

## Merna Road: Following The Path Of Terror

The following was taken from the "Pirate Press", Volume 26, Number 3, 27 Oct 1999, written by Sarah West.

*Merna. The name invokes terror. For some, at least.*

*Merna is the name of a dead end gravel road that leads out past the National Guard Armory east of Boonville. There are several different theories about the "ghost" who resides there. Some say that there used to be a village at the end of the road at some point, the village was attacked all the inhabitants killed. A woman who was away was murdered as she returned to the village. This woman is believed to be haunting the creek at the end of Merna Road.*

*Another version is that the woman who haunts Merna hanged herself in a nearby tree.*

*All of the stories have something in common, though. The ghost is a woman, and returns to the creek each night at midnight, first as a light then as an apparition.*

*"I have some friends who told me one night they parked their car over the stream at midnight. Supposedly there were a bunch of weird colored lights and then they saw a lady wearing all white," said one senior girl.*

*Many teenagers find it to be an interesting hangout, without knowing that it is private property. Those wishing to visit should first get permission from the landowners; they're known for shooting trespassers on sight – or so the story goes.*

As a child in the late 1950's, I too, had heard stories about Merna. One of those stories concerned mysterious lights that brightened as they approached and then disappeared. However, our story was that of a brakeman on a train who was mysteriously killed. The brakeman and his ghost train was said to run on the tracks at Merna, forever coming and going. I do not recollect if there was also a female ghost at Merna. I know that I never saw anything. – Jim Thoma