

Creature Chronicles

EDITOR:

Ron Schaffner
P.O. Box 335
Loveland, Ohio 45140
(513) 683-0420

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AFFILIATIONS:

Ohio UFO Investigators League, Inc.
Scientific Bureau of Investigations

EDITORIAL BRIEF:

In accordance with the open letter of our last newsletter, I submit this publication for circulation. It is an exchange and non-scheduled type basis. It is our intention to keep the information flowing with some continuity, using newspaper clippings and investigated matter from other researchers.

Please respond and comment if you wish. I am in the midst of a reorganization of my files, so replies may be somewhat at a slow pace.

I realize that this format is minimal compared to previous issues, but remember, the news of cryptozoological events have been light.

FELINE ACTIVITY:

Last December brought some interesting panther reports in Ohio and Michigan. What is remarkable is that they were reported in Cincinnati and Flint, within their respective city limits. The Michigan reports date back to the past summer. (see clippings)

WHERE HAVE ALL THE SASQUATCH GONE?:

Statistically speaking, Bigfoot reports are at an all-time low since the 1940's. Especially, if you take into account of the previous two decades. Is this lack of sightings telling us something? Does anyone care to speculate? I have developed an hypothesis, but it is too sketchy to discuss at this time. A hint? Well, it is skeptical in nature!

Perhaps there have been sightings and I have been negligent in logging them. If anyone has any documented reports, please send them along with proper source and credit. Your usual cooperation is appreciated.

BIG BIRD CREATURE:

Mr. Valentine Hood (69), of Weirsdale, Florida claims to have been visited by a strange bird on December 15, 1983 at 12:00 Noon. Hood says that he was resting in his trailer, when he saw this "bird" outside his window. It put its beak up against the window, then moved out of his view, all of this lasting about thirty seconds.

Mr. Hood contends that the creature was alive; it was big as an eagle, but with no wings(?). It had fur covering the body about one half inch long. The body vibrated where the wings should have been and it made a low sound like a bumble bee.

Source: Investigated by Bill Rachels, of Madison, Florida.

Coyote Trouble

Officials Consider Bounty For Sheep Killers

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON CH, Ohio—Fayette County officials may place a bounty on coyotes in an attempt to halt a series of sheep killings, a county commissioner says.

But there's some disagreement about whether the animal culprits involved are coyotes, wild dogs, coydogs—a cross-breed between coyotes and wild dogs—or possibly panthers.

Laurence Dumford, a Fayette County commissioner, said four coyotes have been caught or killed in the last month.

A young coyote was trapped last Thursday on the Jefferson Township farm of Dan Schlichter, uncle of Indianapolis Colts quarterback Art Schlichter.

A year ago, Dumford said, there was a series of sheep kills by wild dogs. The most recent kills, 18 sheep in four months, were more characteristic of coyotes, he said.

Dumford plans to meet with the county's other two commissioners Monday to decide what to do about the coyotes.

He said he will ask the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for help and consider placing a bounty on the animals. Logan County placed a \$50 bounty on coyotes a year ago.

Evidence seems to point to coyotes coming into Ohio from Pennsylvania and from the West, said Pat Ruble, executive administrator of wildlife

management for the state natural resources department.

"I'd bet my paycheck that it is either coyotes or dogs," Ruble said.

Richard Pierce, a director in the state agency, said he believes wild dogs are making the kills. Although there have been reports of coyotes in three-fourths of Ohio's counties, they are still rare, he said.

James Keener, assistant director of wildlife, said people can not visually distinguish coyotes. "The skull has to be measured and tests done," he said.

Dumford said tests will be done on Fayette County's slain coyotes.

A far different view is taken by Maine psychiatric social worker Loren Coleman, who has written four books on unexplained phenomena.

Coleman, who wrote "Creatures of the Outer Edge" and "Mysterious America," said he investigated animal killings in Fayette County in 1977.

He leans to the theory that "panthers, usually with red eyes," are killing the sheep.

While wildlife officials admit they receive panther reports almost daily, Pierce says, "There have been no panthers east of the Mississippi for 50 years."

Coleman is writing a sequel to "Mysterious America" and plans to include the Fayette sheep killings in it.

Cincinnati Enquirer 11/5/84
(Ohio)

Ron Schaffner
P.O. Box 335
Loveland, OH 45140

India's 'Wolf Boy' Dies In Home

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW DELHI, India—Ramu the "Wolf Boy" is dead.

Ramu, who, according to the United News of India (UNI), had been raised by wolves, walked on all fours and ate raw meat, died Monday in a home for the destitute near Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh state, about 250 miles south-east of New Delhi, the news agency reported Saturday.

Ramu was in his 20s. The exact cause of death was not known, but he developed cramps two weeks ago and did not respond to medical treatment, UNI reported.

Ramu created a sensation in 1976 when he was captured in a forest in the company of three wolf cubs, UNI said. He was about 10 years old at the time.

The agency said that when Ramu was found, he was walking on

all fours, had matted hair, his nails had grown long, and his palms, elbows and knees were calloused, like the pads of a wolf's paws.

UNI said that Ramu had been eating raw meat like his wolf companions. After he was captured, he was still attracted by raw meat and would sneak out and attack chickens in the neighborhood, the news agency said.

Ramu was handed over to Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, who taught him to bathe and wear clothes, UNI said.

But like other children who spent their early years apart from human contact, Ramu never learned to speak, UNI said.

Although he created a press sensation at the time he was found, he was never put on display, UNI said.

Cincinnati Enquirer 2/24/85
(Ohio)

Cincinnati Enquirer 10/31/84
(Ohio)

Authorities Search For Missing Baboons

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DANBURY TOWNSHIP, Ohio—The hunt is on in this Ottawa County township, where police, wildlife handlers and homeowners are looking for one or two baboons that have been roaming the area for weeks.

No one is sure how many baboons are on the loose—officials at the African Lion Safari where they escaped say there is one, but police say they have seen two—and no one knows where the animals are.

Baboons have been seen running down roads, sitting on television antennas and eating apples in a local orchard. One even stopped traffic briefly along Ohio 289, said Danbury police officer Robert Kramer, who found one there Saturday in the middle of the road.

"It would just sit there until the traffic stopped, and then it would run off to the side. As soon as the traffic started back up, it would run out in the middle of the road again," Kramer said.

Ron Schaffner
P.O. Box 335
Loveland, OH 45140

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EDITOR: JAMES P. DELANEY, 369-1003

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1984

No 'Lion'—Huge Cat Prowling in Avondale, Say Residents

BY STEVE HOFFMAN
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Three close looks in two weeks have convinced Lillian Smith that it's no ordinary house cat that's stalking North Avondale.

"I almost fainted when I saw it," she said Monday—the day after she reported her latest look at the animal, upon returning to her apartment from church.

Cincinnati and St. Bernard police fielded persistent calls during the weekend about a large cat near Clinton Town House Apartments on Rion Lane near Clinton Springs Avenue.

Some callers said the animal is a mountain lion. Mrs. Smith said it looks like Benzoo, the Cincinnati Bengals' tiger mascot.

Residents of the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority project are worried about danger posed by the animal.

LAW ENFORCEMENT officials are uncertain what to make of the reports.

"I have some doubts, but we have had a lot of reports from neighbors and we are not discounting the stories," said Sgt. Alan Jones of District 4 Cincinnati

police. He said four of six sightings came from Mrs. Smith.

Two weeks ago, Mrs. Smith saw the animal seven feet away, under a car. Last Friday, after grocery shopping, she saw it and heard its growl.

"It was really a heavy roar," she said. "Something needs to be done," said Mrs. Smith, a West End pre-school teacher. "We have a deaf person, children, senior citizens and people in wheelchairs living here."

Mrs. Smith, 44, has lived 13 years in her apartment with her two grown children. Before she saw the cat two weeks ago, she had never heard reports about

it. But, she said, a neighbor she won't identify told her last week he saw it 1 1/2 years ago.

"How many mountain lions do you see around here?" asked St. Bernard Police Sgt. Jack Young, who said his department received numerous calls Friday night.

MIKE SERIO, state game warden attached to Hamilton County, called the sightings hard to believe.

"I wonder what it's surviving on because an animal like that has a good appetite," he said. "In that area, it could

only feed on domestic animals." Samuel Snider of Linwood, licensed Ohio Division of Wildlife nuisance wildlife remover, has looked for the cat. His wife, Marsha, who assists him, said they planned to put out bait Monday night in an effort to tranquilize the animal and remove him alive from the area.

Sgt. Jones said paw prints 2 1/2 to 3 inches in diameter were found in near-by Roger Bacon Stadium last Friday night but the SPCA could not identify them. He said there have been intermittent reports of such an animal in the area over the last two to seven years.

Cincinnati Enquirer 12/4/84
(Ohio)

Cincinnati Enquirer
(Ohio) 11/11/84

Snake Nests Under Hood

A female motorist checked her car Saturday morning and found that instead of a tiger in her tank, she had a snake on her motor.

Elmer Hess, manager of the Sohio service station on Central Parkway, said the woman had stopped in to check her oil and after opening the hood, discovered a partially concealed, 4 1/2-foot boa constrictor.

District 5 police officers responded to the scene and took the snake from the engine. It was given to the Hamilton County SPCA for safekeeping.

Andy Mahlman, an SPCA dispatcher, said the snake was probably seeking warmth when it found its way into the car engine.

SPCA officials will hold the snake temporarily and turn it over to the Cincinnati Herpetological Society if no owner is found.

Hess said the female motorist, who refused to give her name, was a bit undone by the incident.

Peacocks Come In From The Cold

Marilyn Murphy has seen a lot of strange animals in her tenure as executive director of the Kenton County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), but a recent call for help had even her stumped.

Employees of the St. Charles Nursing Home in Covington called Friday night to report two peacocks were tapping on a window. They wanted to know if Murphy could send someone over to pick them up.

"We've captured a lot of different animals, but we've never had to handle peacocks," Murphy said.

Sister Mary Joenita, S.N.D., said the nuns were at supper

about 6:30 p.m. Friday, when they heard the peacocks pecking at a window.

"We were afraid if they were domesticated, they would not be able to survive, and if they were wild, they might hurt one of the patients," Sister Mary said.

As two SPCA employees debated how to handle the birds, a nun solved the dilemma by walking behind the peacocks and grabbing each one by the legs.

The peacocks are being held at the Kenton County SPCA at 3L Highway and Orphanage Rd., Fort Wright, until claimed, Murphy said.

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3/5/85

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Loveland, OH 45140

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Panther on prowl again? Cat seen near Fisher Flint

The elusive "black panther" is suspected of putting in another appearance in the area Monday, this time penetrating the Flint city limits near the Fisher Body Flint Plant.

Three employees of the plant's cost accounting division reported seeing a "panther-like" creature in an alley across S. Saginaw Street from the plant at about 8:30 a.m.

"I'm not sure exactly what we saw," said William Routhier, one of the employees. "Someone pointed it out to me and ... in my mind... I was discounting it as a cat or dog."

But when he looked to a spot in the alley about 75 yards away, Routhier said he saw a large, dark cat, much larger than any cat he had ever seen.

"Its tail was so long. If that was a cat, I certainly wouldn't

want to own one like it," he said.

When last seen, the cat was sauntering south down the alley behind Wayne's Bar and Grill, Routhier said.

Another Fisher employee called the police, who said they would send a car to check the area. No further sightings were reported, however.

At least four others have reported sighting what they believed was a black panther in Flint's suburbs within the last month. None of the panther sightings has been confirmed by authorities.

However, police and wildlife officials this summer have confirmed sightings of a black panther in Washtenaw and Oakland counties. They said the panther is possibly a former pet that has been released.

Flint Journal 8/14/84
(Michigan)

Credit to Wayne King of Caro, Michigan for these two newsclips.

Close call with panther claimed here

From UPI, Journal staff reports

If a black cat crossing the path is bad luck, Craig Wadsworth is in for a heap of trouble.

The truck driver from Davison claims to have almost run over the infamous Manchester black panther early Monday on Ortonville Road south of Flint.

Wadsworth said he was driving at 6:30 a.m. when the animal crossed his path. He said he slammed his brakes, at first thinking it was a big dog.

"The cat stopped, looked at me in the cab of the truck, then scurried off into the darkness," Wadsworth said.

His reported sighting of the panther, first seen in Manchester, would not be the first this year in the Flint area.

Last summer, there were two unconfirmed sightings, one in Flint Township and another near the Fisher Body Flint Plant.

Flint Journal 12/4/84
(Michigan)