

Mason Monster rises once again — on radio program

The Mason County Monster, or Moth Man, if you prefer, is about to be resurrected by National Public Radio.

For newcomers, or those whose memories may be foggy, Moth Man flitted up and down the mid-Ohio River Valley in the mid- to late 1960s. He, she or it was a nocturnal creature and was usually reported in what is known in Mason County as the TNT area. That is where the Point Pleasant (W.Va) Ordnance Works was located in World War II and is now the home of Mason County Fair.

Most of those who "saw" the creature described it as a huge bird. It was reportedly seen sitting in or along the highway and, on occasion, pursued vehicles. It never did any harm, except to the nervous systems of those who said they encountered it. There were some searches to try to find its lair, but they were unsuccessful. Finally, whatever it was disappeared.

About the same time, there was a rash of sightings of unidentified flying objects in the area. Those drew the attention of John A. Keel, a New

Yorker who is an authority on UFOs. He included mention of the Mason County sightings in a book, "UFOs: Operation Trojan Horse," published in 1970.

Now come Larry Massett of National Public Radio, and Dave Stillerman of Washington, D.C. with new interest in the Mason Monster. They have been in the area this week, reviewing news accounts and interviewing people who had some connection with the night flyer.

Massett, a producer, said the idea came from Stillerman, who had been in the Point Pleasant area and had learned of the Monster from residents. Massett recorded interviews with news people who had handled stories, and was to talk with law officers and anyone else who may have seen the creature or who had any knowledge of its activities.

He said he will present his findings on NPR's "All Things Considered" program, maybe sometime next week. Massett promised to announce when the program will be aired.