

BOOKS, STORIES and ARTICLES OUTDOORS

By Carol Hardin

We are going to start running a column each month about a good book, story or article on the outdoors which we hope will be of interest and, especially, will be helpful to you in your outdoor pursuits.

Since this is Halloween month, the book this month is quite unusual but you may find it extremely interesting if you are into the occult, the mysterious, the 'things that go bump in the night' or just a good read to keep you awake!! The name of the book is PANIC IN THE WOODS, true stories by Steph Young (Copyright 2016 by Steph Young, all rights reserved).

It is quite a short book. Following is a list of contents: 1. Assassinations...mutilations, robberies...ghosts...and a baffling disappearance; 2. The Case of Arnold Archambeau; 3. Whatever it was, it hitched a ride back to where I live; 4. Ghost Abduction; 5. True Detective or the movie Deliverance; 6. Masks and Hoods; 7. The Wolf-Riders; 8. Dimensional Disappearances; 9. Gothic Macabre Disappearance; 10. The Canyon Mystery and 11. "How can a woman just vanish?" These are all unexplained disappearances, deaths and other weird "happenings" all taking place in the WOODS or the most remote wildernesses.

The first story is about a New York advertising man's disappearance from a desolate Wyoming highway and the mystery has never truly been solved although his body was found four years later. The story encompasses elements of possible government conspiracy, unexplained deaths of anyone connected to it, UFO's, séances, an assassination, ghosts and other things that are never explained! The biggest unexplained factor was the fact that his body was found in pristine condition after four years...no predator damage, nothing had marred it. Also, where his footprints stopped, there was no body and the body wasn't seen during exhaustive searches of the area. What happened to Donald Kemp?

And what happened to Arnold Archambeau and his girlfriend Ruby Bruguier, at a remote intersection on the outskirts of the Yankton Sioux Indian Reservation in Lake Andes, South Dakota? Why were their bodies in very different stages of decomposition when they were found in a ditch 75 feet from the scene of the accident....3 months later, after the area had been repeatedly searched?

And what hitched a ride back to where Chris Nash lived after his venture into Rendlesham Forest. "Whatever it is, the malevolence is clear to see in its yellow eyes in an angular face." Chris said, "Whatever it was, it hitched a ride back to where I live, as I've had a presence at my house ever since. Not a nice presence...."

Could you be abducted by a ghost? Or a demon? Or an elemental? Read chapter four for many examples of people who say they were.

What happened to two young college men, friends who went on a road trip to "Hell" and may never recover?

Did you ever hear of the Rougarou of the Manchac Swamp of Louisiana? The Rougarou is also known as the Cajun Werewolf. What connection did a werewolf have with Julia White, a Voodoo Queen in Louisiana and what was the connection between her death and the destruction of entire villages? Julia White lived during the early 1900's and many came to her house for healing or love spells. However, people became afraid of her as she became more eccentric and people began to hear her singing, "On the day that I die, I will take you all with

me.” As she had always been able to predict what was going to happen, of course, this highly disturbed the local people. So what happened when Julia White died and who were the Raougarou (also called the Rangou or the Loup Garou)? Were they connected or not?

We all associate creepiness with Edgar Allen Poe and his home in Massachusetts is an area steeped in paranormal happenings, legends and lore. One of the scariest aspects of this area is the “Marsh People” or the “Swamp People” whose stories go back to the 1800’s. Perhaps, one of the strangest true mysteries that occurred within the New England area is the odd disappearance and subsequent demise of Edgar Allen Poe. On September 27th, 1849, Mr. Poe disappeared. He reappeared six days later, where he was found delirious in the street, completely incoherent wearing filthy clothes and dirty shoes, with vacant eyes and worse for wear. Gone were his dapper and refined clothing! He died in his infirmary room on October 7th. Great mystery still surrounds his death as all records of Poe’s death have disappeared.

What happened to Glen and Betty, the newlyweds who set out on an adventurous honeymoon rafting down the rapids of the Colorado River? They hoped to enable Betty to claim the world record as the first woman to ever make the treacherous trip and they hoped to beat the fastest record and they were sending back reports regularly and making great progress and then...they disappeared!

The last chapter is about a situation I remember from the news as it happened in 2013 when Geraldine Largay attempted to hike the Appalachian Trail, following in the footsteps of travel writer Bill Bryson (who later wrote “A Walk in the Woods”). She and her friend had been hiking for nine weeks without incident when her friend was called home for a family emergency. She decided to continue on alone. Geraldine’s plan, when she went missing, was to continue up the trail to where it intersects with Route 27 where her husband George would be waiting for her. When she didn’t show up, he called in the troops and a massive search ensued, the biggest search in the history of Maine, covering a 30-mile radius. Her body wasn’t found for two years, just 3,000 feet from the trail where she had last been known to be, an area that had been thoroughly combed over and over by rescuers and search dogs. There was still water in her bottle and she had survived for at least three weeks! She was a very experienced hiker who had already covered over 1,000 miles of the Appalachian Trail. And there have been others, missing under very strange circumstances. Are there others out there that we don’t see? Do they know what happened to Geraldine?

You can order PANIC IN THE WOODS from Amazon.com.