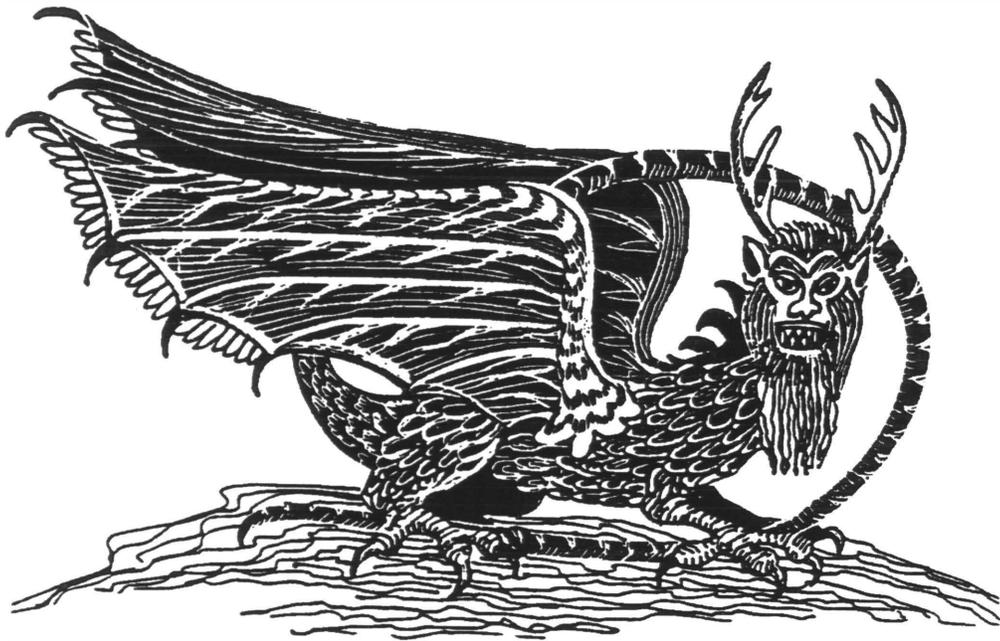


RICK HILBERG'S
BOOK



OF WEIRDOLGY

Archives for the Unexplained
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2021

INTRODUCTION

Weirdology was indeed a special publication. First issued in *Flying Saucer Digest* as a supplement in 1987, it soon became a stand alone newsletter under the capable editorship of Robert S. Easley who was also the editor of FSD at the time. Bob's work schedule was such that he asked me to take over the job of editing *Weirdology* starting with issue # 8 in 1989 so he could devote all of his time to FSD. I always had a keen interest in all things fortean, and I soon found a certain delight in digging up all sorts of tidbits that somehow didn't fit in with what was accepted by orthodox science - the "damned" that old Charles Fort so liked to slap the face of orthodoxy with. I even managed to fit in UFO related items that didn't somehow jibe with the then current ufological thinking, something that made for a weird mix indeed. To me this indicated that all of these strange "fortean" happenings were more than likely coming from the same source that produced the "UFO" phenomenon.

The great success that *Weirdology* enjoyed was due in large part to the many dedicated and enthusiastic readers who regularly clipped UFO and fortean items from their local papers and sent them in so we could share this information with the readership. They certainly made our job easier, and they deserve a tip of the old fedora. Anyway, our family business was taking up so much of our available time that we had to suspend publication in 1991.

As our time was freed up a wee bit, we decided to do a "best of" booklet in early 1999, the original version of the publication that you now hold in your hands. So well received was that publication that we "brought back" *Weirdology* in mid-1999 and published it for another twelve years before combining it with FSD in early 2011. Quite a good run for a small newsletter!

Rick Hilberg
February 11, 2015

**"Only those who know little of a matter can have a clear and definite opinion on it."
Charles Fort in *LO!***

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A WORD BEFORE WE GET WEIRD

Although I've been an active ufologist since 1962, I have also been interested in various fortean phenomena for quite a few years. Let's face it, sometimes the UFO phenomenon gets so strange and almost unreal that one has to wonder if what we call "UFOs" may be somehow related to all manner of things that we classify as "fortean."

The articles that you are about to read come from UAPA's fortean publication *Weirdology*, and from the column of the same name in *Flying Saucer Digest* that I had the pleasure to edit for over seven years. They are my pick of the best, and I hope that you enjoy the weirdness on the pages that follow. - Rick Hilberg

THE GHOST OF BASCOM HILL

Here's the first of two interesting ghost stories published in Wisconsin newspapers. It's from the October 24, 1988 edition of the *Wisconsin State Journal* (Madison) under the byline of Jay Roth:

Is the university haunted?

Long the setting for dances, pep rallies and protests, Bascom Hill on the UW-Madison campus was once a cemetery, and in 1880, it had its own ghost that terrorized students.

At least two of the long-forgotten graves remain, near the Lincoln statue, but they weren't discovered until 1918.

Four decades earlier, were their spirits content to rest, or did they walk among the living, angry at being forgotten?

Who was the ghost of North Hall?

In 1880, North Hall was a men's dormitory. *The Daily Cardinal* reported then that a student living on the second floor awoke late one night and left his room. At the other end of the hallway he saw an "apparition in white," apparently floating in midair.

The terrified student rushed into his room and woke his roommate. The two went back into the corridor to look for the ghost, but whatever it had been was gone. The roommate thought his friend was kidding him.

Later that night, the door of their room opened and the apparition entered. It said nothing and harmed neither of the students. According to the *Cardinal*, it "floated around the room a moment or so and then departed."

Word of the sighting quickly spread around campus and the ghost obliged the curious by reappearing for several more nights.

Sometimes, it appeared in a hallway, "skipping through the halls and vanishing," according to the campus newspaper. Other times, it would enter rooms, stay awhile and then leave. Often the ghost amused itself by taking coal from scuttles and heaving it down the stairs.

One student, Alvin Hitchcock, wrote an account of the happenings for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, describing the ghost's "garments of unearthly whiteness."

Bascom Hill would certainly be an appropriate spot for ghosts to appear. Long before the university took over the land, it was one of the city's first cemeteries.

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The graves were moved or forgotten until 1918, when workers excavating Bascom Hill discovered two bodies. They were identified as Samuel Warren and William Nelson, both of whom had come to Madison to build the Capitol. Nelson, who died in 1837, was the first white man to die in Madison. Warren died in 1838.

Could the ghost have been that of Warren or Nelson, angry that their grave had been forgotten?

UW President John Bascom finally decided the matter had gone far enough. When a group of students met with him, he decided to form an investigative committee of faculty members. They would stay in the dorm and watch for the ghost.

Before the investigation began, however, a student named Whitney Trousdale came to Bascom and said that he had been the ghost.

Trousdale, who later became a Methodist minister, said he dressed in a bedsheet and romped through the halls.

Warren and Nelson still rest on Bascom Hill. Warren's headstone was donated to the State Historical Society, but was thrown out in 1966. The graves are beneath the steps south of the Lincoln statue, marked only by two metal markers embedded in the cement. 1

THE DOG MEADOW GHOST

The second of our ghost tales comes from the April 19, 1989 edition of the *Monticello* (Wisc.) *Messenger* under the byline of Kim Tschudy:

Camping means campfires, which often times means telling ghost stories around the campfire. The more the stories scare us, the better the story. No need to worry though. Ghost stories are only made up tales. They are never anything that has ever happened.

Right?

Wrong!

If you happen to believe in ghosts or not is your business. But in this case if you happen to be a non-believer, I ask you to read this with an open mind. This is a true ghost story.

Just north of Watersmeet, Michigan this past summer, the six of us who made the annual trek to Sylvania Wilderness witnessed a ghostly happening.

Less than a mile from the Gogebic-Ontonagon county line, lies a place called the Dog Meadow. In daylight, the Dog Meadow is a beautiful pristine area of lowlands, tamarack and aspen.

Come nightfall, strange happenings abound in the Dog Meadow. Not the least of which is the Dog Meadow Ghost.

First a little history on the Dog Meadow Ghost. When we were looking for information, we went to George Peacock's Shell station in Watersmeet.

George, the unofficial community good humor man and seemingly one man chamber of commerce, told us "you can't get there from here. But if you drive north to the first left turn into Ontonagon county, you will probably see the Dog Meadow Ghost."

Probing a little deeper, George laughed and told us that the ghost is probably nothing more than a bunch of kids playing with a car headlight.

But every clear night of the year? Even when wind chills in January reach -50?

In the past, a set of train tracks ran through the Dog Meadow connecting Watersmeet and Ontonagon. The tracks have been long since removed. Local history tells of a train brakeman who was mysteriously

killed many years ago in the Dog Meadow.

George's instructions were to go to the top of the first or second hill on Robins Pond Road and wait until after dusk. "If it is a clear night, you will see the ghost of the Dog Meadow Brakeman."

As darkness approached, we headed for the spot George told us to go to. As we made the left turn and saw the hill we were to stop on, the hair stood up on the back of our necks.

We were told nothing would happen to us if we saw the ghost. The Dog Meadow Ghost has never harmed anyone since it was first seen in 1966.

As we crested the hill, we slowed down and suddenly came to a halt.

Directly in front of us was the ghost of the Dog Meadow Brakeman.

We silently watched what was ahead on the road. A white light, which looked like a train engine headlight, was shining directly at us.

Slightly closer to us, a light both red and green, came on faintly and slowly got brighter. As the light got brighter, they began to move in the half circle train brakemen used to signal the train engineer.

As we watched this unusual light, a car from the second hill told us of a couple of people who were going to try and sneak up on the light.

According to the stories we had heard, when this happens, the light goes out until the people leave the area near the light.

The light went out, coming back on about 29 minutes later.

As the light came back on, it suddenly was much closer to us but we never saw it move toward us. It was just there, never going out while it moved. What was $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from us, was now just 100 yards from us. The green and red light began swinging again.

Attempts to photograph the Dog Meadow Ghost with a manual camera loaded with color film worked. An automatic camera with black and white film failed to operate. That camera had worked properly before and after the Dog Meadow. 2

DALE RETTIG ARTICLE ON UFOs AND LIGHT BEAM COMMUNICATION

The question of whether actual contact with the elusive UFOs has ever been made is one of the burning questions that has been facing UFO researchers since 1947. Notice that I said only "contact", because we're not just talking about physical contact with possible "saucerians" - we have to include other forms - such as mental and electronic communication.

While we are all aware of the many and varied forms of physical contact claims made over the years, I'll bet that you have seen very few reports of contact by an electronic source or device as opposed to some sort of mental communication. That's because very few attempts have ever been made in this manner for whatever reasons. And to my knowledge anyway, the bulk of the attempts were made in the "early days" of the UFO saga.

That's why we're running the following piece. Because it's a fascinating look at early attempts to make contact with the UFO beings, and some of the information it contains has not seen publication in many years. Mr. Rettig's article appeared in the March/April issue of the *UFO Sighter - Reporter*, a publication that I happened to be associated with at the time:

During the course of organized UFO research, it has been the goal of many groups and individuals to establish contact with these "interplanetary visitors." By far the best means of attempting this feat, as of this date, has been to use apparatus known as light-beam communicators.

Basically, this device is fairly simple. In the September 1962 issue of the *UFO Sighter*, Harry Siebert describes his attempt at contacting outer space visitors with light beams. The diagram accompanying the article shows the instruments used, and the basic layout. Various alterations may be used in the set-up of a communicator, and the device may either be quite elaborate or downright crude. Most of them, like Mr. Siebert's, fall in between these two categories. The purpose of this article is not to inform the reader how to build one of these devices, but rather to inform one of the successes of light-beam communication.

Perhaps the most outstanding authority on light-beam communication is a man named John Otto. Mr. Otto resided quite close to where I live, at one time, and is still well known for his contact attempts via light beams. The news media of Chicago were quite responsive to Otto's contact attempts, and usually gave them wide publicity. I believe that Otto moved away from Chicago to California a few years ago, though I cannot confirm this. Anyway, most of you have heard of the famous "WGN Code." To review this incident briefly, on November 28, 1954, over station WGN in Chicago, John Otto conducted an experiment. Disc jockey Jim Mills read a pre-arranged script requesting "all Earth listeners" to listen for a fifteen second silencing period in which WGN, while on full power, would shut off its microphones and allow our "space visitors" to reply to Mills' request for communication. The attempt resulted in reports from four people, two of which had succeeded in tape-recording the "reply." This recording has resulted in endless controversy, and I do not wish to elaborate on it, as another article could be written on it, perhaps I shall write on this particular code in the future. Let us say that a reply was received, and there is a good amount of evidence which says the reply was not faked.

But John Otto did not stop here. Over radio station KFI of Los Angeles, with the assistance of Ben Hunter, a disc jockey, they tried again, and again. On April 30, 1957, John Otto and Jack Maynard, head of the Great Lakes UFO Association, held a contact attempt using light beams over the waters of Lake Michigan. Operating from two "contact boats", Otto and Maynard, along with several others, observed first several "flare-like, orange colored, meteor-like" objects overhead, some of which traveled in a horizontal trajectory. And, to top it off, two orange colored discs passed overhead which could not be identified.

A UFO researcher in Chicago, Mr. William S. Gryzik, has supplied me with further information on John Otto. In October of 1960, an attempt similar to the one previously discussed was held. It seems that another "orange lighted object" was observed, although I have no details on this communication at the moment. But apparently it was a partial success.

Of course John Otto has not been alone in his attempts. Across the Pacific Ocean, in Japan, a group known as the Cosmic Brotherhood Association has attempted at least three, if not more contacts, using light-beam apparatus. On June 7, 1958, after an all night vigil, the Association allegedly received a reply, spoken in broken Japanese, which reads as follows: "Hello, our Japanese friends. It's very nice of you to contact us despite the rain. Thank you very much." On August 17, 1958 another contact attempt was made by the CBA.

At 3:30 the next morning, they received the following message in Morse code. It repeated itself several times. Although intelligible, it reads thusly: "R-U-A-E-X-I-L-Q." I understand tape recordings were made

of the message. A similar attempt by the CBA on November 16, 1958 was spectacularly unsuccessful.

There you have it. Several instances where *something* was seen or heard using light-beam apparatus. True, nothing conclusive, but still *something*.

A contact attempt, involving more than a few persons, has not been attempted in quite a while. As it is, some groups are so against this whole field of contact that they refuse to even listen. It is of my opinion that the United UFOlogical Association could sponsor some type of contact attempt. Nevertheless, the fact remains that contact, no matter how insignificant it may seem, has more than likely been made. 3

"BLOB" FALLS IN FLORIDA

As gardener Angelo Rosario was planting a tree in the backyard of a Islamorada home on June 11, 1989 what the local news media calls the "Blob" made its appearance.

It fell from the sky, splashed down behind him and started to bubble. Rosario poked at it. His boss, Betty Rosenthal, called the police.

When Monroe County Sgt. Tom Brazil arrived, the substance had transformed itself into a foam-like solid, two feet in diameter.

"He took it into custody," sheriff's spokesman Becky Herrin said.

"I should be afraid to go home," neighbor Linda Clarke said. "I lie out on the dock near where this thing fell."

Some in the sheriff's office think it is some kind of insulation dropped from a passing plane. Art Skelly, Monroe airport director, doubts the Blob was a byproduct from a plane's plumbing system. "Planes do not dump their latrines in the air," he said. "The stuff is held in tanks." 4

MINNESOTA BIGFOOT

The following feature was written by Jim Anderson of the Red Wing, Minnesota *Republican Eagle*, and appeared in the July 23, 1988 issue. It's a good example of the belief that native Americans have in Bigfoot-type creatures going back many hundreds of years into their history:

The discovery of what appears to be an 18-inch long, human-like footprint on Prairie Island Indian Reservation is more than a curiosity among the tight-knit community.

To Indians living here who follow traditional beliefs, it is a signal to find renewed spiritual strength in a time of difficulty.

Wayne Running Wolf was sitting in his living room on the reservation at about 9:30 p.m. Thursday (July 21st) when his dogs began barking frantically. He said he noticed something out of the corner of his eye through a window as he got up to see what the commotion was about.

"I saw a shadow or shape, but I don't know exactly what I saw," Running Wolf said.

"Whether it was a shadow or a shape, I don't know," he added. "I'd be a liar if I claimed either one. I thought someone was messing with my car."

"Our dog in the house, he was barking at the same time," added Dwight Wells, a neighbor.

What Running Wolf did discover, and has no doubts about, were two huge footprints crossing his driveway and heading toward a nearby wooded area. One print became obscured in the soft sand, but the clearer one definitely appears human-like, with five distinct toes on the end.

What outsiders might easily dismiss as a hoax is seen by several

spiritual leaders here as a sign that Cee-ha-tonka, referred to simply as "the big man," has paid a call.

"We have our old legends about 'the big man,'" Running Wolf said. "If it exists, it exists. You accept it." Common misunderstandings of Indian culture and sense of spirituality may cause some to scoff, "but I know what I'm looking at," Running Wolf said, carefully covering the print under a wheelbarrow.

"That big man, he's been around for centuries," Wells added. Both men referred questions about the meaning of the big man to tribal spiritual leaders.

The big man appears "mostly near where there are Indian communities that are struggling or having problems," said Amos Owen, spiritual head of the community. "That's a message for us. But the people are afraid of it."

The Prairie Island Community is in grief this week over the untimely, accidental death Thursday of 27-year-old Clayton Wells, Dwight's brother.

A sign is always left behind after the appearance: a footprint, a musky scent, a tuft of hair or broken tree limbs too big for a normal-sized human to smash, he said.

"In our way of beliefs, they make appearances at troubled times," said Ralph Gray Wolf, an Alaskan spiritual leader visiting Prairie Island. He helps those troubled communities "to get more in tune with Mother Earth" and gain spiritual energy and inner strength. With the renewal comes the ability to face the difficulty.

Before appearing, the big man sends "signs or messages that there is a need to change, a need to cleanse," Gray Wolf said. "Right afterward, is when he makes his appearances."

"The legend has a way of teaching you. It disciplines you in certain ways," said Ray Owen, Amos' son. "It's to make you become more aware of other things."

The sign of the big man is preceded by a sense of foreboding among the tribe, he said, adding he could sense that before this week.

"I was up in Minneapolis, and I just had to get back down here," he said. "I felt that pressure, that tension."

The trio said the big man has appeared in many Indian communities: Standing Rock, ND, Pine Ridge, SD, even Prairie Island five years ago, to name a few.

Legends of a "Bigfoot" or "sasquatch" among Indian tribes of the Pacific Northwest, along with claims of footprints, photos and other purported evidence has been sensationalized in the same class as the Loch Ness Monster and UFOs.

But for some Prairie Island residents, it is a time of looking quietly inward and seeking spiritual guidance.

Scientists have tried to debunk the evidence of the big man's existence, Gray Wolf pointed out, "but they've never been able to disprove it." 5

DETECTING EARTHQUAKES USING EXTRA-SENSORY MEANS?

An article we ran on earthquakes and associated sightings of UFO-like lights prompted the following experiences by one of our long-time readers, Patricia J. Meldrum of Michigan:

I have had an on-going experience since November 21, 1988 that deals with earthquakes. In the beginning I was very puzzled, then I became annoyed. That turned into depression and I have now finally come to

terms with it, although I still cannot explain it, let alone prove it.

In your article linking UFO sightings with earthquakes you made a statement that you didn't feel right with a few of the associations because they were three or more days apart. I don't think the UFOs are causing the earthquakes. I think they are merely observing. Maybe my experiences will help you to think more along those lines.

I will explain to you first that I am a housewife and home much of the time. It's almost always quiet in the house while I work or the radio is on very low because I enjoy the peaceful time for thinking. We live in a two story, wood frame house built in 1913. The house sits over a full block basement and in the southwest corner of the basement is the old cistern that was used years ago to catch rain water. It is constructed of a double wall of block and over the years it was made water tight and a door added so it might be used for storage. I mention this cistern because I feel it may pertain somehow to my experiences. Directly over the cistern is the old kitchen pantry which has been converted into a bathroom. Outside the bathroom, to the north, is the kitchen and to the east, the dining room. Almost all of my experiences have occurred in those three locations.

On November 21, 1988 the rumblings began, or at least I began to notice them. My husband and two sons thought I was crazy when I first mentioned them and frankly, I wondered myself for a short time.

To explain the rumblings is very difficult. I hear the rumbling noise with my ears, but I also feel it throughout my body, almost like an internal vibration. The closest thing I can come to it, to help you understand, would be the vibration of a train or diesel ship engine. Have you ever heard the approach of a train off in the distance and you hear a sort of rumbling? Or have you ever lived near a river traveled by freighters? The rumbling of their diesel engines travels inland and you can almost feel the rumbling in your soul, like a heart beat. And I imagine the American Indians heard the same type of rumbling when they would put their ear to the ground to hear the approaching buffalo.

The noise that I hear can be anything from a low rumbling to a noise much like the roll of thunder and at times a thumping sound with it. On about three different occasions I have actually felt a vibration to the point of losing my balance.

On the morning of November 21, 1988 I began to notice the rumbling. It was loud and startled me. I thought that maybe a large truck had passed by but upon checking, found none and knew it next to impossible because of the narrow street that we live on in the village. I mentioned it to my husband that night and he just passed it off as a noise. Within a few days of that first rumbling a large earthquake was reported in China. I found no connection at that time so I just passed it off.

It was quiet for a few days and then on the morning of December 5, 1988 the rumbling began and continued throughout the month. I was not charting these rumblings then as I am now, so I don't have exact days but I noted earthquakes in the month of December, 1988: Armenia, Russia on December 7 (6.9); Alaska; Palm Springs, CA on December 16 (4.9) and the L.A. area of California.

I thought I was beginning to see a pattern. First the rumbling sounds and then one to seven days later an earthquake. When I discussed this with my husband, he looked puzzled and just could not understand, but to calm me he said he thought it might be possible.

In January of 1989 I began to regularly chart the rumbling sounds on

my calendar, noting the time of day, the intensity of the noise and the location I was in the house when I heard it. I have never heard this rumbling sound outside of my house, although I did feel a vibration once. Also, I will have lapses of not hearing anything when my mind is preoccupied with events. The rumbling may be absent or may just get absorbed by everyday noises.

I began to chart the rumblings to see if there might be a pattern. I have read of a few who could predict earthquakes and volcanoes and was beginning to wonder if this might be the same. I thought if I could chart a time frame and location I heard the rumbling and the intensity of it, I might be able to pinpoint the location of the earthquake. The charting has almost made it worse because now when I hear the rumbling I know an earthquake or volcano will occur and I am helpless to do anything. It's like a rock hanging over your head constantly.

Below is a copy of my charting of the rumblings I've heard to date and the earthquakes or volcano that I found reported. I have found that very few of the earthquakes occurring in the world are reported unless they are major quakes. Would the public panic if they knew the earth shook weekly somewhere in the world?

CHARTING

November 21, 1988: rumbling is first noticed. Shortly after a large quake is reported in China.

December 5, 1988: rumbling heard weekly throughout the month, but did not chart regularly as of then. earthquakes in Alaska, Russia, Palm Springs and the L.A. area of California.

January 1, 1989: rumbling, 9 a.m., southwest corner of house.

January 2, 1989: rumbling, 11 a.m., southwest corner of house.

January 3, 1989: loud rumbling, 7:35 a.m. southwest corner.

January 4, 1989: aftershocks in Russia from Dec. 7th quake.

January 6, 1989: rumbling heard throughout house, 1:00 p.m.

January 8, 1989: earthquake reported (3.5) didn't get location.

January 11, 1989: rumbling, 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. SW corner.

January 18, 1989: low tone rumbling, 9 p.m. SW corner.

January 23, 1989: earthquake in Russia, 5.4 on scale.

January 27, 1989: rumbling, 12:30 p.m. SW corner.

January 29, 1989: earthquake Utah, 5.4 on scale.

February 20, 1989: thumping noise, 7:30 a.m.

March 9, 1989: low rumbling, 9:45 a.m. SW corner.

March 13, 1989: massive quake in Germany - massive blackout in Quebec and Discovery shuttle take off. (any UFO sightings?)

March 30, 1989: rumbling, 1:15 p.m. east side of house.

April 1, 1989: earthquake in Turkey.

April 14, 1989: rumbling, late afternoon, SW corner.

April 20, 1989: extremely loud rumbling, 12:30 p.m. SW.

April 25, 1989: earthquake, Mexico City 6.8 on scale.

May 30, 1989: rumbling, 1:30 p.m. SW corner.

June 9, 1989: rumbling, 1:00 p.m. SW corner.

June 13, 1989: earthquake, L.A. Calif. 4.3 to 4.5 - 2 quakes.

It was about at this time that the rumbling noises began to weigh heavy on me and although my husband was also seeing a pattern form, his

acknowledgment could not console me. I thought that I might be going crazy because no one else could hear it even if they were standing near me. Up to this time I told no one except my husband and two sons about the rumbling noises because I knew that they would think me crazy for sure. I tried to block the rumbling out and did not record for about a month. Maybe I thought if I didn't hear the rumbling there would be no earthquake or maybe I was just trying to deny it all.

Finally one day I confided in one of my sisters who lives about 30 miles east of me and found that she also had been hearing rumbling noises but did not know what they were. Since she lived near a river she thought it might be the freighters that pass. I often called her after that when I heard the rumbling and she would verify that she had also heard them. I finally decided to continue charting the rumbling although it still bothered me.

I tried to rule out what the noises might be. Maybe trucks passing on the highway two blocks from my house, possible construction equipment, but there was no construction going on within two miles of my home and still there was the fact of an earthquake occurring within days of the rumbling. Everything pointed to a connection of the rumbling and following earthquakes.

September 12, 1989: rumbling and felt vibrations, 9:45 a.m. SW
 September 14, 1989: earthquake, Italy, large scale.
 September 20, 1989: rumbling, and felt vibrations, 8:45 a.m. SW
 September 26, 1989: earthquake, Iran.
 October 4&5, 1989: earthquakes, Iran, South America and Alaska.
 October 8, 1989: earthquake, Palm Springs, CA 3.3 on scale.
 October 24, 1989: series of loud rumblings, 7:45 a.m. SW
 October 24, 1989: earthquake, San Francisco, CA 4.5 - evening.
 October 25, 1989: series of loud rumblings, 7:45 a.m. SW
 October 29, 1989: was painting exterior of house. I was standing on the front porch roof painting the second story wall and holding onto the window frame. My husband had gotten off the ladder 5-10 min. before. At 3:30 p.m., north part of house, it felt like the house shifted 2" and I had to sit down to keep my balance. My husband felt nothing.
 October 30, 1989: earthquake, Algeria 6.0. Aftershock 6.0.
 November 1, 1989: earthquake, 300 miles of the coast of Japan, 7.0.
 November 1, 1989: earthquake, San Francisco, 4.4.
 November 13, 1989: severe rumbling, felt vibrations, 10:15 a.m. east.
 November 16, 1989: rumbling, 12:45 p.m. SW
 Nov. 10-17, 1989: earthquakes L.A., CA, Japan, several islands of the eastern Aegean Sea.
 November 27, 1989: rumbling, 9:30 a.m. east side of house.
 November 28, 1989: earthquake, New Mexico, 4.5; also southern China.
 January 2, 1990: 9:30 p.m. felt vibration while sitting in chair.
 January 2, 1990: volcano eruption, Alaska, 6 p.m.
 January 4, 1990: volcano, Alaska.
 January 8, 1989: severe rumbling, 11:49 a.m. SW
 Jan. 7 - 13, 1990: earthquakes; Peru, Alaska, south China, Italy and Australia. Volcanoes; Alaska, Italy and Mt. Saint Helen.
 January 16, 1990: rumbling, 11:21 a.m., SW
 January 16, 1990: earthquake, Eureka, CA 5.8 - 11:30 a.m.

February 5, 1990: rumbling, 11:15 a.m. SW
 February 8, 1990: rumbling and thumping noises, 10:30 a.m., SW
 February 10, 1990: volcano in Indonesia.
 February 12, 1990: 6:15 p.m. - eating in dining room, felt my chair vibrate and became dizzy, lasted only seconds.
 Feb 16 - 18, 1990: earthquakes, New Zealand, tremors felt in Japan, Mexico, Vanuato, Nepal, Algeria, South Carolina, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands. Volcano, Hawaii.
 March 5, 1990: rumbling, 10:35 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. east.
 March 9, 1990: earthquake, Alaska 5.5.
 March 20, 1990: 2 earthquakes in Chile.
 March 29, 1990: low rumbling 11:20 a.m. SW
 March 29, 1990: earthquake, England 5.6.
 April 3, 1990: earthquake, Nigeria 6.6. Volcano, Hawaii.
 April 6, 1990: earthquake, Oakland, CA 3.5. Two strong tremors felt in Japan.
 April 13, 1990: earthquake, Washington near Seattle, 5.1.
 April 18, 1990: loud rumbling, 2:17 p.m. SW
 April 19, 1990: rumbling, 9:00 a.m. SW
 April 19, 1990: earthquake in L.A. area of CA, and aftershocks.
 April 26, 1990: earthquake, China 6.7.

A few months after the rumblings began I read an article in a science magazine stating that women, for some reason, could hear higher frequency sounds than men could. I thought maybe this could be the answer since my ears have always been super sensitive to noise. Certain pitches of sound that are comfortable to most can almost be painful to my ears.

Why was I hearing these rumblings? The question dragged on me and I searched for an answer. Then in December of 1989 I found two articles in the newspaper discussing the possibility of predicting earthquakes through ultra-low frequency radio waves that scientists detected before the October 17, 1989 earthquake in San Francisco, CA.

I began to wonder if it were possible that I was also picking up ultra-low frequencies before the quakes. I also wondered why I only heard the rumblings while I was home. My sister also heard them from time to time but she was always home too, and she lives in a similar house.

I thought maybe I was paying more attention to the rumblings while at home and most of the outside noises were blocked out. As I looked at my chartings I noticed that most of the rumblings were heard in the southwest corner of my house, directly over the old cistern. I've thought that maybe the cistern acts like a large amplifier, echoing the sounds coming from the earth. If the Indians could hear approaching buffalo through the ground, could it be so impossible to hear fault lines beginning to shift hundreds of miles away?

I don't know the answer, I wish I did. I have finally come to terms with my feelings and the rumblings. I continue to chart them and try to make some sense out of them. I have noticed that the louder the rumbling noises are, the more severe the quakes are.

Scientists have been predicting another large quake for California for some time now. I have also had a feeling, that's very deep rooted that a major quake will occur in the Los Angeles area that will measure *at least equal*, to the quake of 1906 in San Francisco. I've had a feeling of a quake measuring 8.0 to 9.3. The pressure is building all

along the coast, from Alaska to South America. The magnitude of the quakes in that area the last few months proves this.

But, I feel the "Big One" is yet to come. I wish I could predict the time, I struggle with this. All I can do is wait and listen and pray.

I am interested in what you think about these rumblings. And is it possible that maybe the UFOs sighted could also be picking up frequency waves, the rumblings?

I know that you deal with the scientific side of events, but I have learned to listen to gut-feelings. Some things just cannot be proven by science as of yet.

I honestly don't feel that the UFOs are causing the quakes. I think they are observing, as we observe and study other distant planets; so we too are under the microscope. Someday we will look out into the heavens with our telescopes and see an eye looking back at us. 6

THE LEGEND OF THE ARKANSAS "WATER PANTHER"

Columnist W. C. Jameson of the *Conway Log Cabin Democrat* gives us this fascinating look at a local legend in his January 20, 1994 offering:

Long before white settlers moved in large numbers into Arkansas, the Indians who lived and hunted along the Little Red River told of a strange creature often spotted in the waters and in the woods. This creature, which the Indians called a water panther, was regarded as a spirit-monster and, according to the legend, has lived for ages in the region, occasionally preying on human beings.

Early white trappers spoke of encountering the water panther, of hearing its cries at night, and several deaths were attributed to the creature. When loggers moved into the area during the 1870s, they, too, reported the existence of a monster stalking them in the woods.

Years later, as deer hunting grew in the region, outdoorsmen came in contact with the water panther from time to time. Just as before, deaths were blamed on the creature.

After Greers Ferry Lake was formed and the waters of the Little Red River were backed up, much of the region roamed by the creature was inundated and sightings of the monster ceased. For a while.

Then, in the 1960s, it was seen again, and quite frequently. Rather than roaming and stalking the wooded bottoms of the Little Red River, however, the water panther was more often than not spotted in the lake itself! Legend claims the beast lived in one of the many limestone caves found near the shores.

For years, drownings in the lake were attributed to the monster. The bodies that were never found, and there were several, were believed to have been eaten by the water panther.

In the early 1970s, a scuba diver reported encountering the water panther near an underwater opening to a cavern. The creature, a horrid, man-like form covered with fur, rushed at the diver and ripped off his mask. Frightened for his life, the diver kicked and flailed and succeeded in fending off the beast until he could reach the surface and safety.

Many dismiss the tales of the water panther as merely fanciful folklore, designed only to scare the wits out of the gullible. Others, many of them long-time residents of the region near Greers Ferry Lake and the Little Red River, are not so sure.

At night, they claim, they can still hear the eerie cries of the creature. 7

GLOWING HALO OF LIGHT SEEN IN IOWA

A glowing halo of light seen hovering over a farm field January 29, 1990 by a rural Wellman woman is being taken seriously by the Washington County Sheriff's Dept. as an unidentified flying object, one of two apparent sightings in a month.

Charleen Miller also is taking her evening encounter on a country road earnestly. Now she's driving a different route to her Iowa City job, hoping to avoid something she doesn't want to meet alone again in the dark.

Chief Sheriff's Deputy Jack Dillon says he knows of Miller's reputation in the Wellman area as a rational woman with a husband and two kids.

Another alleged sighting also is helping collaborate Miller's story. Within the past few weeks the sheriff's department dispatchers received an anonymous call from someone reporting a mysterious light in the night sky between Wellman and West Chester, which are about nine miles apart.

Miller's unwanted experience began at 9:00 p.m. Monday on her way to work. About two miles north of Wellman, on County Road W-38, Miller sensed a bright light. She turned her head to the west and what she saw was a dark mass, flanked by two beacons, lit by a halo of light.

"It was huge. It was coming down and there were two blue lights" on the sides of the mass at what would be the 8 and 2 o'clock points of a clock. She looked for a few seconds, then turned to the front to make sure her car was on the road. "I looked back at it and as I looked at it, it vanished." 8

TEXAS ICE FALL

This interesting ice fall report comes from John Yearwood's excellent story in the Nov. 24, 1987 edition of the *Dallas Morning News*:

Gene Gordon was in his backyard tending to his flowers when he heard the crash.

A startled Gordon then walked around the side of his house to his front driveway.

"As I did, a chunk of green ice fell off the roof," said Gordon, a photographer for the *Fort Worth Star - Telegram*.

Gordon, who lives about 35 miles from Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, said he believes the ice fell from an aircraft approaching the airport from the west coast. Airport and Federal Aviation officials said the ice may have formed from a leaky toilet in an aircraft flying over Gordon's home Sunday.

"I knew instantly where it came from," Gordon said Monday. "I have an RV and am familiar with chemical toilets."

The ice is made green by the chemicals used to sanitize the toilets, officials said.

Gordon's wife, Sybil, was in the living room with their 3-week-old grandson when the ice fell, Gordon said. The ice damaged the sheetrock ceiling, cracked a light fixture and broke a bulb. Gordon estimated the damage at \$500.

It was unclear Monday who will end up footing the bill for the damage.

Gordon was told by FAA officials that an investigation will be conducted to determine what aircraft was flying over the area, located southwest of the airport, when the incident occurred about 3:45 p.m.

The airline would then be responsible for paying Gordon for the damage, said Mitch Barker, an FAA spokesman.

"I talked with my insurance company," Gordon said. "They said they'll go ahead and process the claim (but) I would prefer to get it fixed by the airline."

Meanwhile, Gordon said he's holding on to the green ice, which he wrapped in a plastic bag and put in his freezer.

Gordon collected the ice from insulation in which it had become embedded after falling through the attic. The 8-by 16-inch hole in the roof was covered with plastic for protection from rain, Gordon said.

The search for the aircraft from which the ice fell will not be easy, said Norm Scroggins, Manager for the DFW Radar Approach Control Tower.

"It will be a futile effort, akin to looking for a needle in a haystack," Scroggins said. "It will be extremely difficult to identify the aircraft."

Barker said the FAA will review tapes to help identify the aircraft. But Scroggins said the tapes would not be totally accurate because there could have been other aircraft in the area that were not in contact with the airport control tower.

"The ice could have come from an aircraft that was flying over the area at a much higher altitude," Scroggins said.

Incidents where dripping water from bathrooms form ice and cause problems for aircraft or homeowners are very rare, officials said. 9

MELANISM IN PUMAS: A CASE FOR THE PHANTOM PANTHER?

Here is one of my favorite *Weirdology* articles by noted fortean writer and investigator Curt Sutherly:

They have been called by many names: panther, catamount, panther, mountain screamer, king cat, silver lion...cougar.

Another name, one I prefer, is *puma* - from the Incas for "lion."

In the East, the big cats were already extirpated in most regions nearly a century ago. Florida, alone of the eastern states, continues to have a recognized breeding colony of cougars. However, the Florida colony is in trouble: at last report, no more than 30 of the big cats remained - their numbers declining due to inbreeding and resulting genetic disorder.

Despite this, and despite official denials that the puma is making a comeback in the East, widespread reports continue to emerge of shadowy, lion-like creatures. Many fortean investigators and writers (and I include myself here) have maintained that at least some of these accounts are part of the "paracreature" phenomenon which seems to correspond closely to the UFO phenomenon. Also included here is sasquatch (the three-toed variety, at least) and perhaps the ever elusive phantom kangaroo of North America.

In mid-1988 I began a three-month investigation of mystery cat reports in Pennsylvania, with the aim of publishing in a state outdoor magazine (*Pennsylvania Game & Fish*). From the start, I worked closely with PG&F editor Mike Toth, who was intrigued with the idea that pumas might be returning to Pennsylvania. Nonetheless, I believe we both had doubts that the story idea would evolve into anything of significance.

Because Game & Fish Publishing is located in Marietta, Georgia (the company handles a large number of state titles and one national book), I conferred with Mike by telephone. At the same time I drew on the expertise of two Pennsylvania naturalists, Glenn and Danita Wampler, who live only a few miles from my home and who at the time owned three pumas and a bobcat.

(By way of explanation, the Wamplers operate a licensed menagerie which permits them to shelter non-domestic animals. They work closely with Pennsylvania Game Commission officials, and have cared for many injured or displaced wildlife species. Two of their big cats - a mated pair - died within three weeks of each other in 1989 from causes still undetermined, though believed to be natural. The remaining puma, a young female, was left in their custody by federal agents - another story entirely.)

Following a lengthy period of interviews, field work, and reference research, the article was completed in two parts and published in the February and March issues of *Pennsylvania Game & Fish*. More importantly, my early skepticism was proven to be unfounded; not only are reports of pumas fairly abundant in Pennsylvania (despite a contradictory viewpoint by the state Game Commission) but most of these accounts appear to be of legitimate mountain lions and not of shadowy, mysterious paracreatures.

In fact, a genuine surprise was the discovery that a small percentage of these reports are of melanistic (all-black) pumas, even though this color phase is not supposed to exist at all in North America. (The melanistic cougar is found in South America, though even there only one black puma has ever been taken - a cat killed by a hunter.)

One Pennsylvania report focused on in the article came from a woman named Esther Trough, who resides with her retired husband, Jack, in a secluded, heavily wooded location bordering an extensive region of state game land. Her account (related to Danita Wampler and myself) was of a close confrontation with a large cat - unmistakably a cougar except the animal was black. *Completely* black, with no discoloration or underlying spotting as one would find in a melanistic jaguar.

During a lengthy interview, Esther responded without hesitation to our questions, and we could find no fault or contradiction in her story. We also examined the site where the alleged encounter took place; we found plenty of deer sign and small game sign, and evidence of recent small bird kills.* Afterward, Danita and I agreed that a large cat could hunt without difficulty in the area.

Esther's encounter, we were told, occurred during the spring of 1983 while she was searching for pine seedlings to transplant from the mountain to her yard.

"I was pulling this screechy little cart, looking down, when something dark passed in front of me," she recalled. At the time Esther was on a mountain trail behind her home, nearing a natural spring from which the Trough's pipe water to their house.

"I looked up and there it was," she declared, "and I thought, Oh dear God, please don't let it jump on me."

After staring at the animal for long, silent seconds, Esther said she backed carefully away. The cat, which crouched on the opposite side of the spring, made no move to attack. Later, safely back in the house, Esther said she began to shake - a reaction to the experience.

Subsequent research revealed that others in the area had similar sightings during a roughly two-year period - among them a bow hunter who watched a black cougar from his camouflaged position.

These and other accounts gathered for the *Game & Fish* article were supported by information provided by Stan Gordon, director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Investigation of the Unexplained. Stan's investigations have turned up tracks (in July 1984, which he cast) that clearly show the mark of a puma. He also has a bulging file of puma

reports.

Other supporting information was a videotape of a cougar recorded by a cameraman for KDKA-TV in Pittsburgh on June 1, 1982.

Taken as a whole, this is all difficult to dismiss. Pumas do appear to be making a comeback in Pennsylvania, and in several neighboring states, including Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. And if the reports are accurate, at least some of these cats are all black in color.

This, in turn, tends to put a somewhat different light on the mysterious "phantom panthers".

My personal view, derived from my own research, is that many - indeed, perhaps most - accounts of phantom panthers are tied to genuine puma activity and are *not* of parapsychical origin. But take note: I am not saying I entirely discount the parapsychical view.

At the same time, some fortune-tellers might quickly dismiss the idea of melanism in pumas while wholeheartedly embracing the idea of shadow creatures from an alternative realm. Nevertheless, and as noted earlier, melanism in pumas *does occur* in South America. The introduction of this characteristic into the United States would have required no more than a single mating between a South American puma and one of its Central or North American cousins.

Assuming for the sake of argument, that any such event occurred let it also be noted that melanism might not be immediately evident in puma offspring, and perhaps not for several generations. Eventually, however, a black kitten would be born. Then more generations might pass before another black kitten came to litter. But slowly, gradually, the potential for melanism would begin to increase as the gene pool is broadened through continued reproduction.

My suspicion is that within ten years there will be irrefutable evidence of puma activity in the East, just as the eastern coyote is now an accepted reality (it wasn't a decade ago). And if some of these cats exhibit a melanistic trait, then another archetype - that of the "phantom panther" in North America - becomes a reality.

*A puma will feed on birds, rodents and other small life forms as well as on larger animals. They require considerable fuel for their metabolism, and when hungry are not prone to be picky. 10

WISCONSIN MYSTERY CAT

After Curt Sutherly's excellent report on melanistic cougars in *Weirdology* Issue #18, we just had to print the following news report sent in to us by long-time researcher Richard Heiden. It ran in the August 17, 1989 edition of the *Gay Mills, Wisconsin Crawford County Independent & Kickapoo Scout*:

The Crawford County Sheriff's Department and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources are investigating several reports that a cougar was seen in the Mt. Sterling area on several occasions last week. A report from the Sheriff's Department said the reports came in last Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (the 8th, 9th and 10th - Ed).

DNR Warden Dennis Kirschbaum said Monday that the cougar is not a wild animal. He said it apparently escaped from somewhere, though a check with cougar owners in the county didn't turn up any missing animal (How often do we hear this line in regards to mystery animal reports? - Ed). Kirschbaum said the animal is not from this county and has been seen at different times during the past month. Tobacco farmers saw it one day between Mt. Sterling and Gay Mills, and others have heard it at night, though they haven't seen it.

Kirschbaum has verified that it is a cougar and has plaster impressions of the animal's tracks. Is it dangerous? Kirschbaum says the animal has done nothing to indicate it's dangerous and may even be declawed. If the animal were a nuisance, maybe someone would shoot it, but the game warden is hopeful the animal can be trapped alive and then taken to a game farm where it would be "better off." He theorizes that it survives by eating rodents.

The animal is about 6 feet long, according to Kirschbaum. He says the cougar's body is about 3½ feet long and the tail is 2½ feet long. It's possible this is the same cougar reported near La Crosse six months ago. He says once the animal establishes a pattern, an effort will be made to trap it.

Kirschbaum said there have been several reliable reports that a bear has been seen in several parts of the county...Eastman, Ferryville, and near the Richland County line. He said the reports are "very reliable." He said the reports are of bear cubs, but he has been unable to get any tracks. 11

"SENECA GUNS" RETURN TO NORTH CAROLINA?

The following Associated Press release from Sunset Beach, North Carolina on September 4, 1990 once again raises the question regarding mystery "booms" often heard offshore:

Just what is that noise that residents along the coast have been hearing?

Reverberations powerful enough to shake beach cottages are heard and felt several times every autumn along the coast in New Hanover and Brunswick counties.

"It moves the earth, I tell you," Minnie Hunt of Sunset Beach said. "Sometimes you get two or three in a row."

Residents long ago nicknamed the strange sounds the "Seneca guns," she said. Lacking an explanation, they concocted a myth that the Seneca Indians, edged out of their land when European settlers arrived in the New World, were returning with the white man's own weapons for revenge.

Residents who are now grandparents say their own grandparents remembered the rumbles, so they predate the sonic booms of jets breaking the sound barrier.

And the beach booms, which only last two or three seconds, have a different resonance than supersonic aircraft, Mrs. Hunt said. Neither can the noises - which occur most often on clear days - be confused with thunder.

"It's a very distinct sound," she said. "It can be likened to both of those, but it's not either."

The noises clearly emanate from the sea, she said.

"There's no doubt it's coming from the ocean," she said. "It's not a land phenomenon."

Many have supposed there is a military connection, Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal, a shipping point for ammunition and explosives on the Brunswick County shoreline, is often accused.

But Myrtle Meade, a spokesman for Sunny Point, said the terminal just moves the explosives. It doesn't use them.

"We do military shipping operations and they're very quiet on that water," Meade said. She said other military installations also disavowed any connection with the disturbances.

"We have looked at it and looked at it and looked at it, and it's not us," she said.

The sounds occur most often in the fall and spring, though they occasionally shiver across the beaches in other seasons. Sometimes they shake the coast more than once in a day. Sometimes they happen a few days in a row. Sometimes they are weeks apart. They have been reported as far north as Carteret County, but are most frequent near Wilmington and southward. 12

BEAR OR BIGFOOT IN OKLAHOMA?

Staffer Ziva Branstetter of the *Tulsa Tribune* filed the following report on August 14, 1990:

Two reports of a hairy, stinky creature estimated to be up to 10 feet tall have sent Bigfoot rumors flying in eastern Cherokee County.

But a state wildlife official says he's sure it's a bear.

Undersheriff Dan Garber said the hairy creature was sighted first on August 1st near a mobile home 10 miles east of Tahlequah in the community of Eldon near the Adair County line.

The second sighting was Wednesday (the 8th) at a residence three miles east of the mobile home, he said.

Garber said a woman who lives in the mobile home reported she "heard a noise and smelled a horrible smell" the evening of August 1st. He said she spotted the creature from her window.

"She estimated it to be 10 feet tall and about 400 pounds. It was by her trailer and it took off into the woods," Garber said.

Deputy Joe Weaver, who investigated the reports, said he found several "impressions" in the area where the creature was spotted.

"They were pretty good size. I could stick both my feet side by side into the track."

Garber said on Wednesday, 8-year-old Janet Doss reported seeing the creature near a trash heap in back of her house.

"It was in a garbage pile, just rummaging through it. She saw it and her mother saw it too," Garber said.

"The mother said it stood up and walked down a hill away from the house. Their dog ran out into the woods after it, and ran back with his tail between his legs."

Garber said the girl and her mother described the creature as eight feet tall with "frizzy hair."

"It has a lot of similarities to a bear, but what is unusual is that it's always described as walking (upright) on its feet."

Weaver said the girl "said it was covered in dark brown hair, but the face didn't have hair. It had skin."

Joe Adair, district chief of the Oklahoma Wildlife Department, said he has received several calls about the animal.

In 1989, a creature believed to be the legendary Bigfoot was also spotted in McCurtain County, in far southeastern Oklahoma. 13

1988 TENNESSEE ENCOUNTER

This very interesting single witness UFO case that happened on June 6th near West Point, Tennessee appeared in the *Nashville Tennessean*, under the byline of Joe Baxter:

A reported UFO sighting yesterday morning had Lawrence County investigators seeking to verify a farmer's claim of seeing a bright, globe-shaped object near TVA power lines behind his home.

Coy Luna, 59, said he was "bugging my potatoes in my garden," when his barking dog called his attention to a shiny round object "that had lit in the bottom behind the house."

"I'm not seeing or imagining things, and I haven't had a drink or

nothing," said Luna, whose sobriety was confirmed by a sheriff's deputy investigator, Tim Jackson.

Luna described the object as "big enough to hold four or five people" and said "it looked kind of like one of these water tanks you see around here and was covered with something that looked like tinfoil."

"When I first saw it, it was just sitting there. It was so bright it would put your eyes out to look at it. I really don't know if it was the sun reflecting off of it or if it was some kind of lights."

He said he left his garden to take a look because his dog was "raising so much hell."

"He just took off running and barking toward it. When he got about 30 feet away, it went straight up...and took off real fast. The dog went nuts and I did too!"

Despite the brightness, Luna said he could see a small door but "no kind of propeller, landing gear or nothing."

"The door was so small a person would have to bend over to go through it. It went out of here like a jet plane, but it was quiet. You could hear that it had some kind of engine, but I don't know what. It sounded kind of like a weedeater," said Luna.

Jackson said he was unable to find any ground markings at the scene.

"I made him go over the story seven or eight times and he had the same story each time. He never varied and he wasn't - and hadn't been - drinking," he said. "I'm going to call the air traffic controller to see if TVA or anyone else has had any planes or helicopters flying around these power lines."

Luna said he wishes someone could determine what he saw.

"I'd give a good piece of money to find out what it was," he said. "I didn't call the sheriff's department to report it. The only reason I called was to see if anyone else had seen it too."

"I've never believed in UFOs or anything like that, but this sure scared me to death." 14

"BIG MUDDY" OF ILLINOIS

Bob Reiman reported to authorities in Murphysboro, Illinois that on the early morning of June 3, 1988 he sighted a locally-famous monster in his salvage yard on the north side of town near the Missouri Pacific railroad tracks just off Route 13.

"What was surprising to me was that it came right up behind the garage. It gave out a real high-pitched scream or bellow. No man could sound like that," Reiman said.

Reiman had been called to the scene by security guard Charles Straub, who thought there might be a prowler in the salvage yard. Reiman and Straub searched the yard for a while then came upon what they said was an eight to ten-foot tall creature covered with fur.

"It's eyes were red in the beam of the flashlight," said Reiman. "And it had lots of teeth. They weren't like fangs, they were just teeth. You could sure tell it hadn't been using Polident."

Reiman said the first thing he and Straub noticed was a strong odor. Then they heard a rustling in the treeline on the edge of the lot, and saw the creature.

"When they called about it, we thought they were joking," said Joyce Tindall of Royalton. Joyce, Reiman's sister, said she thought the whole thing was a joke at first.

"When we saw Bob and Charles' faces, we knew it wasn't any joke." Joyce said she, Cheryl Reiman, and the rest of the group encountered the

creature in the south portion of the salvage yard.

"When it stood up, I just couldn't speak. Then it ducked back down...It seemed to be making semicircles around us like it was stalking us or checking us out. It seemed to be just as curious about us as we were about it."

The night before, Mrs. Tindall said they had heard a loud slurping noise coming from the vicinity of the pan of water which the dog normally drank out of. The next morning, the pan was found dry.

The weeds in the area showed signs of being trodden down and a path could be seen leading to the low area next to the railroad embankment where what was claimed to be a footprint of the creature, had by the time investigators arrived on the scene seeped full of water.

The monster sightings in the area go back to 1972, when sightings of a large creature were made by witnesses in Riverside Park, which is adjacent to the Big Muddy River which flows south of Murphysboro. 15

MARYLAND BIGFOOT

At 1:00 a.m. on the morning of May 14, 1990, 32-year-old Peggy Nichols was awakened by an unusual scream coming from the backyard of her home on Dickerson Road in Dickerson, Maryland (30 miles northwest of Washington D.C.) Having heard the nocturnal screams for several weeks (and assuming they were from wildcats), Peggy Nichols quickly rose and alerted her 25-year-old sister Carol to the fact that "it" was back. The pair cautiously opened their back porch door and saw a "great big Hairy" creature moving though a corner of their backyard, about 30 feet away. Claiming the creature was only in view for a second or two, they described it as walking upright and standing nearly seven feet tall. No other characteristics were observed before the creature moved off into the woods.

All five members of the Nichols household stated to this investigator that the screams had persisted for several weeks dating back to March 1990, and other area residents assumed they came from the same screaming felines which had given nearby Wildcat Creek its name. It should be noted that the Frederick area has hosted Bigfoot-type monster reports dating back to the 1800's and also that the Montgomery County Police and Washington *Times* reporter Matt Neufeld had received reports of Bigfoot sightings from the Poolesville area (five miles south of Dickerson) back in 1986. - Mark Opsanick 16

GREEN OBJECTS FALL IN ENGLAND

The following report was published in the June 22, 1989 edition of the Worcester, England, *Evening News*:

Police in Ross-on-Wye are mystified by reports of "large green objects" falling from the sky over the villages of Weston-under-Penyard and Rudhall on Tuesday (June 21st).

Officers were sent to investigate the sightings and returned to Ross Police Station empty handed and showing no signs of experiencing a "close encounter."

"Whatever it was couldn't have stayed very long," said Sgt. Terry Nixon.

The objects were first seen from Ross town centre then, later in the day residents in the area said they had changed colour to "blueish" as they hovered high over fields in clear skies. 17

"BUBBLY CLOUD" IN ARKANSAS

The Little Rock *Gazette* ran the following in its February 7, 1991 issue under the byline of Larry Miller:

If Joseph Hubbard weren't already a religious man, he says he would have become one Wednesday morning after watching a soapy, bubbly white cloud roll across his property.

It was about the size of a cotton bale, Hubbard said, and rolled through a fence before coming to a stop at his pond about 6 a.m.

Hubbard, a preacher, said later with a laugh: "I thought it may have been the Lord coming. He went away in a cloud."

It scared his geese so bad, they may never return, Hubbard added.

Investigators came to look at the mystery substance Wednesday. They later surmised it could have been methane gas that had escaped from an old septic tank on the property.

Whatever it was, it dissipated in the air as the sun rose about noon over Petit Jean Mountain. But not before George Wade, corporate environmental manager for Arkansas Kraft Co. at its paper mill nearby, had got some of the stuff in an air-proof jar for chemical analysis.

Results of the analysis may be known today.

Hubbard, 66, who lives near the Conway-Perry County line south of Petit Jean Mountain, said he noticed the cloud when he walked onto his back porch, with his first cup of coffee in hand.

"It was larger than a big bale of hay, bigger than a 500-pound bale of cotton" next to the highway, he said. Observers later estimated it was 6 feet by 6 feet in size.

"It was rolling across the field, rolling slow, and it would scare you to look at it," Hubbard said. "I have lived here 48 years and I've never seen anything like this."

He called for his wife, who quickly figured it was fog.

"I told her there ain't no fog to that," Hubbard said.

As they watched, the cloud rolled across the field, through a fence, up a steep bank and onto the pond. "It caused my geese to go into orbit," Hubbard said. "They have not come back. I don't know if they will."

The cloud then turned north before changing to a westerly direction and rolling to the base of some trees.

Hubbard and his son, Leon, steeled themselves and went to inspect. Leon took a stick and "raked" through it. "When he did, it started breaking up," Hubbard said.

One of the pieces rolled about 100 yards into the yard of his neighbor, Corroll Cody. Conway County Sheriff Carl Poteete came by and described the substance as slime and sticky. The sheriff placed a small amount in a jar and cardboard box and took it to Wade. The stuff in the box disappeared.

Wade went to Rose Creek with the sheriff and walked over a large area, looking for some type of gas escaping from the ground. They found an area near the pond where an old septic tank was thought to be and found small holes in the earth. Wade said it was possible methane gas from a septic tank could have formed the unusual cloud. A small cloud, which had tiny bubbling particles constantly moving around inside, burned when ignited with a cigarette lighter. 18

ALLAN J. MANAK TAKES ANOTHER LOOK AT THE JOE SIMONTON CASE

"It was the 18th of April, 1961, about 11:00 a.m. and a nice bright day. I was having lunch in my kitchen on that day. There used to be a jet line right over my house, day and night, so you see what kind of noise I was used to. 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.

"As I had never read about any of this UFO,(sic) I never gave it a thought about flying saucers. As I went out to where it came down, a hatch was opening up in the upper half of this thing which looked like two large soup bowls. There I saw a small man..."

In 1981, 20 years after the event, a book by the editors of *Readers's Digest, Mysteries of The Unexplained*, discussed the incident. UFO expert Allen Hynek had shown renewed interest in the case. He went to Eagle River, Wisconsin to investigate for himself. First he found out that Joe Simonton had died in 1971. So he interviewed Simonton's widow, Mary. She informed him that he had written a pamphlet titled "The Story of The Flying Saucer As It Was Seen By Joe Simonton."

Simonton wrote that his encounter with the alien was a friendly one. He said the small man he met in the flying saucer had no teeth, and was thirsty. So Simonton filled a jug full of water the alien gave him, and climbed aboard the saucer. There he saw three men stationed at control boards. The men, Simonton said, were dressed in two-piece suits and caps, and seemed to be about 25 to 30 years of age. The spacemen "were about five feet tall and about 120 pounds, and looked like that of Italian descent." One of the men on the ship was standing at what Simonton could only describe as "a grill." Simonton gestured to the alien to ask "are you eating?" and the alien replied by giving him four of the pancake-like things he was cooking. After Simonton climbed off the ship it "blasted off at a very high speed." He ate one of the pancakes and said it tasted like cardboard. "It was like nothing I ever saw. It was lacy, with little pinholes," said Simonton.

One pancake was given to Project Blue Book when they investigated the incident shortly after it happened. He gave another pancake to County Judge Frank Carter.

Soon articles about Joe Simonton's pancakes were running nationwide. Simonton's widow said "the phone began ringing. A lot of callers belittled him. The news, they put in a lot of fiction. They said he was a chicken farmer. He wasn't a chicken farmer, he was a master plumber."

The Air Force report said Simonton was "found to be a balanced man of good mental character."

According to Mary, Joe started having health problems soon after the incident.

The Simontons lost everything in a 1969 fire, including the infamous last pancake, which was in a plastic case. "And it never started to mold - never," said his widow.

"I heard him tell the same story many times. He never changed his story," said Mary. "But said that if he ever saw another flying saucer, he didn't think he'd ever tell anyone about it again."

Well, there you have it. Quite a story from the original version that broke in the news media in April of 1961. 19

HERE'S A SIMONTON FOLLOW-UP

The publication in our last issue of the article on Joe Simonton by UAPA Chairman Allan Manak has really drawn a phenomenal amount of response, as evidenced by the many letters and phone calls received in recent weeks. Just why the story of a man who claimed physical contact with UFO beings back in 1961 (and we must add here that Manak presented details regarding the case that were not generally circulated in 1961) should generate so much comment today seems to pose many questions for

UFO researchers to ponder.

To my way of thinking, I believe the comments regarding this case I made in issue #105 of *Flying Saucer Digest* pretty much sums it up: "What it all boils down to is the fact that we just may have to treat this incident as a 'real' event. Let's remember that if Budd Hopkins had made some of his information public in the 1960s, he would have, like Joe Simonton, been dismissed as a blatant hoaxer. Maybe we should all go back into the deep, dark recesses of our files and take a similar, more enlightened look at other cases..."

One of the letters we received even contained a rather large surprise, as the following from Barry Greenwood of CAUS will attest:

"I'm in receipt of *Weirdology* #12. Your commentary on the Simonton case was especially interesting because I'm about to surprise you!

"Your comment that the Simonton's lost 'the infamous last pancake' isn't quite correct.

"Judge Carter was a NICAP member and sent the pancake given to him to NICAP for analysis. It was put into a file for his MUFON Humcat project with David Webb. When the project was disbanded due to Ted's exit from the field, the humanoid files were shipped to me because of my proximity to Dave Webb. Upon cataloging the files I found the thick NICAP file with the Simonton investigation, color slides of the pancake clips, Judge Carter's correspondence and *Carter's fragment of the pancake!*

"So you see a piece of the pancake survives. It's about the size of the first thumb joint (with fingernail) of one's hand. It's hard as a rock but not moldy."

So there you have it. One has to wonder how many other "dismissed" cases there are out there that may have some potential paydirt for modern day UFO researchers with open minds. Unlike the "pancake" fragment and original investigation files in the hands of Greenwood and his group, there is probably a great amount of data out there that is in danger of becoming lost as the years pass. The time is now to do something about it before it's too late! 20

WEIRD CREATURE SIGHTED IN WASHINGTON STATE

This April 23, 1994 case sounds very much like a description of "Mothman," a bizarre creature sighted by many residents near Point Pleasant, West Virginia in late 1966 and early 1967. One has to wonder whether there might be some connection 28 years and several thousand miles away! Columnist C.R. Roberts had the following information in the May 1st edition of the *Tacoma News Tribune*:

The engine died and the dashboard lights fell dark. Although he hadn't applied his brakes, the pickup truck he was driving stopped suddenly, abruptly square in the middle of the road there between the edge of the forest and a scrubby clearcut field.

His headlights cut a hole through the night. He wondered what was wrong.

Then he saw the feet, descending bird feet. Claw feet. Then the legs, the torso, the chest. And the wings, folded, attached to the back of broad shoulders. Then the head. That face. The creature, nine feet tall. 30 feet away. Blue-tinted fur, yellowish eyes, tufted ears and sharp straight teeth.

With a dust-raising thud, it landed.

Brian Canfield, 18, was alone on his way home, located in the foothills of Mount Rainier, at 9:30 a week ago Saturday night. He

doesn't drink or take drugs. He's a high school senior known as an average, normal kid.

"It was standing there staring at me, like it was resting, like it didn't know what to think," he says. "I was scared. It raised the hair on me. I didn't feel threatened, just out of place."

I'd heard Brian's story and asked for an interview. "Its eyes were yellow and shaped like a piece of pie with pupils like a half-moon. The mouth was pretty big, white teeth, no fangs. The face was like a wolf," he says.

Can he smell anything? Hear anything? I ask him to remember.

He can hear the wind. "It's looking right at me like in a deep stare, like right through me. It's standing perfectly still."

It stood for - how long? - a few minutes. Several minutes. Then its fingers twitched and its wings began to unfold. Those wings were as wide as the road. "It turned its head and looked back to me and started flapping its wings," Canfield says. Then slowly it rose and so great was the turbulence the truck began to rock and sway.

Slowly the creature flew off in the direction of Mount Rainier.

"A few minutes later the truck just started. I took off," he says.

Canfield told his story at school early last week. Some believe him, some have begun to tease him. One friend helped him with the sketch and others have come up with a name for the creature.

Batsquatch.

"I'm really not into this stuff," Canfield says. "It boggles my mind really hard core. I really can't explain it. It's definitely weird."

"It did happen, I'm willing to put my life in it," he says. "I just have this picture in front of my head, the picture of it standing there. I can't get rid of it. It's just there. I kinda wish it didn't happen."

This past week I've spoken both with neighbors and with his family. I believe his story. I believe he saw something that night a week ago. I have no idea what he saw. I've spoken with experts on legends and creatures and none knows of a being such as this. 21

ELECTROMAGNETIC UFO CASE FROM OHIO?

A Salesville area man believes his car may have been the victim of some sort of electromagnetic effect on the morning of November 23, 1988.

At 2:05 a.m., the man called deputies of the Guernsey County Sheriff's Department to report sighting a UFO near the Salesville cemetery.

The man said a huge ball, about the size "of 100 cars," was traveling in a north-south direction.

He said the UFO had "super bright lights" and was blue and silver in color.

The object, when it flew over his car at a high rate of speed, "killed his car and made it stop running for fifteen minutes," he said.

Deputies reported that they received no other calls regarding the strange object that morning, but said that the single witness seemed sincere. 22

"BOLT FROM THE BLUE" IN MINNESOTA

This weirdie was in the October 3, 1990 edition of the Bloomington *Sun-Current* by staffer Jeff Holmquist:

Jim DeWall, was spending a quiet Sunday afternoon working in his backyard when something strange happened.

From out of the blue sky on Sept. 15th, a foot-long galvanized bolt

fell and struck the cement apron surrounding the family pool. The object came to rest just 12 feet from where DeWall was standing. The weight of the bolt took a small chunk out of the cement.

"My first reaction was that it was thrown over the fence by a kid," DeWall said. Then he realized the bolt could not have been thrown because when it struck the cement it did not skid off in some direction. The bolt came straight down and bounced straight up.

"So then I thought it was from a satellite or something, but it was so heavy. I didn't think they made satellites out of such materials."

He later called the FAA to have someone there look at the bolt. Officials at the FAA office in Minneapolis report that aircraft do not have such heavy, galvanized bolts.

An FAA spokesperson said the appearance of the bolt remains a mystery to him, as it does to DeWall. 23

"THUNDERBIRDS" IN PENNSYLVANIA

This very fascinating and informative piece is by John Rasmussen of the Lach Haven *Express* in his "This 'n' That" column of April 8, 1991. It certainly appears that Mr. Rasmussen has done a large amount of research on his topic over the years:

About 20 years ago TnT (This 'n' That columnist) began writing up eyewitness reports of Thunderbird sightings in and around the Pine Creek and West Branch Valleys and the wilds of the Black Forest region and the surrounding rugged and forbidding terrain...The Thunderbird is a mythical winged creature believed by American Indians to cause thunder and lightning...There was a military contingent back in World War II days named the Thunderbird Division, out of Oklahoma, we think where Indian tradition is strong...The claims of eyewitnesses to huge birds flying across the skies of Lycoming, Clinton, Potter, Cameron and other counties of north central Pennsylvania were invariably countered by the doubting Thomases, yet after many generations of abiding faith in the reality in the phenomena, stories of thunderbird sightings are still read in newspaper columns and notably a new book *Natural Mysteries - Monster Lizards, English Dragons, and Other Puzzling Animals* (Second Revised Edition)...It is a fascinating work published by Mark A. Hall Publications, 9215 Nicollet So., Bloomington, MN 55420...The book is worth the \$16.95 price tag...Mr. Hall has taken several steps further than others in his probe of "Natural Mysteries," and the paragraph after paragraph, page following page of documented findings proves the existence of weird life forms in the hinterland of many states, and teratology is by means the study of purely mythical creatures...TnT has talked and corresponded with Mr. Hall on occasion in the past, and remembers the Bloomington researcher in the Jersey Shore area during the period when reports of Thunderbird sightings from people with unquestioned integrity - and eyesight! - were frequent happenings here in this newspaper office.

Mark A. Hall is a patient, thoroughgoing, seasoned and methodical investigator in his field...His *Natural Mysteries* contains a chapter "Pennsylvania Thunderbirds," which brings his research "home" to the central West Branch Valley and surroundings...Hall prefaces his chapter out of Pennsylvania with the statement, "Gigantic birds of prey once were widespread inhabitants of North America"...(No lack of certainty here!)...Hall adds. "They have been identified by many names, but their image as "Thunderbirds" among the North American Indians has become the best known"...Mr. Hall tells of a time in the 19th century when John James Audubon, naturalist and artist, traveled by coach from Philadelphia

to Mauch Chunk, the one-time colorful name for what is now Jim Thorpe, Carbon County, to observe wildlife in a land then known as the Great Pine Swamp of Pennsylvania.

Hall makes it clear that talk of the Thunderbird has been common for more than a century..."So large are these birds that they take deer and, some say, human beings as prey. Estimates give them wingspreads greater than 15 feet. A range of 20 to 30 feet is common."

The author states that from the heart of an area roughly described by Cameron, Potter, Clinton, Tioga and adjoining counties "have come most of the detailed accounts of modern Thunderbirds in the state"...Hall lists four persons (three deceased) "who took an interest in the birds the past few decades"...One of the four is TnT; two others were tireless workers in the cause, the late Clyde and Anna Mincer, of South Broad Street, Jersey Shore, and the fourth in the quartet, Robert R. Lyman, Sr., an historian and naturalist from Potter County, and author of such books as *Amazing Indeed - Strange Events in the Black Forest, History of Roulet, Forbidden Land* published in Coudersport...He once penned a note to TnT in one of his books. "Never say impossible to John D. Rasmussen. Thank you for your help"...Hall tells us he was a guest of Robert R. Lyman, Sr., and his wife in 1973...Mr. Lyman died in 1974 when Thunderbird sightings hereabouts were at their peak...Hall names Hiram M. Cranmer as another person with a lot to say about Thunderbirds...Cranmer was a lifelong resident of the Kettle Creek area...Among the many other accounts of Thunderbird sightings was that of Joseph and Wanda Kaye, who were driving Route 287, near the Oregon Hill ski area when they saw a fantastically large bird...The Kayes were en route from Lock Haven to Seneca Falls...An invaluable and convenient document is the chronological list of Thunderbird appearances in the Black Forest for which dates are known, and they range from 1892 to 1978...Truly significant sightings here have included:

In 1968-69 Little Pine Creek, Mr. and Mrs. John Boyle, "in each of these years a bird was seen. The second time it landed in the creek. Its wings across the creek appeared to extend for 75 feet"...Clyde and Anna Mincer gave a description to the author Hall, "If I recall correctly, it was the 9th or 10th of Nov., 1970"...They have a description in a letter to the researcher: "my wife and I saw the first huge bird which I said had a 22 foot wingspread, and I have not changed my mind since. My wife called to me as I was painting spouting, and she said to me, 'Look at the funny airplane.'"...August 7, 1971, Clair Koons, former president of Jersey Shore Borough Council, and Independent Hose Co., fire chief, and Wilson Frederick, also of Jersey Shore then, and son of ex-borough manager John Frederick, reported seeing a bird of some 12 - 15 foot wingspan up along Larrys Creek toward Salladasburg...When TnT queried Koons, the eyewitness was even more positive about what he and Wilson had seen...Koons is an experienced and knowledgeable outdoorsman...Author Hall finds huge bird sightings have taken place in the Abitibi region of Canada's Quebec Province.

Hall's studies in *Natural Mysteries* run to the Great Swamps, including the Great Kanakee Marsh in northwest Indiana and neighboring Illinois...Another chapter deals with "Monster Lizards"...Hall published a drawing of a "Canip Monster Lizard"...The chapter on "English Dragons" tells of the part-griffin part-lion combination creature in dragon lore...A segment, "Big With Eight Legs" is startling...Mentioned therein is a period in June 1960 in Indiana when people were talking up "the

Monster in Dan Craig's Well"...It seems "this thing in his cistern was an eerie beast with a dome-shaped head, two bulbous eyes, and eight flailing tentacles as long as a man's arm" and Hall wrote of "encephalopods far from any ocean"...There is a world more to "wild" life than has been dreamed of by most of us and we will wager here with little prospect of contradiction that readers will find in *Natural Mysteries* revelations they'll read nowhere else. 24

MYSTERY LIGHTS SIGHTED IN WYOMING

This interesting case is from the *Buffalo Bulletin* of Mar. 31, 1994: No one has come forward with an explanation of the unusual lights seen in the skies over Johnson County on March 2 and again on March 7, but the list of people who reported seeing the strange phenomenon continues to grow.

Several more people called the *Buffalo Bulletin* after last week's issue was published to say they had seen these "strange lights," but none of those calling believed they could identify what they were.

One family said the lights seemed to come from almost directly over their house and they could hear a "roaring" noise. They did not describe it sounding like a jet or a helicopter.

And the lights were also seen by some people in the Tensleep area the night of March 7. Phyliss Moses of Tensleep says, "We also saw those same lights (two sets of two side-by-side) hanging over the mountains for about 10 minutes.

"They didn't move much," says Mrs. Moses.

"They were about where Tensleep Canyon is located. They moved on a ways and I presume they were at the top of the mountain...and then gone."

Alvina Curutchet, who lives east of Buffalo, says she saw the lights near her home on March 7. "It looked like they were out over a construction area on the Interstate Highway," she says. "When I turned the lights on in the house to look for the binoculars, the lights suddenly moved away."

Sherri Gould of Buffalo says this same kind of sighting had been reported in Belgium during the past year. She is an associate director of the "UFO Contact Center, International."

"This is an organization which tries to help people who have had a 'contact experience,'" says Mrs. Gould.

"I've been a psychic all my life," she says. "I've helped law enforcement people search for missing persons in places like Colorado."

Mrs. Gould says she did not see the light in the sky earlier this month, but she senses there has been a lot of activity in the Buffalo area.

Most people who had seen the strange lights simply don't have an explanation to offer. Some say they don't believe in UFOs, and suspect it might have been some kind of military aircraft.

What ever it was in the sky over Buffalo and other parts of Johnson County, remains a mystery for most people. Yet, there is a large number of residents who did see something that was "very unusual" and seems to defy any "easy explanation." 25

MYSTERY CREATURE SPOTTED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

This September 20th encounter was related by Warren Bolton of the *Columbia State* on September 22, 1992:

If you don't believe in the Loch Ness Monster, Bigfoot or the Lizard Man, maybe it's because you haven't seen them.

Sylvester Arnold never believed the stories. Not until Sunday when

he and his wife encountered a creature in Richland County on a fishing trip. As Arnold and his wife walked along railroad tracks in the woods, a creature "appeared out of nowhere."

"I take it to be Bigfoot or whatever they call it, Sasquatch. It wasn't an ape and it wasn't a bear, it was crossing a bridge. It was furry, I mean like a black fur coat. This thing was huge and it was walking, swinging its arms back and forward," Arnold said.

"I just started sweating. My hair just rolled up on my head. We both panicked when we realized it wasn't human. It never went to all fours. When it was coming towards us it was walking straight up like a man."

Arnold, who lives in Eastover, said he fired a shot in the air with his .22-caliber rifle and the creature headed for the woods. "I got out of there," he said.

Richland County Sheriff Allen Sloan, acknowledging the report wasn't taken totally seriously, said a deputy was sent to the scene. The deputy and Arnold walked the area.

Impressions were found near the railroad tracks, rocks had been disturbed and briars pushed apart. Animal hair found was deer hair.

"I guess all of us like to believe secretly or openly that things like that maybe do exist," Sloan said. "Who am I to say he didn't see something? I was not there."

Arnold knows many people won't believe his story.

"People might think I'm crazy and that it's something I made up, but I don't do that," Arnold said. "I wouldn't play a hoax." 26

"THE BARDIN BOOGER"

The Tallahassee, Florida *Democrat* ran an interesting story in 1987 about a locally-famous Bigfoot type creature from the town of Bardin. The "Bardin Booger" is said to roam through the deep pine forests in this northeast Florida community, and has caused some residents to fear the unknown creature, and others to get a chuckle or two over the whole thing:

"This thing came out of the woods. It was big and hairy and looked like a bear, but it had a pug nose and walked upright like a man. The way it walks, a bear couldn't walk like that. Its arms were swinging, just the way you and I walk," said Randy Medlock, a Bardin-area farmer who claims to have seen the "Booger."

"It walked about 30 feet in front of the car. We were on a big sand hill. It looked sideways at us and kept walking. I knew it was strong because when it walked back into the woods, it just slapped these pine saplings out of its way like they were nothing. We were scared.

"After a while, we got out and I tried to step in the tracks. They were a lot bigger than my foot and I wear a size 13. I stretched as far as I could and I couldn't reach between them," said Medlock, who stands 6-foot-2.

Medlock said he's tried to keep quiet about it, but his younger brother-in-law, Ronny Cone, who was with him when the "Booger" was spotted, has talked throughout the Piney Woods community, west of Palatka in Putnam County.

"I tried to keep quiet because I knew people would doubt me," he said.

Bud Key, who owns Bud's Grocery in Bardin, has made a few dollars off the "Booger" by selling T-shirts, caps and records featuring the creature.

The T-shirts show a heavily muscled, furry creature carrying a lantern. Its long tongue is sticking out. The shirts also advertise Bud's Grocery.

Key's creature holds the lantern because there is another old tale that an eerie light will follow you down back roads near Bardin.

Billy Crain, a country music band leader in Palatka, wrote, sang and produced a record about the "Booger" and said he has sold more than 1,000 copies in about six years.

"Hey, Mr. Bardin Booger, Bardin is your home and every day you love to roam. You run through the bushes and you run through the trees. Hey, Mr. Bardin Booger, don't get me, please," are the lyrics to the chorus of his song.

Crain has never seen the creature, but he said he's talked to others who have.

"I've got out in those woods at night on horseback and it gets pretty spooky out there. You start thinking about that old Booger and you can psyche yourself up to where you get real scared. I've talked to people who have seen it. They say it has a real bad stink."

The legend also has been good for a few pranks. One young man cut a piece of plywood into the shape of a large foot and stamped tracks down a dirt road.

Pranksters rigged up a sound system on a truck to produce strange noises outside the home of Margaret Warren.

"We called it the Bardin Booger Truck," she said. 27

LAKE ERIE CREATURE REPORTED

A Richland County, Ohio family has been trying to convince people that their sighting of a strange creature in Lake Erie is not a fish story.

"It was about 30 to 35 feet long and black," said Harold Bricker of Shelby. "It was about 1,000 feet to our left and was moving about as fast as we were in a parallel course.

"It seemed to be humping through the water, propelling itself like a snake," he said.

The serpentlike creature also was seen by five passengers aboard Bricker's 22-foot boat, including his wife, Cora; son Robert; Robert's friend, Nancy Taylor, and Tracy Bricker, Harold's 15-year-old granddaughter.

Bricker on September 4, 1990 told state park rangers that he saw the creature about two miles north of Cedar Point amusement park, near the town of Sandusky.

Bricker's suggestion to steer the craft closer to the object was turned down by his passengers.

"My son said, 'No way. That thing is bigger than we are'," Bricker said. "So we stayed where we were."

The group watched the object briefly before it disappeared beneath the waves.

The report is similar to about six others that surfaced in 1985 and 1987. All reports said huge snakelike creatures were observed in Lake Erie.

A Coast Guard spokesman in nearby Marblehead said there had been no other reports of a mysterious creature this year.

A local marina owner has recently offered a \$5,000 reward for the creature. 28

MYSTERY LIGHTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Staffer Mike Hanna of the Boone, North Carolina *Watauga Democrat* relates the following regarding some strange lights seen in his area:

After almost exactly one year of calm, the skies near Blowing Rock again erupted in what a Blowing Rock couple described as a shimmering light show of mysterious origin.

On August 23, 1987, three couples at Linville Ridge near Grandfather Mountain reported a strangely compelling light show which spread across the night sky behind the mountain, lasting until nearly dawn the next day.

The lights sometimes resembled lightning, but the six witnesses described something that looked more like fireworks than any natural lightning they had ever seen.

Last week, at about 8:45 p.m. Wednesday, August 24, 1988, almost one year later, Dr. Donald Anderson and his wife, Hermine, looked out a window of their home in the Saddle Hills development of U.S. 221 south of Blowing Rock and saw what seemed to be a repeat of that light show in the sky above Rocky Knob.

"We just happened to both look out our window and saw what we thought was lightning," Anderson said, but they soon decided that what they were seeing was not lightning.

They said they witnessed both lateral flashes of a "orange-pinkish" light and "some of them had an almost puffy look," Anderson said.

They watched the display for a few minutes, and after trying unsuccessfully to contact neighbors, they stopped watching. When they looked again at about 10:45 p.m., the show was still in progress.

"They would linger for, oh, a second or two...rose up and shimmered almost like fireworks," he said, adding that the lights varied in duration, sometimes with three or four flashes appearing every 30-60 seconds.

One of the first possible explanations offered for the phenomenon is that the lights were the well-known Brown Mountain lights, but Anderson said the lights he and his wife saw were well up in the sky.

"These were not close to the mountains," he said, but were "over quite a distance of the horizon."

There was no sound accompanying the display, he said.

The entire episode closely echoes the August 1987 report, but Rosalie Vincz, one of the witnesses of that display, said she and the other witnesses have not seen any unusual light shows since then.

They did locate another couple living on Beech Mountain who said they saw the same display that year, but they could not understand why the event was not seen by more people.

"It was something we couldn't believe that no one else saw," Mrs. Vincz said.

Neither set of witnesses said the show was frightening.

Dr. Tom Rokoske, a professor of physics at Appalachian State University, offered the same explanation for last week's phenomenon as he did one year ago.

"It has all the markings...of a situation where there is a temperature inversion," he said.

The inversion causes cloud layers of varying temperature to reflect lights from ground level in what he described as a mirror effect, visible only at certain angles.

The altitude of the witness would also have a drastic effect on

whether he could see such a display, he added.

"What you're getting is the reflection of light from another area or varying layers," Rokoske said. Such lights could have been the lights of Lenoir or automobile lights from the nearby highways, he said.

Anderson said he could understand the temperature inversion explanation since the weather early in the week had turned cooler, but Mrs. Vincz said Rokoske's theory could not adequately explain the fireworks-like bursts they witnessed.

Will mountain residents have to wait another year for a similar display? Whether we will or not, Mrs. Vincz said she still looks out her window every night with anticipation. 29

SIBERIAN "SNOWMAN"

A hairy eight-foot-tall "abominable snowman" was reported sighted in northern Siberia by a Moscow University research worker in August of 1988. Soviet state television reported that Maria Bulkova sighted the beast from the window of a log cabin.

She said that the creature was covered in white hair and emitted a "horrible" cry, but did not repeat it.

Similar sightings have been made for decades throughout Siberia, the most recent by a group of teenagers who said a gibbering humonoid threw stones into a fire they had built. 30

FOOTNOTES

1. *Weirdology* Issue # 15, 1989.
2. Ibid.
3. *Weirdology* Issue # 14, 1989.
4. Ibid.
5. *Weirdology* Issue # 11, 1989.
6. *Weirdology* Issues # 20&21, 1990.
7. *Flying Saucer Digest* Issue # 127, 1994.
8. *Weirdology* Issue # 19, 1990.
9. *Weirdology* Issue # 10, 1988.
10. *Weirdology* Issue # 18, 1990.
11. *Weirdology* Issue # 19, 1990.
12. *Weirdology* Issue # 23, 1991.
13. *Weirdology* Issue # 22, 1990.
14. *Weirdology* Issue # 9/10, 1988.
15. Ibid.
16. *Weirdology* Issue # 22, 1990.
17. *Weirdology* Issue # 16, 1989.
18. *Flying Saucer Digest* Issue # 114, 1991.
19. *Weirdology* Issue # 12, 1989.
20. *Weirdology* Issue # 13, 1989.
21. *Flying Saucer Digest* Issue # 126, 1994.
22. *Weirdology* Issue # 12, 1989
23. *Flying Saucer Digest* Issue # 113, 1991.
24. *Flying Saucer Digest* Issue # 115, 1991.
25. *Flying Saucer Digest* Issue # 126, 1994.
26. *Flying Saucer Digest* Issue # 121, 1993.
27. *Weirdology* Issue # 6, 1988.
28. *Weirdology* Issue # 22, 1990.
29. *Weirdology* Issue # 12, 1989.
30. Ibid.

BEREA, OHIO HIT BY "WINDSHEILD POX" IN 1954

The "pit-i-full" condition of automobile windshields in Berea was variously attributed to the H-bomb, the back-wash of the flying saucers, airborne sand from western dust storms, just plain gravel, and imagination, according to an independent investigation conducted by this newspaper.

Most grim explanation heard, and one which was repeated many times, was that hydrofluoric acid, originating with the H-bomb, had been borne here by clouds, descended in the rain and pitted the windshields of cars here.

While auto owners laughed or cursed, depending on whether their windshields were marked or clear, insurance agents and glass manufacturers were worried.

L. S. Asling of the Asling & Hoffman Insurance Co. said that he had no official complaints. Mrs. L. L. Markley also reported no complaints. Two of the larger companies have had claims filed, Asling said, adding that since comprehensive coverage would cover the drivers' claims a deluge of complaints about ruined windshields could result in a very serious situation.

Berea's mayor, Edward T. Manning, inclined to the side of skeptics, applauded the search, saying that many windshields which hadn't been properly washed would now get the full treatment.

"I believe that the marks have been there all the time, but that people are just noticing them now," said the mayor.

News publisher Carl Winter hastened to add his word to the skeptical side. "It's gravel," said he, "when shown two small pits in his own windshield. I once had to replace an entire windshield because of that."

George R. Bennett, 129 Rocky River Dr., reported three good-sized marks on the windshield. The car was outside Saturday night, he said, and the rain early Sunday morning could have carried some unknown element which might have caused the damage.

Mrs. Mary Scrivens, superintendent of nurses at Community Hospital, reported a mark on the windshield Sunday. "It definitely wasn't there Saturday," she said. "We were driving in that rain Sunday." Other nurses at the hospital also reported pitted windshields.

Dr. E. W. Ryan, local dentist, said he saw a pit which looked as if a pin had been pounded half way through the glass. An attendant at a gas station noticed the mark first, he said, and remarked that if he didn't find a mark on the dentist's windshield it would be the first car he'd seen without one. Source: Berea, OH *News* April 22, 1954 via Rod B. Dyke.

ILLINOIS LEGEND OF WINGED MONSTER (see cover)

Donald Smith of the National Geographic News Service filed this fascinating report in late 1991:

They were as large as calves and covered with scales. Deer-like horns sprouted from their heads. Tails wound all around their bodies, passed above their heads and coiled back between their legs.

But the most terrifying aspect of the pair of monsters that French Jesuit priest Jacques Marquette saw mysteriously painted on a bluff high above the Mississippi River 318 years ago, were the faces. They were "somewhat like a man's," but had tiger beards and horrible red eyes.

The monsters "made us afraid," wrote the explorer. His party's Indian guides also showed great respect for the creatures, "upon which the boldest savages dare not long rest their eyes."

Although the original rock pictures weathered off long ago, residents of this riverside community have kept alive the legend of the "Piasa," repainting its visage on rocky cliffs each time the previous image has faded.

"Everybody around here knows about the Piasa," says Theresa Tolliver of the Alton-Twin Cities convention Bureau.

Evidence of Alton's favorite demon is everywhere. The local high school football team calls itself the Piasas. So does the Boy Scout troop. There is a subdivision known as Piasa Hills. People buy cars

from Piasa Motors. Shops sell T-shirts and postcards emblazoned with the fearsome critters.

The monsters glare at onlookers with malevolence in their eyes. Or, it might just be plain hunger.

The name (pronounced PIE-ah-saw) is commonly believed to be an Illini Indian word meaning “the bird that devours men.”

The legend varies somewhat depending on the teller. But according to the visitors bureau, it goes like this:

The Piasa inhabited the upper Mississippi River region for many years before the arrival of Europeans, along with such prehistoric creatures as mastodons. Although large enough to carry off full-grown deer in its talons for dinner, the creature was especially fond of Indians. Naturally, the Indians were appalled. Whole villages were being depopulated.

Finally, one brave chief offered himself as bait and his followers armed with poison arrows, turned the thing into a pincushion. To commemorate the event, the Indians depicted their vanquished enemy on the bluff.

“Ha,” exclaims Natalia Belting, retired University of Illinois history professor, when asked about the story that does not explain why Marquette saw two monsters on the bluff.

“This is one of those romantic Indian tales dreamed up in the 19th century, probably by a German.” So: Is the Alton Piasa merely a great Halloween fable?

Although disputing the ambush story, Belting doesn’t doubt that Marquette’s was a picture of a fabulous animal.

But Belting’s explanation for the paintings is possibly even more remarkable: underwater monsters.

“It was quite common for the Indians of the upper Mississippi Valley and upper Great Lakes to draw monsters on cliffs above dangerous stretches of water, especially whirlpools of rapids,” Belting tells *National Geographic*.

“They believed underwater monsters dwelled there.

“Just to be on the safe side, it was common for them to leave offerings of tobacco and maize for the monster.”

Besides honoring the lord of the rapids, such a painting evidently served as a warning to those traversing the waterway, a sort of “Caution: Bump Ahead” sign.

This theory fits in the case of the Piasa. Marquette and Joliet found the picture above turbulent water where the Mississippi and Missouri rivers converge.

Raymond D. Fogelson, University of Chicago anthropologist, links the Piasa with similar underwater monsters found in Indian cultures throughout the eastern woodlands.

Underwater monsters in various Indian cultures are “creatures of the deep, like our sea monsters,” says Fogelson.

If each passing Indian did fire off arrows at the Piasa on the cliff, there’s little wonder it didn’t last forever.

Beginning in 1924, citizens of Alton, working from early descriptions, started repainting the image each time it faded.

At one point it was relocated to its present spot four miles north of Alton after its cliff home was destroyed to build a highway.

About six years ago, the Alton-Godfrey Rotary Club, tiring of the constant need to touch up the rock painting, came up with an idea they hope will keep the monster flying, in a manner of speaking, for many years to come.

In its current incarnation, the dreaded Piasa glowers at cars whizzing by on Route 100 from a large enameled steel sign nailed to the bluff. Source: *Flying Saucer Digest* # 117, Spring 1992.

STRANGENESS IN COLORADO - 1998

Journalist Christopher O'Brien, author of the popular "Mysterious Valley" series of books, provided this fascinating update in the January 1999 issue of the Crestone, Eagle:

After two years of greatly reduced levels of reported anomalous activity, reports of unusual activity increased dramatically in the fall of 1998. Here are several intriguing reports as reported to this investigator of "the unusual" as witnessed here in the San Luis Valley.

Saturday, November 14 at 9:15 a.m. over the Smith Reservoir area - west of Blanca, CO: Junne Walkley was returning from dropping her relatives off when, while driving south on Rd. 106, she noticed "a great big silver V" hovering over Smith Reservoir. She stopped the car and watched for around a minute. She estimated it was about 10 miles away to the east and estimated its size as a quarter held at arm's length. After watching for a minute the object appeared to go straight up and out of sight in "a couple of seconds." She is amazed nobody else reported the craft. She is sending a sketch of the object which is similar to the October 18 sighting at 6:15 a.m. on the west side of the Valley. (Junne and her husband Virgil are two of my very best and observant sky watchers.)

Wednesday November 17 at sunset over Greenie Mountain: a relative of the Walkleys, a "a strong skeptic," witnessed three objects hovering over the San Juan Mountains near Greenie Ridge. The objects appeared to be reflecting the setting sun and sitting "still." Then, the witness "was amazed" when the objects disappeared instantly.

On the same day, Wednesday November 17 over Greenie Mountain: I received the following reports in the mail - "My wife and I were heading west on the (County Rd.) 10 south road towards Greenie. My wife was driving and I was watching the vapor trails left by the jets flying over head, when I noticed a bright silver-looking object heading south by southwest just south of Greenie. I watched the object for a few seconds to insure I was seeing what I was seeing. There were a few scattered clouds in the sky, which were part of a front that was supposed to be in the area for the next two days. This object, I would say was flying as high as any one of the jets that were flying in the same area. But two things were different about this object. First of all, it was not leaving any vapor trail behind, second of all, I asked my wife to pull over a few minutes so I could check it out a little bit closer. This object was not moving slow like a single engine aircraft would be. It was moving at such a rate that it was out of sight in just seconds from the time we pulled over. Also, it was not moving in a straight line like most aircraft would move in the sky.¹ Due to the altitude, the speed and the way it moved through the sky, I do not believe it to be a chopper or small engine aircraft. It could have been a jet aircraft leaving no vapor trail, but I have my doubts." (I received this report Dec. 13.)

Thursday November 18, 11:15 p.m. over Blanca Peak: An ex-career member of the Air Force called to report "a multi-colored light yo-yoing up and down - like on a string." Two other witnesses were told and they also watched the strange light. One witness reported the light stayed there "almost an hour...before blinking out."

Thursday October 8, 10:30 p.m., Highway 160, 4 miles west of Blanca, CO : R.A.L. West, while headed east on Highway 160 (near the curve 4 miles west of Blanca), observed an amber-colored "hemispherical-shaped" light hovering over the Blanca Massif. She estimated the light's size as around Venus-sized. After a few seconds, the object appeared to jump approximately 20 degrees upward. West pulled off the road and parked (with her engine running) to carefully observe the light. The witness is confused and could not completely remember how long she watched, but she guessed "several minutes." The next thing she clearly recalled was the craft flying at a high rate of speed above her car; headed NE to SW. She described a "triangle-shaped array of white and amber lights" blinking sequentially in "patterns" on the underneath side. She could not estimate the craft's altitude, nor was she able to make out the craft's shape or structure. She did not hear any sound except her car engine running. No other cars were on the road in the immediate vicinity, and I have not received any other

reports of this event. West mentioned another sighting that may have been military related that occurred on August 5, 1998.

Wednesday October 14, 11:30 a.m., Los Cumbres Golf course, Crestone, CO: Golfer on the par four, fourth hole fairway observed a “silver-colored disk hovering over Mt. Adams,” (just north of Crestone Peak), about 8 miles north of his location. Object seemed to wobble, but did not appear to be headed anywhere. Golfer made his second shot and could still see the craft. He headed toward the green watching it. After making his third shot the object had disappeared. He estimated the object was visible for at least five minutes.

Tuesday October 27, 9:30 p.m. Center, CO: Center resident Fabian Sauvo reports a anomalous unblinking bright red light directly north of Hooper, CO. The light at times appeared to hover, but seemed to be traveling slowly SW-to-NE.

He called me real-time and I was able to see the object from my roof. Sauvo, after several minutes on the phone to me, was able to describe the above red-lights location, and I observed the light for several seconds before it disappeared into a cloud bank. I waited for awhile, but it never emerged from the cloud. The light seemed to be between 4,000 and 5,000 feet above the ground and over the sand piles on Highway 17, between Hopper and Moffat. (Rare to get a call and be able to simultaneously see an anomalous object, a UFO [or military craft?] while on the phone with another witness!)

Friday October 29, Baca Grande Development: A resident reports small objects hitting her roof. No hail or rain was present at the time. House is set out in the Valley and has no tall trees within a quarter-mile. Activity is tip of the iceberg. Small hooded figures (about 4' tall) on a couple of occasions have been seen (during the preceding two weeks), running past the windows. Heavy footsteps have been heard in the house, but no one is there. A tapered “hairy-pig” was reportedly seen outside running past the house. (There are no wild/hairy pigs in the Valley to my knowledge. This sounds like a “Prairie Dragon” sighting.) Witness claims she was “slammed into a door” by an unseen force several days earlier. The event left “a bruise on her cheek” and was witnessed by a painter working in the house several feet away.

The following day, Saturday October 30, at 11:30 p.m., same location: Same witness observes a foot-long oval shaped object enter through her back door and slowly head up the hallway toward her. She described the anomaly as being “milky-looking with a reflective band around the rim.” The band appeared to be like chrome. The witness was so startled she stopped looking at the object which apparently then disappeared. She estimated, at its closest, it was 10' away from her as it came toward her down the hallway.

Monday Sept. 14, at 6:15 a.m., Highway 285 north of Monte Vista, CO: A Monte Vista resident, while headed north on 285, witnessed a “V-shaped craft hovering over the tops of the mountains to the west.” The sun was above the horizon and seemed to reflect off the object “like the sun reflecting on an airplane wing,” but the object’s structure was still plainly visible to the witness. The witness described the object as looking like “two big rectangular pillars put together in a V-shape...the size of three (commercial jet) airliners.” The witness observed the craft for over ten minutes before he traveled too far north and left it behind him - still hovering over the mountains. No one else driving on 285 seemed to notice the object which puzzled the witness because “it was so big.” Source: *Flying Saucer Digest* # 145, Spring 1999.

“FRIENDLY” GHOSTS HAUNT NEW YORK CITY HOTEL

The trendy Maritime Hotel might want to start teaching its old ghosts new tricks, because living among the dead is no treat for their guests.

In a very scary tale of hotel room haunting, sources tell Page Six the 10th floor of the West 16th Street hot spot is housing more than an occasional celebrity or socialite - lost souls and spirits from the

past are said to be taking up shelter there, too.

One incident sent a woman guest running to the lobby - dripping wet and wearing nothing but a bath towel - and screaming after she saw two young boys playing patty-cake on her floor. The frightened woman quickly packed her bags and moved into a less-spirited venue.

A source also said a group of fashion reps who regularly stayed at the Maritime on business trips stopped booking there after being alarmed by the same ghosts. The story goes that those staying on the 10th floor saw and heard the spirits of "young children playing in the halls or in their rooms."

Interestingly, the Maritime, a hot spot in the summer with its outdoor deck, is built on the site of the old Covenant House, a "safe haven" for runaway youths operated by the late Father Bruce Ritter.

Following months of investigation, *The Post* broke the story in 1989, headlined "Let Us Prey," charging that Ritter had abused some of the boys by plying them with alcohol in order to have sex with them. After a probe by DA Robert Morgenthau, Ritter escaped prosecution by agreeing not to work with young people again.

Rumor has it that Maritime staffers have been specifically instructed to remove accounts of the haunted happenings from the hotels' log book and never to speak of the occurrences again. Despite the warning, an unshaken rep for the hotel confirmed the spooky events to us.

"Periodically, guests have mentioned seeing or hearing ghosts," she said. "The good news is that they all seem to be friendly." Source: *New York Post* October 28, 2006 via Martin Piechota.

2007 "SHED FALL" IN KENTUCKY

Elkhorn, Ky. - It may go down in the books as an unexplained phenomena, although for insurance purposes there might be a case for an act of God.

On May 14th, skies were virtually clear and there was only a light breeze at Elkhorn in Casey County when a four-thousand pound aluminum storage building rose from the rear of a church and fell onto the church roof.

Pastor Jeff Edwards of the Pine Grove Church says the 12-by-24 foot building had a few building supplies inside, but no explosive materials. No suspicious residues were found by the sheriff's office and state police. The flying shed left a hole in a wall of the church.

Texas Eastern Gas found no evidence of natural gas leaks. Edwards says in Acts Chapter One, the Bible says that Jesus ascended and that "...the 120 were in the upper room praying," He also quoted Acts Chapter Two that says the Holy Spirit came as a "...rushing, mighty wind, and it sealed those that were in the upper room praying."

The day before the incident, church attendance had been 120, and the hole in the church wall was in the prayer room. Damage has been estimated at nearly \$20,000. Source: WAVE - TV Louisville, KY May 16, 2007.

THE "HAIRY MAN" OF ALABAMA

The South Alabamian's request for Bigfoot stories or sightings has produced a lot of talk but few first-hand reports of the beast. However, this story of sightings of "Hairy Men" from the early 20th century are interesting. Could the "Hairy Man" be a Bigfoot?

Mera Roberts reports: "My siblings and I grew up hearing 'Hairy Man' stories. My mother, Clara Odie Anderson Roberts, is almost 90 years old and still has a sharp mind. She lives in the Jackson Health Care Facility and can tell you these things herself.

"When she was young, a black man named Dan Scruggs lived near Uncle Tom Purvis' place on the other side of Friendship, a community which was between Coffeetown and the Witch Creek area. One day he left his house to go to a nearby spring, taking his gun with him. A short time later he arrived back at his home, running and out of breath. He was very frightened, and could only say 'Hairy Man,

Hairy Man.'

"As he had neared the spring he saw a 'Hairy Man' there and he left in such haste he left his gun there near the spring.

"One day, mother's oldest brother, Chamlers Anderson, and Elmore Bedwell, were returning to their home after having visited the Roberts family who lived in the area. About halfway between the Roberts place and the Ida Bedwell place, they saw a 'Hairy Man' sitting on a log that was over a ravine. I suspect they lost no time getting to their respective homes. This also happened when mother was young.

"I'm wondering if other relatives or descendants of the people who actually saw the 'Hairy Man' might also have heard the stories told and passed down in their families.

"My oldest sister, Inez, remembers Grandma Anderson (my mother's mother) telling her something that happened when grandma's oldest child (Chalmers) was a baby. Grandma said she was walking to a relative's house and carrying Uncle Chalmers and she walked up on a big hairy ape sitting on a log and holding its head with its hands. When grandma walked up, it just got up and ambled off into the woods. Grandma said she figured it must have escaped from a circus somewhere and that it may have been sick. Could this have been a 'Hairy Man' or a Bigfoot?

"The baby (my uncle) who was being carried was born Dec, 30, 1907 so grandma's encounter with the 'big hairy ape' was probably around 1908.

"All of these sightings occurred in the Friendship area." Source: *The South Alabamian*, Jackson, AL December 23, 2004 via Andy Etheredge.

GHOST HAUNTS AIRCRAFT CARRIER

Rumors of a ghost stalking the aircraft carrier *USS Forrestal* have spooked quite a few sailors with flickering lights, bumps in the night, locked doors opening, voices on disconnected telephones, and a vanishing figure nicknamed George who has been seen in a khaki uniform. George lurks in two of the ship's below-the-waterline storage areas, one of which was a morgue, sailors claim. "I've got one guy who refuses to go down there alone. Our last petty officer refused to go down there at all," says Petty Officer Daniel Balboa, in charge of the officers' mess. "I've never seen any ghosts, but you can hear weird things down there," he said. "I was taking inventory one night and heard a noise like deck grating being picked up and dropped. I'd turn around but didn't see anything. When I turned around to begin my work, the noise started again."

One night Balboa was checking temperatures in food-storage freezers; he kept finding open the doors he had shut behind him. "It is impossible for anyone to open the reefer (refrigerator) doors from the outside, behind me. Opening them from the outside requires a key (the doors lock automatically) and I had the only key with me. That incident puts me on the verge of believing," he said.

Some say the ghost is a chief killed during a 1967 flight deck fire that killed 137 sailors in the Gulf of Tonkin off North Vietnam. Others guess he's a pilot whose body was once stored on the ship.

Petty Officer James Hillard hasn't ventured into the haunted areas since he saw George last year while checking out odd footsteps. "He was wearing a khaki uniform, like an officer or chief would wear," he said. He followed the apparition into a compartment, but "there was nobody in there, and I swear that is where he went," Hillard said.

Mess Specialist 2nd Class Gary Weiss saw a khaki-clad ghost go down a ladder into pump room No. 1. Whoever or whatever went down into the pump room never came out and the ladder is the only access, he said.

Hillard said he once was helping move supplies when a reportedly disconnected telephone kept ringing. "...I answered it. This time there was a faint voice calling 'Help! Help! I'm on the sixth deck!'" Rumor said that a crew member had been killed down there. "I'm very scared to go down

there alone. If I do, I get out of there as fast as I can," Hillard said.

Others are dubious. "I think it's the guy's imagination," said Senior Chief Petty Officer James Williams. "I'm not superstitious, but I'm uneasy when I go down there by myself. When that happens, one's imagination will play tricks." Source: Los Angeles, CA *Herald Examiner* August 5, 1988 via Martin Piechota.

1934 - MASS. TREE SHEDS TEARS

It appears that weeping willow trees which usually confine themselves to looking very sad really can weep when they want to, according to The Boston *Evening Transcript*.

A patrolman, stationed at the Metropolitan Police Station in the Blue Hills of Milton, Mass., was standing in the shelter of a tree when he found himself getting wet. It was very odd, for the sun was shining brightly and there was no sign of a cloud in the sky. Investigating, he found that the willow tree under which he stood was weeping copiously - not just being damp, but dripping water from every branch.

The willow is still weeping, says the writer. Night and day, without ceasing, it continues to exude moisture from its bark so profusely that a man standing under any part of the tree may collect a pail full of water in a few moments. Whenever a breeze springs up the water rattles down as if a heavy rainstorm had loaded the leaves. No other trees in the neighborhood are acting in this peculiar fashion. The weeping willow, a double trunk affair, stands alone in a little clearing a few hundred yards from the police station. Its roots are in high land, which appears to be very dry.

The weeping willow is scrawny. About forty-five feet high, the bark of its trunk and every branch are soaking wet to the very top and it is from the bark that the water issues. The leaves appear to be quite dry except where water falls upon them. Occasionally a branch is found which is not as wet as the others but often as not it terminates in what looks to be a leaking spigot.

Leon Minot, tree warden for the district commission of the reservation, has never before encountered the phenomenon here or elsewhere, nor has Arthur Allen, tree warden for the town of Milton. It is likely that botanical experts will be called in to study the tree.

The weeping willow borders upon a small lot where a hollow is being filled with refuse. It might be that something of a chemical nature has found its way to the roots or it may be that the willow is weeping simply at being so near a refuse heap, says the writer. Source: New York *Times* July 8, 1934 via Martin Piechota.

1977 - BIGFOOT IN INDIANA?

RISING SUN - Picture a hairy, ape-like creature 12 feet tall that makes a "a real funny noise like an ugh" and you have Mrs. Connie Courter's eyewitness description of Ohio County's own "Bigfoot."

"If my husband stood on my shoulders he'd still have to look up to it. And it wasn't a bear," Mrs. Courter, of RFD 1, Aurora, said emphatically.

One night, while her husband, father-in-law and two police officers were shooting at the strange creature, she added, "We heard it holler all the way up here" (at the home of her parents a barely safe distance away).

Two nights last week, Mrs. Courter, 20, and her husband, Tom, 18, said they were confronted by the strange creature as they attempted to leave their car and enter their mobile home on Henschen Road just west of Ind. 56.

Both nights, they had returned from visiting Mrs. Courter's parents down the hill and around the turn on Ind. 56.

In each case, the Ohio County sheriff, Francis "Swede" Colen, dispatched his brother and only deputy, Ora "Oop" Colen, to investigate. Both times, Oop returned saying he found no trace of any

“Bigfoot”.

Here’s Mrs. Courter’s story of what happened: “Last Tuesday night, my husband, with our little baby (six weeks old), had been at mother’s. We took my sister-in-law, Debbie Tinsley, home on Henschen Road, turned around in Debbie’s driveway and came back down the hill and pulled in front of our trailer.

“I had my door open. He has his door open and he reached down in the back seat to get the diaper bag when - it was only 18 inches away - he jumped back in the car and yelled, ‘Close the door!’”

Mrs. Courter said Bigfoot crashed against the car and dented it. But they sped away and went to the home of her mother, Mrs. Betty Tinsley, and called Sheriff Colen.

The incident occurred about 11 p.m. The next night, the Courters also visited Mrs. Tinsley’s and this time waited until 11:45 p.m. to return home.

Tom Courter came prepared. He was armed with a 16-shot .22 caliber rifle.

When they parked, Mrs. Courter said she told her husband, “I’m not getting out of the car,” He opened the door and then said, “Did you hear that!”

“It was a real funny noise - like an ugh - and then we saw him sitting perched on the hill,” she said.

“He fired one shot at it and it jumped up. It started acting like it was going to leave and he fired all 15 shots left into it. It would crawl to get away from the shots,” she said. Source: Bill Robinson, *Cincinnati Post* April 20, 1977.

FLYING TRIANGLE SEEN IN NEW YORK

On Sunday, December 12, 1999, at 10:09 p.m., Paul S. was at his home in Pleasantville, New York when he spotted an unusual light through his living room window. Because the window has an excellent view of nearby Westchester County Airport, he thought at first it was a plane’s landing lights. But then it did something very strange - it halted in mid-air!

“Tonight, however, a light appeared out of the northwest and stopped. I kept expecting it to turn south, as all planes do, but it just stayed there. After about 20 seconds, another light, or object (for now they were both close enough for me to see two or three white lights on each object) seemed to appear out of nowhere. My view was greatly blocked by tree branches.

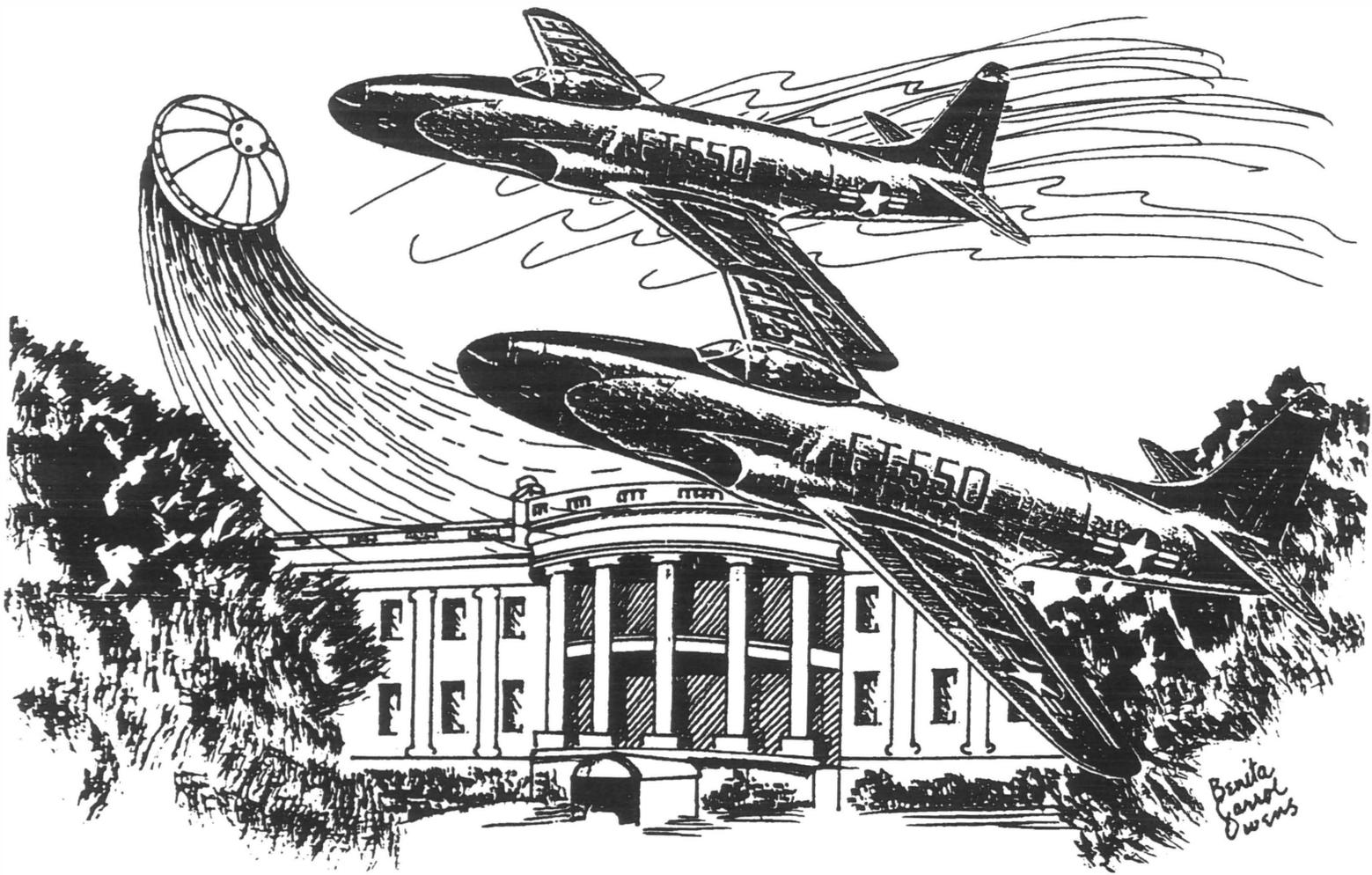
“A few seconds after it appeared, both objects began to move slowly towards the west. I quickly ran to fetch a pair of binoculars out of my closet, and the objects were still in view when I returned, slowly moving to the west.

“For about 10 or 15 seconds, I watched with the binoculars until they passed out of sight, slowly but steadily gaining speed, then quickly ran to my bedroom, which has a northwest-facing window. By the time I got the blinds up and the window opened, one of the objects had disappeared, but the second one was closer than ever, traveling to the west, or perhaps the southwest.

“I could see that the three white lights were actually three corners of an equilateral triangle, and there was one dimmer red light in the center of the bottom of the object. I have no idea how high it was, but it seemed that it was about the size of a dime held at arm’s length when it was closest, just before it passed out of view, about 10:12 p.m.” Source: Joseph Trainor, “UFO Roundup” Vol. 4 No. 34 via Brad Bado.

“Throughout history people have been straying through Alice’s looking glass, seeing things that don’t exist, visiting places that spill off the maps into some hallucinatory dimension.”

John Keel in *The Mothman Prophecies*





“That, upon general principles of Continuity if super-vessels, or super-vehicles, have traversed this earth’s atmosphere, there must be mergers between them and terrestrial phenomena: observations upon them must merge away into observations upon clouds and balloons and meteors...” - Charles Fort in *The Book of the Damned*.