

1962: nr. East Peru, ME.

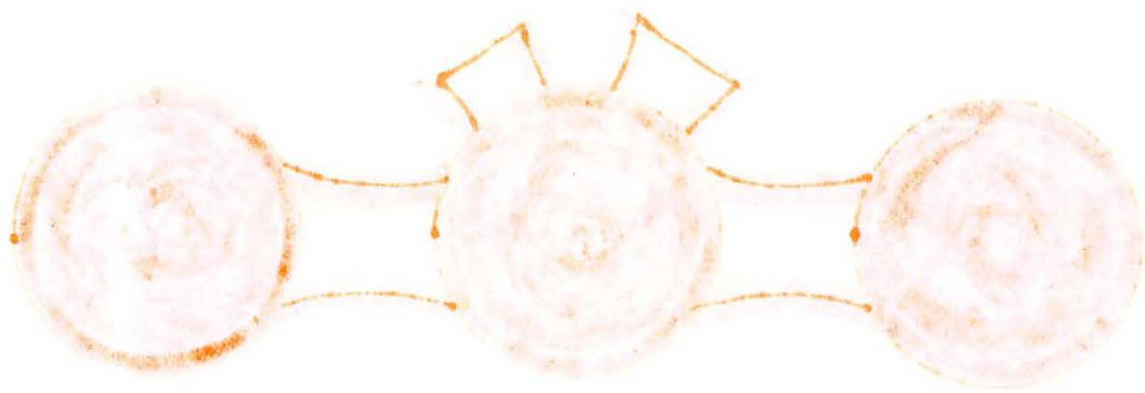
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just another friendly bunch
of Ball lightning.

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Chrysomelidae



Chrysomelidae
Chrysomelidae

3/23/67

Fortean -
see pb

THE HARVEY PACKARD SIGHTINGS - 1950'S AND 1960'S
EAST PERU, MAINE

On August 15, 1964, I received a call from Lee Furse at the planetarium who then handed over the telephone to a Mr. John J. Gramm, an AVCO engineer who had just attended the planetarium show. Mr. Gramm and his cousin from Maine, Harvey Packard, 19, had noted our meteor shower in the show, and the latter wondered if such a shower could be causing the rain of objects on his roof (which had been occurring for years!). It also developed that Harvey had seen UFOs. I asked if an interview might be possible, and a meeting was arranged that evening at Gramm's house in Waltham, Massachusetts, where his cousin was visiting.

The evening proved to be very profitable. In addition to the strange rain of objects (poltergeist phenomenon?), Harvey, his mother, grandparents, uncle, and sundry citizens of East Peru, Maine--all had had sightings of UFOs, according to young Harvey, that stretched back over a decade. Harvey described East Peru as a small community near Rumford located in a wild, sparsely inhabited country. Bears, fishers, and wildcats were found in the region. The Andover satellite tracking station is 20 miles northwest of Harvey's community. East Peru, it seemed to me, had all the makings of another Bristol or Exeter, New Hampshire, where "these-things-come-through-here-all-the-time" (see my report, "The Roy Clough Sightings in N.H. - 1947 to 1964" and Fuller's Incident at Exeter).

After listening to Harvey Packard describe sighting after sighting, I decided a trip to East Peru might uncover other UFO observations and furnish supporting testimony for Harvey's stories. Mr. Gramm offered to get in touch with me in October, when he planned to go up to Maine on a hunting trip. He said he would be glad to take me to East Peru, and Harvey would meet me there. However, I never heard from either man again.

Lacking the confirming testimony that I sought, I can only relate the sightings below as Harvey told them to me (in the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Gramm). He appeared convincing and had no apparent reason to fabricate, although I am certain many persons would find such a string of UFO sightings by one individual hard to accept. Nevertheless, I found no compelling reason to really doubt his word.

(a) |
The Packards lived near Worthley Pond on a road south of State Route 108. Harvey's grandparents resided just down the road. About ten years ago, Harvey recalled, his grandparents saw two shiny oval-shaped objects flying side by side at nearly treetop level, leaving a trail of black smoke and making a whistling sound. They were traveling east to west. The witnesses telephoned Harvey's mother and when she went outside, she saw the objects but they had separated and were climbing higher into the sky in different directions. A Rumford man reported in the newspaper that he had seen two similar
(b)

objects later that day.

3a In the summer of 1962 Harvey, his uncle, and his uncle's three sons were fishing at night for hornpout in Labrador Pond near East Peru. It was about 9 or 10 p.m. Above the opposite side of the pond, they all noticed three orange globe-shaped objects dancing around in the air. For about a half hour, the globes gradually moved closer to the witnesses, repeatedly coming together and joining, glowing brightly, separating, and dancing about again.

Fearful, the five observers jumped into their car and took off in an effort to escape the objects, but the globes followed. One of them came up behind the rear window while the other two took positions on either side of the side windows. At close range the objects seemed to be transparent (trees could be discerned through them). Each globe was perhaps three feet in diameter. Harvey said they were so close he could have touched them if he had rolled down his window.

The witnesses tried to lose the UFOs by speeding up (up to 60 miles per hour) and slowing down, but the spheres kept pace. As before, the objects would leave the car, move upward and join in a row with "squares" or cubes connecting them, then separate, the cubes disappearing, and return to their original positions around the car. To see if the things affected the radio in any way, it was turned on and all they heard was static.

After following the car for two or three miles, the strange globes suddenly veered away into the woods.

3b The next day Harvey's mother told a neighbor about the sighting, and the neighbor said she saw the objects going across her yard at that time.

(The above sighting is very similar to the Granby, Conn., case which occurred in the spring of 1962. See my report, "UFOs Chase Car in Conn. - April or May, 1962.")

2 One winter a couple of years ago (from 1964) Harvey said he was walking his grandmother home about 9 or 10 p.m. when she saw some deep red lights in a field. Harvey couldn't see the lights, but he claimed he heard a high-pitched sound then two voices speaking in an alien language of some sort. His grandmother couldn't hear anything strange. Harvey said the voices sent chills down his back. When they returned to Harvey's house, he proceeded to shake and cry. The next morning he searched the field but found no footprints or anything unusual.

4 His mother told Harvey about this one. A West Peru man was followed home in his pickup truck by a strange object. While the UFO flew around his house, the man reportedly called the constable who drove out and took a shot at the object. Harvey later heard that when the object was hit, it sparkled and disappeared.

ever since the Packard house was built, the roof has been pelted by material. This generally has occurred around 10 or 11 p.m. when the family has gone to bed. John Gramm said he heard the objects fall early in the morning, around 3 or so. Each fall begins with a few objects hitting the roof then more, sometimes a large quantity, then after about five minutes it stops. The grandmother's house down the road has also been pelted. Harvey, an amateur mineralogist, has examined the material and can't identify it as anything he's ever seen. It is lightweight and ash-like, appears dark and burned, and is easily broken. The material falls out of a clear sky, according to Harvey.

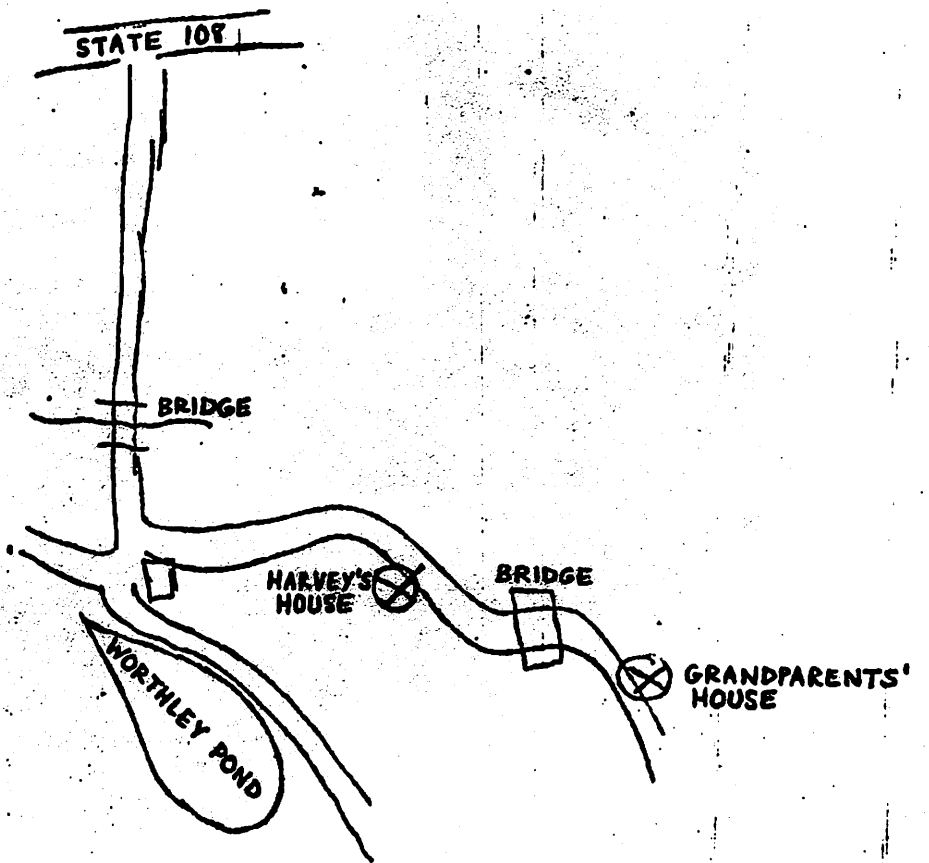
Without passing judgment on this last incident, instances of such falls of matter on house roofs belong in the realm of paranormal phenomena, specifically poltergeist activity. Regarding such phenomena, it might be pertinent to mention that Harvey claims he and his mother have talents in extra-sensory perception. Other than these facts, this last reported incident (or series of incidents) has no connection with the UFO sightings discussed.

5 Other sightings in this same region have been reported before. In the summer of 1958 or 1959 six witnesses observed lights moving back and forth over a field in North Turner, 12 miles southeast of East Peru. A humming or whirring sound was detected. Through 10x binoculars, the lights were seen to revolve around the dark transparent rim of a silver-gray disc-shaped object. The lights were brilliant and blue and so intense the eyes watered as witnesses watched through binoculars. The object hovered then "floated" down into the field (about 1000 feet away) where the lights went out. A second object moved across the field and hovered over the one on the ground. Then the first object "floated upward," joined the other one, and took off together at terrific speed. The sighting lasted long enough--five or more minutes--that one of the observers was able to relay over the phone to Civil Defense headquarters in Auburn what they were watching. The next morning a "small area of singed grass" was found in the field which smelled as if it were recently burned. (Credit: Raymond E. Fowler, Wenham, Mass.)

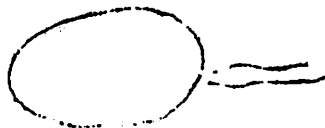
In the North Woodstock area (14 miles southwest of East Peru) on September 4, 1963, an object of some kind allegedly fell into a back yard with a whistling sound, leaving a six-inch-diameter hole and blue smoke pouring out of the opening. The bomb disposal squad from Fort Devens in Massachusetts was called up to investigate, and the area was roped off. The team dug down into the hole, failed to locate an object, and filled up the hole again. In my opinion, a conventional explanation should not be ruled out.

Harvey Packard's address is Box 33, East Peru, Maine. Phone 562-4947. John Gramm's address is 73 Gardner Street, Waltham, Mass. Phone TW 3-5876 (office DU 9-3000).

Walter Webb



COPY OF HARVEY'S SKETCH



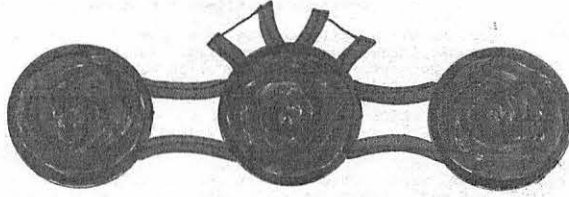
UFO SEEN BY GRANDPARENTS AND MOTHER IN EARLY 1950'S. COPY OF HARVEY'S SKETCH.



UFO'S SEEN AT LABRADOR POND IN SUMMER, 1962, SHOWING OBJECTS JOINING IN FLIGHT. SKETCH BY W. WEBB.

1962: nr. East Peru, ME.

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of ball lightning.
