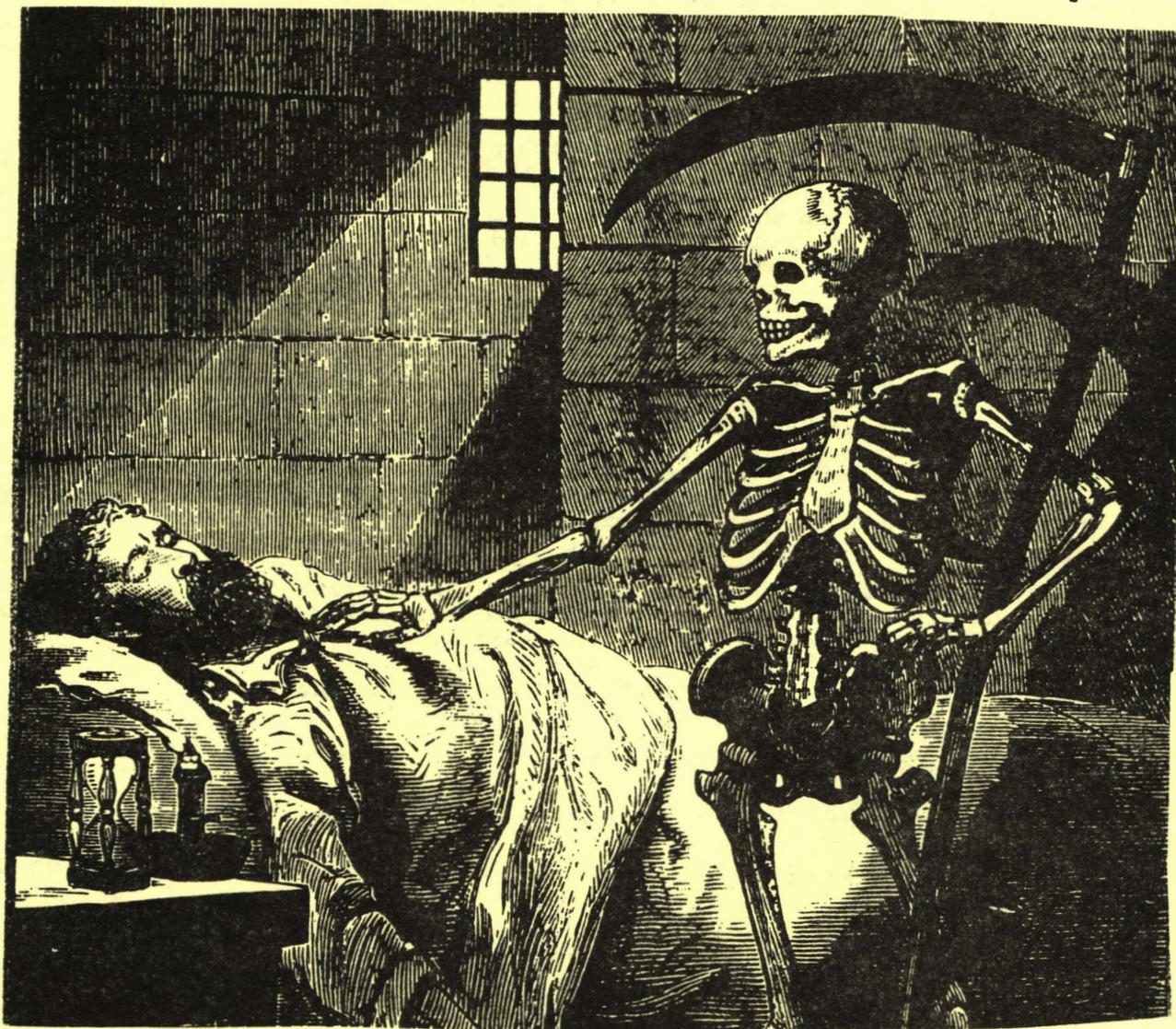


Ghost Trackers Newsletter

The Official Paranormal Publication of the Ghost Research Society



Volume 12

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October 1993



Ghost Trackers Newsletter

The Ghost Trackers Newsletter is the official paranormal publication of the Ghost Research Society. The GRS was founded in 1978 by Martin V. Riccardo and this publication soon followed in September of 1982. It is published and edited by Dale D. Kaczmarek, President and is put out in February, June and October.

The Ghost Research Society is a membership organization devoted to collecting, analyzing and researching all forms of the paranormal with an emphasis on ghosts, hauntings, poltergeists and life after death. Different memberships are available for those wishing to become more actively involved. We are also looking for officers, State Coordinators, Field Investigators and Area Research Directors for various states and countries.

Regular memberships are \$12.00 per year and include three issues of the Ghost Trackers Newsletter, GRS button, membership card, discounts to GRS sponsored events and tours, FREE photo analysis service and discounts on new and used books with FREE finder service available. Send wants! Sustaining Memberships are \$17.00 and include the above and the opportunity of helping with ghost research and attending field excursions (Midwest members only and subject to interview) at least twice a year. Contributing Memberships are \$22.00 and besides the above receive a free newspaper clipping service for your particular state (or country) sent on an irregular basis with your subscription. Multi-year, Patron and Lifetime Memberships are also available. If interested in those, please request further information.

Back issues of most newsletters are available for \$4.00 per issue or any three for \$10.00 for members only. Cost for non-members is \$5.00 per issue or any three for \$13.00. Non-members must also include postal charges as follows: \$1.00 for the first issue ordered and \$.75 for each additional issue. All back issues are shipped via first-class mail. Write for FREE back issue list!

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Editors page:

Well, as we wind toward that magical time of year again, Halloween, I find myself busier than ever. Not only do I have the ghost tours, Excursions Into The Unknown, but this year I'm running a number of tours for various park districts including: Oak Lawn, Worth, Westmont, Niles, Hickory Hills, Justice, Bridgeview and Berwyn. Plus I have a number of lectures scheduled at various libraries including: Cicero, Acorn, Palos Heights, Worth, Calumet City, Alsip-Merrionette Park, and Justice. Check with your local library for exact times and dates or call me personally at 708-425-5163. I also have an major article coming out around Halloween in the Chicago Tribune newspaper. Watch for it!

I would like to thank all those contributors whom have sent along their contributions. Thanks go out to: Tom Perrott for all his clippings and the two excellent books "Supernatural Investigations" and "Harry Price: Ghost Hunter", F.S. Miller for the clippings, Jackie Rhame for the excellent ghost photograph and Jeanne Youngson for the book "True Haunted Houses and Ghosts". I sincerely appreciate them all!

Since the last newsletter I have 12 new members and received renewals from 14 members. Welcome and thank you! New Patron member is Pat Oster, Contributing Members: Len Pytlak, Mark Janowicz and Susie Thompson and Sustaining Members include: Gregory Conley and Felicia Ogburn. Glad to have you aboard!

Next bi-monthly meeting date at the Oak Lawn Public Library is November 27, 1993 at 1pm in Meeting Room B. All are invited to attend and why not bring a friend along!

The Newsletter of the Quarter is These Celestial Times which is a quarterly publication. Volume 2, No. 3 includes stories on ET's, UFOs and book & music reviews as well as a nice classified section. Subscription is \$20 for 4 issues and should be mailed to: PO Box 8094, Gaithersburg, MD. 20898-8094.

I am in the process of putting together another special interest directory. This one is concerned with movies on the subject of ghosts. It is listed alphabetically and should be an added additional to anyone's library. Cost is \$6.50 postage-paid.

I am also looking for anyone who would be interested in writing a regular column for the newsletter and any artists for cover designs and artwork. If you are interested, please contact me personally.

DEMONS, DOCTORS, AND ALIENS

by
James Pontolillo

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Ghost Research Society

I thought I would use this page to go over the various Field Excursions and Haunted House Investigations that I and other Active Members have been involved with during this year to date.

During our first Field Excursion in June several members and I visited two cemeteries: Mount Carmel and Queen of Heaven. There have been numerous incidents that have occurred at both locations. In Mount Carmel, we visited the grave of Julia Buccola Peta who died in 1921 and six years later was exhumed only to be found in a perfect state of preservation. This was done in part because of a series of dreams that her mother had for almost six years. There have been reports by Hillside police of strange lights in the cemetery, nearby residents and passers-by have seen a figure of a woman dressed in white roaming the cemetery at night and the strange scent of roses has been encountered over and over again at her gravesite. We also visited the grave of Alphonse Capone and a revolving tombstone which, with a slight pressure, does turn 360 degrees on a pedestal. Later we traveled across the street to Queen of Heaven Cemetery and viewed the Our Lady of Angels Fire Shrine where many children were buried after that tragic fire. Some have insisted that they feel a burning sensation on their body, smell smoke and even experience the pain and anguish those must have felt during that awful day. Another site in the cemetery is the cross where many claim to have seen a vision of the Blessed Virgin. Many have pictures while others had personal experiences to relate. The cross was recently moved to another location away from where the original sightings took place but apparently some encounters have still happened at the new site.

In August a half-dozen Active members accompanied myself to Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Worth where the grave of Mary Alice Quinn is located. She died in 1934 at a very early age. During the early 1940's some said that they saw the apparition of Mary near her grave. While no visual sightings have been reported since then, the scent of roses has been a regular experience here at her gravesite. It's a true psychic odor. One of my members, Lucy Solis who came along on this outing, said that she got a brief whiff of a floral scent which quickly dissipated. Others in the immediate area apparently did not smell this odor. However in all fairness, Lucy is quite intuitive and psychic. We also visited the final resting place of the Grimes sisters killed in 1957 and found on German Church Road and that of Mayor Daley.

Later we made a brief stop at Bachelor's Grove Cemetery perhaps Chicagoland's most haunted location. I say briefly because the mosquitoes were quite bad and draining us of blood by the pint! We did walk around the area, take pictures and try to pick up any feelings that anyone might come across.

I am also currently involved in a haunted house investigation in Schaumburg which has been the subject of the Joe Who show on WLUP AM1000 every Sunday from 2-6pm. Joe Who is a voice-natural psychic and he came with on two occasions and is continuing to

follow this case very closely.

This all started over 13 years ago when LuAnn (last name with held for privacy purposes) lived in Augusta, Kansas, a suburb of Wichita. Her house was apparently built over an Indian burial ground and she also purchased some of the present furniture she is still using today there.

All kinds of strange things have and are continuing to occur at their house. They have moved seven times and each and every time the ghost or ghosts have moved along with them. Remote control cars minus the batteries in both the cars and the remote control units have moved around on their own and even chased their pet cat. Pounding noises, strange shadows, objects that disappear for days, toiletries that have fallen over are only some of the other strange occurrences that have plagued the family.

One afternoon her brother was over and LuAnn wasn't home at the time. Her brother (who wishes to remain nameless) pooh-poohed the whole thing. Suddenly and without any warning, the china in the kitchen cabinets began to rattle and then an awful odor like rotten eggs (hydrogen cyanide) permeated the kitchen and then just as quickly, disappeared. He refuses to visit anymore.

I have been there on several occasions with a small team equipped with cameras, tape recorders, compasses and camcorders. During a series of pictures with both infrared and ultraviolet film, strange images appeared. A vertical shaft of light appears on a hallway door but only on the ultraviolet film and not the infrared film both taken at the same instant facing the exact same area! Camcorders picked up strange white lights that seem to glow and reignite in a darkened bedroom.

The family has recently moved again to another location in Schaumburg and are still experiencing a growing phenomena. Now there appears to be a visual apparition making it's presence known in the wee morning hours. It's apparently that of a man. A further investigation is warranted at this time because the phenomena appears to be increasing in frequency and the family is becoming very frightened. I will be contacting the family again to perhaps spend an overnight in the new house with some specialized equipment.



It Happened One Night In Devon

By

Tom Perrott

One of the advantages of being known a little in the world of apparitions is the fact that people often approach me, when they fell that they have a story of an interesting psychic experience to impart.

A good example of this occurred a few days ago, when I received a letter from a gentleman, who with his wife is at present living in the County of Essex. A former Regular serving member of the R.A.F. and now engaged in the banking profession, Mr. Smith and his wife, a couple in their mid-fifties, had always regarded themselves as practical down-to-earth people and neither claimed to have ever had any previous experiences that could be regarded as being in anyway psychic.

For purposes of respecting confidentiality and avoiding the risk of causing embarrassment to the proprietors of the establishment in question, I must of necessity deliberately hide the identities of the characters involved and of the locality of the happening in a shroud of anonymity, but needless to say I have in my possession a document signed by Mr. Smith in which he details the events, and having spoken to the couple in person, I was most impressed with their apparent integrity and had no reason to doubt the veracity of their story.

It all started in November 1992 when the couple were enjoying a five day pre-Christmas break in a hotel, located in a Victorian seaside resort on the North coast of Devon. At 11 pm one evening Mr. Smith left the hotel lounge and bar to return his camera to the bedroom as he had just finished a roll of film.

When he opened the door of Room 307, he had a feeling that he was not alone, but when he switched the lights on, the room was empty. He did not mention this fact to his wife as he thought that perhaps his imagination had been playing tricks with him. In the small hours of the morning when the couple were asleep in the room in twin beds, Mrs. Smith roused her husband to say that there was someone in her bed. When the lights were switched on, there was nobody there. Mrs. Smith told her husband that the person in her bed had been a man and that he had spoken to her saying "Move over, you do take up a lot of room!" Mrs. Smith could not remember the exact words but said that the man spoke with an accent or possibly a West Country burr, and with indistinct articulation.

When they got up a few hours later, the couple tried to obtain further information regarding their mysterious visitor from members of the staff. Some chambermaids said that they had often heard voices on the third floor of the hotel, which seemed to complain of

the noise made by the vacuum cleaners, some of which had been mysteriously either unplugged or moved. Others alleged that they had seen a tall slim man dressed in black with a stovepipe hat emerge from Room 315, enter Room 307 and vanish. The receptionist appeared to have had some knowledge of the visitor, and offered to change the couple's room for another, but they declined. The Hotel Manager anxious to avoid adverse publicity (although sometimes a resident ghost of this sort has an opposite effect in an establishment of this nature) was unwilling to discuss the matter.

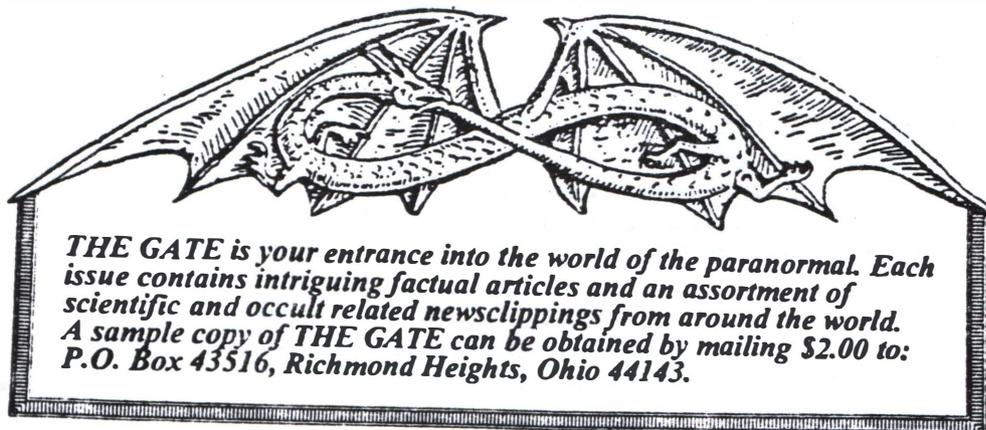
On two further occasions Mrs. Smith was again aware of the presence of the stranger in her bed, and although on this occasion he remained silent, Mrs. Smith was aware of his stertorous breathing accompanied by an occasional snore. Whether or not it has any significance, it was noted that on the nights on which the stranger made the couple aware of his existence, there was usually a heavy storm with rain and a strong wind.

Mr. Smith confident of his ability for understanding people was certain, after talking to members of the staff, that they had not 'set him up' in anyway.

So far enquiries from local sources have proved fruitless. It was believed that the hotel had been built on the site of a former terrace of Victorian houses long ago demolished. Could the mysterious stranger of the night have been a former occupant of a house in this terrace of desirable residences returning from a cold spirit world of unfathomable mystery and lurking horrors, to a site where he possibly spent many years in happiness and comfort, and where he could once again enjoy the physical pleasures that could well be denied him in his new existence?

Whatever may result from this strange but absolutely true story, Mr. and Mrs. Smith must indeed be gluttons for spectral punishment, because they have every intention of visiting this hotel again, undeterred by the prospect of being confronted by any other phantom visitors, or other strange experiences that the unpredictability of a Devon night might produce for them.

Submitted by: Tom Perrott, 93 The Avenue, Muswell Hill, London, N10 2QG, United Kingdom.



Alleged Haunting In Sauchie Central Scotland

By

Malcolm Robinson

We learned from the last issue, of the ghostly manifestations occurring in a block of three houses together, and the subsequent involvement of SPI to try and ascertain what was going on. We left part one with the involvement of the Alloa Christian Spiritualist Church, this is what transpired next.

Having convinced the Alloa Christian Spiritualist Church of the seriousness of the case, SPI visited, along with some Church members, the house in question on the 16th of February, in an attempt to rid the houses of these strange occurrences. The following details, are extracts from my notes taken during this visit. After introductions to the three families involved, we separated into groups, some downstairs, (living room), and some upstairs, (Michelle's room) in which prayers were said in both rooms by the mediums of the Church. John Allardice, a local medium, related that he felt extreme heaviness in his head, and also heat throughout his body. Audio recordings were taken by SPI of this prayer session. Mr. Allardice then perceived a voice come through asking for love, followed by a further two people who claimed that they didn't want to be 'sent away'! I was at this time, upstairs in Michelle's room in which Emily Manini (local medium) was saying prayers. I remember that the whole room was bitterly cold, this might not have anything to do with spirits I told myself for it was February after all, but I do recall that my teeth were chattering quite loudly, and, embarrassingly. Anyway, after Emily had finished saying her prayer, the silence in the bedroom was broken by the sound of a lady bounding up the stairs shouting at the top of her voice that Carol had been pushed off a wooden bench in the living room when no one was near her. Eleanor Power, who had been in Michelle's room with me, said that moments before this lady came bounding up the stairs, she felt the room become 'warmer', as if what ever was in the room, "unseen", had went elsewhere, downstairs perhaps? We all rushed downstairs in which we discussed this quite amazing incident.

After the excitement of what previously happened, psychic healing was administered to Carol, Eleanor and the neighbor next door who was also 'troubled by psychic manifestations'. All was

quiet for now and the relaxing healing seemed to ease the situation. Now this is where I made a big mistake readers, and one in which I am still very much regretting. For I stupidly switched off the audio tape recorder during this quiet healing session. For, some minutes later, the most strange and alarming look, came over Eleanor Power's face. A 'menacing piercing look' in which one felt they had to turn away from.

Suddenly, and quite unexpectedly, Eleanor stood up and started speaking in the most strangest voice, definitely unlike her own. From my notes, and sadly not from my audio tape, this is what Eleanor said. ... "They took Lawrence away, they threw him down a hole, threw logs over him... I like it here, I don't want to go. They keep taking away my friends... My mum's name is Victoria... Men are going to get me... The men that threw Lawrence down the hole. They say that he was dead... We are not dead... Elona is the name of the baby... Lawrence is 30 now, I'm 25... I can't look round the room, because the men will get me... Please don't let me go away. If mummy comes they'll put her down the hole... I've got spots, but she and Lawrence can't be dead because of this baby." (Editors note: Elona was the name of a baby that Eleanor had lost in child birth some four years previously).

All eyes were fixed on Eleanor as she continued to 'whirl about' and speak out in this strange manner. It honestly sent shivers down my spine. Eventually after some five minutes, Eleanor slumped into a nearby chair, 'wow' this was something else and totally unexpected, and all, "not" captured on audio tape. I could have kicked myself. This hole that Eleanor talked about, bothered me. I was aware that quite near this housing scheme, there were a number of old mine shaft entrances, (now bricked up). At a later date, a colleague and I visited these old mine shafts and took a number of photographs, of course, these may not have been the holes that Eleanor in this entranced state was referring to, but it was worth checking anyway. The spots that she mentioned, could this have anything to do with a plague that went through parts of Central Scotland many years ago and which to some, would have proved unsightly and perhaps warrant death in order to keep it from spreading to others? The following day, a well known Stirling medium, a Mrs. Jean Glenn, paid a visit to the home of Carol Harrison, nothing of any great significance came out of this visit, other than the medium picking up strong impressions from the home.

On the 18th of February, a colleague and I, were given permission to spend the night in the home of Carol Harrison. The family moved next door to sleep with their neighbors to let us have free run of the house. We set up our audio and video recording equipment at various points upstairs, after which my colleague and I decided to check out the loft specifically to ensure that there were no hidden persons or appliances that might conduct noises, there were none. There were no signs of any device that might have made raps or bangs, a point skeptics often make in regards to alleged paranormal noises.

After checking the loft with a weak flashlight and our imaginations running wild, (yes we Investigators are no heroes!) we

came down and located ourselves at various points in the house to spend our night time vigil. My colleague stayed in Michelle's bedroom, scene of many of the disturbances, whilst I sat at the top of the stairs with a warm quilt wrapped firmly round my shoulders peering down into the inky blackness of the bottom stairway. The light from the moon shone between breaks in the clouds, through a window behind me illuminating parts of the upper hall, silence was everywhere, not a sound could be heard. And as usual, whenever psychic researchers are on a stake out, nothing happened. Most disappointing. Nothing was noted either on audio or video tape.

The family were most disappointed to learn that we had not experienced anything unusual in their home, indeed they were quite angry as if this might prove that they were mistaken in their judgements and misreading ordinary household noises. Nonetheless, we kept our eyes and ears on the situation as the days grew on and we learned that things were not as bad as had been prior to the visit of the Alloa Spiritualists. Some days later, I was in a local pub having a quiet drink with a friend when my friend noticed an ex-boyfriend of Carol. "Perhaps he could tell us something about this case", my friend surmised! "Possibly", I replied, and with that, I went over and explained who I was and touched briefly on the course of the SPI Investigation. I should have known better for in mid-sentence, this guy grabbed me by the throat and pushed me up against a wall. He just didn't believe me, he thought I was Carol's new boyfriend, I could hardly say otherwise for I could hardly breath!

I'll tell you this readers, that's the first time, and I hope the last, that I've ever been assaulted in my SPI research work. We Investigators don't lead the life of Riley you know. Anyway, eventually he did believe me, but he took some convincing I can tell you.

The outcome of this Investigation, was that Carol was rehoused (in the same town). Eleanor moved to Manchester, and the other lady is still residing at the same address. As for the strange events in the house? Well they did die down a bit, and with the two families moving, we never found out if the events stopped in their entirety. I mean, how can you go to a new tenants door and say, "Hi, your house used to be haunted, could you tell me if it still is?" You can't do it can you? This has always been a 'sticky one', and one that requires a lot of thought if one is thinking of checking again if the ghostly manifestations are recurring only this time with new tenants.

All in all then, this was a most interesting case, and although we researchers never saw or heard anything ourselves, it nonetheless was an experience for us. I would like to thank all those who assisted SPI in our case research work.

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Submitted by: Malcolm Robinson, 41 The Braes, Tullibody,
Clackmannanshire, FK10 2TT, Scotland.

The Haunted Radio

By

Maurice Schwalm

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What is it that can play an unplugged radio, create images in the mind or an image on film? It's a psitron! What is a psitron? Something that can play an unplugged radio and create images. This may not be as tautological as it sounds since it is a somewhat personal definition based on the interchangability of experiences in a recent investigation.

The first report on the house stemmed from the fact that the woman went into the bedroom and was assailed with music from her clock-radio which was set on alarm for the next morning on a different station than was playing. Checking the controls was not very reassuring. The selector was still in the alarm mode and the tuner still on the station where she had left it. She indignantly disconnected the offending radio. It kept right on playing. Then she tried fiddling with the controls. It kept right on playing on the same station at the same volume level. Then she noticed the tubes were not lighted anyway. At that point, she started calling relatives to come over since she lives alone. Her son got there an hour later. By that time it was silent. It had kind of faded out like a battery radio which it is not. It's a 30-year-old Motorola clock-radio. It had been suggested that she call me. She did while the radio was still playing full blast. I had no trouble hearing it on the phone. But I did have trouble applying the usual explanation of improbable sounds as a telepathic hallucination. We are, of course, talking about a house that would be otherwise defined as a haunted house.

Photos were taken of the radio in its location alongside their bed. There were shadow forms from which I could describe a man in his thirties, dark hair combed straight back and a nose like Mr. X's. There were no photos of him as a younger man on display. She had exactly one that had to be extracted from a locked box in their bedroom. My photo was by no means detailed. But somehow its meaning was known. The radio itself was both turned off (alarm position) and silent while the photos were taken.

It has been thought that PSI was propagated either as a wave or as a particle (psitron). If spirit photography can be thought of as a kind of physical energy, perhaps visual experiences can be too, on a molecular level. Nobody has ever had reason to think about unplugged radios, but a kind of periodic effect directly on the speaker or its activating coil seems to be the only non-electrical way of rectifying the radio frequency pulses from the

station heard. It is known that the visual cortex can be stimulated by a pattern of electrical impulses that will create ordered phosphenes that will enable the blind to see in a grid of from 64 phosphenes on up. Psychic vision of spirits starts with a point awareness that is subjectively indistinguishable from a phosphene. A translucent floating spirit form looks very much the way a 256 dot grid appears to a sighted observer. Spirit photography may be a psitron trail across the film emulsion that would leave the same kind of trail in the brain.

Submitted by: Maurice Schwalm, PO Box 3522, Kansas City, KS. 66103-0522.

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The Mysteries of The Missions

By

Richard Senate

The twenty-one missions of California have tales attached to them of mystery and wonder. Some are rumored haunted; others are believed to hold hidden treasures. Many of the missions harbor mysteries still unsolved. Some of these tales may well be the products of the story-teller's art, such as the yarn of the toe sucking vampire of Mission Santa Inez. Still other accounts may have their roots in fact not fantasy. Listed are but a few of the better known tales of the mysterious missions of California.

"I don't believe in spooks, but I'm scared of 'em all the same"

--Mark Twain

The Lost Bells of Santa Isabel

The branch mission or "Assistencia" of Santa Isabel was founded forty miles north of San Diego in the year 1818. The pride of this tiny outpost were the two bells purchased by the Indian Converts. Even after the chapel was abandoned by the Spanish padres the Indians cleaned the Adobe structures and polished the bells. Rumors began to circulate that the bells were cast with gold! Perhaps that explains why they were stolen in the 1920's. To this day no one knows who took the bells or why. Legends state that they were taken by some of the older Indians and hidden in a cave nearby. The lost bells is one of the enduring mysteries of California.

The Ghosts of Mission San Juan Capistrano

Founded by Father Serra in 1776, San Juan Capistrano is one of the best known of missions. The tales of ghosts can be traced to the year 1812 when a terrible earthquake destroyed the stone church taking a number of worshippers to their deaths. One phantom, a lady in white, carries a candle through the ruins of the stone church. She was one of the many victims of the disaster; she was killed before she could confess her sins and wanders doomed until the last day when she can at long last seek confession. Some witnesses have reported a black shrouded woman dressed in the style of Spanish California standing under the last archway of the northern corner of the mission complex. One tale even tells of haunted bells that toll by themselves whenever a good person dies.

Santa Barbara's Mysterious Painting

Mission Santa Barbara has stood for many years; the only mission with two belltowers. In 1929 one of those twin towers fell down and extensive repairs were made. During the work a strange

mural was uncovered. It was painted in a spot where it would be illuminated by the sun one day out of the year. The odd mural seems to have been made by the Indian Converts and depicts a cross, two pennants atop a wavy line. Some have interpreted it to mean that the power of the church and state was shouldered on the backs of the Indians. The symbols may have been used to undermine the power of the padres in a movement that terminated in the bloody 1824 revolt that swept through three missions. The odd painting is still an enigma.

The Treasure of San Miguel

This mission founded in 1797 is best known for its elaborate murals that decorate the chapel. The beautiful murals are the work of Spanish Artist Estevan Munras. But, legends hold that a greater treasure is concealed in the mission grounds. During the Gold Rush the mission was operated as an Inn by an Englishman named John Reed. He amassed a great fortune hiding his wealth somewhere on the premises. In 1849 outlaws attacked the Inn killing Reed and everyone staying at the mission. The bandits frantically searched the Mission seeking the hidden gold but were unable to locate the treasure. It remains lost to this very day.

The Headless Horsewoman of San Antonio

This mission, founded by Father Serra in 1771, is located in a lonely valley surrounded now by the vast Hunter-Legget Military Reservation. Here on moonlit nights the Headless Horsewoman rides. Legend holds that she was murdered by her jealous husband who cut off her head with an ax so she could never rest in peace. Now the unhappy lady rides seeking her head. The odd apparition has been reported on the military base where one account states that it was chased by a jeep filled with MPs as it rode towards the old mission to vanish at the mission church.

The Phantom Messenger of San Carlos

Mission San Carlos, in Carmel-by-the-Sea, has a number of strange stories attached to it. One of the most mysterious is the apparition of a mounted man riding past the mission heading towards Monterey. Those who have seen the figure describe a caped man dressed in the style of a Spanish officer. Some believe he is a royal messenger, killed by Indians, trying to deliver his important dispatches. There is another tale linked to San Carlos Mission. This legend holds that the Indians of this mission operated a gold mine located near the mouth of the Carmel River. The mine shaft is concealed but holds a great treasure in gold ore.

Psychic Archaeology: At San Fernando Mission

The historic Mission San Fernando, in Mission Hills, has stood since its founding on September 8th 1797. Today, most of the Mission has been reconstructed, the victim of the many earthquakes that plague the Golden State. Still, one building stands from the days of the Padres. This is the Convento Building, 247 feet long and 50 feet wide with 19 graceful arches. The long archway has become almost a symbol of the California Missions. The archway has been used in films since the days of silent movies and has seen numerous fiestas and celebrations.

Rumors have circulated that the long archway is haunted by a

ghostly figure that walks the archway on moonlit nights.

Because of the stories of ghosts and my interest in the supernatural, I organized a visit to the historic mission with a group of students. One of the experiments the group attempted was dowsing. Dowsing is an ancient art practiced for many centuries to locate water using two rods held in the hands. They can be used to locate lost objects, oil, gold, silver and some believe, even ghosts! This reputed ability to locate supernatural disturbances led me to attempt to use dowsing rods to locate the section of the archway where the phantom figure has been encountered. The students who gathered were not experienced dowzers. In fact most of them had never held divining rods in their hands before. They were instructed to walk down the archway and record the spots where the rods crossed. One of the interesting facets of dowsing is that almost anyone can do it. They walked along and several students had some scattered reactions until they reached the 16th archway. At this point the rods went crazy.

All of the dowzers had a reaction in a straight line. A second team was organized and they too had a similar reaction at the 16th archway. None of the students had extensive knowledge of the site and there wasn't any structural clues why the rods would react this way. With all psychic research the collection of raw data, based upon psychic means, isn't an end in itself, rather it is a starting place for additional research. The Mission San Fernando was sold in the late 1840's. In the last months of Mexican rule, the mission was turned into a vast Rancho and used as a private dwelling by Andre Pico, the brother of Pio Pico, the last Mexican Governor. Here he permitted the padre to continue to serve the Indian people but took over the huge convento building. In doing this research I was looking for any information on things that might have occurred in the archway. I discovered Don Andre Pico did hold lavish Fiestas that included feasting and bull fights, and that for a time he rented out part of the building to the Butterfield Stageline for a stagecoach stop. I didn't really know what I was looking for - a violent death, gunfight, burial, something that would have been dramatic enough to leave behind a "Psychic Scar" that could be picked up over a hundred years later.

Though numerous events did happen at the historic mission nothing like a violent action could be traced to the 16th arch of the convento building. The reported sightings of ghosts had taken place at the 18th archway and that was of a misty figure of an elderly lady surrounded by phantom cats. Some of the teams had scored some hits, or crossings, at the 18th arch, but they were random and did not hit in the same place over and over again unlike the 16th archway. In doing research one of the most important elements can be historic photographs and sketches made by visitors. Fortunately, the old missions of California were frequently used as subjects by early photographers and artists. I was surprised to discover an early drawing, dated 1860, that depicted the convento building when it was used as a stagecoach stop. In the picture it revealed several of the archways were bricked up! Perhaps to make another room for the building. Arches 19, 18, 17 were enclosed in

this picture. At the 16th archway there had been a wall. The dowzers had picked up a wall that no longer existed. They had no knowledge of this lost wall. I didn't know of its existence until I had completed the research. The evidence seems to conclude the psychic traces of previous structures can be detected using dowsing rods.

We may not have found a ghost, or evidence of a massacre, but we did discover the place where a wall once stood.

Submitted by: Richard Senate, 422 Staunton St., Camarillo, CA. 93010.



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Ghostly Odds And Ends

My mother and I experienced many paranormal events while residing at a Main Street, Hellertown (PA) house for twelve years. A minister's wife once commented that she sensed evil so strongly in the home that she warned us to move out as soon as possible.

Over the years previous tenants reported evil spirits to the landlady. It's no wonder, for several people died near the house in tragic automobile accidents, one man burning to death.

One of the most frightening incidents that occurred to mother involved an unseen presence urging her to jump from a bedroom window during her sleep.

While living at the Main Street house I encountered my first ghost. My mother's aunt died. Early one morning after her death I encountered a luminous cloud floating past my bed. Instead of intense fear, I felt profound peace. I felt as though my great aunt rested in peace and no one need worry about her.

Unfortunately, not all my experiences transpired in such a positive way. One day while sitting at dinner, a lightning bolt shot through a window near me and struck the light fixture. Some time later, I dreamed about a lightning bolt striking me in my backyard. The following day I recalled the dream in time to save me from that same fate. I scrambled toward the house and turned just in time to see a lightning bolt strike the ground where I had just stood.

The worst experience happened when my pet box turtle, whom I raised for eight years, died in a horrible and freak accident outside the house.

The minister's wife who warned us about vacating the premises died prematurely, as did one of the tenants who lived there after we moved out in 1975.

If anyone knows something that I don't about the house on Main Street, I'd appreciate hearing it.

Submitted by: Michele D. Fehr, 762 Easton Rd., Hellertown, PA. 18055.

It's always hard for me to tell the truth exactly. So please forgive me on my clumsy expression. Anyway, I swear that the following is quite true.

One night I was lying on the bed in my apartment. It was November 3, 1988. Suddenly I turned back and I saw the flash - a golden one. Then I feared and called twelve or thirteen names one by one. Every moment I called each name, my heart began to beat so strongly and then the heartbeat faded away. At the same time, I couldn't keep back my tears. When I called the last name, I got relieved and fell asleep. After this experience, I had so many phenomena.

First of all, I saw the flashes four times. I saw the one in the cherry tree near my dwelling. And I saw the rest at one time

just when I thought of my acquaintance. I felt the flash get closer to me. First, I saw it over the bridge in the distance. Secondly, on the roof at a distance. Finally, close at hand. So I was surprised and wondered what it was at first. But such flashes made be comfortable after a while.

Next, I heard the plastic hook drop down on the floor through the metallic bar while taking a shower. This time I was not very surprised and thought that it happened again.

All through these phenomena, I've recognized that I have psychic powers or something and I want it to be well used if I have such a power. So, I'm looking for partners who have had such phenomena and investigate heart and soul.

Submitted by: Hirai Yoshihisa

Ghost Of Sheriff Bullock

When you think of ghosts of the old west, you might think of Jesse James, Billy the Kid or even Wyatt Earp. Well, add Seth Bullock to the list.

In Deadwood, South Dakota there is a hotel that is haunted by a ghost that the towns people think is Sheriff Seth Bullock. Ghostly things are going on there like lights going on and off by themselves and mysterious voices have been heard at the Bullock Hotel.

In the 1800's there was a gold rush. Sheriff Bullock had said that some day there will be another Gold rush. He was referring to gambling.

Sandy Bullock, an English psychic and medium, has contacted Seth Bullock and he warned her that there will be trouble in 1993 if the town doesn't hire more police. The gold rush that the Sheriff is referring to is the gambling that has been legalized since 1989.

Skeptics don't believe that Sandy Bullock has been contacted by Seth Bullock so they want Sandy to use her psychic powers to contact the sheriff and have him tell her who his friend was and the location of Seth's grave. They were stunned when she told him that his famous friend was the former U.S. President Teddy Roosevelt and that the location of his grave is high on top of a hill above Mount Moriah Cemetery. He has a clear view of his friend Teddy Roosevelt's Grave and his monument across a gulch.

Submitted by: Bill Fuller, 103 Shabonna, Park Forest, IL. 60466.



Press Release

INVISIBLE INK CATALOG SCARES UP GHOSTLY TALES

Just in time for Halloween, Kestrel Publications is terrified to introduce its new catalog--Invisible Ink: Books on Ghosts & Hauntings.

Catalog founder Chris Woodyard, an expert on Ohio ghosts, has scared up over 200 books on ghosts from around the world. Ghost-story lovers will find ancient folktales to modern "true" ghost stories, and ghostlore from Edinburgh to Cripple Creek. Many of the books featured are hard-to-find small press titles.

Explains Woodyard, "Often ghost writers concentrate on regional stories; their books can be very difficult to locate unless you live in the area. I want to link these authors with the millions of readers around the world who love to be terrified."

Woodyard got the idea for the catalog after becoming frustrated with her local book store.

"I visited the Occult section once a week, but there were rarely any new ghost stories. Instead, the section was filled with books on crystals and crop circles. So I decided I'd try to bring together the world's largest selection of ghost stories. I was surprised to find that it had not been done before."

Invisible Ink not only tries for ghost-to-ghost coverage of the U.S., it includes books from Great Britain, Japan and beyond. There is also a section for children's books and one for classic fictional ghost tales by masters of the genre such as M.R. James, Charles Dickens, and Oliver Onions. Woodyard also says that she is always looking for new ghost-storytelling tapes and books to add to the Invisible Ink catalog.

"Die-hard ghost-story fans are different than you and me," says Woodyard. Different how?

"Well, for one thing you can't photograph them," Woodyard says, fang-in-cheek. "And they don't reflect in mirrors. But they are dying to read new ghost stories. Invisible Ink hopes to provide readers and storytellers with an infinite number of nightmares."

To meet the demand of these psychic vampires, Woodyard plans to issue two catalogs per year. The premier issue will be available in September.

But are these stories true?

"Perhaps," says Woodyard, "In spirit..."

To get your free copy of the Invisible Ink: Books on Ghosts & Hauntings catalog, send a business-sized stamped, self-addressed envelope to Invisible Ink: 1811 Stonewood Dr., Dayton, OH. 45432-4002, Attn: Anne.



Opinion Polls

Doug Blevins of Lodi, California writes, "My main 'complaint', if it can be termed as such, is that I'm always left wanting more. As I only joined last year I've missed all the issues previous to that point. How about back issues or collections of back issues that we could get. If it was possible, then I'd also like to see the publication more frequently, but I'm sure that would be difficult."
(Editors note: free back issue lists of the newsletter are available to anyone upon request)

Dale Sizemore of West Columbia, South Carolina says to, "Please mention any EVP (electronic voice phenomena) messages that are captured on audio tape during haunted house investigations."

Greg Dietz of Defiance, Ohio comments, "Enjoy the more factually oriented 'reportorial' stories such as Malcolm Robinson's in Volume 12, Number 2, rather than the more uncritical 'far-out' items like Polley's 'Quest For The Mary Celeste'".

Robert Stoebe of Kenosha, Wisconsin says, "I would like to see more first-hand encounters with ghosts, investigations, goings on, etc. I would also like listings of planned trips."

Eloise Breton of Dallas, Texas writes, "I would like to see more photographs, especially the one that an article has been written about, i.e. 'A Boy Named Betty: Ghost Photo Source'. Would like to see more current stories from all areas of the U.S.

(Editors note: Until I can purchase a good hand-scanner or flat-bed scanner, pictures just aren't possible due to poor quality. I am attempting to expand the ghost coverage with Richard Senate from California, Tom Perrott from England, W. Ritchie Benedict from Canada and Maurice Schwalm from Missouri.)

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Book Reviews

South Carolina Ghost Tales Compiled by Nell S. Graydon (Beaufort Book Shop, Inc., Beaufort, SC. Printed by the R.L. Bryan Company, Columbia, SC., hardcover, 85 pages. Original printing 1969 with several subsequent printings. Between \$6-\$8, SBN: 910206.)

I have had this book in my possession since 1977 and thought I would write a review of it for the G.T.N. If anyone read my story "Echoes From the Past at Leamington", which appeared in Ghost Trackers Newsletter, Vol. 11, No. 2, they will remember I refer to this book briefly. This is a regional ghost story book. The stories encompass the state of South Carolina from the islands of the low country, all the way inland to the state capital and beyond.

Many of the stories are folklore that have been passed down. A perfect example of this is "The Screaming Boy" which concerns a young man in Murrell's Inlet who went hunting for stone crabs which live in holes beneath the surface. Now being "unversed in the ways of the natives the boy waded across the inlet and when he saw an opening in the embankment reached inside...his hand was grabbed by a powerful claw and he was held prisoner." The jest of the story is that the tide rose and he drowned making locals believe the area haunted. Screams are now supposedly heard in the general area. The belief that a stone crab could keep one from escaping is obviously superstition but does make for creepy folklore. This story was probably borne out of a fear of the possibility of youngsters drowning in the inlet. The story then served as a deterrent. Some of the most distilled folklore is provided by the one time South Carolina Senator James H. Hammond who provides ghost stories of Aiken, Blackville, Barnwell and the Santee in verse style in his three meditations--"Wampee Ghost", "The Ghost of Sommerset" and "Ghostology".

Other stories encompass such tales as the ghostly floating house that appears on the Atlantic at early evening, a reminder of the terrible hurricane that swept it to sea in "Forewarning". In the graveyard of the Presbyterian church on Edisto Island stands a mausoleum who's door will never stay shut - nothing has worked to keep it closed. One rumor states that a young girl in the 1850's "died" of diphtheria and was entombed in the mausoleum. Burial was quick as embalming was still unheard of. Upon the reopening of the tomb for another burial the sight of the girl's skeleton was seen "stretched behind the door". Apparently the girl was in a coma and not dead upon burial! To this day the girl refuses the door to stay closed. This story is conveyed in the aptly titled "The Door That Will Not Stay Closed".

Two stories in this collection hit home for me as they both concern hauntings on Hilton Head Island where I once lived. One is "Baynard Hall". This story concerns the creepy apparitional funeral coach with "servants in fine scarlet livery" which can be seen leaving the ruins of Baynard Hall for the still standing

Baynard Mausoleum. The story involves the death of Mrs. Baynard on her wedding night. This story stands true to me as I knew the family, the O'Shiells, who lived across from the ruined antebellum home. Mrs. O'Shiell would tell anyone who was interested of the time soon after moving into her beautiful sprawling home of the night an apparitional coach and processional rode down from the woods of Baynard Hall and disappeared by the edge of the modern road.

The other story I feel close to in this book is "Who Was The Lady In Blue" which chronicles the belief in a Lady in Blue who haunts the remains of an old lighthouse on Hilton Head. The reason I feel so close to this story is because I encountered some very strange unexplained occurrences on an overnight trek to the lighthouse in 1982 (refer to above mentioned issue).

The finest story in the book is the chilling "A Ghost Story Found In An Old Diary" which compiles a wealthy mans initiation into the supernatural world of faceless and footless apparitions! This is truly a story to be read on a dark rainy night!

From stories that are obvious folklore dealing with hoofed devils to stories of reality based hauntings this little book is a small and wonderful pleasure. Some addresses and directions are given as well. Drawings and pictures are also contained in the book including a splendid color painting of "The Blue Lady" by Hilton Head artist Walter Greer. Some other titles in the book include: "The Ghost of Kiawah"-a truly touching ghost story that lets you envision life on an island in the more quiet years of the late 19th early 20th centuries, "The Ghosts of Charlestons Legare Street", "The Captains Bride", "Frogmore Manor", "The Voices"-concerning eerie voices still heard in an abandoned town, and "Adam Meek and the Ghost" among others. If you come across this book, pick it up. This book is important because it contains stories that otherwise would have been forgotten in the sands of time. Sadly with the continual building up of remote islands and rural areas, native populations leave or forget little treasures like those in this book. Mrs. Graydon should be commended for her part in preserving these imaginative stories that serve to keep alive in some sense the people who created them and spoke of them on dark stormy nights. All stories are preserved eloquently. Rated 7 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Mike Shannon

The Encyclopedia of Ghosts and Spirits by John & Anne Spencer (Headline Book Publishing PLC, Headline House, 79 Great Titchfield St., London W1P 7FN, Distributed by: Trafalgar Square, N. Pomfret, VT. 05053, 1992, hardcover, 408 pages, \$18.99, ISBN: 0-7472-0508-6)

A fine collection of spooky stories with a great amount of pictures within. Chapters are divided into: "Ghostbusting: The 'Science' of Investigating Ghosts", "Encyclopedia of Ghost Reports" and "The Practice of Investigating Ghosts". In the second heading, reports are broken down into certain categories such as: haunted objects, ghosts with a message, omens of death, phantom

hitchhikers, poltergeists, time slips, ghost lights, ghostly animals, recordings and replays and many other break-downs as well. Several examples of each are then given in each sub-heading. A lot of famous ghost stories are once again told but many that I've never heard about are also mentioned with each one listed by date, location and source of the story when known.

The last heading gets into the real art of investigating poltergeists written by Maurice Grosse, what each ghostbuster's toolbox should contain, a manufactured ghost and what ghostbusters are actually doing. Later a fine cross-reference to sections of common interest, bibliography and recommended reading complete this fine book! There are several ghost photographs included with the pictures and this book should be on every ghostbusters shelve.

Rated a 7 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

Haunted History by Rich Rainey (Warner Books, Inc., 1271 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY. 10020, 1992, paperback, 197 pages, \$4.99, ISBN: 0-446-36179-8)

A book that spans history picking out some of the unique hauntings dating back from the time of King Arthur and Charlemagne to Edgar Allen Poe and everything in between. Many of the stories contained within were new to me, never before seeing them in print and, as usual, there were several that were repeated from other books I've read in the past. That isn't a shortcoming for this book, it's truly hard, sometimes, to find interesting new ghost stories to present in a book. Especially ones that are as highly researched and documented as some of those in Haunted History.

Some of the chapters include; "Lunatic Legions", "Vampire General", "The Haunted Highlander", "The Wraiths of Rogers' Rock", "Invisible Invasions" and many others.

I found this book a bit hard to read in some points but nonetheless, it kept my interest while reading it. The price may be a little high, perhaps \$3.50 would have been more worth the information you are getting. Rated a 4 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

++++++
Graveyard: True Hauntings From an Old New England Cemetery by Ed & Lorraine Warren with Robert David Chase (St. Martin's Press, 175 Fifth Ave., New York, NY. 10010, 1992, hardcover, \$18.95 {\$24.99 in Canada}, 194 pages, ISBN: 0-312-08202-9)

This book documents all the strange and paranormal incidents both associated with Union Cemetery and other graveyards around the state of Connecticut. Apparently Union Cemetery is very haunted judging by the sheer amount of material, personal encounters, witnesses and investigations not only conducted by the Warrens but others as well.

A nice collection of photographs including several 'psychic ones' which look like milky clouds are included in the center of the book. I always feel that pictures are a must in any book on

the paranormal as it gives the reader a chance to see what is being talked about if he/she does not have a chance to visit the location themselves. Without pictures it's left up to the imagination too much.

Some of the chapters include such stories as; "The Haunted Monastery", "The Burning Man", "The White Lady", "Videotaping a Ghost", "Sexual Demons", "Warning From a Banshee", "A Friendly Spirit" and "Ghost Stalker" among others.

The inside of the cover tells of such stories as; 'a U.S. senator who receives a phone call from a child gruesomely murdered years earlier', 'a young girl sees her grandfather become possessed by a demon' and 'a brutal killer receives his just punishment in a cemetery late one night'.

A good book! Rated a 6 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

Ghosts Of Gettysburg by Mark Nesbitt (Thomas Publications, PO Box 3031, Gettysburg, PA. 17325, 1991, softcover, 84 pages, ISBN: 0-939631-41-5) AND More Ghosts Of Gettysburg by Mark Nesbitt (See above, 1992, 100 pages, ISBN: 0-939631-51-2)

Two great small publications assembling the spooky stories associated with not only the town of Gettysburg but the battlefield as well. I picked up these two publications while visiting the battlefield this June in the Visitor Center. I was then able to visit some of the actual sites on the battlefield itself that were mentioned in the book. All the sites are plotted rather nicely on a map on the back of each book with street names and each site has a number assigned to it.

I found the first book to much more interesting than the second only because I felt that Mr. Nesbitt was reaching a little more for stories for the sequel. The first book had a few psychic photographs which also moved it slightly ahead of volume two. Plus most of the places I visited with my wife were listed in the first volume such as; the Devil's Den, Triangular Field, Hummelbaugh House, National Cemetery, The Wheatfield and the mysterious Spangler's Spring where an apparition of a lady dressed in white is supposed to be seen and in a nearby field.

I haven't been to a Civil War battlefield yet that didn't have a small book or booklet written about the ghosts or spooky happenings associated with it and Gettysburg was no exception. I still found both volumes very readable and interesting and highly recommend both.

Volume One rated a 8 in a 1-10 scale and Volume Two rated a 6 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

Ghost: Stories of Woodlawn Plantation by Judy McElhaney (EPM Publications, Inc., 1003 Turkey Run Rd., McLean, VA. 22101, 1992, \$8.95, softcover, 80 pages, ISBN: 0-939009-64-1)

Another small print publication which I located while in

Baltimore, Maryland in June, a further continuation of our vacation. We were touring the Inner Harbor and photographing the USF Constellation, a haunted ship permanently docked at the same. While doing some shopping, I came across a copy of this book in a small bookstore.

The first thing which caught in my throat was the extremely high price of \$8.95! This is for a book that only has one real picture, which, by the way, is one of a ghost. The caption reads: "Some believers claim that the shadowy images of two legs dressed in leggings and buckle shoes, which show up in this contemporary photograph of Woodlawn needlework, belong to the ghost of George Washington". All the rest of the pictures are artwork and sketches by Claudia Madigan.

The stories are interesting enough and it seems that the house is haunted throughout, but I believe the book would be a little easier to swallow if the price was perhaps cut in half! But again these are the kinds of books that you will only find while touring these areas. They are not often mass-produced for a large press or an abundance of copies. So you either take it or leave it. I'll still take it but only for my ghostly collection of books and reference material. Rated a 4 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

The Encyclopedia of Ghosts and Spirits by Rosemary Ellen Guiley (Facts On File, Inc., 460 Park Avenue South, New York, NY. 10016, 1992, hardcover, 374 pages, ISBN: 0-8160-2140-6)

No, this is not a misprint or duplication. This was the second book I came across which had the same title but is arranged quite differently from the first. Instead of simply listing stories by sub-headings, this book is a true encyclopedia in the sense that the listing are from A-Z and also include individuals, organizations, subjects, terminology, paranormal cases, and definitions.

I received several insertions in the encyclopedia including my name, Ghost Research Society, ghosts, spirit photography, Bachelor's Grove Cemetery and ghost lights.

You may have seen other encyclopedias in the past however this one is the best I've ever seen by far!! Guiley has done another superb job for Facts On File in compiling this much needed updated encyclopedia. Don't let the price scare you away (it's around \$25) because it's worth every penny and much more. An absolute must for any serious researcher! Rated a 10 in a 1-10 scale!

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

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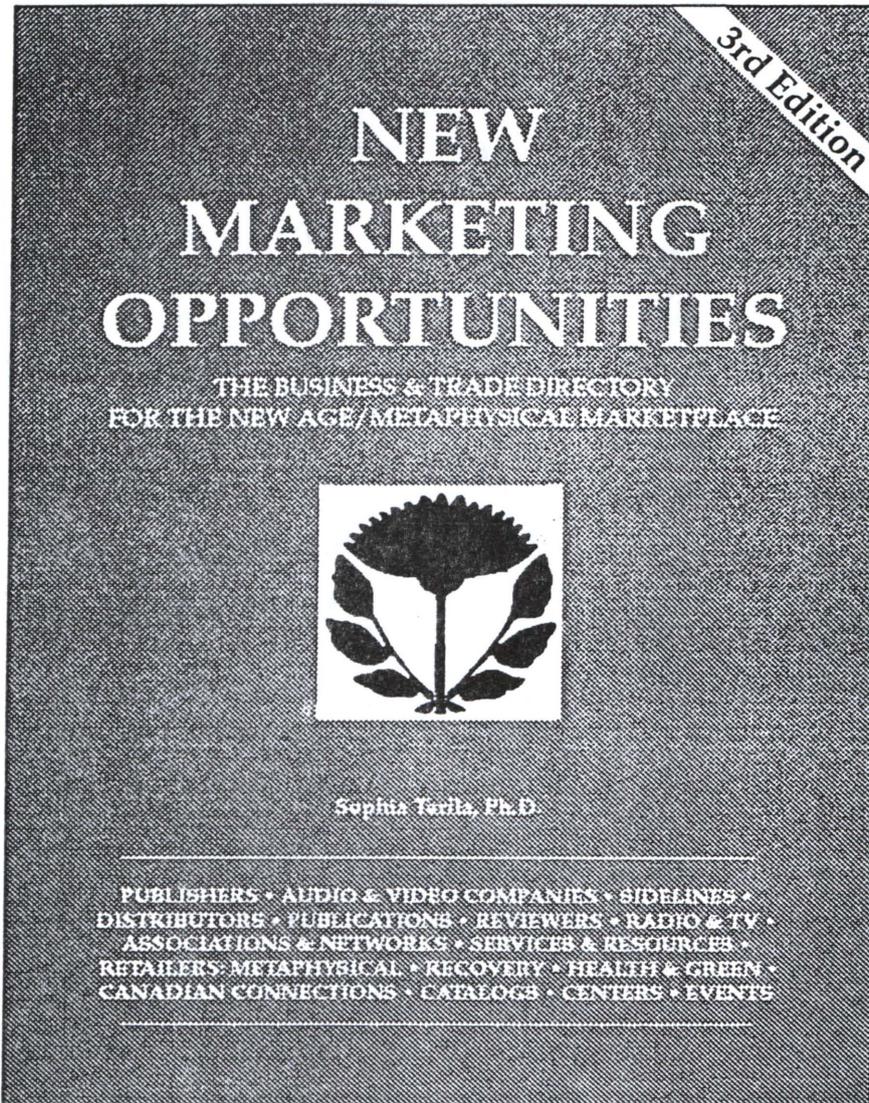
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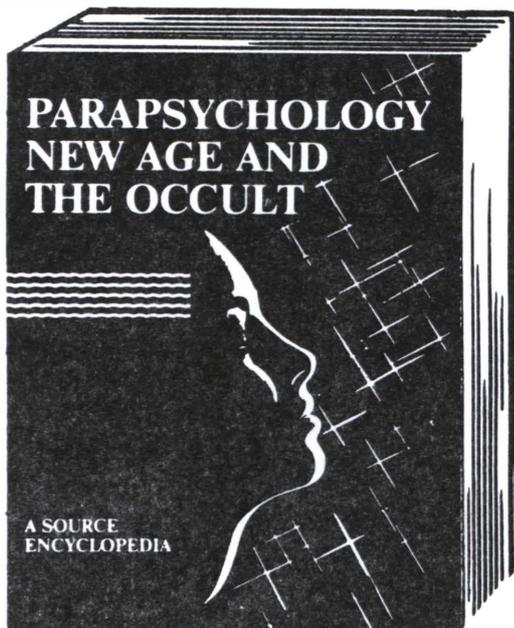
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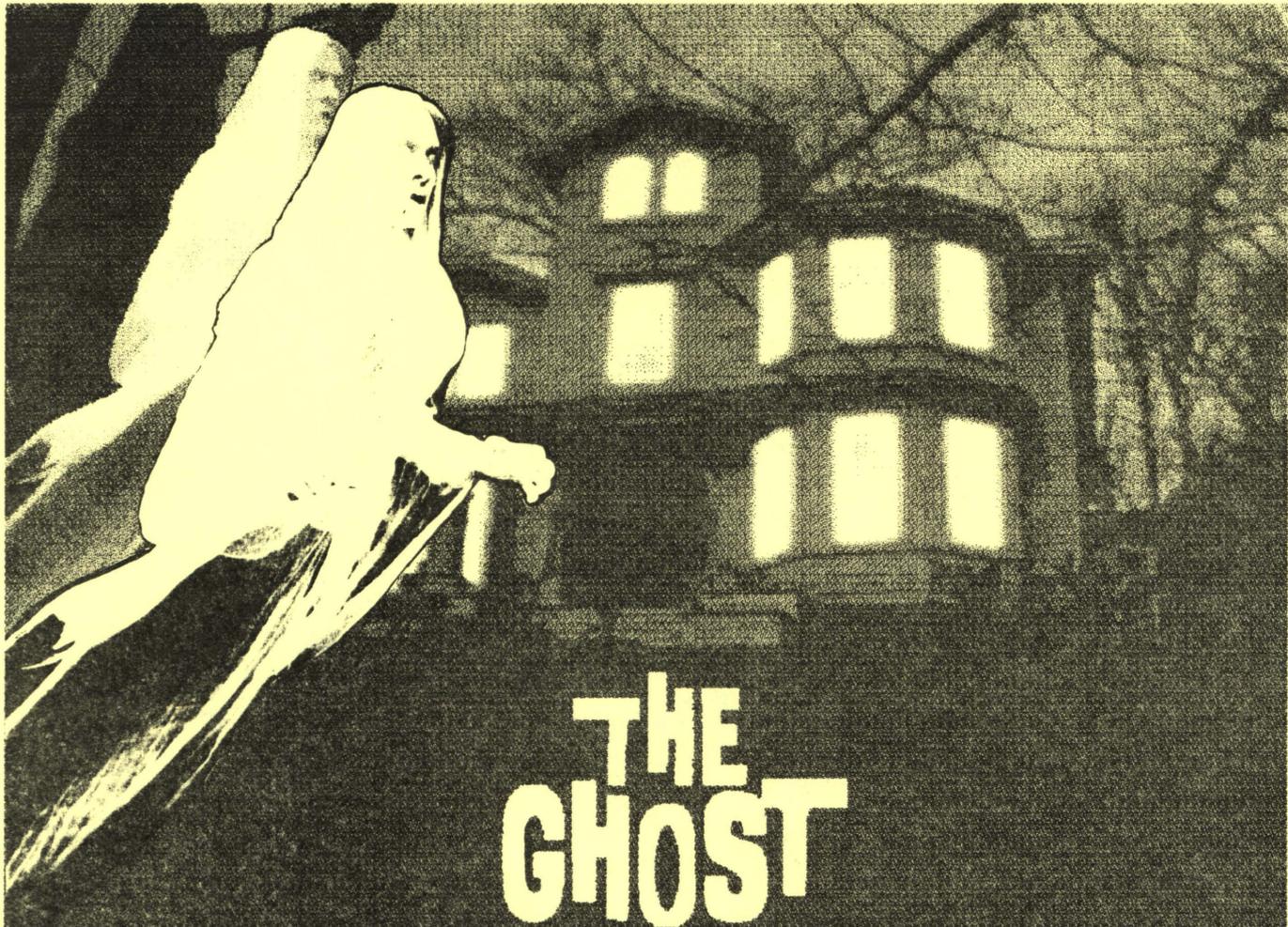
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