

Tuesday Terribles

The Hillston Lights by Whiskey

Hillston Colorado, the Victorian Mining Town, has been completely depended upon tourist dollars since the silver and gold mines closed in the late 80's. It's authentic dirt roads, Victorian main street, and brothels turned hamburger joints attract plenty of summer tourists exploring the southwest. The real money maker is the narrowgauge railroad that brings hundreds of hungry, if dazed visitors to Hillston from Memorial day to Halloween.

This summer, the only town in San Juan county has discovered a new attraction: The Hillston Lights. Nobody can be certain when the lights started to appear. Some year-round residents have evidently been watching them on warm evenings for over a year. They kept the phenomena to themselves to preserve the mystery of the events. Eventually, tourists caught the lights on their ubiquitous camcorders and cell phone cameras. The local business community knows an opportunity when they see one. T-shirts, snowglobes, and postcards quickly followed.

The mountainous county is experiencing a larger flood of campers, jeepers, and ATV enthusiasts than ever before. More tourists are staying overnight in hopes of catching a glimpse of the strange lights. Hotels are booked and the local bars are booming. Each time the lights are shown on television, a new flood of curious visitors make plans to visit isolated Hillston.

Informed locals will tell you that the great influx of people have made actual sightings less frequent. Hundreds of excitable tourists justifying their vacation choice, and plenty of local summer merchants, will tell you otherwise.

The nationwide coverage of the event is sure to attract investigators of the paranormal to document or debunk the sightings.

The Hillston Lights are real. They are in fact a small group of Lamp-Efts (H.P. Lovecraft's Dreamlands p. 109) which have found a way to enter our world from the Dreamlands. The most common lights seen are the ambient glow of these three foot long Salamander like creatures as the float through the trees. Occasionally a brighter flash can be seen as they chase one another.

The exact reason for entering our realm is left to the GM. Perhaps they are crossing over to feed off the magic points of something near Hillston. They may simply be visiting for the novelty and a sense of fun. Pr maybe they are exploring, seeking refuge from their natural predators or something more menacing. The Efts may be the servants of a sorcerer or being in the Dreamlands hunting for someone or something which has eluded them.

Whatever the reason, the frequency of actual sightings is decreasing. The sudden increased population of the nearby town and traffic into the wilderness where the Lamp-Efts wander is making them increasingly uneasy. Hunting season is approaching, and it's just a matter of time before armed visitors decide to shoot at the lights to see what happens.

For one reason or another, the nocturnal visits are about to end for the year. It's up to you to decide what else may have slipped into the waking world, or who may enter the Dreamlands from our side.

For more about Hillston, Colorado see Chaosium's THE STARS ARE RIGHT!, Various TUESDAY TERRIBLES, and the STRANGE SONGS monograph.

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