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Book Review: West Virginia UFOs

From: campbell@ufomind.com (Glenn Campbell, Las Vegas)
 Date: Thu, 18 Dec 1997 11:07:08 -0800

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WEST VIRGINIA UFOS: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS IN THE MOUNTAIN STATE

By Bob Teets

\$14.95 - <http://www.ufomind.com/catalog/w/wvufo/>

We don't know what it is, but the aliens must sure love West Virginia. This is a detailed report on dozens of alien encounters in the state, with photos of the witnesses and lots of hand-drawn diagrams about what went where when. West Virginia also boasts an unusual collection of native beasts, include the "Mothman," a furry, winged creature the size of a man, and the "Green Monster," and oil-squirting fireball. The author faithfully records each story, and much of the book is composed of interviews with the witnesses.

Although it is darn near impossible to make sense of all these claims, this collection has a certain quintessential quality. If you're as snooty as us, you think of West Virginia as the land of moonshine, hillbillies and family feuds, and some of the witnesses look and sound like they match the stereotype, but this only contributes to the book's charm. There is something naive and wholesome about these tales. What you have here is Mr. & Mrs. America telling you honestly what they saw or experienced -- and ain't ashamed of it, neither. We find the drawings and diagrams especially appealing, taking on a sort of folk-art quality that belongs in the Smithsonian. If you're in the right mood, you'll read this book from cover-to-cover like a quirky novel, even if you've never tasted moonshine. -- Glenn

EXCERPT

SUDDENLY, the family dog became agitated, and Eathel followed its stares upward, just as a large object -- "the biggest thing I ever saw, at least 50 yards in diameter, with red, blue, green and amber lights -- flew right over our house and landed some distance away in an old, overgrown field, decimating everything in its path, including trees." Then, "It seemed like it started shooting pods of some sort up into the sky."

Before Eathel could stop his cousin, the other boy had grabbed a .22 rifle and had begun firing away.

His aim must have been true, for when the first bullet hit the craft, "it went -- whomp," Eathel recalls. But there didn't appear to be any damage.

Subsequent shots missed, he says, because, despite its size, the craft seemed agile enough to dart one way or the other and avoid the shells.

Meanwhile, Helen Southall, Eathel's mother, was out in the back yard with other members of the family.

"We started noticing these things popping up and down in midair," she states. "They were round and lighted and popping up to about the height an airplane would be allowed to fly at low altitude. They looked like beacons, not real bright, but like a dome that would go up and go around in a circle."

A daughter recalls an object "hovering over the neighbor's field" and "beams of light falling down to the ground. Mom called the Kanawha County airport and told them about it." She doesn't remember seeing anything on the ground.

"I don't like those things!" she exclaims now.

Because of their position, those in the back yard couldn't see anything like a large craft sitting in the old field across from the front of the house.

But Eathel and his cousin watched as the big ship eventually lifted out of the woods and disappeared slowly over the hills toward Ripley.

"I still look for them, I still believe in them," Eathel, now 42, says. He remembers writing a report about the event for his social studies class.

Helen, his mother, says she always carries a camera with her now. "We call them UFOs today," she states, "but they're in the Bible. Things can appear, can happen for a reason. It can be a warning, or it can bring good news. There are going to be great things happening! People are going to be saying, 'What an awesome God we've got!'"

FROM THE BOOK JACKET

What's It About?

A Southern West Virginia man thinks they're fallen angels.

A Greenbriar County female race car driver says she tried to outrun them in a race for her life.

A Harrison County businessman claims they're from another dimension and they've abducted him -- 1,500 times!

Former journalist Bob Teets has documented more than 150 UFO cases based on eyewitness accounts from West Virginians from all walks of life and from every area of the state. Sometimes with humor, often with fear, these people recount in their own words the mystery and horror, pathos and honor, and glory and tears they experienced when they came face to face with and an enigmatic phenomenon as old as time, and as new as today's headlines. West Virginia UFOs: Close Encounters in the Mountain State is a chronicle of people who did not ask to see, but who now need to know... What's It About?

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PO Box 30303, Las Vegas, NV 89173 Glenn Campbell, Webmaster & Moderator

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Created: Dec 18, 1997