

FREAKY LINKS

FREAK-O-PEDIA

DIARY

FRIEND OR FOE



FREAK-O-PEDIA TAILS OF THE CRYPTO

Bad Smelling Monster of Florida

South Florida Everglades - With millions of untamed acres, this part of Florida seems destined to have it's share of unnatural beasts and things that go bump in the night. Well maybe that should be go stink in the night, since the monster of the everglades has so strong a stench that it's called a skunk ape.

The skunk ape is claimed to be a relative of the yeti from the pacific northwest and is described as 7 to 8 feet tall, muddy brown in color and carries a stench that is a combination of an outhouse, wet dog, and a chicken coop. The legend of a skunk ape first surfaced in the late 70's after the famous Patterson Bigfoot footage. It was also around this time that developers started expanding out into the skunk apes natural habitat, the Florida Everglades. Since that time there's been over a dozen sightings.



"Big, big and hairy and smelly. I saw him clambering around out there in the woods and hollered but he didn't pay me no never mind." That's how pulp wooder Bobby Gains described the monster after meeting him near the Bill Cypress Preserve in 1985.

Other witnesses to the beast confirm the reek he emanates and state that it's impossible to stay in the area because of the smell. Many amateur cryptozoologists have hoped to catch the animal and prove his existence. Skunk ape hunters claim that he can be lured out by the smell of lima beans cooking or a freshly killed deer liver. Other hunters claim a tree stand and patience is the only way to make capture certain.

The Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission has been keeping track of the recent upswing of sightings and reports that the animal seem to be moving North up into the central Florida region. Most recently the area of Lake Ocheechee has been the skunk ape hotspot. Spokesman Tomas Newberry stated recently that he thinks the animal is heading north. "He's just like the rest of us South Floridians. After you have to deal with that craziness going on down here, you need to move."

sources

-"Skunk Apes, a Florida Bigfoot?" Fate and Science magazine, April 1978

-phone interview with Tomas Newberry, January 25th. 1999



LEARN MORE:

- [Florida Skunk Ape](#)
- [Florida Bigfoot](#)
- [Feet Stink](#)

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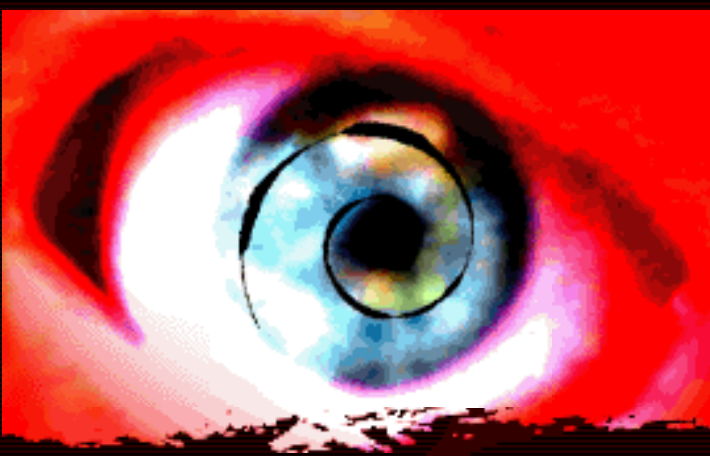
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TAILS OF THE CRYPTO

Devil in the Pickle Jar

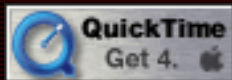
Orlando Florida - In a small, dirty apartment there lives a man who claims to have a Jersey Devil baby pickled in a jar.



The Jersey Devil floats in a pickle jar

[Click here to see the full movie](#) (6.6Mb), or watch the [smaller shorter clip](#) (2.7Mb).

(movie not working for you? you probably need to [download the QuickTime software](#))



What is a Jersey Devil? Most accounts seem to be more laughable than serious. Folklore states that in 1735 a woman in Leeds Point New Jersey already blessed (or cursed) with 12 children said that

her next child might just as well be from the devil. And indeed when it was born it had the appearance of coming from hell. It's head was a horse, with 2 cloven hoofs for feet and a pair of bat wings and a long spiked tail. It ran off into the woods and lives there to this day where it's presence



LEARN MORE:

- [Jersey Devil](#)
- [Jersey Devils on Ice](#)
- [New Jersey folklore](#)

IN THE FREAK-O-PEDIA:

has been blamed for cattle deaths, strange hoof prints and demonic cries in the night.

The largest claim to fame came to the Jersey Devil came in January 17th - 21st, 1909 when a rash of sightings of the creature occurred throughout south New Jersey and east Pennsylvania. The first reported incident occurred when a postman and two police officers in Bristol Pennsylvania saw a beast flying across the Delaware River. They described it as having a ram like head, with short wings and two small arms. It's legs were long and thin and it cried out with a horrible squawk and whistle. Subsequent reports on the following days placed it in the New Jersey and Pennsylvania towns of Burlington, Philadelphia, Moorestown, Gloucester, Leiperville, and Camden. Newspaper reports described each incident and the resulting hysteria caused some towns to close schools and businesses. The last newspaper article about the Devil had it perched on top a roof in West Collingswood New Jersey where local firemen sprayed it with water. The Devil swooped down toward the firemen, scattering them and then flew away.

It is interesting to note that in most cases the witnesses reported wildly different descriptions of what the beast looked like. For some it was "monkey-like" and only 2 to 3 foot tall. Others had it well over 6 feet in size and capable of breathing fire. The few historians who have researched the sightings have attributed the reports as "mass hysteria."

That may well be true because since the notable 1909 encounter sightings of the beast have been few and far between. The last one of any note happened in 1968 when two young boys described seeing a 6 foot long bird flying in a field as they rode their bikes in Trenton, New Jersey.

So what then is sitting inside a pickle jar here in Orlando

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and how did it make it's way to Florida? Mr. Jersey (as I shall call the owner) is known to have worked in the summer and fall of 1999 for a small, touring carnival. Orange county records indicate that the carnival was operated by a small company called "McDougal Brothers Inc." Calls to a "Buster McDougal" at the number listed on the permit were not returned.

Several people do remember a "Menagerie of the Strange" collection that could be viewed by the public for an admission fee when it came to Orlando in September of 1999. Sadly no one I've interviewed actually went into the trailer this collection was housed in so it's not certain if that's where the baby came into contact with Mr. Jersey. (I was out of town when it was here so don't blame me)

So did the carnival sell this thing to Mr. Jersey? It seems doubtful that a working carnival would give up such a piece but one person who knows Mr. Jersey has described him as a "weird kleptomaniac." This theory seems to be correct when you notice the paranoid behavior seen in the video. The fact that Mr. Jersey wishes for no pictures to be taken of the creature meant that I had to shoot the videotape without his knowledge.

Is it real? Well from outward appearances it does look pretty gross but you only have to go to any party store during Halloween to see "alien in a bottle" products.. I checked with some special effects suppliers and they don't know of any product on the market that resembles this one. My old biology teacher took a look and failed to identify it as well but said it definitely was not a cow or pig fetus. If anyone remembers seeing this item at a touring carnival please let me know.

February 18th update:

Oh me, oh my, Our nameless Jersey Devil baby owner has found out about this little quicktime film and is up in arms. Seems what I did was bad, very bad, and I'm going to pay for my nefarious activities. I'm not sure if he wants to sue me or kick my ass but neither sounds like something I want to be involved in. I'll keep you updated, sherlocks and keep looking over my shoulder.

sources

"Legends of the Northeast States" B. John Handelmyer
editor, 1975, Coopers Printer Company

quicktime video by Derek Barnes

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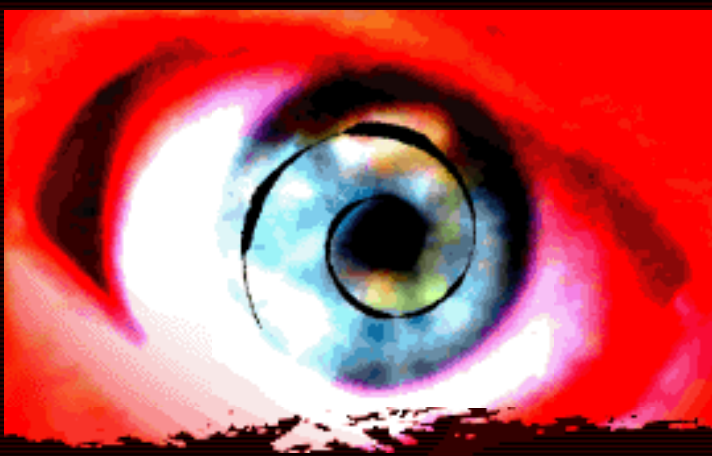
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- [Chupacabra Home Page](#)
- [el chupacabra online](#)
- [Real Goat Suckers](#)

IN THE FREAK-O-PEDIA:

Goat Sucking for Fun and
Profit

Arecibo Puerto Rico - Most people know this section of Puerto Rico from the giant land based radio telescope that has been seen in such films as "Contact" and some Charlie Sheen movie that I forgot the name of. Hector Lopez hopes that soon people will know Arecibo as the home of the mini mule.

"My mini mules are the best mini mules in the world." says Hector as he guides me around his large farm. "They are the smallest and the smartest!" But mini mules aren't the reason I'm here at the Lopez farm. I'm here because of what Hector saw taking a chunk out of a mini mule one night a month ago; a chupacabra.

The great chupacabra (Spanish for 'goatsucker') scare first started in Puerto Rico around the Spring of 1995 when sheep were being killed near Orocovis. A police officer sent out to investigate saw a humanoid creature 3 or 4 feet in height. When the officer tried to get closer to the creature he was struck down with a case of intense nausea. Reports of the small creature continued over the following months with it being described as having large black or orange eyes, a chameleon like appearance with long claws and spikes running down the back of the spine. By 1996 the numerous reports of the monster was attracting world wide attention and even the New York Times had an article about the mysterious attacker who preyed on livestock.

Hector Lopez's incident of November 8th is typical of most reports:

"I was in my house when I heard the dogs



Hector Lopez with a drawing of the Chupacabra that he saw

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begin to howl. I looked out the window and could see that the mini mules were upset so I quickly put on my shoes and went outside with a flashlight. As soon as I got outside I smelled something bad in the air, like meat that had gone rotten. I went closer to the pens where I keep the mules at night and I saw that one of my animals was laying on the ground. I shined the light a little higher and then I saw the Chupacabra. He was crouched over the mule so I couldn't tell exactly how high he was but he looked smaller than me. His eyes were huge and red. His skin was like a lizard's and dangly sharp hooks draped across his back. When I shone the light onto him he looked up at me and growled in a high pitched voice. I admit that I screamed and ran back into the house. I got my gun but did not go back outside. Instead I called the police."

Sergeant Arizo Wahotco arrived at the Lopez farm sometime around 12:30 that night. He confirmed that Lopez was very upset and that a mule had been killed. "The mule's guts were strewn across the dirt but there was very little blood." Wahotco told me "We looked around and found that part of the wood fence had been torn down.



That seemed strange to me since the fence was not that high and if it was a human who had done this then why not just step over the fence?"

Attacks on livestock also occurred at the Federal prison of Guaynabo on November 10th. Captain Inglashe spoke with me about the attacks experienced there.

"During the night of the 10th someone entered the prison's pigpens and killed all 12 animals. Since the pens are set up outside the prison grounds they were not heavily guarded and we did not discover that the animals had been killed until the 11th. It I believed that it was done by feral dogs that roam the area."



Another guard who didn't wish to be named had a different recollection of the event.

"I was on wall watch and at around 11 pm we heard the pigs squeal. I thought that locals were trying to steal the animals so me and one other guards went over there and shined our flashlights. By then the pigs were all dead but both of us

saw a short figure running back into the woods. Inglashe is saying it was dogs to cover his ass. It was the chupacabra."

Tales of nighttime monsters who kill livestock makes for a spooky tale but while I was on the island nothing unusual occurred. In fact, in the daytime the farm seems very innocent. The pens are neat and Lopez employs a husband and wife to see to the animal's needs.

"See this?" Lopez ask me as he points to wire running across the top of the fences. "Electrical wire to protect my mules. After the first time I spent a lot of money to get the fences wired against the beast. After I did it I found a spot where it had been bitten through. Electrical fence, bitten through! I went and got thicker wiring and so far it has kept the mules safe. But who knows?"

THE CHUPACABRA FREAK-CAM

Lopez has agreed to allow Freakylinks to set up a web camera that is trained on the mini mule pen where the attacks took place. The camera refreshes at a rate of one frame every minute and is automatic. If anything unusual is spotted please save the picture and forward it in an e-mail to me at derek@freakylinks.com.



[Click here to see the Chupacabra Live Freak-Cam!](#)

sources

interview with Hector Lopez, December 10th, 1999

interview with Captain William Inglashe, December 11th, 1999

interview with anonymous guard at Guaynabo Prison, December 11th, 1999

"Will the Real Chupacabra Please Come Forward" by Richard Berson, Enigma Magazine vol. 23 issue 3, September 1997

photo courtesy of "Ray of Light" magazine

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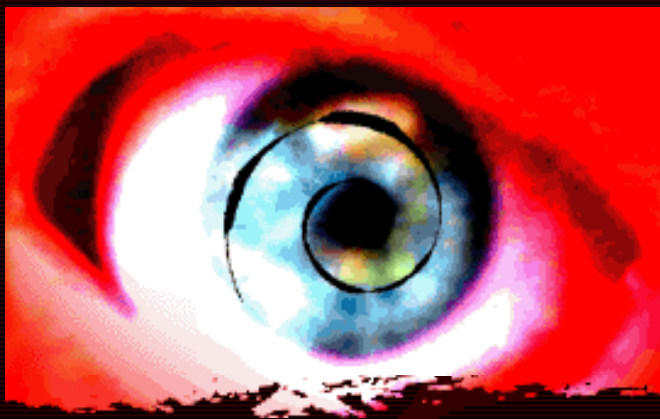
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How Many Pterodactyls Did You Kill In the War, Daddy?

Editors note

Since this photograph has become such a big deal I've refrained from updating the information and instead have kept the article preserved as a sort of time capsule of the events as they happened. - Derek

June 20th, 1998



LEARN MORE:

- [Thunderbird](#)
- [The Mystical Midnight Thunderbird](#)
- [Puzzle of the Piasa Monster Bird](#)

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Thunderbird Photo or Hoax designed to make my life hell? You be the judge
[Click here to see a larger version of the photo](#)

This photograph was squeezed between the pages of a 70's cheesy paranormal book I found at a thrift store. If it's real it sure makes for an interesting idea. Did a group of civil war soldiers kill (or find) what appears to be a pterodactyl?

I'm calling it a pterodactyl and saying they are civil war soldiers because that's what it looks like to me but I don't want to jump to any hasty conclusions.

I looked at some civil war era photos and this one looks very similar to those. The guns look to be old in design and the caps most of the men wear are of the civil war era. The blue uniforms would lead me to believe that these are Union soldiers. The photograph is printed on paper photo stock but maybe this is a reproduction of the original photo.



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So let's assume that this is a real photograph of Union troops from the Civil War.

The next questions should be about the giant bird they are surrounding. I can find no mention of civil war troops encountering a bird of large size. If it is a hoaxed photograph from that time period why would they fake a pterodactyl? Could it be a existing creature of large size? The biggest bird in North America is the California Condor which has had a measured wingspan of over 11 feet but this creature looks nothing like a California condor. The head is too large, not to mention the lack of feathers.

Is the bird then from the gray area of animal science known as cryptozoology? In the 1940's writer Robert Lyman said he saw a bird with at least a 20 foot wingspan fly into the Pennsylvanian woods. He believed that this was a young specimen of the thunderbird which, according to Indian legend, was responsible for causing thunder and lightning.

Western American historian Mari Sandoz wrote of a "flying serpent" that was seen over the Missouri River by passengers of a steamboat in the 1850's. And in 1976 reports of a giant bird flying over parts of the Rio Grande Valley in Texas made national news. It was described as over 4 feet tall and having black feathers, a long beak and red blazing eyes. Newspapers were quick to call it "big bird" after the Sesame Street character.

So reports of large birds have been around for many years. Maybe, just maybe it is the real thing. I'll leave it up to you, my cyberspace audience to judge.

July 1st, 1998

This photograph is either going to be the biggest paranormal news scoop of the century or it's going to make me the biggest fool on the planet. Or perhaps both.

Several days after it was up I started getting massive amounts of e-mail from people demanding to know how I faked it, why did I do it, and what kind of fool do they think I am. It seems that the photo looks very similar to a holy grail of cryptozoology called "the thunderbird photo" (I knew I was on the right track with that thunderbird thing)



sketch of the supposed original photograph

The story goes like this:

In April 1890 the Tombstone Epitaph (and/or possibly another) newspaper reported that 2 men had shot and killed a Thunderbird. Many people claimed that a picture accompanied the article which showed the gigantic bird with a wingspan of anywhere from 20 to 160 feet (recollections are vague) in front of a group of men. An exhaustive search by the Epitaph, authorities on old west photography and several different magazines over the years have failed to come up with the photo, but that hasn't stopped people from claiming that they saw it. People have claimed to see it in either a men's magazine of the 60's, on a television interview show or in tabloids from the 70's. Almost all the descriptions are of a group of old west men standing by the bird and not of Union soldiers. Since I'm not claiming this is the real thunderbird photo (if one exists) I can't explain why this one has soldiers and not cowboys.

So now you see how I have gotten involved. I found the photo (which measures approx. 8 by 10) folded between two pages of a paperback book at a little junk store somewhere south of Dardenelle Arkansas on Highway 7. (for a further description of the trip it was found on please see my [diary of a madman](#) section) If anyone is in that part of north Arkansas and is willing to do a little traveling to find the store let me know and I'll send you the details. The book was one of those ratty paranormal ones from the 70's called, "Search for the Outer Space Gods" written by Jonathan Ferody in 1977 and published by Harpsong Press. Contrary to popular opinion, I had not heard of the 'thunderbird photo' until I started receiving e-mails and researched it.

CHEESY EDITORIAL ALERT

To set the record straight let me say that I have never knowingly published anything in these pages that I knew to be an obvious fake. A lot of the stories in Freakylinks were posted by me way after they happened and although I try and verify events as best I can, I can not say for certain that these stories are true or false. If you look at

the bottom of every entry you can see my sources. Look these up and decide for yourself if they are real or imagined by me in a feverish daze. Or just assume they are all fake if you want.

While I am in some small way a investigative journalist, I could just as easily be in the entertainment business. These things are suppose to be fun and it is fun for me. If you want to believe they are true and that I am John the Baptist then feel free. Or if you think I am the anti-Christ then that's fine too.

July 3rd

I just finished talking with cryptozoologist Vincent Trambetti who has helped me before. (see the [globster story](#)) He asked if he could come to Orlando and examine the photograph in person and I have agreed. On a similar note let me say that I've been seeing copies of the photograph on a lot of other web sites. That's fine but if possible please list Freakylinks as the owner of the photograph. That way when you call me a fraud, cheat and a con man people will know who you are talking about.

July 5th

I've agreed to let Trambetti take the photo to some civil war experts who work for the National Archives. Hopefully they'll be able to tell if the photo is a fake or maybe identify one of the men in the picture.

I'd like to give a big thanks to Freakylinks reader Tina Sparks from Little Rock Arkansas who retraced my fateful trip in June and found the store where I purchased the book. Tina did this without asking for a dime and I'm sure she has scored major brownie points on the karmic wheel.

I called and spoke with J.D. Samerson who runs "J.D.'s Store" just outside Dardenelle Ark. He remembered me (kind of hard to forget a guy who is carrying around a giant head) and said that he didn't remember exactly where he had got that load of books but they most likely came from an auction house in Fort Smith he goes to often. J.D. could not remember the exact date they were bought but he thought it was in the late part of 1997. I called the auction house and spoke with Sue Night who says they buy their stock from several trustee companies who are employed by banks and surviving relatives to sell off the contents of homes when the owner dies. She does not keep lists of exact items because they give a set price for truckloads and a truck may contain items from several different estates. She gave me the name of the trustee companies but the several I talked to was unable to give me any information of a particular estate because of legal reasons. So the hunt for the original owner seems to be at a dead end and even if I could find out who he or she was they are probably deceased.

July 12th

Contrary to popular opinion the photo has made it safely back to me. I would like to thank photo specialist Larry Novelle and historian Harrold D. Carrol at the National Archives for their work on determining the photographs authenticity. Here's their findings.

Larry Novelle on determination of the photographs age:

The paper stock of the photo was first made in 1960 and used up to 1974. This was found by comparing the photo stock number on the back of the picture with known stock numbers of the manufacturing

company. Although this would seem to mean that the photo was reproduced from the original sometime in that period it is possible that someone kept some of the paper stock and used it after the 1974 cut off date. One interesting point was that in 1961 the Library of Congress bought over 7 thousand original glass negatives of civil war photographs originally owned by famed civil war photographer Matthew Brady. They immediately began to make what is known as "soft copies" of the original negatives by photographing the images onto 8 by 10 paper. (which this photo is on) There was enough evidence to say for certain that this photograph is not the original and is in fact "a photograph of a photograph." It could be possible that this photograph was made by using the 'soft copy' as a negative.

Several of the stains on the photograph appear to have been part of the original image and are very similar to common problems associated with wet plate collodion negatives. The wet plate technique was commonly used during the civil war but the technology had been outdated by 1880.

editors note - For those of you that are into technical terms the stains were described by Novelle as being "indicative of a uneven sensitivity drop from ether drying" and "loss of far detail suggesting that potassium cyanide was used as a field fixative instead of hypo soda"

Harrold D. Carrol examined the photograph for accuracy. Here's his findings:

The 7 men visible are dressed as Union soldiers and there are no glaring discrepancies visible within the photograph. Four (or perhaps 5, I'm unable to tell since the majority of one man is hidden) are dressed as members of the regular army and the manner of the clothing suggest that they are Volunteers. Soldiers of the period who were drafted are usually seen as "less polished" and often the uniforms are home spun or not as official as the ones in the photo. This would place them as Volunteers at any point in the war or possibly as draftees from the early years of 1861-62.

The man on the far right is dressed as an artillery sergeant and although he is slightly out of place to be with an infantry group it is not that unusual. The man in the foreground is dressed as a lieutenant and is holding a sword with is correct for the time period. The rifles appear to be muzzle loaders but without being able to see detail I can not say for certain.

The natural location of the photograph is also hard to ascertain. The pines and sandy soil visible could be from any number of battlegrounds ranging from the Carolinas, Florida, Georgia, Alabama or Mississippi.

In 35 years of research I have not come across any mention of a giant bird being seen or shot down by Union troops.

There is no glaring improbabilities in the photo but there is also nothing that can defiantly place the photo as having been shot in the time period of 1861 to 1865. Without further information I can not classify the image as have being shot during the civil war. I also can not say that it wasn't.

August 3rd, 1998

Professor M. Nance Darbrow from the University of Florida Paleontology Department has studied the photo and has this to say about it:

The animal appears to be (or is modeled after) a Pteranodon longiceps, or sternbergi pterodactyl. The snout on both are long as seen in the picture. While the Sternbergi has a more pronounced and taller crest than the longiceps it's hard to tell from the picture which this one is. The torso on both are very short and this appears to be borne out in the photo since the men behind are only 2 or 3 feet from the front of the animal. In the picture there is a distinct warp to the upper wing bone which is consistent with fossil records of both species. Although the metacarpals (hand bones) are hard to see it does appear that there are clawed which again is consistent with fossil records.

It is my opinion that if the animal was faked then it was done by a professional who knew his fossils. Longiceps fossils have been found in North America although it was not until 1871 that they were first discovered. This would seem to preclude the fact that a model was constructed during the civil war.

January 12th, 2000

Derek.

What your friend at the University of Florida has identified as Pteranodon longiceps is incorrect - it is actually either a Rhamphorynchus or Campylognathoides, (both of which represent the European pterodactyl families that have "diamond tipped" tails. It's probably a Rhamphorynchus longiceps, as such a specimen did indeed exist.) The more serious charge regards the use of Pteranodon over Pterodactylus- It's like calling an albatross a sparrow. Pteranodon is a large Cretaceous flying reptile that inhabited the shores and bays of N. America about 65 million years ago. It had a wingspan of up to 35 ft. and a crested horn on the back of its head BUT NO TAIL- YOUR ILLUSTRATION CLEARLY HAS A TAIL! As for Pterodactyls, the largest ones petered out at around a 5 ft. wingspan. And they had tails. So the photograph w/ the soldiers is indeed a Pteranodon but the illustration is misused and misnamed. I implore you to take the time to make the change. Once again PterANODON = big with no tail - PterODACTYL = little w/ a tail.

Sincerely
Dr. Christian Barscuz
Anthropology Department
University of Arizona

April 11th, 2000

David Peters who runs [The Pterosaur Homepage](#) had this to say about the photo:

"Nice try. Very nice try. Got the elbow right and no one does that.

In my opinion this is a fake. Civil war reenactment with a carnival or old museum pterosaur. Reasons?

1. The head is twice too wide.
2. The nostrils should be anteroposteriorly oriented, not vertical as shown.
3. The wing material under the soldiers boot seems like unsupported cloth. In life, or death, it would be much more taut with fibrous support structures.
4. No propatagia (the anterior wing material between wrist and shoulder

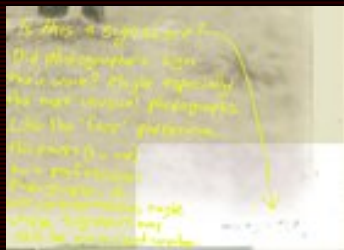
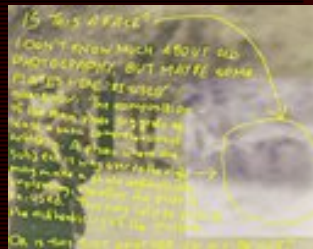
5. The "Pteranodon" apparently has no lower jaw. In life, the lower jaw was deep enough to raise the back of the skull or tip it sideways.
6. Either the "Pteranodon" is lacking a forearm (radius & ulna) or it is lacking hand bones (metacarpals) because the proportions are wrong in the wing.

That's all I can tell from the photo. Hope this helps."

David Peters

April 20th, 2000

I received an email from "The Legendary Shark", who points out some things about the photograph that others haven't noticed. He sent images that are cropped out from the original thunderbird photograph with his comments (click the image for the large version):

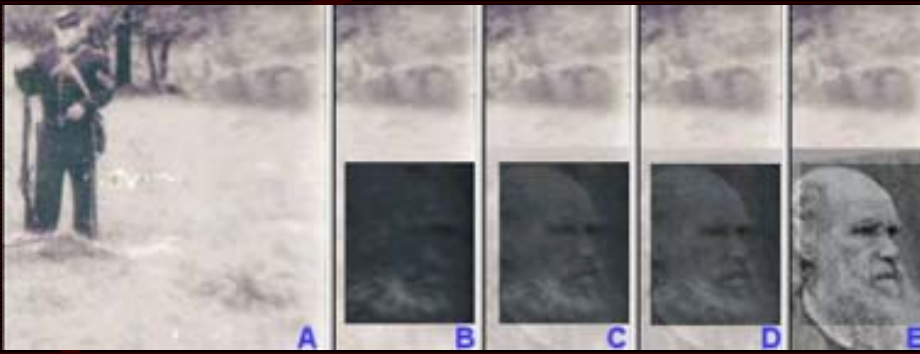


August 21st, 2000

Check out Shawn's theory on the Thunderbird Photo:

"I think the thunderbird or pterodactyl is a fake, however I find the photo interesting. I think the photo may indeed be genuinely from the 1800's. After the 'face' was found, I decided to take a closer look at the photo myself. I viewed the 'negative' image and found some guy that looks like Charles Darwin! He may not be Charles, but he looks like Charles.

I maybe reaching a bit, and perhaps I don't know enough about photographs to give you a professional opinion, but here it is anyway. I super imposed an image of Charles ([I found on the net](#)) for comparison.



- A. Is your original
- B. The 'negative' of your original
- C. And D. are about the same (Charles faded in for effect).
- D. And C. are about the same (Charles faded in for effect).
- E. Charles Darwin.

I just noticed another person slightly to the left of the woman's(?) face! I see him from the waist up, His right side view. He's facing the woman. He's wearing a hat, white shirt and a tie? He's leaning slightly back. He looks as if he is holding something in his hand (it kind of looks like a water hose)."

Shawn

August 28, 2000

Someone sent me another picture that looks rather similar to this one. [Check out my old diary page](#) for the info on that one.

sources

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"Seen in the Sky" Strange Facts of the Unknown World published in 1978 by Register Press

phone conversation with Mark Simmons, editor Esoterica magazine, June 26th, 1998

phone and personal conversations with Vincent Trambetti, June 27th, 28th, July 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 1998

phone interview with J.D. Samerson, July 3rd, 1998

phone interview with Sue Night, July 3rd, 1998

report on photograph, Larry Novelle and Harrold D. Carrol, received July 11th, 1999

report on photograph and phone interview, M. Nance Darbrow, July 20th, 28th, 1999

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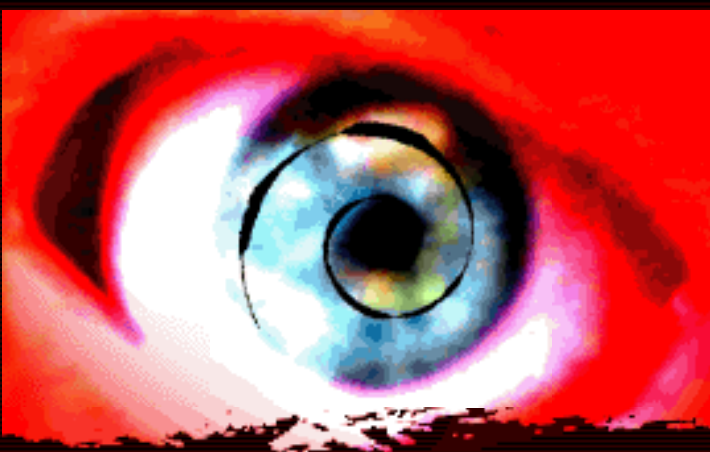
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TAILS OF THE CRYPTO

In Search of the Alabama Bigfoot



Hawk and his pet Wolf

Hawk Spearman believes in Bigfoot. And if you sit down and talk with him for a minute or two, you'll believe in Bigfoot too.

Hawk lives in the small town of Ashville Alabama and from a cramped trailer he heads up an organization known as the "Southeastern Bigfoot Research Organization" The group has an 800 number that takes calls from all across the country on possible Bigfoot sightings. Hawk acts as the head of a clearinghouse for the information which he publishes on his website and through an e-mail newsletter. If

a sighting is close by and sounds particularly interesting Hawk will come out to personally see what's stalking through your woods. He's gotten close to Bigfoot on two occasions.



LEARN MORE:

- [Southeastern Bigfoot Research Organization](#)
- [Bigfoot Message Board](#)
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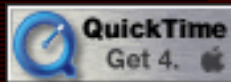
The first one was the sighting that changed his life and lead him to found the Organization. He described to me a chilling encounter in which he walked up on a group of the creatures and got so close he could tell that they weren't "men in costumes cause I could see their muscles flex." There muscles were flexing because one was raising a huge rock over his head. The rock landed at Hawk's feet and that was enough to send Hawk running in the opposite direction.

But don't think that Yeti are vicious killers who attack humans at the slightest provocation. Hawk says that they are "very mild mannered and won't pose a threat unless you are perceived as threatening." Hawk thinks that he unknowingly came to close to the surprised Yeti family and they thought he was going to attack. That was the reason for the thrown projectile and the need for a hasty retreat.



[Click here to see the movie](#) (2.4Mb).

(movie not working for you? you probably need to [download the QuickTime software](#))



Hawk's second encounter with a Bigfoot was much less frightening. He was out in his yard with a video camera when he spied something tall staring at him through the woods. He zoomed in with the camera and for 10 seconds or so caught the image of what looks like an apelike face staring back at him. You can see the eyes on the face blink once or twice on the video before looking away.

That second sighting was when he lived in Ohio and Hawk believed the area around his old home was a hotbed of activity. There were occasional scrapes and knocks on the exterior walls of his trailer and Bigfoot bait cages he put out over night were disturbed with the food removed. At one such bait trap Hawk recovered a sample of hair that doesn't resemble any known animal hair. He's certain that the hair came from a Yeti.

I wanted to get the feel of going on a Bigfoot hunt so Hawk took me out for a short romp through a section of woods near his home that dogs are afraid of going into. Hawk says, "loud screams and hollers have come from the woods at night and there's been reports of something on 4 legs that jumps up and runs on two." Although Hawk thinks that it might be a bear, he's not above ruling out that it could be something a little more mysterious. As we walk thru the

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thick woods, made wet by recent rain, Hawk tells me how you know if there's a Bigfoot around.

"If you're ever out in the woods and get a feeling that you're being watched, or that you have an ungodly sense that you are being followed then it's a good bet that something else is out there."



Hawk leads me deeper into the woods



Hawk investigates some mysterious crap

I don't feel like I'm being watched but that's probably because I'm too busy looking out for snakes and trying not to fall down. As Hawk glides through the tangled trees and vines (he's part American Indian) I trudge along behind him, poking myself on briars and trying to stay in an upright position. Finally when I think Hawk is going to take me out so far in the woods that I'll

never find my way back, he stops. There's a swamp ahead and although the prospect of a romp in the muck doesn't seem to bother Hawk I get the feeling that he's taking it a little easy on the tenderfoot. I silently thank him for it. On the way back Hawk spots some feces left by an unknown animal. Hawk inspects it, noting the digested grain and

thinks it might be from a horse but he's unsure how a horse could get this far back into the woods. Finally he marks it up as just another mystery of the woods and leads me back to civilization.



Bigfoot feces?

As I leave, Hawk's in the backyard, playing with his pet wolf. I wave goodbye, thankful I came thru the day without getting snake bit and having a healthier respect for a man who's willing to risk life and limb to go out looking for the mysterious creature. I hope Hawk is able to find irrefutable proof of Bigfoot's existence one day and stun the world. Until that day's he bound and determined to keep looking.

Hawk Spearman and The Southeastern Bigfoot Research Organization can be reached at hawk2000@alltel.net Bigfoot sightings can be phoned in by calling toll free 1-888-304-8260. All personal information is kept confidential.

sources

Interview with Hawk and Karen Spearman

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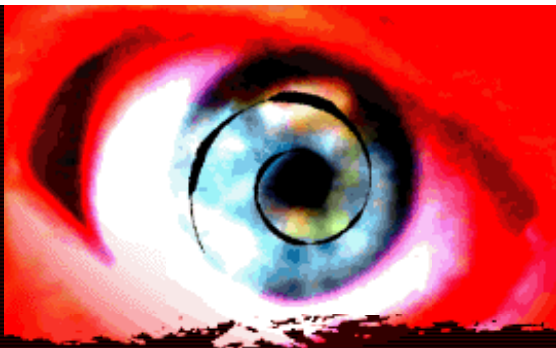
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FREAK-O-PEDIA TAILS OF THE CRYPTO

Is That A Bigfoot In Your Pocket Or Are You Just Happy to See Me?

Lewiston Idaho - Two big horn sheep hunters had a run-in with a very different sort of animal as they walked in the woods on August of this year.

"Cowboy" Bob Trawkens and his friend Mark Landerson were walking just north of Interstate-84 in Nez Perce county when they heard something ahead of them.



"At first I thought it was a sheep coming down the trail," Trawkens told me. " But when it got closer I knew it wasn't no sheep. It was bigfoot"

The men froze as the brown furred creature got closer to them and then stopped to pick some berries off a tree.

"It was maybe 10 or 20 feet away from us," added Landerson. "I was just amazed cause you always hear about Bigfoot but think it's just some kind of joke. That thing out in the woods we saw wasn't no joke."

Both men describe the creature as being approx. 7 1/2 feet tall, with red to reddish brown fur. It had a "monkey-ish" face according to Landerson. The entire encounter lasted approx. 30 seconds and ended when Landerson fired his rifle at the creature.

"It wasn't the smartest thing to do. looking back," said Landerson about firing the gun. "But all I thought was that if we could kill it and come back to Lewiston with proof we'd be rich men. I missed cause my hand was shaking so bad and that thing just ran off faster than you could follow with your own eyes."

Both men went back to their vehicle and used a pay phone at a rest area to call local TV news. within an hour a reporter and cameraman had showed up at the seen and the men were interviewed for the evening newscast.

That newscast was seen by sasquatch researcher Jeffrey Hale. Hale, who has been hunting for evidence of the creature for over 15 years, contacted the men and asked to be taken to where they saw the Sasquatch. They agreed and lead Hale to a spot in the woods approx. 2 miles from the interstate.

"I didn't see anything in that area to indicate that a Sasquatch had been in the area," said Hale. "No dung, no hair caught



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IN THE FREAK-O-PEDIA:

on thorns or even footprints. It was very disappointing."

The men say they were spurred on by the attempt of Hale to obtain evidence and went back into the woods the next week. It was at this time that they found tracks of bigfoot on the clay banks of a nearby creek. The men went back to town, bought plaster and then returned to the woods where they cast the feet. They then contacted the same news reporter who had covered the original story and told him of the new evidence.

"I guess Hale just wasn't trying hard enough," says Trawkens. "we were up there for about 3 hours and ran across the tracks. Huge footprints that were 18 inches long and 7 inches wide. It was a big sucker."



Cowboy Bob proudly shows off his huge foot

Hale now believes that both incidences were hoaxes. "The reason I didn't find any footprints is because Cowboy Bob and his partner hadn't made them yet. It wasn't until I went up in the woods with them carrying my plaster kit that they even got the idea about making plaster casts. Don't believe a word they say."

Trawkens disagrees. "They wasn't no way we could have made this up. Where does Hale think we got bigfoot feet from, the local Wal-mart?"

All three men were present at the 17th annual Sasquatch Convention in Seattle this year. Hale walked out of the hall as Trawkens and Landerson told their story and showed the plaster casts.

sources

interview with Bob Trawkens and Mark Landerson, September 16th, 17th, 1999

interview with Jeffrey Hale, September 17th, 1999

quicktime movie courtesy of KCDF, Lewiston Idaho

photos courtesy of Bob Trawkens and Mark Landerson



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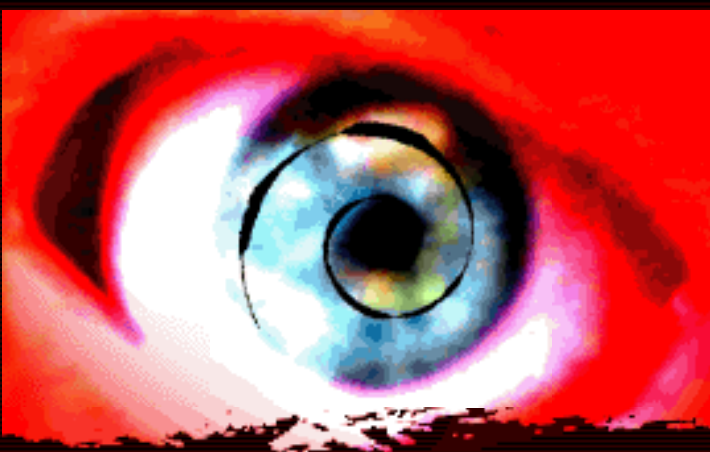
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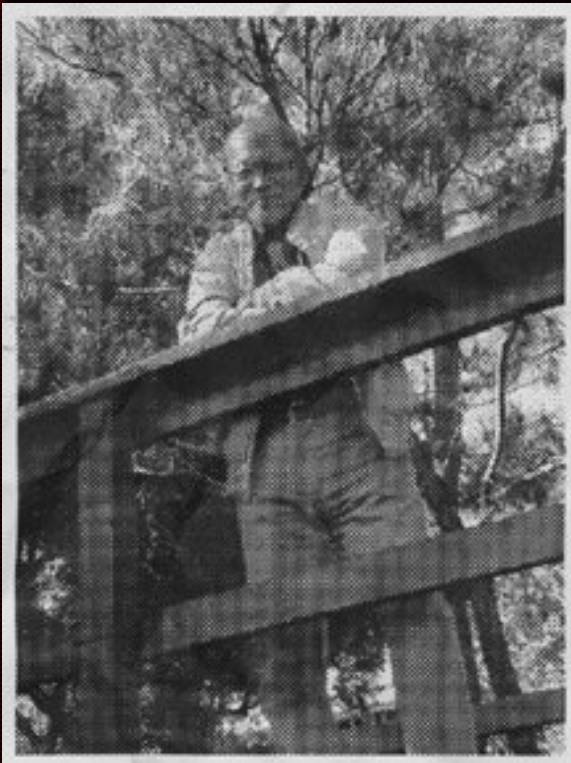
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TAILS OF THE CRYPTO

Somebody Better Tell Godzilla

Kobe Japan - In the early morning hours of January 17th, 1995 an earthquake measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale struck this coastal town and the surrounding areas of the Kansai district. In seconds over 5,000 people were dead and damage was calculated at several billion dollars.



Takachi Owasiku (61) considers himself lucky to be alive. A manager at the Ezaki Rice Farm on Awaji Island, he was sleeping in his quarters when the earthquake started. He awoke to see the house coming down on top of him and quickly got underneath his bed. When it was over he found that he was untouched and could see the night sky over him. He quickly climbed out from the debris and looked toward Kobe.

"You can usually see the lights of Kobe from the farm but tonight it was dark." Owasiku wrote me, "I realized we just had an earthquake and wanted to go across the farm to see



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- [Dragon Ball Universe](#)
- [Stop Draggin My Heart Around](#)

IN THE FREAK-O-PEDIA:

if others who lived at the workers quarters were OK. Without lights it was difficult to see but I started across the fields."

Unknown to Owasiku, the epicenter of the quake had only been 4 miles away under the Adashi Strait which separates Awaji Island from the mainland. Because of this, Awaji had seem some of the most violent earth movement and this had changed the landscape.

"I tried to walk around the fields," Owasiku continued, "but I was soon stepping through mud, water and rice stalks. With the moonlight I looked across one field and saw that it had been tilted up, over it's boundary. Just then I noticed the fires coming from Kobe and I stopped to look at them and imagine the suffering."

It was then that he saw the dragon.

"It came flying from a crack in the earth, that was maybe 10 meters (30 feet) from me. A huge thing perhaps 50 meters (164 feet) wide from wingtip to wingtip and 30 meters (100 feet) long. It was between me and the fires so I saw it as a silhouette. After it had cleared the ground it flew in a great circle all around me. It was beautiful, a golden color with rainbow scales that glittered in the moonlight. Once or twice it stuck out a long tongue like a snakes, to taste the air After it went over me it disappeared toward the mountains and I just watched it go. After a minute or so there was an aftershock and I saw the crevice the creature had come out of close. I stayed where I was and minutes later heard yelling and saw that it was some of the workers coming toward me. I asked if they saw it but they had seen nothing."

After reading Owasiku's account I contacted Professor Gerald Wheldon who teaches in the Geomorphologic Studies Center at the University of Southern California to get his take on it.

"Awaji Island was where the most severe movement of the underlying sediment occurred according to studies taken by us and the University of Tokyo geophysics lab." said Professor Wheldon. The largest measurements we took on the island showed a horizontal movement of 2 meters and a vertical movement of 1 to 2.5. While there was an immediate aftershock some 10 minutes after the first shock, it was too weak to cause that level of plate movement a second time. And anyway it wouldn't have closed the fault lines, it would have widened them more."

Owasiku believes that the dragon was a mythical Goddess named Otohime who is suppose to have turned into a dragon after the birth of her son. "She searches for her lost son," wrote Owasiku, "and perhaps she got caught in the earth sometime in the past. The earthquake was a terrible disaster for Japan and Kobe but it did do one good thing. It set Otohime free."

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sources

e-mail interview with Takachi Owasiku, November 19-24th, 1999

phone interview with Professor Gerald Wheldon, November 30th, 1999

photo courtesy of Takachi Owasiku

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FREAK-O-PEDIA TAILS OF THE CRYPTO

South African Sasquatch

Native South African Roland Jaffe, 35, is on a mission. A University graduate from Johannesburg with a degree in zoology, he immediately gravitated to the field of cryptozoology, or the study of strange and scientifically unknown animals. Early on in his career he was pursued by enigmatic cryptozoology financier Mario Pellington (no photo available), who has bankrolled his search for what has been described as the "African Bigfoot."



Roland Jaffe: African Wild Man Tracks the African Wildman

herbivorous American cousin, the "Waterbobbegan," as it's come to be known in South Africa has been accused of terrorizing people (even killing a few), as well as all kinds of livestock terror -- Ripping cattle, goats, chicken, and



Unlike
it's

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- [Gulf Coast BigFoot Research Organization](#)
- [Sasquatch Watch](#)

IN THE FREAK-O-PEDIA:

anything else it could catch.

The name Waterbobbegan literally means "water baboon," and it has been described as everything from pygmy sized to seven feet tall. Its fur is sometimes red, sometimes as black as scorched earth. There are numerous eyewitness sightings of the beast from the deep woods to the rural outskirts of African cities.

I was able to interview Jaffe, the worlds preeminent expert on this subject, over the phone in late April of this year.

D: What brought you to this kind of research?

J: Vanity I suppose. Vanity and stubbornness. When I was young my schoolmate s frightened me with stories of the Waterbobbegan, and I fought back by telling them I would defeat the beast one day. They all grew out of it and I didn't. I read every book on the subject and ultimately began to learn about zoology in general. As you can imagine, I didn't have too many dates when I was in school!



D: You're married now, though.

J: My wife Nadine and I met at University, and even though she didn't know about these creatures, I was able to teach her basically what I knew... Colloquial stories, and frightened tribesmen. After we graduated, we went to different parts of the continent and talked to natives, city dwellers. This creature is all over the country in some form. The best known ones are reported in Guinea, Sierra Leone, the Ivory Coast, and the Congo Basin. I've heard stories in Namibia, Kenya, and as far north as Egypt.

D: Egypt?

J: I should probably leave it at that. It's part of our ongoing

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research at the moment. I have to say I'm a bit skeptical about that one, though, but you have to take them all seriously.

D: Did bigfoot build the pyramids, then?

J: (Laughs) Maybe, maybe. You never know with those big feet.

D: Tell me about Mario Pellington.

J: Not much for me to tell, really. I've never seen the man face to face. I've spoken to him on the phone. What's there to say about Mister Pellington? Deep pockets. He believes that some of these creatures exist. I had to sign a contract with him telling him that whatever we find, it'll be named after him. Homo Pellingtonus or Homo Marius or something like that. He seems to be quite a character, financing all us kooks out there looking for Waterbobbajans and Plesiosaurs. I think the man knows that eventually one of us will succeed, and that'll be his gift to the world!

D: Have you ever seen one of these creatures yourself?

J: Not in the flesh, no. I've examined a genetic sequence taken from what one witness claimed was a tuft of its fur. The sequence was similar to a human's, with one extra chromosome. The fur itself was thick like a dog's. I wish I could see one just once and know for sure it really exists! Then maybe my life wouldn't feel like a potential waste of time (laughs).

D: Why do you think this creature doesn't seem to appear in the fossil record?

J: There are plenty of gaps in the fossil record. It is possible that this animal has only been around as long as us, and the remains might be eaten or god knows what. It is a good question, however, and one that does little to bolster my arguments. I just refuse to believe that something so commonly seen could be a figment of our species' imagination. I'll give you an example: We went into a remote village near Tanzania. The natives there had never seen white people. We showed them pictures of animals, illustrated next to a human being for scale. We showed them a picture of a giraffe, and they recognized it. We showed them zebras, Rhinos, apes, as well as animals they never would have seen like Komodo Dragons and Camels. They did not recognize these strange animals, but did recognize a picture of the Waterbobbajan, known in that area as the "Agogue," pictured as an oversized human with a pointed head, unusually long arms, and a thick coat of black fur.

D: Does that by itself convince you?

J: Not by itself, no. But in light of the other eye-witness sightings, I think it begins to add up. I believe the thing is

out there, and I will find it if it is. If not, I'll eventually find something else to do like go back into the jungle with pictures of dinosaurs!

sources

"Tarzan need not apply," International Explorer Magazine, volume 5 issue 78, International Explorer Press 1998

Interview with Roland Jaffe April 28, 1999

Photo credit Tessa Robison, Nadine Parks-Jaffe

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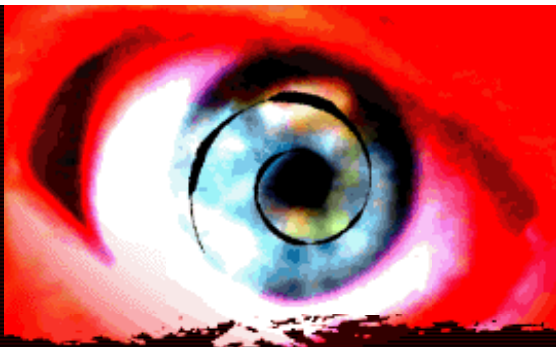
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FREAK-O-PEDIA TAILS OF THE CRYPTO

The Calamari Caper

Texas is the perfect place for the paranormal. Why? Cause there's just nothing else here to look at. You ride through the country and after 300 miles of nothing but miles and miles and miles you start waiting for something to happen. You WANT something to happen. Your mind is just waiting for the slightest tidbit of visual stimulation so it can go off on some tangent and have you believing that there's a monster hidden just off the highway, ready to skin you alive and have your entrails for breakfast. And maybe that explains why the residents of Spano Texas are convinced there's a monster called the desert squid attacking their livestock. Just what is a desert squid? I went to the heart of cowboy country to try and find out.



What's bothering the livestock in Spano Texas?

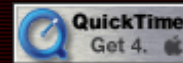
You always hear about small town folk being secretive. Not so in Spano where the motto seems to be "tell the outsiders everything." Within a coupla hours of hitting town we had already been given numerous explanations on the desert squid's whereabouts and mode of operation. One local even tried to sell us a "one of a kind" tentacle. (I politely refused the offer when I discovered several more "one of a kinds" sitting in a nearby cooler.) We did pick up some serious info from one local who prefers not to be named. Mr. Z, as I'll call him, (Basically cause Freakylinks already has a [MR. X](#)) told me that the desert squid had become active in the past few months and showed me a picture of a recent cow mutilation that had been attributed to the monster. More importantly, it was while we were inside Mr. Z's camper that we had a little attack of our own.



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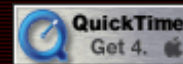
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We got the slimy thing off Chloe, who was bruised and battered but ok. After almost losing a team member to a giant tentacle in the middle of the desert I decided to call it a night and head for the hotel. But on the way there something ran across the road and hit my car. When I got out to investigate I discovered the end of a tentacle lying on the pavement. I never refuse paranormal manna from heaven so I boxed the thing up and took it with us. Later in the hotel room we decided to give it a closer look.



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[Click here to see the movie](#) (2.7MB).

So just what does this thing look like? What use are tentacles out in the desert? One explanation might be found in the 1972 book, "The Great Sea of Texas" by Simon Newland. Newland claims that a huge body of water lies under most of Texas, trapped there when the continents were shifting about millions of years ago. He further states that this body of water contains millions of unknown sea creatures that were trapped in this sea and have been forced to evolve in the total darkness of the underground reservoir. Newland's theory sounds like total nonsense but two occurrences in Texas history seem to bear him out. The first occurred in 1841 when a group of pioneer settlers were trudging through the Texas prairie and came upon the remains of a large lake. Reverend Joseph Humpter, who was with the expedition, wrote about the discovery in his memoirs.

"As we crested the hill we came upon the source of the stench. There spread below us was a sight like no other we had ever seen. Thousands of fish lay on the ground, all dead and decomposing in the hot sun. They ranged in size from the length of my finger to some over 4 feet long. All of them seemed to be with eyes and looked most peculiar. Mr. Simmons, who had been a fisherman in New England, said that the fish resembled none that he had seen. After trudging through this horrible smell for the better half of a day we finally came upon an immense hole in the earth that seemed to be without end. Mr. Simmons said that it was possible that this could have been the reason for the disappearance of the lake although

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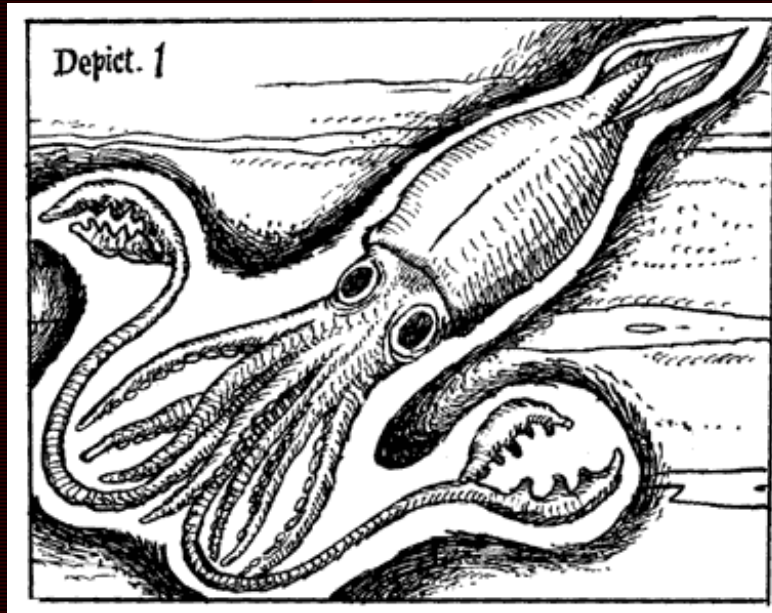
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no such body of water was noted on our maps. Peering into the darkened crevice chilled my heart and I said a silent prayer as I looked down into the black heart of the earth."

In 1912 the San Denton Texas newspaper noted another peculiar event.

"A new gusher came in at field 23 on Springs road although it wasn't the oil spout that owner Phillip Lockhart had hoped for. Instead of the black gold, one well started throwing water and fish into the air! Lockhart told this reporter that he had hit pockets of water before but never one with critters in it. After a few minutes of hard work the men were able to shut the drill off and terminate the spray. Lockhart further said that several men on the crew cooked up some of the fish for lunch and declared them inedible."



So if these claims give credibility to the theory that a sea full of creatures lies under Texas is it a stretch to think that some of these creatures may have evolved over time to live on dry land? Perhaps this "desert squid" may have discovered a rift in the earth that allows it to finally come to the surface. And once above land it may have discovered that the pickings here are more to it's liking than they were below. Certainly something is killing livestock out in Spano Texas. The only unanswered question is what.

sources

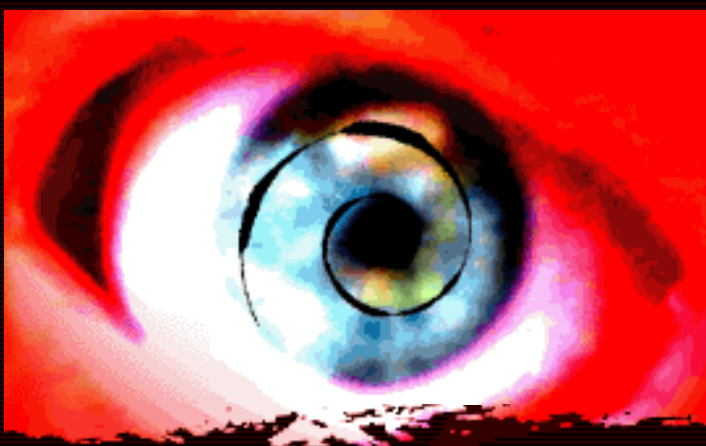
"The Great Sea of Texas" by Simon Newland, 1972, Unknowing Press

Personal Interviews by Derek Barnes

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TAILS OF THE CRYPTO

The Mokele Mbembe Mercenary

Sometimes when you're looking for clues to the great mysteries in life you have to ruffle a few feathers. Would [Charles Fort](#) ever have complied his "Book of the Damned" if he hadn't been snooping thru old newspapers and dusty libraries? Would Roger Patterson ever have shot that [Bigfoot footage](#) if he hadn't been mucking about in the woods? Would Glen Campbell (No, not the rhinestone cowboy) ever have started the "[Area 51 Research Center](#)" if he hadn't been willing to go live in the Godforsaken Nevada desert?

But in this case I may have bitten off more than I could chew. An e-mail from a reader named "The Bobster" informed me about a guy in Gainesville that may have seen something in the African jungle. The only connection Bobster had with the guy was that he went to the same firing range that Bob did every week (Guns? Oh great, I love guns.) Bobster said he had over heard the guy telling the owner he had seen a "monster" while in Africa doing a little "dirty work." Bobster further warned me to watch my paranormal loving butt cause this guy was built like Ben Grimm from The Fantastic Four. (ok, is everyone tired of the named "Bobster" yet?)

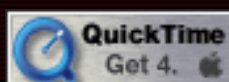
Most people would say thank you but no thank you and stay away from large men with guns who see monsters. But where's the fun in that? So Jason and I hopped into the Freakmobile and headed upstate for an with the trusted hidden camera under my shirt. (Hey what's a little hidden camera work between friends?) What happened? Peruse the QuickTime below to find out.



LEARN MORE:

- [Killing a Mokele Mbembe](#)
- [African Cryptids](#)
- [Extreme Expeditions](#)

IN THE FREAK-O-PEDIA:



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[Click here to see the movie](#) (8.6Mb)

So what did we learn from this? (Besides the fact that you should never ask probing questions to a guy who has a gun and an arm thicker than your neck) It sounds to me like "John" had a run in with the Mokele Mbembe (pronounced: mo-kel-le me-bem-be) The facts he gave do seem to fit the profile of this infamous cryptozoological beastie.

The Mokele Mbembe was first mentioned in the memoirs of a French priest who visited the Lake Tele part of Africa in 1776 in what is now the country of Congo. He wrote a detailed account of the local flora and fauna and made a special mention of strange footprints he saw that measured more three feet in circumference. Other Europeans and Americans who visited the area in the late 1800's and early 1900's also reported that the natives believed a mysterious animal lived in the lake. In the 1910's the German government sent Capt. Freiherr von Stein zu Lausnitz to survey the area. (The land was a Germany colony at that time) In his official report he recounted that he had heard many stories about the beast and natives had even shown him a path made by the animal to get from the lake to a favorite food source.



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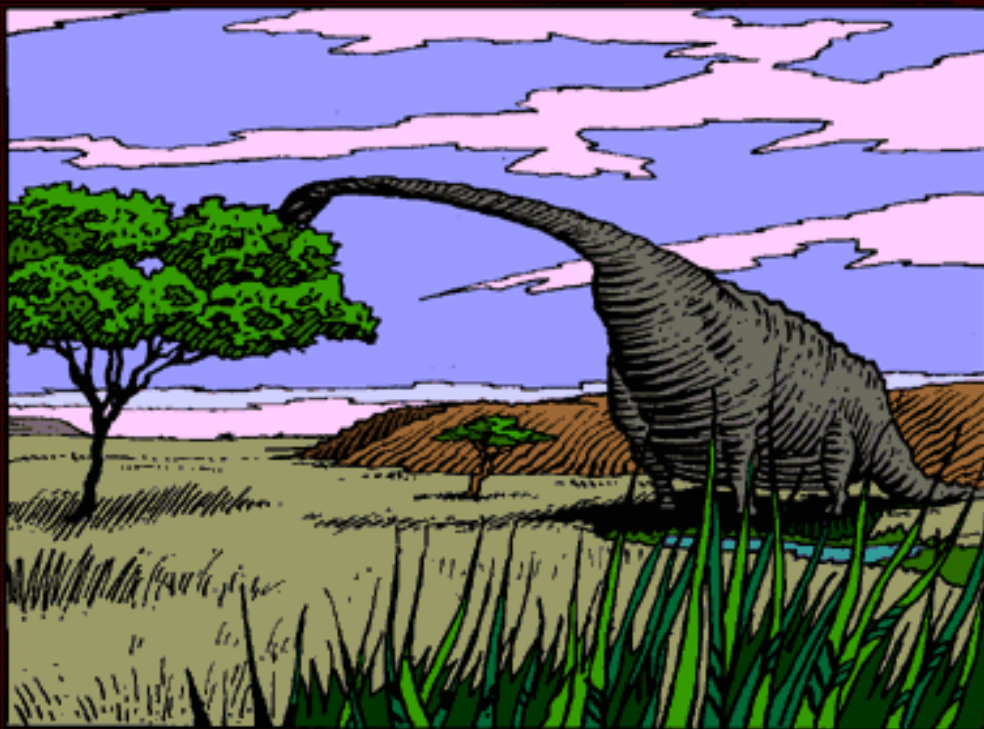
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Throughout the 20's and 30's several dinosaur-hunting expeditions were sent into the area to find the monster, all with no luck. Herpetologist James H Powell Jr. made several modern expeditions to the region in the 70's and 80's. Although he did not spot the beast he did collect information about the animal from the natives. He also carried with him pictures of a sauropod dinosaur called a diplodocus and was surprised when every native he encountered pointed to it as the monster that lived in their lake!

Spotting the Mokele Mbembe is an iffy proposition at best and getting documentation of it on film has eluded every attempt so far. In 1981 an American engineer spent 2 weeks around Lake Tele and reported seeing the animal several different times. On each occasion high humidity caused his camera to fail and no photographs were taken. A Congolese biologist named Marcellin Agnagna reported seeing the monster in 1983 from a distance of perhaps 1,000 feet. Although carrying a camera, he failed to capture the encounter on film because of the "emotion and alarm of the sudden event."



So what does this lake monster look like? Most accounts say that the animal is 15 to 30 feet in length, with a long neck and a large body that is supported by 4 thick legs. Its body is similar to a hippo and tapers to a long snaky tail. It's purported to be brown or black in color with smooth skin. Some reports say that it has a crest along the back of its neck and a single tusk for a tooth.

Although skeptics claim that no dinosaur could have survived to modern times several interesting facts about the area seem to support the existence of the creature. The area of the Congo in which the Mokele Mbembe has been spotted is basically unchanged since the end of the Cretaceous period. If there were a region of the earth where dinosaur could have

survived, this would be the place. The huge lake itself would be perfect for these semi-aquatic creatures since it averages a depth of no more than 10 feet. And perhaps the most interesting fact is that the area is devoid of hippopotamuses. The locals claim this is no accident and that they are scared away by the Mokele Mbembe.

sources

Unexplained by Jerome Clark; 1999 Visible Press

African Cryptids website

<http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Cavern/7270/africa.html>

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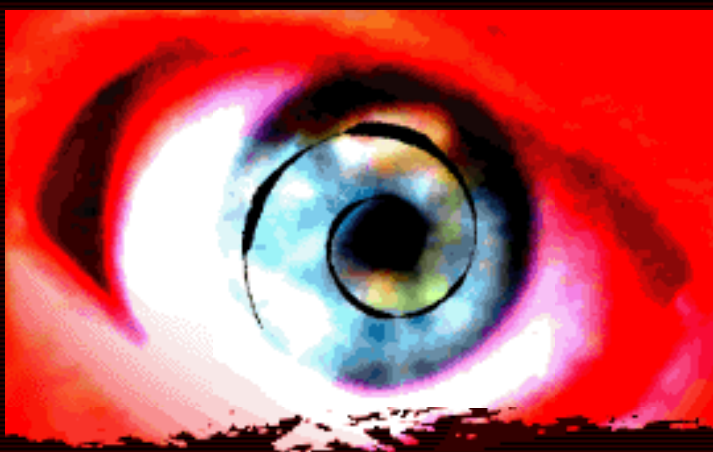
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TAILS OF THE CRYPTO

The Pumas of Penzance

Alien Big Cats just don't want to leave England! We can assume it's not for the food. A small strip of beach just north of Tredovoe on the southwestern tip of England served as the most recent sighting of an Alien Big Cat (ABC) on the British Isles. The large carnivorous cats, which are not native to the United Kingdom, have been spotted for centuries. In the 1770's, the first recorded sighting of a large cat was made by a boy named William Cobbett. Since then, rumors have persisted as far north as Thurso, Scotland, that wild cats were on the prowl on the small island.



The Tredovoe sighting marks the first time that one of the cats has been sighted on a beach, and it raises some new questions as to their origin.

"There is overwhelming evidence that they exist, but this is the first sighting round that part of the island," says Cryptozoologist Quenby Rogers (pictured, 35). "These animals aren't usually found on or near beaches, but I suppose one could find sustenance in the fish population down there..." Says Rogers, "Or I suppose one could



LEARN MORE:

- [British Big Cats](#)
- [The Beast of Bodmin Moor](#)
- [Sumatran Tiger Cams](#)

IN THE FREAK-O-PEDIA:

Here Kitty Kitty: Cryptozoologist Rogers Searches London for her lost cat.

just get lost. These cats, which we assume to be Pumas based on the

descriptions, aren't the brightest creatures."

The "Creature of Penzance," as it's being called, was spotted by Edmond Riley, 58, a local fisherman on 12 April 1996. "My mate and I were setting out one morning, and I saw a strange movement about seven meters (21 feet) off, by the water's edge. It ran out of the water with something in its mouth, at least that's what it looked like. It saw us, crouched down on the beach for several seconds, then ran off in the other direction. I thought I must've been dreaming!" Rogers cites his description, claiming that it sounds like it had to be a puma. "It was about as big as a large hound, with a flat face and a straight tail, not bushy like a lion's." Says Riley.

The only corroborative evidence for Riley's claim can be found in the death of a domestic dog, "Wolfie," in the same community. "Whatever it was ripped my Wolfie to shreds," says Wolfie's owner Theo St. John. St. John, (54) a local school master, discovered that his dog had escaped his backyard two days before Riley's sighting. "We found him several streets over. He'd just been ripped, I don't know how else this could have happened." "Oddly, none of the strange animal howls often heard in areas where these cats are spotted were heard by anyone in the neighborhood," Says Rogers. "I just don't know what to make of it all."

A search for the cat commenced after the sighting. Feline-looking paw prints were found in the sand, and plaster casts were made. A small bushy area in the Tredovoe area was pressed down as if an animal had slept there, and some tan animal hairs were collected. An exhaustive search uncovered no further evidence that a Puma had taken up residence at the beach front city, and eventually the search was abandoned.

"We believe Edmond saw what he claims he saw," says town official James Wall, "We just had bigger fish to fry here at home. Besides Mr. St. John's pet, there seems to be little or no damage done, and whatever it is seems to have moved on from our little town."

The town may have given up the search, but thanks to the internet, the "Creature of Penzance" has joined the "Beast of Bodimin Moor," the "Surrey Puma," and the "Beast of Exmoor," in the annals of the British Big Cat. "Some people believe that in the eighteenth century a couple named Smythe released a couple of cubs they had been keeping as pets in the Northampton area of England, and all the cat sightings have been the progeny of those two," says Rogers. "I find that to be akin to the New York rumor of alligators or crocodiles in the sewer system." Still, dozens of private citizens on the ever-expanding internet have made pilgrimages to Tredovoe in hopes of finding one or more big cats.

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"We have a small town here, with beautiful beaches and a thriving tourist trade. We don't want these pseudo-scientists frightening off our visitors. We would prefer it if people stopped coming here," says Wall.

sources

"Seafaring Cats," Esoterica magazine, June 1997, Volume 14 issue 140.

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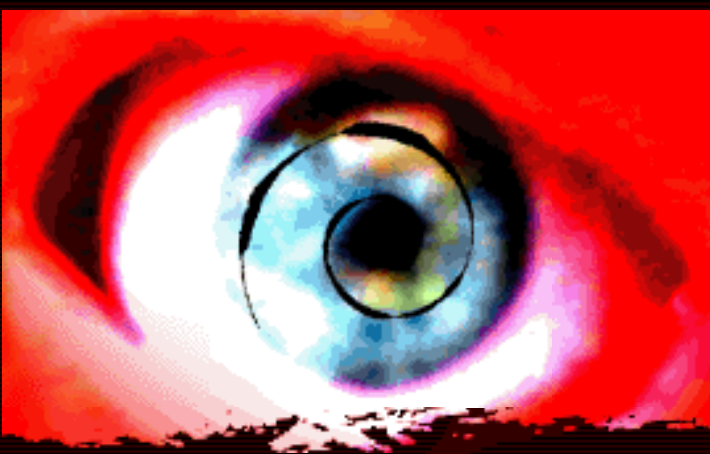
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TAILS OF THE CRYPTO

The Surly Nerd Gets the Wurm

Geneva Switzerland - Biologists and Researchers at the Geneva Institute of Sciences are still trying to figure out what an anonymous donor gave to the University a couple of weeks ago.



Besides a sizable financial donation, a package that arrived at the Biology College contained a strange skeleton that some scientists are saying is the first physical proof of an animal long regarded to be a myth in the Swiss Alps; the Alpine Tatzelwurm.

The Tatzelwurm was first seen by a



LEARN MORE:

- [Tatzelwurm info](#)
- [Worm Farm](#)
- [The Worm Song](#)

IN THE FREAK-O-PEDIA:

Swiss scientists are so puzzled over this skeleton they have stopped drinking hot chocolate.

it attacked a hog on his farm. The tatzelwurm (German for "worm with claws") was described as being 5 to 7 feet long with a rough snake like body, clawed legs and a large, almost cat-like head with sharp teeth. The farmer was so frightened by the attack on his livestock that he suffered a heart attack and died that same day.

Later reports from remote villages in the Alps during the 1800's and early 1900's led some researchers to believe that the tatzelwurm was a real beast, perhaps a descendant of the lizard family or some unknown species of otter. (Why an otter would attack livestock was not made clear.) In the mid 60's a photograph of a tatzelwurm was given to a Geneva newspaper by an unknown source. Most serious cryptozoologists and animal researchers now claim that this photo was a false one, orchestrated by the mayor of a small Bavarian village who wanted to attract more tourist trade.



The Alpine Tatzelwurm in action!

So what then is currently residing at the Geneva Institute? Scientists are still saying that it is too early to tell what they have. Indeed they almost seem to want to forget about the skeleton since no official word of it was released to the public until someone, (rumored to be a junior researcher) took an unauthorized picture of the skeleton and downloaded it to the world wide web last week. The original owner of the skeleton remains a mystery. The law firm of Gunterhaus Ltd. in Germany handled the donation and refuses to divulge the name of the contributor or why the Geneva Institute was selected to be the recipient. Repeated phone calls and e-mails to the law firm were not returned.

farmer in the late 1700's when he said

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sources

- article in the Geneva Express-News Daily, March 15th, 2000
- photo #1 skeleton picture - downloaded from the web, no owner attributed
- photo #2 tatzelwurm sketch - Courtesy "New Worlds of The Strange" magazine Volume 14th June 1997

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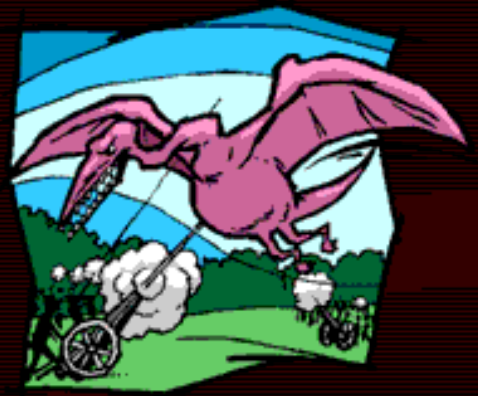
FREAK-O-PEDIA TAILS OF THE CRYPTO

Thunderbird Two: Electric Boogaloo

Owensmouth Georgia has got a problem. Everybody I've talked to agrees on that. The Sheriff agrees there's a problem, the gruff but lovable farmer agrees there's a problem, even the just-let-me-graduate-and-get-the-hell-out-of-Owensmouth teenagers agree that this town has got one hell of a problem. But then there's a second problem; no one can agree on just what the first problem is. The sheriff says it's overzealous bears out on the prowl.



The quirky yet crazy farmer thinks it has to do with some ancient Indian curse. The teenagers are usually too drunk to care about thinking. But sometimes problems have a way of showing themselves. Just ask local teen sensation and former camping enthusiast Brandon Dunhill.



LEARN MORE:

- [How many pterodactyls did you kill in the war, daddy?](#)
- [Mysterious World](#)
- [The Thunderbird Myth](#)

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Of course talking to Brandon could prove to be yet another problem. Cause by the time I got to town, Brandon wasn't talking. In fact he wasn't saying much of anything. That's because poor old Brandon was dead and as usual I was left holding the bag. Check out the quicktime to see how things unfolded.



[Click here to see the movie](#) (5.9MB).

So was it like the Sheriff said? Was there a huge, angry bear stalking around the woods just waiting for the chance to dismember young teens and throw their body parts willy-nilly through the trees like an over-zealous interior decorator? That's one answer, but I wasn't buying it. You know me kids, I'm never one to accept the quick and easy solution when there's a harder and more convoluted route to follow. And this time I wasn't the only member of the team intent on digging a little deeper than Johnny Law wanted. Chloe surprised me by jumping into the game and doing a little research. She found out that there's a cycle of violence in this area of Georgia. Every 30 years or so trouble rears its ugly head and you don't want to be around when it does. Even Lan was getting in on the paranormal action cause I had her trying to figure out what kind of animal can tear off a person's arm at the shoulder. Oh yeah, my trip to Georgia was



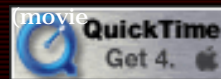
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turning into a real freakylink.

So after the first round of snooping I had a bunch of clues laid out in front of me. I just had to figure out what they pointed to. To recap:

1. A cycle of violence that seems to go back for hundreds of years.
2. Something running loose in the woods ripping off people's arms and decorating the scenery with them.
3. An Indian legend about some kind of evil that inhabited the woods.
4. A surly Sheriff intent on keeping me out of the loop.

Number four was no problem, I've ignored much better advice than this policeman was trying to give me. But number 1 through 3 had me stumped. Stumped until I thought back to the Freakopedia and the [entry that got me started](#) down this merry little paranormal path.



[Click here to see a larger version of the photo](#)

Can it be true? Are the attacks happening in Owensmouth related to that picture I found so long ago? I know it sounds crazy but just hear out the facts.

1. If you take the cycle of violence back in time it sorta correlates to having occurred during the civil war. (Give or take a few years. You gotta figure that Thunderbirds aren't really big on punctuality.)
2. Lan's got a "friend" who's a zoologist and his scientific analysis of the arm confirmed that it wasn't torn off by any bear. He laughingly suggested that it looked like a pelican had done it. If a pelican was 50 feet or so in length.
3. (And this is the clincher so listen up.) Once Lan knew what part of the country the picture might have been taken in she looked up old civil war letters in the Library of Congress.

What she found is pretty interesting



Click the pictures above to enlarge them.

I know it isn't proof positive but if you're a regular to Freakylinks then you know that it's rare when anything on here is. It all goes back to belief, Sometimes you have to accept that not everything in the world is of the cut and dried variety of reality. The residents of Owensmouth refuse to do that and it's cost them the lives of their citizens time and time again. Call it a conspiracy of silence or call it a refusal to believe, either way you slice it, it all boils down to having an open mind. As for me, I'm taking the high road, the paranormal parkway. I may be a little out there but I'll never have any regrets.

Oh and I advise you to be somewhere other than Owensmouth Georgia in the year 2030.

sources

Personal Interviews with Owensmouth Georgia Sheriff John Mosely, and citizens, Cassie Pierce, Tiffany Amberson, John Lockhart and others.

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