WEB EXTRAS: HANDOUTS

The seven pages which follow contain an additional set of player handouts that can be used when running the Call of Cthulhu scenario “In A Different Light” (available on-line for free at http://CthulhuReborn.wordpress.com)

A set of basic handouts are included with the original scenario PDF — those cover all the essential items that the players may find during their Investigations. After the scenario was published, several people asked whether some of the more tangential clues described in the text could also be provided as handouts. In some cases, folks were even kind enough to provide ideas on how the bare-bones descriptions in the scenario could be worked up into attractive handouts (based on props they had prepared for their own runs of the scenario). I am indebted to those generous and inventive Call of Cthulhu afficionados.

The Handouts in this Web Extra are:

• Three further Newspaper Clippings from the Arkham Advertiser,

• Newspaper copy for an Arkham Advertiser story that was never published (handwritten by a journalist),

• Minutes of a special session held by the Arkham City Council of Selectmen,

• A hand-drawn map of the region of Arkham’s French Hill district where several scenes of the adventure take place,

• Pages from two books providing information on the disappearance of Crawford’s Rise,

• Jed Ashcroft’s story, plus a sketch map of the (ghost-) town of Crawford’s Rise, and

• Two extracts from the (weathered) notebook of Prof. Jamison, found in Crawford’s Rise.

Print these pages single-sided, in colour if possible. Then cut out the handouts from the sheet.

Clear Credit:

The Map of Walnut Street included here is based entirely on a hand-drawn sketch made by Andy Miller (aka Max Writer) and is copyright by him.

The text of the “Supplementary Newspapers” and “Unpublished News Article” are a combination of text from the original scenario with additions by Andy Miller (aka Max Writer). These are copyright Andy Miller and Dean Engelhardt. The advertisements included with the news clippings come from vintage, non-copyrighted sources.

All other items are by Dean Engelhardt (dean@cs.adelaide.edu.au).

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FRATERNITIES PULL UNKIND STUNT

Several mutilated animal carcasses, primarily cats and dogs, were discovered in an alleyway just off Walnut Street Saturday night.

Police say over a dozen animals were found, all terribly mutilated, in the alley. Police guess that the freshly killed animals were the result of fraternity pranksters taking a joke too far. Miskatonic University should find and punish these miscreants.

RABID DOGS LOOSE

Residents of Walnut Street are warned that a pack of rabid dogs are apparently loose in that part of town.

Police warn that the pack of wild dogs might be rabid but urge citizens not to panic. Residents should keep careful watch when walking in that neighborhood at night.

SECOND BIZARRE MURDER ON WALNUT ST.

“WILD BESTIAL SHRIEKS”  LOCAL AUTHOR MISSING  GUNSHOTS WERE FIRED

Another murder has taken place on Walnut Street.

The victim, Chris Przedworski, was found murdered in his own home on Walnut Street last night.

Police were initially alerted by neighbors who heard wild almost bestial shrieks coming from the small Przedworski house. On arriving at the scene the source of this clamor was found to be Przedworski’s brother Wojtek. By his hideous wailing it was evident the man was out of his mind.

Beside him, on the floor of the small sitting room lay the dead Przedworski, hideously dismembered and mutilated. Although details haven’t been made available to the public, the mutilations inflicted upon the Pole are believed to be very similar to those carried out upon the body of Georgio Caruso.

Police escorted the brother to the Arkham Sanitarium, and questioned the residents of nearby houses. Their inquiries unearthed several interesting leads.

Firstly, a number of neighbors reported having heard the sound of a gun being fired shortly before the screams of Wojtek disturbed the silence of the street.

Secondly, witnesses claim to have seen a man wandering in the street about the time Przedworski must have died. One witness is adamant that the figure was pulp author and local resident Herbert Wade Slocum. When police called to visit Slocum at his home he was nowhere to be found.

Local residents should be careful when traveling the streets at night, especially Walnut Street in Southside. Arkham Police Department assures that Southsiders have nothing to fear and that the perpetrator of these gruesome crimes would very soon be brought to justice.
Citizens of Walnut Street were jerked from their sleep by horrible cries Wednesday night.

At about 1 a.m., police received telephone calls from several residents of Walnut Street reporting inhuman screams up and down the street.

Police arrived on the scene soon located Milk Deliver Georgio Caruso, cowering in an alleyway just off Walnut Street. Caruso, obviously shaken, was found to be the one causing the screams. He had recovered his senses.

Caruso reportedly had some form of hallucinatory fit or seizure in the early morning hours. The terrible cries he gave out as he ran screaming down Walnut Street caused many residents to contact the authorities.

By the time police arrived on the scene, Caruso, who was found cowering in an alley, had regained his senses. Though obviously shaken, he was given a clean bill of health.
SPECIAL SESSION.
Meeting called to order by Pres. Wainscott
Apologies – Sel. Atkinson

Mayor’s Call.
To Mr. Edward Farr,
City Clerk.
Dear Sir –
Please issue the usual notice and call for a special meeting of the common council of the City of Arkham to be held in the council chamber on Wednesday evening, November 16th, 1927, at seven thirty (7.30) o’clock for the purpose of considering proposals for the furthering of civic works in the French Hill district, and in particular the approval or rejection of plans to construct new street lighting for this impoverished area.
Dated Arkham, Massachusetts, November 2, 1927.

JOSEPH PEABODY,
Mayor.

Street Lighting Proposal
The City Engineer tabled a proposed plan for enacting a pilot study of a new type of council-funded street illumination. He stated that his investigations of this matter had come about at the request of the Mayor.

The Engineer tabled a report which noted areas of the city which were particularly destitute and in need of civic upgrade. The region most in need of attention is, according to this report, the French Hill neighborhood and in particular the locus centred upon Walnut Street.

In order to present an expert opinion on the matter, and to advise on the several proposed options, Engineer Endicott called upon Miskatonic University’s Dr Hamlin Hayes to make a short presentation to the assembled selectmen.

Dr. Hayes presented three options, one of which was a very recently developed lighting technique. This newly invented technique (in his expert opinion) was twice as efficient as traditional lighting methods. This new modality of electrical illumination, said Dr. Hayes, “seems likely to be the way of the future.”

After some consternation and a stirring speech by Selectman Ash Southcott, the Council voted (8-1) to endorse the new and less expensive alternative advocated by Dr. Hayes.

Mayor Peabody voiced his excitement with this planned course of action and stated that he wished that work on the new street lamps could be completed well ahead of the end of this council’s current term. In his words, “the people of French Hill have waited for too long for attention from the city, and it is my attention that they should receive it promptly.”

Meeting Close
The special session was closed at eight thirty (8.30) o’clock, and the mayor invited all selectmen to refreshments and a light supper.

DECLARATION
These minutes serve as a true and accurate account of this special session

Edward Farr,
City Clerk
Street Lamp

Lamp broken on "Bizarre Night"

Przedworski House
(535 Walnut)

Georgio Caruso
(619 French Hill St)
Perhaps the most startling tale of disappearance in Essex County is that of the so-called 'Sudbury Disappearance'. This tale concerns itself with the small farming community of Crawford's Rise, not far from Sudbury. The strange events that transpired in this rustic farming village in the Spring of 1880 are for the most part recorded only in the memories of Sudbury locals. Many tales and wild speculation have arisen, but all stories agree on one fact — that one night in April 1880 the entire population of Crawford's Rise disappeared. Visitors to the village next morning were greeted with empty houses, empty shops, and an empty town common. No sign of any of the forty or so residents of Crawford's Rise were ever unearthed. Their earthly possession all still lay in empty houses, arranged as they would have been had their owners still been there to use them. Nothing was found missing or disturbed. To this day, nobody has been able to give an explanation of just what happened to the community of Crawford's Rise that fateful night.

As strange and unique as this story may sound, it is in fact only one of several that was forced to leave the area, owing to a misunderstanding with the local chieftain in relation to one of his unwed daughters.

After leaving this group, I spent some months living with a tribe of natives who reside in the area adjacent to the modern-day town on Sudbury. Initially these people (whose numbers are reported to be seriously dwindling over recent years) seemed quite unremarkable, but after gaining their trust with a display of my skills with the rapier, they revealed themselves to me somewhat. What I found was a group who held a number of singular beliefs.

The folklore of this particular tribe placed great weight on the periodic awakening of certain unclean spirits of light. At the times of such awakenings, they believed, men and women would begin to go missing — taken by the spirits as food for some greater entity. In time, once this greater being had consumed enough, they believed he would wake from his great slumber and threaten to devour the tribe. It was only through the ritual chants handed down from the elders, and practiced each year, that the tribe could be saved.

I spent many a night in solemn discussion with the chieftain and his shaman attempting to get to the bottom of these remarkable beliefs. On one such evening I had the unusual privilege of witnessing one of their rituals. I would have to say that I found it to be unlike any religious observance I have witnessed in any tribe of the Massachusetts district. Many aspects were entirely oblique, none more so than the strange chant that formed a centerpiece of their ceremony. This was made up entirely of nonsensical words and sounds, which draw not from their local language or any other they could name. It represents an entirely curious linguistic phenomenon. Two unusual word-sounds seemed to appear time and time again in these rituals: “M’buktho” and “Aybon”.

The village shaman agreed to instruct me in the ways of “Aybon”, the latter of these words was the only part of the chant for which the tribe knew any meaning — Aybon was remembered as a great savior of the tribe from many generations past.
“You know, back when the events you’re asking me about were taking place, I was just a young man. Twenty-three I was. I had a brother then, a younger brother by the name of Jeremiah. A fiery boy was Jeremiah, always disobeying our Pa’s orders and doin’ what he wanted. Anyhow, just a month or so before the Disappearance, Jeremiah went and fell in love with one of the Rise girls; Rose Macintosh she was called.

“O’course Pa told him he didn’t want no son of his having aught to do with them folk after they’d suddenly turned queer. But Jeremiah didn’t take Pa’s pronouncement to heart, and often after everyone was asleep he would sneak out of the farmhouse and go and visit his Rose.

“Well, as it happened, this is just what Jeremiah was doing on the night of the Disappearance, ‘cept this time when he got to Rose’s window, he found she was nowhere to be seen. So he poked around the house awhile, but there was nobody to be found. The place was completely empty. It was then he noticed the weird greenish light coming from the town common. This light was part familiar to him: it reminded him of the Devil Lanterns he’d seen other residents of The Rise carry.

“I guess the lure of curiosity for this weird light got the better of his sensibilities, or maybe he was just searching for his Rose. Whatever the reason, Jeremiah walked to the village common and saw ... well I’m not perfectly sure what.

“Pa and I were woken in the slim hours of the mornin’ by the sound of him scrabbling to get in through the door. All desperate like he sounded. Pa was about ready to show him the rough side of his belt, but when we opened the door and saw the terror in his eyes ... well we sat him down and he shook and he mumbled things we could barely make out.

“Anyway after a few hours of us consoling Jeremiah, he began to gain his senses again and he spun us the tale I jus’ told you. When he came to tell about what he saw in the common, his voice faltered a lot, and his words came out in a big jumble. From what I could work out it seemed that the light he had seen came from a huge bonfire that someone had lit in the common, only it weren’t no ordinary bonfire. All around the place he saw broken glass lanterns — Devil Lanterns. Someone had thrown them all into the fire, and somehow that made the flames look queer.

“He could see dozens of people standing around the fire, maybe the entire population of the place. A few of them were chanting something ... my brother couldn’t tell what, but he noticed one man, ol’ Edgar Jamison, was leading them. But before Jeremiah could scan the crowd for his Rose, or learn more about what was transpirin’, somethin else happened.

“It’s when telling this part of the tale that poor Jeremiah just broke down in tears and screams, and refused to tell us any more. We made him breakfast and comforted him awhile more, but he still would not talk about whatever it was he saw, cept to say the one thing over and over ‘Twer the mountain that ate them.’

“I never did find out what my brother meant by those words. He’s dead now ... not many days after he saw what he saw, he took a shotgun out to do some hunting. Well that’s what he said, but ... well I know he meant to use that shotgun on himself. Tweren’t no accident.”
In A Different Light Handout: Jamison's Notebook 1

Title: Notes

Many of the rituals of these savage people are strange and abhorrent. I think the most disgusting and bigassel may be said to be their chant to placate the god under the hill. It is made up entirely of nonsense words:

W‘bucktor yot ol the nalking Xota
Ekbem po joktoth, Nuai eallogly flayn

Now I know it cannot be a simple case of happenstance. A twelfth disappearance last night! Another inexplicable twist. Of course all the town’s gossips say these sudden vanishings somehow relate with the departure of that dark-skinned merchant. Until now I have believed this to be a foolishness brought about by prejudice and superstition. But my sincere belief that the vanishings are isolated incidents, be departures motivated by some private and secret purpose. This now is hard to sustain. As the town’s consternation steadily and palpably grows, my mind cannot help but connect these inexplicable happenings with the Indian legends that I have studied these many years. For do not the Indians since the discovery by priests of light, and do not this strange affair begin with those grace laments brought by the merchant? Could we somehow have within something that must consume the town? For these items are evil and must be destroyed.