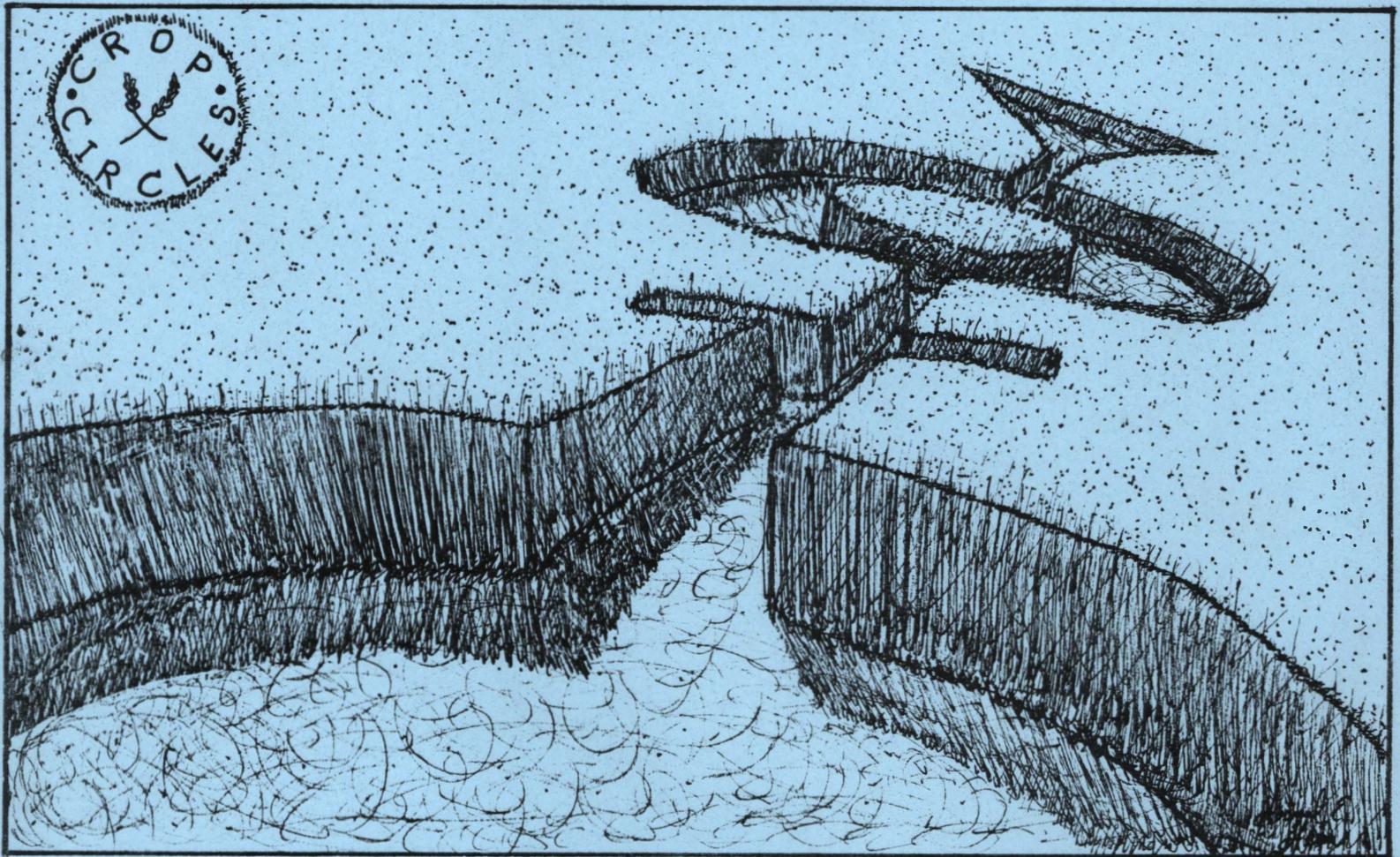


Ghost Trackers Newsletter



Vol. 10 No. 1

February 1991

GRS

Editors page:

Welcome to another addition of the Ghost Trackers Newsletter! I would like to make the following announcement; Howard Heim has been promoted to the post of Research Director of the GRS. He has been a long-standing and loyal member of the organization and has attended every lecture, psychic fair, field excursion and bus tour that he could to attempt to learn everything there was to be learned about parapsychology and ghost research. He will function as my right-hand man and will receive brand new leads which he will be able to do research and investigation on and later report back to me.

We are still looking for State Coordinators, Area Research Directors and Field Investigators in many states including Illinois. If you are interested in any of the above, call or write for further information.

Thanks to: Tom Perrott for his photographs, books and clippings; Richard Locke for the Dowzers information, Halloween card, Fate article and D. Scott Rogo's obituary; F.S. Miller for the Halloween card and clippings; Howard Heim for the design for the ghost tour flyers and the distribution of the same, clippings, Chicago maps and telephone books, and the many articles including - "A Visit With Uri Geller", "Myths About Science....and Belief in the Paranormal"; Rochelle Zaszczurynski for the psychic photograph; Judy Arrigo for the strange photograph taken at Robinson Woods on the recent group tour she was a part of; and all those people who sent me Christmas cards. Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year!

This issue is dedicated to the memory of parapsychologist, author and psychic researcher, D. Scott Rogo. Colleagues and the public were shocked to learn of the death by stabbing by an unknown assailant on August 17th. Neighbors noticing that the sprinkler in his backyard had been running for several days, alerted police who found the body in his California apartment. He had been scheduled to speak at a conference in Maryland the weekend that the body was found.

Rogo was author of many books on psi and paranormal investigations and a frequent participant in seminars and conferences on parapsychology. His books dealt with telepathy, clairvoyance, precognition, ESP experiences and investigations and he contributed articles to a number of publications; among the most recent were those appearing in Fate magazine on NDEs and UFO research. As yet, there have been no clues and no arrests made in the case, which appears to have been break-in and burglary. He will be greatly missed!

Since the last issue we have added six new members and have received renewals from four members. Welcome aboard or welcome back, we're glad to have you as a part of the GRS!

Ghost Research Society

Excursions Into The Unknown tours went incredibly well last year as it was our biggest and best year to date. There was, as always, a wealth of new material and next year promises to be even better as it will most likely be a Northside tour.

The long-awaited Overnight Haunted Indiana Ghost Tour is now in the planning stages. Watch for additional details in the near future. We are also planning a Strange Mysteries conference for early Spring. This will consist of a day-long series of lectures by various experts in a variety of paranormal fields including: parapsychology, UFOs, Bigfoot, Atlantis, etc.

I have also been contacted by CBS from California concerning a hour long weekly series tentatively entitled "Real Ghosts". The first episode is scheduled for mid-February on all local CBS stations. They are in the planning stages of doing a Chicago episode which would include the GRS and myself.

New Contributing Members include: Richard Friedmann, Brian J. Prichard, Martin W. Hurl, Michael D. Okin, Robert A. Emery, and Phyllis C. Butcher. New Sustaining Members are: Dr. David A. Gotlib, Bill Fuller, John Winson, Frank J. Pavlica, John Burke, Ronald Byrd, Jr., Gemara Cetnarowicz and Tommy Distler. Those interested in Active Research include: Chestina Stewart, Mike Shannon, Julie Greenholdt, Brian J. Prichard and Gemara Cetnarowicz.

The November issue of Fate Magazine featured Chicagoland ghost hunters including myself and the GRS. The article was written by member Paul Miller and was an excellent job of compiling. Great work Paul!

For those interested in obtaining a copy of the newest song about Resurrection Mary, Chicago's most famous ghost, send a postcard to: RSR Record Company, PO Box 302, Winthrop Harbor, Il., 60096 and request availability and prices.

We will soon be finished with another special interest directory entitled National Register of Haunted Houses. Flyers will be sent out as soon as the finishing touches are added.

The Newsletter of the Quarter is Thresholds, published six times a year by College of Metaphysics, Windyville, Mo. 65783. Subscriptions are \$13.40/1 year; \$23.30/2 years.

The Wild Hunt in Folklore and Ghostlore

By

Tom Perrott

In a previous article on "Screaming Skulls", I suggested that the many legends abounding on that theme, might well be traced back to the Celts' pre-occupation with the Human head, as a focal point of their religion.

The legend of the Wild Hunt with fatal consequences for its beholders, is another ancient superstition, which is thought to have originated in Anglo-Saxon times. In the years pre-dating the introduction of Christianity into the country, it was the general belief that on stormy Winter nights, the Norse God Odin chased across the sky, in the guise of a mounted Huntsman, accompanied by a pack of baying hounds, sometimes believed to have been the metamorphosed souls of prematurely dead babies. It was commonly thought that anyone who beheld the Wild Hunt, would instantly be transported to some foreign land, and that if that person were rash enough to address the Huntsman himself, the results would almost certainly be dire, and most likely fatal.

As a result of Christianity becoming the established religion of the land, many of the ancient gods were demoted to the rank of mere devils, and the role of the Huntsman was identified with that of Satan himself.

In some areas the huntsmens' horses appear to have transformed themselves into 'headless' horses, often with a headless driver, driving a phantom coach.

Again we are faced with the element of 'headlessness'. Could this again be an example of the survival of our Celtic beliefs, or could it be a long-forgotten Folk memory of an ancient sacrificial ritual involving decapitation. Sometimes it has been said that the expression 'headless', was a misnomer for 'heedless', especially where the driving speeds of the spectral Coachmen were concerned.

Soon after the orthodox theological conception of a live devil started to recede, the identity of the Huntsman was sometimes merged into that of a National Hero, such as the freebooter Sir Francis Drake, whose phantom coach is sometimes alleged to have been seen driving furiously across the wild and rugged heathland of Dartmoor, in the South Western County of Devon.

The Wild Hunt was sometimes referred to as the 'Wisht Hunt' and the hounds were known as 'Wisht Hounds'. Deep in the middle of Dartmoor is to be found one of its most haunted spots, which to this day is known as 'Wishtman's Wood'. Here may be seen ancient trees spreading into all sorts of grotesque shapes, while growing from moss-covered granite boulders, so old that they must have witnessed the Dawn of our island's history. From this dreaded spot the awful Wisht Hunt may sometimes be seen at midnight, led by the Devil or Dewer, as he is sometimes known locally. He is mounted on his black headless horse, sometimes accompanied by an entourage of demon Huntsmen. More often he hunts alone with his red-eyed and

slavering Wisht Hounds. So dreadful are they, that if anyone sees them, they cannot be expected to survive the year. Their immediate aim is to hunt the souls of unbaptised babies, some saying that the hounds themselves are such souls, transformed into hellish shapes. Again in the same area, a true sentinel on watch over the centuries, is the Great Hound Tor, a tor being a high rock or pile of stones and rocks deposited on the tops of hills, as a result of primeval volcanic activity, and very common in Devon. It is said that the rocks here resemble a pack of hounds in full cry, but suddenly turned to stone.

Space does not permit me to quote further examples, but there is plenty of evidence to show that the legends of the Wild Hunt are still very much alive, and have formed a very important feature in the lives of our ancestors, and had they been but passing fancies, they would not have so nobly withstood the ravages of time.

Some purists in the field of Parapsychology may think that the matters discussed in this article are irrelevant, where scientific investigations are concerned, but let them bear in mind the fact that many of the cases of inexplicable phenomena experienced today, may well have their roots in the Folklore memories of yesterday.

Submitted by:
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Circles In The Fields--Kansas City Style

By

Maurice Schwalm

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The Kansas City Star has carried two articles on a circle flap that occurred on the night of September 14, 1990. The first report dealt with a 50-foot circle near Bates City, Missouri. The second one dealt with three more circles that were reported to the Star after the original report was printed. One was to the southeast of the city and the other two were to the west of Kansas City. The circle near Bates City, which is to the east of the city, was in a sorghum field as was the one to the southeast; the other two were in pastures. In all four cases, just as in the English reports of this nature, the vegetation was flattened in a uniform pattern. There were no obvious indications of soil or crop contamination nor was it obvious that a microburst or other vortex wind pattern was involved. The Star did not speculate beyond that except to point out that there were no claims of an UFO being seen at the time.

The Star did mention one of the anomalies of the case in passing which is that the Bates City circle had expanded from its original shape to an irregular area the size of a football field! This event alone would distinguish it from most of its British peers. But there is more. Two witnesses heard something on the morning of September 13. One, a retired school teacher, heard what he describes as "a loud sweeping sound as over cement" that seemed to be moving towards the northeast, which would be in the direction of Bates City as it passed over his farm which is located on the highest point in the county. There was no motor sound. It seemed to be an updraft although no light objects in his house were disturbed. Somehow, he was elated by the sound which lasted some two seconds. He then called his neighbors across the road.

The neighbor in question is an environmental biologist who just happened to be home that morning. She also heard the sound which she could only describe as a non-motorized "whoosh". She was embarrassed she could not find a more scientific adjective for the sensation. She pointed out that all of them on the hilltop were more familiar with low-flying aircraft than they wished to be as a result of their proximity to Whiteman AFB. Troop-carrying transports pass that low on occasion, but the motor sounds are unmistakable. There seemed to be an upward air pressure with the sound, but no light objects in her house were disturbed. She went outside and looked in all directions from her hilltop vantage point but saw nothing. She had no further thoughts about the matter until the morning of September 15 when she saw helicopters in the air to the northeast over Bates City.

After spotting the aerial activity, she went to the site with her husband, who is also an environmental biologist, and her neighbor, the retired school teacher. She and her husband both

noted there was an extraordinary lack of insect activity in the field but could draw no conclusion from that fact. The retired teacher showed her a "find" from the field which further pointed up the biological dimension of the phenomenon. He had found a frog that was still green but totally desiccated--devoid of bodily fluids. She also noted that the stalks of sorghum were softened at the base which would cause them to fall for lack of support. She saw no indication of trampling of the crop which would inevitably cause breakage of the stalks. She said, "If I wanted to generate this condition experimentally, I would subject the plants to infrared radiation which would heat the soil and weaken the stalks at the base only".

The investigator then found that other Great Plains states had similar but yet distinguishable phenomena in the same time frame. In South Dakota, there had been a rash of healthy grass circles formed of a gray powdery substance. He was able to obtain a sample which proved to be a fungus of the subkingdom mycota which, among other things, is to be found in the alimentary canals of insects. Then he found that in North Dakota there were grass circles that appeared to have been grubbed. The conventional UFO-logical explanation here, of course, is robotic sampling. Also to be found in North Dakota, are 100-foot circles which have been burned off. Farmers burn off fields to produce ash as a fertilizer. It then occurred to the investigator that the entire circle phenomenon might relate to biochemistry, rather than robotics and an attempt to communicate with Homo Sapiens by an "unknown intelligence" as some circle researchers have theorized. That concept is certainly cogent considering that some of the circles are as complex as pictograms!

The investigator's model is that of a "Spacebug". That is, a transparent insectoid bioform whose behavior is shaped by chemical needs and capabilities that are unlike those of primate life forms. The geometric marchings and constructions of social insects would then be a precedent for the patterns in the fields. The circles could be formed using chemically generated infrared energy for the simple purpose of foraging the insect life at the base of the fields. They would then be insectivorous (insect eating) "insects". Ash would be used for fertilizing their camouflaged hives and fungus their waste products. Their "message" would then be that they wish to join our forest web ecology! The best way to confirm this hypothesis, would be to make insect counts in the circles as soon as they form. Alternatively, we could try to band one. The attempt would surely prove interesting since they appear to have ESP powers as well as prodigious chemical powers....

Submitted by:
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A Ghostly Encounter

By

Eugene Trundy

I've told only two people of my experience with whom I believe to have been a ghost, a female, young woman of approximately 19-21 years of age. Because no one believed me, I was labeled as a partial "nut" to them, but I'm glad you find said experiences important enough to investigate, so it eases my mind quite a bit.

My encounter with her was but one and a half to two hours long, and was in a small town in the state of Washington (Stillwater). (See map on last page) The town was just on the other side of Snoqualmic Pass. It has been four years since the encounter, but her name and description I recall very well.

In this little town, is a old diesel fired steam locomotive that makes a run from Stillwater to Seattle-Tacoma, and then back again, (a tourist run) I call it.

Jill Parker, the girl, entertained my person in the travel trailer as I drank beer. She drank too, or so I thought! I had consumed approximately five cans of Coors Beer, and her as well. I had bought a case. My habit was to put the empties back in the case. Each can she emptied, I put back in the case. They did feel, and were empty, so between her and I, ten cans of beer were drank.

Two hours later, I finally got up the courage to ask her out for a night on the town. She said yes, and would be my escort. She said she had to go home, and would I drive her there, as she liked to change her clothing and that I could pick her up at 7:30 pm.

I brought her to the road to her house, but she wouldn't let me drive down the road or let me see her home at all. I obliged her request and told her in my final words; our final words to each other, "I'll meet you here then at 7:30, okay?" She replied, "I hope so".

Then I left and went to a bar parking lot and inside to get a meal. It was one of those cafe-saloon type businesses that dominate the West. I did NOT have any liquor at all while there! I swear it's the truth. 7:30 came but before I left said parking lot, I went to take some beer out of the twelve pack racks and put it in the travel trailer refrigerator. That's when something was noted by me as being odd. There should have been only fourteen full cans of beer left but I counted only five empty cans, though the two of us had consumed a total of ten beers.

Well, I thought it over on my way to pick her up but couldn't come up with any logical answers, nor had I replaced what I thought, and saw her drink.

Upon arriving at the corner where I'd dropped her off previously, I noted she wasn't there. I stayed there for about 15-20 minutes, then thought I'd better go down to her house. I noted the road was a dead end road, but had a partial foundation left

over where a house once stood on it. The house itself was run-down and obviously had not housed anyone for quite sometime. It was deserted. The windows and doors were intact. No vandalizing of any kind. I called out to her, but no answer. I thought she may have been a female "tramp" just "crashing" in that house, and decided to leave.

I went to the bar again, thinking she might have gone there, but I didn't see her. I looked into stores and the one other cafe in town. Nothing! Finally I went back to the bar-cafe, ordered up a drink after the manager said I could park on his property for the night. That's when things started emerging.

The manager knew I was a tourist, asked my name and how I was doing. We talked back and forth. I mentioned to him my date and the fact that she stood me up. I can only recall his name on his shirt as being Bill. He immediately turned around, drew a full-size pitcher of beer, filled a mug for himself and then set the pitcher down in front of me. He said, "Drink, and when that's empty, there's more where that came from. It's on the house."

I must have looked quite shocked to him because of his gesture. He also offered me "any food in the house" I may have desired. That's when I learned about Jill Parker.

He started telling me, "Did you recall going by a school on your left on the way to her road?" I told him yes. He said that you're going to be waiting for a long time for her if you do wait at all. Jill isn't a human anymore. She's not alive in physical form as you or I are. She died back in 1976, ten years ago.

He then went on to tell me that she had taken her life in suicide after her son was killed by a car coming out of the school yard by a teenager from the same school. The school served as both a grade school and a high school. The police had come to her house to inform her of her sons death.

She didn't want to go to the police station, so they brought his body to her house to identify. After identification, she apparently told the officials she'd be ok, that she was strong and that she would be down later.

She was supposed to meet someone at 6:30 that evening but never saw them because whomever was to meet with her, found her outside on the ground dead from an overdose of medication.

I was told that Miss Parker will occasionally strike up a meeting with people from out of town, tourists, salesmen, and at times has been seen at the school calling for her son Ricky. They'll walk back towards the abandoned house, then disappear.

Sounds of little Ricky and her ghost occasionally are heard in or around the house. His toys outside are noticeably moved from time to time and the swing out back moves back and forth. No one will say where she is buried, but her son and her are buried in the same coffin. Bill also says, no one cares to talk about it because it was too tragic for the small town. All the speed signs now say 25 MPH since then.

I hope you will believe me, as I needed to share my past experience with someone who'll believe me. I'm not crazy, just glad someone out there has started said society.

Submitted by:
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The following story was submitted by the wife of the founding member of the GRS, Martin Riccardo. Her story is told in it's entirety and unedited.

Dear Dale:

I would like to share with you some experiences I have had in possible contact with my deceased parents:

My Mother was a victim of Multiple Sclerosis for thirty-five years, before she passed away from congestive heart failure. My Father followed her only eight months later, the cause of his death was a ruptured aneurysm of the aorta. I was an only child and extremely close to both of them.

Three weeks before my mother so unexpectedly made her transition, I had a very strange experience. I was doing some chores around the house, and all of a sudden I was stopped in my tracks, as if a gentle pressure, ever so light was placed upon my head, then a voice spoke to me inside my head, saying "Listen!" There was a pause, almost as if he sighed, it was a man's voice, and then he said, "The only way you are going to get through this is with love." I then felt a wonderful sense of peace and security. My immediate reaction, was there may be a set back with my Dad's health, since he had suffered from emphysema for a few years. I did not feel odd or question my sanity, because I have had psychic experiences all of my life. (See GT Newsletter, Vol. 2, No. 2, January 1983) But, I will say that I was given, to some extent, some strength, and guidance to get me through the terrible ordeal that my family and I went through with my Mom's sudden death on March 18, 1988.

During the next eight months, I had to experience my Dad's declining health and endure terrible grief. During that Summer of 1988, I experienced several dreams about my Mother. I also experienced a distinct realization of two different kinds of dream qualities. There is one kind of dream, that in it we are going over things in our subconscious mind. Sometimes these types of dreams are expressing fear, guilt, longing, and sometimes comfort. However there is a kind of dream, that is different. It comes almost like a photograph, you have an awareness that it's not just a dream. I had several of these kinds of dreams in October of 1988. My Mother was trying to prepare me for my Father's death, which happened in November. I also, and this may sound a little weird, received messages from her on the radio. This came about through a couple of songs, that my Mom always liked. One in particular was a very old song. It was not a big hit back in the forties, but to my Mother it was, as she put it, "the song came out just before you were born, and I dedicated it to you." The week of my birthday, I heard this song over and over again, everywhere I went. It was on the car radio, it was being played in restaurants, it was everywhere I went. I felt that Mom was still there for me, just as she always was. I felt I hadn't really lost her.

After my Dad passed on, I did not have any dreams or any kind

of messages for nine months. Then I had a dream, he appeared to me and did not say anything. He just looked very happy and in radiant health. I could sense his love for me, and this dream had that quality of a vision more than just a dream state. When I awoke, I felt very happy and at peace. What happened after is to me a very strange thing. My husband and I were with his parents. My Mother-in-law took me aside and told me that she had had a dream of my Father. In her dream she talked to him. He looked happy and said to tell his daughter that everything was fine, "Just fine". He then gave her a very personal message to tell me. There was no way she would have known this, nor did anyone. When she awoke, she felt at first paralyzed and heard a crackling sound, like, as she put it, electricity above her head towards the ceiling. The paralysis state was brief and so was the noise. Also, she had this dream on the same early morning at the same time that I did.

I have had other experiences since then, also before my parents deaths. I had a vision of my Uncle, Grandmother and pets. I am firmly convinced that our Spirit survives bodily death. I would like to share my experiences with others. I would like to give hope to people who have lost loved ones, and for myself, I seek information to help me understand better my own experiences. I would like to hear from you to get your opinions. Especially if you could answer the crackling electrical sounds. I would also like for you to pass on my name and address to other people who have had similar experiences in hopes that they will write to me.

Submitted by:
Denise Riccardo
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What Is The Difference Between a Ghost and a Spirit?

By

Rev. Speaker Gerald Polley

After some meeting or gathering when people learn I am a Spirit Communicator I am often asked this interesting question, and from my own experience I can simply say there is NONE, whatsoever. A Ghost is simply a normal, benign spiritual entity that has become trapped in the material realm, usually by some circumstance surrounding its death, and wishes to communicate something to the material realm before it can be released from existence here. In the two cases I have personally witnessed both were women who had been brutally murdered, and could not find peace until the true circumstances of their deaths were known.

Much of the phenomena associated with hauntings is the result of sensitive people picking up the desires and final feelings of these spiritual entities, and sometimes virtually reliving them, experiencing the fears and horrors of the final moments of their lives.

These spiritual entities are caught in a vicious circle, constantly reliving and broadcasting their pain and suffering, desperately reaching out and begging for help, which they can often not understand why it does not arrive. Fortunately, in the two cases I mentioned, I was able to make the spiritual entities understand that they could continue to seek justice in the Spiritual Realm as WELL as the material, and perhaps their cause was even better served as Spiritual entities, and helped them make the passage to that realm where they belonged.

There is a second type of haunting, a second type of Spiritual entity that I must warn you about. Though they are rarer than the first type, they are extremely dangerous and must be dealt with. These are unbenign spiritual entities, or, Demons, who cannot enter the Spirit Realm because their lives have been so cruel, and they have caused others so much suffering and pain they face The Second Death...the end of existence. They can only exist by living in the darkest places in the material world, and drawing the last bit of life energy from dying bodies. These are the causes of your more violent hauntings, the dark and sadistic ones, places where people and animals tend to die. Such places are no joke, no place in which to play games and should only be approached by those experienced in handling such phenomena. For these are not child's games.

Ghosts of either kind are no laughing matter, and can have a very disturbing effect on unprepared individuals with a sensitivity to their phenomena. So beware, good people! Approach haunted places with a prayer of protection and a seriousness, for you are not entering into a game, but something that is very serious.

Submitted by: Rev. Speaker Gerald Polley, PO Box 5155, Ellsworth, Me. 04605. Voices From Spirit Magazine.

The Haunted Bookstore

By

W. Ritchie Benedict

BURNING BOY A PUZZLE Beijing (Reuter) February 5, 1990

Doctors are alarmed at a new medical mystery - a boy whose body can spontaneously ignite in the most sensitive of places, burning through clothing, says an official Chinese newspaper.

Two weeks ago the grandmother of four-year-old Tong Tangjiang is said to have seen smoke coming out from his trousers.

A hole about 2 and a half centimetres square was burned through two layers of clothing, China Youth News reported on Monday.

"In the two hours from eight a.m. till 10 a.m., Tang spontaneously ignited four times," the newspaper said. "His right armpits and private parts were burned."

The newspaper quoted doctors as saying the boy's body has a strong electric current running through it.

THAI MEN FEAR SEX-STARVED GHOSTS - Bangkok (AFP) April 15, 1990

Men in rural northeastern Thailand are painting their fingernails red to fool female ghosts hunting for husbands, Thai newspapers reported Saturday.

The practice began after reports that hundreds of Thai workers have died mysteriously in their sleep in Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia over the last two years.

Residents of a small village in Ubon Ratchathani province, about 630 kilometres northeast of Bangkok, decided that a bunch of ghosts who had died as widows were on a husband-hunting spree by killing men in their sleep, the English-language Nation newspaper said.

* * * * *

DISNEY GHOST SPARKS VIDEO RUSH - Los Angeles (AP)

Video stores have been besieged with requests for cassettes of Three Men and a Baby amid speculation that the ghost of a child lurks in a scene in the Disney film.

"Everybody who's walked into the store today wants this movie," said operations manager Ryan Bicknell of Music Plus in the Los Angeles suburb of Marina Del Rey. All the store's copies of the 1987 comedy about three bachelors who rear a baby were rented out Friday morning, he said.

Three Men and a Baby already is the No. 1 rental in video history, according to Billboard magazine.

Viewers have been transfixed by an eerie figure in a scene in which actor Ted Danson and Celeste Holm, co-starring as Danson's mother, walk by a window in a home, shared by Danson and his buddies, played by Tom Selleck and Steve Guttenberg.

Partially obscured in the window is the figure of what looks like a young boy, seemingly hiding behind a curtain.

"I was never a firm believer in ghosts or anything, but I'll

Writer Wants Ghost Stories

By

Debra D. Munn

Everybody knows that the Big Sky country is full of real, live cowboys and cowgirls, but I'm willing to bet it has more than its share of ghostly inhabitants, too--not just out on the range, but in the cities and towns as well. In fact, I'm so sure that the state of Montana is liberally infested with phantoms that I want to collect as many of these stories as I can find and publish them in a sequel to my first book, Ghosts on the Range: Eerie True Tales of Wyoming, published last fall by Pruett Publishing of Boulder, Colorado.

I am now interested in collecting ghost stories (all supposed to be true) for this second book. If you know of any spooky stories in the state of Montana, whether they happened to you or to someone else, please call me at 806-359-3619 (and please don't hesitate to leave a message on the answering machine), or write to me at 6407 Hyde Parkway, Amarillo, TX. 79109.

I am interested in first and secondhand accounts, as well as in any previously published or printed material on the subject of Montana ghosts. The stories themselves may be old or new, involving persons living or dead. I prefer to use real names of respondents, but I will not do so against anyone's wishes.

I'm sure that a state the size of Montana should have even more ghost stories than Wyoming does, and with your help, I hope to find them. My deadline is May, so please contact me as soon as possible. Thanks in advance for any assistance you can give me. Happy Hauntings!

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BOOK REVIEWS

The Mexican Pet, (More "New" Urban Legends and Some Old Favorites), by Jan Harold Brunvand (W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 500 Fifth Ave., New York, NY. 10110, 1988, 221 pages, \$9.95)

Let us say that you are visiting a friend one day and he says: "Have you heard about that football player who was fooling around? One day his wife caught on, crept into the locker room and filled his helmet with Krazy Glue. He couldn't get it off and had to walk around after the big game with it on, until they were able to cut it off piece by piece. The final revenge was that he went bald shortly afterwards." Now, let me state at the outset, that the above is a manufactured piece of fiction I just came up with out of my imagination. It is also a perfect example of the modern "urban legend" - those stories everyone swears is true, but are unable to be tracked down and verified. The occult field has been riddled with these creative efforts for years, and it is often very difficult to sort out fact from fiction.

This is the fifth book by a specialist in American folklore who is also a professor of English at the University of Utah. He also writes a popular national column "Urban Legends" which is syndicated by United Features Syndicate. The two earlier major works he has written are "The Vanishing Hitchhiker" and "The Choking Doberman". I have always maintained that if tales of UFO landings and ghosts are complete fictions, it is nevertheless important to understand the human need for believing such things happen. Therefore the study of the psychological reasons behind modern folklore is necessary to understand the human condition. At the very least, it helps to understand why modern tabloids publish the weird material that they do.

The title piece of the book concerns a woman tourist who went on a vacation to Tijuana, Mexico to do some shopping. In an area populated by stray dogs, she supposedly happened upon a particularly bedraggled and pitiful specimen. She smuggled the dog across the border, takes it home and gives it a bath. She soon notices the "dog" is foaming at the mouth and appears quite ill. She rushes it to a vet who informs her that not only is it not a dog, being a Mexican sewer rat, but it is also dying. One version of the story, even has it smuggled across two borders into Canada!

It is amazing how often the press and the news media get taken in by these stories. Perhaps because there is so much that goes on in the world that is on the odd side. Perhaps because they do not go to the time and trouble of tracking down the source before printing the account. There are certainly all kinds in this book - animals, contaminations, sex and scandal, crime, automobiles, general horrors, and products, professions and personalities. That old chestnut from the 1960's - stickers impregnated by LSD sold to children - recently surfaced in my home town of Calgary. Local authorities were quite concerned - it is too bad no one pointed out to them it was simply another in a long line of urban legends. It is conceivable some (a very few) may have happened somewhere to

somebody and the origin has long since been lost. This is one area where I take issue with the good professor. Just because a tale is archetypal does not mean it is not true. In the instance of "The Vanishing Hitchhiker", even Prof. Brunvand admits the instances of reported sightings are so wide-spread it is difficult to know what to make of them. There are two authenticated cases I can think of offhand. One was reported by a British man on the Arthur C. Clarke television series "Strange Powers" and the other was by television actor Telly Savalas.

Some of the stories here are updates of legends contained in the first two books and are marked accordingly. The sections on horrors and contaminations remind me of the type of material that goes around junior high schools where kids take turns trying to "out-gross" each other. Sort of like the stomach-bursting creature in the movie "Alien". Luckily the author has a good sense of humor about such things - some of them would be hard to take if they were real.

The world of crime is made for urban legends. The crimes range from the man who hands a winning lottery ticket around the room only to find it replaced with a non-winning one when it is returned to him, to a murderer disguised as a hairy-armed woman.

Rumours are the bane of manufacturers - they spend time and trouble trying to nail down whoever is trying to put them out of business. Charitable causes are also prone to false claims. Even the Reagans were taken in a few years ago, by some mythical boy in Newfoundland who badly needed medical treatment. This is when urban legends stop being fun and start being serious and a nuisance.

I can recall that my Dad was convinced one of the stories in this book was real - that is the one about the children's show host who didn't realize the mike was open and used a cussword on the air.

The big advantage with reading this book is that the next time you hear about something wild, you will remember to take it with a grain of salt. Remember what P.T. Barnum said about "There is a sucker born every minute." Or was that W.C. Fields? Hmm maybe that statement is an urban legend?

There is no doubt this is a vastly interesting book and there are new legends popping up all the time. I hope I haven't created one with the opening tale of the cheating football player, but you never know. A welcome addition to the literature on folklore and not a boring moment in it.

Reviewed by: W. Ritchie Benedict

The Ghostly Gazetteer by Arthur Myers (Contemporary Books, 180 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Il., 60601, 1990, 306 pages, \$9.95, softbound, ISBN: 0-8092-4204-4)

Yet another ghostly resume of haunted locations around the United States by author Arthur Myers. Almost as good as his first attempt The Ghostly Register and much better than his poor attempt

in Ghosts of the Rich and Famous. This book takes you across the country visiting ghost towns, churches, motels, jails, resorts, pubs, theaters, restaurants, fire stations, newspaper publishers, dormitories, bridges and libraries - all which are haunted or have produced some psychic phenomena in the past or are continuing to have encounters in the present.

The only thing I didn't like about the book was the lack of real addresses that was so predominate in The Ghostly Register. Sometimes only vague directions were actually given. This doesn't give the researcher a chance to visit the place personally. Besides this, the book fairs quite well. Of course, Mr. Myers should hire a professional photographer to do his picture-taking though; some of the pictures are terrible, either under-exposed or blurred. Rated 8 in a scale from 1-10.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

Phantom Forces by Richard Rainey (Berkley Books, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY. 10016, 1990, 231 pages, \$3.95, paperback, ISBN: 0-425-11969-6)

From the dawn of time, the battlefield has been the borderline between life and death. History records numerous wars which were won or lost because of strange prophecies, holy visions, and even ghostly armies materializing out of the sky.

That is how the back cover describes this book by Mr. Rainey. It is a collection of little-known stories with psychic connections about many famous people in our past history and associated with the disasters of war and fighting. Chapters on Rasputin, Abraham Lincoln, Joan of Arc, George Armstrong Custer, Oliver Cromwell, Attila the Hun, Gilles de Rais, John Brown, Joseph Smith, Adolph Hitler and others grace this well researched and interesting book.

I was quite awed by some of the stories especially since I did not know that some of these persons had had some form of psychic experience, premonition or ghostly encounter!

A book that should not be missed! Rated 7 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

Satan's Harvest by Michael Lasalandra & Mark Merenda (Dell Publishing, Division of Bantam Doubleday, 666 Fifth Ave., New York, NY. 10103, 1990, 290 pages, \$4.50, paperback, ISBN: 0-440-20589-1>>450)

Do you believe in Demonic possessions? Exorcisms? This book might make a believer out of you or at least will scare the pants right off you! Authored by two professional journalists and narrated, sort to speak, by Ed and Lorraine Warren, world-famous ghost hunters, demonologists and clairvoyants.

The book relates the story of Nancy and Maurice Theriault and how he came under diabolical attack and later possession by a demon or demons. His entire life story is traced back to his early childhood and the brutality of his father and the gentleness of his mother. How he was never allowed to have a life of his own while

living under his father's dominance. It is truly a sad and, at the same time, frightening story.

Whether you believe that demonic possession is possible or not, this book is well worth reading as it raises many interesting points and goes into incredible detail. I found myself doubting certain passages and accounts myself but, on the whole, I at least thought it was possible. Illustrated with pictures, be sure to read this one! Rated 8 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

Voices Of Eternity by Sarah Wilson Estep (Fawcett Gold Medal Book, New York, NY. 1988, 206 pages, \$3.95, paperback, ISBN: 0-449-13424-5)

Mrs. Estep's first attempt at a book and an excellent one at that. Voices of Eternity goes into her life's work of recording spirit voices and also interpreting those messages she receives. As President and Founder of the AA-EVP (American Association - Electronic Voice Phenomena, 726 Dill Rd., Severna Park, Md. 21146) she has devoted many, many years in this field following right in the footsteps of such pioneers as Dr. Konstantin Raudive and Peter Bander whom are considered the fathers of Electronic Voice Recording.

I had several opportunities of talking and meeting with Sarah both at annual conventions that used to be held and when we both appeared on AM Chicago with Oprah Winfrey, some years ago. She is a straight-forward and no-nonsense type of person who truly believes in what she's doing.

The book not only gives numerous examples of received messages and sometimes even answers to questions posed by Sarah but hints on how you too can record spirit voices! It documents her travels to the Egyptian pyramids where many interesting messages were received to trips to Luxembourg where other experts are still experimenting with the latest in electronic experimentation.

If you've read Voices From the Tapes or Breakthrough, then this book should also be read and placed right beside the other two when finished. Rated 9 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

The Encyclopedia of Unsolved Mysteries by Colin Wilson (Contemporary Books, 180 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Il., 60601, 1988, 318 pages, \$12.95, softbound, ISBN: 0-8092-4524-8)

A truly excellent and well-researched book by noted author and investigator, Colin Wilson who has written other paranormal volumes like Mysteries, The Occult, and Poltergeist. He is highly respected by his peers worldwide for his informative and intensive study into the strange anomalies which remain unexplained.

The book contains forty-two amazing true cases of psychic powers, historical enigmas, haunted locations, and visitors from other worlds that have no rational explanation yet cannot be denied.

Lavishly illustrated with pictures, drawings and diagrams, he delves into such curious episodes as: Atlantis, the mystery of the moving coffins, The Bermuda Triangle, Bigfoot, Dillinger's death?, the Grey Man of Ben MacDhui, Shroud of Turin, Joan of Arc, Loch Ness Monster, the Mary Celeste, the Money Pit of Oak Island, Robin Hood, spontaneous human combustion, the great Siberian explosion at Tunguska, UFOs and Patience Worth, plus many others.

I was especially intrigued by the story of the Money Pit of Oak Island which was supposed to be the location of Captain Kidd's unfound buried treasure and the laborious effort that went into trying to find the bottom of this pit where the treasure supposedly rested.

I was also highly impressed by the literary style and amount of research that apparently went into the writing of the book. A most welcome addition to anyone's library. Rated 8 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

The Unquiet Dead by Dr. Edith Fiore (Ballantine Books, New York, NY. 1987, 174 pages, \$3.95, paperback, ISBN: 0-345-35083-9)

Moved by the suffering of patients who came to her with seemingly incurable psychological and psychosomatic problems, noted psychologist Dr. Edith Fiore began to explore beyond the boundaries of traditional psychology and made a startling discovery: a significant number of her patients were suffering from spirit possession, a condition that no amount of orthodox treatment could cure.

I found this book to be quite interesting in that a professional psychologist took it upon herself to conduct the necessary research needed to make such a statement about the parapsychological implications of spirit possession. A much needed look at the therapy and way she uses to release the troubled person from the unwanted spirits that inhabit them.

One statement that Dr. Fiore says in her book and I found utterly fascinating was that she wasn't entirely sure of the notion of spirit possession but did state that the therapy employed by herself was always totally successful! Is this a matter of willpower or simply a form of post-hypnotic suggestion? You decide for yourself. Rated 6 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

Hauntings and Happenings of Loudoun by Frank Raflo (Potomac Press, Leesburg, Virginia, 1978, 100 pages, softbound)

I met the author, Frank Raflo, while on a six and a half hour ghost tour of haunted Virginia and West Virginia sponsored by the International Fortean Organization (INFO, PO Box 367, Arlington, Va. 22210). We had stopped in the town of Leesburg in the county of Loudoun and Mr. Raflo came aboard each bus to tell us of the spooky locations within the town of Leesburg.

He was a very articulate speaker and was the local expert on

the supernatural. He even told us of his own paranormal experience concerning his son who had died in a automobile accident. Mr. Raflo was awakened late one night by a sudden blow to his head. He could not explain what had caused it but later he determined that was the exact moment his son had been thrown from a car to his death in California.

Mostly local stories told by local people living in the area. No exact locations listed and illustrated only by drawings. Rated 5 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek



**National
UFO
Museum**

In 1991 The National UFO Museum will open its doors in Reno, Nevada. Exhibits will be but a small part of the museum's "mission". It will be an archive and a repository of UFO data. It will be a bookstore and mail order outlet. It will be a data clearing house and resource center. It will publish its own original books, a regular newsletter for members of the "Friends of the Museum" association, and a annual calender of UFO history and coming events. Send \$2 (to cover the costs of postage and handling) to be placed on the museum's mailing and receive exciting updates on UFOs and UFOlogists around the world. **National UFO Museum, P. O. Box 20593, Sun Valley, NV 89433.**



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Opinion Polls

Chestina Stewart of Rantoul, Illinois writes, "I would like to see a Free page for us members wishing to get acquainted with other members. We could use this page to place our names and addresses in the newsletter."

Rochelle Zaszczurynski of Chicago, Illinois comments, "Perhaps a better quality of paper for the covers. It might make a better print and give a better endurance. On the inside pages some of the letters and numbers are half there."

Lee A. Wall of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania says, "I would like to see more personal experiences even if the price had to go up. The theme of the newsletter is carried out, easy to read and interesting. There is a lot of information and it is presented in a most interesting fashion. I am always very happy to get the Ghost Trackers Newsletter. I couldn't enjoy it more."

Editors note: While we used to have a cross-country mailing list we maintained, it seemed like not enough people were interested to warrant the bother. I would be happy to give it another try if there is enough interest.

As you have probably noticed, the text has gotten even better since the last issue. That is because we have finally worked out the bugs with the laser printer and we are now printing out each newsletter with laser print quality. (300 dpi - dots per inch) I am always looking for better ways to upgrade and enhance the quality and overall readability of the newsletter. In the upcoming issues we will be producing the publication with the help of a professional desk top publishing program and eventually adding graphics and later scanned images with the text with the help of a desktop scanner. We can only add and upgrade the newsletter as we obtain the necessary monies to buy the hardware and software that is needed. All donations for this cause are and will be graciously accepted. Make all donations payable to Dale Kaczmarek.

I would be more than happy to add additional columns and more personal encounters but that depends on reader input. Without input of personal encounters and/or investigations, we cannot add these to the newsletter. We are always looking for columnists and those that donate articles for publication receive that issue FREE!

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The Journal of the International Fortean Organization - General Index, Issues 1-50 is now available. The culmination of many months of work, this General Index makes available the wealth of Fortean material that was published in the INFO Journals from 1967 to 1986. The majority of the INFO Journals covered can be obtained from INFO. Dealer inquiries are invited. 140 pages, softbound. List price \$12.50 plus \$2.50 postage and packing, US and foreign. Order from INFO, PO Box 367, Arlington, Va., 22210-0367.

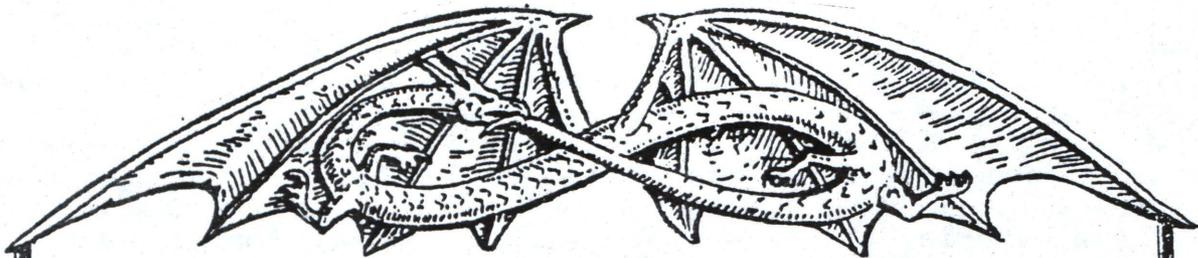
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EXPLORING UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENA III - May 17-19, 1991, Lincoln, Nebraska. The Fortean Research Center is pleased to announce that Lincoln, Nebraska will be the site of a third "Exploring Unexplained Phenomena" conference, May 17-19, 1991. The conference will be held at the Nebraska Center, Holdrege and 33rd Streets. Having been the site of conferences on the unexplained in 1982 and 1983, and the site of the international MUFON Symposium in 1988, the Nebraska Center offers one of the finest facilities in the country. For further information, contact: Scott H. Colborn, Director, The Fortean Research Center, PO Box 94627, Lincoln, NE.,

68509.

HEALTH, HOLISTIC & ESP EXPO - is a consumers show based on all aspects of health, a balanced ecology and human growth and development. To be held at the Rosemont-O'Hare Exposition Center, 9301 Bryn Mawr, Rosemont, Il. on January 18-20, 1991. For further information, contact: Rising Star Promotions, Inc., PO Box 1057, Buffalo, NY. 14213 or call (416)871-2681.

BI-MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE GHOST RESEARCH SOCIETY will officially be starting this year. Meetings will be held on the third Saturday of every other month unless otherwise noted. Meeting dates for 1991 are as follows: January 19th, March 16th, May 18th, July 20th, September 21st and November 16th. The meetings are open to all members in good standing (membership must be current and up to date) and members only! Meeting places will be announced in advance. If you are interested in attending these meetings, please call in advance and inform us of your decision to attend. Contact Dale Kaczmarek at 708-425-5163.



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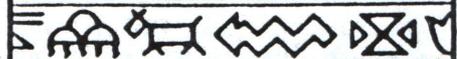
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