GHOST STORIES

Collection of stories about paranormal phenomena



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Sunday, June 27, 2010

The Bennington Triangle

Much like its counterparts, a portion of Vermont's green wilderness gained a reputation. Between the years 1920 and 1950, a number of people vanished without a trace. In his book, "Green Mountain Ghosts, Ghouls, and Unsolved Mysteries", Joe Citro dubbed an area in Bennington near Glastenbury mountain the "Bennington Triangle". Not only have people disappeared, defying explanation, it has also been an alleged hot spot for UFO activity, strange lights, sounds, odors, specters, mysterious creatures. Even Native American's shunned the place. They believed the land to be cursed because all four winds met in that spot and some Native American folklore speaks of an enchanted stone which swallows anything to step upon it. How many of these claims are true, I am not certain. However, the disappearances have been documented.

On November 12, 1945, 75 year old Middie Rivers led four hunters onto the mountain. As the group was returning to camp, near Long Trail Road and Route 9, Rivers broke away from the others and was never seen again. Police and volunteers searched the area for the experienced woodsman but never found him.

Almost a year later, on December 1, 1946, an 18 year old Bennington College sophomore named Paula Welden hitched a ride to the Long Trail to take a day hike. Several witnesses confirmed seeing her on the trail but when she didn't return to school, a search team scoured the area. Despite a 5,000 dollar reward and help from the FBI, Paula Welden was never seen again. Two unconfirmed rumors stated Paula arranged her disappearance and moved to Canada with a lover; while others speculate she still lives a reclusive life on the mountain.

A 13-year-old boy named Melvin Hills disappeared in the Bennington area around October 11, 1942, and in 1949, three hunters mysteriously also vanished in the Glastenbury area. After 1950, the disappearances stopped. No one knows why they began much less why they suddenly stopped. Although some believed the answer is natural not supernatural. One theory stated the disappearances were caused by a serial killer. Serial killers have patterns and the only thing the victims had in common was when they vanished, during October, November and December. Others think they simply fell in abandoned wells. Supernatural theories include alien abduction, the Bennington Monster and interdimensional horizons.

Is the "Bennington Triangle" a magnet for the supernatural? Will those who disappeared in the area be ever found? These are questions that may never be answered.

Posted by Andrea Allison at 2:27 PM **8+1** Recommend this on Google **Labels: Mysteries**

1 comments:

Jeff Stewart said... Paula Welden Was found dead a few years latter, Almost in the spot they looked twice over! 7:23 PM

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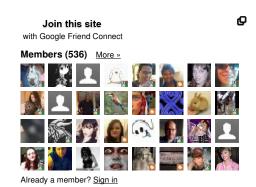
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If La Isla de La Munecas has showed us anything, it is that a benign child's toy can be the subject of nightmares. Stories of haunted do...

Kellie's Castle

Many know the love story attached to the Taj Mahal. But how many of you know the story of a Scottish man

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named William Kellie Smith and his ...



Mandy the Doll

The theme around the paranormal blogosphere has been haunted dolls as of late. I've written about Robert the doll and the Island of Dolls ...



Clinton Road

What elements does a road need to be labeled genuinely creepy? Isolated area? Thick forest on both sides? A dark history? Clinton Ro...

GHOST BLOGS

Unexplained Mysteries

80% of the light in the universe is missing -Astronomers have identified a new cosmological mystery using data from the Hubble Space Telescope. The problem centers around the fact that the 'tendr...

13 hours ago

Above the Norm

Outside Aspen Grove - I have heard Sharon talk about her childhood home, Aspen Grove, for a few years now. I have been wanting to see this historic mansion, inside and out ev...

18 hours ago

Chost Hunting Theories

Stone and Acoustics: Hauntings and Ancient Construction - (above - my childhood home in the mid 1860s after the war and the basement today) In 2009, I embarked on a study of 50 haunted sites around America and ... 21 hours ago

Hayes Hudson's House of Horror

Check out the trailer for the upcoming film, DRACULA: UNTOLD - [image: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0829150 /?ref_=nv_sr_1] I have always been a zombie fan, but Vampire movies are starting to slowly become one of my fav...

1 day ago



Odd UFO Over Bethel Park, PA - *I receive this report last evening (7/11/2014) for a UFO sighting over Bethel Park, PA:* Lon, My boss and friend, a very credible business man, called...

1 day ago

Sue Darroch and Matthew Didier's Paranormal Blog

UFOs and Books at the Pub - Last night some of the local PSICAN members met with authors and fellow UFO researchers Chris Rutkowski and David Haisell at the Artful Dodger here in ... 2 days ago

Z Zombos' Closet of Horror Blog

Movie Pressbook: Dracula Has Risen from the Grave (1968) - Note the humor angle used to promote Dracula Has Risen from the Grave, especially in the poster illustrations. 2 days ago

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Short N Scary Stories

The Stamp - Nothing stood out about Giles Biggs, nothing at all; his shoes had laces and his shirts had long sleeves, he was dull. That day, however, he made his way w... 2 days ago

Para-News

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3 days ago

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JULY: HBA NEW MEMBERS [2014] -

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GS Question of the Week

The Bennington Triangle

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Poor House Road Tunnel

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Linwood Curse

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Dead Woman's Crossing

GS Question of the Week

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Dawn of the Shadow Review

Haunted Pub in Search of New Owner

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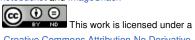
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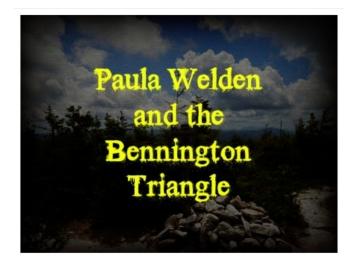
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5 of 5 7/14/2014 12:38 AM A daily dose of paranormal phenomena, cryptids, UFOs, ultraterrestrial beings, humanoids and alternative news

Wednesday, July 09, 2014

Paula Welden and the Bennington Triangle



If you've listened to 'Beyond The Edge' Radio, then you've probably heard us discuss paranormal 'hotspots'...areas where a myriad of supernatural and unexplained phenomenon regularly occurs. The Bermuda Triangle, the Bridgewater Triangle, the Four Corners, southwestern Pennsylvania, etc. are just a few of these remarkable locations. The Bennington Triangle is another one of these mysterious 'hotspots'...full of strange and bizarre activity:

ha

"I'm going to hike on the Long Trail."



heard from Paula Welden, the now-legendary Bennington College student who disappeared mysteriously 68 years ago. Her story is without a doubt Bennington's most infamous unsolved mystery, and one that continues to appear in New England authors' histories of the occult and unexplained.

These words were the last that anyone

Dec. 1, 1946, began like any other day in Bennington for Paula Welden, an Subscribe now!
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"I'm all through with studies, I'm t around 2:45 p.m., according to Jol distinctive red coat with a fur colla

Given that it was a cold, though snowless day, and the temperatures were predicted to be subfreezing by nightfall, she seemed either underdressed for a walk in-the-woods or was only planning to be out for a short while. That is only one of the unsolved mysteries surrounding Welden's appearance and behavior that fateful November day.

Shortly thereafter, a blond, slight, red coat-clad <u>young woman</u> was seen by Danny Fager, the owner of a <u>gas station</u> that at the time was across the street from the college gates. Fager said the girl ran up the side of a gravel pit near the college entrance, then ran down it again. Then she went out of view. Later, search parties would call in a bulldozer to sift through the gravel pit on the off-chance that she had been buried alive. No evidence was found.

Just before 3 p.m., Louis Knapp of Woodford picked up a girl hitchhiking on Route 67A just outside the college entrance. His description of her matched Welden. When climbing into his truck, the girl nearly slipped, and Knapp warned her, "Be careful." No further words were spoken between them until Knapp let her off near his driveway, which was on Route 9 near the Long Trail, where the girl had told him she wanted to go. After thanking Knapp for the ride, Welden headed for the trail.

The next sighting of the girl was roughly 45 minutes later in Bickford Hollow, where several residents reported seeing her headed to the trail. One was Ernie Whitman, a watchman for the Banner, who warned her about heading up into the mountains dressed so lightly and at such a late hour. She continued on anyway, into the woods, and out of sight forever.

Night fell, and there was no sign of Welden anywhere. Johnson, her roommate, was reportedly very nervous, but chose not to inform college authorities until the next morning, when college President Lewis Webster Jones was notified of Welden's disappearance. He in turn called Welden's parents to see if she had gone home for the weekend. Welden's mother reportedly collapsed from shock and was confined to her bed, while her father, W. Archibald, headed straight for Bennington from their Stamford, Conn., home to commence a search for their missing daughter.

Welden's father arrived in Bennington and immediately organized a large group of volunteers from all corners of the community, including local residents and members of both Bennington College and Williams College. Classes at Bennington were suspended so that all students could participate in the search. By the evening of Dec. 2, however, the college students had reportedly become frustrated with what they saw as an incompetent search, and they shared their criticism with Welden's father and President Jones.

Welden, an engineer who was well-known in his home state, used his influence to call in State Police from New York and Connecticut. At the time, Vermont did not have its own state <u>police force</u>, and the search for Paula Welden was unfortunately disorganized and lacking in resources.

Vermont did have a state investigator by the name of Almo Franzoni, and within days of Paula's disappearance, he was put on the case. He, along with representatives from the New York and Connecticut police departments, took over the search. Those who had been volunteering to comb the Glastenbury wilderness for Paula switched their efforts to raising money for a reward. Collectively, they raised \$5,000.

Their efforts would be to no avail, was still no trace of Paula. There w unquestionably strange leads that claim by a waitress in Fall River, M agitated young woman at a table v lead struck her father as so promis order to follow it, without telling at

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returned to Bennington. This led some to point to Welden as the prime suspect in his daughter's disappearance, a theory made even more compelling by the facts surrounding the week before Paula's disappearance.

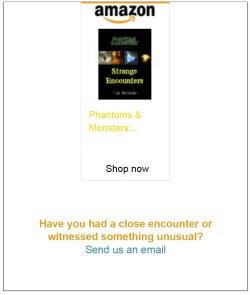
Apparently, Paula was expected to go home to Connecticut for Thanksgiving, but she called her parents and told them that she would be staying in Bennington. Apparently, according to Johnson, she and her father had had a falling-out not long before her disappearance, and Johnson retracted her original statement that Paula was "not distraught" to say that, in fact, she had been quite depressed.

Many speculated that Paula's depression was centered around a faraway boyfriend, and her father at one point posited a theory that his daughter had a boy from her hometown who "wanted to call on her," and could have been a suspect. Mr. Welden could never provide any evidence to substantiate his claim, however, though he claimed that a <u>clairvoyant</u> from Pownal insinuated a man's involvement in Paula's disappearance.

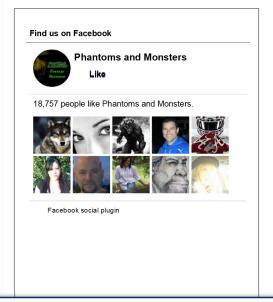
On Dec. 16, Paula's father packed up his daughter's belongings and returned to Connecticut, but not before lambasting Vermont for its lack of a professional police force. He deplored the alleged irresponsibility of those heading up the search, especially the fact that there had been no records kept of the first 10 days of the investigation. This was not overlooked by the small army of reporters from across New England who had descended on Bennington to cover the story, and the negative press the state received in the weeks following Paula's disappearance helped lead to the creation of the Vermont State Police in a legislative session in July 1947.

As soon as Welden left, the out-of-state reporters also bid Vermont adieu, although the Banner continued to cover the story as front-page news until late December. Volunteer search parties would continue to make expeditions on the Long Trail, but by early January harsh weather conditions and lack of hope ended their efforts. Any evidence of Paula Welden, if it ever existed, was buried under snow and the passage of time.

Or was it?







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In 1955, a lumberjack who had been in Bickford Hollow near the Long Trail where Paula had disappeared said he had followed a girl fitting Paula's description into the woods. More importantly, he told <u>a friend</u> that he knew where Paula's body was buried. After interest in Paula's case had been revived and the man had been extensively questioned by then-village <u>attorney</u> Reuben Levin, the man admitted that he'd been joking and had no knowledge of Paula or her whereabouts.

The case remained unsolved and was nearly declared cold until, 13 years later, an unidentified skeleton was found in Adams. Investigators excitedly awaited the results of an analysis on the bones, only to find that they were too old to have possibly been Paula's. Closure once again proved elusive for the Weldens and investigators of the case.

After the Adams skeleton, no significant leads were ever uncovered, leading people to formulate their own theories as to what became of the girl. Speculations have been widely varied, from the more practical — she ran off with a boyfriend, she died of exposure in the wilderness — to the paranormal. The most intriguing of theories in the latter category is one that is raised by New England author and occult researcher Joseph Citro. He coined the term "The Bennington Triangle" to describe an area of southwestern Vermont within which five people disappeared between 1945 and 1950, including Paula. He links these disappearances to a special energy that inhabits the Glastenbury wilderness area that attracts visitors from outer space, who most likely snatched up Paula and the subsequent missing persons.

For his part, current Director of the Vermont State Police, James W. Baker,

has no particular theory on Paula's wasn't directly involved, I can't spe he can say definitively is that the \ because of Paula, and since their is responsible, by statute, for all wild

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Noting that states like Maine and N wilderness rescues, Baker said tha



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responsibility to coordinate wilderness search and rescue efforts comes directly out of the Paula Welden case.

He also said that just two weeks ago he was talking with the head of the State Police Search and Rescue Committee and she had expressed interest in researching the case, to put, as Baker put it, "a new set of eyes on the case."

So is the case of Paula Welden cold? Technically, yes, says Baker, but it still remains open, should any leads come up. Whether or not any new information emerges, it is unlikely that anyone familiar with Bennington history will be able to head up the Long Trail and not think of Paula Welden's ill-fated journey 60 years ago. - benningtonbanner.com

Vital Statistics at Time of Disappearance

Missing Since: December 1, 1946 from Bennington, Vermont

• Classification: Endangered Missing

• Date of Birth: October 19, 1928

Age: 18 years old

• Height and Weight: 5'5, 122 pounds

- Distinguishing Characteristics: Caucasian female. Blonde hair, blue eyes. Welden has a grayish-colored scar on her left knee, a small scar under her left eyebrow, and a vaccination scar on her right thigh. She has a cleft chin and an upturned nose.
- Clothing/Jewelry Description: A red parka with a fur-trimmed hood, blue jeans, size 6 1/2 or 7 white Top-Sider sneakers with heavy soles, and a small gold ladies' Elgin wristwatch with a narrow black band. The watch has the repairer's marking "13050 HD" scatched on the inside of the back case

Details of Disappearance

Welden was a sophomore at Bennington College in Bennington, Vermont at the time of her disappearance. She was last seen on December 1, 1946. She worked the breakfast and lunch shifts at the dining hall, came back to her dormitory room in Dewey Hall and spoke to her roommate for awhile before saying she was going for to go to take a study break and go for a hike. She didn't say where she was headed. Welden left campus shortly after 2:30 p.m. She was probably carrying little or no money at the time, and she left behind an uncashed check her parents had sent her for her living expenses. She was also under-dressed for the cold weather.

A passing motorist picked up Welden, who was hitchhiking, near the Bennington campus at 2:45 p.m. She told him she was going to hike on the Long Trail off Route 9, near Glastenbury Mountain. The driver dropped her off on Route 9 three miles from the trail. Several others saw her at that

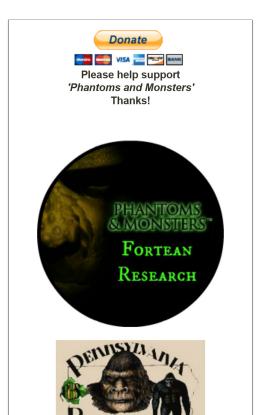
day walking on the trail. The last c p.m., when she spoke to a man on extended. He told her it went all the 5:00 p.m. and it began snowing a inches.

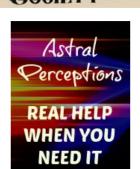
Welden has never been heard from concerned the next morning when

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the previous night. Later that morning, she notified the school authorities of Welden's disappearance. At the time, Bennington students were required to sign themselves out if they planned to stay out past 11:00 p.m., then check in with the school security officer upon their return; Welden had done neither of those things. When she failed to attend her classes the following Monday, Bennington College officials notified her family and the police.

An extensive search of the Long Trail and its environs turned up no sign of Welden and no significant clues. The search was hampered by the fact that Vermont had no state police at the time. Eventually, officials from Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York stepped in to help. Investigators initially believed Welden had gotten lost in the mountains and died of exposure, but as time passed without their finding any sign of her they began to consider other theories.

Authorities looked into Welden's background to see if she might have left of her own accord. She was a good student, majoring in art, but she had lately become less interested in the subject. She found herself drawn to music and botany instead and may have been thinking of changing her major. Although there were reports that she was somewhat depressed at the time of her disappearance, her family and friends said she only had normal problems for a girl her age and was not unhappy enough to commit suicide or run away from home. She had never had a steady boyfriend. She left all her belongings behind, and her family stated she was not the type of person to leave without warning. There is also no hard evidence of foul play in Welden's disappearance, although many believe she was murdered and buried somewhere in near the Long Trail.

Welden lived with her parents and three younger sisters in Stamford, Connecticut when she was not in school. She enjoyed painting in oils and watercolors, pencil and charcoal sketching, and playing the guitar, and she was physically active and an experienced hiker and camper. In part because of her father's lobbying after her disappearance, in July 1947 Vermont passed a law creating a state police force. Welden's disappearance remains unsolved; there has been no sign of her since 1946. - charleyproject.org

Click for video - Bennington Triangle / Glastenbury, VT - Documentary (Part 1 of 2) or cut / paste https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdyysF0VC20

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CONTINUE SEAR FOR MISSING BO

day near North Hoosick, but the day. Bennington, Vt., boy's father doesn't hold out much hope.

Mrs. Marcia Lemnak of Jonesville, Vt., told Vermont State Police yesterday at Burlington that she passed a boy answering young of Marshall-Eclipse Division. Ben-Paul's description walking toward dix Aviation Corp. of Green Island the Vermont state line.

She said she was driving home from Mechanicville when she night, passed the youngster walking along the road like any farm boy.

faded red sweater, shirt and brown tronsers. She also said that his problems of the plant, hair was light and needed cutting.

Paul M. Jepson, the boy's father, told police last night that it doesn't sound like his son. He said in the first place Paul's

hair was long but "wasn't badly in need of cutting." And even more important, he said the boy walked with a marked gait.

However, New York State Poller are checking the North Hoosick area. Late last night no sign of the boy had been reported.

Another development in the case boy's father and the Vermont State ni

Motorist Believes She Passed tine, officer in charge of the BenChild Near State Line
Sunday

According to Sgt. Frank Constanby
Accordi

A motorist may have seen missing eight-year-old Paul Jepson, jr., Sunday near North Hoosick, but the

SUPERVISORY EMPLOYEES

HEAR PLANT MANAGER

Fred Weyburne, general manager discussed future plans before supervisory employees of the plant at a meeting at the Troy Club last

The group of 26 foremen and su-She described him as wearing a pervisors was also addressed by deed red sweater, shirt and brown

> REAL ECONOMY WITH QUALITY St. Joseph ASPIRIN WORLD'S LARGEST SELLER AT 104

The Bennington Triangle

The Appalachian Mountain Club calls it the "Triangle of Doom". But, while the happenings in the Bennington Triangle remain a series of unsolved mysteries, can they be classified as paranormal phenomena?

Nestled between the Taconics and the Green Mountains, its rich history and scenic beauty make Bennington a favorite spot for hunters, hikers, and historians.

One of the earliest chartered towns in Colonial America, Bennington is also the site of Vermont's first church, aptly named the "Old First Church", its cemetery the final resting place of poet Robert Frost. Bennington is also the place where Ethan Allen formed the Green Mountain Boys, a group of three hundred woodsmen that were instrumental in helping the American Colonies win the American Revolutionary war1.

Bennington was a quiet town, quite near mysterious Glastenbury Mountain. Native Americans shunned the mountain, believing that the four winds "met" at the top of it and they used the mountain only as a burial ground. European settlers told tales of strange lights over Glastenbury Mountain. Unsourced odors and tales of Bigfoot-type sightings permeated the mountain woodlands.

Yet, the real mountain mystery began in 1945 and lasted for five years.

Seventy-four year old, Middie Rivers was familiar with the area wilderness. An experienced hunting and fishing quide, on November 12, 1945, he

escorted a party of four hunters in way back to their campsite, Middie leaving only one clue. After an exte single bullet beside a streambed by

Rivers's disappearance was the first next five years. A year later, on De sophomore at Bennington College

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Update: The Dulce Underground

I recently decided to update information referencing the supposed joint government / alien

underground facility in Dulce, New Mexico. Not



Crypto Four Corners - BEK Encounter

During a recent follow-up investigation, in connection with the Ultraterrestrial Assault Case,

Crypto Four Corner's JC Johnson and hi...



The Aztec UFO Crash Recovery On March 25, 1948, a UFO was detected and picked up on their

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Mountain's "Long Trail". A couple behind her reported they had seen her turn a corner, but when they reached the corner, Weldon was gone. Although the ensuing manhunt brought in the FBI and even used a clairvoyant, as in the case of Middie Rivers, no trace of Paula Weldon was ever found.

Exactly three years later, on December 1, 1949, James E. Tetford, a resident of Bennington Soldier's Home disappeared from a commercial bus. Although he was seen boarding the bus and at the stop before Bennington, when the bus reached its destination, Tetford was gone. Although his luggage was found in the luggage rack and a bus timetable lay open on his seat James E. Tetford was never again seen.

On Columbus Day 1950, eight-year-old Paul Jepson disappeared from the family farm. No trace of the child or his bright red coat was ever found, although hundreds of volunteers combed the mountainside in search of him.

Not quite three weeks later, 53-year-old Frieda Langer slipped into a mountain stream while hiking with her cousin. Promising her cousin that she'd catch up with him after changing into dry clothes, Frieda disappeared on the walk back to camp. Hers was the only body found, but not until the next spring. On May 12, 1951, Frieda Langer's decomposed body emerged near the Somerset Reservoir, although the area had been thoroughly searched at the time of her disappearance. Oddly enough, the one "solved" disappearance was the final disappearance on Glastenbury Mountain.

Because four of the five disappearances remain unsolved, rumors and theories are plentiful. Indian legend tells of a "rock that swallows" those who step on it. Some folks believe that the Bigfoot-like "Bennington Monster" is responsible for the mishaps. Of course, others cite alien abductions as a possible cause and some speculators talk about a gateway to some new dimension. Were these five autumn disappearances the work of a serial killer or just a string of coincidental misadventures? For now, mysterious Glastenbury Mountain hides the secrets behind the Bennington Triangle. - geocaching.com

Missing People in The Bennington Triangle:

1945 - **Middie Rivers** was serving as a mountain guide in the area on November 12, 1945. When he was guiding his group back to their camp, he got ahead of the bunch and was never seen again. The event happened near the Long Trail Road, an area that 75-year-old Middie was presumably familiar with. Police and volunteers searched for the man, but no clue to his fate was ever found.

1946 - **Paula Welden** a college student went hiking on the Long Trail one day, she was never see again and no trace of her has ever been found.

1949 - Three Hunters went missing in the area around 1949, but there is little evidence to back up the claims.

1949 - **James E. Teford** got on a bus in St. Albans, by the time the bus reached Bennington, he was gone and never to be seen again. There is no evidence that supports that he actually went missing in the Bennington Triangle area.

1950 - On October 12, **Paul Jeps**(scent was followed by dogs, but it

1950 - **Frieda Lander** disappearer hiking with her cousin. Frieda had to camp to change after getting he the camp. A massive search was n and military sought the woman, bu

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Phil Schneider, supposedly one of three people who survived the 1979 Dulce firefight between the

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Flight HM370 Alien Abduction Theories Begin

The conspiracy theorists are starting in on Malaysia Airlines Flight HM370 since, of course, no

plane or debris indicates alien abduction (...



The Oak Island Mystery

A new reality based television show named 'The Curse of Oak Island' started to air a few weeks ago on The History Channel . I

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Another Look at the Gas Plant Entity - UPDATE

In March 2013, I posted a photo and commentary from a witness at a gas plant in Kenedy, TX . The

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"No matter where you go....there you are" - Dr. Buckaroo Banzai

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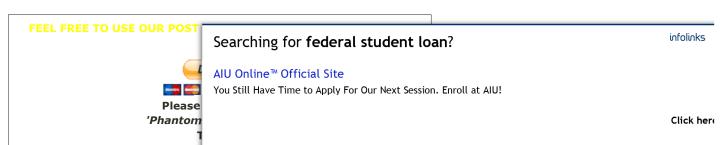
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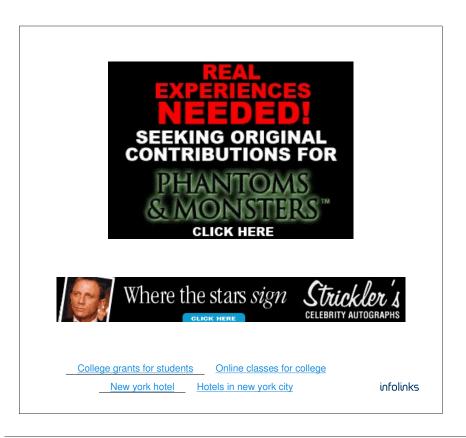
May. Her body was found in a field that had been searched extensively in Sources: benningtonbanner.com charleyproject.org benningtontriangle.com geocaching.com vermonter.com Mysterious Disappearances: They Never Came Back Green Mountain Ghosts, Ghouls & Unsolved Mysteries Passing Strange: True Tales of New England Hauntings and Horrors You might also like: Humanoid A Few Favorite Men In Black: A Few Favorite Incursion Reports 6 **Humanoid Reports Humanoid Reports** Bizarre Engagements Linkwithin Posted by Lon Strickler at 2:53 PM Federal student loan Student financial aid College Education Documentary Grants Financial aid for college students infolinks **>** 8+1 +5 Recommend this on Google Labels: abduction, Bennington Triangle, bizarre, missing persons, unexplained events, unknown phenomena, Vermont No comments: Post a Comment Links to this post Create a Link

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Bennington Triangle

Bennington Triangle

"Bennington Triangle" is a phrase coined by New England author Joseph A. Citro during a public radio broadcast in 1992 to denote an area of southwestern Vermont within which a number of persons went missing between 1920 and 1950. This was further popularized in two books, including *Shadow Child*, in which he devoted chapters to discussion of these disappearances and various items of folklore surrounding the area. According to Citro the area shares characteristics with the Bridgewater Triangle in neighboring Massachusetts.

Precisely what area is encompassed in this hypothetical "mystery triangle" is not clear, but it is purportedly centered around Glastenbury Mountain and would include some or most of the area of the towns immediately surrounding it, especially Bennington, Woodford, Shaftsbury, and Somerset. Glastenbury and its neighboring township Somerset were both once moderately thriving logging and industrial towns, but began declining toward the late 19th century and are now essentially ghost towns, unincorporated by an act of the state legislature in 1937.

According to Citro's books, stories of strange happenings had been told about Glastenbury and the surrounding area for many years prior to the disappearances in the 1940s, the best-known of which is probably that of Paula Jean Welden.

Reported Disappearances

Middie Rivers (1945)

Between 1945 and 1950 five people disappeared in the Bennington area. The first occurred on November 12, 1945 when 74-year-old Middie Rivers disappeared while out hunting. Rivers was guiding a group of four hunters up the mountains. On the way back Rivers got ahead of the rest of the group and was never seen again. An extensive search was conducted and the only evidence found was a single rifle cartridge that was found in a stream. The speculation was that Rivers had leaned over and the cartridge had dropped out of his pocket into the water. The disappearance had occurred in the Long Trail Road area and U.S. Route 9. Rivers was an experienced hunter and fisherman and was familiar with the local area.

Paula Welden (1946)

Paula Welden, 18, disappeared about a year later on December 1, 1946. Welden was a sophomore at Bennington College. She had set out for a hike on the Long Trail. Many saw her go, including Ernest Whitman, a Bennington Banner employee who gave her directions. She was alleged to have been seen on the trail itself by an elderly couple who were about a 100 yards (91 m) behind her. According to them, she turned a corner in the trail, and when they reached the same corner, she had disappeared. When Welden never returned to her college an extensive search was conducted which included the posting of a \$5,000 reward and help from the FBI, however, no evidence of her was ever found. Unconfirmed rumors speculated that she had moved to Canada with a boyfriend or that she become a recluse living in the mountains.

James Tedford (1949)

The third occurrence took place when a veteran James E. Tedford (also spelled as Teford or Tetford) disappeared on December 1, 1949, exactly three years after Paula Welden had disappeared. Tedford was a resident of the Bennington Soldiers' Home. He had been in St. Albans visiting relatives. He was returning home on the local bus when he vanished. According to witnesses, Tedford got on the bus and was still on the bus at the last stop before arriving in Bennington. Somewhere between the last stop and Bennington, Tedford vanished. His belongings were still in the luggage rack and an open bus timetable was on his vacant seat.

Bennington Triangle 2

Paul Jepson (1950)

The fourth person to vanish was eight-year-old Paul Jepson. On October 12, 1950, Jepson had accompanied his mother in a truck. She left her son unattended while she fed some pigs. His mother was gone for about an hour. When she returned her son was nowhere in sight. Search parties were formed to look for the child. Nothing was ever found, though Jepson was wearing a bright red jacket that should have made him more visible. According to one story, bloodhounds tracked the boy to a local highway, where, according to local legend, four years earlier Paula Welden had disappeared.

Frieda Langer (1950)

The fifth and last disappearance occurred sixteen days after Jepson had vanished. On October 28, 1950, Freida Langer, 53, and her cousin Herbert Elsner left their family campsite near the Somerset Reservoir to go on a hike. During the hike Langer slipped and fell into a stream. She told Elsner if he would wait, she would go back to the campsite, change clothes and catch up to him. When she did not return, Elsner made his way back to the campsite and found Langer had not returned and that nobody had seen her since they had left. Over the next two weeks a total of five searches were conducted involving aircraft, helicopters and up to 300 searchers. No trace of the woman was found then. On May 12, 1951, her body was found near Somerset Reservoir, in an area that had been extensively searched seven months previously. Because of the long time the body had been exposed to the elements, no cause of death could be determined.

Langer was last person to disappear and the only one whose body was found. No direct connections have been identified that tie these cases together – other than general geographic area and time period.^[1]

In Popular Culture

The Bennington Triangle was discussed in Season 3, Episode 8 of the television program William Shatner's *Weird or What?* The episode, entitled "Mysterious Vanishings", first aired on July 23, 2012.

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