

Pascagoula River Aliens

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Introduction

- Intro.
- Housekeeping.
- Announcements.

Sources

Our source this week is “Pascagoula - The Closest Encounter” by Calvin Parker. It’s an OVERLY thorough book detailing not only Parker’s experiences but also a reprinting of Charles Hickson’s account, several news reports, the official military reports, and a complete chronicle of everything Parker had to eat in the days leading up to and following the incident.

- Sadly, he never saw fit to publish his fanfiction.

The Night in Question

On October 11, 1973 Charles Hickson, age 42 at the time, and Calvin Parker, age 19 were both working at a local shipyard. Hickson was a friend of the Parker family and had helped get Parker the job at the shipyard. He’d just recently moved to Pascagoula from Laurel, Mississippi, and started before his life would definitely change.

- He would join the Nutrilife corporation.

They decided they’d head down to the river for some night fishing. Parker’s recollection is that he felt he should buy his own fishing gear for the trip while Hickson pointed out he had an extra pole. It’s at this point we’re going to see Calvin Parker’s odd view of the world.

Parker said that he was uncomfortable handling another man’s pole because it would be like using another man’s wife. He also implies this is normal in the South. I can assure you that this is not the case. It also begs the question of just what the hell goes on in Pascagoula.

- Much like his wife, he’d just toss the rod in the bed of the truck.

Mike, I believe this fits in with your theory about what happened?

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After some back and forth about the equipment and Charlie having to convince Calvin to not beat up another motorist, they got down to the old dock and traipsed through the mud for a good solid night of disappointment. I mean fishing.

- If you think that is disappointment, imagine being a fish and your last experience being Calvin staring you down.

What the exact time was that they both heard the buzzing we can't be sure. Neither man owned a watch. But a buzzing they heard. They also saw blue flashing lights that they both assumed were the police checking out their parked car. It wasn't. What they saw was a 30 foot "object" with a dome on top. Charlie had served in the military during the Korean War and was certain they were not looking at a known craft. They found themselves physically paralyzed as a ramp extended from what had been a solid wall. Neither man could speak but judging by their books, both of them were absolutely terrified. Then the aliens came out.

- Good for them. They're very brave.

Now, frequent listeners will know what usually comes next but this one? This one is different. Three creatures floated out of the ship. They were about five feet tall and more or less humanoid. They were gray in color, and covered in wrinkles like an elephant's skin. They had pincer type claws for hands and their legs had no feet. The head was a tall mound with no neck. Just straight into the shoulders. Three spikes came out of the head where the ears and nose would be but had nothing else that could be considered a face.

- Much like Barry Manilow three surgeries in.

Two of the creatures took Parker and Hickson by the arm and floated them into the ship. Parker would have a puncture wound when examined that correlated to where he was grabbed.

Now here is where the story gets complicated and interesting. Hickson and Parker were separated and taken to different rooms and had something similar happen, but, well, you'll see what I mean.

Charlie's Story

In Charlie Hickson's version of the story, Calvin passed out as soon as he was grabbed and they were separated. He was taken into a large room by his alien escort and the third creature

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and strapped to a table. Then something that could only be described as a giant eyeball dropped from the ceiling and looked at him from every angle.

- Ah, the Epstein island floorshow.

Charlie fell back on his time in the military to sort of get himself through this but was concerned that they would be taken off planet and his family would assume he'd drowned. A voice projected into his mind telling him he would not be harmed and they would be returned did little to calm him.

After a while of being stared at, he was released from the table, floated back out to where he and Calvin had been fishing, Calvin was floated back out, and the ship left. They understandably spent several minutes losing their shit. Charlie spent most of the time trying to calm Calvin down because he was extremely distraught. I think this may have been how Charlie coped with what happened.

Calvin's Story

Before we start on Calvin's version of what happened, I have some bias I need to bring to light. From everything I've read Calvin Parker sounds like a pain in the ass. I'm going to try to keep this story factual, but God DAMN does he get on my nerves.

- He's like the X-Files version of Holden Caulfield.

So in Parker's book he makes one thing abundantly clear. He did NOT pass out. That was something he and Charlie agreed on because Calvin did not want to tell anyone about it. He seems very offended by this being his legacy so he's wanting to set the record straight.

After definitely not passing out and being taken to a separate room, Calvin Parker has a similar experience to Charlie Hickson but there's something strange about it. Once his escort leaves a different type of alien comes in. About three feet tall, light gray skin, big black eyes. Our old friends the Grays have finally showed up! It tells him mentally that he will not be harmed and they are peaceful explorers. Calvin immediately thinks "I bet I could beat this thing up."

- Calvin sounds like the guy in my apartment complex that tried to do a gainer off the top of the laundry room into the pool and broke his collar bone.

Right after that a glowing blue rectangle comes down from the ceiling and circles him making clicking sounds before going back where it came from. The weird gray guys come back and

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chuck Calvin back on the dock and leave. He then spends the next several minutes complaining that the aliens broke his car window and about his insurance. Yep. Life changing experience and he's worried about his premiums.

- Have you ever seen a pissed of gecko come for his money? You'd be agitated too.

So let's talk for a few about the similarities and differences between these guys' experiences. I sort of feel like the guys Charlie Hickson saw may have been some kind of screen memory or psychic projection and maybe Calvin Parker either didn't need it once they were separated or was just too dense to keep seeing it. Thoughts?

- Calvin is 19 and we've already seen his ego take a hit with the suggestion he passed out. I would not be shocked if he embellished his tale to make himself look better.

The Aftermath

Whichever version you want to go with, Charlie Hickson decided they had to tell the authorities about this. Calvin was dead set against it until it was decided he'd passed out and had nothing to tell. You know. Or whatever.

After a stop off at a bar for a single shot of Jack Daniels to calm his nerves, Charlie called the Air Force base but was informed "We don't handle that any more". They were, of course, referring to Project Blue Book which had already been shuttered. They told him to go to the Jackson County Sheriff's Department. So he did.

- You know somewhere, some Project Blue Book analyst was kicking themselves for letting the program get shut down when they heard about this story.

That shot would cost them right up front. Capt. Glen Ryder who just SOUNDS like an action star assumed they were drunk and lying so after questioning each man separately they left them in a room with a hidden tape recorder. Instead of them discussing their story or drunkenly talking about "little green men" the tape had two men still in a state of panic wishing that what had just happened hadn't. The tape went a long way toward them being taken seriously.

- I imagine there was something in their voices that signified that they had seen something. People who have endured trauma and are not particularly talented in masking it can rather easily give it away in their voices.

The sheriff was made to promise that he would not tell the media but the next day at the shipyard they were inundated with calls for interviews. With hindsight, it was most likely Charlie

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Hickson that got the media involved. The press attention brought an investigation by the Air Force, multiple interviews, and Dr. J. Allen Hynek himself to look into it. The one thing that everyone agreed on with this is that **something** happened to these men and it left a lasting effect.

- Shoutout to our boy J. Allen Hynek.

Charlie Hickson went on to discuss his experience extensively and co-authored a book with William Mendez called "UFO Contact at Pascagoula" in 1983. He would appear on Dick Cavet, Johnny Carson, and just about any place that would have him. He claimed further abduction and encounters for the rest of his life and discussed them extensively on the UFO convention circuit. He died in 2011.

- I don't blame Charlie. The minute I find any sort of success I would ride it into the point it becomes sad.

Calvin Parker didn't fare as well. He would find it difficult to deal with life on the coast due to the memory of what happened and moved back to Laurel. He would often become violent with people that brought up the abduction and it led to the end of his marriage. He and his wife have since reconciled and are living in Pascagoula. He also wrote his own book called "PASCAGOULA - THE CLOSEST ENCOUNTER: MY STORY". While not well written it is EXTREMELY thorough and I recommend checking it out since it's thoughtful enough to include Charlie's story as well.

Other Theories

Now there are theories about what may have actually happened. First is a bizarre hypnagogic state where Hickson just sort of told the story to Parker as they sat there on the dock and they both sort of assumed it happened. I feel like that stretches believability to the breaking point.

- Y'all ever TED Talk so hard you believed you were on stage?

Mike's favored us with his theory. Do you have anything to add to that?

- So, this has all the markings of a high strangeness encounter; unusual beings, lost time, what one could reasonably assume is a group psychosis. If this is a case of ultraterrestrials I think we might need to read into the appearance of these things. We have talked about how these beings of high strangeness will appear differently over time, so I wonder why they are described so much differently than other contemporary sightings.

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- The other thing is we cannot be sure they were not on LSD and mistook a Panic Pete stress toy for an alien, either.



Well Nick Redfern has an idea. He says that there may have been a military test on an island in the river back in the 1960's involving MKUltra and hallucinogens that somehow affected Parker and Hickson and they tripped the entire experience. The only proof of that is that some of the older residents talked about "strange things on the island" which also sounds like a Scooby Doo plot.

- Shaggy being a sleeper MK Ultra agent would be the most unexpected plot twist ever.

Honestly though, I don't know what happened down there. It'd be easy to just say "It's the Superstructure" and wave my hands like a wizard but something extremely strange happened here in Mississippi and it doesn't need to be forgotten.

- It is, in many ways one of the more minor UFO episodes in the US, but they are all worthy of preservation.

Outro

- Questions
- Plugs
- Outro