Hutchinson (Kas) News
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1922

SECOND SECTION

The Moonshine Mystery Of Morton's Midnight Mirage

It's in a Remote Section of Morton County, Where Spooky Lights Revel at Midnight and Jump About in Mysterious Maneuvers.

Morton county, a remote section in the southwest Kansas plains country, has a moonshine mystery.

Whether it's a spook, or a midnight mirage, or mere imagination, anyhow there's something down there, at a certain rural schoolhouse yard, a few miles from Elkhart, that has the entire community stirred. It looks like a reflection of a big full moon, about the size of a windmill wheel, of a dull red color, shining particularly bright on a dark night.

Miss Geneva Shuff, a Reno county girl who is teaching school in this district, didn't know anything about the moonshine mystery when she went there to teach the school. The schoolboard feared she would not accept the place if she knew about it. Other teachers had given it up.

Want to Solve Mystery.

"I'm not afraid of it," she writes home to her brother, Harold Shuff, of Sylvia, "but I wish you would come down here, camp out, and try to discover the cause of the light."

According to Miss Shuff the light may not be seen every night. And it is not stationary. It sometimes is in the schoolyard, sometimes in adjoining fields.

Whether it is a spook, a spectre, a midnight mirage, or someone's practical joke, whatever it may be, there are any number of people who have seen it.

Miss Shuff has not yet seen it, but in a letter to her brother, Harold Shuff, of Sylvia, she urges him to go there and lay in wait for the ghost or whatever it is, and discover the cause of it.

The Ghost Light.

"I just discovered last week that the schoolhouse is haunted," she writes. "I didn't know anything about it until I stayed up there to work one night, until dark drove me home. It's haunted by a "ghost light." Nearly everybody in the country has seen it at some time or other. Mr. Crawley's—the people I board with, and who live in plain sight of the school house less than a half mile away—have seen it a couple of times. It's just a great red light, round and about the size of our windmill wheel.

"It's never in the schoolhouse but is out in the yard or around the house close—across the road or elsewhere. Mr. Crawley's saw it one night about midnight as they were coming home from Wilburton. They thought at first that their car lights were making a reflection so they turned the car around, but still the light was there—across the road east of the schoolhouse. They came on home and it disappeared. Then Clarence—the oldest boy—and another boy—came behind them on horseback.

Hopped Away From Them.

"They saw it there and said it began to roll or rather hop along until it went over behind the schoolhouse and then out to the barn and disappeared. It was just a great big red light. The other boy was afraid to go home by himself because he would have to go past the schoolhouse.

"They say that once—when they had the old schoolhouse they were having a program there and the light appeared and it raised right up and went over the schoolhouse and lit on the other side. A lot of boys on horse back set out to chase it and it just rolled along about a quarter of a mile in front of them. When they stopped it stopped and when they turned to come back it turned and chased them. And when they turned to chase it, it rolled away again. They chased it for over an hour and finally it disappeared.

Wraith of a Dead Town?

"There is a story that there used to be an old town up near where the schoolhouse now stands. A typical old western town and there was a dug well just southeast of the schoolhouse. The well was dug to water, two hundred feet, but wasn't used anymore. There was an epidemic among the cattle and many of them died and they threw them in the well.

"Then the story goes that a fellow killed a man and threw him in with the cattle. The well was later filled up. There is a sunken place you can see now where it used to be. And it's supposed to be the ghost of the man or something that causes the light.

"Won't you come out and camp with me down there sometime and discover the cause of the light? They all tell me I'll see it before the winter is over, I hope so. I would sure like to see it."

GASES FROM WELL EXPLAINS THE SPOOK

Gases from decomposed carcasses of many cattle filling a deep well may be the explanation for the Morton county midnight moonshine spook.

This is the explanation suggested by J. H. Mullison, superintendent of the United Water, Gas & Electric Co., Hutchinson, and an expert in things electrical and scientific.

It seems that near the schoolhouse is an old well, long since filled up. This was the site of a boomday prairie town, long ago off the map. A well—the town well—was sunk near where the school stands now. It was put down 200 feet.

About the time the town passed off the map after the "busted boom" of the latter '80s, there was an epidemic among the cattle and many of them died and the carrasses were thrown into the old well, which was then filled.

"Gases from decomposing matter, either animal or vegetable, will under certain conditions cause a flickering light above the ground, rather along the surface of the ground," said Mr. Mullison. "This is what is known as the ignis fatuus.

"Sometimes it is known as the 'will o' the wisp', or the "jack o' lantern". It is very likely that thi sis what the people see near that schoolhouse. Imagination does the rest."

Oxnard Ca
Daily Courier
Feb 28, 1912

"HAUNTED" TREE IS NOW SCENE OF HUNT FOR GOLD

The "haunted" tree mystery still has Nordhoff "buffaloed." When a few days ago some of the details of this strange affair came out, through information furnished by Editor Hawes of The Ojai, the matter was treated somewhat as a joke in this section. From information received today the mystery is taking on serious proportions.

The mystery, according to Nordhoff residents, is somewhat as follows: The rear of the T. H. Ubeida place in the Nordhoff section is the home of a large tree. Some time ago the Ubeida family commenced to see a wierd light rise from the foot of the tree at night, and sometimes go dancing in the air. According to the Ubeidas, it entered the house several times, only to disappear again at the tree's foot. Thinking this might lead to a buried treasure hunt, the ground was dug, but to no avail at the report a week ago.

Today, however, some new developments were secured. Editor Hawes of Nordhoff, when connected on the 'phone with a Courier representative, gave the following as the new "dope" on the case:

The mysterious pranks of the light continuing, the Ubeidas secured the aid of a minerologist named John Clo, of Los Angeles, and he has given it as his opinion that the ground contains gold.

On Saturday night last the family, who are being pestered by the spook light, claim to have last seen it. This time it came from one of the corners of a hole dug near the foot of the tree, they say, and after going through its usual capers disappeared as usual.

The next day the minerologist was summoned, and with a large number of the residents of Nordhoff went to the spot, which is now the chief topic of that vicinity. The "rod" stunt was used and several persons supplied with them, and the rods that "divine" gold were said to bend in the direction of where the light last appeared, with the result that Clo gave it as his opinion that the ground contains gold.

Since that time Ubeida and others have been industriously digging in that section and were today reported to be nine feet down, without any results yet being obtained.

Alton Ia
Democrat
Oct 28 1932

NEWS NUGGETS from HERE AND THERE

* * *

"Ghost hunting" near Ft. Dodge got a set-back with the announcement by the sheriff that persons trespassing on the property in Pleasant Valley township on which the Holiday Creek ghost light appeared somewhat regularly this fall, will be prosecuted.

* * *

Lethbridge Alta
Herald (Canada)
Nov 29 1938

"GHOST LIGHT" FAILS WHEN VIGILANTES HUNTING IT

ESTERHAZY, Sask., Nov. 29. —CP—The "ghost light" reported seen many times in Tabor cemetery near this southern Saskatchewan town did not show up for a group of vigilantes who went looking for it Saturday night—but that did not stop many of the people in the district from having the jitters.

The men took up their posts within a half mile of the cemetery at 10:30 p.m. and sat around in groups, smoking and chatting until midnight. When the light did not appear they went home.

Hundreds of persons who claim they have seen the light in the last three weeks say it comes up quickly, appears pinkish in color, then coming at the watcher with terrific speed, suddenly disappears.

Many motorists are reported to have gone into the ditch when the light came at them.

Meanwhile fear stalks through the district. Many think "something awful" is going to happen. Religious mothers daily remind their children to pray no harm come to any one. Children go to bed early, their windows covered with papers. They never dare to peek out for fear the light might be coming toward them.

Helena Mt
Independent
March 7, 1930

TWODOT SPOOK LIGHT WRITES THE INDEPENDENT IN PERSON

The Independent receives many letters in the course of a day's business but for the first time in it's long struggle to deliver the news to a waiting world it has been so highly honored as to receive an epistle from the other side.

Surely Sir Conan Doyle has nothing on us and the weight of this important communication bears heavily on the entire staff. The "spook light" will in all probability shine upon our modest plant some evening when the power fails and we are left to do out evening chores by candlelight.

The letter comes addressed to the paper but bears the postmark of Miles City and Butte R. R. postoffice which would tend to prove that this is no ordinary spook but one that doubtless flew through the night with grace and hearing along the path of the westbound Columbian and deposited his letter to The Independent through the split in the side of the car with perfect ease.

Queer people, these "spook lights." While they never come out in the light of day to play their pranks, worry the doubtful or make their boasts, they are always willing to send in any sort of a communication to a newspaper whenever they can borrow a typewriter and a piece of paper.

Of course, having nothing to do is petty much of a task, but at newspaper offices the hired help is expected to do the chores while the moon is shining. Instead of running around with a lantern attempting to be wierd and impressive to children, the boys are expected to turn out copy and it might be a good trick to imitate even in the remote places of Wheatland county where some one with a misplaced sense of humor may find fun in attempting to be a "spook light."

TWODOT "SPOOK" LIGHT HAS DISAPPEARED FROM SECTION

Twodot, March 2.—The "spook" light is gone and apparantly for good, is the belief of many residents living in the community about 10 miles southwest of here.

This mysterious light, which baffled many people for about 10 years by appearing in many places, in various sizes, both in daylight and in the dark, seems to have changed locality for it hasn't been seen for the last two years.

Late one evening, two people were returning to their ranch home located in the mountains above some timber land where they passed through a gate. Immediately in front of them appeared a light like that of a single headlight of a car. The driver turned his car to pass the second car when the light disappeared. This was the first appearance witnessed by any person. From then on, many stories of the light were reported. One man, who had always discredited the tale, returned home through the same gate one night and as he was going to close the gate, the light glowed above him. Needless to say, the gate remained open. A third appearance over the gate was when a group of young people were returning from a party about midnight and as they went through, the light showed above them.

This strange glowing never came when expected. It showed above a bunk house one night, and again gave the appearance of a lantern carried by a person who was walking the fence.

Another time a ranch employe made a wild dash toward what he believed to be a haystack fire and as he approached the light disappeared. The second time the glowing showed in daylight was like a small prairie fire.

Geologists studied the conditions to determine if swamp gasses igniting caused the strange lights but could give no accounting for the appearance. Several theories were advanced as to its cause but were all thrown aside because of the many places in which it had appeared. Now that the light is gone, it will perhaps remain a mystery, is the opinion of all who have seen it.

Helena Mt
Independent
March 3, 1930

Findlay Oh
Republican Courier
Oct 18 1941

GHOST LIGHT GLOWING ALONG DOGPATCH LANE

WARREN, Oct. 17—(AP)—A "ghost light" is tingling the spines of numerous residents in the region of Dogpatch.

Described as changing from dull red to an eery green, the ghost light has been attracting increasingly large groups nightly to a desolate mud road near the Mahoning-Trumbull county line in Ordstown township.

The ghost light intermittent-glows far down the inky-black lane. Slowly it approaches as the crowd stirs uneasily. Then pfit-t-t, it disappears unexpectedly. A watcher cracks a feeble joke and the group laughs nervously. The ghost light of Dogpatch has flashed again.

Sandusky Oh
Star Journal
Dec 7, 1937

HEADLESS

Phantom Makes Appearance On Dark Nights To Frighten Residents of Rural LaCarne.

LACARNE (Special) — The legend of Sleepy Hollow has nothing on the headless spook of LaCarne say residents of this municipality!

Residents here are afraid to venture out-of-doors on dark nights, following the alleged appearance of a mysterious person whose queer shape has caused citizens to nickname him the "headless phantom."

According to reports the shady man was first seen by two local women who are said to have sighted him late Saturday night. According to the women, the man appears to have no head! It is thought that the stranger might have had his overcoat pulled over his head. He has not attempted to molest anyone but the mysterious appearance has caused parents to keep their youngsters indoors after sunset.

It may be more superstition which reminds Lacarne's citizens of the Oak Harbor, spook light several years ago, and then in 1934, the appearance of a "sea monster," which caused much concern, but proved to be a hoax.

Sioux City Ia
Journal
Aug 31, 1928

THINK OIL IS CAUSE OF DANCING "GHOST LIGHTS"

O'Neill, Neb., Aug. 30.—Special: Residents of the ghost light district, 17 miles northwest of O'Neill, will sink a well to ascertain whether or not the presence of oil or natural gas is responsible for the ghostly lights which issue from the ground and play about the landscape nights.

The lights were declared by a scientist of Creighton university, after a personal investigation several years ago, to fe ignis fatui, or phosphorescent glow common over marshy or springy land. Others who have visited the section, however, including oil men, have expressed the belief that the lights indicate the presence of oil, gas or mineral deposits, and prospect leases have been made in the district several times. None of the prospects ever survived long enough to sink test wells, however, and now the residents of the section and nearby towns will sink wells of their own.

Hutchinson Ks
News
March 17, 1913

THE MYSTERY UNSOLVED

H. N. Holdeman, Prominent Stockman, Latest to Report

ON SAND CREEK GHOST LIGHT

The Uncanny Spectalce in Meade County, Attracts More Notice.

That "Sand Creek ghost light" mystery is still mystifying the people of Sand Creek township, Meade county.

The latest to observe the wierd light and report on it is H. N. Holdeman, a prominent Meade county stockman, who is an uncle of J. H. Holdeman, of Hutchinson.

The Meade Globe, in an account of the strange and uncanny light which is making an appearance in that county, says:

In the issue of the Globe of February 20, an account was given of a mysterious light which had frequently been seen in Sand Creek township, in the vicinity of the Lakeland postoffice by Captain Painter, Oren Van Deusen, and other well known residents of that part of the county some years ago, and later by a Mr. Crampton and family, who were recently traveling through that section of the country, who plainly saw a mysterious light directly in front of them resembling the headlight of an automobile coming slowly toward them. When within a few rods of the wagon the light rose suddenly and disappeared.

A prominent Meade man now adds his experience to those who have already seen the light; and this gentleman is none other than H. N. Holdeman, our popular breeder of high class cattle and hogs, living 1½ miles south of this city.

On the evening of March 3rd, Mr. Holdeman was going home from Meade, and when he entered the north and south road he noticed ahead of him, quite a distance, a light close to the ground. As he drew nearer he noticed the strange light was in the road near the lane running to his residence. At first he thought it a snow bank near the corner of the fence, so white was the light, but as he approached, no snow was visible and the mysterious illumination lit up the road and fields for several rods around. As soon as he reached the place where the ghost-light appeared, he at once got out of his vehicle to make investigations.

As he approached within a few yards of the light it rose from the ground and came directly toward him, and when apparently only a few feet away, disappeared and all was dark.

Mr. Holdeman says it was a very strange experience and he would like very much for some of the Meade scientists to inform him what this strange and uncanny light could be, he says he is not the least superstitious, but such experiences always excite curiosity and he would like to know something definite of the "Sand Creek Mystery."

Iola Ia
Register
Aug 19, 1926

TO PROBE GHOST LIGHT

MYSTERIOUS FLAME IN OKLAHOMA EXCITES INTEREST.

Appearing Over An Abandoned Cemetery, Farmers Watch Light Every Night.

(By the Associated Press)

Claremore, Okla., Aug. 19.—A weird light in the form of a red ball of fire, which farmers declare has appeared for several consecutive nights over a country cemetery near here, is causing scores of northern Oklahoma residents to plan watch parties in an attempt to explain the phenomenon. Some are of the belief it is St. Elmo's fire.

Farmers living nearby claim the light appears between 9 and 11 o'clock each night, glows brightly for several minutes and gradually fades out to appear again in another place. At no time, observers say, has it appeared more than a half mile from the cemetery.

The light was first noticed by Roy Bryant who lives with his parents on a nearby farm. Bryant and several neighbors claim to have investigated but on approaching the "ball of fire" it disappeared. Its regular appearance near the cemetery, which is but a short distance from the deserted pioneer boom town of Ruby, is causing many attempts to link it with events of early day life in the ghost city, or with various superstitions.

Although the light resembles St. Elmo's fire, many believe it appears too regularly to be explained in that manner. St. Elmo's fire is described as of flamelike appearance, sometimes seen in stormy weather at prominent points on ships and also on land on tops of trees or steeples. It is in the nature of a brush charge of electricity, redish when positive and bluish when negative.

Valparaiso In
Vidette Messenger
Feb 13 1939

Mystery of Ghost Light Is Solved By Jumping Sheriff

The mystery of the disappearing light at the Church dairy, near the Porter county infirmary, Sunday night non-plussed members of the Church family and the Porter county sheriff's office.

Returning home around midnight several members of the Church family saw a light in the dairy. At first they thought their father was in the place, but found him when they went into the home.

Sheriff Freman Lane and Deputy Sheriff Frank Johnson responded to a call to the Church place. When they tried to open the door the light went out. Sheriff Lane commanded the intruder to come out. When there was no response the sheriff and his aid broke in.

An intensive search failed to revealed anyone. Then the sheriff tried an experiment. He jumped up and down and the light went on and off. An investigation revealed the bulb was loose in the socket. Any jar on caused the light to go on and off.

'GHOST LIGHT', IS SEEN

Spirit of Old Man Who Hanged Himself Believed By Superstitious Folk To Return To House

Staff Special.

OAK HARBOR, O., July 1.—The "spook light" on Lindsey-rd, five miles southwest of Oak Harbor, again is receiving much attention and is the cause of nightly watch parties.

The light is visible on almost any clear night, especially during the early hours. It appears first over the center of a small creek bridge, where it wavers a moment, then travels to the west side of the road to disappear near an abandoned house which superstitious persons say is haunted.

According to belief, the light is the spirit of an old man who is supposed to have hanged himself in this house many years ago. The light resembles a full moon in color and shape.

Thousands of persons visited the scene six years ago, when interest in the light was sufficient to attract the attention of a famous scientist. He finally explained the light was the result of phosphorus which was present in the creek bed.

Many are inclined not to believe this theory, as the light is visible only from the north and at a distance of more than 150 yards. Some persons scoff at these beliefs and say the light merely is the reflection of auto headlights.

A number of other explanations have been advanced, but none is so generally accepted as the ghost theory.

Cincinnati Oh Post July 1 1922

Macon Ga Telegraph March 24 1907

Spook Light Saved Train.

From the Chicago Tribune.

In the spring of 1887, while I was engineer on the fast mail from Cleveland to Pittsburg (C. and P. R. R.), the following incident occurred: It had been rainnig steadily for three days and the hilly regions of Wellsville, Ohio, had a direct effect upon the hitherto small streams and creeks in converting them into raging torrents. My train was due at Wellsville at 1:23 a. m., and being 37 minutes late, I was running at full speed, about 55 miles an hour, and knew the track to be in good order and at this point free from probable obstructions of any kind.

My train was made up of four Pullman cars, three small cars, and a baggage car, all tho Pullman cars being comfortably filled. We were approaching Wellsville when at a point about a mile from a stream known as Yellow Creek, just outside the city limits, I put my head out of my engine cab window to look for signals, when to my astonishment there was a red lantern swinging back and forth across the track, just in front of the engine, but, as it appeared to me, as high as the smokestack. I frantically closed the throttle, applied the brakes, and showered the rails with sand, which soon brought the train to a standstill. All this time the mysterious light was swinging to and fro just in front and above the engine. I stepped out onto the track, but there was no sign of a light of any kind, nor of any person, but it would have been quite impossible for any human being to have flagged the train, as above explained.

I walked ahead some 300 yards, and, not seeing any signal lights at the approach to the bridge, I knew something was wrong, and going a short distance further I found that the bridge had been swept away by the flooded stream, which almost covered the track.

What explanation can be given for this seemingly supernatural token, which saved scores of passengers from an untimely death and a watery grave?

Baltimore Md Sun March 6 1895

A BOBBING GHOST.

Mysterious Light which Persons Say They've Seen in Greenmount.

If the reports of persons whose veracity is said to be above suspicion be true, there is a job for a first-class ghost-slayer in Greenmount Cemetery. The "spook" in question does not assume the shape of a hideous, grinning skeleton, nor yet that of a shadowy phantom in a waving shroud. Its advent is not accompanied by dismal wails and it doesn't clank any chains, as well-bred ghosts are popularly believed to do. This ghost has compressed himself into the form of a dimly glowing ball of fire, and he amuses himself after nightfall by hovering over the cemetery at some distance from the surrounding walls.

Several persons say they have seen the mysterious fiery sphere. Gripmen and motormen on the City and Suburban cars, which pass the cemetery both on Greenmount and North avenues, report that their attention has been called to the light, and that several of their passengers have seen it. Sometimes the light dances through the trees thirty or forty feet in the air, and sometimes it bobs playfully along the ground, bouncing here and there like a rubber ball.

The officers of the law who patrol the streets around the cemetery declare that they have never seen the phantom and they scoffingly attribute the spook to other causes. There are others, though, in the neighborhood who seem unmistakably annoyed by the jumping light, which they say exists beyond all doubt. Those who have had optical proof of the antics of the restless ball of fire are of the opinion that something should be done to stop its bobbing, but as it has not bobbed into anybody yet, the cemetery authorities are disposed to let it bob.

Omaha Ne World-Herald Aug 6 1933

Ghost Light Reason Near O'Neill Related

Special Dispatch to The World-Herald.

O'Neill, Neb., Aug. 5.—Ghost lights, appearing north of here a few days ago to mystify those of a new generation, are nothing but a luminous gas created by wet weather and decaying animal bones, according to R. J. Marsh, former postmaster here.

"There then were millions of skeletons of buffalo, deer and antelope in a decaying condition," Mr. Marsh stated, "and there was heavy rainfall. It was unusual not to see those 'ghost lights' on a dark night for years after I came here. The bones have now completely disappeared.

JOURNAL, JERSEY CITY, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1902

SPOOK LIGHT IN BAY VIEW CEMETERY

Mysterious Light Appeared on Tree Frightening Passersby.

HOW POLICE AND FIREMEN HANDLED THE MATTER

Capt. Nugent Decided It Was a Job for the Fire Department —Firemen Thought It Was Up to a Hook and Ladder Company—Solution of Mystery: Telephone Wire.

The police, firemen and a large portion of the inhabitants of Greenville were late Saturday night much perturbed over the appearance of a mysterious light that appeared on the trunk of a tree in Bayview Cemetery, located about one hundred yards from Ocean Avenue. Superstitious pedestrians, seeing the light which sputtered and flared in the wind, hurried past, casting frightened looks back over their shoulders. All the stories they had ever heard of supernatural lights and of ghosts were recalled most vividly. "Spook light," some of them muttered as they hastened along, endeavoring to put as much space between them and the mysterious fire as possible.

To make the situation more uneasy the wind was blowing a gale. Excepting this one light the cemetery was in darkness. From Ocean avenue not even a tombstone could be seen.

This light was first seen about 10 o'clock. It was about half a foot in diameter. The wind caused it to take most grotesque shapes. At times it took on the form of the head and features of a man. Then, as the wind would veer a trifle it would, so some of the people say, closely resemble a coffin. The light appeared on the trunk of the tree about twenty-five feet above the ground, and directly faced Ocean Avenue.

Three Greenville men finally happened along. One of them noticed the light and called the attention of his companions to it.

"Heavens," exclaimed one, "it's a 'spook light,'" and without waiting to investigate any further he promptly took to his heels. His friends had also heard of spook lights, and not having any special inclination to remain in that neighborhood they made strenuous efforts to overtake their comrade. Reaching the Ocean Avenue police station one of the trio stopped long enough to rush in and inform Captain Nugent. The he hurried on home.

Captain Nugent called Detective Bennett and much bewildered the two policemen, after placing an extra revolver each in their pockets, left the station house to investigate. They, too, felt a rather peculiar sensation, when standing at the cemetery fence they gazed upon the mysterious fire.

"I don't believe in ghosts," remarked Captain Nugent, to Bennett, "but I don't much like the appearance of that thing."

"Let's go over closer," replied the detective, "and get a better look at it."

"I don't see what is the use," hastily responded the captain. "It is certainly a fire, and in that case it is a job for the Fire Department." Then the two policemen went back to the station house. Capt. Nugent telephoned to Capt. Aumack of Engine Company No. 13, on Linden Avenue, and informed him of the light on the tree and suggested that he come around and look it over. "All right," was the response. But he did not come. Instead he sent Fireman Culbert. The latter looked at the light for a few seconds. Capt. Nugent suggested to him that he go through the station house and get a nearer view. Culbert opined that it was not at all necessary. He was quite sure that it was a light, without going closer.

"You'd better send around for a ladder and climb up and see if you can't put it out," said Nugent. Culbert did not become at all enthusiastic over this suggestion. He did not answer for several seconds. He was thinking deeply. His face had become a trifle pale. Suddenly he brightened. "That ain't a job for an engine company," he told Capt. Nugent. "We don't carry any ladders, so you'd better call out the hook and ladder company."

"You must have a ladder around at your place," answered Nugent.

"I don't know, but I'll go and see," and Culbert hastened back to the fire house.

A few minutes later the station house telephone bell rang. "No ladder," was the curt message. "Can't do anything."

While Capt. Nugent was debating with himself what next to do a policeman came in and informed him that the light had disappeared. Capt. Nugent looked relieved. The light did not appear again that night. Yesterday morning Commissioner Tilden, Capt. Nugent and Detective Bennett investigated. They discovered what appeared to be a telephone wire which ran from Ocean Avenue along the rear of the station house and ended at the tree. Then the mystery was solved. The light was caused by this wire rubbing against the bark of the tree. No one appears to know how the wire got there.

Commissioner Tilden stated that it was against the rules to attach electric wire to any of the cemetery trees.

Portland Oregonian March 16, 1922

GHOST IN FOREST SOUGHT

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY ASKED TO TRACE STRANGE LIGHT.

Wise Men of Mountains Declare That Railway Train Headlight Solution Is All Bosh.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 15.—(Special.)—The Antigonish ghost has a rival on Jonas' ridge, Brown mountain, North Carolina, and Senator Overman has asked the geological survey to run down a strange light that moves up and down in the forests of the Blue ridge, southeast of Asheville, far from any human habitation.

Preliminary reports on the Brown mountain "apparition" have been made by federal officials, but they are not satisfactory to the people of Morgantown, Marion and other North Carolina communities that have observed the light for years. The geological survey explained to Senator Overman that the light came from railway engine headlights running down the circuitous road from Asheville. Wise men of the mountains call that suggestion "absurd" and demand a more searching survey. Recently the National Geographic society threw down the geological survey and said that the light came from a peculiar combination of electrical phenomena and atmospheric conditions.

Washington scientists are keenly interested in the stories of Jonas' ridge and the Antigonish ghost. They pooh-pooh the claim that the tricks of the ghost are due to radio disturbances. Professor J. Harris Rogers, inventor of the underground wireless, and E. B. Judson of the radio laboratory of the bureau of standards assert the Antigonish ghost has nothing in common with electrical disturbances. They emphatically deny that a barn was fired by radio currents.

The bureau of standards, the last word on radio, has knocked the radio theory into thin air.

In the midst of treaty and bonus troubles the republican administration is enjoying the search for solutions of the Brown mountain moving light and the Antigonish ghost.

Aha! Now It's Ghost o' The Ol' Lindsey Road

OAK HARBOR, June 30.—(Spl)—The ghost light on what is called the Lindsey road 5 miles southwest of Oak Harbor is again receiving much attention and this road is the scene of watch parties almost every night.

Superstition has it that the light is the spirit of an old man who is supposed to have hung himself in a house beside the creek over which the light appears. According to the story, the spirit in the form of this light makes nightly visits to the scene of the deed. The house has long since been abandoned. The light appears over the center of the bridge over the small creek and then travels to the west and disappears near the house which is claimed to be haunted. It resembles a full moon in color and shape and is visible on almost any clear night. It appears at irregular periods.

Thousands of persons visited the scene six years ago when interest in the light was sufficient to attract the attention of a scientist who vouchsafed the explanation that the light was caused by phosphorus which was present in the creek bed. Natives are inclined to doubt this theory however, as the light is visible only from the north and at a distance greater than 150 yards.

Those not inclined to accept either of the two theories are of the belief that it is caused by the reflection of automobile headlights from the south. The road, they say, is built almost on a straight line so that the reflections of the lights are visible several minutes before rays are seen. The traveling of the light to the west is supposed to be caused by the automobiles turning off onto a side road to reach Lindsey.

A number of other explanations have been advanced but so far none has been accepted by all parties.

—John Scheuerman sustained a broken kneecap as the result of landing heavily upon his knee when he fell upon a slippery walk. A heavy rain had made footing precarious on the walk.

June 20 1923

THE MEXIA DAILY NEWS

Spooks Menacing Palestine People

PALESTINE, Texas, June 20—A mellow glowing "Will 'o the Wisp" whhci vanishes when approached is being observed in a cemetery here by hundreds of people.

The light has puzzled citizens here for months and the mystery is far from solution. The light is seen apparently about four or five hundred feet from the Spring road and can only be seen from one vantage point. If one attempts to approach it it fades away and disappears.

One of the theories advanced is that the "ghost light" is only the reflection of some distant light on a tomb stone. Persons who have watched the "Will 'o the Wisp" are inclined to scout this theory for they say there is no other light in the vicinity.

Albert City Ia
Appeal
Sept 29, 1932

ACA

"GHOST LIGHT" DRAWS CROWD

Spiritulists have been asked to give their aid in discovering the cause of a mysterious light which is seen at night on the Don Waters farm near here and has been causing excitement.

The light begins to shine very weakly, but gradually increases and just before disappearing turns to a red glow. It is first seen in a field close to the farm yard, traveling towards a road, then returning to a brooder house in the yard. It never crosses the road, travels at about a walking pace, bobs up and down, and covers a distance of about half a mile. Those who have seen it say it could be neither flashlight nor lantern.

About 50 years ago there was a Mennonite colony near here, and there is an old Mennonite cemetery a short distance from the farm where the light appears. The family of Will Feriecks, tenants on the Waters farm, have seen the light about two months, kept it a secret until a few days ago, and now hundreds go out of an evening to watch the 'apparition.' Last Friday evening folk from five states, as well as Iowans, were present. The light appears between 8p. m. and midnight

ACA

Galveston Tx
Daily News
April 16 1935

GOLDTHWAITE VICINITY HAS "GHOST" LIGHT AS LEGEND

Temple, April 15.—AP—Folk who live in the vicinity of Goldthwaite in Mills County have a mystery light which hearkens back to legends of strange lights on the English moors at night.

Residents of this section often have seen the mysterious light and sought its source without success. It appears to be in the vicinity of Pecan Bayou, is soft yellow color and can be seen for five miles. It glows for several minutes then disappears. It is seen oftenest just after sundown when a breeze is blowing but it also has been observed in rain, sleet and snow. The cause or location of the strange beacon never has been discovered.

Sandusky Oh
Register
Nov 22, 1922

'Ghost Light' Is Puzzle To Oak Harbor People

PORT CLINTON, Nov. 21 (Special).—A number of Port Clinton people have reported seeing the mysterious ghost light, this week on the Lindsey-rd, a few miles south of Oak Harbor. This light has been said to have attracted the attention of people for several years back, and up to this time no one has offered a satisfactory explanation as to the cause of the light or ball of fire which the people who see it claim hovers over the road and disappears when it is approached by any person.

Certain atmospheric conditions seem to cause the light to be brighter at times. Parties from here have gone to see the freak light on several occasions during the past week.

Hagerstown Md.
Morning Herald
Sept 18 1913.

"GHOST" LIGHT SENDS A CHILL

Farmers Of Oklahoma And Kansas Tell Of A Queer Nightly Visitor In Section

Guthrie, Okla., Sept. 16—In Southwestern Kansas and in Northwestern Oklahoma, for a number of years, settlers have been perturbed by a ghostly light moving mysteriously from place to place after nightfall, especially in late autumn and early winter.

This light has been seen so frequently north of Lakeland, Meade county, Kan., in the last 20 years that settlers have given it the name of "the Sand Creek light" and "Sand creek ghost light," because of its appearance in the neighborhood of a stream called Sand creek.

This phenomenon appeared several times along Sand creek recently and revived stories that settlers had been telling for many years about its uncanny movements and appearance. One said that it had suddenly confronted him in the middle of the highway one dark night, terrifying his team so greatly that his horses came near running away. In every instance the light soon disappeared.

Doctor Gets Scare.

Dr. Hugh Scott, receiver of the United States Land Office at Guthrie, once saw a similar phenomenon in Northwestern Oklahoma, and vividly remembers his experience. At the opening of the Cherokee strip lands to settlement in 1893, he homesteaded a claim in Grant county, 10 or 12 miles from the town of Wauhomas. Scott then a young man lived alone in his dugout on the bleak prairie.

The country was infested with outlaws and the latter frequently harassed the settlers by stealing their horses and the few cattle they had brought from the States.

As fall drew near the nights grew misty. One day a settler told of having seen a strange light moving steadily across the prairie. He had watched it and followed it and was positive that it was due to no human agency. Other settlers began telling a similar story. The light was seen most frequently about the time settlers were returning home from their sod churches on Sunday night.

They were seldom away from their claims during the week. There were various theories about the light. Numbers were strongly of the opinion that it came from a lantern carried by a lawless character for the purpose of intimidating homesteaders with whom he had quarreled, and whose property he had threatened to burn. Others hooted this explanation declaring that the light was a "haunt."

Sets Out To Probe.

"At that time," said Dr. Scott, "I was wholly without physical fear and my manner of life strengthened my courage. I was naturally inquisitive and resolved to embrace the first opportunity of seeing this spectral visitor.

"The opportunity came unexpectedly. About midnight in December I left my dugout to listen to a pack of coyotes that was howling on a nearby hill. Their yelling annoyed me, and I intended firing at them with my Winchester if they were withing range. My Winchester was in my dugout. I had thought frequently of the mysterious light and several times had risen at 4 o'clock hoping that possibly it might be in sight.

"I had barely turned the corner of my dugout on this particular night when I saw something not more than 60 feet distant that sent a chill to my very marrow.

"Moving steadily northward at a height of about seven or eight feet above the ground was the 'haunt.' I am chagrined in saying that I was so terrified that I could scarcely stand. My hair stood erect and rigid and my scalp grew fiery hot. I have never been able satisfactorily to explain to myself why I was so frightened.

"The ghoulish appearance of the light may have been partly the cause. In height and width the light was about the size of my two hands, expanded. It glowed with a soft whiteness that cast no shadow. Its edges were broken and uneven and faded away in the surrounding darkness.

"A light breeze was blowing from the south, carrying the light gently northward, up to the side of a low, flat hill. Spellbound and gripped by a most unreasoning fear, I watched the slowly moving light until it had traversed a distance of possible a hundred yards.

"In a flash I regained my composure. I grew angry at my timidity and swore that I would fight if there was anything to fight. Rushing into my dugout, I seized my Winchester, saw that its magazine was filled with cartridges and rushed outside. The light had disappeared. I sat on a big stone at my door, Winchester in hand hoping that the light would reappear. It was my intention instantly to begin shooting and to continuing shooting until I got results.

"I remained outside my door two or three hours with my eyes fixed on the low hillside. The coyotes several times were in range of my Winchester, but I withheld my fire lest I betray my presence if the light should be returning. But the light did not return and I never saw it again.

"I was able later to explain satisfactorily to myself the origin of the 'haunt.' Near my dugout was a swale which was moist and damp throughout the year, supporting a rank growth of wire grass, rooted in a black muck. Undoubtedly the light was a gaseous phenomenon generated from decayed vegetation—in other words a will-o'-the-wisp, to be observed in marshes.