



SMOKE SIGNALS



The Official Publication of the ANKOKAS, NJ Region AACA

Halloween 2019

In This Issue:

- 👁️ Local Halloween Events
- 👁️ Werewolves!
- 👁️ The Jersey Devil
- 👁️ Horror Quote Puzzle
- 👁️ Halloween Word Search
- 👁️ Roadside Ramblings
- 👁️ Curious Events

In This Month's Issue:

Local Halloween Events..... 2
 Car is the Star..... 3
 Beast of Gevaudan..... 5
 Beast of Bray Road..... 6
 Jersey Devil..... 8
 Other Jersey Creatures..... 9
 Horror Quote Puzzle..... 10
 Word Search..... 10
 Roadside Ramblings..... 11
 Curious Events..... 13

Happy Halloween!

It's that time again! It's the time of year when I can dress weird, watch loads of horror films, frighten children and all of it is socially sanctioned! Hooray for Halloween!

This issue gives me the opportunity to share with you some spooky stories, some fun places to visit, a little bit of history and some puzzles to entertain you.

I wanted this to publish earlier and I apologize for the lateness. I wish everyone a very happy Halloween full of treats!



Your editor dressed in her Halloween finest. *Photo by S. Soppe.*

This newsletter is a publication of the Ankokas Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America, located in southern New Jersey.

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If you have material that you would like to contribute or you have comments or ideas about the newsletter, please contact the editor, Diana, at newsletter@ankokas.com.

Cover: Your webmaster has escaped from the pumpkin patch! *Photo by D. Antinucci.*



Your editor's Subaru Outback decorated for a Halloween trunk or treat. *Photo by S. Soppe.*

2018 Master Editor

AACA Publications

Local Halloween Events

Haunted Attractions

Bates Motel and Hayride, 1835 Middleton Rd., Glen Mills, PA. 610-459-0647. Event begins Sept. 20th. Visit www.thebatesmotel.com for dates, times and pricing. Skip the motel, go for the excellent hayride.

Miller Farms Haunted Hayride and Maze, 134 N. Grove St., Berlin, NJ. 856-728-3500. Event begins Sept. 27th. Call for Dates and times or visit <https://www.millerfarmsllc.com>. Hayrides \$15.00, Maze \$7.00, Combo ticket \$20.00.

Night of Terror, Creamy Acres, 448 Lincoln Mill Rd., Mullica Hill, NJ. 856-233-1669. Event begins Sept. 20th. Not for young children or the faint of heart. Visit <http://www.nightofterror.com>.

C. Casola Farms Haunted Attractions, 131 S. Main Str., Marlboro, NJ. 732-946-8885. Event begins September 27th with five attractions and variable pricing. Visit www.hauntedcasola.com/index.html.

Bloodshed Farms Fear Fest, 2919 Route 206, Columbus, NJ. 609-267-0400. Event begins October 4th. There are four attractions and there is a combo pass for \$30.00 and a VIP combo for \$45.00. Visit www.bloodshedfarms.com.

Schaefer's Farm Frightfest, 1051 Flemington Whitehouse Rd., Flemington, NJ. 908-782-2705. Event begins September 28th and has four attractions. Visit farmofhorrors.com.

Brighton Asylum, 2 Brighton Ave., Passaic, NJ. 201-716-2827. Visit www.brightonasylum.com. Event begins Sept. 27th.

V&V Adventure Farm, 1339 Old Indian Mills Rd., Shamong, NJ. 609-801-2495. Visit www.vvadventurefarm.com. Attractions include Jersey Devil Haunt, Flashlight Corn Maze and Zombie Invasion Shootout Hayride.

Penn Hurst Asylum, Bridge St. & Church St., Spring City, PA. 304-261-2744. Visit pennhurstasylum.com. Event begins Sept. 27th. Four attractions: Pennhurst Asylum, The Morgue, Mayflower After Dark and Containment.

Terror Behind the Walls, Eastern State Penitentiary, 2027 Fairmount Ave., Philadelphia, PA. 215-236-3300. Visit www.easternstate.org. Event begins Sept. 20th.

Kid-Friendly

15th Annual South Jersey Pumpkin Show, Salem County Fairgrounds, 735 Harding Hwy., Woodstown, NJ. 856-769-3494. Visit www.sjpumpkinshow.com. Oct. 12th from 10AM-8PM, Oct. 13th from 10AM-5PM. Great Pumpkin weigh-off, costume contest, pumpkin dessert contest, amusement rides and more.

Boo at the Zoo, Philadelphia Zoo, 3400 W. Girard Ave., Philadelphia. Event is Oct. 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, and 27th from 10AM-4PM. Visit www.philadelphiazoo.org/Explore/Upcoming-Events/Boo-at-the-Zoo.htm.

Boo at the Boardwalk, Jenkinson's Boardwalk, 300 Ocean Ave., Point Pleasant, NJ. 732-892-0600. Visit jenkins.com/event/boo-at-the-boardwalk/all. Oct. 26th from 12-4PM.

47th Annual Halloween Parade of Bordentown City, Farnsworth Ave., Bordentown, NJ. Oct. 27th at 2PM.

Heaven Hill Farm Great Pumpkin Festival, 451 State Route 94, Vernon, NJ. 973-764-5144. Visit www.heavenhillfarm.com. Weekends from Sept. 14th through Nov. 3rd, 10AM-6PM. Pig races, carnival rides, pony rides and food concessions.

Haunted History Tours

Enchanted Evening Tours at Ringwood Manor, 1304 Sloatsburg Rd., Ringwood, NJ. 973-962-2240. Visit www.ringwoodmanor.org/enchanted-evening-tours.html. Oct. 18, 19, 25 and 26th.

Princeton Halloween Cemetery Visits & Ghost Hunts, departs from inside the U-Store, 116 Nassau St., Princeton, NJ. 855-743-1415. Visit <https://princetontourcompany.com/activities/halloween-cemetery-visits-ghost-hunts>. Oct. 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26th.

Expos

Chiller Theatre Expo, Hilton Parsippany, 199 Smith Rd., Parsippany, NJ. 888-627-8148. Visit www.chillertheatre.com. Oct. 25-27. Guests include Elvira, Hal Linden, Nancy Allen, Lisa Loring, Ann Robinson and Wilford Brimley as part of a *The Thing* reunion!

The Car is The Star

A series about cars from movies and television

“I’ll have you know, Herman, that this is the only dragster in America that can play ‘Oh, promise me’ in second gear.” *article by Diana Antinucci*

It’s the age-old question... the Munsters or the Addams Family? And while the answer for me has always been the Addams Family, their Packard was hardly ever seen in the show. Not true of the Munster Koach. The Munsters aired from September 24, 1964 to May 12, 1966 and the Koach appeared in more than twenty episodes, starting with episode four (“Rock-A-Bye Munster”) where Lily wants to buy Herman a car for his birthday. She finds a hot rod and a 1920s Cunningham V8 hearse that she likes at a used car lot and has a customizer combine the cars.

In 1964, George Barris was given 21 days and an \$18,000 budget (\$149,000 today) to build the Koach. Barris paid car designer Tom Daniel \$200 to design the Koach. Daniel would later also design the Red Baron model kit for Monogram, their top-selling model ever. The build was started by Tex Smith and finished by Dick Dean. Only one Koach was made and was used for both the series and the movie. The original design called



for a supercharger with a hood scoop and thin disc lights, but the car was built with a (non-working) ten-carb setup and lantern lights. The Koach was crafted from three Model T bodies and a hearse and given hand-formed brass radiators, hand-formed fenders, four rows of seats all upholstered in red velvet, casket handles on the hood, cobweb lantern headlights and rolled steel scrollwork that took 500 hours to complete.

The Koach had a Ford 289 V8 from a Mustang GT (some sources say this was bored out to 425), Jahns high compression pistons, a single four-barrel carb concealed by the fake ten-carb and Bobby Barr racing exhaust headers. There was just one problem. Fred Gwynne, the actor playing Herman Munster, was six foot five (fully seven feet in the costume) and didn’t fit behind the wheel without

removing the seat cushion to make room. Despite this, Gwynne had fun one day piling the Munsters cast into Koach and driving it off the lot and through Universal City, delighting onlookers.

Barris auctioned off the original Munster Koach in 1982, but in 1984, he really wanted one for the Hollywood Christmas Parade, so he had Dick Dean built a second one with Dick’s son, Keith. This



The Munsters Koach at Chiller Theatre. Photos by S. Soppe.

Car is the Star continued from page 3

Koach had a skull radiator cap (missing from the original) and did not have the original's Bobby Barr headers, only holes where they would have been. This Koach was restored, but the original has never been restored and now resides in the Cars Of The Stars Motor Museum in Keswick, England.

The Drag-u-la was only used in one episode of *The Munsters* to capitalize on the popularity of drag-racing culture at the time. In "Hot Rod Herman", Herman has lost the Koach in a racing bet and Grandpa Munster has Herman bring home a coffin from his job at the funeral home and turns it into a dragster with which Grandpa and Herman win back the Koach. The Drag-u-la has a different origin

in the movie, where Herman crashes a Jaguar limousine and Grandpa builds the Drag-u-la for Herman to race cross-country. Despite only being seen in one episode, the Drag-u-la is used in the end credits for the entire second season.

The Drag-u-la was another Tom Daniel design and he also came up with the name. It was built by Richard "Korky" Korkes and other crew members from George Barris's shop. The body of Drag-u-la is an actual Owens-Corning fiberglass coffin procured by Korkes. At the time, it was illegal to sell a coffin without a death certificate. Korkes went to a North Hollywood funeral home, slipped the funeral director some cash and the director left the gold, purple velvet silk-lined casket outside the back door that night for Korky to pick up. The coffin was put onto a Dragmaster tube-steel

chassis and outfitted with a 350hp Ford Mustang 289 V8 with Mickey Thompson dual-quad intake and exhaust headers shaped like Zoomie style organ pipes. They put a plexiglass bubbletop over the cutout for the driver. Each hubcap had a large silver spider and there were antique lamps mounted on the front and rear. The front sported Grandpa's license plate "from the Old Country", a marble gravestone engraved with "Born 1367, Died ?" and a hidden radiator was topped by a small brass coffin.

After the episode, the Drag-u-la returned to Barris's shop and was modified for the 1966 movie by removing the bubbletop and putting in a roll bar so Fred Gwynne could fit in the car (Grandpa drove in the episode). The Drag-u-la that was used in the episode and movie has had several owners, including the Chicago Historical Antique Automobile Museum, Planet Hollywood in

Atlantic City (where it hung from the ceiling without its engine) and the Volo Auto Museum in Volo, Illinois. Al Lewis (Grandpa Munster) wanted to take a last ride in the car in his later years and George Barris's shop spent three months restoring the car which Lewis got to see but couldn't ride in it due to bad health. It later

took part in his funeral procession in New York City. It underwent another restoration in 2011 when it was owned by the Volo Auto Museum. Autographed by George Barris, Butch Patrick (Eddie Munster) and Pat Priest (Marilyn Munster), the Drag-u-la just sold at a Profiles in History auction on September 25th for \$90,000.



A replica of Drag-u-la taken at the Diamond Diner in 2012.
Photos by D. Antinucci.



The Beast of Gevaudan

article by Diana Antinucci

In the region of Gevaudan in south-central France, from 1764 to 1767, a wolf-like creature killed between 100 and 300 people, mostly women and children, their throats and chests ripped open by something with enormous teeth and claws.

In the early summer of 1764, a shepherdess encountered what she described as a large, wolf-like beast with small ears, red fur and a long tail. The bulls in the herd blocked the creature from attacking, then charged at it when it made a second attempt, driving it off. A few days afterward, a fourteen-year-old girl named Jeanne Boulet disappeared. Her shoes and bonnet were found not far from the site of the first encounter and she is assumed to be the first victim of the creature.

Throughout the rest of 1764, the ferocious attacks continued with such frequency that people began to suspect that there may have been two beasts. Some attacks occurred at similar times, but in different parts of the region. As the attacks continued, the press picked up the story, public panic ensued and the cry of “werewolf!” went out.

In January 1765, the beast attacked Jacques Portefaix and his friends. Jacques managed to fight off the creature and his story came to the attention of King Louis XV himself. Jacques was awarded 300 livres and given a state-funded education. Another 350 livres were split among his friends. In addition, the king declared that the state would find and kill the beast.

The description of the beast remained much the same over the various reports. All described it as wolf-like (but not a wolf) the size of a calf (a six-month-old calf of a mid-sized breed can be as large as 40 inches tall at the withers), with small ears, wide chest, large mouth with large, exposed teeth and reddish fur with black streaks down its back.

Captain Duhamel and his troops were sent to Gevaudan, where they were joined by 30,000 volunteers. The attacks continued unabated and King Louis XV next sent two professional wolf hunters, Jean Charles Marc Antoine Vaumesle d’Enneval and his son, Jean-Francois. Duhamel was still in the region when d’Enneval arrived in February 1765, but cooperation was out of the question. Duhamel’s approach was to organize large hunting parties, but d’Enneval believed the animal could only be taken through stealth. Duhamel left Gevaudan with his troops, but d’Enneval had

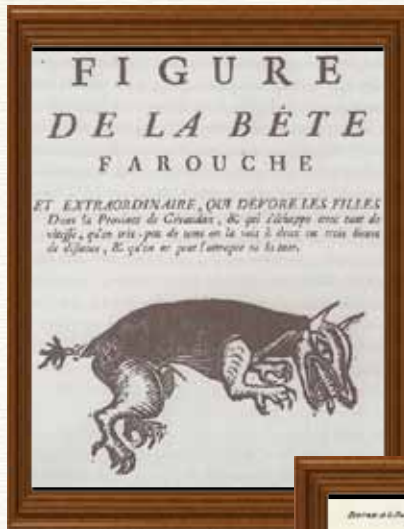
no better luck than Duhamel. In June 1765, King Louis XV sent his lieutenant of the hunt, Francois Antoine, to see to the matter. On September 20, 1765, Antoine killed a large grey wolf, measuring 31 inches high, five and a half feet long and weighing 130 pounds. It was assumed that this was the beast that had been killing people. This wolf was stuffed and sent to Versailles. Antoine stayed behind and hunted down the beast’s mate and one of two cubs. The other cub had been shot and presumed dead. Antoine returned to Paris and received over 9,000 livres in payment (just under \$143,500 today).

Panic returned again when the beast attacked two boys, one twelve and one six. It tried to get the smaller boy, but the older boy fought it off and it let the smaller boy go. The killings continued until 1767, when Jean Chastel and a party of more than 300 hunters tracked down the beast and Chastel killed it. Later tellings of the story claimed that Chastel shot the creature with a silver bullet. This is the origin of the legend that only silver can kill a werewolf. The beast was taken to a local castle where a surgeon opened up the stomach and found human remains.

What exactly happened in Gevaudan is still a matter of debate. At the time, France was not at war and political news was censored by the Crown. To sell papers, the media picked up on the story of the Beast of Gevaudan and, in the process, created widespread panic. But what were people seeing? Some scholars believe that the attacks were the work of a large wolf or pack of wolves. Wolf attacks were not uncommon at the time. There are some problems with this theory. First, people living in the area at the time were very familiar with wolves, yet no one identified it as a wolf. A review of wolf attacks on humans published in 2002 included the attacks of the Beast of Gevaudan.

When analyzed separately, the attacks of this beast differ from regular wolf attacks in one important respect: normal wolves attack children much more frequently than adults, but the Beast of Gevaudan was six times more likely to attack an adult. Another popular theory is that the beast was an animal that had escaped from a menagerie, which were popular at the time. Perhaps it was a sub-adult lion or even a hyena, animals that would have been unfamiliar to the people of Gevaudan. Yet, the description of the Beast of Gevaudan does not match any known animal.

The story of the Beast of Gevaudan is kept alive in that region of France even today. There is a dedicated museum for the Beast, Jean Chastel and a young woman who managed to injure it are both honored with statues and on a local hillside looms a giant sculpture of the Beast.



One of the first illustrations of the Beast, published November 1764. Public domain.



Another depiction of the Beast published in *The London Magazine*, May 1765. Public domain.



❧ The Beast of Bray Road ❧

article by Diana Antinucci

Near the quiet rural town of Elkhorn, Wisconsin is a four-mile stretch of road through farmland called Bray Road. Chances are, you've never heard of it. Chances are better that you've never been there. And that may be just as well. Because something stalks the farms along this road. Something mysterious, something very large and something that has shaken everyone unfortunate enough to cross its path. Allow me to introduce you to the Beast of Bray Road.

Accounts of a creature matching the description of the beast of Bray Road go back to Native American accounts and the early settlers of Wisconsin. The first modern report came in 1936. Mark Schackelman, the night watchman at Saint Coletta Convent, was traveling on Highway 18 in Jefferson, Wisconsin, when he saw a figure digging near a Native American burial mound. As he got closer, he could see that the figure wasn't human, but he wasn't sure what it was. It stood about seven feet tall and Schackelman guessed it weighed 500 pounds. After noticing a smell like rotting meat, he became unnerved and left the scene. Days later, he was in the same area and saw the same figure, but this time he got a better look. He said it had the face of a wolf, but had human hands with a "twisted thumb". After several minutes of staring the creature down, it took off into the woods.

There was another reported encounter in 1964, two miles south of where Schackelman reported his sighting, and another in 1972 where a woman reported that it tried to enter her home, then seriously injured a horse before disappearing. In 1981, Marvin Kirschnik was driving on Highway 11 and saw an unusual animal near the turnoff for Bray Road. Kirschnik pulled over to look at it. He described it as wolf-like. When it moved toward the car, Kirschnik drove away. In 1986, Diane Koenig was in the same area at night and saw what she thought was a large man carrying something heavy in his arms. When she saw that it had the head of a wolf and a full-size deer in its arms, she sped away.

A small group of young children were walking along Bray Road in early October 1989 when they saw what they thought was a dog near a drainage ditch. Assuming

it was a lost pet, they began walking towards it. As they approached they thought it looked too big to be a dog. Then the "dog" turned toward them and stood on its hind legs, like a human. The children fled in terror.

A couple weeks later, Lorraine Endrizzi, a manager of a nearby tavern, was driving down Bray Road when she slowed down and swerved to avoid hitting something by the side of the road. As she slowly passed it, she got a very good look. The creature was eating some roadkill. It was

covered in brown/grey hair and had large fangs, pointed ears and the face of a wolf. The problem was that it was holding the roadkill in its hands and kneeling on the road, two things wolves don't do.

On Halloween night 1991, Doristine Gipson was driving along the same road. She looked away from the road for a second to adjust her radio and felt the car bump. Frightened that she had hit something or someone, she stopped and got out of the car. She saw nothing wrong with the front of her car and nothing in the road. But there was no time to feel relieved by this. About fifty feet away and running towards her was a large creature. Doristine ran for her car and made it inside before the beast reached her, but as she drove away, it jumped onto the trunk of the car. She was finally able to shake it after she gained more speed. The next morning she looked at her car and there on

the trunk were deep scratches, as if made by claws.

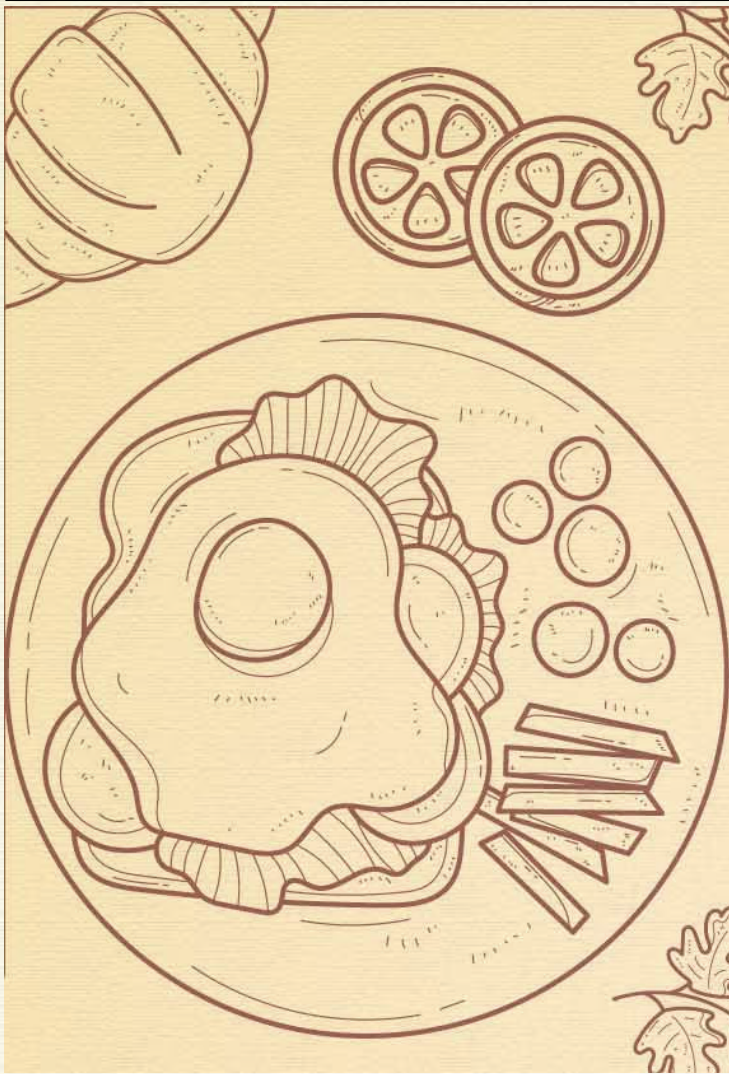
The sightings attracted the attention of a local newspaper, Walworth County Weekly, and reporter Linda Godfrey was assigned to the story. Godfrey didn't think much of the story, just something to fill some space, but as she interviewed witnesses, she found herself believing their stories. She was the one that dubbed the creature the "Beast of Bray Road". After the article appeared in the paper, more people came forward. As part of a later TV episode about the Beast of Bray Road, many witnesses agreed to take a polygraph test. All of them passed.

There have been other sightings and at least one sighting was of two creatures traveling together. So, what does that leave us with? I know what it leaves me with: a dark pit in my stomach and an urge to avoid Wisconsin.



Linda Godfrey's sketch of the Beast of Bray Road from eyewitness accounts. Used with permission from Linda Godfrey. All rights reserved. <http://lindagodfrey.com>





ANKOKAS

BREAKFAST MEETING

New location!

Saturday

November 9, 2019

9:45AM-12PM

Lamp Post Diner

1378 Little Gloucester Rd.

Clementon, NJ

\$10 per person

Includes a buffet breakfast of eggs, homefries, pancakes, french toast

breakfast meat, coffee and juice.

Please contact Joe Dougherty if you plan to attend so we can get a head count. 856-287-2310 or president@ankokas.com.



Annual Ankokas Holiday Party

December 8, 2019, 5-9PM

hosted by Tom & Carol McLarney

Cafe Madison

33 Lafayette St.

Riverside, NJ

Cocktails at 5PM, dinner at 6PM.

Invitations will be mailed soon.

Please contact Tom & Carol McLarney at 856-461-6688 with any questions.

The Jersey Devil

article by Diana Antinucci

Almost everyone in and around New Jersey has heard of the Jersey Devil. But how much do we really know about it? The creature has stalked the 1.1 million acres of New Jersey Pine Barrens for almost three hundred years and yet most of us don't know the myth behind its origin or the long history of sightings.

There are several versions of the origin of the Jersey Devil, but the one most often told states that a woman known as Mother Leeds had twelve children and upon learning that she was going to have another child, she cursed it. When the time came, the child was born as a normal, healthy baby, then changed into a terrifying creature, shrieking and killing at least one person before flying up the chimney and into the night sky. Some versions of the story say Mother Leeds was a witch that had the Devil's child. Before 1909, the creature was referred to as the Leeds Devil or the Devil of Leeds, either because of its connection with the Leeds family (a real historical family, by the way) or the town of Leeds Point.

Written record of a "devil" in New Jersey goes back as far as 1735 and the creature has been seen by credible witnesses like police, government officials and postmasters. In the early 1800s, Stephen Decatur, a respected naval hero, claimed he fired a cannon at the creature and hit it, but with no effect. Joseph Bonaparte, Napoleon's older brother, claimed to have encountered the creature while hunting on his Bordentown property around 1820. In 1840, the creature was blamed for the death of livestock and the same claims were made in 1841, this time with witnesses hearing screaming sounds and seeing weird tracks. An 1887 newspaper reported that the creature had been seen near the Pine Barrens and one person said they had heard about sightings going back fifty years.

When talking about sightings of the Jersey Devil, nothing compares to the events of Saturday, January 16th to Saturday, January 23rd, 1909, when it was seen by more than a thousand people in South Jersey and Philadelphia. The reports began with strange tracks being seen in the snow. Not only were the tracks themselves unidentifiable, but they went under fences, from rooftop to rooftop and stopped abruptly in the middle of roads and fields. On Tuesday, two professional hunters tracked the creature for twenty miles in Gloucester, where they found the tracks jumped high fences and went under places no higher than eight inches. In Camden, witnesses actually saw the creature itself. On Wednesday, a Burlington police officer and a reverend saw the beast. In Haddonfield there were more tracks that ended as if the creature had disappeared or taken flight. In Collingswood, a group of people saw the creature fly off toward Moorestown. In Maple Shade, two men saw the creature in separate incidents and gave the same description. In Riverside, tracks were found

on the rooftops and near a dead puppy. On Thursday, the Jersey Devil was seen by the Black Hawk Social Club and by a trolley full of people in Clementon. The West Collingswood Fire Department fired their hose at the creature. That night, a woman in Camden heard a disturbance in her yard and had to fight the creature to drop her dog. By the time the creature left, a crowd of a hundred people had gathered, including two police officers. On Friday, a police officer in Camden saw the creature. By this time, the media coverage of the sightings had caused such a panic that schools were closed and some of the mills and factories were forced to shut down because people refused to come in to work. Vigilante groups formed and roamed the Pines in search of the creature. The Philadelphia Zoo offered a \$10,000 reward for the Jersey Devil, prompting several hoaxes. While the mass sightings of 1909 have never been repeated, the Jersey Devil is still seen even today.

The Story of the Jersey Devil has some historical roots. "Mother Leeds" may have been Deborah Leeds. Records indicate that she had twelve children in 1736, in accordance with the legend. She also lived in Leeds Point. Brian Regal, historian of science at Kean University, believes the legend has its origin in a feud between Benjamin Franklin, publisher of Poor Richard's Almanac, and a rival almanac publisher, Daniel Leeds. Daniel Leeds also had some trouble with his fellow Quakers for publishing occult material in his almanacs and the Leeds family crest included a bat-winged dragon called a wyvern.

Attempts have been made to explain the sightings. The most common description of the creature is that it has the body of a kangaroo, the head of a dog, a horse's face, large leathery

wings, antlers, a forked tail and large claws. This description makes identifying it as a known animal problematic. Some believe that the Jersey Devil is nothing more than a combination of early settler boogeyman stories and mass hysteria. Others believe that what people are seeing is a sand hill crane, a bird that used to live in the Pine Barrens. The sand hill crane stands four feet tall and has an eighty-inch wingspan and a loud scream. However, the description of the Jersey Devil in no way matches a sand hill crane and the sand hill crane is a herbivore, so it also doesn't explain the attacks on livestock. Jack E. Boucher, an author, thinks the legend started with a deformed child of Mrs. Leeds that was locked away in the house, eventually escaping into the Pine Barrens and raiding local farms. This still does not explain the bizarre description of the creature or the span of the sightings. A child of Mrs. Leeds would have been about 174 years old in 1909. Whatever lurks in the Pine Barrens, I think we can all agree on one thing. It's best left alone.



Picture of the Jersey Devil that appeared in the *Philadelphia Post* in 1909. Public domain.



Lesser Known Jersey Creatures

article by Diana Antinucci

When you think of unexplained creatures in New Jersey, only one name comes to mind: the Jersey Devil. But it turns out our state has more than just one creature and so many more stories to tell.

The Lenape and Munsee Native Americans told of a small humanoid that inhabited the forests called the Wemategunis (pronounced weh-mah-teh-guh-neese). Though small, about three feet tall, the Wemategunis are incredibly strong and able to become invisible. They are shy and mostly benevolent tricksters, but can turn dangerous if offended. I could chalk the stories up to a tribe of Native Americans telling campfire stories, except for the fact that tales of such beings are not only found in almost every Native American tribe, but around the world. And not just in the past. People with no knowledge of the Native American stories have reported seeing them in recent history.

When you think of Bigfoot, you think of the Pacific Northwest. But what if I told you it has also been seen in the Garden State? They call it Big Red Eye and it's another creature that was seen by the Lenape in the northwest Highlands region, bordering Pennsylvania and New York. It looks like what you would think of when you think of Bigfoot, about eight feet tall, four hundred pounds, covered in hair, with a loud, piercing cry. But this creature has bright red glowing eyes. In the 1970s, there was a rise in the sightings of Big Red Eye, with over 200 reports made in the last fifty years. And those are just the reported sightings. And while most of the sightings are from the

Highlands, sightings have also been reported as far south as Burlington County. Apparently the creature makes quite an impression. About forty years ago, just the shriek was enough to send three armed forest rangers running out of the trees, never to return to that part of the forest again. The forest rangers, familiar with the sounds of the forest, swore it was nothing they could identify.

The legend of the White Stag tells of a much more helpful creature. In the days when people traveled by horse and coach, the local Quakers used a well-worn path through the Pines and over the Batsto River to get to their meetinghouse. On a stormy night, a coach was traveling this road to get to a tavern and inn. As the coach approached the bridge, a white stag leapt in front of the coach, frightening the horses. The driver climbed down and was going to scare the stag back off of the road when it disappeared before his eyes. The driver moved forward, not believing his eyes, and then discovered that the bridge ahead of the coach had been washed away. Had it not been for the stag, they may have plunged into the raging river. The Lenape also told stories of white deer that they considered good luck. White deer, it turns out, are real things and they are not albinos. The white coat is caused by a recessive gene and all or some of the coat may be white. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection says that about one percent of the state's deer population are white or partially white, also called piebald.

Thinking of taking a walk in the Pines? Just tread carefully. You never know what you may encounter.



White deer at the Seneca Army Depot. Photo by Brian Adler and released to the public domain.

Horror Movie Quote Puzzle

Match the quote to the movie. Answers on page 15.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Trust is a tough thing to come by these days." 2. "Tasty, tasty, beautiful fear." 3. "They will say that I have shed innocent blood. What's blood for if not for shedding?" 4. "We medicals have a better way than that. When we dislike a friend of ours, we dissect him." "They're all gonna laugh at you." 5. "We don't need a stretcher in there. We need a mop!" 6. "It's not the house that's haunted. It's your son."
"Sometimes the world of the living gets mixed up with the world of the dead." 7. "A boy's best friend is his mother." 8. "One of us! One of us!" 9. "Watch the skies, everywhere, keep looking! Keep watching the skies!" 10. "I'm your number one fan." 11. "I'm scared to close my eyes. I'm scared to open them. We're gonna die out here!" 12. "I've seen enough horror movies to know that any wierdo wearing a mask is never friendly." | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Others, 2001 B. Friday the 13th Part VI: Jason Lives, 1986 C. The Thing 1982 D. Psycho, 1960 E. The Body Snatcher, 1945 F. Misery, 1990 G. Carrie, 1976 H. The Blair Witch Project, 1999 I. Candyman, 1992 J. A Nightmare on Elm Street, 1984 K. It, 2017 L. Insidious, 2011 M. Freaks, 1932 N. The Thing From Another World, 1951 |
|---|--|



Cats designed by Freepik.com.

Halloween Word Search



Solution on page 15.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. APPARITION 2. BEAST 3. BLACK CAT 4. BOOGEYMAN 5. BROOMSTICK 6. EERIE 7. GHOUL 8. GRAVEYARD 9. HAUNTED HOUSE 10. LURKING 11. MASQUERADE | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. MONSTER 13. MOONLIGHT 14. NIGHT 15. OCTOBER 16. PHANTOM 17. POLTERGEIST 18. SHAPESHIFTER 19. SKELETON 20. SPELL 21. SUPERSTITION 22. TREATS |
|---|---|



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❧ Roadside Ramblings ❧

Looking for a place to stay on Halloween night? Maybe your thinking of someplace spooky, a place that fits the spirit of the holiday, no pun intended. Below is a short description of haunted places where you can actually stay, both here in New Jersey and elsewhere in the US. Please visit the websites provided for more information if you plan to visit.

The Villisca Axe Murder House

508 E. 2nd St., Villisca, IA

Between the evening of June 10, 1912 and the early hours of June 11, 1912 in Villisca, Iowa, eight people were murdered with an axe, two adults and six children. The crime was never solved. The details of the crime are both fascinating and disturbing and certainly not for the faint of heart. You can stay overnight at the house where it happened for a minimum of \$428 for the night. Reservations must be made for overnight stays and a deposit of \$200 is required. Daytime tours are also available by reservation. Visit www.villiscaiowa.com/overnight-tours.php or call Martha at 1-712-621-1530.



Photo used with permission from Martha Linn from the Villisca Axe Murder House.



Photo is in the public domain.

Myrtles Plantation

7747 US Highway 61, St. Francisville, LA

The most famous ghost at this old southern plantation is Chloe, a slave girl that poisoned the family, killing three of them. Fearing retribution when the master returned home, the other slaves hung Chloe from a tree in the yard and threw her body into the river. Rooms are between \$175 and \$290 per night and there are cottages available on premises. Visit www.myrtlesplantation.com or call 1-225-635-6277.

Lizzie Borden Bed and Breakfast

230 2nd St., Fall River, MA

In 1892, Andrew and Abby Borden were murdered in their home with an axe. Andrew's daughter, Lizzie, was accused of the crime, but was never convicted and the crime went unsolved. Two people can stay for between \$250 and \$275 per night, either in one of the two suites or in the room where Abby Borden died. Daytime tours are also available hourly from 10AM to 3PM every day except Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Visit lizzie-borden.com or call 1-508-675-7333.



Photo by DkEgy. Released to the public domain.

Roadside Ramblings continued from page 11

Stanley Hotel

333 E. Wonderview Ave., Estes Park, CO

Visit the hotel that inspired Stephen King to write *The Shining*! There are reports of multiple ghosts, with the most haunted rooms being 401, 217, 407, 428 and 1302. Rooms are between \$200 and \$750 per night. The “haunted” rooms are on the more expensive end. Visit www.stanleyhotel.com or call 1-970-577-4000.



Photo by Miguel Viera and used under the Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic License.



Crescent Hotel in 1886. Public domain.

Crescent Hotel and Spa

75 Prospect Ave., Eureka Springs, AR

Billing itself as “America’s Most Haunted Hotel”, many of the hauntings may lead back to when Norman G. Baker, a millionaire radio personality, bought the building in 1937 and ran it as a place that “cured” just about anything. The “cures” didn’t work and a lot of people died. *Ghost Hunters* visited and documented a full-bodied apparition in the morgue (season 2, episode 13). Rooms are between \$250 and \$350 per night. The most haunted room is 218 and the hotel offers special haunted packages in the fall. Visit crescent-hotel.com or call 1-855-725-5720.



Photo provided by Lynn Marad from the Widow McCrea House Bed and Breakfast.

Widow McCrea House Bed and Breakfast

53 Kingwood Ave.,
Frenchtown, NJ

For those looking for a less intense haunted experience, try visiting the lovely Widow McCrea house and you may come across its friendly ghost cat. Rooms are between \$145 and \$275 per night. Visit widowmccrea.com or call 1-908-996-4999.



Front entrance to the Widow McCrea House. Photo provided by Lynn Marad from the Widow McCrea House Bed and Breakfast.

The Grenville Hotel

345 Main Ave. #4735, Bay Head, NJ

At this hotel you may see ghosts wandering the halls or hear children playing in the lobby when no living children are present. Voices are heard in the dining room, on the third floor and on the front deck. The most haunted rooms are 303 and 304. Rooms are between \$129 and \$259 per night. Visit hegrenville.com or call 1-732-892-3100.



Curious Events

article by Diana Antinucci

October 9th is Curious Events Day! What better way to celebrate than to recount some curious and mystifying events from history. Enjoy!

The Tunguska Event

On June 30, 1908 at around 7:17AM, the Tunguska region of Siberia experienced a mysterious blast so intense that scientists estimate that it was at least 185 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. It shook the earth with the equivalent of a 5.0 magnitude earthquake and lit up the sky. The closest eyewitnesses were 35 miles away, but they reported seeing a fireball above the trees before hearing and feeling the impact, followed by a rush of heat. The shock wave broke windows and knocked people off their feet. About 80 million trees were flattened and almost 1,250 square miles of forest was devastated, but because of the remote location, only one or two people may have been killed along with hundreds of reindeer. Oddly, no crater has ever been found. Theories as to what caused the explosion include a meteor that exploded before impact, a comet, an air burst from an asteroid or comet and the ignition of a pocket of natural gas. Investigation of the area has proven difficult due to the terrain and Russian politics.

Further listening: 1) Thinking Sideways Podcast: Tunguska Event, 2) Stuff You Should Know: What Was the Tunguska Event and 3) Stuff You Missed in History Class: The Tunguska Event.



Tunguska 1927. Photo is in the public domain.

The Lost Colony of Roanoke

In 1587, John White led an expedition to the New World with 115 settlers, placing them on Roanoke Island, off the coast of what would one day be North Carolina. There was trouble with the native peoples, in particular the Powhatans on Croatoan Island, food was scarce and disease was taking a toll. White decided to go back to England for reinforcements and provisions, leaving his wife, daughter and grandchild behind. Due to bad weather and the Anglo-Spanish War, White did not return for two years. When he returned, he found the colony abandoned and everyone gone without signs of struggle or attack. The only things left behind were the word "CROATOAN" carved into a post and "CRO" carved into a tree. A few attempts were made to locate the settlers or establish their fate, but nothing was ever found. It was thought that perhaps the Powhatans had killed the colonists, but there was no evidence to support this. Another theory is that the colonists integrated with the native population and stories of pale, blonde-haired, blue-eyed children among the Native Americans were told, but DNA evidence has not supported this theory. What happened at Roanoke remains a mystery today.

Further listening:
Simply Strange: #26 The Roanoke Colony

1585 map by John White. The pink island is Roanoke. The original map is in the public domain. The enlarged inset was added.



Curious Events continued from page 13

A New England Vampire

Most of us associate vampires with the Old World, castles and Carpathian mountains, but vampires appear almost everywhere where humans tell tales and even here in the US. In the 1880s, New England was experiencing outbreaks of tuberculosis, known as consumption at the time, as the sick person seemed to wither away. The disease was contagious and once a family member was afflicted, more were sure to follow. In Exeter, Rhode Island in 1882, Mary Eliza Brown died of tuberculosis, followed by her daughter Mary Olive in 1883 and another daughter about ten years later, nineteen-year-old Mary Lena "Mercy" Brown. Edwin Brown, Mercy's brother was also sick and people convinced his father that one of the dead family members was coming back and draining the life from Edwin. In desperation and bowing to the pressure from neighbors, he allowed the bodies to be exhumed. Mary Eliza and Mary Olive showed the expected signs of decomposition. Mercy, however, stored in a stone vault because of the frozen ground, still looked fresh, with signs of fresh blood, and she had moved. This can all be easily explained now, but then it was taken as proof of vampirism. Her heart and liver were removed, burned and made into a potion that Edwin was forced to drink. The rest of Mercy was burned. Edwin died two months later.

Further listening: 1) New England Legends Podcast: Mercy Brown- The Rhode Island Vampire, 2) Simply Strange: #21 Mercy Brown, 3) History Goes Bump Podcast: #78 The Legend of Mercy Brown and 4) Lore: #1 They Made a Tonic.



Baptist Church in Exeter. In the background is the graveyard where Mercy Brown is buried.. Photo by Swampyank and used under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported License.

The Dash

Ghost ships are common stories, with the most famous being the Mary Celeste, which was found without her crew on board, but in fine working order and no explanation for the disappearances. I'll give you some resources to hear that story, but I want to tell you another story.

The Dash was built in 1813 in a Freeport, Maine shipyard. At the time, the US was fighting the War of 1812 with Britain. There was a blockade of British warships impacted the lucrative New England shipping business and the US had an embargo against all goods leaving the US. If a ship wanted to outrun or avoid both US and British ships and continue to do business, she had to be fast. And the Dash was the fastest. On her maiden voyage, she outran a British man-of-war. The Dash's reputation grew and she received a letter of marque from President Madison in 1814, making her a privateer ship, authorized to seize enemy ships and sell anything on board. Her weaponry and crew were increased and in her career as a privateer, she captured 15 ships and never lost a man. In January 1815, the dash and a new privateer schooner, the Champlain, set out together. The Champlain challenged the Dash to a race, eager to prove themselves. The Dash pulled ahead over the course of a day and the Champlain changed course when a winter gale was headed their way. The Dash continued on and it is assumed that she went aground on the shoals of Georges Bank, killing her captain and sixty crewmembers. Nothing was ever found of her or her crew, but she was occasionally sighted after that. Fishermen began reported sightings of the Dash, always coming out of a mist, then vanishing. In 1942, she even showed up on the radar of ships protecting the coast from U-boats and they even fired on her.



Undated etching of the Dash.

Curious Events continued from page 14

By the 1870s, the legend of the Dash was well-known and it was said that it returned to port to carry away the souls of descendants of the crewmembers. Its portent of death became so well-known that John Greenleaf Whittier wrote a poem about it called "The Dead Ship of Harpswell". The last stanza reads:

*And men shall sigh, and women weep,
Whose dear ones pale and pine,
And sadly over sunset seas
Await the ghostly sign.
They know not that its sails are filled
By pity's tender breath,
Nor see the Angel at the helm
Who steers the Ship of Death!*

Further listening: 1) Thinking Sideways Podcast: The Mary Celeste, 2) New England Legends Podcast: The Ghost Ship Mary Celeste, 3) Simply Strange: Mary Celeste, 4) Stuff You Missed in History Class: A Cruise Through History's Ghost Ships and 4) Lore: #104 Anchored.

There were a few stories that I was very excited to share and thought better of it. The stories are fascinating, but grim and disturbing. If anyone would like to follow up on these, below are podcast episodes where you can listen to the stories.

The Hinterkaifeck Murders

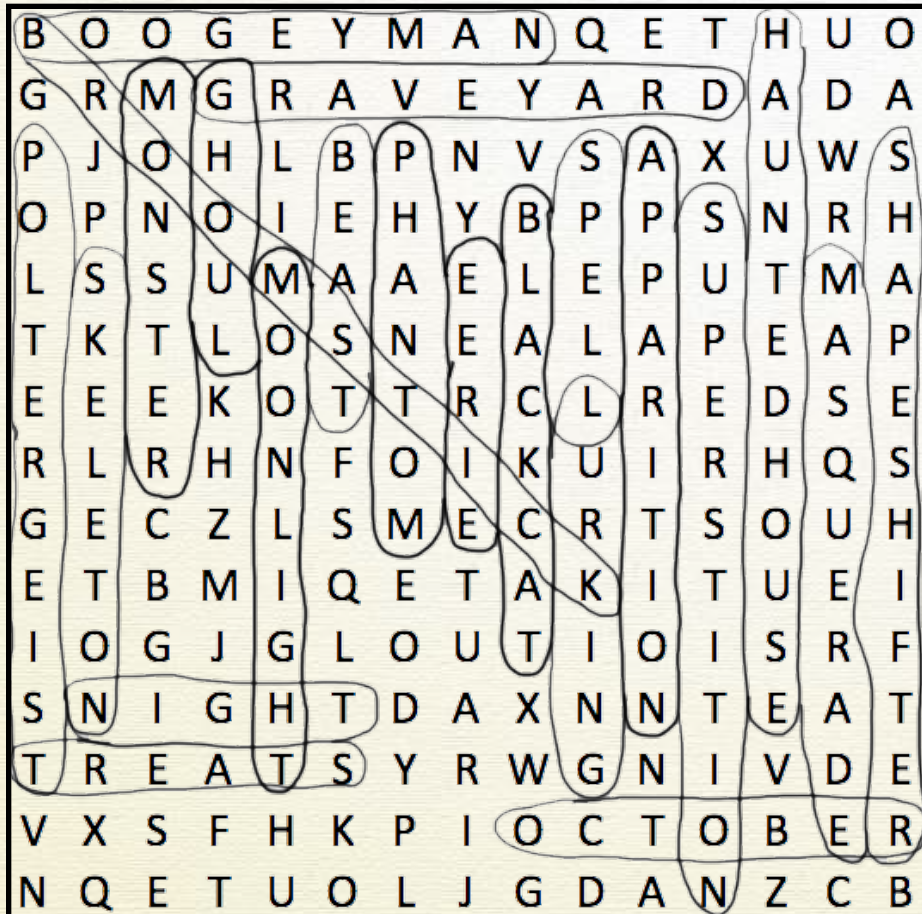
1) The Generation Why Podcast: #152 Hinterkaifeck, 2) Bedtime Stories: Season 2, Episode 2: The Mysterious Murders of Hinterkaifeck, 3) Simply Strange: #1 The Hinterkaifeck Murders, 4) Thinking Sideways Podcast: Hinterkaifeck Murders, 5) Stuff You Should Know: The Hinterkaifeck Axe Murders and 6) Lore: #27 On The Farm.

The Villisca Axe Murders:

1) Thinking Sideways Podcast: Villisca Axe Murders and 2) Lore: #16 Covered Mirrors.

The Dyatlov Pass Incident:

1) Dark Histories: The Dyatlov Pass Incident, 2) Simply Strange: #10 Dyatlov Pass and 3) Stuff You Should Know: The Dyatlov Pass Mystery. 🏔️



Answers to quote puzzle on page 10: 1C, 2K, 3I, 4E, 5J, 6L, 7D, 8M, 9N, 10F, 11H, 12B



We need a new treasurer!

We need a volunteer to fill the shoes of Jeff Schulte, long-time treasurer. If interested, please contact Kathy Petters at 856-767-4438.

Reminder: The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, October 17th, at 7:30PM on the second floor of the Haddonfield Borough Hall, 242 Kings Highway East.

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.ankokas.com

Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30PM on the second floor of the Haddonfield Municipal Building.
Director meetings are held on an "as needed" basis as determined by the officers.
NOTE: No meetings are scheduled in July, August or



Reminder: There will be no regular Thursday meeting in November. Instead, there will be a breakfast meeting on Saturday, November 9th. Please see the ad on page 7 for details.



The Ankokas Region would like to thank its sponsors and encourage its members to patronize these businesses whenever possible:



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