



# Spectral Skull Session News

Issue 2. July – August, 2023

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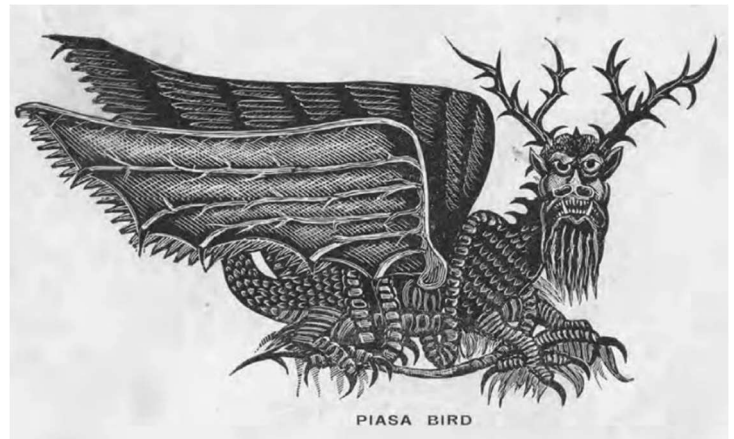
## FLYING CREATURES STALK THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER VALLEY!

Airborne humanoid reported in Alton, Illinois



The people of Alton, Illinois are locking their doors and loading bird shot after a local woman had a terrifying late-night encounter with something “tall, dark and large.” The anonymous experiencer maintains she was walking her dog when she met a winged-humanoid creature with a white face and glowing red eyes. The creature flew off. The incident, reported June 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Edwardsville Intelligencer, is a reminder of the peculiar brand of flying entities said to cruise the bluffs and hills surrounding the Mississippi river and its tributaries.

**Alton's Piasa Bird** – Regional heroes and early European explorers, Louis Jolliet and Father Jacques Marquette, reported petroglyphs along the Mississippi bluffs depicting monsters with “red eyes, man-like bearded faces and bodies covered with scales.” The images have sometimes been linked to the Native American legend of the “Thunderbird,” a sacred being associated with rain, lightning and fertility by many native tribes. In 1836, a local Illinois writer claimed to have followed a Native American chief to a cave filled with the skulls of humans whom thunderbirds had devoured. Today an artistic recreation of the original petroglyph, known as the “Piasa Bird” can be found outside Alton, IL. Authentic thunderbird petroglyphs can still be found at two sites in Missouri: Washington State Park and the Mitchell Petroglyph Archeological Site in Cairo. Giant flying creatures seem to be native to the Mississippi River basin.



**Hardin Spook Light** – Just 40 miles northwest of Alton, the tiny town of Hardin, Illinois was menaced by a floating fireball with a human face in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It lurked in the vicinity of Diamond Island, on the Illinois River. In 1886, a group of young men set out to investigate. They were reportedly scared off the island after a flaming barrel dropped from the sky, assumed the form of an old man, and stole their boat. Diamond Island is currently owned the Illinois Park Service and used for recreational hunting and fishing.

**The Missouri Monster** – A 90-minute drive north from St. Louis along the 79 river road, will take you to Louisiana, Missouri. In 1972, this river town became a national sensation after locals reported a smelly, Bigfoot-like creature that had a head shaped like a pumpkin. The creature first appeared after a green meteor landed in the woods outside the town. Sasquatch encounters are still common to the area.

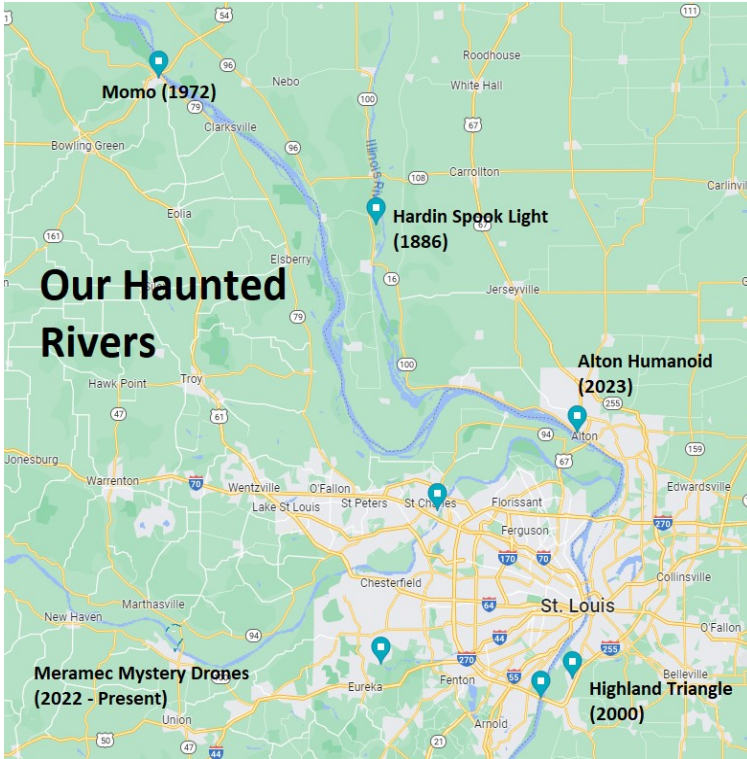
**The Highland Triangle** – In the 20<sup>th</sup> century Americans thought UFOs were either saucer or cigar-shaped, but the triangle-shaped model came to popular attention in January 2005 after a string of late-night reports that started in Highland, Illinois, and tracked southwest through Lebanon, Shiloh, Millstadt and Dupo. Multiple police officers reported a massive low-flying triangle that seemed to vanish when it reached the Mississippi river.



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**Meramec Mystery Drones** – Missouri-based UFO investigators reported a rash of low-flying drone-like colored lights flying along the Meramec River in 2022. The lights were been reported from the Jefferson Barracks Bridge (where the Meramec meets the Mississippi) all the way to Washington, Missouri. Sightings continue to this day. (See: Spectral Skull Session podcast #63)

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### Hypotheses for your consideration....

1. People near rivers go into hallucinogenic trances
2. Native American spirituality is real.
3. The ghosts of ice age mega birds.
4. Drug cartels cruising rivers in disguise.
5. Mississippi river is a “monster highway” connecting the Louisiana Bayou with the Ozarks & forests of Canada.

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### Cautionary Note from the Editor

Increasingly, reports of close encounters with glowing orbs are associated with chronic health problems. We recommend you never follow an orb to a second location. 😊

## WE WANT STORIES ABOUT CRYPTIDS, UFOS, SPOOKS, & MYSTERIES IN THE MIDWEST & AROUND THE WORLD

### If you've seen something, say something!

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### ABOUT US

The *Spectral Skull Session* is an independent media service dedicated to taking the woo out of the weird and bringing the weird in from the cold. We strive to cover stories that professional journalists, scientists, and philosophers refuse to take seriously, even when they probably should. Our coverage aims to be even-handed, open-minded, and critical. We ask questions, we search for alternatives for every explanation, but we refuse to carry water for any ideology, regardless of whether it is scientific materialism or paranormal dogmatism.

Bi-weekly podcasts contain in-depth analysis and commentary: [www.spectralskullsession.com](http://www.spectralskullsession.com)

Podcasts are also available on a variety of podcast aggregator services

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