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Missouri Spook Light & Ted Philips info

From: **bikebob** <bikebob@MO.NET>
Date: Sat, 1 Feb 1997 10:23:48 -0600 (CST)
Fwd Date: Sat, 01 Feb 1997 15:10:14 -0500
Subject: Missouri Spook Light & Ted Philips info

Errol Bruce Knapp (and Glenn Campbell; et al.),

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- (1) The Hornet "Spook Light" Revisited
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/s/

Bob Soetebier

The Hornet "Spook Light" Revisited

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The Hornet "Spook Light" (HSL) is an intriguing enigma. Reports of this particular phenomenon -- which occurs in the corners of south-western Missouri and northeastern Oklahoma -- have been recorded from as far back as the last century. Distant sightings of, and close encounters with, the HSL continue to be reported. (For recountings of some of these numerous incidents, see the appended listings of books and recently published articles about the HSL.)

Some (but, by no means all!) sightings of the HSL *might* be attribut-

able to the distant-road, auto-headlights hypothesis (particularly during the time of the year when the leaves are off the trees). The auto-headlight explanation certainly flies in the face of credible close-encounter HSL reports such as this example (taken from page 80 of the 1968 Dell paperback edition of Vincent H. Gaddis' book, *Mysterious Fires and Lights*) regarding the HSL.:

"Dr. George W. Ward, formerly with the Bureau of Standards, Washington, DC, and later associated with the Midwest Research Institute, made an investigation in 1945. He wrote that he observed a glow over the hills, followed by the appearance of a greenish-yellow sphere of light about five feet in diameter. This sphere advanced toward the doctor and his companions.

"One of the men, a publicity director for the institute, said he had seen all he cared to see. As the light approached and enveloped the witnesses, he quickly locked himself in their automobile."

Some Cautionary Notes:

If you're thinking of visiting the site, be advised that -- according to a November 6, 1995, Miami [Oklahoma] News Record article, entitled, "Dark side of the Spook light" -- because of reports of recent property vandalism (fences being cut, etc.) along and nearby HSL road, some of the local area residents there are participating in a "Neighborhood Watch Program." They have also prevailed upon the local Sheriff's Department to enforce a county Anti-Loitering/No-Parking ordinance in the vicinity of, and along, the HSL road: Arresting those who linger longer at that latitude and longitude!

Also, in view of all the empty beer cans/bottles on the side of the road there (the site is a popular on weekends and summer evening...or, at least it used to be before the anti-loitering crackdown noted above), anyone who decides to visit the HSL viewing site would be wise to consider that some of the otherwise terrestrial "moving lights" coming at you along the road might not all be "intelligently controlled!" So as not to become an inadvertent target for some of those "lesser lights," it's not necessarily advisable to set up a vigil along the HSL road.

Now that you have been forewarned...

There are at least two ways to get to the HSL road-site location.

If you're coming from the south, the best approach would be (as noted in the Missouri Department of Natural Resources official publication, *Geologic Wonders and Curiosities of Missouri*):

From the junction of Highways 43 and BB, 3 miles northwest of Racine, go west for approximately 2.5 miles to a T-junction. From that junction, go north for 1.25 miles to the [another T-] junction. This junction is on the Oklahoma-Missouri border. To look for the Spook Light, look westward from the [T-junction] along the east-west Oklahoma road.

Alternately, if you're coming from the north, the most direct way to get to viewing location is by the following route:

From I-44 in southwestern Missouri, at a location about 7 miles southwest of Joplin, MO -- literally at the "Tri-State" border junctions of Kansas/Oklahoma/Missouri, but still barely in Missouri -- get off the Interstate highway at the Hwy. 166 (Baxter Springs, KS) exit. Go south under I-44, and then immediately turn right (west) on a paved road. After a very short distance on this road, turn right again on a road that will shortly turn to gravel.

Proceed a total of almost exactly 4-1/2 miles (from under I-44) on this gravel road. Along the way on this long, somewhat rough, gravel road, you will have to pass over a couple of low-water bridges. [If there has been a lot of recent rain, you may not be able to get through and will have to temporarily abort your trip until the water recedes. --- WARNING: IF the water is abnormally high -- more than a foot across the road, do NOT attempt to cross the low-water bridges!]

Do not turn off this gravel road onto any of the side roads until you see a house with a mail box with the name of "Farmer" on your left.

That's the house at the head of the "T"-intersection. The gravel road -- known as to the local residents as "Stateline Road" -- you're already on will continue to travel forward; but, that's where (just barely beyond and across the road from the house) you'll need to turn right onto the side gravel road. This is the long, straight, undulating HSL [aka: East 50] gravel road.

For further information about the HSL, refer to these recent articles in the following publications.:

"Spooklight" -- by Suzanne J. Wilson; p.p.: 8-11, January, 1997, issue of the "Missouri Conservationist" magazine; Freely available from the Missouri Department of Conservation Internet Web site URL address: <http://www.state.mo.us/conservation/conmag/1997/01/2.html>

"Old Faithful of the Ozarks" -- by Wann Smith and William Equals; p.p.: 33-36, October, 1996, [Vol. 49, No. 10; issue 559 of] "FATE" magazine; Internet Web site URL address: <http://www.llewellyn.com>

"The Hornet-Joplin 'Spooklight'" -- by Bob Soetebier; p.p.: 10-12, July/August, 1996, [Vol. 11, No. 4] issue of "UFO" magazine (P.O. Box 1053, Sunland, CA 91041). Internet Web site URL address: <http://www.ufomagazine.com>

Book references:

Geologic Wonders and Curiosities of Missouri, by Thomas R. Beveridge; p.p.: 329-330. Revised and published in 1990 by the Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Geology and Land Survey, P.O. Box 250, Rolla, MO 65401. Tel. #: 314-364-1752.

Mysterious Fires and Lights, by Vincent H. Gaddis; p.p.: 79-80. 1968 paperback. Dell Publishing.

"The Legendary Ted Phillips"

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In his spare time, Ted Phillips races cars for fun and excitement. As if pushing himself (and his terrestrial-bound vehicles) "to the outer limits" isn't enough of a challenge, Ted's business, Astronomical Systems: Astronomical Telescopes & Astrophotography Equipment, gives him "license" to indulge his other passion: Scanning the skies for UFOs!

Mr. Phillips is an internationally known and respected UFO researcher. He refers to himself as a "nuts-and-bolts" UFO researcher.

Phillips' main field of expertise and interest is "physical-trace" evidence left as a result of UFO sightings and/or encounters. He has documented and reported upon innumerable UFO-related physical-trace cases over the years. Many of these field investigations were conducted in the company of his best friend: Dr. J. Allen Hynek.

After the death of Dr. Hynek, Ted took a few years hiatus from Ufology. The obvious good news is that he's back at it now...full-throttle!

Ted currently serves as an Assistant State Director for Missouri MUFON. He and his wife now reside in southwest Missouri, where he is actively investigating and documenting the Hornet "Spook Light."

Ted Phillips is one of the scheduled featured speakers at the April 11-13, 1997, "9th Annual Ozark UFO Conference" in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. His public presentation at that time will include "an update on the Missouri 'Spook Light,' plus an overview on the Ufology's history."

[For more information on the April 11-13, 1997, "9th Annual Ozark UFO Conference" in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, send a S.A.S.E., along with a note requesting a registration form, to: Ozark UFO Conference Information, #2 Caney Valley Drive, Plumerville, AR 72127-8725. The advance-registration (through April 5, 1997) fee for the three-day conference is \$35.00/person; or, \$40.00 at the door.]

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