

Paranormal Underground™

Volume 3, Issue 1

January 2010



**MEDIUM P.I.'S JACKIE BARRETT
INVESTIGATES ... WITH A TWIST**

CELEBRITIES WITH TALES TO TELL

THE GLOWING GRAVESTONE

HIGH-QUALITY AUDIO ON A BUDGET

ORBS: PARANORMAL? OR NOT?

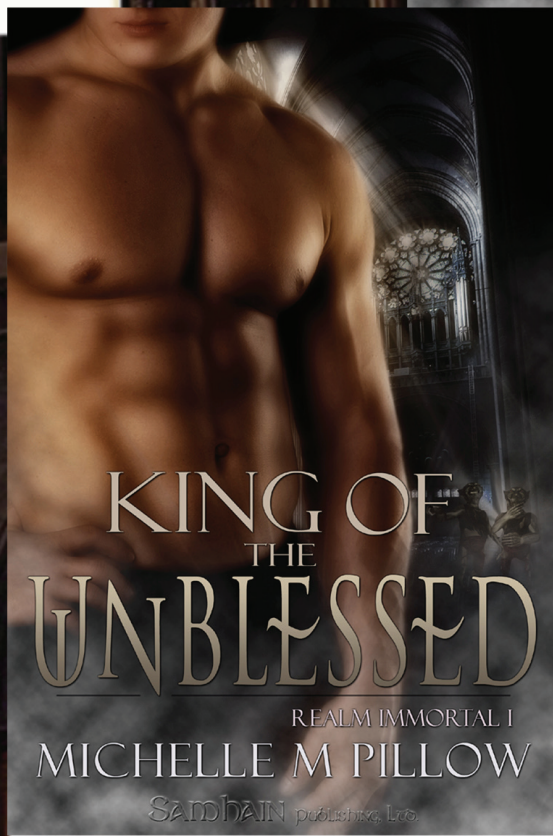
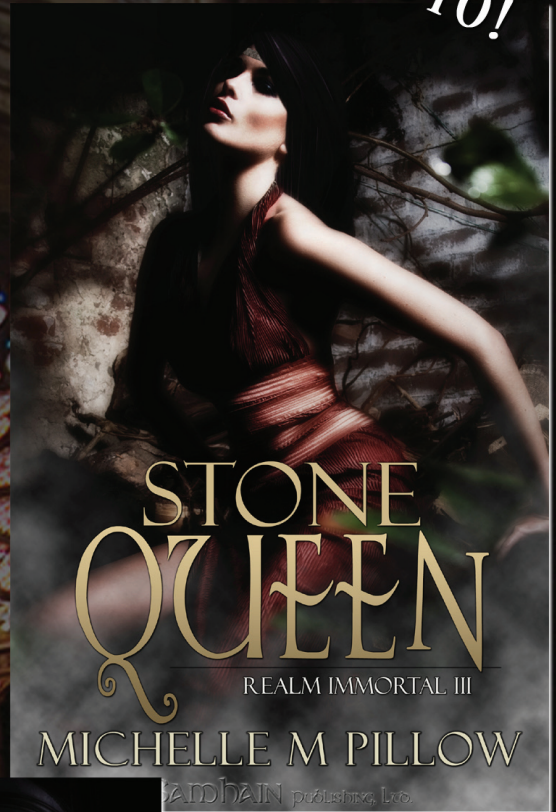
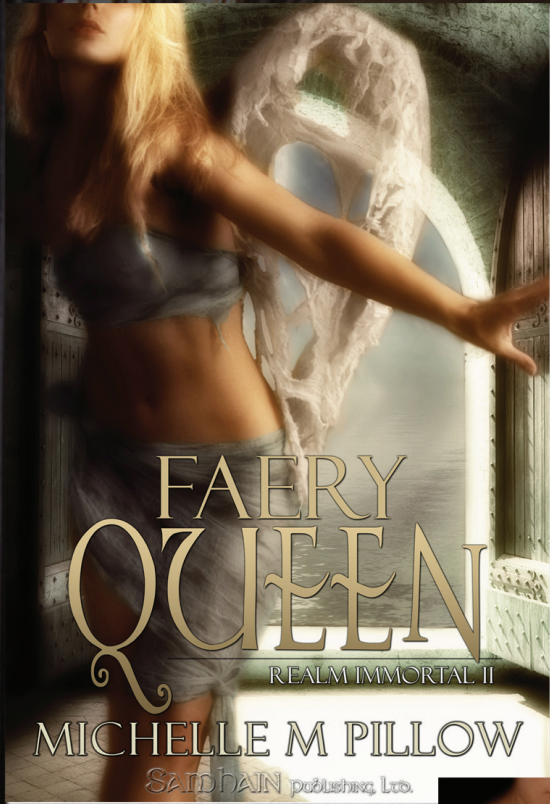
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- TV WATCH: *CELEBRITY GHOST STORIES*
- DIARY FROM A HAUNTED HOTEL
- DO WE KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT UFOs?
- BOOK REVIEW: *WASHINGTON'S HAUNTED HOTSPOTS*
- MOVIE REVIEW: *ORPHAN*

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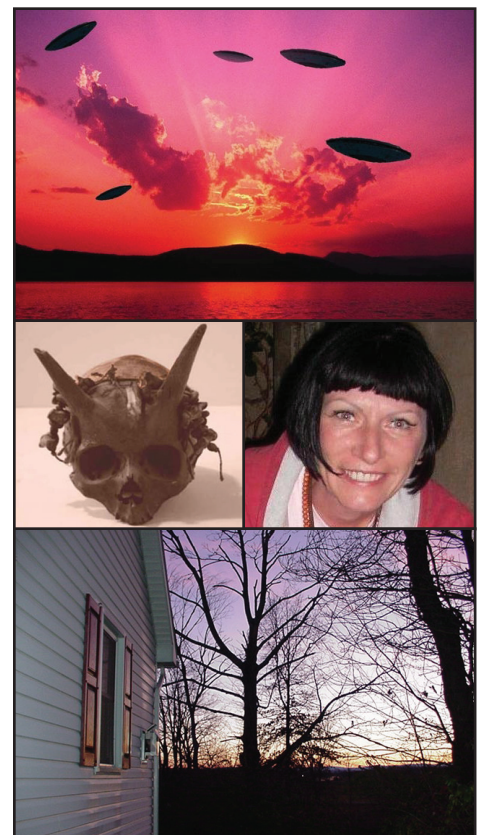
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Heidi Ann

Heidi Ann has been a paranormal enthusiast since childhood when she had her own encounter. Her personal experience led her to question the world around her.



Heidi is a mother of three sons, works as a special education paraprofessional in a middle school, and loves watching television shows and reading books on the paranormal.

Karen Frazier

Karen is the managing editor of *Paranormal Underground* magazine. After living in a WWII-era apartment 20 years ago where unexplainable things happened, Karen began to search for answers about the paranormal.



Now she combines that interest with her professional experience as a copy writer and technical writer to help bring *Paranormal Underground* to the public. Karen is a partner with Ghost Knight Media.

Terri J. Garofalo

Terri is a paranormal investigator, as well as the author and illustrator of *Entities-R-Us*, a Ghost Hunter Comic. For more information, visit www.entities-r-us.com.



Imbar Golt

Imbar Golt is a radio presenter, public speaker, and writer. She has written in many publications in English and Hebrew on a variety of

topics, ranging from articles about people with special needs to travel features.

Imbar is based in Israel. For more information, visit www.differentview.co.il/en or write to imbar@netvision.net.il.



Rick E. Hale

A native of Chicago, Rick is the cofounder of the Greater Illinois Ghost Society. A paranormal researcher since the age of eight, Rick is happily married and digs Jazz.

He believes in the use of the scientific method in gathering evidence of paranormal claims. Rick can be contacted at t_seeker@hotmail.com.



Carolyn M. Hughes

As a night manager in a haunted hotel on the Gettysburg battlefield, Carolyn has had ghostly experiences both at work and while on the battlefield. She considers the ghosts of the soldiers that haunt Gettysburg as 'her boys.'

Carolyn shares her experiences with *Paranormal Underground* in her column, *Diary of a Haunted Hotel*.



Cheryl Knight

Cheryl is editor-in-chief of *Paranormal Underground* magazine. She has been a professional writer and editor



for more than 20 years. Cheryl is combining her writing, editing, and design talents — along with a fascination of the paranormal — to bring you *Paranormal Underground* each month.

Her previous magazine experience includes roles as Senior and Managing Editor for several niche-market publications. Cheryl is a partner for Ghost Knight Media (www.ghostknightmedia.com).

Richard Lombardi

Richard is 39 years old and lives in Sarasota, Florida. He has worked in the movie theater industry for 15 years. Richard has always been interested in the paranormal, movies, and TV shows since childhood.

"I am also lucky enough to have had an extra bit as a zombie in a movie, called *After Sundown*, which was a lot of fun."



Christopher May

Chris has obtained his master's degree in justice leadership from Marshall University and is currently working toward a master's in counseling. He grew up listening to Appalachian ghost tales told to him by his grandmother, who claimed to have experienced many of them herself as a child.

Chris is a skeptical believer in the paranormal and approaches the field from a scientific point of view. He attempts to get out and investigate whenever he is not spending time with his wife and two children.



Gene Melvin

Gene has been interested in the paranormal and horror since an early age. Although he has never had a paranormal experience, he stays open-minded and recognizes the possibilities.



Gene is married, the father of a three-year-old girl, and a funeral director in the family run funeral home and operates his own monument company. In his spare time, he enjoys hanging out with friends, time with his daughter, horror movies, paranormal shows and books, riding his Harley, and competitive shooting.

Michelle M. Pillow

Michelle is an award-winning author writing in many romance fiction genre, including futuristic and paranormal. A skeptical believer, she has a fascination with anything paranormal.



She's also a photographer and cohost of Raven Radio. Readers and listeners can contact Michelle through her Website, www.michellepillow.com. You can catch her latest three book series, *Realm Immortal (King of the Unblessed; Faery Queen; and Stone Queen)* in bookstores in January 2010.

Andrew Selfridge

Andrew is an investigator with the Central Oklahoma Paranormal Studies. A police officer by



trade, Andy brings seven years of law enforcement experience and critical thinking to his investigative approach, with a strong emphasis on the purity of data collection and preservation of evidence.

Andrew says that a critical approach to paranormal phenomena is essential, but also believes that a human, compassionate mentality is required when dealing with clients living with anomalous activity.

T. Stokes

T. Stokes is a holistic palmist, author, broadcaster, and lecturer, in paraspiritual studies. A writer for magazines worldwide, he trained for more than 10 years at the Harry Edwards school of spirit mediumship and guidance.

For more information, visit www.tstokes.co.uk.

Ryan Tackitt

Ryan is the founder of Paranormal Investigators of Central Texas (PICT). He is a certified paramedic working in Waco, Texas, and a part-time EMS instructor at the local community college.

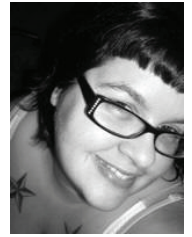


He created PICT after meeting with coworkers who believed in the paranormal. Together, Ryan and his friends educate, investigate, and help people who have paranormal problems. Ryan has had many personal paranormal experiences over his lifetime and realizes that science can only explain so much.

Regan C. Vacknitz

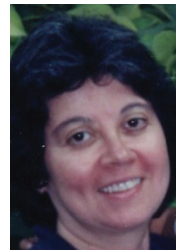
Regan is a psychic medium, lead investigator, and cofounder of Auburn Paranormal Activities Research

Team (A.P.A.R.T.) of Washington. She is an active researcher, investigator, writer, and photographer. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/11thhourphotography.



Cecilia Valenzuela

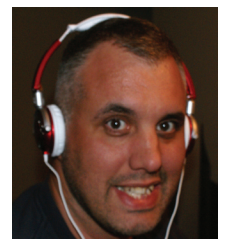
Cecilia is a full-time entrepreneur who has become successful through her mentorship experience with others. She is a successful online business entrepreneur/translator who assists others with their own online business dreams.



A native of Chile, Cecilia came to the United States as an exchange student teacher. She has lived in numerous states in the U.S., but fell in love with the desert. She is also a translator educator and advocate of a healthy lifestyle. For more information, visit www.my-arizona-desert-living.com/index.html.

Chad Wilson

A writer of articles and fiction, Chad is the publisher of *Paranormal Underground* and a partner for Ghost Knight Media (www.ghostknightmedia.com). He has parlayed his avid interest in the paranormal into a top-notch publication and Website.



Chad has investigated with East Tennessee Paranormal Research Society and counts Waverly Hills, the Villisca Axe Murder House, and private residences among his investigations. ■

Ghost Knight Media, LLC



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Investigating the Unknown

I am a big supporter of individual truth. My definition of individual truth is defined as something that is true to one, but not always true for others.

The truths we know are determined by our life experiences, and seeing how each individual experiences life through their own unique perceptions, it is no wonder that people see things in ways different from others, even those who experience the same event. But we also need to understand the way the human mind works, and of how easy it is to misperceive what we see or hear.

With things such as visual and audio pareidolia, or matrixing as some call it, it is easy to understand how some see patterns amidst the chaos. Humans crave structure and control in their everyday lives. What better way to impose control on a world we don't completely understand than by seeking patterns.

So when you see the face in a reflection on a window, or hear a voice amongst the voices of others on an audio recording, try to ask yourself, is there something really there, or is it my mind creating something out of the chaos?

On the other hand, just because something can't be proven does not discount the fact that unexplained

phenomena might be going on. It would be naïve of any one, scientist or otherwise, to say we understand and have experienced all there is to see and experience in the world around us.



Chad Wilson,
Publisher

When something paranormal takes place, sometimes we can't explain what happened using what we, at present, know about how the physical world around us works. Yes something is still occurring, we just don't at this time understand what it is. This is simply due to our parameters being limited to what is currently understood by science.

I believe that we should always strive to investigate the unknown, but we should temper that quest with the understanding that not all is known at this time. Be open to the myriad of possibilities that are out there, and at the same time realize that the way our mind works can sometimes lead to false observations.

I think, someday, science and in turn the world will better understand the paranormal, but until then, it will just have to remain as unexplained phenomena. ■

Want to give your views on paranormal topics? We welcome your comments on our forum at www.paranormalunderground.net/site/forum/. Please join in on the discussions!

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www.ParanormalUnderground.net

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ARE WE ALONE?
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LIVING CREATURES BEYOND OUR EARTH

TV WATCH:
BEND HUMAN FEATURES THREE
UNUSUAL CHARACTERS

ALSO INSIDE:

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- CHEVROSE,
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**THE LEGEND OF
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AVALANCHE OF SPIRITS
THE GHOSTS OF WELLINGTON

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- DIARY FROM A HAUNTED HOTEL

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GHOST-HUNTING GROUP?**

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WAVERLY HILLS SANATORIUM

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Celebrities Tell a Tale

In this issue of *Paranormal Underground*, we talk to psychic/medium Jackie Barrett, who is currently starring in the A&E and Biography Channel show *Medium P.I.* For more than 24 years, Jackie has teamed up with police and federal authorities to find clues to unsolved murders. She is also an advisor to clients around the world, including celebrities in the music and entertainment industries, politicians, socialites, and professional athletes.

A #1 best-selling author for her book *The House That Kay Built*, Jackie has practiced occultism, voodoo, witchcraft, and spirituality for more than two decades. Her ability to communicate with the dead and guide the living evolved after a childhood of unique experiences, paranormal and otherwise. To read more about Jackie, turn to page 16.

This month, our special reports focus on celebrity ghost stories and the true origins of orbs. In "Celebrities With Tales to Tell," writer Rick E. Hale fills us in on some spine-chilling celebrity ghosts stories, including encounters from Nicholas Cage, Richard Dreyfuss, and David Bowie. Check out page 22 to find out more.

And in "Orbs: Paranormal? Or Something Else?" paranormal investigator Ryan Tackitt discusses that most of the time, there are natural explanations for orbs captured in digital photos and on film (page 26).

This issue's TV Watch (page 14) covers the Biography Channels *Celebrity Ghost Stories*. The show features celebrities sharing terrifying, or touching, first-hand accounts of



their paranormal experiences.

You also won't want to miss our Case Files of the Unknown section, where we feature:

- Haunted Sites: "The Glowing Gravestone."
- Haunted History: "She Walks the Dark Hills."
- Cryptids & Mythological Creatures: "... Of Giants, Shorties, and Horny Dudes."
- Are We Alone?: "Do We Know the Truth About UFOs?"

And in our Personal Experiences section, Carolyn M. Hughes' continuing "Diary From a Haunted Hotel" reveals heightened paranormal activity at the Gettysburg hotel where she works as a night auditor. And in "Dorm Hauntings," writer Imbar Gold shares with us her unexplainable experiences at three different haunted dormitories.

And if you want to learn more about "High-Quality Audio Recording on a Budget," turn to our Equipment Update on page 52 to view paranormal investigator Andrew Selfridge's high-def audio recommendations.

I hope you enjoy this issue.
Happy reading! ■

~ Cheryl Knight
Editor-in-Chief

Paranormal Underground™

Volume 3, Issue 1 January 2010

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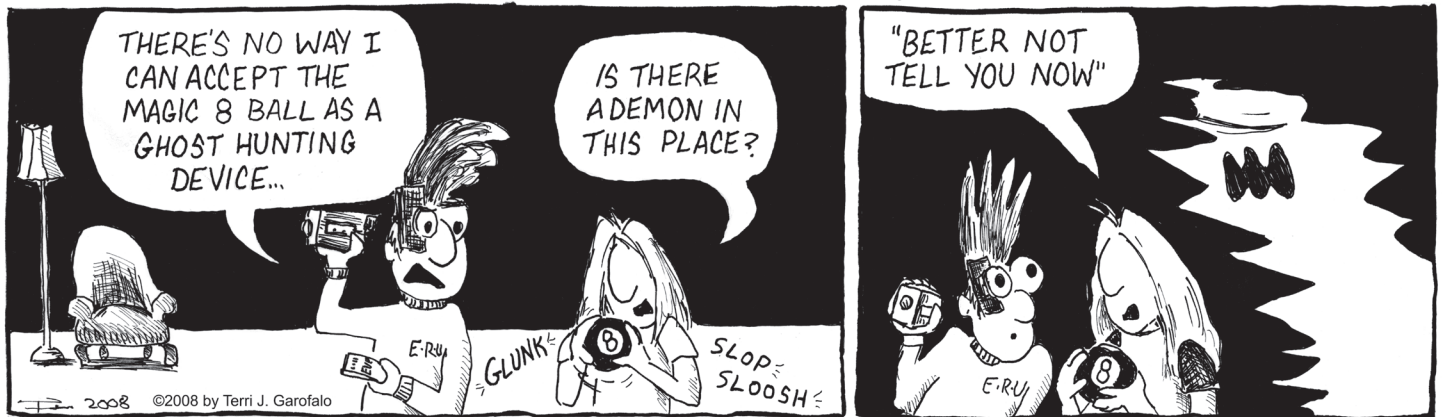
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RECOMMENDATIONS!**

Calendar of Events

January 8-10

QuatreCon
Mare Island Naval Shipyard
Solano County Fairgrounds
Vallejo, California
www.quatrecon.com

January 8-11

Ghosts of Cooperstown
Cooperstown, New York
www.ghostofcooperstown.com/terms.html

February 21-27



International UFO Conference
Aquarius Casino Resort
Laughlin, Nevada
<http://ufocongress.com/>

February 26-28

Gulf Coast ParaCon
Nix Center
Fairhope, Alabama
www.gulfcoastparacon.com

March 12-13

Southeast Texas Paranormal
Convention
Beaumont Civic Center, Texas
www.texasghostshow.com

March 12-14

Eastern Paranormal Investigators
Co-Op Conference
The Cavalier Hotel
Virginia Beach, Virginia
<http://epiccon.com>

March 25-28

Phenomenology 102
Eisenhower Hotel
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
www.phenomenology102.northeasternparanormal.org

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
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April 9

Queen City Paranormal
Convention
Cincinnati, Ohio
Historic Music Hall
www.queencityparacon.com

May 7-8



Indiana Paranormal Convention
Danville, Indiana
www.indyparacon.com

May 8

Mission Paranormal Convention
1 p.m.-9 p.m. CDT
San Marcos, Texas
For more information, e-mail
alcaladora45@yahoo.com

May 15-16

Shadowz Paranormal and
Wellness Expo
Jackson County Fairgrounds
Pascagoula, Missouri
<http://shadowzparanormal.com>

June 25-26

Haunted America Midwest
Conference
Decatur, Illinois
www.americanspookshows.com

August 6-8

Canadian - American Paranormal
Convention
Quality Inn
Sarnia, Ontario, Canada
www.canamparacon.com

August 21-22



Second Annual Ohio Paranormal
Convention
Dayton, Ohio
www.ohioparacon.com/

August 28

Haunted America East Coast
Conference
Details coming soon
Cape Cod
www.americanspookshows.com

October 9-16

First Annual Paranormal Cruise
Norwegian Cruise Line's Epic
Miami, Florida
<http://wisdominlight.com/paranormalcruise2010.html>

October 29-29

Haunted Horrors Paranormal and
Film Convention
The Marriott MeadowView Confer-
ence Resort and Convention Center
Kingsport, Tennessee
www.thehauntedhorrors.com

November 5-7



ScareFest Horror & Paranormal
Convention
Lexington Center
Lexington, Kentucky
www.thescarefest.com

Eerie Outpost Unnerves U.S. Marines



Marines stationed at Observation Point Rock in Afghanistan have reported that the area could be haunted. Locals say it is cursed, and U.S. Marines stationed there have reported seeing strange lights and hearing unexplainable sounds.

The Marines said they found human remains buried at the Point, including a leg and skeleton still wearing a pair of glasses, according to www.timesonline.co.uk.

Observation Point Rock is located a few hundred meters southeast of Patrol Base Hassan Abad. According to the report, the area is an exposed outpost 65 feet above the surrounding landscape. Groups of Marines are posted to guard it, usually for a couple of months at a time. Many American troops call the base “the haunted Observation Point.”

Reports say there are members of the Taliban entombed in caves below the post. And the bodies found buried on the summit were identified as dead Russian soldiers from the failed Soviet invasion.

“The Brits claimed to see weird things, hear noises,” said Marine Corporal Jacob Lima. “Lots of them said it’s creepy at night, especially from midnight till 4 a.m. You see a lot of unexplained lights through night-vision goggles.”

Peter Jackson Recalls Ghostly Encounter

Famed *Lord of the Rings* director Peter Jackson recently revealed that he saw a ghost 20 years ago. The sighting took place at an apartment he and his wife shared) opposite New Zealand’s St. James Theatre) when they first met 20 years ago.

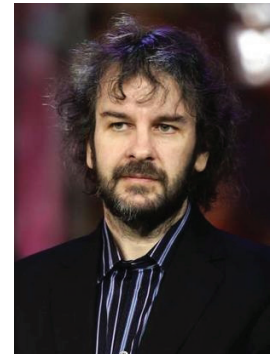
Jackson woke up one morning to see the figure of a woman standing in his room. The figure proceeded to glide across the room and through a wall.

“I woke up one morning and there was a figure in the room. She was very scary, she had a screaming face, very accusatory, she was a lady about 50 years old,” Jackson said, according to www.stuff.co.nz.

When Jackson began to ask his wife about it later, she responded, “Was it the woman with the screaming face?” Apparently, Jackson’s wife, Fran, saw the same woman in the room about two years before.

Some say the ghost Jackson and his wife encountered comes from the St James Theatre, where a woman supposedly committed suicide after being booed off the stage after a bad vaudeville show that took place long ago.

“She needs to learn to smile a little,” Jackson said.



San Antonio Police Release 911 Call Reporting Bigfoot Sighting

The San Antonio police recently released an audio recording of a November 30, 2009, 911 dispatch call from a homeless couple that reportedly spotted a bigfoot near their tent in the woods of northwest San Antonio. The audio recording lasted more than eight minutes.

“And I know you guys are going to think I’m crazy, but I’m dead serious,” a woman said on the recording. “This big thing was 75 feet away from me, smelled awful, devoured a whole deer carcass, and then took off and screamed, screeched, and took off across the street,” according to www.kfgo.com.

The woman’s 63-year-old husband reported that the creature was taller than 6’3”. The couple told police that the creature walked upright as it carried a deer carcass off into the woods. Dispatchers sent an officer by the location the night of the 911 report but found no sign of the couple or the creature.



Britain Shuts Down UFO- Investigating MoD Department



Britain's Ministry of Defense department that investigated UFOs sightings was recently closed after almost 60 years in existence. The department, which handled more than 12,000 UFO sightings (135 just last year), assessed threats posed by UFO sightings throughout Britain.

Any reports made going forward will not be investigated or followed up on since the hotline has been closed, according to www.telegraph.co.uk. The reason for the closure: The MoD said responding to every UFO sighting "diverts MoD resources from tasks that are relevant to Defense."

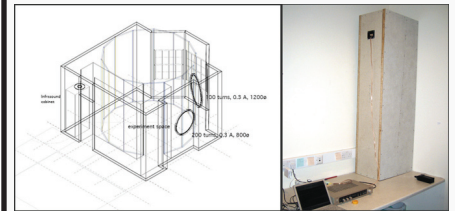
General's Widow Says Roswell Was Extraterrestrial in Nature

Rogene Cordes, the widow of a U.S. Air Force General, revealed that the controversial Roswell crash of 1947 was, in fact, an extraterrestrial event. Her husband, General Harry Nations Cordes possessed Top Secret/SCI clearance and was stationed at Roswell Army Air Field in July of 1947 and later at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. He also worked at Area 51, had been employed by the CIA, acted as Deputy Chief of Staff at Intelligence Headquarters for the Strategic Air Command (SAC), and led many intelligence functions at the Pentagon.

Rogene Cordes revealed that her husband told her, "The object was flying and it was unidentified. The machine was tracked by White Sands radar and those folks didn't know what the hell was happening . . . It was no balloon. Jesse Marcel told the truth," according to <http://ufocon.blogspot.com>.



Scientists Create a Haunted Room Experiment



In an effort to test whether or not it's possible to artificially induce paranormal experiences — or to technologically summon a spirit — researchers at London's Goldsmith College and architect Usman Haque created a haunted room, complete with high electromagnetic fields, and infrasound waves.

According to www.wired.com, Christopher French, head of Goldsmith's Anomalous Psychology Research Unit and editor of the *Skeptic* magazine, built the haunted room, which included a white, wood-frame canvas tent nine feet in diameter, located in the front room of a London row house. Hidden speakers cast infrasound waves. Other speakers projected sound waves that produce an electromagnetic frequency used in "laboratory stimulation of paranormal feeling."

Seventy-nine students, friends of Haque, and other volunteers spent time in the room, which operated during the fall of 2006. After spending less than an hour in the room, nearly three-quarters reported having more than three unusual feelings. Six percent felt nothing.

According to the report, among the common sensations were dizziness, tingling, disembodiment, dream-remembrance, and a feeling of "presence." French said that the results seemed to be based on suggestibility, not on the environmental factors.

CELEBRITIES SHARE THEIR PARANORMAL ENCOUNTERS

BY HEIDI ANN

Stories about ghosts have been around almost as long as mankind has existed. People from all cultures and walks of life have reported having paranormal experiences. On the Biography Channel's *Celebrity Ghost Stories*, even the famous have ghost stories to tell.

On each episode, celebrities share terrifying – or touching – first-hand accounts of their paranormal experiences. Each reenacted incident is extremely suspenseful and takes the viewing audience through otherworldly events that lead to a sometimes harrowing, sometimes painful, and occasionally comforting climax.

Celebrities Share Their Stories of Paranormal Encounters

Some paranormal incidents are from the celebrities' childhood years . . .

Actress Teri Polo recounted a frightening encounter she had as an eight-year-old child after forming an eerie connection with a dying man. Famed director John Waters shared an experience he had at age 10 in the woods at summer camp – an experience he found comforting and that he credits for helping him become the man he is today.

Actor Tom Arnold takes his adolescent anger out on a pipe organ in his home, causing the instru-



On the Biography Channel's *Celebrity Ghost Stories*, even the famous have ghost stories to tell.

ment's former owner to take revenge . . . from the grave. And Justine Bateman's Grandpa Joe shows her that death doesn't keep someone from pulling practical jokes.

Some Stories Are Truly Stranger Than Fiction

Some incidents relayed on the show are far more recent . . .

Dee Snyder, lead singer of the rock and roll group Twisted Sister, had a brush with the paranormal after his brother-in-law's tragic murder. Scott Baio received an emotional message from his father after he passed away.

Actor James Kyson Lee had a terrifying encounter with a spirit in his hotel room after reading an underground paranormal magazine to prepare for a movie roll. Carrie Fisher of *Star Wars* fame shares the heart-breaking loss of her friend Greg, who died suddenly in her bed.

It seemed that his spirit wasn't ready to leave the house just yet.

Four months before his unexpected death inside a hotel closet, actor David Carradine talked about the ghost of his wife's first husband that still hung around the house they shared. And in a "truth is stranger than fiction" moment, Carradine revealed how the ghost liked to hang out in their closet.

On October 10, 2009, *Celebrity Ghost Stories* received the honor of being spoofed on Saturday Night Live. The sketch included Drew Barrymore portraying a frightened Sharon Osbourne and Justin Long doing a dead-on Matthew McConaughey impersonation of being haunted by "sexy ghosts."

Currently, repeats of the first season of *Celebrity Ghost Stories* are being aired on the Biography Channel and A&E. Check your local listings for more information. ■

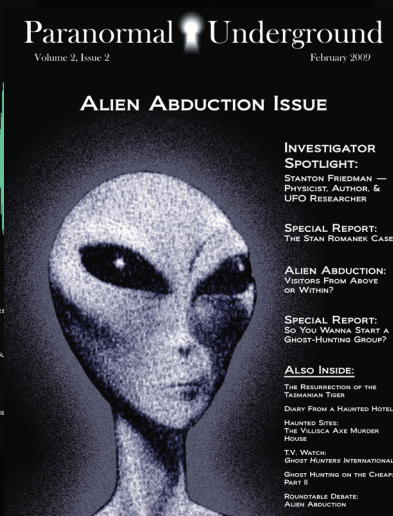
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Jackie Barrett Investigates Unsolved Murders . . . With a Twist

By Cheryl Knight, Chad Wilson, and Karen Frazier

For more than 24 years, Jackie Barrett has worked as a psychic medium, teaming up with police and federal authorities to find new clues to unsolved murders. She is also an advisor to clients around the world, including celebrities in the music and entertainment industries, politicians, socialites, and professional athletes.

A #1 best-selling author for her book *The House That Kay Built*, Jackie has practiced occultism, voodoo, witchcraft, and spirituality for more than two decades. Her ability to communicate with the dead and guide the living evolved after a childhood of unique experiences, paranormal and otherwise.

Jackie — who is a member of the Voodoo Spiritual Temple of New Orleans, where she is known as “the healer” — has conducted paranormal investigations in the most haunted sites throughout America, such as Eastern State Penitentiary, the Castle Inn, the Lizzie Borden B&B, the Liberace House in Las Vegas, and the Queen Mary.

You might have seen Jackie most recently on the new A&E and Biography Channel show *Medium P.I.* She was also a runner-up on

the Lifetime Network reality show *America’s Psychic Challenge*.

Jackie’s efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina earned her the nickname Guardian Angel of New



Psychic medium Jackie Barrett donates her time to assisting police in solving cold case files across the United States.

Orleans. And her efforts with the Red Cross and the Jackie Barrett Foundation have raised millions of dollars for disaster relief.

The *Paranormal Underground* team recently talked with Jackie about her experiences and thoughts on the paranormal.

* * * * *

Cheryl: Tell us about yourself and the type of work you do.

Jackie: I tend to look at myself as an average person. My work is different, but I say hello to my neighbors and sweep my own front yard.

I travel on and off with law enforcement or I’m in court or going over case studies and autopsy reports. I retrace the steps of folks that were here and now are gone. Also, keeping my regular clients, meaning my clients who have been with me for years.

Cheryl: When did you first learn that you were a psychic medium, and can you describe the type of abilities you have?

Jackie: I grew up in a very unusual family. There were a lot of us, including extended members of the family in the home as well. My grandpa and grandma were undertakers, so we had this big house.

My mom was a spiritualist to many of the people in Hollywood and New Orleans, and my dad was a medicine man. So we would see this activity coming and going in our house all the time. There were six of us, and I was the youngest and the only girl.

When I was about five or six, my mom would bring me to this client's house who lived down the road. She had a son who was my age, and he had braces and used to sit in a high chair all the time. Then, I didn't see the little boy for about a week or so. Nobody said anything about it. My room was on the top floor across from my grandma's room. That's where I saw him, but I saw him standing for the first time. We didn't speak, but yet we spoke. He was giving me information as he was doing an action. He looked down, moved his legs, and told me he was OK and he didn't have any more pain. His fingers and knuckles weren't buckling and he seemed fine.

I followed him, and he ran up and down the stairs. This went on for quite a few days. I remember my mom coming into the room, and she heard me laughing. She opened up the door, and I'll never forget it. She looked directly at him, and then she looked at me, and then she said, "You have to let him go."

I didn't see this kid in my imagination. Afterward, I didn't freak out or have nightmares. I was raised that we respect and honor the dead.

So, it just kept progressing from there.

Cheryl: After that initial incident, did your abilities gradually increase?

Jackie: Well, it's always been in our family. My grandmother came from the background of Sicilian witchcraft, and my mom incorporated that into voodoo. Then later on in life, I incorporated different things into my native and voodoo background.

Cheryl: Do you think that individuals who are exposed to that type of thinking or lifestyle are more receptive or open to psychic experiences?



Pictured above are *Medium P.I.* stars Jackie Barrett (at left) and retired NYPD Captain Sean Crowley (middle) in action on a cold case using scuba diving techniques.

Jackie: Absolutely not. I think it can be anyone. You don't have to have a religion. You can be an atheist.

Cheryl: You mentioned that your first experience was visual and mental. Do you think it works the same for other psychics?

Jackie: To be honest, I don't hang out and pow wow with other psychics, so I don't know. I don't play well with others.

Cheryl: Did you do any formal training to develop your gifts?

Jackie: This ability has been in my family for decades, I was aware of it as young as age five or six.

Cheryl: Whose work in the field do you respect the most and why?

Jackie: As for work in this field that I most respect is the teachings and philosophies of Anton LaVey.

Cheryl: In the course of your work, do you find people more skeptical or more accepting of what you do?

Jackie: During the many years of my work, as time goes on I find more people opening their minds and hearts to the idea that there is something bigger than all of us.

Cheryl: What would our readers be surprised to find out about you?

Jackie: Readers would be most surprised to know that beyond my work, I am a regular person with five cats, a dog, and family.

Cheryl: Can you talk about the most impactful case or cases you've ever worked on?

Jackie: Every case that I work on, going back to cases as long ago as 20 years, still impacts me. Every day I am with them, and they are with me always.



Jackie's work with the victims of Hurricane Katrina earned her the nickname "Guardian Angel of New Orleans." The Jackie Barrett Foundation now helps those in need of disaster relief.

Barrett Foundation.

Jackie: The Jackie Barrett Foundation came out of Hurricane Katrina itself. I was back home in New Orleans for a book signing, and I had a conversation with the temple and the mayor. We felt that something wasn't right. A big storm was going to hit at some point. And my parents were still out there. I had some vested interest in some of the older folks as well in some of the nursing homes and what have you.

I came home to New York, and I just knew I wasn't going to see the place anymore as I once knew it. Then sure enough the storm hit. The only way I could generate the attention was to go ahead and do *America's Psychic Challenge* to generate the money to help the people that were for years living under the highway in tents and the folks being misplaced.

After one of my book signings in the Virgin Megastore store and Tower Records store in the French Quarter, they started the Jackie Barrett Foundation and all the fundraising. Every time someone purchased one of my books from them or one of my writings, the corporation doubled the money, and it went right into the Red Cross and military that were based there as well.

It took on a life of its own and continued.

Cheryl: How did you get the nickname Guardian Angel of New Orleans?

Jackie: It had to do with a group home there, called Covenant House. They are right across the street from my temple, the Voodoo Spiritual Temple, and we would help those people there, including the nuns.

After the storm, I went down there to see what I could do. And to also get people into housing. My house was still standing in the

Cheryl: You've worked with clients all over the world. Can you tell us about some of your most famous clients and the type of work you've done for them?

Jackie: I don't measure people on fame or status. It is a job like any other. Some of my clients are in the entertainment industry and or politicians, but it does not make them any different than the school teachers I work with.

The type of work I do with every client varies based on their needs. Everyone has different pressures and lifestyles — some harder than others, but all equally important to me.

Cheryl: What's your main goal in your work as a psychic medium?

Jackie: It really took a turn for me. It wasn't always glitz and glamour, even though I could have had it that way.

But the murders kept coming. They wouldn't stop. My main goal now is to see as many people behind bars as I possibly can. And after what I've seen, I want to have a little happiness for myself.

Cheryl: You have conducted paranormal investigations in some of the most haunted of sites throughout America. Which sites would you deem the most haunted and why?

Jackie: The most haunted? It's probably my house . . . me inside my mind.

There are hauntings everywhere, but most haunted . . . probably a cell in Mexico. I went to this prison/insane asylum in Mexico, and I found it to be very interesting. It really takes a lot to rattle me.

Cheryl: Tell us about your work with the Red Cross and the Jackie

French Quarter, but my parents' house went down. I was able to house some elderly at my house and some young children. So, Bernardo the artist gave me an award for being The Guardian Angel of New Orleans. He's related to the mayor and politicians in Louisiana.

Today, the Jackie Barrett Foundation is for all disasters — wherever the money is needed. I don't touch it. It goes straight to disaster-related events.

I lost my family in the storm, so it meant a lot to me to do this. My mom and dad were very strong people, and they decided not to run any more.

Karen: You placed second on the TV show *America's Psychic Challenge*. Some viewers say you were unfairly edited by the show's producers. How do you feel you were edited and represented on the show?

Jackie: Editing is part of TV, and they needed a good show. I'm not one for watering things down, and I guess they had to have some excitement. I didn't feel too good about the editing. They needed a yin and yang, and they made me look like Satan's daughter.

I did it for a good cause. I did it for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and the Red Cross.

Cheryl: Why did you decide to do the TV show *Medium P.I.*?

Jackie: *Medium P.I.* is going to be a series on A&E and Biography. On the show, my partner, Sean Crowley, and I investigate cold cases. Sean knows my technique, and he's a pretty incredible person.

He is a retired NYPD homicide and cold case captain. He was also the head of the elite swat team and the head of hostage negotiation. He did a lot for New York City and for our country.

When Sean retired, we got into this private eye business together. He's handling most of our fraud cases and kidnapping, and I'm handling all the murders. I try to get these cases reopened.

Chad: What's it like to be psychic?

Jackie: Very disturbing at times. It's not something I set out to be. I didn't have to get any formal education, even though I had some pretty impressive missionaries show me quite a few things when I lived in Haiti.

It can be very frightening. It's never relaxing. I really don't like to be in crowded places, but I do it anyway. You have to come out of your comfort zone. It is what it is, and I don't see the big deal about it to be honest.

Chad: How would someone know if they are psychic?

Jackie: By having experiences and seeing if they last. Are they true, or are you kidding yourself? Are you wanting it? There are a lot of schizophrenics around this . . . I have to be honest.

“YOU HAVE TO BE READY, BECAUSE YOU'RE OPENING PANDORA'S BOX.”

If you really are psychic, I don't think you'd wish it on anyone. It's not a God-given gift. Like I said, what happens if you're an atheist? It's not something to look forward to every day.

Chad: After conducting séances all over the world, you must have some great stories to tell. What happens during your séances and what paranormal activity usually occurs?

Jackie: The true mediumship works like this — and the last time I've seen

the works of this was probably in the very late 1800s — you allow the spirit to enter your body. And how do you do that? You have to know how to be in full control. In doing so, what is this? It's necromancing. You're allowing the spirit to invade your body to gain information. This is not only how I do paranormal investigations, this is how I solve crimes and how I do séances.

Some will say that's dark and evil, and I'm opening up a door. But any time you communicate with the dead, you open the door. You swing that door open, and if you don't know what you're doing, it's fair game. Sometimes it's taken me two or three days to dispel of it, but you have to be ready because you're opening a Pandora's Box.

Chad: You are bonded by several DA's across the country, have been an informant with the TV show *America's Most Wanted*, and donate your time to assisting the police in solving cold case files across the country. What do you

have to say to those people who insist that psychics and mediums do not officially work with authorities to solve crimes?

Jackie: They do. I can't speak for other people as to how in-depth and close they work with authorities. But, there are quite a few NYC elite people that I've worked with almost half my life. I also have been issued a federal agent's badge, as well as a Captain's badge from NYC Police Captain Sean Crowley.

You have to do a lot to gain the

trust of authorities. I always wanted to write a book about this, but you know what, you just can't. There are some things you can't explain. There are others things that can be dangerous for your life. We're all living and working where all these criminals are going, so you have to be a little hard core.

I don't know how other cops utilize psychics, but I know that Sean is a no-nonsense type of man. He's not going to give you the time of day if you don't know what you're doing. Like I said, I've been with him a long time. It's all about "Show me what ya got."

I don't go to people and say, I had a vision, I woke up, I ran to the police station. They come to me.

Chad: You've worked with authorities on a number of high-profile serial killer cases, including the Night Stalker, Jeffrey Dahmer, and the Zodiac Killer cases. Were you officially involved in these cases?

Jackie: It's hard for me to say too much. The Night Stalker, Richard Ramirez, still has a lot of allies in Louisiana. If you can believe this, they have an art gallery dedicated to him. There were things done by Richard that people don't even know about.

"I'M NOT TOO FRIGHTENED OF MANY PEOPLE, BUT HIS CALMNESS, HIS COLLECTIVENESS, HIS DILIGENCE."

He often writes me and wants to know when I can come in the flesh.

Dahmer was a very intense case. There was something very evil about him, not just the cannibalism. I'm not too frightened of many people, but his calmness, his collectiveness, his diligence. He was actually making the perfect body via a ritual, while also consuming some other parts.

Sean was at the arrest of the NYC Zodiac. I worked with him to locate him and pin him down. Swat was the head of the team. There were two people I worked with in the swat team, along with Sean on the case.

People have this whole misconception about serial killers. Serial killers don't kill constantly. It has to be the right time for them. They can lay low for years and resurface again.

The whole Zodiac case was very, very intriguing because I had to put puzzles together, I had to know certain things, and I had to be accurate. How he was caught was when I said, "He's going to shoot his sister. Here he comes."

Chad: What are your impressions of the Damien Echols case?

Jackie: I started doing some of my own research a few years ago when someone called me up about it. I felt that there was someone else behind it. I brought this to their attention.

I saw *Paradise Lost*, so you know how editing goes. He came across as this obnoxious metal head in West Memphis, Arkansas, the Bible belt. I also felt he did not have the right representation. So, I started working on it and looked

into someone else related to the case. We came up with some new evidence that has to do with it. We can't reveal anything because he's trying to get a new trial. It's going to the Supreme Court.

I've spoken with Damien. He writes me. There are a lot of lies and misconceptions out there. I've taken a lot of flak for it.

Cheryl: When you're working serial killer cases, how do you "pick up" information?

Jackie: There are times when I hear my assistant talking on the phone as I'm passing by, and she's talking to a parent or law enforcement. And she tells them to send in a photo and information, but I already know. The only thing I can say is that it's like I'm holding their memory. When I get the information, I sit down with Sean and we go over it.

You have to be careful what you do with the information. How do you know it's not the predator calling? It's dangerous. You have to be careful, and you can't just be passing anything on to the authorities.

Chad: Can you talk about the types of cases that you partner with authorities on?

Jackie: They're all homicides. I usually don't talk openly about too many cases, unless I'm allowed to in advance. They are all very brutal. There is also a risk of flight with someone if they are watching or listening.

And now we have this new thing . . . let's put everything up on Facebook. We worked on something for about 12 months. We nailed the person down, and he got wind because the mother put it up on Facebook.

Karen: How do you deal on a day to day basis with all of this darkness and brutality? It seems like a pretty heavy load to carry.

Jackie: I really just wanted to be an author and an artist, which is what I went to school for. I am now back into that. I travel, I'm an art collector. I'm grounded.

Chad: What are your beliefs on the afterlife?

Jackie: There is certainly an afterlife,



Jackie is a member of the Voodoo Spiritual Temple of New Orleans, where she is known as “the healer.” She has practiced occultism, voodoo, witchcraft, and spirituality for more than two decades.

or I wouldn't be able to do what I'm doing. I have seen things that you cannot explain. I have tried to explain them. We make our Heaven and our afterlife.

We go to or haunt places that we loved during life. We stay with the ones left behind and try and have a last say, and try to guide them. I know for a fact that people's spirits linger on. I've seen spirits show empowerment, vengeance, and love.

I don't drink. I don't do drugs. Even though after all of this I probably should.

Chad: Are we the same people in death as we are in life?

Jackie: Say you have a real son of a bitch in life. Someone real cruel to animals, and they just don't give a damn about the human race. That's why you have malevolent spirits amongst us. You are the same as when you pass on. Only in death do we know the truth and see everything in its proper

form. We are superior in death.

Chad: Do you consider the spirits as a client as well?

Jackie: That's a very good question. No one has ever asked me that. Yes, I do. I honor them. There are things around my office that represent the deceased. They are best friends actually, because without them what would I do?

Chad: Do you have any advice for those with psychic abilities?

Jackie: I would just say get a notebook and write it down. Everything's a clue, and it's sort of like a jigsaw that you have to put together. Talk about it. I've used mirrors to conjure different things and do different spells. It's exactly like scrying. Anybody that needs to connect to psychic ability, start off with a tool at first. Myself, I like to move around and get up close and personal with it. You can sort of smell it as well.

There's a scent to it. It smells like death. You sort of know. You ground yourself and just go at it.

I'm very intrigued by the scientific part of it too. I have thousands of dollars of ghost hunting equipment, but I don't know what to do with it.

Karen: Do you have any current projects that you're working on?

Jackie: I'm very busy with a stressful case load. I'm working on *Medium P.I.* I'm also working on something that I wasn't going to let out of the bag, but it has to do with Ronnie De-Feo. He gave me all the rights to his story. There are some pretty strange things happening around the case. ■

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For more information, visit www.thehousethatkaybuilt.com and www.jackiebarrett.com. To listen to our entire podcast with Jackie, visit www.paranormalunderground.net/site/?p=2538.

CELEBRITIES WITH TALES TO TELL

BY RICK E. HALE, GREATER ILLINOIS GHOST SOCIETY

We live in a country that is absolutely obsessed with the rich and famous.

Seriously guys, I can't stand in line at the local supermarket without being assaulted by the celebrity "rag mags" and their headlines that slap me across the face.

I could care less whether or not pretty boy vampire and his main squeeze are having trouble finding that perfect six figure apartment in downtown Manhattan . . . or whether or not Brangelina will produce more spawn. And most of all, God forbid if I see another cover story on how Daddy Douchebag and Mommy Haircut are having difficulties coming to an agreement on visitations with their eight little offspring.

What I do care about are those stories that we never hear about — those stories where the rich, beautiful, and famous claim to have an encounter with something not of this world.

Many celebrities, like us, have a tale to tell, and a brilliant new show on the Biography channel, called *Celebrity Ghost Stories*, allows us to take a glimpse into the stories that have either made a celebrity's career, saved their lives, or destroyed a brilliant young musical career.



Actor Nicholas Cage bought the haunted LaLaurie House after experiencing a strange experience while staying in his uncle's attic.

Nicholas Cage Buys a Haunted Mansion

Actor Nicholas Cage, star of such films as *Con Air* and *National Treasure*, purchased one of the most notoriously haunted homes in our country. Cage bought the infamous LaLaurie House in the New Orleans French Quarter — the site of brutal

genocide by the hands of a petite 19th Century belle, Madame Delphine LaLaurie, who kept her slaves locked up in cages in the attic. She also performed gruesome surgical procedures on her unwilling participants.

Cage was well aware of the history and hauntings that were said to surround the home, but he didn't

care because the subject of ghosts and the occult thoroughly fascinated him. What exactly led Cage to this interest? It all started with an overnight stay in his uncle's attic.

When Cage was a struggling young actor, he found himself homeless. His uncle, Francis Ford Coppola, invited Cage to live in his attic. A few days after moving in, Cage said that as he was lying down to sleep he became aware of someone standing at the door watching him intently.

When he looked up, he could make out the dark shadow of a woman with black hair watching him. Thinking it was his aunt coming to say goodnight, Nick called out, "Goodnight." When the dark figure didn't answer and the room became ice cold, young Nicholas threw his pillow at the figure, which quickly disappeared right before his eyes.

Cage still gets the chills when he thinks about what he saw in his uncle's attic that night, and he was quoted as saying, "I can't say what I saw was a ghost, but whatever it was, it scared the hell out of me."

Robert Johnson: Making a Deal With the Devil

When I was a kid back in the 80s, heavy metal was king. I remember locking myself in my room and cranking Iron Maiden up so loud that it shook the very foundations of my parents' house. However, the one thing that still makes me laugh is the usual parental response that it would illicit.

I can still hear my mom yell, "Turn down that damn devil music." Of course that would only make me turn it up louder.

When it comes to satanically inspired music, face paint, blasting drums, and cheesy stage theatrics,



Robert Johnson, circa 1935, reportedly made a deal with the devil.

the lyrics of Delta Blues legend Robert Johnson is where it's at. When Johnson began his career as a blues musician, everyone who heard him perform pretty much had the same thing to say about the skinny, little kid from Mississippi, "Wow this guy really sucks."

However, a legend concerning this terrible bluesman arose when he took a few weeks off from his unsuccessful tour and allegedly sold his soul to the devil. The legend says that two years before his death, Johnson went to the crossroads near the old Dockery Plantation in Mississippi and stood waiting for the devil.

Around midnight of his second day, a large man wearing black clothing appeared in the crossroads and asked what the young man wanted. Johnson replied that he would give his very soul if he could become the

greatest bluesman of all the time.

The large, black-clad man, presumably the devil, took Johnson's guitar and tuned it to a perfect pitch. From that point on, Johnson not only became a legend in the blues world but became a legend in the occult one as well.

Unfortunately, Johnson was only 24 when he was murdered by the jealous husband of a woman he tried picking up in a bar. The man spiked Robert's whiskey with strychnine, and the greatest blues guitarist of all time died. It appeared the devil had his due.

I have always been fascinated with this story. Is it possible that Johnson was touched by the dark side? Those who knew him best reported that he was no longer annoying to listen to when he returned from the crossroads.

There's a hysterical episode of *Metalocalypse* where Dethklok pays homage to this legend when they go down South to learn the blues and attempt to sell their souls to the devil. The devil wasn't quite so lucky — he wound up selling his soul for a \$5 gift card to Hot Topic. Funny stuff, but not so funny for Robert Johnson.

A Ghost Saves Dreyfuss?

Drug use and fame appear to go hand in hand. We are constantly reminded of this sad fact every time we see Lindsay Lohan's face plastered on magazine covers with the news that she is once again involved with drug- and alcohol-induced hijinx.

But what about one of America's most respected actors, Richard Dreyfuss? What brought him to the depths of a ravenous addiction to cocaine? And, furthermore, what saved his life? A visitation from a ghost of course.

In the late 1970s, shortly after the release of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, a film that not only was a huge hit but changed many folk's perceptions of the possibility of life beyond our world, Dreyfuss got whacked out of his mind on the booger sugar at a party. He then hopped in his car and wrapped it around a tree — almost ending the life and career of the actor.

By all reports, Dreyfuss should have been dead; however, the star made a complete recovery. While in the hospital, he claimed that as he lay in his bed convalescing, the spirit of a young girl would appear at the end of his bed and just stare at him, never saying a word.

To this day, Dreyfuss has insisted that the visitation from this little girl was not a drug- or trauma-induced hallucination and actually credits the little spirit with helping to clean up his life.

So who was this little spirit that would visit the movie star each night? Some, including Dreyfuss, believe that it was a little girl who may have died in a car accident or was killed by someone else who was high as a kite. Perhaps she was there to warn the actor that if he didn't change, he too could be responsible for the death of a child.

Music Icon Sting Flees Paranormal Activity

Way back in the 1980s, the post-punk band The Police was a force to be reckoned with as they ruled the charts with such hits as, "Don't Stand So Close" and

"Roxanne." The band can probably owe their success to the strong songwriting of their frontman Sting, and Sting just might owe his success to a lifetime of dealing with ghosts and living in haunted houses.

Sting, on many occasions, would relate stories to friends and fellow pop stars of his childhood living in a haunted house in Newcastle, England. As a child, the singer would witness fleeting apparitions walking the halls of the large home, and on more than one occasion, he watched as a battalion of ghostly Roman soldiers marched across his property to a bloody battle that was long since forgotten.

However, it would not be until the early 21st Century when Sting and his wife, Trudie, moved into a large mansion in Highgate, North London, that the paranormal would terrify him to the point of fleeing into the night.

Shortly after moving into the mansion with their 18-month-old daughter, the couple started to hear what sounded like heavy footsteps

running up and down the stairs, and they would oftentimes witness a black shadow running up and down the halls. However, it was not until the ghost turned its attention on their baby that the family felt that it was time to do something.

Sting claimed that as he sat in the next room, he could hear the baby begin to fuss. Thinking that perhaps the child needed to be fed or changed, the singer walked in and was greeted to a sight that made his blood run cold. The toys in the room were moving by themselves, and the mobiles were violently spinning out of control. Sting grabbed the child, and the little family fled from their home.

It was reported in a few London newspapers that Sting and Trudie contacted a local and well-respected paranormal group to come in and investigate the home, and possibly clear it of whatever lurked in the shadows of the mansion. The group determined that the home was a gateway where the spirits could come and go at will. Did the cleansing help? No one really knows.



Close Encounters of the Third Kind star Richard Dreyfuss turned his life around after encountering a ghostly spirit.

Was David Bowie Influenced by Aliens?

In 1972, David Bowie, one of the most influential musicians of our day released what was possibly the greatest concept album of all time, "The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders From Mars." Bowie donned the makeup, the costumes, and the name Ziggy Stardust. He told the tale of an alien visitor to our world who brought a

message of peace and love while rocking out on a guitar.

Unfortunately, this alien fell victim to his very fame and lost that message when fame, fans, and drugs eventually went to his head. Bowie touched off a short-lived but highly influential genre of music — glam rock — to which many modern-day Goth and Emo bands can trace their origins from.

Was this persona just a clever imagination at work, or was David Bowie inspired by something much more — something unexplained?

Ever since he was child in Great Britain, Bowie had an intense interest in the subject of ufology, even to the point of editing a newsletter on the subject as a teenager. In a February 1975 edition of *Cream* magazine, Bowie claimed that at several times in his life he had been witness to strange lights in the sky, as well as close encounters as an adult.

He also made the claim that he had a small, metal implant hidden in his body — which was put there after a close encounter with an alien being — that controlled his actions and gave him inspiration.

Later in his career, Bowie would claim that these encounters directly influenced him to come up with the idea for Ziggy Stardust and to make the cult classic film, *The Man Who Fell to Earth* — a film that somewhat mirrors the Stardust idea, except the alien was not a musician but rather an international business tycoon.

It is true that Bowie had a serious drug problem back in his early days, and many skeptics would make the claim that these hallucinations were caused by his heavy drug use;



Was David Bowie's creative persona, named Ziggy Stardust, alien-inspired? Bowie says, "Yes!"

however, Bowie still maintains that these episodes with alien beings did take place, leading to some of the best music the world has known.

British Musician Robbie Williams Has Close Encounters

Bowie is not the only musician to make the claim that visitations from alien beings influenced his career and led to incredible songs ideas. Robbie Williams, a British musician and former member of the British boy band Take That, claimed that after going solo, he would put his passion for the paranormal and alien beings to work for him in his music.

Williams claimed that ever since he was a child, he was fascinated by the idea of the paranormal and the possibility of our world having been visited by beings from other galaxies. Williams claimed to have had close encounters with UFOs on three

occasions: once as a child, once as he and his former bandmates travelled through Southern California, and once after he finished writing a song about alien contact.

Williams was a musician that took this subject very seriously and incorporated themes of alien visitation and abduction into his music. He took the subject so seriously that in 2008 he made a documentary for the BBC about UFOs and attended a UFO convention near Reno, Nevada.

Is Robbie Williams just another geek obsessed with Sci Fi, or is he a person just like you and I who has a story to tell? Perhaps.

Are Celebrity Sightings Any Different Than Ours?

Are celebrities just like us? Have many had encounters that they just cannot explain? It certainly would appear so. They are just more reluctant to speak of these encounters because of the potential negative impact on their careers.

Some who are skeptical of these celebrities and their stories would say, "Ya know what, these are just creative people with a creative imagination, and these are just stories they tell to make them seem more interesting."

I can agree; people do make either false claims or dream things up because they suffer from a fantasy-prone personality; however, if that is the case then the rest of us are just as guilty of such faux pas, and all claims of the paranormal should be thrown out the window because we all suffer from the same thing.

In my opinion, just because celebrities have an active, creative mind does not discount their stories. It just makes them more fascinating. ■

Orbs: Paranormal? Or Something Else?

By Ryan Tackitt, Paranormal Investigators of Central Texas

Orbs are the most commonly reported “paranormal” activity captured since the invention of the camera. And with technology advancing to where the majority of people today use digital cameras, they are even more common.

However, in reality, orbs are rarely paranormal, and they can be caused by anything from light reflecting off the lens or a bug or dust particle floating through the air. Weather, such as rain and snow, also causes the “orb effect.”

The history of orbs goes back a couple of centuries. One of the first reported orbs were called will-o'-the-wisp. They were a single light seen in swamps or marshes that were believed to lead people astray, sometimes deeper into the swamp or even to their death.

One story in particular can be found in K.M. Briggs’ book *A Dictionary of Fairies* that tells about Will the Smith. Bad in life, he was given a second chance by Saint Peter while standing at the gates of Heaven. However, he wastes his chance and is cursed to wander the Earth. The Devil gives Will the Smith a single burning coal to provide warmth for him, but he uses it to lure wanderers and travelers into swamps.

Another tale is an Irish version that follows along the same lines, ex-



Pictured above is an example of a single orb. It is most likely a dust particle, which moves around slowly and often moves in the direction of a draft.

cept the condemned man is named Drunk Jack who makes a deal with the Devil to pay the pub tab that Jack has incurred.

After the deal is struck, the Devil comes to collect his end of the deal, but Jack then gets the Devil to climb up a tree. While atop the tree, Jack carves a cross into the trunk of the tree, and the Devil is stuck.

The Devil agrees to erase the

deal with Jack if he removes the cross. Jack agrees to this, and the Devil comes down. But since Jack was not a good person in life, he is not allowed into Heaven when he dies. So Jack goes to Hell to plead for a place there, but the Devil rejects him. Instead, the Devil gives Jack a burning ember from Hell, and Jack places it in a carved turnip to be his lantern.

Just What Is an Orb?

Orbs have also been thought to be fairies and other mystical creatures, each with different and numerous stories that are too long to be mentioned here. Today, orbs are seen as ghosts that move about in video footage and especially in photographs.

With the advent of the digital camera, the technology has allowed them to be captured by all types of equipment, even by cell phones. Suddenly everyone with a camera is a professional photographer, and their pictures can be uploaded in seconds for the world to see.

Most people do not study how the settings, such as exposure, can affect how a picture will look when it's viewed later. Let's examine some examples of orbs in photographs.

The picture on the previous page is an example of a single orb seen in a picture. It is most likely a dust particle that cannot be seen by the naked eye. On video, dust particles move around slowly and will often move in the direction of a draft.

Bugs on video will follow a flight pattern with curves but sometimes will move in zigzag pattern depending on obstacles in their path.

The picture in the upper right-hand corner of the page is a good example of multiple orbs that are caused by a light source not seen in the picture. It is good for investiga-



This above picture shows multiple orbs. However, these orbs are caused by a light source not seen in the picture.

Is it Possible to Determine Which Orbs Are Genuine?

If you venture to any paranormal forum, you can easily find pictures of orbs by people wanting to know if they are paranormal or not. Most of the time the orbs in question are only dust particles, rain drops, bugs, light reflections, or snowflakes.

The flash of the camera makes the orbs light up like a bright light. With careful consideration and logic, you can label 99% of orbs as something natural.

windows or doors to let bugs in the house? Are there pets in the house? If the picture was taken outside, what was the weather like? Was it windy? Was it cloudy with mist coming down? Were there swarms of bugs flying around annoying you?

There are a lot of questions that must be answered before someone can say that an orb is paranormal. In the last couple of years, I haven't seen one photo of an orb that could not be debunked.

The photo on the top right-hand corner of the next page shows what appears to be an orb. From this view it looks like single orb-like phenomena. There are no other light sources in the photo that could explain this. That is, unless you zoom in using any common photo editor.

Once zoomed in (see second photo on the next page) you will see a mosquito hovering in the air. Bugs, especially mosquitoes, can look like miniature angels or fairies since they are not round like normal orbs but have wings and legs.

WITH CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND LOGIC, YOU CAN LABEL 99% OF ORBS AS SOMETHING NATURAL.

tors to remember what else in the room or area a picture is taken so the orb can be accurately identified. Orbs from light sources can be easy to identify since the orbs will make a straight line to the light source.

On video, orbs can be a little harder to rule out. You must be familiar with the location where the orb was captured on film. Does the house have dust on objects like the TV or a table? Are there any open

Before Labelling an Orb Paranormal, Analyze it Carefully

Careful analysis needs to be conducted on any photo thought to be paranormal. There are several computer software programs out there available that will allow investigators to analyze any picture.

My personal favorite is called Irfanview, and it's free to download off of the Internet. It comes with different add-ons and features. One in particular that is useful allows the user to examine the exif data, which is the recorded settings of the camera that took the picture.

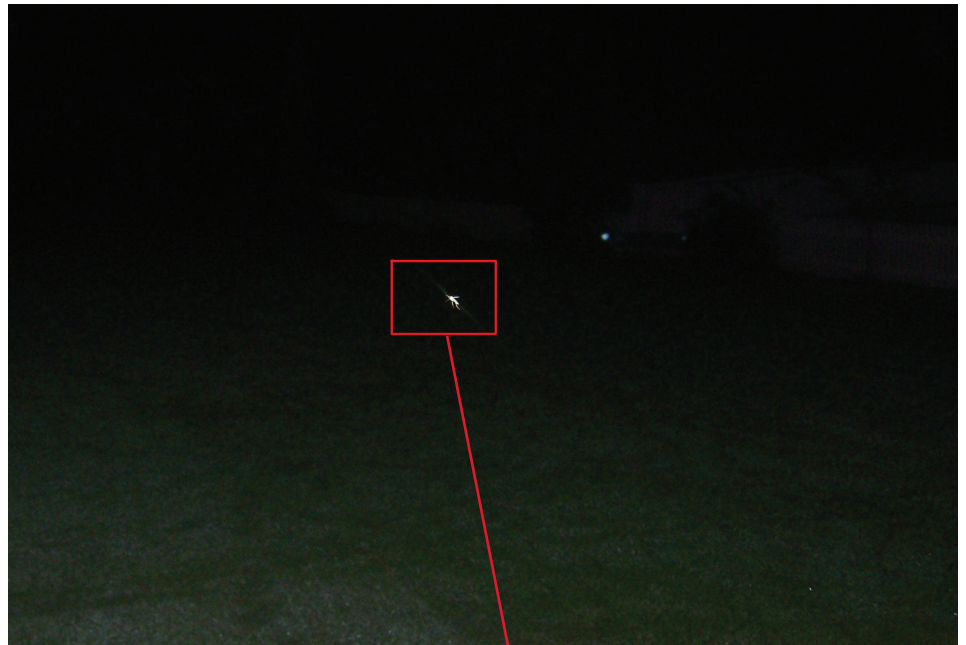
This will include camera model, manufacturer, shutter speed, and exposure setting. However, if a photograph has been copied and downloaded numerous times, this data will not be available.

Camera settings are important to know, particularly shutter speed, because the longer the speed, the longer the shutter is open to allow in light. This is useful when taking pictures at night or in low-light conditions. During your shoots, it is really helpful to use a tripod so the camera is steady and still. Motion blur occurs when the shutter speed is slow and the camera is moving.

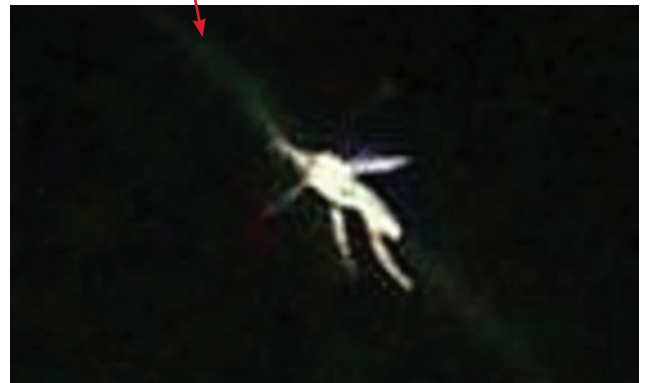
The photo at the right is an example of motion blur. The majority of the picture can look sharp, but a light or something else moving in the picture will blur. Motion blur can sometimes be viewed as an orb or something paranormal when it's not. Learn to notice the difference and you will not be fooled.

In the end, the best evidence you can get will be a photo or on video. Knowing the difference between the paranormal and natural explanations can make for a stronger case for your client. Plus it will make you and your group look better. ■

All photos are courtesy of Paranormal Investigators of Central Texas.



The photo above shows what appears to be an orb. However, if you zoom in on the "orb," you will see a mosquito hovering in the air (see photo at right).



The photo below is an example of motion blur, which can sometimes be viewed as an orb or something paranormal.



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THE GLOWING GRAVESTONE

By T Stokes, www.tstokes.co.uk

This was one of the most famous psychic happenings in London of the early 1960s. St. Patrick's Roman Catholic cemetery in Leytonstone, London, had some strange happenings.

A friend had told me that come darkness each night, from the depths of the cemetery would glow a large cross. So, for me as a curious school-boy, this just had to be seen.

When we arrived up on the brow of the hill, there were already a dozen watchers, and upon talking to them we discovered that on some nights 50 or 60 people would gather. A religious group would sing hymns and marvel, while others would gather a little farther down the road and catcall and verbally abuse them.

As the fame spread in local newspapers and on radio, it became the local sport on pub closing time to go and torment the nightly gatherers, and the local police had seen it their duty to clear everyone away each night, especially as the numbers of tourists during weekends could reach 100.

No Matter What They Did the Glowing Cross Glowed

These events always attract colorful characters, and a retired vicar would read the bible out loud for hours on end to a blank wall, obli-



One of the most famous psychic happenings within London in the early 1960s took place at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic cemetery in Leytonstone, London. It was known as the "Glowing Gravestone."

ous to any abuse.

And one grey-haired Catholic priest would come over and shout, "God says there is no such thing as the paranormal."

The council who tended the graveyard came under pressure from the police, who were sick of complaints from people living nearby.

So the council began to take action. Among the preventative things done were painting a section of the nearby street lamps to stop any reflection, examining some graves for signs of luminous paint, and even examining the stone itself for any phosphorous or mineral content that might shine in the dark.

The council also began to erect large, wooden barriers. But no matter what they did, the glowing cross continued to glow. The council wanted it stopped, down to the re-routing of through traffic to discourage onlookers.

Is There a Connection to Jack the Ripper?

It was said that buried in this churchyard were several famous people, including a couple of Jack the Rippers victims. Many said it was these victims' souls crying out for vengeance that was making the cross shine at night.

A group of teachers put a Ouija board out on a flat gravestone in the graveyard's Victorian section. They claimed they had been contacted by one of the Ripper's victims, who said it should have been Jacob the Ripper, alluding to the fact that Jack the Ripper was actually a Rabbi who was trying to "clean up" the area.

(It is on record that the spot where Ripper victim Catherine Edmonds was found still faintly glows in the dark.)

One evening after listening to the stories of healings and other miraculous things that were rumored to be happening at the cemetery — as well as listening to the opposing views that it could only be something evil — that I spoke to a little crowd of Jamaicans who were convinced it was an undead spirit, and voodoo was involved.

So, direct action was called for, and scrambling over the vicious pointed railings and jumping down on the other side, I allowed my eyes to adjust to the darkness as I picked my way toward the glowing cross that was causing all the attention.

It was said that the church authorities were at their wits' end, with all the people tramping over church property demanding answers, often



The locals still argue over the cause of the "glowing cross" phenomena, which was never solved satisfactorily.

in the dead of night.

As I trod my way toward the glow, I became aware that it was the most incredibly powerful pale green light, and quite unnatural. Then, suddenly as I approached the grave and began reading the wording on it, my eyes adjusted to the fact that it was bound round with lots of sacking, yet was still shining right through. This greatly unnerved me, and as my heart beat quickly, I hastily made my retreat back to the railings and the safety of the road.

The Glowing Gravestone Comes Down

Over the next week or so, the gravestone was taken down for tests.

The "knock on effect" was quite surprising; it had become a gathering place for people to come and meet to talk about the gravestone. Couples had met and started relationships there.

But as the gravestone came

down, a local businessman could no longer bring his hotdog van there. The juggler who would put down his hat and juggle for pennies would have to find another site. The retired vicar with his Bible went God knows where. The religious pamphleteers would no longer be able to tout for their own church. And most vocal of all, the bewhiskered, old lady in the sweet shop saw her takings on tobacco and sweets drop by half.

Amusingly, the local publican considered changing the pub name to the "Shining Cross," until the brewery told him where to get off.

Apparently, the locals still argue over the cause of the phenomena, which was never solved satisfactorily.

A Jamaican couple I had met there fascinated me with their tales of Caribbean sorcery and voodoo. I still get Christmas cards from them each year. Their son, Crossley, who was conceived in their car within sight of the stone, now has his own family. ■

She Walks the Dark Hills

By Christopher May

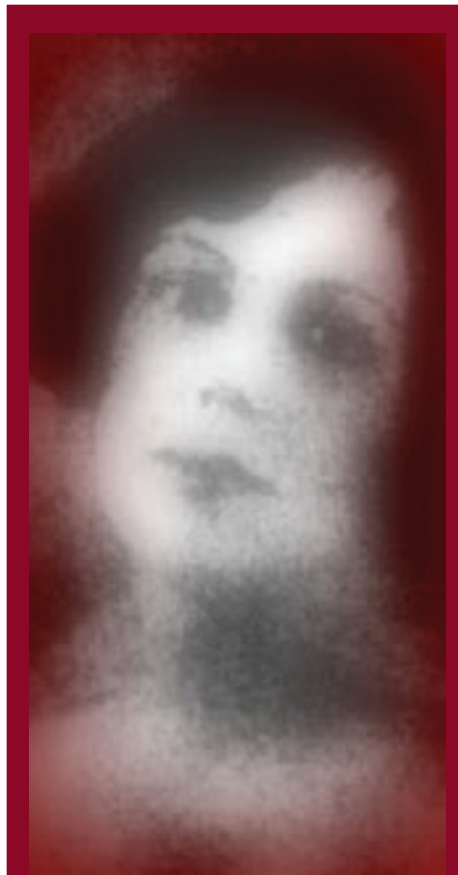
Having lived amongst the mountains and their people all of my life, I have become accustomed to the beliefs and traditions that govern much of West Virginia. Growing up, stories of backwoods witches, unhappy spirits, and conjuring filled my ears and slowly but surely saturated my mind.

As a result of my fascination with these stories, I began to journey out onto the twisting country backroads and into the night in search of legends and folklore that may or may not wish to be found. One such legend originated from a time long past and was set deep in the coalfields of Logan County, West Virginia.

What Happened to Mamie Thurman?

Mamie Thurman's body was found on June 22, 1932, along a lonesome mining access road (known then as Trace Mountain) near Holden, West Virginia. The body was found by Garland Davis, a young deaf mute who stumbled upon the heinous scene while berry picking.

At the time, Davis had no idea that he had started a ball rolling that would continue downhill, gathering momentum as it rolled, and fi-



After Mamie Thurman's violent, unsolved murder in the coalfields of West Virginia in 1932, some say her spirit wasn't able to rest in peace. Does Mamie's spirit now roam the dark country roads of Logan County?

nally resulting in a criminal case that would be West Virginia's equivalent to the Black Dahlia murder case.

According to reports from that time, the body was found fully clothed with all personal effects intact. Upon arrival of the local undertaker, cause of death was quickly determined. Two gunshot wounds to the left side of her head as well as having her throat cut from ear to ear extinguished Mamie's young life — she was only 31.

Soon after Mamie's body was found, Harry Robertson, a prominent businessman within the area and his black handyman, Clarence Stephenson, were arrested and taken to the local jail for questioning. Robertson quickly admitted that he had been carrying on an extramarital affair with Mamie and that Stephenson had helped to aid in his weekly trysts.

Robertson continued to shock and astound by informing his interrogators that Mamie had made the rounds with several prominent town leaders, and a list was made of all of those that Mamie had shared a bed with.

Who Killed Mamie?

On the day of Mamie's funeral, the state police performed a search of Robertson's home. Bloodstains were

found in Robertson's car, and it was discovered that Robertson had taken the backseat out of his automobile and placed a tarp over his front seats, as if to attempt to shelter them from stains. Shortly thereafter, Robertson was allotted bond while his handyman remained incarcerated.

All evidence pointing to Robertson, the Grand Jury was convened and facts were presented concerning both men. Typical of political situations and a sign of the times, Stephenson was indicted, while Robertson was exonerated of all charges. I suppose the rest is history.

Stephenson ended up in prison where he died of stomach cancer on April 24, 1942.

Does Mamie's Spirit Still Roam 22 Mind Road?

Many people believe that the wrong man went to prison more than 60 years ago for the horrific slaying of Mamie Thurman, but it seems that even more people believe that Mamie's spirit still walks the lonely hillside road now known as 22 Mine Road.

Stories abound of ghost seekers and paranormal investigators traveling to the location of where Mamie's body was found. Many of these individuals claim to have captured orbs, globules, vortexes, and the like on the coal mining access road.

My own personal experience with this area occurred several years

GHOST HUNTERS CLAIM TO HAVE CAUGHT ORBS AND VORTEXES AROUND THE SITE OF MAMIE'S MURDER.

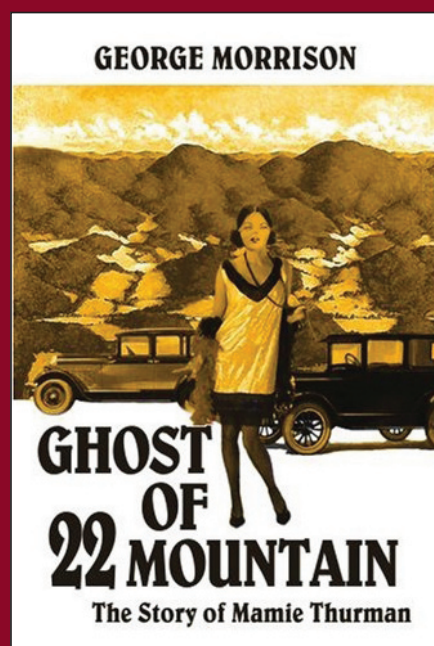
ago when I was in my teens. My brother and I decided to transverse the dark country roads and pay homage to the spirits dwelling in and

around 22 Mine Road. The time was late when we finally arrived at the entrance to 22 Mine Road.

After we had driven for what seemed like an eternity, we decided that since the road seemed never ending, any spot would serve the purpose for our ghost hunting excursion. We sat in my brother's car, which was a paranormal experience in its own right, and waited with the engine off and all lights extinguished.

The longer we sat, the creepier the area seemed to become.

The area in general is covered in undergrowth and draped by tree



Several books document the story of Mamie Thurman, including *The Secret Life and Brutal Death of Mamie Thurman* by F. Keith Davis and *Ghost of 22 Mountain: The Story of Mamie Thurman* by George Morrison. Ghost hunters from around the United States claim to have captured evidence of paranormal activity at and around the site of Mamie's violent murder.

foliage, making natural lighting nonexistent. As we sat, the night seemed to grow darker and darker as the silence became its own explosive sound. We managed to endure our pilgrimage for nearly an hour when enough became enough and we agreed mutually to call it a night.

Although we did not see or hear anything, it seemed as if we could not help but feel haunted by Mamie's story and the final injustice that had transpired in the area so many years ago. Ultimately, I could not confirm or refute the stories told of the woman that walks the coal mine access road in Holden, West Virginia.

If Mamie walks those hills, she walks to remind those of us still on this mortal plain that an injustice occurred those many years ago and that her murderer was never brought to justice. ■

. . . Of Giants, Shorties, and Horny Dudes

By Rick E. Hale, Greater Illinois Ghost Society

“Fe, Fi, Fo, Fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman.” Who can forget those sinister words uttered by the giant in the classic children’s fairytale *Jack and The Beanstalk*.

The tale speaks of the adventures of an English youth who foolishly sells the family cow, not for money, but for a handful of magic beans. And after planting the beans, a beanstalk grows up into the clouds, and Jack must square off with a giant that threatens to not only eat the youth but destroy the entire countryside.

Thankfully for the English, Jack defeats the evil giant and saves the world.

Tales of Giants Throughout History

Throughout history we have seen the idea of the giant come to life time and time again. If you are a religiously minded person and view the *Bible* as the last word of wisdom, you are well familiar with the story of the days of Noah. In the *Book of Genesis*, God commissions Noah, a simple farmer, to build a giant ark because God plans to drown the world. Noah and his family are the only people righteous enough to survive the great deluge.



Now, why would God do something like that? Earlier, the biblical account tells us that in the days of Noah, the fallen angels mated with human women and a race of grotesque giants were born — or the Nephilim as they were called.

Some view the story as a cautionary tale against men gaining too much power and becoming giants of wisdom who do not need to look to God for wisdom. That is, of course, until you get further into the *Old Testament* and giants are referred to again.

Joshua sends his scouts into the land that was promised to them by the lord, and when they return they are terrified to report that the country is inhabited by men of great stature and Joshua's scouts were like grasshoppers to them. And, of course, everyone knows that David, future king of Israel, brought down Goliath of Gath — a Philistine soldier who some say stood at a whopping nine feet tall.

The majority of Westerners know these tales and have heard them over and over again; however, many people may not be aware that over the last century and half, amazing discoveries have been made that just might prove giants did in fact roam the Earth.

Did Giants Once Roam the Earth?

In 1888, archeologists made an amazing discovery in Clearwater, Minnesota, that would knock the theory of evolution on its learned ass. While excavating a burial mound, researchers discovered a group of skeletons sitting in a circle in a burial chamber. Sounds innocent enough, but the skeletons proved to be well over eight feet tall.

Upon closer examination, the researchers discovered something so odd that the discovery would make



Did groups of giants once roam the Earth? Several unusual discoveries by archeologists indicate this scenario is more than just a possibility.

any dentist giggle like an Anime schoolgirl. The skeletons possessed double rows of sharp dagger-like teeth on the upper and lower gums.

At first, the researchers thought that this must be some ancient culture's attempt at dentistry, possibly to make these excessively tall warriors all the fiercer looking. A few weeks after the find, a dentist was brought in to take a closer look at the teeth. He shocked the archeologists when he declared that the teeth

were naturally occurring. In other words, these guys, whoever they may be, were born this way.

A few years after the amazing discovery of the gruesome skeletons in Minnesota, the scientific journal *Nature* printed a story in its December 1891 issue. The journal wrote of the discovery of a skeleton of gigantic proportions unearthed in a burial mound in Northern Ohio.

The skeleton, which stood in excess of nine feet, was covered in

what looked like a suit of copper body armor. The skeleton was also in possession of a giant sword that took five men to handle, and a pair of deer antlers were grafted to the skeleton's skull.

After discovery of the fierce skeleton, the Native American population was questioned concerning the strange skeleton. However, they came up blank — nowhere in their legends could they find reference to giants. The tribes in the area did say that when the white man first came to their land, they discovered a rich copper mine that looked as if it had been prospected many years before. The natives also said that their people have never had a need for copper.

The Red-Haired Giants

In 1911, miners were digging out a tunnel in New Mexico when they broke through a wall of rock and found themselves in a strange burial chamber. In the middle of the burial chamber they discovered the skeleton of a man who stood about seven feet tall with long, flowing red hair still attached to his long dead remains.

When the local Paiute tribe got wind of the discovery, they demanded that the burial chamber be sealed shut, and they would not take no for an answer. When they were asked what they were afraid of, they told a tribal legend of the Si-Te-Cahs, which translated from their language means the Ancient Enemy.

The tribal council told the min-

ers that the Si-Te-Cahs, were a race of red-haired giants that attacked the local tribes, killing many and carrying women away for mating. For many years the local tribes felt that they were powerless until they banded together and defeated this Ancient Enemy. The mine had to be closed down otherwise the evil spirit of the Si-Te-Cahs would be released and would prove to be unstoppable.

The Miners did as they were asked, and the red-haired, giant skeleton was once again sealed behind a wall of rock for all eternity.

Skeletal Discoveries of a Shorter Stature

Skeletons of gigantic and terrifying proportions have not been the only strange remains found in the continental United States over the years. Some of the skeletons have proved to be of a much shorter stature.

In October 1932, workers happened upon a strange mummy as they worked on a rich deposit of bat guano in the San Pedro Mountains. What they found was truly strange. Sitting in a cross-legged position on a pedestal was the mummy of a man, but not just any man. The mummy was a mere 14 inches tall.

The laborers felt they had made an amazing discovery and removed the little man from his tomb. After showing the petite mummy to their boss, the big boss man called a friend who was an anthropologist for the American Museum of History. Doctor Shapiro, although skeptical, told his friend that he would arrive as soon as he could. But he reassured his friend that what he probably had found was the mummified remains of an infant who died at birth and was probably royalty, which would explain the odd method of burial.

When Dr. Shapiro finally arrived, he immediately went about the



In October 1932, workers happened upon a strange mummy as they worked on a rich deposit of bat guano in the San Pedro Mountains. What they found was truly strange. Sitting in a cross-legged position on a pedestal was the mummy of a man, but not just any man. The mummy was a mere 14 inches tall.

task of inspecting the tiny mummy, ultimately making some astounding discoveries. Pedro, which the mummy was named, proved not to be the remains of a mummified infant, but rather the mummy of a fully developed man of approximately 65 years of age.

After having Pedro x-rayed, Dr. Shapiro's suspicions became rock solid. The cranium was fully developed with no gaps that would be found in a small child or an adolescent. The mummy had pubic hair, and it seemed to have at one time suffered a debilitating back injury.

Shapiro also discovered that Pedro was more than likely murdered by his kinsman, probably due to his crippling back injury, by a blow to the back of the head with a blunt object, possibly a rock.

Today, Pedro, after making the rounds in the carnival circuit, sits in the private collection of a wealthy California collector of all things strange and unusual.

A Genetic Anomaly? Or Something More?

If stories of giants and little dudes are not strange enough for you, try this one on for size. In Sayre, Pennsylvania, during the late 1800s, some workers dug up the seven foot remains of a skeleton.

Do these discoveries upset the status quo?

The skeleton, despite its unusual size, looked as human as you or I, except for the large horns on its skull — by all appearances, the horns were a natural feature of the skull and had not been grafted on.

Mainstream scientific researchers have written this horny skull off



Is this horned skull the result of a genetic anomaly, or were they a natural feature of this human and others like it?

as a genetic anomaly, saying the man probably suffered from some kind of condition that caused calcium deposits to grow on his skull in the form of horns. Seems plausible, however, numerous skulls have been found all over the world with this same rare

business. I am not here to convince you of which theory is correct.

However one cannot deny the fact that these strange remains have been discovered, documented, and unfortunately filed away in the basements of the nation's museums.

Why are these skeletons not on display for the entire world to see?

In my opinion, that question is easily answered. Archeologists and anthropologists are afraid. These researchers are paid large sums of money to keep up the status quo, and these remains would force them to rethink the whole scenario of where we all come from.

Textbooks would have to be rewritten to make room for these strange creatures that appear human, but might not be. But hey, I could be wrong. ■

genetic anomaly.

At the time, the religious community said that the remains were that of a demon and proof that the minions of the "wicked one" roamed the Earth looking for souls to possess.

Whether you subscribe to evolution or intelligent design, that is your

Do We Know the Truth About UFOs?

By Cecilia Valenzuela, www.My-Arizona-Desert-Living.com

Do you believe in unidentified flying objects and think that our government has not told us everything they know about UFOs? What is the truth about these unidentified flying objects in your mind?

Are you confused, or do you just think that these so-called sightings are nothing more than a hoax that some try and get others to believe in? Or rather, do you believe that there certainly could be some truth to the UFO phenomenon?

Many believe these UFO sightings are for real and that our government has not given us the real truth about them and continue to cover up what they know.

Continued Research Leads to More Questions About UFOs

You don't have to look too hard or long to find a limitless supply of those who will tell you that they believe in extraterrestrials because of their own personal experience. Also, you can easily find many people who have had personal experiences with extraterrestrials.

Many people have spent much of their lives researching and writing books and articles about this phenomenon and continue to do so



Just what are UFOs and where do they come from? Research into the UFO phenomenon continues with each new sighting. Will we ever have all the answers?

in their quest to prove that UFOs do exist. They continue their efforts in the hope of finding out the true origin and meaning behind UFOs.

If you believe the incident that took place in Roswell, New Mexico, many years ago that still has people talking today, then you likely know that there are more than just a few

people who firmly believe that this happening was, without question, a huge cover up and that the government lied to the public about what really happened.

Those who remember still believe that there was evidence pointing to the fact that the UFO sighting in Roswell was real and that

there was, without doubt, an alien craft that really did crash and leave behind material that was recovered from the crash site.

UFO Stories That Make You Go “HmMMMM”

Those who believe in UFOs also include Dr. Edgar Mitchell, a former Apollo 14 astronaut, who reportedly interacted with some very high-ranking officers from the military who admitted they had first-hand involvement with alien hardware, along with alien technology.

There are also others who have vast knowledge and experience with our radar systems who will tell you that is a commonality for our air-traffic controllers to see more on their radar screens than just the typical aircraft.

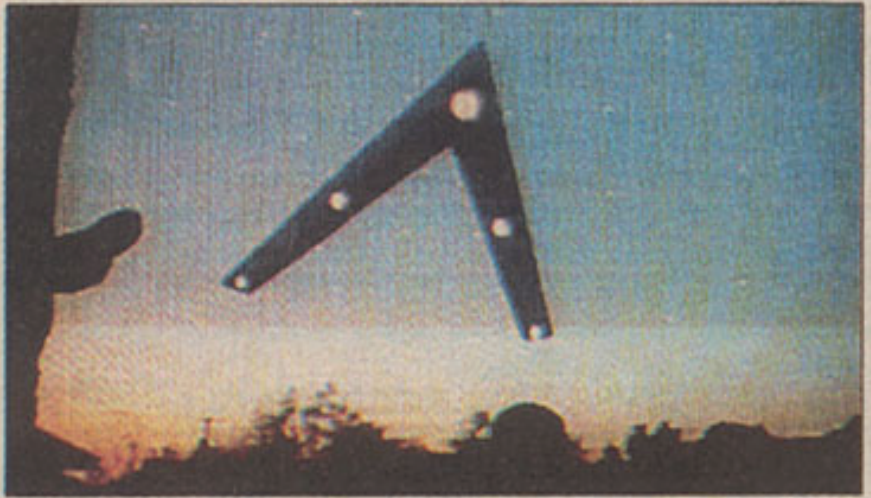
Thousands of Arizonans witnessed a UFO fly over Phoenix during the famous Phoenix Lights incident. If you have never read the story about the Phoenix Lights before, it is something that makes you wonder if UFOs really do exist.

Even if you are the most skeptical person when it comes to UFOs, you might just have a different opinion after hearing about the event that took place on March 13, 1997, when thousands of people witnessed what was believed to be a UFO sighting in Arizona.

On the night that this incident took place, many witnesses videotaped the UFO sighting. Local residents reported that they witnessed “appearing and disappearing” UFO lights that hovered above the city near the Estrella Mountains.

The local and national news both jumped on the story of UFOs over Phoenix, and the sightings are still covered on various media sources, such as the History Channel. It was such an amazing story that the national news stations couldn't

Skies, phone lines light up Ariz.



By Scott Troyanos

Unidentified: For 106 minutes on March 13, people saw something like this V-shaped object flying over Arizona. UFOs? The only thing certain is that it still haunts them. 4A.

Thousands of Arizonans witnessed a UFO fly over Phoenix during the famous Phoenix Lights incident. The local and national news both jumped on the story of UFOs over Phoenix, and the sightings are still covered on various media sources today.

cover it up like many have done in the past.

There are those who believe that these so-called UFOs in Arizona were just flares that resembled unidentified flying objects, but there are many more people who believe that the Phoenix Lights and other sightings of Arizona UFOs are the real thing. In fact, many will tell you that UFOs and extraterrestrials, in Arizona and elsewhere, are very real.

Are You Convinced That UFOs Visit Us?

Since the Phoenix Lights incident, there have been many other reports of unidentified flying objects in Arizona, as well as other states.

For instance, on January 9, 2007, there was yet another witness who was driving in the east valley when

he saw some lights that were set low in the sky. This witness believed that these peculiar lights were in the area of Gold Canyon, Arizona, which is approximately 35 minutes from the Phoenix metro area.

Witnesses described the lights as being lined up as if they were in a straight line. They also described the far left light turning on and then turning off.

The number of UFO sightings around the world continues to increase with each passing day. Reviewing the collected data on UFOs, as well as watching the video evidence, convinced me that UFOs are very real.

What do you believe? ■

Article source: <http://www.articles-base.com/education-articles/finally-the-truth-about-ufos-213755.html>.

Diary From a Haunted Hotel

By Carolyn M. Hughes

When I began working as a night auditor almost three years ago at Quality Inn at General Lee's Headquarters, located on the Gettysburg battlefield, I anticipated experiencing nothing more interesting than having some bizarre request from a guest.

I never expected my spirit friends to visit so often or to hear so many accounts of activity from unsuspecting guests. I never thought they would alert us to their presence in so many creative ways, or for there to be so much activity involved.

I am of the personal belief that spirits only want us to know they are still here and not to forget what happened here, for it is on this ground that they truly gave their "last full measure of devotion."

Here is my ongoing diary of my experiences within the hotel . . .

Sat., Nov. 14

7:05 p.m.: I was in the lobby standing behind the counter working on the computer. Directly to my right about three feet away is a side, private entrance door into the lobby, which is only used by employees and is always kept locked.

I heard what sounded like someone trying to open that door (the door knob rattled) and immediately looked up to the windows in the door to see who was trying to gain entrance through that locked door. There was no one standing on the other side of the door.



One of the more spiritually active suites on the hotel's property gave one couple staying at the hotel an interesting paranormal experience on Remembrance Day weekend. The pair was awakened one night by a door opening in their room, banging on the roof, and tapping on the bedroom window (pictured above).

As I was looking through the windows, the locked door suddenly opened completely. There was no one there. I asked my coworker, Barb, if she had heard the door knob rattle. She said she had, and she said she also saw that same locked door open by itself. When I checked the door, it was still locked.

Sat., Nov. 21

4:16 a.m.: For the past three years, my childhood friend and her

husband have visited Gettysburg for the Remembrance Day weekend celebration and have stayed at my hotel. Remembrance Day is the day that Gettysburg remembers and marks President Lincoln's dedication of the National Cemetery where he delivered what is now known as the Gettysburg Address.

This year, I was able to book one of our more active suites for my friends. It is a two-person occupancy suite that literally sits only feet away from the railroad cut where on July 1, the 2nd and 42nd Mississippi and 55th

North Carolina infantry regiments were engaged in a deadly struggle with the 95th NY and 6th Wisconsin infantry regiments. The fight, which occurred in the railroad cut next to the suite, also spilled over onto the land where the suite is located.

This year, my friend's husband brought a digital recorder and decided to turn it on after they went to bed and leave it on the entire night. When I arrived to visit them, they were very excited. They related to me that they both woke up at exactly the same time (4:16 a.m.) the night before because they heard what they described to me as a door opening.

Mr. and Mrs. S both said it was a creaking sound that was loud enough to wake them both up. When the incident occurred, Mr. S checked the door to the bathroom and nothing seemed amiss. Then, they let me listen to the recording they had on their digital recorder from the previous night. I could clearly hear what sounded to me like a door opening.

I walked around the suite checking all the cabinets, cupboards, and the bathroom door. The bathroom door did not make a sound. The cabinets and cupboards made no sounds at all when opened. Nothing sounded remotely like the sound which was recorded on their digital recorder.

Then I opened the front door to their suite, and there was that very distinct, very loud creaking noise. There was no mistaking it that this was the sound that was recorded on the digital recorder. And, yet, the front door to the suite remained closed and locked the entire night. How could they do that? I never cease to be amazed at what the spirits can do.

My friends also related that they heard banging on the roof of the suite several times during the night. It was not until after they told me



Pictured above are the front door and bedroom window of one of the most spiritually active suites in the hotel. Recently, a couple experienced the front door opening and closing unexplainably, as well as strange tapings on their bedroom window.

this that I explained that we receive many reports of someone walking on the roof of that suite. The roof is shaped like an inverted "V" and impossible for anyone to easily walk on undetected at night. In addition, there are no trees with overhanging branches above the roof of the suite.

My friends also related to me that in addition to the banging on the roof, which they heard several times during the night, they also heard tapping on the back window of the bedroom. When I went outside to investigate that window, there were no trees or anything that came close to the window to hit it. In fact, the nearest trees were over 20 feet away.

This is certainly one Remembrance Day weekend my friends will not forget!

Sat., Nov. 21

6:30 p.m.: Saturday night is normally my night to work one of my all-night shifts. However, I always take off for the Remembrance Day

festivities. Working in my place this year for one-half of my shift was a new employee, D.

D related to me that he was at the front desk with my coworker, Barb. Everything was quiet in the lobby, and each was working on one of the computers when they heard a noise coming from the laundry room. D went back into the laundry room to investigate. He found that one of the dryers, completely empty, had been turned on and was running.

Since the housekeepers had left at approximately 2:30 p.m. earlier in the day, and no dryers had been left on, D was excited. Welcome to Quality Inn at General Lee's Headquarters, D. It seems that you, too, have now been properly welcomed and are now one of the family!

Note: This is the very first time that dryers have been turned on when there is no one working in the laundry room.

Stay Tuned . . .

Dorm Hauntings

By Imbar Golt

There is something about dorm-type buildings that makes them susceptible to hauntings. I had the opportunity to live in three dorms and had weird experiences in all of them. I have had doors open with no one there, knocking on walls, and malevolent presences roaming the corridors.

When I lived in America, at a special school for gifted blind students, my roommate claimed that her dad's spirit came to visit her on weekends that I was away, staying at my host family's home. We would joke and say that besides having a host family of her own; my roommate had a ghost family as well.

One night, in the middle of the week, I remember waking up suddenly, feeling as if someone was on my blanket, covering my body. When I moved, that feeling stopped. My roommate woke up as well, I think a little before me, so I asked her if she tried to wake me up. She said no. Of course, it could have been sleep paralysis, but who knows for sure.

Haunting Experiences in Israel

In Jerusalem, on Mount Scopus, there are many graves and many old buildings where ghosts are said to roam. I studied in the university there for three years and had lived in the dorms close to cemeteries

and ancient battlefields. The feeling of presences in the corridors and rooms had been constant. I am sure we had ghost students in my classes as well.

Another time, I stayed at a camp for the blind in the north of Israel,



the country where I was born. We were about nine young adults at that camp. We had stayed in that building many times before and knew it was rumored to be haunted.

One of our guides there said

she had slept alone there one night and kept hearing knocks on the walls. There were 10 rooms, each for two people, and she told us she had heard the knocking in a few of the rooms. She was completely alone, and there were no signs of any human presence other than herself.

The second night we were there, I woke up at around 2:30 a.m. and did not know what had woken me. It was very quiet, and nothing was stirring. Then, I heard sobbing, but it was not the sobbing of a human nor was it any cry of any animal I have ever heard. It was pretty close to my room; it then went away, ebbed in volume, and stopped.

The morning after that experience, I asked around to see if anybody else had heard it. Two others had. One guy thought it was a machine and another young woman said it scared her because she, like me, could not attribute the sound to anything natural or any person.

Later, someone told me the building had been erected on the site of an old cemetery. This is no surprise, because the entire city of Safad has so many archeological sites and had been inhabited by humans since ancient times. Earthquakes and wars have been part of its history.

I wonder which soul was making that unearthly sound that night. ■

Paranormal Wardrobe

By Gene Melvin

Okay, so I let my mind wander the other day, something that I do not do too often — it's safer to keep it locked in its cage. But I thought about a question worth mentioning.

This question, as silly as it seems, really bothers me. How do ghosts pick what they wear?

I know what you are thinking — with everything out there in the paranormal field worth pursuing, why does this question bother you? You often hear people describe a ghost by what they are wearing, most often-times clothing from a certain period in time. So how do ghosts determine what they will wear in the afterlife?

Does the circumstance surrounding the cause of death determine the apparel that is to be worn? Say a person dies in a car crash. Is the outfit they die in going to be what they wear in the afterlife? Maybe a ghost picks out something they enjoyed wearing in life and not something that they passed away in.

Is this something to devote a lot of thought to? It is hard to say.

So this brought me to my current dilemma. If I choose to remain here on Earth after my demise, what will I be wearing? Do I get to choose my favorite outfit of denim shorts and a nice button-up shirt, or maybe my jeans and boots with my favorite Harley T-shirt?



I've always wanted to know . . . how do ghosts pick what they wear?

What if I died in my suit and tie? Will I be doomed to haunt in a suit all dressed up? I dread the thought. While it is a must for my profession, I do not want to haunt in one.

Okay, what about a heart attack sitting on my La-Z-Boy in my boxers? Enough said.

This article, though humorous

in nature, brings up a question that begs for an answer. What determines the “paranormal clothing” that one sees ghosts/apparitions/spirits wearing?

Do the entities choose their attire, or do the circumstances surrounding the cause of death make that determination?

You decide. ■

Haunted New Year!

By Michelle M. Pillow, www.michellepillow.com

Nowhere, Oklahoma . . .

Aunt Susan had always been a little eccentric — from her fast cars and reckless driving, her numerous seedy businesses and even more numerous marriages, to the sprawling three-story mansion on the hill. It had been commissioned and designed before the turn of the 20th Century by a friend of an ancestor.

The designer died the day the last stone was set — or so the story went. Helen's great-grandfather moved in the next day. There was speculation as to whether or not foul play was involved due to money owed the designer, but nothing was ever proven.

Now, homeless, jobless, manless, Helen Gettsman didn't have a choice but to open the dusty, old mansion, a drafty shadow of what it had once been, and make herself at home. She hadn't been back since her Aunt died, leaving it to her in a will. The money attached to the house drew enough interest to cover taxes each year and little else. Helen hoped the place would sell. It didn't. Buyers wouldn't even go inside.

She had no desire to live in *Nowhere*, the aptly named ghost



town of a place, with a population of 83 — if the decades-old sign was to be believed. But what choice did she have? The economy was in the toilet, her apartment building was sold by a bankrupt landlord, and her boyfriend of three weeks dumped her. No surprise on the last one. He wasn't really a keeper — more like a placeholder.

Outside, snow covered the ground, resting heavy on treetops and shrubs like the props of a postcard photo shoot. Aside from the

rare trail of animal tracks, the snow lay untouched. Inside, the house looked as it must have been upon building, though age and wear had taken its toll. Only a few modern advances had been added — electricity, undated plumbing, and radiant heat.

Pictures of her ancestors and their friends lined the walls and fireplace mantel. She'd studied their faces, not recognizing any of them. There was one man who'd captured her attention — in his old fashioned

clothing and happy smile. The house was being constructed behind him, and on the back of the frame she read the words, "Henry Gregory, Architect, 1909."

* * * * *

Now, as she sat huddled on the musty couch, staring at the radiant heat vents encircling the bottom edge of the walls, she wondered if she'd made the right decision. The pink frills of her aunt's robe smelled of bourbon and cigarettes, but it was warm and counteracted the cool draft leaking in from the old windows. There were no neighbors, no television, no cable to hook a television to should she unpack hers.

But if there was no television, where exactly were the soft voices coming from?

Helen had been hearing them all day — giggles and whispers, floorboard creaks and groans. At first, as she unpacked, she was able to ignore them as the unfamiliar sounds of a new home. Though now, as she noticed candlelight flicker on the wall, she wasn't so sure. She'd heard urban legends of people living in the walls of old homes.

Wait. Candle? She didn't light any candles. Twisting on the couch, she looked over her shoulder. The light flicker was gone.

"Probably just a trick of the evening light on the snow reflecting in the window," she said, the sound of her voice odd in the quiet place.

"It's Official. I'm going crazy."

She began to hum softly, keeping the silence away.

"There. See."

Helen paused, listening hard. "Hello?"

No one answered. Did she really expect them to?

"What the hell did my aunt do out here all day? It's no wonder she stocked enough liquor to fuel a frat party." Helen stood, hugging the robe to her chest as she made her way through the house. This was one heck of a way to spend New Year's Eve.

Shuffling her feet, she went toward what she thought of as the wall of liquor. Nearly every known brand had been crammed into the pantry shelves. "No champagne? Fine, how about, um, this?" She pulled out a half empty bottle of bourbon. "We'll toast to Susan. Seems fitting considering this is my new life."

The liquid sloshed as she stepped toward the cupboard to find a glass. The floor creaked behind her and she swore she heard a soft giggle. Helen turned, looking carefully into every shadowed corner within her eye line. Nothing. No one.

Giving a nervous laugh, she muttered, "Stupid drafty house."

She reached for a glass.

"Drafty? This design is . . ."

This time the voice was louder and

decidedly male.

Helen gasped, dropping the glass. It crashed on the floor, breaking into several pieces. "Who's there?"

Though she waited what had to be several minutes, nobody answered. Laughing nervously, she cleaned up the broken glass and threw it away. She kept a cautious eye on her surroundings, even peeking out the window to see if there were tracks in the snow. The sun had begun to set, casting shadows on the ground.

* * * * *

Carrying the bottle under her arm, she wandered into the dining room. The long table hardly seemed fitting for a household of one. Above her head was a chandelier with frozen glass droplets raining down. Just as she looked away, the light fixture moved, the glass droplets tingling lightly together. She chuckled, almost feeling relief. That had to be one mystery solved. The draft hit the fixture and caused a noise.

She set the glass down and poured a tiny bit. Sniffing the liquor, she wrinkled her nose. Heady and strong, it burned her nostrils. Knowing she might regret it, she tipped the glass back and drank. Fire burned down to her belly and she coughed, hacking at the unexpected pain.

"Just wait."

She gasped for breath, turning to grab the bottle to put it away. When she reached for the glass, she saw it had been filled to where she'd had it before. "What the...?" The burning had subsided some, but she still tasted the drink. She leaned over to look under the table. Nothing. Overhead the chandelier clanked.

Leaving the glass where it was, she backed out of the dining room. "It's official. I'm going crazy." She walked toward the living room intent on plugging in the old radio she'd



seen earlier. Helen turned the knob, gliding the dial over the stations. All of them seemed to be playing old songs — waltzes and big band music.

Then, finally finding the faint strains of a country song, she turned up the volume.

Just as she was stepping away, big band music blasted her from behind as one station seemed to take over another's airwaves. She jumped at the loud beat of horns and instantly turned the volume back down.

At first, she just listened, letting the songs flood together. Then detecting a vaguely familiar beat, she found herself swaying around the room. She began to kick, stepping back and forward with circling hands to reenact the days of the flapper. The frills on the robe bounced.

The radio signal fuzzed and a voice said, *"What is that?"* before the music once more took over. It fuzzed again and another voice was answering, *"I haven't seen anything like that before."*

Helen paused. The conversational tone didn't seem like a radio show. Was she getting cell phone

signals? Curious, she went to the radio and turned the dial.

The music faded but didn't disappear. The talking became louder.

"I do not think she is a good fit for us," a woman said.

A transparent figure leaned against the doorframe.

"I think she's pretty," a male voice answered. He had a thick British accent and the deep timbre of it made her toes curl.

"Pretty?" A nauseatingly disgusting laugh followed the woman's incredulous question. *"Common, you mean . . ."*

"Modern," the male corrected. Helen leaned closer, wondering who they were.

"Wait, is she listening? She knows!" the woman gasped. A cold, stiff breeze hit Helen's back, and she heard the unmistakable sound of footfall running out of the room.

Helen jumped back and let loose a small scream. There was no denying the tingling of her flesh or the sound of running feet. She held her arms tight to her stomach, not daring to move.

"They plan to greet you at midnight."

Helen made a small noise of fear. Was the British man talking to her? She didn't want to look.

"Susan has spoken very highly of you. She says you're the last of your family line. It's too bad really. You're family has always been kind to us."

"Susan?" Helen whispered. Then, closing her eyes tight, she said, "This is not happening. You're sleeping. You're drunk. You're —"

"Drunk after that small drink? Not quite, Miss Helen."

"You're sleeping," she told herself.

"This will go so much easier if you calm yourself. You will not be harmed. You're the new caretaker."

Footsteps sounded, boots on wood, and she swore they moved around the room with the voice. *"I don't remember Susan being like this."*

"Susan was crazy," Helen said before catching herself.

"Ah, so you are listening to me!"

"Go away."

"I can't." The man's tone was droll. *"I live here."*

"Isn't there a light? Shoo, get out of here, go toward the light." She relaxed some, though she still wasn't convinced she was lucid. "There's, ah, good, um, things in the light."



The man laughed, the tone slightly mocking but mostly humored.

* * * * *

Helen finally managed to open her eyes and look toward the sound. Her pulse quickened. A transparent figure leaned against the doorframe, a crooked smile on his lips. His dark dinner jacket, white shirt, and dark tie looked turn of the 20th Century Edwardian style.

Laced-up leather boots and a felt Bowler hat with rounded crown completed the look. He reached for the hat, holding it before him by the crown, to reveal brown hair and even browner eyes. She stared through his chest, seeing the other side of the room.

He glanced behind him as if to see what she stared at and chuckled. "I assure you, I'm really here." This time when he spoke, his voice sounded fuller, solid. "In fact, I've been here for some time."

"You look like that picture of the architect," she said.

"I am that architect," he answered with a slight tilt of his head, "Henry Gregory."

"Henry Gregory is dead."

"Yes, I am. Exactly a hundred years ago come midnight." He brushed his hand absently over his suit. "I think the years have been kind if I do say so myself."

Was it her or was the house



frowned.

"Time?" she repeated, taking a step toward where she'd seen him. She rubbed the bridge of her nose and shivered. Had she gone completely mad?

"For the party," he said, this time from right behind her.

Helen gasped, jumping slightly.

"It's almost time for you to meet your wards." He motioned toward the doorway he had so recently vacated.

"My wards?" Had someone told her that morning she'd be talking to a ghost, she would have laughed in their face. It wasn't that she didn't believe, just that she didn't believe

to touch his face to see if she could feel him. Her fingers fell through his cheek, and he closed his eyes briefly. Her hand tingled and she withdrew it, hesitating midair.

Somewhere in the house a loud clock chimed the midnight hour. She stared at him, watching as his features filled in. His smile became full and his eyes solid. Her hand moved forward to his cheek once more. This time, she felt him, still cool but as solid as flesh.

Before she could ask about it, she heard a loud cheering, as if a crowd of voices suddenly erupted in the dining room.

His hand captured hers. "Come. Meet your family and their friends. They're all here, generations of them come to celebrate the new year."

Helen jerked her hand away as he tried to pull her with him to the door. "But, I'm not dressed. I'm . . ." She shrugged out of the pink frilly robe, hating the fact that she wore pajama pants and a T-shirt.

He just smiled, grabbing hold of her once more as he whisked her toward her strange new future. ■

Somewhere in the house a loud clock chimed the midnight hour.

colder? Hearing a faint laughter in the other room, Helen frowned, looking past him. "What is that?"

"It's almost time." His body faded until it disappeared and she

them to be so . . . forthcoming.

The man leaned closer, and she felt a cool tingle on her face. He was handsome, and his eyes were kind. She shivered, automatically reaching

Yasmine Galenorn

By Michelle M. Pillow, www.michellepillow.com

There can be no doubt that *New York Times* bestselling urban fantasy author Yasmine Galenorn leads an interesting and magical life. Author of both the *Otherworld* series and the upcoming *Indigo Court* series for Berkley, she has written in both the paranormal mystery and nonfiction genres. Her latest titles, *Bone Magic* and *Inked*, were both released this month.

A Shamanic Witch, Yasmine has been in the craft since 1980 and has been considered an elder in the Pagan community. Along with her husband, Samwise, she legally changed her surname to Galenorn, which translates from the Elvish language in *Lord of the Rings* to Green Tree.

According to Yasmine, they wanted something, “that would be ours alone and that would mean something to us.”

Yasmine is also a teacup collector, tattoo enthusiast, and a theater major.

* * * * *

Q: In your *Otherworld* series, you have three heroines — sisters: Camille, a witch; Delilah, a werewolf; and Menolly, a vampire. What inspired you to create such diverse characters?

Yasmine: Well, they sort of created themselves — they just showed up, full-blown, in front of me one night while I was watching TV, and boom . . . a new series was born.

I think my background in mythology and modern-day magic



Yasmine Galenorn is a Shamanic Witch who has been considered an elder in the Pagan community. She says that her “life has been steeped in both paranormal and mundane adventures.”

(actual magic — not stage magic) is one genesis of this series; also, my life-long love of fantasy and science fiction and my passion for movies and TV in this genre.

Q: When world-building, do you

base your story off of known myths throughout history?

Yasmine: Much of my world-building has a basis in the mythology of our world, but skewed — very much — in my own warped fashion. I liken *Otherworld* to “the U.N. of Faerie Land.”

Q: What myths or legends inspired you?

Yasmine: Japanese — the youkai (my interest there was sparked by *InuYasha* and other anime series); the Celtic Sidhe, the Finnish Talon-haltija (house sprites), the banshees, the Norse light and dark elves — you name it. I’ve probably got a version of it in my series.

Q: Why do you think readers, and society in general, are fascinated by the paranormal?

Yasmine: I believe that people need to escape from what they perceive as a very unstable reality into a land where common people have the power to affect the destiny of the world.

Q: What are your favorite paranormal shows, movies, and books?

Yasmine: Far too many movies to list here! But TV: I love *Buffy*, *ImuYasha*, *Fringe*, and *Medium*. Authors: Charlaine Harris, Ray Bradbury, Rachel Caine, PC Cast, Jim Butcher, and many more.

Q: Do you believe in the supernatural?

Yasmine: I'm a Shamanic Witch, so I'd have to say . . . yes. But, I also am firmly grounded in much of what science has to teach us — I consider myself a practical and realistic magical worker.

Q: Have you ever had a paranormal experience?

Yasmine: Many. I'm a Shamanic Witch and have been considered an elder in the Pagan community. My life has been steeped in both paranormal and mundane adventures.

I tend to attract a lot of spirit kitties — our home is a magnet for departed furbabies, and they pass through. I've seen them a number of times, and sometimes they rest for a bit before moving on.

Q: What kind of paranormal creatures do you wish you could meet?

"I'm more afraid of coping with a psycho on the physical level than I am of any spirit or ghost."

Yasmine: Hmmm . . . dragon shifter (my Smoky for one), Werpanther, Owl Shifter, or a full-blooded Fae as portrayed in my world.

Q: If given the chance, would you become a witch/vampire/werecat?

Yasmine: Well, I AM a witch, but Camille's kind of witch? Sure! A vampire like Menolly? Nope — not into being dead. And a werecat, like Delilah? That might be fun, too.

Q: How would you react if you came face to face with a ghost?

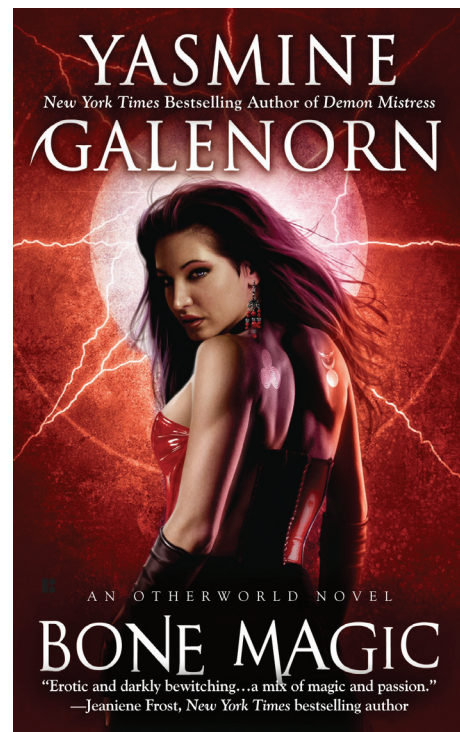
Yasmine: I have. As I said, I'm very sensitive to ghosts and spirits of many different types. I've worked to clear houses before; I've been contacted by spirits — some not so nice and some just fine. My reaction, since this is an everyday part of my life, is that I'm more afraid of coping with a psycho on the physical level than I am of any spirit or ghost.

Q: What does the future hold for your writing?

Yasmine: Well, most likely, more *Otherworld* books. I'm happy writing them. And also a new urban fantasy series starting next year called the *Indigo Court* series, which will be darker and a bit edgier than the *Otherworld* series.

Q: Have you ever been to a psychic or had a past-life regression? What did they predict for you?

Yasmine: I have done past-life regression on my own — since I am a Shamanic Witch and have written on the subjects of witchcraft, tarot, meditation, etc., I'm well acquainted with this topic and have discovered several interesting lives through the use of it.



Yasmine has written in both paranormal mystery and nonfiction genres. Her latest titles, *Bone Magic* and *Inked*, were both released this month.

Was never an Egyptian princess or Queen Elizabeth, but I did lead some interesting lives — and had some pretty gruesome deaths at times.

Q: Have you ever been abducted by aliens?

Yasmine: No, but some of my friends qualify, I think. *grins* ■

* * * * *

Thanks for joining us Yasmine!

*Yasmine's latest books, *Bone Magic* (book 7 in the *Otherworld* series) and *Inked* (a multi-author anthology) both release Jan. 5, 2010, and are available at all major bookstores. You can learn more about Yasmine and her books at her Website, www.galenorn.com.*

Heidi (HeidiAnn67)

About Heidi

Age: 42.

Born/Currently resides: Massachusetts/New Hampshire.

Education: High School Graduate.

Zodiac Sign: Scorpio.

Occupation: Special Education Paraprofessional.

* * * * *

Q&A

What brought you to Paranormal Underground?

Heidi: Dawkins dragged me here kicking and screaming, and I'm so glad he did. Thanks Dawk!

What does your member name mean?

Heidi: It's my name and birth year.

How would you describe yourself?

Heidi: I'm an inquisitive, caring, slightly quirky middle-aged soccer mom.

Tell us about your family and what you like to do.

Heidi: I have three sons, Matthew (22), Nick (18), and Colin (6). My boys are my world, and I'm

so proud of them. I enjoy playing on the Wii, reading, writing fiction, watching movies, doing word searches, and playing online.



A paranormal believer, Heidi likes all areas of the paranormal, but is most interested by ghosts and hauntings.

Who are your heroes?

Heidi: My Aunt Brenda and the disabled kids I've worked with over the years.

What are your favorite TV shows, paranormal shows, books, movies?

Heidi: I don't watch a lot of TV, but I do enjoy *Ghost Adventures* and most any Britcom. I love to read, mostly mysteries, but my favorite book is *Wicked*.

I have a lot of favorite movies, mostly small lesser-known films, like *Snow Cake*, *The Station Agent*, *Welcome to the Dollhouse*, and *Dancer in the Dark*.

Favorite music?

Heidi: Classic rock mostly, especially Pink Floyd.

What would our readers be surprised to find out about you?

Heidi: In real life I'm very quiet and shy around people until I get to know them really well.

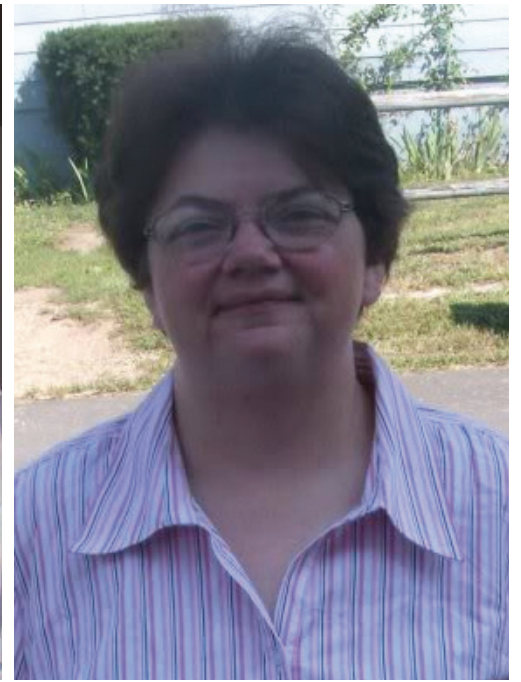
Are you a skeptic or believer?

Heidi: I'm a believer who is skeptical of others. I have to experience something myself before I'll believe it 100%.

What areas of the paranormal interest you the most?

Heidi: I like all areas of the paranormal, but I think ghosts and hauntings interest me the most.

Talk about any paranormal experiences you have had and how they affected you.



Heidi (pictured above at right) enjoys spending time with her three sons, Nick (18), Colin (6), and Matthew (22) (pictured above at left), and enjoys playing on the Wii, reading, writing fiction, watching movies, doing word searches, and playing online. Heidi had her first brush with the paranormal when she was a young child.

Heidi: The first happened when I was young. Not sure exactly how old. I was asleep (it was my room at the time, then we moved things around and it became my brother's room).

I woke up and there was an "old woman" standing over by the window. She was completely black, no features, but I knew it was an old woman. It wasn't just a shadow; this thing blocked out the window behind it. I thought it was Grammy (who lived with us at the time). I called her twice. When she didn't respond, I started screaming.

My Grammy came running upstairs. As soon as she opened the door the old woman disappeared.

Of course, people are always telling me it was a dream. This was no dream. I was fully awake. And I'm sure I had lots of bad dreams as a kid. Why would this one stick with me?

I have had a discussion with

someone on whether it was hypnagogia, but I really don't think it was.

The second incident happened just a few years ago. I was at my Dad's house (same house I grew up in). I was the only one there that night. I went to get something from that room, which terrified me. I've always been scared of that room after dark ever since the first episode (which may have been the reason bedrooms were shuffled, can't remember for sure).

As I was leaving the room, I heard a loud knock on the window. There was no denying it was a knock. Not just one, but like when someone knocks on a door. I froze in absolute terror. I stayed like that for what felt like forever, but was probably more like 30 seconds.

When I could finally make myself move, I walked to the window, pulled back the curtain, and looked out. It overlooked the porch roof,

and there was a big pile of fresh snow on it. Untouched snow.

So nothing living had been outside the window knocking on it. I ran from that room so fast.

What do you think happens to us when we die?

Heidi: I don't know, but I hope there is a Heaven. I would hate to think death is the end.

Do you have any words of wisdom that you live by?

Heidi: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." I try to be a good person to everyone. I'm not perfect, but I try very hard.

Any exciting plans for the future?

Heidi: Nothing immediate, but one day when Colin is old enough I'd like to go to college. ■

High-Quality Audio R

By Andrew Selfridge, Central Oklahoma Paranormal Studies

Over the past year and a half, we have seen the emergence of many high-quality digital audio recorders. These recorders, bearing brand names like Zoom, Marantz, Tascam, Edirol, Yamaha, and Olympus, have all thrown their offerings into the arena with cheaper, high-end digital audio recorders.

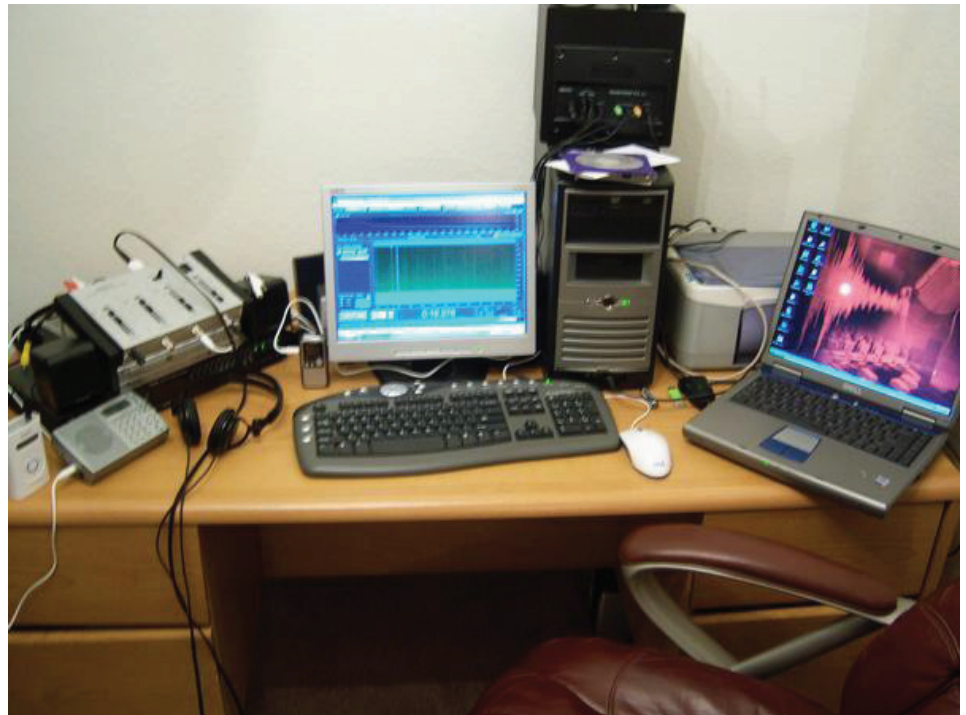
What makes these systems more valuable than regular, \$30 voice recorders from your local retail store? Audio quality would be the short answer. These high-end audio recorders have much higher sample rates and lower audio noise floors than their cheaper voice recorder counterparts.

Using both types side-by-side often shows that the higher-quality recorders can clearly identify benign sounds that take on an eerie EVP-like quality on lesser recorders.

Moving Toward Better Quality

Some researchers have sworn a cult-like loyalty to their older, noisy digital voice recorders (such as the infamous Panasonic DD-R60). A lot of people believe that the noise provided by the poor sampling rates and heavy digital compression is the media in which EVP is likely to manifest.

I do not know if that is the case or not, but I do know that it makes



With the use of a computer (preferably a laptop), a quality stereo microphone, and a free sound editing program, you too can capture CD quality sample-rate sound, and all it will cost you is disk space.

it extremely difficult to weed out genuine phenomena from noise, digital compression, case handling noise, and microphone bumps. It is my belief that we should strive to put our best foot forward as far as audio evidence, and the best way to do this is by using an audio recorder that has much better quality or “hi-def” audio.

Despite the logic of trying to obtain the best quality audio for evi-

dence purposes, there are still some folks who object, saying these higher quality recorders drastically decrease the number of EVP files that they collect. I think it is more likely that they are able to more readily distinguish the natural sounds on the higher-quality recorders and, as such, are not mistaking those sounds for EVP as was likely on the lesser recorders.

I have recently picked up a

Recording on a Budget

Zoom H2 Handy Recorder, the entry-level, high-quality audio recorder from Samson. This is on the lower end of what I consider to be a high-quality recorder, yet the divide between the audio obtained on this recorder and that found on a common voice recorder is quite large indeed.

With this recorder, I now have the ability to record CD quality (44.1kHz, 24bit uncompressed .wav) stereo (or 4-channel surround) sound. Since using this recorder, I have not looked back and never again will I use cheaper, lower-quality recorders.

As I said, the H2 is an entry-level, high-quality recorder, and it can be purchased at a price around \$150 US. Other brands mentioned above can be had for as little as \$300US or as much as \$1,000US, depending on storage space, features, or number of embedded microphones.

An Alternative

So what is a researcher to do when they do not have the money to fork out for a hi-def audio recorder? Believe it or not, the same results can be achieved for a lot less money, provided that you have a computer.

With the use of a computer (preferably a laptop), a quality stereo microphone, and a free sound editing program, you too can capture



Recording audio straight to your laptop can offer flexibility in record options that you could never get with a cheap digital voice recorder. An example would be adding four microphones to a cheap four-channel mixer, such as the RadioShack 32-2056 (29.00) and using the stereo mixed output to feed into your laptop recording software.

CD quality sample-rate sound, and all it will cost you is disk space.

Hardware Requirements

What kind of computer you intend to use is irrelevant; just make sure that it is somewhat recent, has a clock speed of 1.5ghz or better, and it would probably be a good idea to make sure that you are running 512mb or more (preferably more)

system RAM.

Next you will need a quality microphone. This will be personal preference, but it should be condenser or condenser-electret hybrid style with a 1/8" jack. To use stereo or not is again a personal preference, but I believe you should always use stereo to aid in determining sound strength in the left or right channel.

Next, install a free sound editor



The Zoom H2 Handy Recorder is an entry-level, high-quality recorder, and it can be purchased at a price around \$150 US. Other brands can be had for as little as \$300US or as much as \$1,000US, depending on storage space, features, or number of embedded microphones.

editing much easier since you don't have to wait to transfer it to your PC. You can also compress these audio files for archival storage or burn them to DVD/disc.

Basic Method

For a basic setup, connect a stereo microphone to your laptop. In a program such as Audacity, enable microphone recording (Edit>Preferences>Audio I/O tab>Recording>Device: Microphone (or stereo mix) >Channels: 2). Then click on the record button to begin capturing audio.

When finished, click on the stop button and save the file. You may wish to adjust recording levels, such as microphone volume, etc., until you get a sound level that you prefer.

It is that simple, and your audio is already saved on your computer. The amount of time that you get to record is proportional, of course, to the amount of free hard drive space. This method of recording may seem cumbersome, but the reward is in the sound depth and quality.

This method results in a system that is only as strong as its weakest link, so use only quality components. If you use a substandard microphone, you will get substandard audio quality. With some experimentation, you will find that "sweet spot," and your audio evidence files will benefit.

Links to free audio recording programs:

- Audacity:
<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>
- Wavepad:
www.nch.com.au/wavepad/
- Wavosaur:
www.wavosaur.com/
- Power Sound Editor Free
www.free-sound-editor.com/ ■

with record ability. Some examples include Audacity, a multi-OS recording platform, Wavepad from NCH Software, Wavosaur, a comprehensive recording program, and finally Power Sound Editor Free 6.9.6.

All of these programs have record settings allowing for the recording of audio in uncompressed .wav formats at 16bits or better.

Recording Options and Benefits

You will find that recording audio straight to your laptop can offer flexibility in record options that you could never get with a cheap

digital voice recorder. An example would be adding four microphones to a cheap four-channel mixer, such as the RadioShack 32-2056 (29.00) and using the stereo mixed output to feed into your laptop recording software.

There are many custom equalizer and filter programs that can be used, as well, in addition to the recording software to custom tailor the sound to your parameters or to experiment with certain frequency ranges during recording. Since your audio is already being stored on your computer, it makes listening and

WASHINGTON'S HAUNTED HOTSPOTS

BOOK WRITTEN BY LINDA MOFFITT

REVIEW BY REGAN C. VACKNITZ

Washington's *Haunted Hotspots* is a simple travel guide filled with haunted locations, tales, and folklore of Washington State. The author, Linda Moffitt, follows haunted stories from Spokane to Port Townsend and Vancouver to Bellingham.

She dissects the locations of the haunting, wrapping both haunting and locations into road trips. Each location is broken down into address, contact information, and if there are any costs or stipulations to visit.

According to Moffitt, she has researched each location through

either personal contact or investigation. There are some of the locations in the book that most investigators



agree are not haunted, as is often the case with folkloric tales.

For instance, the story of the

haunting in Auburn Fred Meyer's shoe department is a story that has been floating around for years with little witness verification, including from current and past Fred Meyer employees.

In the end, *Washington's Haunted Hotspots* seems like just another recounting of the same stories that have been around for years. I have read a number of books and Websites — including Jefferson Davis's book, *The Haunted Tour Guide of the Pacific Northwest* — that retell these same stories.

Although this book is handy and quaint, it has already been written many times over. ■

ORPHAN

MOVIE DIRECTED BY JAUME COLLET-SERRA

REVIEW BY RICHARD LOMBARDI

After I finally watched *Orphan*, overall, I give it a 1 thumbs up/1 thumbs down rating. The movie, directed by Jaume Collet-Serra (who also directed *House of Wax*) was released July 24, 2009.

With an R rating for violence and adult situations, it is definitely not one for the kids to see. I liked the acting from Aryana Engineer (Max), Vera Farmiga (Kate), Peter Sarsgaard (John), Isabelle Fuhrman (Esther), CCH Pounder (Sister Abigail), and Jimmy Bennett (Daniel), pretty much in that order.

The film work was good, but shaky at times — lots of close work,

which I like in suspense films. However, I have to say, I had the story semi figured out early on. I consider



it a cross between *The Good Son* and *The Crush/Poison Ivy*.

There were some twists that came late in the film, but early on it followed the overall story line of your standard overkill suspense formula.

The one thing that stood out in this movie was the artwork black light scene, but I felt even that was underdone as was the overall back story of the family. This two-plus-hour movie could have been expanded in some places and cut in others to make a better overall movie.

I'd recommend that you rent, not buy, *Orphan*. Unless you're looking to expand your horror movie collection, this one is not worth the price to buy it. ■

