



MOTHMAN

PLACES

Point Pleasant [POYNT PLES-unt] a town in West Virginia
West Virginia [WEST ver-JIN-yuh] a state in the southern United States

WORDS

businesspersons [BIZ-uh-nis-pur-sons] people who run or help to run businesses
creature [CREE-cher] an animal
helicopter [HEL-uh-KOP-ter] a flying machine that can lift straight up in the air when it takes off
reflectors [ree-FLEK-terz] things that throw back light



It all happened in the winter of 1966-67. The place was a town called Point Pleasant. There are those who think the whole town went crazy.



It was 10:30 in the morning. A girl named Connie was driving home from church. Then, beside the road, she said she saw something. It made her put her foot on the brake. There stood a huge gray creature. The creature was seven feet tall and very broad. Later Connie said, "It's a wonder I didn't run off the road and have a wreck."

She slowed down. As she did, wings unfolded from the back of the creature. The wings were ten feet across. The crea-

It headed for the car. Its red, glowing eyes stared at her. She stepped hard on the gas as the creature swooped low over the car.

This story would not mean much if only Connie saw the creature. But that winter more than 100 others saw it. At first they called it just "Bird." Then someone named it "Moth-man." With its wings spread, it did look like a huge moth. So the name stuck.

One night two young couples were driving along the back roads. They saw two red eyes. The eyes were about two inches across and six inches apart. One of the women drew in her breath. The driver slammed on the brakes.

"What is it?" asked someone from the back seat. But no one answered.

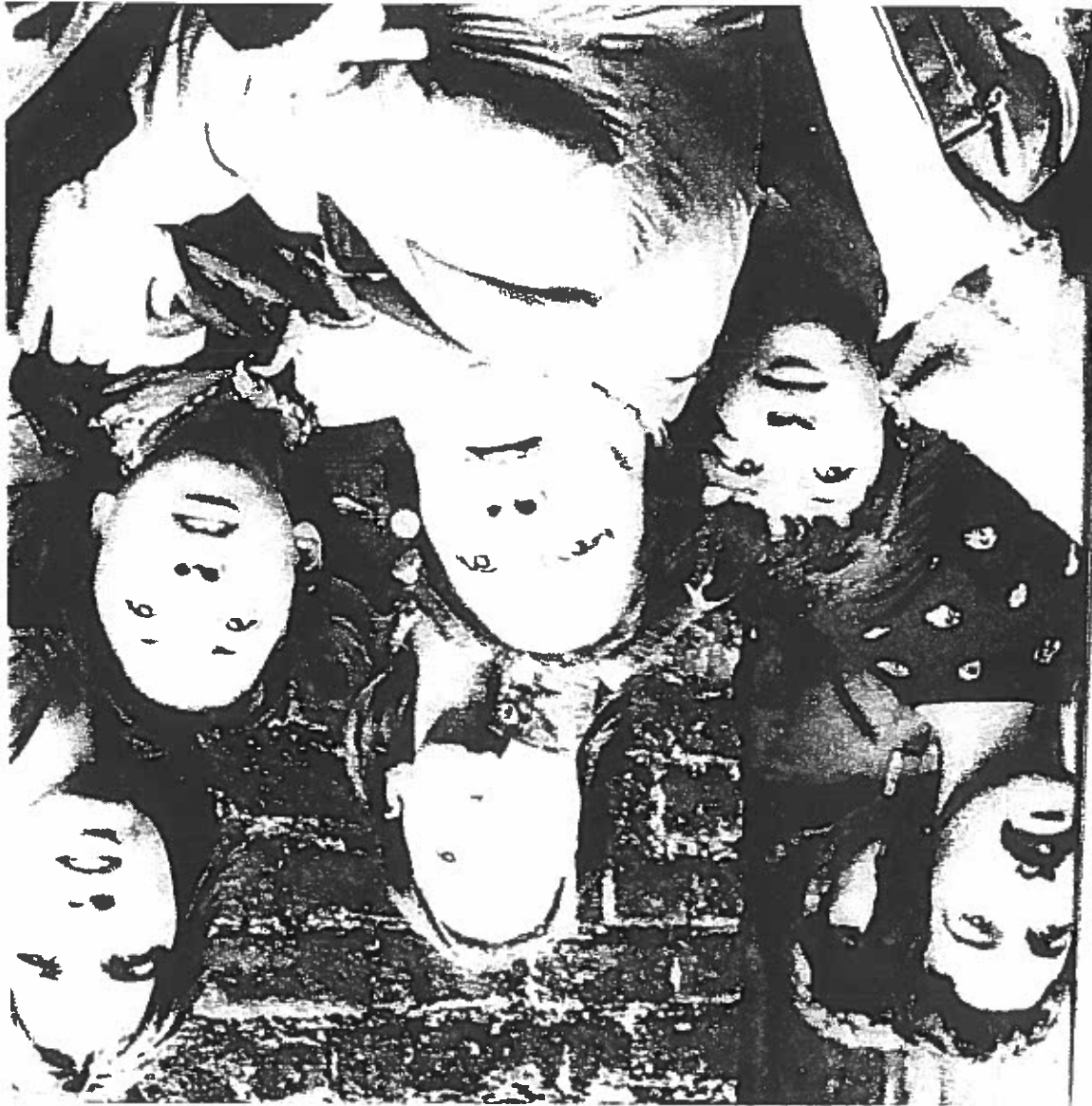
Something moved. At first they thought it was an animal. But they knew there was no animal that looked like that. According to them, the creature was about seven feet tall. It was grayish in color. It walked on two legs. Its wings were folded along its back. And its eyes were like huge red reflectors. For a full minute the people in the car stared. They couldn't take their eyes off the creature. Their minds were held by a kind of fear. Then the creature turned away.

"Let's get out of here," one of the people in the car yelled. The driver stepped on the gas and headed for the main road. Then they saw the creature again. It was standing on a hill. It spread its wings and took off—straight up.

"It's following us," someone said. The driver pushed the car to go faster and faster. At 100 miles an hour, the creature was still there. It made a sound like a big mouse.

At the edge of town, the creature stopped following them. The people went to the police station. They told the police what had happened. Some of the police went to the place where the creature had been seen. They found nothing. But when they turned on their police radio, it wouldn't work right. A weird sound came from it. They couldn't get through to the police station.

Mothman was seen many more times: by homemakers, by businesspersons, by two firefighters. Five teen-agers saw it



standing by a woods. "Nobody believes us because we're teen-agers," one said. "But it was really scary." A soldier saw Mothman sitting in a tree like a huge bird. All the people who saw it were taken with cold fear. They had the idea that something wasn't right. Weird feelings went through them.

QUESTIONS

Choose the best answer. Write in your notebook the number of each question and the letter—(a), (b), (c), or (d)—that shows the best answer.

1. What is the most important thing that this story tells?
 - (a) More than 100 people saw the creature.
 - (b) The creature had red glowing eyes.
 - (c) A soldier saw the creature sitting in a tree.
 - (d) Weird feelings went through people who saw the creature.
2. When was Mothman seen in Point Pleasant?
 - (a) During the winter of 1966
 - (b) During the summer of 1966
 - (c) During the spring of 1966
 - (d) During the fall of 1966
3. How tall was Mothman said to be?
 - (a) Three feet
 - (b) Ten feet
 - (c) Nine feet
 - (d) Seven feet
4. How did Mothman fly?
 - (a) Like a bird
 - (b) Like a helicopter
 - (c) Like a plane
 - (d) Like a man
5. How big were Mothman's eyes supposed to be?
 - (a) Tiny
 - (b) Two inches across
 - (c) Six inches across
 - (d) A half-inch across
6. What color were Mothman's eyes said to be?
 - (a) Yellow
 - (b) Black
 - (c) Gray
 - (d) Red

7. What happened to the police who went to look for Mothman?
 - (a) They saw Mothman.
 - (b) They were taken away.
 - (c) They took Mothman to the station.
 - (d) They couldn't get through to the station on the radio.
8. Why didn't some people believe the teen-agers who saw Mothman?
 - (a) Because people don't always trust teen-agers
 - (b) Because the teen-agers were liars
 - (c) Because no one knew the teen-agers
 - (d) Because the police didn't believe the teen-agers

WORDS TO KNOW

Choose the word that best fits the blank in each sentence. Write it in your notebook beside the number of the sentence.

creature helicopter businesspersons reflectors

1. Mothman was a scary _____.
2. A _____ is a kind of flying machine.
3. Mothman's eyes looked like huge red _____.
4. The _____ ran a place that made helicopters.

TO TALK OR WRITE ABOUT

Talk or write about these questions. If you write, do it on a separate piece of paper.

1. Do you believe Mothman was real? Why?
2. Why is it hard to believe that Mothman could fly?
3. What might you do to prove that there is a Mothman?

4. If you believe Mothman is real, what do you think it really is? What makes you think so?

COMPOUND WORDS

The word *hormemaker* is made up of two other words—*home* and *maker*. It is a compound word.

Copy column A and column B on a piece of paper. Draw a line from each word in column A to the word in column B that it can join as a new, compound word.

A	B
some	spread
wing	road
star	thing
eye	light
rail	sight

Copy the following sentences on your paper. Fill in each blank with the compound that fits.

1. The man's _____ was so poor that he couldn't see the sign.
2. The _____ was so bright that you could almost see as well as in daylight.
3. They saw _____ in the trees but could not tell what it was.
4. The train ran along the _____ track.
5. Mothman had a _____ of ten feet.

THE PREFIX UN-

The prefix *un-* means "not" or "opposite of." The word *unfold* contains this prefix. When Mothman's wings unfolded, they were not folded anymore.

Copy column A and column B on a piece of paper. Draw a line from each word in column A to its meaning in column B.

A	B
unopened	sad
unbroken	closed
unclean	ragged
uneven	whole
unhappy	dirty

Now use each of the words starting with *un-* in a sentence. Write the sentences on your paper.