

The Mystery in Marfa, Texas

📅 March 12, 2023 👤 admin



by Charles Lear, author of “The Flying Saucer Investigators.”

In Marfa, Texas, there is a phenomenon known as “The Marfa Lights” that has been around for a long time and still remains a mystery. It’s been studied by members of the Society of Physics Students from the University of Dallas and a retired aerospace engineer, James Bunnell. The students thought people were seeing car headlights on U.S. 67. Bunnell thought there was more to the lights than mere

misidentification.

According to the Texas State Historical Association website entry on the subject by Julia Cauble Smith, the first historical record of a mystery lights sighting dates back to 1883. According to Smith, Robert Reed Ellison, a young cowhand, saw a flickering light while driving cattle through

1
00:00:02,760 --> 00:00:11,020
foreign

2
00:00:32,330 --> 00:00:16,310
[Music]

3
00:00:35,330 --> 00:00:32,340
the mystery in Marfa Texas by Charles

4
00:00:37,850 --> 00:00:35,340
Lear in Marfa Texas there is a

5
00:00:39,530 --> 00:00:37,860
phenomenon known as the morpholites that

6
00:00:41,510 --> 00:00:39,540
has been around for a long time and

7
00:00:43,549 --> 00:00:41,520
Still Remains a mystery it's been

8
00:00:45,590 --> 00:00:43,559
studied by members of the Society of

9
00:00:47,990 --> 00:00:45,600
physics students from the University of

10
00:00:50,450 --> 00:00:48,000
Dallas and a retired aerospace engineer

11
00:00:52,610 --> 00:00:50,460
James Spinell the students thought

12
00:00:55,069 --> 00:00:52,620
people were seeing car headlights on U.S

13
00:00:57,310 --> 00:00:55,079

67. Bonnell thought there was more to

14

00:00:59,930 --> 00:00:57,320

the lights than mere misidentification

15

00:01:02,209 --> 00:00:59,940

according to the Texas State Historical

16

00:01:04,490 --> 00:01:02,219

association website entry on the subject

17

00:01:06,230 --> 00:01:04,500

by Julia Cobble Smith the first

18

00:01:09,710 --> 00:01:06,240

historical record of a mystery light

19

00:01:12,050 --> 00:01:09,720

sighting dates back to 1883. according

20

00:01:14,210 --> 00:01:12,060

to Smith Robert Reed Ellison a young

21

00:01:16,130 --> 00:01:14,220

Cowhand saw a flickering light while

22

00:01:18,170 --> 00:01:16,140

driving cattle through an area known as

23

00:01:20,510 --> 00:01:18,180

Paisano pass and thought it might be

24

00:01:22,310 --> 00:01:20,520

coming from an Apache campfire other

25

00:01:24,230 --> 00:01:22,320

settlers told him they had seen lights

26

00:01:26,450 --> 00:01:24,240

on other occasions and when they

27

00:01:28,850 --> 00:01:26,460

investigated they found no signs of

28

00:01:30,590 --> 00:01:28,860

fires in the area this has been used as

29

00:01:33,770 --> 00:01:30,600

an argument against the car lights on

30

00:01:35,870 --> 00:01:33,780

us-67 explanation by Defenders of of the

31

00:01:38,390 --> 00:01:35,880

mysterious nature of the lights such as

32

00:01:40,010 --> 00:01:38,400

aerial slick who posted an article on

33

00:01:42,530 --> 00:01:40,020

the Deep South magazine website

34

00:01:46,910 --> 00:01:42,540

headlined Marfa lights the spirit of

35

00:01:48,469 --> 00:01:46,920

Texas on August 19 2022 a reporter who

36

00:01:50,870 --> 00:01:48,479

claims to have actually seen the lights

37

00:01:52,969 --> 00:01:50,880

himself as Michael Hall who wrote an

38

00:01:56,210 --> 00:01:52,979

article headlined the truth is out there

39
00:01:58,550 --> 00:01:56,220
posted in June 2006 on the Texas monthly

40
00:02:00,889 --> 00:01:58,560
website Hall describes the lights as

41
00:02:02,810 --> 00:02:00,899
yellowish lights that would glow fade

42
00:02:04,910 --> 00:02:02,820
disappear and reappear in different

43
00:02:07,190 --> 00:02:04,920
places sometimes changing colors

44
00:02:09,469 --> 00:02:07,200
splitting apart other Witnesses he

45
00:02:12,050 --> 00:02:09,479
refers to in his article describe them

46
00:02:14,030 --> 00:02:12,060
as sometimes moving upwards all reports

47
00:02:16,670 --> 00:02:14,040
that he has visited Marfa on several

48
00:02:18,710 --> 00:02:16,680
occasions and did so for the article as

49
00:02:21,710 --> 00:02:18,720
part of his research he contacted

50
00:02:23,930 --> 00:02:21,720
Ellison's granddaughter Rosemary Cox he

51
00:02:25,790 --> 00:02:23,940
wrote that she told him that Ellison had

52
00:02:27,229 --> 00:02:25,800
spoken to his family about seeing the

53
00:02:30,830 --> 00:02:27,239
lights but when looking through

54
00:02:32,869 --> 00:02:30,840
Ellison's 1937 Memoir provided by Cox he

55
00:02:35,589 --> 00:02:32,879
saw no mention of them Paul mentions

56
00:02:39,650 --> 00:02:35,599
another historical Source O W Williams

57
00:02:41,809 --> 00:02:39,660
cited by the state of Texas ow Williams

58
00:02:44,449 --> 00:02:41,819
was the grandfather of Clayton Williams

59
00:02:46,790 --> 00:02:44,459
who was a Texas businessman dealing in

60
00:02:49,610 --> 00:02:46,800
oil gas real estate and other Ventures

61
00:02:51,650 --> 00:02:49,620
who ran for governor in 1990. Williams

62
00:02:53,690 --> 00:02:51,660
told Hall that his grandfather had a

63
00:02:55,970 --> 00:02:53,700

Mexican guide who told him campfire

64

00:02:58,250 --> 00:02:55,980

stories told to other Mexicans by the

65

00:03:00,470 --> 00:02:58,260

Indians and these included one about the

66

00:03:02,150 --> 00:03:00,480

lights according to Williams his

67

00:03:04,070 --> 00:03:02,160

grandfather wrote some of the stories

68

00:03:06,290 --> 00:03:04,080

down but not the one about the lights

69

00:03:08,630 --> 00:03:06,300

Williams did however say that his

70

00:03:11,089 --> 00:03:08,640

grandfather told him about seeing them

71

00:03:13,369 --> 00:03:11,099

the earliest record Hall could find that

72

00:03:16,910 --> 00:03:13,379

was not purely anecdotal was an article

73

00:03:19,610 --> 00:03:16,920

in the February 9 1945 San Angelo times

74

00:03:21,770 --> 00:03:19,620

headlined Coast light appears in Marfa

75

00:03:24,430 --> 00:03:21,780

area this is more than a decade before

76

00:03:27,229 --> 00:03:24,440

the article by Paul Moran in the July

77

00:03:29,869 --> 00:03:27,239

1957 edition of Coronet magazine

78

00:03:32,149 --> 00:03:29,879

headlined The Mystery of the Texas coast

79

00:03:34,490 --> 00:03:32,159

light that is cited in many accounts

80

00:03:36,530 --> 00:03:34,500

including the Wikipedia media entry as

81

00:03:38,509 --> 00:03:36,540

the earliest written record a

82

00:03:40,850 --> 00:03:38,519

comprehensive website devoted to the

83

00:03:43,309 --> 00:03:40,860

lights is Martha light's Mysteries run

84

00:03:46,309 --> 00:03:43,319

by Robert and Judy Wagers who wrote a

85

00:03:48,770 --> 00:03:46,319

book published in 2012 titled Mysteries

86

00:03:50,930 --> 00:03:48,780

of the Marvel lights revealed included

87

00:03:52,850 --> 00:03:50,940

in the history section of the website is

88

00:03:55,729 --> 00:03:52,860

a summation of the San Angelo Times

89

00:03:58,190 --> 00:03:55,739

article according to the summation two

90

00:04:00,350 --> 00:03:58,200

Army Airmen flew towards the chinati

91

00:04:02,089 --> 00:04:00,360

mountains in an effort to locate the

92

00:04:04,190 --> 00:04:02,099

source of the lights but found they

93

00:04:06,110 --> 00:04:04,200

couldn't see them from the air as for

94

00:04:08,630 --> 00:04:06,120

the identity of the Airmen it is

95

00:04:12,050 --> 00:04:08,640

reported that Elton miles author of the

96

00:04:15,050 --> 00:04:12,060

1976 book Tales of the Big Bend found

97

00:04:17,270 --> 00:04:15,060

one of them identified as former maaf

98

00:04:20,090 --> 00:04:17,280

flight instructor Lieutenant Fritz call

99

00:04:22,129 --> 00:04:20,100

and included his account in the book I

100

00:04:25,189 --> 00:04:22,139

chased them in an airplane not once but

101

00:04:29,030 --> 00:04:25,199

several times and this was in 1943 in

102

00:04:31,550 --> 00:04:29,040

1944 there I was a World War II Aviator

103

00:04:33,890 --> 00:04:31,560

I was 21 years old and didn't have any

104

00:04:35,570 --> 00:04:33,900

sense flying airplanes in at night out

105

00:04:38,150 --> 00:04:35,580

in the Hills right down to the ground

106

00:04:39,890 --> 00:04:38,160

the paper produced by the students from

107

00:04:43,310 --> 00:04:39,900

Texas state is no longer available

108

00:04:46,790 --> 00:04:43,320

online there is however an article that

109

00:04:49,070 --> 00:04:46,800

was posted on November 4th 2002 on the

110

00:04:51,590 --> 00:04:49,080

website of the houstonian the quotes the

111

00:04:54,650 --> 00:04:51,600

team leader Derek Buster according to

112

00:04:56,990 --> 00:04:54,660

Buster the lights were a hoax he

113

00:04:59,090 --> 00:04:57,000

explained that the team analyzed the

114

00:05:01,550 --> 00:04:59,100

spectrums of the lights they saw through

115

00:05:03,110 --> 00:05:01,560

filters attached to a telescope and

116

00:05:05,629 --> 00:05:03,120

concluded that they were the same as

117

00:05:08,090 --> 00:05:05,639

that produced by a halogen bulb and that

118

00:05:09,950 --> 00:05:08,100

they were seeing corelites he went on to

119

00:05:12,469 --> 00:05:09,960

say that Marfa and the state of Texas

120

00:05:14,749 --> 00:05:12,479

had used the phenomenon to promote

121

00:05:16,790 --> 00:05:14,759

tourism in the area according to Hall

122

00:05:19,730 --> 00:05:16,800

the students were only in Marfa for

123

00:05:22,070 --> 00:05:19,740

three days Marfa has indeed used the

124

00:05:24,170 --> 00:05:22,080

lights to promote tourism there is the

125

00:05:26,629 --> 00:05:24,180

Marfa lights festival which will be

126

00:05:28,909 --> 00:05:26,639

celebrating its 34th year this September

127

00:05:32,270 --> 00:05:28,919

and there is a viewing area that was

128

00:05:34,610 --> 00:05:32,280

built in 2003 on U.S 90. according to

129

00:05:36,230 --> 00:05:34,620

Hall the Town used seven hundred and

130

00:05:38,629 --> 00:05:36,240

thirty thousand dollars from the federal

131

00:05:40,909 --> 00:05:38,639

government and the Texas Department of

132

00:05:43,490 --> 00:05:40,919

Transportation to expand a small

133

00:05:45,890 --> 00:05:43,500

pull-off area however contrary to

134

00:05:48,409 --> 00:05:45,900

Buster's cynical comment according to an

135

00:05:53,090 --> 00:05:48,419

article by electrophumi and Elliot Stein

136

00:05:55,610 --> 00:05:53,100

posted January 17 2018 on the BBC

137

00:05:58,430 --> 00:05:55,620

website headlined the mysterious ghost

138

00:06:00,230 --> 00:05:58,440

lights of Marfa Texas the person who

139

00:06:03,469 --> 00:06:00,240

first promoted the lights as a tourist

140

00:06:05,330 --> 00:06:03,479

attraction was Armando Vasquez 92 years

141

00:06:08,029 --> 00:06:05,340

old when the article was written who

142

00:06:10,010 --> 00:06:08,039

claimed to have seen the lights in 1971.

143

00:06:13,610 --> 00:06:10,020

he began taking people from the two

144

00:06:16,070 --> 00:06:13,620

hotels in Marfa out to a Dusty Bluff to

145

00:06:18,110 --> 00:06:16,080

see the lights according to him for

146

00:06:19,909 --> 00:06:18,120

years we didn't have anyone here except

147

00:06:22,309 --> 00:06:19,919

the people who wanted to see the lights

148

00:06:24,350 --> 00:06:22,319

I was afraid Marfa would turn out to be

149

00:06:26,290 --> 00:06:24,360

a ghost town but this was very good

150

00:06:28,670 --> 00:06:26,300

because it helped to keep our town alive

151

00:06:30,650 --> 00:06:28,680

according to the article Vasquez

152

00:06:32,749 --> 00:06:30,660

petitioned the Marfa Chamber of Commerce

153

00:06:35,629 --> 00:06:32,759

for years to promote the lights and it

154

00:06:38,870 --> 00:06:35,639

wasn't until 1986 that they put together

155

00:06:40,129 --> 00:06:38,880

the first annual Marfa lights festival a

156

00:06:42,950 --> 00:06:40,139

person who has studied the lights

157

00:06:45,290 --> 00:06:42,960

extensively is James Spinell a retired

158

00:06:47,629 --> 00:06:45,300

NASA aerospace engineer who wrote four

159

00:06:50,029 --> 00:06:47,639

books on the subject according to benell

160

00:06:53,029 --> 00:06:50,039

on his website he first became intrigued

161

00:06:55,790 --> 00:06:53,039

by the lights in November of 2000 he set

162

00:06:58,610 --> 00:06:55,800

up 10 automated video cameras and

163

00:07:00,590 --> 00:06:58,620

recorded every night for many years he

164

00:07:03,290 --> 00:07:00,600

describes his investigation this way

165

00:07:06,170 --> 00:07:03,300

data collection using automated cameras

166

00:07:08,990 --> 00:07:06,180

was supplemented with 288 nights of

167

00:07:11,510 --> 00:07:09,000

on-site observations using telescopes

168

00:07:14,749 --> 00:07:11,520

with single lens reflex cameras as well

169

00:07:16,730 --> 00:07:14,759

as many types of sensors his opinion is

170

00:07:19,309 --> 00:07:16,740

the same as that of others and Marfa

171

00:07:21,890 --> 00:07:19,319

referred to by Hall who wrote it took me

172

00:07:23,870 --> 00:07:21,900

10 years but I was finally let in on the

173

00:07:25,850 --> 00:07:23,880

little secret shared by locals in Old

174

00:07:29,390 --> 00:07:25,860

Timers there are two kinds of Marvel

175

00:07:31,490 --> 00:07:29,400

lights the real ones and well the phony

176

00:07:34,189 --> 00:07:31,500

ones the ones you see from the viewing

177

00:07:36,170 --> 00:07:34,199

Center Charles Lair is is the author of

178

00:07:49,510 --> 00:07:36,180

The Flying Saucer investigators

179

00:07:49,520 --> 00:07:54,890

[Music]