

Teens report terrifying attack

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CANDELL REPUBLICAN

Two area teens claim to have been attacked by the notorious Brickton Stranger Friday night along an isolated section of Debold Road.

Brad Kohl, 17, a student at Candell County Vocational School, and his cousin Marisa Colvin, 16; a student at Candell County High School, were baby-sitting at the rural home of their aunt Lisa Colvin, 24, who was working the second shift at Duo-Tone Plastics.

According to the Candell County Sheriff's Office, the teens had put the children to bed and were watching television about 11 pm when they heard a loud noise outside the trailer.

Kohl looked out a window and saw a large person moving in the dark. His cousin phoned the sheriff. Kohl opened the window and yelled at the intruder, telling him the sheriff was on the way.

In response, the person skulking in the dark rushed the trailer. "He was huge, at least 7 maybe 8 feet, probably 300 or 400 pounds," recounted Kohl. "He was filthy and hairy and all dressed in old rags. He looked like a wild man."

The intruder tore the screen door from its hinges and threw it across the yard then pounded on the door and partially broke it down.

"If the sheriff hadn't come right then" said a still-shaken Marisa Colvin, "He would have killed us. We'd be dead right now. I never saw anything so furious."

Candell County Sheriff's Deputy Tom Stevens arrived on the scene and was seen by the stranger who ceased his attack and fled into the woods.

Deputy Stevens called for back-up and officers searched the area until long after midnight. No trace of the attacker was found.

"I don't know where he's been for the last couple months," Stevens said, "But wherever it was, I guess it's made him meaner."

The last Stranger sighting was in early March, when four teenagers driving home from a church youth group meeting saw a large figure in the middle of Valley Road. One of their car windows was broken by a rock thrown at the vehicle.

The Valley Road incident capped several weeks of sightings, but last night's attack was the first since then.

Stranger reports recall “Crainey Boogerman” sightings

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The recent spate of sightings of a strange person that area residents call the Brickton Stranger are similar to reports going back to the 19th Century of a being called the Crainey Boogerman.

Like the Stranger, the Boogerman was a wild man with a terrifying demeanor who was often encountered in lonely, rural areas, late at night.

The Boogerman was first seen in September 1873. Mary Dailey was the first to encounter it. Rising early to milk the cows, Dailey was frightened by an enormous wild man lurking in the shadows of the cow barn. She screamed and the intruder fled.

Over the next two years, the Boogerman was seen several more times in the area of the village. After a particularly violent assault on a Crainey area farmhouse, the Boogerman was driven off in a hail of gunfire by the farm's residents.

A generation passed before the creature was seen again.

In October 1892, farmers in the Crainey area were vexed by a beast that broke into their chicken houses, slaughtered, and ate their fowl. The farmers laid the blame on vagrants. Several had seen a large figure with long, unkempt hair and a bushy beard fleeing the scene.

Later, that month six workers on the Cleveland, Cambridge, and Chesapeake Railroad were repairing tracks near Brickton when they spied an enormous, hairy man crossing the tracks.

Farmers offered a bounty on it and hunters combed the woods looking for the monster but it was never found.

Forty years passed before the beast showed its bushy head again

Late on the afternoon of Sunday, August 4, 1935, sixty year old Edna Caruthers was visiting the Bethel Chapel Cemetery on Pikeville Road. She was tending her recently deceased aunt's grave when she heard noises coming from the woods that she took to be a snarling dog.

Caruthers looked up and saw a “hairy giant” striding out of the woods that bordered the cemetery. She fled for her automobile and the beast pursued her. As she drove off, she saw the creature still chasing after her in her rear view mirror.

Almost forty more years passed.

In June 1973, four students from Ohio University were camping in Crainey Woods State Forest when they saw glowing orbs of light moving among the trees on a ridge overlooking their campsite.

Later that night, one of the students woke and saw a giant wild man standing over one of his female friends. The man was about 8 feet tall, about 500 lbs., with long, filthy matted hair and beard, and was dressed in rags and animal skins. The giant gave off a sickening sulfurous odor.

Then student screamed and his friends woke and joined in. Less aggressive than in times past, the giant fled.

It's been 34 years since the infamous Crainey Boogerman was last seen. Is the Brickton Stranger of 2007 the same creature as the Crainey Boogerman of 1873? If so, what is it that can live in those woods unchanged for 130 years.