident?).

The AF report said they could tell type of flour in pancake and where it was grown--but didn't. Simonton said he was reassured, wondering what he had eaten.

/pamphlet written in ink, in his own handwriting/

Part II. (Subcommittee comments)

Dr. Richard Meyer: Noted some discrepancies, but none concrete enough to discredit story. No definite opinion of validity.

Orvil Hartle: Unbelievable..but believable...too many conflicting statements in his testimony re: size of saucer, etc...several indications of money motive.
Pat Johnson: Difficult to make up mind...almost believe it
Mr. Johnson: Proves nothing..need more evidence.
Paul DeMass: No one to verify it...why ask water from him when so much freely available...probably saw something...but can't accept story as he wrote it...says pipes 6-8 inches in diameter, but a plumber would know the difference, big diff., between 6 and 8 inches.
Glen Zook: Went to basement for water; he's a plumber? No outside water for chickens, etc...why not have independent analysis of pancake made?...why think men from outer space?...my estimation...drummed up story...

Telephone Notes re:
Press interest in Simonton pancake

R.H.

April 27, 1961: Bob Shogan, writer for NEWSWEEK called. PLaced heavy emphasis in his proposed story on the pancake; R.H. said we would analyze it. Shogan asked facetiously "what does it look like, a buckwheat pancake, an Aunt Jemima pancake, or what?" RH said we had no direct contact with witness yet, naturally we must be skeptical, past cases of similar type unsubstantiated.

April 27: News Director, WIKB, Iron City, Michigan called. Echoes heard during conversation, so RH assumed conversation was being taped or piped in to station on the sly, therefore didn't say much and mainly emphasized our skepticism. Would have cooperated except for apparent unethical conduct by station.

May 1: Bud Meier, KSTP, Minneapolis, Minn., called (MIdway 5-2717). Said other sightings in area, one by Anthony Lorbetske April 27 12 miles south of Simonton residence. Said Dr. HYnek flew up on chartered plane from Evanston, interviewed Simonton at length.

May 2: WCCO Minneapolis called; said two B-47's had crashed over a period of a few days after reporting strange "balls of fire."

May 2: George Popowitch, Akron UFORC, called. Discussed Simonton case. Said two AF intelligence officers proposed they use Akron Committee under contract, not for publicity! (Had been previously approached by CIA.)

April 25: Bill Martin, St. Paul, Minn., Dispatch, called. Discussed incident. Martin cautioned us, said they were skeptical of story. Judge Carter 70 yrs. old, noted UFO enthusiast in area, gave lectures periodically, etc.

May 2, April 24: Kelly, UPI, called. Said had info from Chicago bureau that we were analyzing pancake. RH said nothing to report yet. Kelly said he would check back later.

May 2: Kelly, UPI, called again re: analysis. Still nothing to report. RH told him of analysis efforts to date,

May 2: Bill Martin, St. Paul Pioneer Press--Dispatch, called again. Said there was much local interest in Simonton case. Discussed latest developments. RH said nothing much more we could do except quietly gather the facts. Martin said "I don't blame you...there has been too much hoopla..."

Tape date Oct. 2, 1961 Notes from Tape (via Ind. Unit #2)

Sept. 15, 1961 George Hoadley (mem & ham) visited Joe Simonton:
Was delivering eggs to customers. Accomodating, cordial. Quite impressed with story, convinced at time it was legitimate. Medium height 5'8", heavy-set, coveralls, slightly graying hair. "Common as an old shoe," sounded honest. Seemed jovial, good-hearted. Home: lives in "sticks" NE of Eagle River few miles. About 15 acres, about 5 cleared. Collection of junk around yard -- odds & ends -- small shanties, chicken, geese, ducks ... Somewhat like a mountain home, general disorder. Didn't see interior of house. S. printed story varied in few points from newspaper & magazine versions. Was asked if he would like to donate dollar for copy; felt they owed him that much for hospitality. Inquiries at service station, [redacted], found some of the pamphlets there. ($1.00 ea.) Judge Carter was away for weekend. Simonton said Carter had been very helpful in composition & business end of pamphlet.
Personal evaluation: Seemed very sincere, not a publicity-seeker.
Wife works in department store in Chicago; spends occasional weekend at home.
S. drives about a 1952 Buick. S. brought pancake out in glass jar, on top of tissue-like paper. Was full of perforations, distinct & perfect like a punch. Slight rancid odor. S. said he had since tried to duplicate pancakes of similar appearance & taste, no luck.

There were no windows or anything else to be seen on the outside of the saucer. But it was so bright, really beautiful. The inside was black, the color of wrought iron, a sort of a dull black. The control boards were about two feet high and four feet long. Around each control board and the grill there was a board like a guard of about ½" x 2" steel, I suppose to act as a guard. To these guards there were fastened two cable-like pieces which hooked to the sides of the man there. It looked like stabilizing cables. I suppose they were to act as safety belts. The man at the control board and the man at the grill had these cables hooked at their sides. These men were dressed in black two piece suits which looked like jersey material and it was about ½" thick, no buttons or zippers or anything. The jacket was like a turtle neck and the suit fit not too tightly and not too loose. I couldn't see their feet as they were below the hatch. Their cap fit real tight and came down almost to their ears and eye brows. I couldn't see their hair but they were either real smooth shaven or they had no beard at all. They were about five feet tall and about 120 lbs. and looked like that of Italian descent. Very nice looking fellows about 25 to 30 years old. Each one very well built in proportion to their size. The man that asked for water had a narrow white stripe down the sides of his trousers and by that I suppose he was the officer on the saucer.

Well, when the saucer left, I was standing there with the pancakes in my hand that were given to me by the saucer men and wondering what I had seen. It was then that I took a bite of one of the cakes They were still hot It tasted like cardboard as near as I can tell you So I didn't eat any more of the cakes If I had been reading or hearing anything about flying saucers I wouldn't have taken the chances I did. As I think about it now it scares me a little. But at the time of the landing and while it was there I wasn't at all afraid. I try to live right and I don't think there is much to be afraid of These men were friendly to me and I was friendly to them. If they should come back I don't know if I would tell it to anyone or not. No one knows just what I have been through these last two months. I lost the first three weeks work and two good plumbing jobs on account of this flying saucer. There were so many people here all the time that I couldn't get away to work. And I didn't take in one cent on this whole thing yet. I am a plumber and not a chicken farmer. I keep some chickens mostly for my own use. Some papers say I am a chicken farmer but I am not. I just want the people to know the truth about everything.

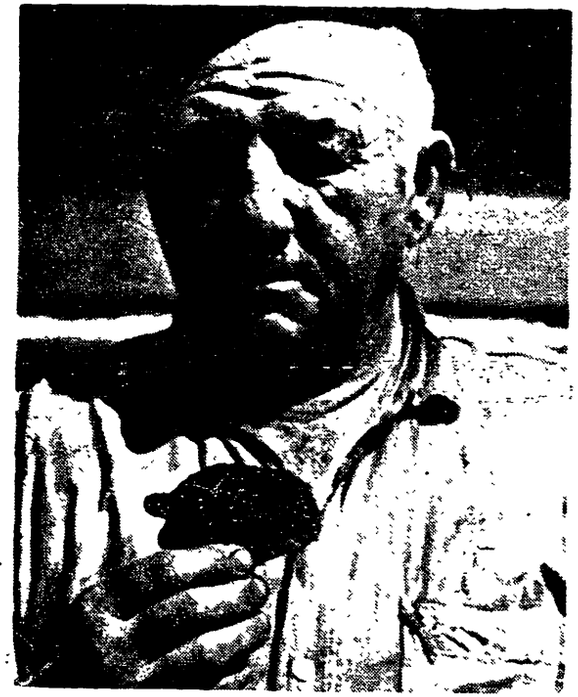
One thing more about the analysis; they told me that it would take a week or ten days to run the test. But I didn't get an answer back for two months. Then they said they could tell me everything that was in these pancakes. If there was flour, just what kind of flour and where the grain was grown. But they didn't tell me any of that. That I was happy to know for I want to know what is in these cakes. After all, I ate a piece of one of the cakes

This, my friends, is the story of the flying saucer as I saw it the day it landed in my driveway, in Eagle River, Wisconsin, on the 18th of April, 1961. I do hope you can understand this story as I have written it. I am not a writer as you can see. But I told this story in my own way and my own writing just the way it happened.

Joe Simonton

$3.00

The Story OF THE Flying Saucer



As It Was Seen by Joe Simonton

Copyright Joseph Simonton 1961

The Story of the Flying Saucer

As It Was Seen by Joe Simonton

My friends, this story is written by me, Joe Simonton, just as I saw it land in my driveway, at Eagle River, Wisconsin I hope you believe this experience of mine, although that is up to you. I know if I could see you and talk to you and tell you just how it happened, then I think you would see it just as I did. I think I am the first person on this earth that ever got anything from a UFO to show to the people that this saucer really was here. These pancakes I got from the three men in the flying saucer is my proof that it was really here. And what more proof do I need? The analysis didn't really show what the cakes were made of. The Air Force sent me the analysis after two months time which they took for the job. I was informed it would take a week or ten days for the analysis but instead it took two months. Then they, the Air Force, won't let me use the analysis for any sale or advertising. So that is why I can't print the analysis in this story.

I really believe this flying saucer was from outer space, for these reasons: The men in the saucer resembled us here on earth, but there was something a little different about their dress, their expression and above all, their food If they ate the pancakes like they gave me their taste sure was different from mine. To me these pancakes tasted like cardboard. If you don't know what cardboard tastes like, just take a bite of it and see for yourself. All countries here on earth have rations to carry with them for food when going in the field or on long trips, etc. They don't cook their food as they go I think that is enough reason to think they are from outer space

It was on the 18th of April 1961 about 11 a.m. and a nice bright day. Just a very few white clouds in the sky and no wind. I was having lunch in my kitchen on that day. There used to be a jet line right over my house, day and night. They used to refuel over here also day and night, so you see what kind of a noise I was used to. I heard this flying saucer coming in but thinking it was just another jet I didn't go out to see it. I used to go out when I heard a jet that sounded low but I saw the same show every time so I quit going out to see them. Well, I just went over to the kitchen sink with some dishes and there it was, coming straight down like an elevator and no noise that I could hear in the house. You can imagine my surprise to see this big thing floating down from nowhere. The first thing I thought was the roof was going off my house but there was no wind and my roof is green and this thing was silver. So that idea was out. Then I hurried out of the house to see what was happening. As I had never read about any of this UFO, I never gave it a thought about flying saucers. If I had I might have been a little skeptical about going out to see this thing. As I went out where it came down, a hatch was opening up in the upper half of this thing which looked like two large soup bowls put together. There I saw a small man holding up a thing which looked like a water jug and he made a motion like he wanted a drink. Well, I didn't know what to say or do so I just took the jug and went to the basement and filled it with water This small man didn't say anything to me or make a sound, in fact he didn't open his mouth I suppose he had teeth but I didn't see them. If he ate these pancakes he sure had to have teeth, I can say that much. Well, I tried to think what I should do while I was down in the basement for the water. But I didn't come up with an answer. So I thought, well they wanted water so I'll take it up to them and see what happens As I took the water to the saucer I saw the three men and there were three control boards. One of the men was stationed at one of the control boards and he didn't even look up at me One man was cooking these pancakes which they gave me and he didn't look up at all that I saw. So I handed the water up to the one man that had given me the jug. He took the jug of water and as he did I balanced myself with my left hand on the side of the flying saucer. There was not any radioactivity for my hand is okay. Then I stepped back a few steps and the man that took the water, gave me a salute with the back of his hand. In return I gave him our salute. Then why I did it I'll never know, but I pointed to the man cooking at the grill shaped thing and made a gesture like eating. What I meant was "are you eating?" thinking I could get a conversation from him. Instead he just looked down at me and handed me four (4) of these pancakes. Then he closed the hatch and I could hear it click shut. At once the saucer started to rise upward to about 20 feet straight up. Then it tilted to about 45 degrees upward and blasted off at a very high speed. In about two or three seconds it was out of sight. This saucer was about 30 feet wide and about 12 feet high. The outside of this saucer was of a very bright color. It seemed brighter than any chrome I had ever seen. Now this saucer did not set on the ground as there was no print on the ground where it was. It just hovered there and while it was hovering there and when it raised up to 20 feet high, there was a sound like a large generator or electric motor. It didn't change its sound while it raised up to take off. Now when it blasted off there was not any sign of fire, smoke, vapor or odor that I could see or smell. It just seemed like air. There was a jack pine tree right behind this saucer when it blasted off and I thought the top was going out of this tree but the top of this tree came back in place and it is just as green today as it ever was. That shows that there wasn't any damage done by the blast of the saucer. Now, around the edge of this saucer where the top and bottom came together there was a depression ring and in this ring there were large pipes like exhaust pipes about 6 to 8 inches in size. What these pipes really were I don't know.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

APR 27 1961

1961 APR 26 PM 9 16

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M MWB483 PD AR MILWAUKEE WIS 26 747P CST

DONALD E KEYHOE, DIRECTOR OF NICAP

1536 CONNECTICUT AVE WASHDC

HAS NICAP INVESTIGATED UFO LANDING REPORT FROM EAGLE RIVER WISCONSIN IF NOT WISH TO REQUEST NICAP AUTHORIZATION TO DO SO AND FORWARD FINDINGS WIRE REPLY

BETTY A BEHL PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS MILWAUKEE DOWNER COLLEGE 2313 EAST WEBSTER MILWAUKEE 11 WIS.

4-27-61

Reply: WOULD APPRECIATE INVESTIGATION EAGLE RIVER REPORT

/ns

EAGLE RIVER, WI CE III APRIL 18, 1961

•••

One of the better UFO stories is from my hometown of Eagle River, where a sighting was reported by Joe Simington. He said the aliens landed on his property and came to him apparently asking for water. In return, Simington was given pancakes which he produced to verify his story. It was for this reason that Simington became known as the "pancake man." His story was taken seriously by the Air Force. They analyzed his pancakes only to find that there was nothing in them not found on earth. But up until his death Joe was a little famous. The site of the so-called landing now is unmarked but still remembered by many locals.

Above: Washburn (Wis.) TIMES, August 7, 1980
The case of Joe Simonton (the correct spelling) took place April 18, 1961.

He Traded Saucer Cake For Water

Eagle River, Wis.—(UPI)—Joe Simonton, a plumber who lives about four miles outside this northern Wisconsin resort town, said today he carried a jug of water to three men who landed in his yard in a flying saucer, and was given three pieces of "flying saucer cake", in return.

Simonton, about 55, said he gave the cakes, 3 inches in diameter and perforated with little holes, to Vilas County Judge Frank Carter to turn over to authorities.

Simonton described the saucer as about 12 feet from top to bottom and about 30 feet in diameter. He said it was made from gleaming silver, "brighter than chrome," and equipped with exhaust pipes six or seven inches in diameter along one edge.

He said the saucer landed Tuesday, but he kept quiet about it because he was afraid of skeptical reactions.

The trio manning the craft, he said were short men, about 5 feet tall and weighing 125 pounds, who wore black uniforms and looked Italian.

Simonton said the ship stayed about five minutes, accomplished the swap of water for cakes, and flew off at a 45 degree angle with a swoosh that bowed nearby pine trees.

Binghamton (N.Y.) Press
April 23, 1961

NEW YORK MIRROR, SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 1961

IT'S FLYING SAUCER CAKE

EAGLE RIVER, WIS., APRIL 22 (UPI) - Joe Simonton, a plumber who lives about four miles outside of this resort town, said today he carried a jug of water to three men who landed in his yard in a flying saucer, and was given three pieces of "flying saucer cake" in return.

Simonton, about 55, said he gave the cakes, 3 inches in diamter and perforated with little holes, to Vilas County Judge Frank Carter to turn over to authorities.

SIMONTON DESCRIBED the saucer as about 12 feet from top to bottom and about 30 feet in diameter. He said it was made from gleaming silver.

He said the saucer landed Tuesday, but he kept quiet about it because he was afraid of skeptical reactions.

The trio manning the craft, he said were short -about 5 feet and 125 pounds. They wore black uniforms and looked Italian.

Simonton said the ship stayed about five minutes, accomplished the swap of water for cakes, and flew off at a 45 degree angle with a swoosh that bowed nearby trees.

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CR; Gladys Fusaro, Huntington, L.I.

Via: Dorothy Lefler, Cindnnati,Ohio

Flying Saucer Lands in Vilas, Man Claims

EAGLE RIVER (AP)—Joe Simonton, 55, a plumber, reported to Vilas county authorities Saturday that a flying saucer carrying three men landed on a clearing of his rural property last Tuesday, obtained a jug of water, gave him three small cakes, and took off without speaking a word.

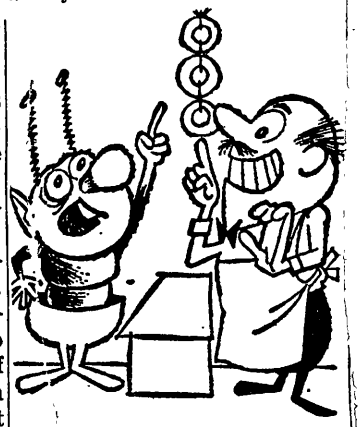
Simonton told his story to Dist. Atty. Calvin A. Burton, County Judge Frank Carter Sr., and Dan Satran, co-editor of the Vilas County News.

He turned over one of the cakes to Judge Carter who was reported to have sent it somewhere for analysis.

Satran said this is the story related by Simonton:

The saucer landed on his property shortly before noon Tuesday. It was a gleaming silver "brighter than chrome" and appeared to hover over the ground instead of landing. It was about 12 feet from top to bottom and about 30 feet in diameter.

A hatch opened and one man got out. He was dressed in a black two-piece suit, held up a jug, and indicated that he wanted it filled with water. Two other men were inside the ship and Simonton could see an instrument panel. All the men were about 5 feet tall and weighed about 125 pounds. They were smooth-shaven.



'I Tell You I'm Out of This World'

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1)

Man Claims Flying Saucer Lands in Vilas

(Continued from Page 1)

Simonton filled the jug with water and gave it to the man who remained outside the ship. One of the men on the ship then handed Simonton the three cakes. The cakes were about ⅛ inch thick and about 3 or 4 inches in diameter.

The men got back into the ship, a hatch was closed, and the craft took off, going up and forward at the same time. It disappeared in a few minutes. The ship had exhaust pipes 6 or 7 inches in diameter protruding from the saucer.

'Sounded Sincere'

Burton said that Simonton "sounded sincere." He added that he had a good reputation in the community and told a "straightforward" story. Simonton told the district attorney he was reluctant to talk about the incident earlier because some people might think it was preposterous.

Satran said that he and Burton handled the cakes and they appeared to be spongy.

Judge Carter's family said that he left for a trip to his cottage and would not be back until Monday. The family said that the judge had sent the cake somewhere but they did not know where it was sent.

MADISON, SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 1961

WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

Milwaukee, Wisc Journal 23 Apr. 1961

n18

Flying Saucer's Crew Landed to Fill Jug, State Man Reports

Journal Special Correspondence

Eagle River, Wis.—A chicken farmer who lives four miles from Eagle River has told authorities that a "flying saucer" carrying three men made a brief visit to his yard last week.

The farmer, Joseph Simonton, 60, claims that he received three small, pancake shaped pieces of food from the visitors. He gave one of the cakes, about three inches in diameter and perforated with small holes, to the Vilas county judge, Frank Carter.

Sheriff John Schroeder said Saturday night that Judge Carter had sent the sample to Washington, D. C., for analysis.

"Brighter Than Chrome"

The claimed landing of the "flying saucer" was said to have occurred about 11 a.m. last Tuesday. But Simonton said he was reluctant to spread the word, realizing some would claim his experience was preposterous.

He said he was attracted to his yard when he heard a noise outside, and the saucer—gleaming silver "brighter than chrome"—had landed in his yard. He said it was about 12 feet from top to bottom and about 30 feet in diameter.

Simonton said a hatch opened about five feet from the ground, and he could see three men in the machine. He said one of the men, dressed in a black two piece suit, held up a jug, which appeared to be of the same material as the space ship. The man motioned to indicate he would like water.

He Complied

Simonton said he took the jug, hurried to the house to comply, and brought it back to the men. He judged that they were about 5 feet in height and weighed about 125 pounds. He said they were smooth shaved and appeared to resemble those of Italian descent.

He does not recall hearing them speak to each other or to him. Simonton said he looked into the interior of the space ship and that all the interior appeared black, the color of wrought-iron.

He said he could see several instrument panels and he could hear a slow whining sound, like the hum of a generator.

"It appeared one of the men in the ship was frying food on a flameless grill of some sort," Simonton said.

Simonton said that he motioned to indicate an interest in their food. He said one of the men, also dressed in black but with a narrow red trim along the trousers, handed him three of the small cakes, which he has shown to authorities in Eagle River.

Visit Was Short

Simonton said the visit did not seem more than five minutes. He said the large hatch snapped shut and that it was machined so smoothly he could scarcely detect where the hatch was when it was closed.

He said the ship took off rapidly to the south and that

Turn to SAUCER, page 30, col. 3

Saucer

From page 1, column 7

there was a blast of air that bowed near-by pine trees.

He recalls that along the edge of the saucer he noted exhaust pipes six or seven inches in diameter.

Simonton said that he thought the ship was actually hovering in his yard and never touched ground.

"It Really Went"

"When it took off, it really went," he said. "It went up, slow and even, about 15 feet, and then in two seconds it was so far away I couldn't see it."

Simonton is married, but his wife is now working in Chicago and he is alone on the farm. He is also a plumber. The nearest neighbor is about a quarter of a mile away.

Sheriff Schroeder, who has known Simonton since 1947, sent two deputies to the scene after Simonton had told him of the incident. The deputies could not find any evidence that a flying saucer had been in the farmyard.

"Joe really believes everything he says," Sheriff Schroeder said Saturday, "and he isn't a drinking man. He talks sensibly."

Milwaukee, Wisc. Journal 24 Apr 1961

'Santa Claus' Gets Backing in Story of Flying Saucer

Journal Special Correspondence

Eagle River, Wis.—The man who plays Santa Claus for this northern Wisconsin resort community had the backing of his neighbors Monday with his story of a flying saucer visit.

Joseph Simonton, 60, gave Eagle River something to buzz about when he related the saucer story Saturday.

Dan Satran, editor of the Vilas County Review, said: "If you took a vote around here, most people would say Simonton's story is authentic."

Simonton is a chicken farmer, plumber and auctioneer who lives alone about four miles from Eagle River. He is described as a sober, sensible person. He serves as the Chamber of Commerce's Santa Claus each Christmas

Phone Rings Often

Simonton was being flooded with phone calls. Some belittled him, a reaction he had feared.

Simonton said the saucer visit was last Tuesday. He said three men were in the vehicle and one held up a jug, which Simonton filled with water. In return, Simonton said, he was given three flat cakes.

Simonton said he ate one of the cakes, kept one and gave the third to Vilas County Judge Frank Carter, who has long been interested in flying saucer reports.

[Flying saucers are not Judge Carter's only outside interest. He is also an entertainer, serving at church and club functions as a magician, ventriloquist and hypnotist.]

Sent to Washington

Judge Carter said he sent the cake to a Maj. Keyhoe in Washington, D. C. The judge identified Keyhoe as a member of a national committee investigating aerial phenomena.

[The Associated Press reported from Washington that a Donald E. Keyhoe, a retired marine major, is director of the National Investigating Committee on Aerial Phenomena. The committee, a private organization, has accused the air force of concealing facts about unidentified flying saucers.]

Simonton said the cake that he ate tasted like cardboard. The cakes were described as about three inches in diameter and perforated with small holes.

Simonton described the saucer as about 12 feet from top to bottom and 30 feet in diameter. He said the three men, dressed in black, were about five feet tall and weighed about 125 pounds.

Judge Carter said Monday that the story was not contrived to get publicity for the individuals or the many resorts in the area.

Rhinelander, Wis. News 24 Apr 1961

He's Willing to Tell About It:

'Best Contact Yet,' Says Eagle River Man of His Flying Saucer Incident

Joseph Simonton, the 55-year-old Eagle River plumber who says that he has "made the best contact of anybody yet" with flying saucers and their occupants, reported to The Daily News today that he put in a busy Sunday answering the telephone. He said most of the calls came from members of the press and radio and that not too many individuals called to taunt him.

Interested persons also began visits to Simonton's rural home, including three students from the University of Wisconsin. The students drove up from Madison Sunday, Simonton said, to gather information for an extra - credit term paper.

Simonton said that he had "never experienced anything like it in my life," and that the flood of calls was keeping him away from his plumbing business. He added, however, that he would be available to speak to any groups interested in hearing a first-hand account of his saucer sighting.

Didn't Actually Land.

The saucer halted on Simonton's property about 11 a.m. last Tuesday morning while he was eating breakfast, he said. He said he first heard a "swirling noise" but did not think much of it because jet planes pass over his house regularly.

Looking out the window, Simonton said he saw a dome-shaped machine that looked like "two huge bowls put together." It was gleaming silver and "brighter than anything I ever saw in my life," he stated. He estimated the saucer as about 12 feet from top to bottom and about 30 feet in diameter.

The saucer did not actually land, Simonton said, but hovered just above the ground. As he approached, a hatch on the saucer opened and a man dressed in a black, buttonless suit held up a jug and indicated he wanted it filled. Simonton took the jug into the house, filled it with water and returned it to the man.

Could See Inside.

Simonton said that he put his left hand on the machine and that it was neither unusually hot or cold. Looking into the saucer he said he could see two other men, similarly attired in black. All were about five feet tall and weighed about 125 pounds, he estimated.

The inside of the saucer was a "dull black," Simonton said, but he could see three instrument panels on which the dials "glowed brilliantly." Noticing one of the men cooking something, Simonton pointed toward him. He said the man apparently thought he wanted something to eat and handed him three small cakes, about one-eighth inch thick and three or four inches in diameter.

The hatch then snapped shut, the ship rose to a height of about 20 feet, then noiselessly "shot straight south at about a 45 degree angle," vanishing in two seconds.

He Lives Alone.

Simonton said he told several people about the incident but their taunting convinced him to keep silent. Later, however, he related his story to Vilas County Dist. Atty. Calvin Burton, then released his account of the incident to the press and television.

One of the cakes he received Simonton gave to County Judge Frank Carter Sr., who in turn forwarded it to Donald E. Keyhoe in Washington D. C. Keyhoe is director of the unofficial National Investigating Committee on Aerial Phenomena, an organization that has accused the Air Force of concealing the facts about flying saucers.

(Judge Carter long has been interested in flying saucers and has spoken on the subject at public meetings.)

Simonton said he expected to hear from Washington soon, perhaps later today.

Burton said that Simonton "sounded sincere" and that the plumber had a good reputation in the community. Sheriff John Schroeder said he has known Simonton since 1947. "Joe really believes everything he says," the sheriff commented. "And he isn't a drinking man. He talks sensibly."

Simonton lives alone on his property, about four miles from Eagle River. His wife works in Chicago and his nearest neighbor lives a quarter of a mile away.

S.J. LARSEN FILES

TINY MEN, PANCAKES

Flying Saucer Makes A Big Splash In Eagle River

Special to The Sun-Times

EAGLE RIVER, Wis.—This famous resort town was in a tizzy Sunday over the claim of a 55-year-old plumber that a flying saucer with three pigmy-like men landed in his back yard.

The report by Joe Simonton replaced talk of the upcoming onrush of summer vacationers as the main topic of conversation.

Snaps At Reporter

Simonton, whom residents called a respected and trusted man, stuck fast to his tale of the landing last week. He gave three pancakes to Vilas County Judge Frank Carter for inspection. He said the spacemen had given him the pancakes.

Asked if his story were true, Simonton snapped to a reporter:

"It certainly is, I wouldn't tell you if it wasn't and if you don't believe it, there's no use talking to you."

He explained that folks had laughed at him after he told them about the saucer which he said he first saw from his kitchen window. But he's counting on those pancakes, which Carter sent to the National Investigative Committee on Aerial Phenomena in Washington, to bear out his story.

Swirling Noise

"Before I saw it, I heard this terrible swirling noise above my house. At first I thought the whole house was going to blow away," he said.

"Then I walked over to the window and saw this saucer come straight down, vertically. I run out real quick then," he continued.

"Then the hatch opened underneath and a man in a black suit, nearly 5 feet tall, got out. I never saw anything like it.

"He had this water jug and he gestured to me to give him some water, so I did. When I went over I got a look inside and saw the other men. They didn't say anything to me, but I pointed to the pancakes by the instrument panel and they gave me a few.

"Then the first man got inside and the saucer took off again at a 45-degree angle, with such a whoosh that nearby pine trees were bowed over."

Hears Generator Hum

Simonton, a 30-year resident of this city, described the saucer as bright chrome outside and wrought-iron black within.

Simonton said he was so flustered he didn't think fast enough to take any pictures or ask questions. In fact, he said, he didn't get the nerve to tell Judge Carter about the Tuesday landing until two days later.

Since then, he said, his home has become a madhouse. Friends and residents have been visiting to hear about his story and officials and newsmen have been calling him.

"A couple of newsmen laughed," he said. "But I'm telling the truth. I never saw any picture shows about flying saucers and I never had any visions. I saw it as clear as daylight."

14 Monday, April 24, 1961

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
L. W. NIEMAN, FOUNDER, 1882

Friendly Sauceronauts

Too many incredible things happen these days for anyone to poke fun at the report of a flying saucer landing at Eagle River. And it is a little reassuring to hear that the flying saucer occupants appeared friendly and left that universal token of good will, a gift of food. These days, when we Americans seem to be so unpopular almost everywhere, it is comforting to be told that at least three flying sauceronauts from goodness knows where, on their way to unknown destinations, seem to like us.

Death Asked by 'Invader'

Captives Questioned in Cuba on Video Propaganda Session

Pictures on Picture Page

Key West, Fla.–AP–Invaders reportedly captured by Premier Castro's troops demanded death, showed indifference or begged for mercy in a television show from Cuba Tuesday.

A priest, a man who claimed he won the United States congressional medal of honor and a pre-Castro police corporal accused of brutalities were among the captives interrogated in a running propaganda series aimed at convincing the Cuban people that the United States engineered the ill fated invasion.

The telecast was monitored in this Florida city near the Cuban coast.

Duped, Captives Say

The prisoners, who indicated that they were aware of the firing squad threat pronounced by Castro, agreed with interrogators that they had been duped into thinking that the Cuban people would join their cause.

A man who claimed to be Manuel Perez Garcia and claimed that he killed 83 Japanese and won the congressional medal of honor in World War II, jumped up and shouted, "If this nation loves Fidel Castro, let it shoot me."

[In Washington, the Pentagon said Perez Garcia died in battle and received the medal of honor posthumously.]

Segundo de Las Heras Cabo,

—Dan Satran

One of three flat cakes he said were given to him by men in a "flying saucer" was displayed by Joseph Simonton, 60, who lives near Eagle River. He ate one of the cakes, and said it tasted like cardboard. One of the cakes has been sent to Washington to be analyzed by a private group investigating flying saucer reports. Simonton said the space ship landed on his chicken farm last Tuesday.

Castro Shows Prestige Rise

His Latin American Friends Whoop It Up on Invasion Failure

By the Associated Press

Nine western hemisphere nations have severed diplomatic relations with Cuba, but Premier Castro still has plenty of friends there.

In every country from Argentina to Mexico, pro-Castroites are whooping it up for the commander in chief of the forces that defeated the "imperialist mercenary slaves," as the Cuban propaganda machine calls last week's defeated insurgent invaders. Anti-Castroites are active, too, but somehow the others usually make more noise.

Opinion Is Divided

In cutting ties with Cuba Monday, Honduras joined the United States, El Salvador, Peru, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Haiti, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic, which had previously taken the step.

In some other countries, political as well as private opinion is divided on Castro, and he appears to have gained some prestige in plastering the invaders.

In Mexico, the government of President Adolfo Lopez Mateos, striving to be friends with both his neighbor to the north and the one to the east, officially is neutral. But a large faction led by leftist ex-President Lazaro Cardenas is pro-Castro.

Targets of Criticism

Castro apparently received a setback when Brazilian President Janio Quadros, whom the Cuban radio had been praising

rightist strong man Rafael Trujillo, who has been an implacable foe of Castro, appears to have been gradually drawn closer to him through their mutual hatred of Uncle Sam.

In Venezuela, President Romulo Betancourt has been critical of both Trujillo and Castro but particularly of the former. Not all Venezuelan political leaders go along with him on his Castro stand, and there have been cabinet shake-ups on that issue.

Whatever the feeling is about Castro, however, there seems to be widespread abhorrence in Latin America against Castro's blood baths. Ecuadorian President Jose Velasco Ibarra, who has come in for many kind words on Castro's radio, Tuesday joined those who have called for clemency for prisoners.

Castro Aid Planned

In Montevideo, Uruguay, the Communist supported Latin American Secretariat of the Socialist International said Monday that it would form volunteer Socialist brigades throughout Latin America for defense of the Castro regime.

Tshombe Hits at Kasavubu

Quits Conference

Coquilhatville, Congo–AP–President Moise Tshombe of Katanga walked out on the rest of the Congo's anti-Communist political leaders Tuesday. He accused President Joseph Kasavubu of the Leopoldville central government of selling out the Congolese people to the United Nations.

With sarcastic and stinging insults, Tshombe refused further co-operation and discussion

Air Force Probes Saucernaut Story

EAGLE RIVER, Wis., April 27 (Special) The chairman of the Astronomy Department at Northwestern University said Thursday he is keeping "an open mind" in regard to the flying saucer that reportedly contacted a rural Eagle River man last week.

Dr. A. L. Hynak, Evanston, Ill., investigated the story for the Air Force. He was sent to Eagle River by Maj. Robert Friend, chief of the aerial phenomena division of the Aerospace Technical Intelligence Command, Dayton, Ohio.

Joseph Simonton, 60, rural Eagle River plumber, said he filled a jug with water for the three men aboard the saucer when it hovered over his farm April 18, and that they gave him three small pancake-like cakes.

'DIGESTING FACTS'

Dr. Hynak stressed that he had gone to Eagle River at the request of the Air Force and said he wanted to "digest" what he had learned before reaching a judgment on what Simonton saw.

Meanwhile, Vilas County Judge Frank Carter, an avowed believer in flying saucers, said he is convinced Simonton actually met saucernauts.

Carter said he had been unable to theorize any way in which Simonton could profit from his story if it were a hoax.

Meanwhile, other stories of saucer sightings are beginning to be told in the Eagle River area.

'WITNESS' FOUND

Savino Borgo, about 50, Eagle River insurance agent and Scoutmaster, said he had seen the saucer while driving on Highway 70 about a mile from Simonton's home. He said it rose diagonally and flew west generally parallel to Highway 70 about the time Simonton said he saw it.

Jack Long, who runs a market near Boulder Junction, and Gibb Sanborn, Wisconsin State Employment Service office manager at Eagle River, both told of recently sighting saucers.

Simonton said he had received "a bale of letters" from people, particularly in the Fort Atkinson area, who said they had seen flying saucers but had not had the courage to report their findings in the face of the ridicule they expected.

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL

Sports • Comics • World at Work • Want Ads

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JAUNTS WITH JAMIE

South Shore Beach Memories

MRS. DANIEL P. Hanley has lived all of her life and reared six children in Bay View. When she was a year old her family moved to S. Mabbet St., just a hop, skip and a slide (down the clay bank) to South Shore bathing beach.

On Saturday afternoons neighborhood friends and their children gathered at the beach for wading, bathing or swimming.

Today, Mrs. Hanley and many another Bay View resident regret that youngsters of the present generation (grown-ups, too, for that matter) cannot enjoy splashing in the waters of Lake Michigan at this spot. The beach has been closed to bathers, but Mrs. Hanley hopes not permanently.

Mrs. Hanley has a special interest in this beach and in South Shore Park because of her late brother, Royce George Zoeller, whose achievements with Milwaukee County Park System are well remembered.

ROYCE RECEIVED his schooling in Bay View. Mrs. Hanley showed us a picture of her brother lined up with the

er, Anthony J. Zoeller, he got a job with the park system and remained a park man until his death a decade ago at the age of 50.

DURING HIS years with the park system he landscaped Estabrook and Jackson parks and Kinnickinnic Parkway. He was responsible for the baseball diamond in the parkway and for removing the bushes surrounding city parks.

In addition to the supervision of Jackson Park he had the supervision of the Wing-Foot housing settlement erected in the park during World War II.

"This responsibility," said Mrs. Hanley, "I believe, hastened his death. He was responsible for servicing the units and was often called out in the middle of the night if something went wrong with the plumbing or something else. He also had to collect the rents.

"I WISH YOU could have seen him operate behind the candy counter, teasing the children, telling them their penny

Saucer-Sighting Plumber Calls Fame a Burden, Goes to Work

EAGLE RIVER, Wis. (UPI) — Plumber Joe Simonton went back to his catch basins Wednesday and said the next flying saucer he sees, he'll keep to himself.

"I haven't been able to work for three weeks now and I'm going to have to start making some money," Simonton said.

The three-week layoff began when Simonton announced three visitors in a flying saucer traded some "space pancakes" for a jug of water. It ended Tuesday when the National Investigating Committee for Aeria Phenomena refused to investigate the pancakes.

He said he has been deluged by letters, including one from Australia and "not many" from skeptics and cranks. "I don't know when I'll get around to answering them," he said.

"I don't care what anybody else believes. I just know what I saw," Simonton said.

"If it happened again, I don't think I'd tell anybody about it."

4 May 61 Stars + Stripes

New 'Saucer' In Wisconsin

Many Claim They Saw It

RHINELANDER (AP) — The flying saucer business picked up Friday. A 20-year-old Oneida farmer said he and five other persons spotted one in the air. And the Air Force decided to conduct an on-the-spot inquiry into one that an Eagle River man said landed on his land last Saturday.

Major Robert Friend of the Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, said that a "routine" probe was underway, with an Air Force officer and a civilian space expert investigating the landing reported by Joseph Simonton, 60.

Friend said that one of three pancakes Simonton asserted occupants of the saucer gave him was analyzed.

The latest sighting was reported to Oneida County Sheriff Penny Drivas Thursday.

"I wouldn't have called you, sheriff," said Brent Lorbetske, "but others saw it, too."

Lorbetske, his companion, Tom Hunt, 17, Mrs. Phyllis Lorbetske, the youths' mother, and three other Lorbetske children, all said they saw the object. All reported the object as flying quite high, extremely fast, bright and shiny and circular.

The Lorbetske farm is near the home of Joseph Simonton, an Eagle River plumber who said last week a flying saucer landed on a field near his home and one of three men inside asked him for a jug of water.

Dr. A. L. Hynak, the chairman of the astronomy department at Northwestern University, was asked to investigate Simonton's story for the Air Force.

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL

Sports • Comics • World at Work • Want Ads

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...ing athletes in the relays.

Chickens Dead After Saucer Visit—Report

EAGLE RIVER, Wis., May 3 (Special) John Simonton, Eagle River plumber and chicken raiser who said he contacted a flying saucer April 18, said Wednesday that his chickens have been ill and several have died since the saucer's visit.

Simonton asked Vilas County Sheriff John Schroeder to notify the Air Force about the chicken deaths.

The sheriff called the Antigo radar station but was told that officers there doubted that the chicken deaths would be investigated.

Simonton reported the visit by a saucer, which he said hovered a foot off the ground in his yard, four days after it happened.

He said he filled a water jug for the three-man crew and they gave him some little cakes in return.

The cakes were sent to the National Investigating Committee for Aerial Phenomena, a private organization, for analysis, but they were returned Tuesday with a note indicating the committee felt they were not important.

Simonton, himself, seemed inclined to let the story die.

He told a reporter that he had received so many letters concerning the visitation that it will take a long time to answer all of them.

One of the letters, he said, came from Australia.

1961 APRIL 18 WISC.

Little Saucer Men? It Takes the Cake

Chicago American

EAGLE RIVER, Wis. (UPI)—Joe Simonton, a plumber who lives about four miles outside this northern Wisconsin resort town, said last month he carried a jug of water to three men who landed in his yard in a flying saucer, and was given three pieces of "flying saucer cake" in return.

Simonton, 55, said he gave the cakes, 3 inches in diameter and perforated with little holes, to Vilas County Judge Frank Carter to turn over to authorities.

"Brighter Than Chrome"

Simonton described the saucer as about 12 feet from top to bottom and about 30 feet in diameter. He said it was made from gleaming silver, "brighter than chrome," and equipped with exhaust pipes along one edge.

He said the saucer landed on a Tuesday, but he kept quiet about it because he was afraid of skeptical reactions.

Black Uniforms

The trio manning the craft, he said, were short men, about 5 feet tall and weighing 125 pounds, who wore black uniforms and looked Italian.

Simonton said the ship stayed about five minutes, accomplished the swap of water for cakes, and flew off at a 45 degree angle with a swoosh that bowed nearby pine trees.

MARTIANS, OR MARTINIS? 5/14/61

Little Green Men Colonize Lake

Chicago aldermen may not like Lake Michigan water, but the little green men from outer space are crazy about it.

In fact, says Jack Maynard, president of the Great Lakes Unidentified Flying Objects association, the men from outer space have made their earth headquarters under the surface of the lake along the shores between Chicago and Waukegan.

Maynard, who lives in Waukegan, told members of the association that numerous sightings have been made of little space ships flying out of the water and heading skyward, presumably to a mother ship above.

He said that next month some of the 225 members of the association will charter a boat in an attempt to locate the sub-lake headquarters.

Maynard told an association meeting in Waukegan that the United States government may be about to disclose the presence of spacemen here.

There is some speculation that the supposed presence of the spacemen in the lake is a matter of concern to the Chicago aldermen. This, it was said, may be the reason they would rather spend $14,000 a year for bottled water imported from Wisconsin than take a chance on swallowing a little green man who might flow from a tap.

SIMONTON "SPACE PANCAKES" CASE—

More material on this (including a 2nd copy of the *Three Lakes News* story here) will be found in a file folder filed in "Classic Cases" section.

EAGLE RIVER, WI CEIII APRIL 18, 1961

Public opinion hadn't changed much by April 18, 1961, when a classic but controversial case in UFO literature was reported by a Wisconsin chicken farmer.

Startled by a noise outside his farmhouse near Eagle River, Joe Simonton, 61, saw a silver object coming down into his yard. He approached the object, a hatch opened and he saw three men inside. One handed him a silver jug, indicating he wanted water. Simonton obligingly filled the jug and handed it back. He looked inside the object and saw a man "frying" something on a flameless cooking unit. One of the men handed him four little "pancakes." The silvery craft then took off at a 45 degree angle and was gone in seconds.

Due to a flurry of media exploitation, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (a civilian UFO investigative organization) decided not to fully investigate the incident. Simonton became disgusted. "If it happened again, I don't think I'd tell anyone about it," he told UPI. Dr. J. Allen Hynek, who was then consultant to the government's project Blue Book UFO investigation and long considered one of the world's leading UFO authorities, judged the incident sheer nonsense at the time but now acknowledges that much of what Simonton said is beginning to fit into the total picture.

EXCLUSIVELY YOURS
MILWAUKEE, WI
AUG. 13, 1981

Chicago Daily News; 22 November 1961

TELLS OF PANCAKE LANDING BY FLIPPANT FLYING SAUCER

Little Men Swap Jug Refill For Flapjack, Says Wisconsinite

A Wisconsin plumber described here how spacemen landed in his backyard and gave him pancakes.

He said they arrived on a flying saucer and asked him to fill their water jug.

The story was told to the Identified Flying Objects Assn. by Joseph (Flying Saucer Joe) Simonton, 60, a ruddy faced plumber and deputy sheriff from Eagle River, Wisconsin.

His encounter with the men from space occurred on a sunny afternoon, April 18, Simonton said, when a buzzing sound attracted him to his yard.

There, he said, he saw "an object...30 feet across, 12 feet high in the center, shaped like two hugh soupbowls put together."

The "object" hovered a few inches above the ground, Simonton said, a hatch in the side opened, and a man who "looked like he was of Italian descent...looked at me."

Simonton said the visitor was about 5 feet tall, with "eyes that really did something to you. Like they pierced the very bottom of your soul."

He also noticed two other men. One was sitting at a control panel that had no control. The other was sitting at a grill making little pancakes.

All wore tight black garments with turtle neck sweaters, he said, and skull caps down to their eye brows and ears.

"I couldn't see their feet because they were below the hatch."

The "leader" made a drinking motion with a jug, Simonton said, and "I took it in the house and filled it for him."

When he returned, the spacemen who was making pancakes threw four of them down," Simonton said.

"They were...almost too hot to touch. And rubbery like. And greasy."

Simonton said he exchanged salutes with "the leader" and the ship blasted off - nearly knocking over a tree with its blast.

"I don't care whether people believe me or not," Simonton said, after selling 27 printed copies of his story at $1 each to persons who attened the meeting in Mathon's Seafood Restaurant in Waukegan.

He said he gave three of the pancakes to the Air Force and kept one.

When asked by a reporter for a bite of the pancake, Simonton said, "Absolutely not."

"If I didn't have this pancake to show....I'm sure people would have me in a coo coo house."

He allowed the reporter to touch the pancake. It felt like an old pancake.

Did Business With Saucer

Says He Traded Water for Cakes

EAGLE RIVER, Wis. (AP)—Joe Simonton, 55-year-old plumber, reported to Vilas County authorities Saturday that a flying saucer carrying three men landed on a clearing of his rural property last Tuesday, obtained a jug of water, gave him three small cakes and then took off without speaking a word.

Simonton told his story to Dist. Atty. Calvin A. Burton, County Judge Frank Carter Sr., and Dan Satran, co-editor of the Vilas County News. He turned over one of the cakes to Judge Carter who was reported to have sent it somewhere for analysis.

Satran said this is the story related by Simonton:

The saucer landed on his property shortly before noon Tuesday. It was a gleaming silver "brighter than chrome" and appeared to hover over the ground instead of landing. It was about 12 feet from top to bottom and about 30 feet in diameter.

Hatch Opens

A hatch opened and one man got out. He was dressed in a black two-piece suit, held up a jug and indicated that he wanted it filled with water. Two other men were inside the ship and Simonton could see an instrument panel. All the men were about five feet tall and weighed about 125 pounds. They were smooth shaven.

Simonton filled the jug with water and gave it to the man who remained outside the ship. One of the men on the ship then handed Simonton the three cakes. The cakes were about ⅛ inch thick and about 3 or 4 inches in diameter.

Soon Disappeared

The men got back into the ship, a hatch was closed and the craft took off, going up and forward at the same time. It disappeared in a few minutes. The ship had exhaust pipes, six or seven inches in diameter protruding from the saucer.

Burton said that Simonton "sounded sincere." He added that he had a good reputation in the community and told a "straightforward" story. Simonton told the district attorney he was reluctant to talk about the incident earlier because some people might think it was preposterous.

Satran said that he and Burton handled the cakes and they appeared to be spongy.

Judge Carter's family said that he left for a trip to his cottage and would not be back until Monday. The family said that the judge had sent the cake somewhere but they did not know where it was sent.

THE DALLES VISITOR, Taylors Falls, MN - #27 (Spring 1995) CR: R. PanLener

Joe and I ate UFO Pancakes

By Harold R. (Bud) Meier

In the Dalles Visitor, 1994, a chronology of phenomenal events, listed a 1961 UFO encounter at Eagle River, Wisconsin. Journalist Meier was one of a number of readers who read the paper and provided us with more news of this and other UFO incidents. Here is his first-hand account of the 1961 story. The boldface sections are taken from Simonton's own autobiographical pamphlet, "The Story of the Flying Saucer as it was seen by Joe Simonton" which he himself published.

In 1961 as director of the top-rated, never-a-boring moment KSTP-TV news operation in Minneapolis-St. Paul, I didn't need much prompting when the AP newsprinter clattered out a fascinating account of Joseph (Joe) Simonton and his marvellous UFO experience. According to the story, Joe welcomed a flying saucer to the yard of his rural homestead near Eagle River, making a hospitable trade of a gallon or so of the family's drinking water to three handsomely bronze humanoids for four irregular, overdone wafers destined to live forever in UFOlogy as planet Earth's first "space pancakes."

When we picked up the story at KSTP almost automatically I dialed Dr. J. Allen Hynek, professor of astrophysics at Northwestern University, who was also head of the university's Dearborn Observatory and chief investigator for the U.S. Aero-Space Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Field in Ohio. We often called him when we heard of UFO sightings around our five state area.

The sighting had occurred on April 18 but we did not get the story on the AP wires until several days later. By then Hynek had already gone to Eagle River to investigate and he vouched for Simonton's story as something clearly more than hoax or fantasy. That was enough for us. Hastily saddling a KSTP station wagon with electro-photographic recording equipment, I set out with radio reporter, Phil Schrader and photographer Ken Espy, on an almost 250 mile, mostly overnight drive to Rhinelander, closest neighbor to Eagle River.

I remember well that frosty night as we tooled along deserted Highway 8, listening to the fading voice of Halsey Hall describe a west coast road game of the new Minnesota Twins. I wondered idly about those radio waves beaming eternally outward, into the absolute zero of an unfathomable space. Could the occupants of Joe's spacecraft be out there now, hearing as we were, about the mastery of Camilo Pasquale's orbital curved ball?

At Rhinelander

In squeaky clean Rhinelander that morning the talk was still all about Simonton. The lively resort hub was aware of the potential tourism value of the tale, so we had instant access to several stalwart residents whose vivid recollections reinforced Joe's story.

Maynard Borgo, an Eagle River insurance agent of the time, had become a seeing believer; six members of the Tony Lorbetsky family, living half-way between Eagle River and Rhinelander, had witnessed a flashing disc pass overhead with only the slightest trace of a waggle "as though some intelligent beings were at the controls." Also the head of the Rhinelander Wisconsin Employment Security office reported an unimpeded view of what he called a"flying saucer." The morning passed swiftly as we filmed and audio-taped interviews with those now believers and waited our chance to talk to Joe Simonton at his homestead between Rhinelander and Eagle River.

Joe's Story

Wire service descriptions of the day had called Simonton "a middle-age handyman." He was really a skilled plumber/jack-of-all trades and much more: a trusted special deputy of Vilas County Sheriff John Schroeder, a helpful neighbor and frequent Santa Claus at area Christmas parties

When I asked the sheriff point blank about Joe's credibility he reached for his clipboard and riffled through a well-thumbed sheaf of UFO reports, all dealing with glittering objects like the one described by Simonton. "These are (reports from) all good, honest people," said the lawman, "and Joe Simonton is as good and honest as any of them."

By the time we sat down at Joe's kitchen table, he had been visited by Hynek and a myriad number of space buffs of varying pedigrees and he had been proned, pumped and pooh-poohed by small-market journalists from as far away as Wausau and Green Bay. His rock-solid story remained the same:

- How he was alone at home (his wife was in Chicago) and had got up from an early lunch to clear away the dishes from the very table we were sitting around. It was a clear, unusually warm day.
- How he then watched the noiseless descent into the dooryard of an immense silvery disc, "which looked like two large soup plates put together," about 30 feet across and 12 feet high. The disc did not land but remained suspended several feet above the ground.
- How from the apparently seamless top of the metallic craft a hatch opened and Joe saw three men. **"These men were dressed in black two piece suits which looked like jersey material and it was about 1/2 inch thick, no buttons or zippers or anything. The jacket was like a turtle neck and the suit fit not too tightly and not too loose. I couldn't see their feet as they were below the hatch. Their cap fit real tight and came down almost to their ears and eye brows . . . they were either real smooth shaven or they had no beard at all. They were about five feet tall and about 120 pounds and looked like (someone of) Italian descent. Very nice looking fellows about 25 to 30 years old. Each one very well built in proportion to his size. The man that asked for water had a narrow white stripe down the sides of his trousers and by that I suppose he was the officer on the saucer."**

How Joe had been able to glimpse inside the object. It was "bright, really beautiful . . . the color of wrought iron, a sort of dull black." Inside he saw three control boards. One man was at one of them and "he didn't even look at me." Neither did a second man who seemed to be cooking at a "grill shaped thing." A third man was looking at Joe and holding up a jug "and made a motion like he wanted a drink."

"Well I didn't know what to say or do so I just took the jug and went to the basement and filled it with water . . . I tried to think what I should do while I was down in the basement for the water. But I didn't come up with an answer. So, I thought, well they wanted water so I'll take it up to them and see what happens."

. . . So I handed the water up to the one man that had given me the jug. He took the jug of water and as he did I balanced myself with my left hand on the side of the flying saucer. There was not any radioactivity for my hand is okay. Then I stepped back a few steps and the man that took the water, gave me a salute with the back of his hand. In return I gave him our salute."

Then he and the man engaged in some wordless banter, a pantomimic dickering and the man handed Joe four cardboard-like hunks of pastry which Joe optimistically called "pancakes,"about the size of U.S. dollars." During my interview with Joe he gave me a part of one of

Joe Simonton eating pancake.

them. Nibbling on a corner of it I found nothing alarming about it nor did I suffer any ill effects, although I agreed with Joe that it tasted very much like cardboard.

- How the visitor went inside the craft and closed the hatch and Joe could hear it click shut. **"At once the saucer started to rise upward to about 20 feet straight up. Then it tilted to about 45 degrees upward and blasted off at a very high speed. In about two or three seconds it was out of sight." (It sounded like a large generator or electric motor) "It didn't change its sound while it raised up to take off. Now when it blasted off there was not any sign of fire, smoke, vapor or odor that I could see or smell."**
- But something happened to Joe's chickens. After the craft soared off, perhaps 20 of Joe's flock of Rhode Island Red chickens lay strewn around his yard dead. Joe attributed their demise to some kind of emission from the UFO. Later by phone Dr. Hynek confirmed that "government investigators" had taken several of the deceased birds with them, but KSTP was never able to get any further information about them.

Later Developments

Back in St. Paul I took part of my pancake to a food-testing laboratory at the University of Minnesota Agricultural Campus. There, amidst much laughter, an assay was run, with findings similar to those received by Dr. Hynek from a federal laboratory: indications of a common grain (not unlike hard durum wheat) with some kind of fat and a dash of NaCl, or common table salt.

Much later the medical laboratory at Wright-Patterson Field reported on its analysis of a bit of the Simonton pancake: low protein flour, traces of sugar, salt and dry milk solids, plus hydrogenated cooking oil. Dr. Hynek's nonchalant reply to all of that was: "How do we know that they don't have Aunt Jemima pancake mix on Mars?" Simonton accurately pointed out, that "all the commercial mixes I tested for comparison all raised way up but the cakes handed me were truly as flat as pancakes (unlike our mixes). There was obviously no baking powder in them."

About this time another person stepped into the story. He was retired Vilas County District Judge Frank Carter, a good friend of Joe's and an admirer of Major Donald Keyhoe an early figure in UFOlogy, head of NICAP an independent investigative organization and author of the book *Flying Saucers are Real.*

At first the judge didn't believe the story and, Joe said, "probably figuring that if I was a fake, I wouldn't have the courage to let anyone analyze it (the pancake). So I let him send it to Keyhoe." But Keyhoe notified Carter and Simonton that he was returning the pancake untested because he required "evidence of a more concrete nature." To which Simonton snorted that he had already consumed part of another cake and "nothing can be more concrete than that I ate it."

But the pancake never found its way back to Eagle River and when there was no further word from the Major. Judge Carter shot off a blistering 10-page indictment, accusing him of being a turncoat and working for the government. He and Simonton "heard by the grapevine" that the missing cake wound up in a private testing laboratory in New York. As for Joe Simonton, no one ever took up his offer to submit to a lie detector test. In the years after his sighting he gave an occasional lecture in places like Waukegan, LaCrosse or Appleton, Wisconsin, and would always stop long enough to answer the questions of the fatuous, the skeptical and the believers. To all he was polite, and to all who would see he appeared to be a man supremely confident of what he had truly seen and done, one who knew that his singular story had consequences that far transcended Joe Simonton and his community in Vilas County, Wisconsin.

In 1961 the local chamber of commerce named him "Man of the Year" and he remained firmly in his place of trust and affection among local townspeople. Later the same year he published a small pamphlet describing his experiences which he sold for a dollar to a steady influx of curious but uninvited visitors.

I kept in touch with Joe for several years, always giving him the benefit of the doubt on his story. My pre-Simonton skepticism has been long overtaken by events. He died in 1972 but each week, it seems, some new eye-openers occur to make his story more believable. Dr. Hynek, the first person of any real competence to question Joe after his encounter said: "Joe is a solid citizen of good repute who in no sense seems to be perpetuating a hoax." Hynek's finding stands today.

The KSTP Documentary

After reporting the immediate news aspects of the Simonton story, we at KSTP produced a 30 minute television documentary of it that was aired several weeks later in Wisconsin. The show and its subject remained so popular throughout 1961 that we repeated it several times, always with strong advance promotion and gaining a larger audience. A friend who worked as an engineer at Honeywell Aerospace told me that the topic had a large and sympathetic audience there, and for years after we received inquiries about the encounter. The only copy of the documentary kinescope has been lost, but I have never given up the search for it.

Bud Meier is angling editor of the Stillwater Evening Gazette's "Weekender" recreation supplement and is a founding member of Muskies, Inc. He attended Kenyon College and studied journalism at the U of M. and after 12 years at KSTP, served as corporate publicist for Hoerner Waldorf, 3M, Carlson and other companies for more than thirty years. While officially retired, in addition to his outdoor column he freelances magazine articles and publicity assignments for corporations

DAILY COURIER, Kamloops, B.C., Canada
Oct. 18, 1995 CR: G. Conway

UFO expert tips off X Files

FORT McMURRAY, Alta (CP) — UFO expert Stanton Friedman has mixed feelings about giving an occasional tip to The X Files TV series

"They used my term 'cosmic Watergate,' although without my permission," says the U.S. nuclear physicist

The popular science-fiction series has contacted Friedman three times for advice on how to make stories more believable.

"I'm a scientist. I don't think in fictional terms, but you have to speculate on some things. Like, why do they come here?"

"They" are the other intelligent life forms in the universe And Friedman has speculated plenty on why aliens may drop by. Maybe Earth is a honeymoon destination for some, or a supply stop in the Milky Way.

Friedman recently lectured in Fort McMurray on several aspects of his work, including the alleged flying saucer crash near Roswell, N M , in 1947.