

# The Bridgewater Triangle

■ Legends of Bridgewater Triangle include Big Foot and UFOs in the swamp.

*Fourth in a series of holiday features.  
Happy Halloween.*

**By Tim Grace**

ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

Some would say that Bigfoot, UFOs, ghostly hounds and giant pre-historic birds live only in the mind's shadows.

But there are those around the fringe of the Hockomock swamp who disagree.

The swamp's 6,000 boggy acres lie at the heart of the "Bridgewater Triangle," a pie-shaped slice of real-estate thought to be among the most supernaturally active areas in the nation.

Fear of the swamp dates back to the 17th century when Wampanoag raiding parties hid amongst the orchids and black spruce during the tribe's war with

halloween  
howlers



English settlers. More than 600 English were killed and several villages destroyed before the native insurgency was crushed and the Wampanoags slaughtered or sold into slavery.

Those fears lingered through the centuries and had not been forgotten when, more than 100 years later, villagers in the Bridgewaters reported seeing a glowing orb flying over the swamp. The globe shone brightly enough to cast shadows at mid day according to published reports.

On Oct. 31, 1908, a similar object was spotted flying over Bridgewater.

Bright lights in the sky have been

reported several times since, most often over the racetrack in Raynham and along the power lines that run through the swamp.

On March 23, 1979, local reporter Jerry Lopes claimed to have seen something in the sky above the intersection of Routes 24 and 106.

"It was shaped like home plate," he said at the time. "It had a bright red light on its top, a powerful white headlight on the bottom and a line of red and white lights around the edge."

When the craft sailed overhead, Lopes said his car stalled. There were, he said, stalled cars scattered the length of the highway.

Then, there are the beasts.

In 1978, Joseph DeAndrade claimed he was walking in the woods near Broad Street in Bridgewater when he caught a glimpse of a tall, shaggy creature moving behind him. DeAndrade said the ape-man had a foul, earthy

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## BY THE NUMBERS

93

Percent of U.S. children will go trick-or-treating

90

Percent of parents taking goodies from kids' trick-or-treat bags.

35

In millions, pounds of candy corn produced in 2005

25

Pounds of candy consumed by an average adult in 2004.

*Source National Confectioners Association.*

# Bridgewater Triangle looms large on Halloween

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smell and a stiff gate "sort of like Frankenstein."

In Oct. 24, 1980 editions of The Enterprise, Mark St. Louis of Brockton and his friend Peter Blumberg recalled their brush with another swamp-ape.

The friends said they were paddling through the swamp on Lake Nippenicket when they came across what looked like a smallish, orange orangutan sitting on an island. They beached their canoe and searched for the animal to no avail.

A dog, large and vicious enough to rip the throats out of two ponies, was reported in 1976.

Phillip Kane, an Abington farmer and owner of the ponies, said the dog was as large as its victims.

In 1939, Civil Conservation Corps workers in Raynham reportedly stumbled across a black snake as thick as a stove pipe. The reptile is said to have stopped, raised its head, then slithered off into the swamp.

And in the summer of 1971, A Norton police officer claimed he saw a bird, six feet tall and 12 feet from wingtip to wingtip, soar over Winter Street in Mansfield.

And there are spirits.

Students at Bridgewater State College have reported seeing phantoms on the fifth floor at the Shea/Durgin residence hall. A ghost supposedly flips light switches at the Campus Center Auditorium. And another specter is said to chase people out of Tillinghost Hall.

But the ghost stories are not universally accepted.

David Wilson, an expert on Bridgewater State College history and a college staff member for the last 33 years said he's yet to come across even one. "I truly have never heard a credible ghost story," he said. "If someone had a story I would have listened to it but no one ever has."

There are more concrete mysteries in the triangle. The figures cut into Dighton Rock, an 11-foot stone discovered in Berkley on the banks of the Taunton River, have yet to be explained.

The scratched-out markings sat below the water line, revealing themselves only during low tide.

Native Americans, Phoenician explorers carried across the Atlantic on their river-reed boats, Viking explorers and, most recently, pre-Colombian Portuguese sailors have all been credited with the carvings since they were found by 17th. century pilgrims.

The rock was moved out of the water to a museum at Dighton Rock State Park in the mid-1970s.

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