

RASCALS, VARMINTS & CRITTERS



Will o' the Wisp

An interview with "Crazy" Eddie Eddington, ghost rock prospector. Recorded and submitted by Explorer Kaspar Schwartz.

Me an' Paul was lookin' for a good place to mine, but havin' no luck at all. We're runnin' short on vittles, so I says it's time to git back to Tombstone. Well, soon as I say that, we find an abandoned mine. We go in careful like in case there's gas there. That's when we sees it: a little ball o' light dancin' in the air.

I yells, "Run! It's gonna blow!" and I take off like a madman. I look back at Paul, and would you believe it, he's walkin' *toward* the ball o' light. He's all glassy-eyed an' such, an' I yells, "Hey Paul, get yer kiester over here!" But he just keeps a walkin' towards that light.

Well I keep runnin', till I'm a hunnert yards outside the mine. I keep waitin' for the BOOM, but don' hear nothin'. About an hour later, I goes back into the mine and find Paul at the bottom of the main shaft with a broken neck.

I don' know what's down there, an' I ain't goin' back. If you wanna take a look, it's your funeral.

Another account, this one drawn from the New Orleans Free Press, a paper similar to the Tombstone Epitaph. The papers are close to each other in content if not in quality.

Baton Rouge Millionaire Missing!

Baton Rouge law enforcement officials are baffled by the disappearance of wealthy shipping magnate Garret Langtree. Langtree seems to have walked out of his house and straight into the wilderness.

Langtree, the founder and owner of Langtree International Shipping, was last seen just before dusk. "Master Langtree almost always took a walk around that time of day," said family butler Lawrence Hodkins. "It was his custom to walk down by the riverside."

Langtree wasn't missed until he failed to show up for dinner, and a search party was formed. Searchers were able to track Langtree down the riverside for about a mile before his trail led into Elderwood Swamp.

The search was led by Langtree's son Jacob, who described the thorough and methodical search of the area.

"We tracked Father into the swamp for about one hundred yards, but quickly lost his trail in the mud," said the distraught younger Langtree. "I can't understand what Father was doing walking straight into the swamp like that!"

Authorities speculated that Garret Langtree may have been drinking, but Jacob and his mother, Melinda, insist that he was a teetotaler.

One man claims to have seen Garret Langtree on his fateful walk, but his testimony is being discounted by the authorities. Jackson Featherstone, a local boatman claims he saw Garret Langtree on that Thursday evening. Featherstone described a strange hovering light that Langtree seemed to be following.

"It looked just like a lantern hanging in the air in front of him, bobbing along like someone was carrying it," said Featherstone. "Looking at it made me feel all funny, and I almost walked right off the edge of my own boat trying to follow it myself."

Featherstone's claims have been completely ignored by investigators, who claim that the man is a "notorious drunk and liar."

This is not the first missing person's case to strike the area around Elderwood Swamp. This paper has learned that no less than twelve people have vanished in "mysterious circumstances" in the last six months.

Never follow strange lights.—N.T.