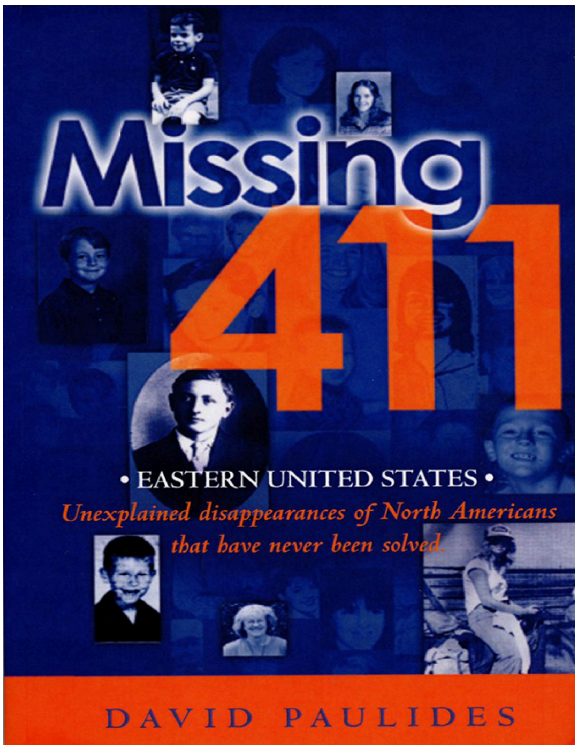


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Bow Hunters 313

National Park Service 315

The Interview 318

DOI Recommendations 320

FBI Involvement 322

Next Steps 328

Index 331

ABBREVIATIONS

BIA Bureau of Indian Affairs

DOI Department of the Interior

FBI Federal Bureau of Investigation

FOIA Freedom of Information Act

NPS National Park Service

SAR Search and Rescue

USFS United States Forest Service

FLIR Forward Looking Infrared Radar

INTRODUCTION

I was originally led to this story by an off-duty ranger at a national park 1 was visiting. They informed me of a series of missing person cases at the parks that were not getting any visibility in the press, and they felt that there might be a series of similar cases at other parks. That one meeting set me on

a three-year study of the missing people topic, which led to two books highlighting 411 stories.

The most interesting and fascinating portion of this study on missing people is the discovery of clusters of missing in various areas of North America. The clusters were identified after years of research and hours spent while I studied maps. The following are the clusters that were identified in the eastern section of the United States:

Oklahoma/Arkansas Border

Hokit

B. Jamison

M. Jamison ,

S. Jamison

Cook

Krebbs

Jones

Jackson

McDonald

Hanson

Davenport

Hague

Reel

Lavies

Great Smoky Mountains NP

Haun

Gibson

Melton

Lindsay

Hearon

Ramsay

Toney

Martin

Auberry

Georgia/Alabama

Moore

Tankersley

Thompkins

Upshaw

Tippin

Thomas

Northern Illinois

Sweely

Chenoweth

Shackleford

Klamecki

NW Minnesota

Ayotte

Kelly

McQuillan

Long

Warner

NE Minnesota

Sommerville

Bordwell

Coleman

NW Maine Newton

Johnson

Brown

Hoover

Johnson

Renaud

N. Michigan

Ahtonen

Perry

Benjamin

Henegan

Hallaxs

Clewley

New Hampshire/S, Maine

Lauro

McCarthy

Chapman

Abbott

Marvin

N. West Virginia

Kuhl

Shoemaker

Moore

McKinney

S. Vermont

Jepson

Herrick

Rivers

Davis

Weldon

Baker

Langer

Bishop

Pennsylvania

The entire state is a cluster

Notes on clusters:

The northern Illinois cluster is the only cluster in both books in which everyone missing is a female.

Vermont is the only cluster that has a tight time frame surrounding all six missing people, just twenty-four years, 1926-1950.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the surrounding region is an interesting study area because Native Americans originally settled it. Modern-day disappearances started in 1919, the latest occurring in 2008.

The entire state of Pennsylvania is a cluster, an amazing accumulation of juveniles who have disappeared under very similar circumstances.

Unique Factors in Disappearances

The factors I am describing relate to the entire study and not solely to this book. Many of these factors are evident in the eastern United States, while

others are in the west.

As you read the story behind each missing person, you will start to hear à consistent theme that includes facts found in other disappearances of missing individuals. Part of the criteria I used for a missing person case to be included in the books corresponded to the number of factors included on this list that were evident in the story. Hère are a few of the factors you will find in many of the cases outlined in this book:

Rural Setting - All of the missing people outlined in this project disappeared from a rural setting, not a city or downtown location. There were usually no witnesses, there was significant cover, and difficult terrain

Dogs - For some unknown reason dogs played a major role in many of the disappearances in the eastern United States. Many of the cases involve children following their dogs into the wild.

Bloodhounds/Canines Can’t Track Scent - A very unusual trend I found in many of these cases was that expert tracking dogs were brought to the scene of the disappearance and were not successful at doing their job. The dogs were given the scent via a person’s shoe or worn shirt, they were brought to the location where the person was last seen, and they either refused to track or couldn’t pick up a scent. This behavior has occurred too many times to ignore, and it’s not understood why this often occurs.

Disabled/Impaired - Several cases in the east involve disabled children who disappear. Initially, I believed that this was occurring because of the disability, but the more I read and understood about these cases, I think the numbers are too high for random occurrence. I don’t understand why so many disabled children disappear, but the numbers don’t seem coincidental.

Fever - I have had discussions with physicians about the children who return from being missing who have fevers. When they are examined, physicians noted in the articles can’t find a reason for the fever, and the physicians I spoke with couldn’t explain it. Only a handful of these incidents were described in articles, but I believe children returning with fevers had occurred many more times than noted. The condition wasn’t told to the media, and it was handled as a normal medical anomaly.

Conscious/Semi-Conscious - One of the most unusual conditions found among missing people is being found in a conscious or semiconscious state. I understand that when people go missing for extended periods hallucinations can occur because of an absence of food and water, but these conditions are prevalent even when those factors do not exist. You will read about cases in which the missing are found unconscious, lying on the ground. When questioned later, they have no recollection of how they came to be missing. In some cases the missing person does recall the facts surrounding his or her disappearance, and the facts of those cases create fascinating reading.

Kidnapping-In several incidents law enforcement officials believed the victim was kidnapped. In many of the cases, the people returned in fairly clean clothes, and even though there was heavy precipitation, they were dry. The truly astonishing factor is that in many cases there was no shelter found, and it couldn't be explained why the victim was dry.

In several of the cases in which the word "kidnap" was used, law enforcement officials backed offtheir position, and it was never explained why. In hindsight, many of these cases occurred in a rural area, and the press or local sheriffmay not have wanted to alarm the community.

Afternoon Disappearance - From the information gleaned from the project, the optimum time for a disappearance to occur is in the 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. time frames.

Swamps and Briar Patches - Many of the missing are found in the middle or on the perimeter of a swamp and/or briar patch. Some rescuers have commented on the unusual location a child is found in and how they don't understand how he or she got there. These are not locations that people would casually visit.

Berries - The fact that berries and berry bushes play a continuous role in many disappearances is overwhelming. People disappear and are found in the middle of berry bushes. They go missing while they are picking berries, and some are found eating berries. The association between some missing people and berries cannot be denied.

Clothing Removed - In numerous cases cited, the missing person is found and at least one significant piece of clothing has disappeared. Sometimes people are found inexplicably naked. While this may sound like a minor issue, it often isn't minor once you read the facts surrounding the cases and understand how consistent the details are surrounding each incident. While searchers are scouring every inch of a quadrant from the point last seen until the missing is found, in many instances the clothing is never found. Some large pieces of clothing are never found. I know that some search manuals indicate that children do remove their clothing; the facts surrounding these cases do not seem to support that assertion, however, as it was extremely detrimental to their survival.

Missing Found in an Area Previously Searched- Another common factor found in many search and rescue (SAR) missions. Searchers find the missing person and later are adamant that the area in which the person was found had been thoroughly searched numerous times in the past. Sometimes the missing person is found on a major trail that searchers had used daily. SAR commanders are sometimes mystified by the victim's location when found.