

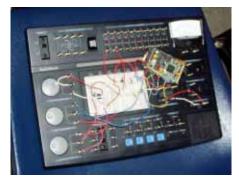
Spirit Society of PA.

APPARITIONS

SOCIETY of PA A Monthly Journal of News & Upcoming Events · Vol 12, Issue 6 - JUNE 2007

"ROO's" BOOS - Notes from Kelly

What a wonderful time we had at Spirit Day in May! We collected close to \$400.00 between admission, the white elephant sale and the silent auction. A personal thank you to everyone who participated and helped raise money for the upcoming year.



Our speakers were very entertaining! The day began with Craig Telesha talking about a device (left) gaining fame in paranormal circles, simply called "Frank's Box." (See his article in this newsletter.) He made an

example of this box and the earlier *Sprircom* device developed in the 1970s. I personally have not used the box to date, but would like to see what happens when I'm around the box with my 'spirit friends.' John had those who remembered to bring recorders experiment with EVP and some charts. *Anyone capture anything interesting? If so, please let us know.*

How many of you slept with the lights on after Rosemary's lecture on **Shadow People? Creepy stuff!** Rick spoke about the "Talking Boards" and showed us many different varieties of these spooky wooden 'games.' Good or Bad? *You decide.* (Although some are very artistic, they can still cause problems. Be careful if you use these boards. - Kelly)

Our friend, Al, who came all the way from Western PA. showed an update of his classic DVD on the Moundsville Prison apparition he captured a few years ago. This footage was shown on a recent *Ghost Hunters* episode. To me, it is one of the best apparition images ever caught on video.

I had the group test their intuitive abilities with a Remote Viewing experiment. Over all, people did pretty well, considering we were all tired, had full bellies and were low on energy. We'll try it again at a future meeting and see how we do.

As usual, everyone enjoyed the delicious food provided by our members. We have some great cooks in our group. I know Jack was happy! Rick F. said he loves to come just to eat.

Special thanks for the set up and clean up committee. I look forward to planning next year's event! It is a good time to build friendships and bond with like-minded people. Continue to tell your family and friends about the **Spirit Society**. Everyone is welcome to attend our monthly meetings and activities.

I received a call from Lucy, the center's director the following Monday morning. She was thrilled -- as were the seniors -- for the leftover flowers and food. They also SOLD everything that we donated to the center from our white elephant sale. This allowed them to add to their snack budget. She said that the place looked and smelled so good! The people broke into wide smiles when they were greeted with lovely flowers on their tables. I told her I would let all of you know how happy we made our senior friends! Thanks again for all of your contributions that made this a fun-filled day!

Cemetery Tour

Yesterday, the group had the pleasure of being guided around the **Harrisburg Cemetery** by John Bry, the man who lives in the superintendent's home. He certainly has the personality and humor to keep you entertained with his historical facts and funny stories. (Think Ed Okonowicz) He charmed us with poems written about some of the famous people buried there and his love—hate relationship with the pesky groundhogs! Watch your step when touring this charming park! (Below: Billie, Rosemary & Kelly listen as John Bry explains that cemetery benches were used as "pick up spots" long ago!)



Despite it drizzling just a bit, we had a nice crowd attend this free tour. We were invited into the home, which is rich in history and architecture. John also shared stories the vintage photographs and furniture that adorned

this Gothic style house. We heard whimsical tales of his grandparents - who owned a Monument business in Indiana. When he was a little boy, every Sunday afternoon his grandmother would take him to the cemetery and teach him "Cemetery Etiquette". (Never walk on someone's grave, use the pathway, please!)

Our afternoon ended with a **Tarot Card Reader** offering readings in the Vault, for the price of a tip. (Nice touch, John. Thanks).

Many of us stood in the rain waiting to hear her words of wisdom. I thought she was pretty good! Others stayed and chatted with John and were able to view some maps and other historical documents of the grounds. It was a really interesting and fun-filled day!

Another Cemetery Event is being planned:

In early August I will be hosting an INVESTIGATION OF THE CEMETERY. We will begin at sunset and continue into the evening. How cool is that? Our very own SSP cemetery to explore without having the police on our tail suspecting us as potential vandals! (Remember: SSP implores all members and responsible ghost hunters to obey posted access times at cemeteries, battlefields and other public areas) We are also working with John and downtown Harrisburg along with other sponsors and Restaurant Row to produce a **spooky Halloween event** in the cemetery on Friday & Saturday October 26 & 27. Get ready to love this place if you have not already enjoyed the tour. Dates and details for our upcoming Cemetery investigation will appear in the July newsletter.

Psychic Detective Work

I was invited to meet with the Chief Detective of Cumberland County this past week, along with various other detectives to work on a 13 year old cold case file. I LOVE criminology. Most likely I would be working in the field, had I not chose art school and the advertising profession years ago. I cannot go into the details, but I'll be working closely with the lead investigator of the case. We will be



revisiting the crime scene and I'll have some of the woman's personal items to 'read. The woman has never been found – dead or alive. Her family, from another state, has been heart-broken for so many years. I'd love to help them get some answers as to what happened to her. *Wish me luck! - Kelly*

Dinner with a Psychic-Medium (Kelly Weaver) at Historic, Haunted, ALFRED'S VICTORIAN in Middletown, PA

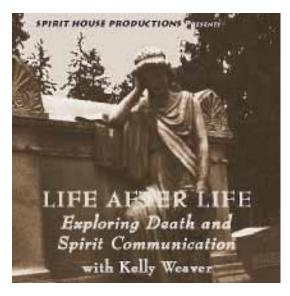
Enjoy a sumptuous meal in the region's most romantic restaurant, hearing tales and evidence of "Emma" the famous ghost of the Victorian. Price: \$29.95 all inclusive; \$10 for 10 Min. Readings w/Kelly are available.

Next 2007 dates: June 27 & July 25.

Most of these popular events were sell-outs in 2006 - Don't wait - call Alfred's for reservations 717 944 5373

<u>Coming in October</u>: Our annual Alfred's "HAUNTED DINING" Events (*Dates TBA*)

The fascinating subject of After Death Communication, including interesting superstitions along with historical facts about death, is the focus of, "Life After Life", a new DVD from Kelly Weaver /Spirit House



Productions. It ends with a soothing meditation to help you connect with your loved ones on the other side. Life After Life (along with Kelly's new **Meet Your Angels** and **Discover Your Past Lives** Meditation CDs) will be available this summer at Mark Nesbitt's Ghosts of Gettysburg Headquarters on Baltimore Street and through www.kellysmagicalgarden.com.

KELLY'S MAGICAL GARDEN - Offering a variety of Intuitive Services for your Spiritual Quest

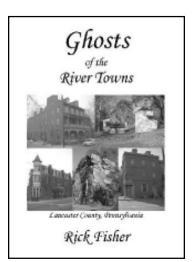
Kelly Weaver offers readings via mail, e-mail and in person. For details, please visit www.kellysmagicalgarden.com

 Private Readings available by appointment: Personal, Animal, Past Life & ADC (After Death Communication) Contact Kelly at 717-737-7623 or

weaviate@aol.com



•Study with Kelly! Spring/Summer classes now forming!



Now Available: GHOSTS of the RIVER TOWNS by Rick Fisher

No one knows more ghost stories from Lancaster County's river towns of Columbia, Marietta & surrounding areas than PSP founder Rick Fisher, and his first book is full of fascinating accounts from this historic and haunted region of South Central PA. To order, send check or money order for \$6.00 (includes postage and

handling) to Rick Fisher 109 South Second St. Apt. 2 Columbia, PA 17512 Rick's e-mail is rfisher@paranormalpa.com

Laura Shank and her daughter Dominique are long time and devoted members of SSP. We extend our condolences to Dominique on the loss of her classmates and hope sharing her story of their passing with the group in some way helps bring closure.

THE DAY I'LL NEVER FORGET by Dominique Shank

On Friday May 4, 2007, I was hanging out with my friends when we received a phone call that I will never forget. It was my best friend's shop teacher calling to let her know that there was an accident involving four students from our school.

She later called back to let us know that three of the four students had died that night, Donald Carnes, Corey Gauker, and Kevin Beers. The fourth student, John Kibe, was in the hospital with internal bleeding to the head. They weren't sure if he was going to make it or not. We were among the first people to find out. I have known John since I was in elementary school and was glad that he was still alive; however I lost a really good friend, Donald Carnes, my Little Ducky.

I've always believed that people know that they are going to die before their time is up and may give you clues to this, that you don't pick up on until they're already gone.

On Thursday night Kevin went into his mom's room, jumped on her bed and said "I love you Mom." That was a very random thing for him any other time but now knowing what his ultimate fate was, it seemed to be the perfect thing for him to do. Kevin wasn't really the type of person to just come out and tell his mom that he loved her. We all knew he did but he never really said it. On Friday night Duck's mom was getting his clothes together to wash and two wooden blocks fell out of his pocket. His mom didn't think anything of it and just picked them up and put them aside. After the news had gotten to her, she was talking to Duck's shop teacher and he said to her "Well I guess you got your Mother's Day present from your son." She had no idea what he was talking about.

He asked her if she found two pieces of wood and she said that they fell out of Duck's jeans pocket. He told her to turn them over and on the other side were certificates carved in the wood, one was for breakfast and one was for dinner. His shop teacher had told Duck not to take them home on Friday, he said it was too soon.

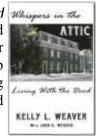
Duck didn't listen; he put the two presents in his pocket and took them home with him even though his shop teacher had begged him to take them home next week. Little did he know that next week would never come for Duck.

I haven't heard any stories about Corey giving any signs that indicated that he knew his time was ending but I'm sure there's one out there.

On the day after Duck's funeral, my mom and I went up to the crash site. It was really hard to be there but I knew that it was something I had to do. I wanted to see the place where myLittle Ducky took his last breath. After we had finished seeingthe site we got in the car and were on our way home when a little white duck crossed the street very slowly.

This however wasn't an ordinary duck, it was special. It had rims around its eyes and walked kind of funny. Well my friend Duck wore glasses and walked kind of funny, which is part of the reason we called him Duck. When he was in the street, without even knowing what she said, mom said, "Come on little ducky." When she said that I just cried because that's what we used to say to him when he would start to fall behind. I love my Little Ducky and he will always be in my heart. I will never forget May 4, 2007 and I hope others don't forget what happened that dreadful night either. - Dominique Shank

Whispers in the Attic - Living With The Dead Whispers in the Kelly's account of her life as a medium and ghosthunter is available locally from Civil War and More in Mechbg., Borders Books in Camp Hill and Mark Nesbitts Ghosts of Gettysburg HQ. Available online through Amazon.com and Troy Taylor's History & Hauntings Book Co.





Ghosts, Legends, Mysteries and Roques of Mechanicsburg by Melissa Griffith Melissa is the SSP Activities Director, an investigative team member and a regular contributor to our newsletter with her "Musings of a Ghost Adventurer" Column. It can be purchased locally at Civil War and More in Mechanicsburg.

Dr David Jacobs returning to S.E.A.R.C.H. in Oct. While the exact date (Oct 6 or 20) is TBD, respected abduction researcher Dr. Jacobs will return to Harrisburg this fall. Also on the program will be PSP founder Rick Fisher sharing his research on the Carbondale UFO crash retrieval case. SEARCH founder Steve Groff will advise details when finalized.

Rt. - From our June 3rd Harrisburg Cemetery tour: "Fitch", John Bry's friendly feline makes the rounds in the restored superintendent's house that contains some fascinating cemetery memorabilia. John's humorously but accurately describes himself as:

"A pasty white guy with a Black Cat living in a Cemetery on 13th Street!"

All humor aside, John's passion for historic preservation is admirable. Kelly and I look forward to helping him promote his vision for this historic and beautiful cemetery.





Spirit Society of PA

Story & Photo Contributions are Solicited - send to: John & Kelly Weaver, 43 Essex Rd, Camp Hill, PA 17011

E-mail: weaviate@aol.com S.S.P. Website: www.spiritsocietyofpa.com

MUSINGS OF A MHOST MOVENTURER

By Melissa Griffith

The Carlisle, PA Haunt Jaunt

There is a lot spooky ground to cover in an historical town such as Carlisle. Laura Shank, Deb Snyder and I got an early afternoon start and headed south. First stop was the Old Graveyard—home to the graves of Revolutionary War soldiers and heroine Molly Pitcher. It's a short walk to take a gander at the house that once held Major Andre prisoner during the Revolu-



tion. Rt: One of the faces created by art students in the 1970's on the Old Graveyard wall.

Across the street is the Carlisle House B&B that has a few ghost stories of its own. The building was the original "Ewing Funeral Home" and Jessie Ewing was the first woman in Pennsylvania awarded a funeral license.



Walk a half a block further to the square to the old Courthouse to examine the cannon ball damage (left) the building suffered during the Civil War when Rebel cavalry invaded Carlisle on July 1, 1863 before learning of the main armies gathering near Gettysburg. (J.E.B. Stuart's Cavalry burned several buildings at Carlisle Barracks and shelled the town when Union militia refused to surrender it)

We just had to take some photos of the Gothic-looking old Cumberland County Prison. (Below) Not sure if it's haunted (although I wouldn't doubt it)—but it was once a place that held such notorious criminals as the infamous highwayman David



"Robber" Lewis, third generation Black madam Bessie Jones and even the woman accused of murdering Mrs. Jones (who was later acquitted), Georgia Schneider.

Ashland Cemetery (Rt) is a must-stop on the "creep tour"—gorgeous statues and interesting headstones can be found at every turn. (Kelly's "Life After Life" DVD cover features a statue from this cemetery.)

After a quick lunch at Scalle's—it was off toward Pine Grove Furnace to the spot at the base of the South Mountain where in 1934 three little girls were found dead lying on



a blanket in the woods. They appeared to be simply sleeping, lined up neatly on the coverlet; however, they were not. They had been suffocated. Their identities were unknown and it was nationwide media event to find out who they were—the trio was dubbed, the "Babes in the Woods." The Ewing Funeral Home generously provided funeral services for the girls and tens of thousands walked by their caskets and death masks were made in an attempt to identify the children.

Eventually, a woman in California claimed the "Babes in the Woods" were her granddaughters; Norma (12 years old), Dewilla (10) and Cordelia (8) Noakes. In the meantime, their father's body had been found in a railroad yard in Altoona. He had murdered his niece/housekeeper, Winifred Pierce, and then committed suicide. It's postulated that Elmo Noakes had murdered his children as he was no longer able to feed them (the autopsies revealed they had not eaten in at least 18 hours). He had left a good job in California (this was during the Depression when jobs were hard to come by) and traveled across the country with his niece and daughters for reasons no one can explain.

We found the spot where the children's bodies had been dis-

covered and attempted evp—which was nearly impossible by the amount of traffic on the nearby road. We did not capture any voices, but are planning a return trip where we can spend more time at this curious and sad location.



At the entrance to Carlisle's Westminster Cemetery is the shared grave of the three "Babes in the Woods" paid for by concerned and sympathetic citizens. Elmo Noakes & Winifred Pierce are also interred here, but not in the same location as the girls.

There are so many historically interesting and mysterious venues in Carlisle to explore—take a day this summer and enjoy this charming, quaint town.

Note: When I was in Scouts, our camp was located near the "Babes in the Woods" marker. New troop members were taken to this "haunted" spot on night hikes... I found it to be a creepy place on my first, and subsequent visits. JDW



LETTING THE GHOST OUT OF THE BOX -

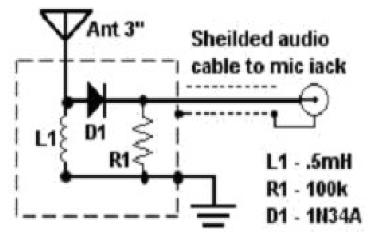
By Craig Telesha

Contacting spirits through the use of radio frequency devices or so called "boxes" as a medium for direct communication has been a hot topic of discussion lately in the paranormal community, but the overall theory dates back to the days of Thomas Edison and his vision to dialup departed spirits using modern technology as the key component. Though Edison entered the spirit world before he could finish his device, his theories and ideas still live on today. Unfortunately Edison's design, plans and experimental device have never been found though it is speculated that his colleagues destroyed the machine and any data associated with it after his death. Only a few eye witnesses reportedly had the rare pleasure of seeing the machine itself, but no other solid evidence has ever been uncovered.

Over the past 30 years, several individuals come to mind that have reported claims of direct spirit communication using radio frequency technology as the base for their experiments. Pioneers such as Swedish film producer Friedrich Juergenson and Latvian psychologist Dr Konstantin Raudive have both documented thousands of voices and even direct communications with their own mothers. Raudive used several different methods for obtaining the voices including direct microphone communication which is the standard EVP recording style of today as well as the white noise method in which a radio is tuned to a free station so only static is heard and recorded to a standard recorder using a microphone to capture the noise and hopefully spirits.

Raudive also invented a circuit incorporating a germanium diode and a few other small parts. This circuit was a basic crystal radio receiver which is not tuned to any particular radio station which uses an extremely short antenna which is not to great for AM radio band reception but supposedly tuned more for the spirit world. This concept has been reported to be very successful.

From a skeptic's point of view, any voices received by this method could easily be debunked as being side carriers to regular AM broadcast stations or other AM transmissions such as Amateur or short wave radio. Although the skeptics theory is an obvious problem with this method, they find a hard time ex-



plaining a direct, appropriate response to questions being asked during an EVP session.

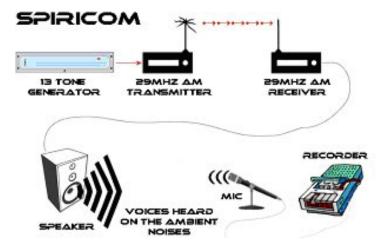
Raudive incorporated strict laboratory conditions with the help of various electronics experts and 400+ people who all claim to have heard the voices on the over 100,000 audio tapes he recorded before his death in 1974. Much of this data is documented in a book published in 1971 entitled Breakthrough. Copies of this book are available on Amazon.com and EBay.

Although Raudive is accredited with discovering "Raudives voices" a.k.a. EVP (Electronic Voice Phenomenon), Friedrich Juergenson had discovered this phenomenon many years earlier as did other researchers before Juergenson.

EVP was gaining popularity in Europe through the 60s and early 70s but was not very common in the states until the early 70s when George W Meek, Paul Jones and Hans Heckman opened a laboratory to study EVP and further research into a two-way spirit communication system. This organization came to be known as the Metascience Foundation. George spent much of the first portion of his research traveling to Europe and Germany learning about EVP and other communication methods. Meek was of the opinion that though the current research methods were sound in their theories, the technology was not conducive to direct two-way communication and often very difficult to understand.

Meek believed that the spirit world is directly connected to ours through 5 layers with earth being the bottom most 6th layer. Each layer represents the next stage of existence starting with the point at which we leave our flesh and move onto the "Lowest Astral Level." Then to the "Middle Astral Level", "Highest Astral Level", "Causal and Mental Level" and finally to the "Celestial Level." Each layer has its own resonate frequency which he believed could be dialed in using radio frequencies. His work on a device called "Spiricom" was designed to bridgethe gap between earth and the other layers which he was only partially successful until meeting psychic medium William O'Neil in 1973.

O'Neil was successful in communicating with the spirit of Dr George J Mueller, a deceased American Physicists, who was instrumental in refining the operation of the Spiricom device. O'Neil logged more then 20 hours of successful two-way communication with Mueller. Portions of these dialogs are currently in circulation around the Internet and available for download in



mp3 form from several sites by doing a search for "Spiricom."

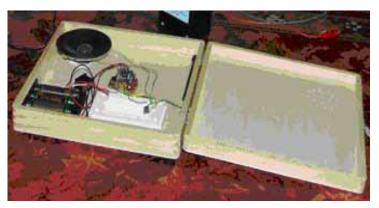
The communication device consisted of a tone generator which created 13 separate frequencies all with in the human male vocal range. These 13 tones were combined into a regular audio carrier which was broadcast a short distance via a 29mhz AM transmitter (29.575 mhz) to a 29mhz AM receiver which was fed into a speaker. All from within a faraday cage to shield from outside radio interference.

A cassette recorder was placed across the room from the receiver to record each session. The entire room was used as an echo chamber. The basic design of the device was to give the spirit a frequency upon which to inflect his or her voice through the airwaves much like the vocal cords do for the living. Dr Mueller's voice was very robotic sounding and a constant buzzing sound could be heard under the voice. Unlike regular EVP, Mueller's voice was heard in real time.

Several spirits were able to come through at various times while the Spiricom was under the direction of William O'Neil but other users experienced only limited success which did not even come close to the communication O'Neil shared with Dr Mueller. Various designs were attempted within a 10 year span, but the designed worked on by O'Neil and Mueller dubbed the Mark IV was the most successful.

In a skeptic's eye, it would be easy to debunk this device as a glorified walkie talkie system using the amateur radio band as the medium for short range communication which would easily allow O'Neil to hoax George Meek into believing the device actually worked. This device could easily be the biggest breakthrough in proving life after death or one of the best EVP hoaxes to date.

Unfortunately, the main players of this device have since passed on leaving only the Spiricom manual and various cassette tapes with audio bites from the machine in use. The Mark IV along with the other test models currently reside at the Metascience Foundation in a small town in Florida. Though research continues in George Meek's absence, no one has been able to dupli-



cate the efforts of William O'Neil and his two-way communication with Dr. Mueller though the plans for its construction are readily available on the Internet and in paper form for about \$30. Twenty-five years of advancement in radio circuitry and technology have allowed the original bulky Spiricom device to be created in a miniature form. I have attempted to re-create

George Meek's original 29mhz device for use during paranormal investigations.

This device uses a standard a walkie talkie transmitter and receiver pair which have been re-tuned up to 29.575mhz from 27mhz. The transmitter portion consists of an mp3 player with a 1 hour audio file of the 13 original tones. The units are placed about 5 feet apart. Unfortunately we have not received any communications via spirit or regular radio communication.

It's been 25 years since the first communication recorded by William O'Neil and George Meek but a new device has emerged on the horizon with promising potential for direct spirit communication. Though the technology is rather new, the concept is based on the standard belief that spirits can manipulate electricity in an attempt to communicate through radio frequencies. The device is called "Frank's Box" or, of late, has now been dubbed the "Ghost Box" designed by Frank Sumption. The device is centered around a white noise generator in line with a late 80s or early 90s car stereo which is modified to randomly tune through the AM broadcast band.

Frank began experimenting with EVP in the year 2000 which led to using a computer program called EVP maker invented by the German researcher Stefan Bion. After receiving various messages from "computer savvy" spirits relaying messages for other spirits who were not so technologically advanced, Frank came up with the idea to create a device that hopefully all spirits could use. His design was apparent to him almost immediately, but the actual construction of the device has led him to create at least 25 different models to date. Each box is unique in design and construction, but is based on the same principle.

Frank's spirit receiver starts off with a standard white noise generator which is fed through a random voltage circuit of Frank's own design. The random voltage is linked to an AM radio receiver which reacts to the voltage by tuning to a specific spot on the radio dial. This is known as voltage tuning and is a common function of late 80s and early 90s radio receivers. Though various radio stations are turned in for a split second every so often along with regular static, the devices also allows the spirits to interact with the device and create their own vocals through the receiver and for lack of a better term, talk through the device.

A newer version of the box simply tunes back and fourth through the AM band which Frank is calling the "Sweep" method. At first, he believed that the random voltage design is what allowed it to work but after using the sweep method, he has since changed his mind as it seems to do a better job. Frank has made his plans available on the Internet for anyone who is interested in experimenting with his device. He also makes available his own receiver plans for those who want to take it a step further and create the entire box from start to finish.

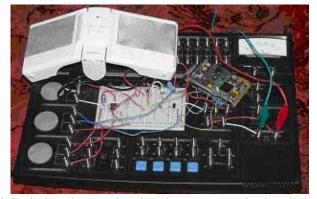
Frank has created at least 25 versions of the box to date and handed them to several individuals for ongoing tests. The initial results have been pretty positive and many people have experienced some kind of communication which they would regard

as evidence that the box really works. Unfortunately, the difficult part about Frank's design is his using the AM radio band as the medium for receiving the voices. This is one fact that makes it easy for any skeptic to debunk the operation of his device. For starters, the device will receive little snippets from various radio stations as it scans through the AM band. At any given minute the device could spew some various words from passing stations that could be put together as a sentence and claimed to be from a spirit when in fact its just audio matrixing.

Another possible scenario includes a few parts from Radio Shack and a couple of minutes of assembly could yield a small yet powerful enough transmitter to broadcast over the AM band and inject various words and phrases into the box directly. Definite care should be taken when operating the device to ensure the above scenarios are not part of the equation. Using recorders and other tools, such as an EMF detector, can help legitimize the results. EMF detectors should be placed far enough away as not to cause interference with the box or produce

falsereadings on the detector itself.

I built a
Ghost
Box
(Right)
based



on the original plans by Frank using the sweep method and an old car stereo from a 91 Nissan NX which turned into Frank's bundle of wires by the time I was done. The initial test was done in an old building where a small group of us are working on an ongoing EVP project.

Although the device functioned as planned we were unable to receive any substantial evidence in the short amount of time that we were able to execute the test. Further tests will be done over the period of the project to see if we can get the kind of results that have been reported by the use of this box.

If you decide to go searching the Internet for Frank's Ghost Box, you may find several different folks making some pretty substantial claims as to who they have contacted or who can and cannot use the box. Many of these claims have no substantial evidence to back them up nor are they endorsed by the creator Frank Sumption. Frank has maintained that anyone should be able to use the box though some may have better results then others and this is not intended to be a direct link to specific spirits or used as a medium device.

As technology advances, we may be coming closer to being able to communicate with our departed loved ones or possibly answering the age old question about what is on the other side. But until that day arrives the paranormal community will continue to pursue the standard avenues of EVP and other forms

of communication until we find the correct device or frequency that works. — Craig Telesha www.ghost-tech.com

Thanks to Craig for this insightful article. Craig is a good friend of Kelly's and mine, a long time SSP member and has one of the most creative technical minds I've ever encountered! I'll never forget the day he rolled out "Gunther" - his ghost-hunting robot - at Sickman's Mill several years ago. (I still think this thing scared the spirits who haunt it as much as they scare people who visit the place!) - Craig is engaged to another good friend, our Activities Director and Apparitions columnist Melissa Griffith. Yes, they met at an SSP meeting! - JDW



Shadow People and Shadow Figures have been in my thoughts of late, between our April investigation at the Hotel Bethlehem, Rosemary Ellen Guiley's excellent presentation (at the PA Paranormal Conference and our own Spirit Day Event) and some increasing reports of shadowy apparitions on certain parts of the Gettysburg Battlefield.

First, as Rosemary's research confirms, the "Shadow Person" experience is different than a "Shadow Figure"; the former being a more personal experience, often reported when a person is sleeping, and suggestive of some sort of communication. The similarities of the Shadow Person experience to that of alien abductions and MIB encounters cannot be ignored. The latter - the Shadow Figure -- seems more likely to be something residual, such as a common ghostly apparition. In fact, Rosemary used the photo I captured at the Railroad Cut last July 1 as an example of the Shadow Figure.

Most reports of Shadow Figure encounters at Gettysburg are from a more distant range. One area in particular where we've heard of several of such encounters is Barlows Knoll and the adjacent Adams County Alms House Cemetery. Just last week, however, an intriguing account of a very close Shadow Figure encounter surfaced. A re-enactor friend of member Jack Thomas was walking along the old trolly path near where it intersects Brooke Ave, when he saw a dark figure approaching. Suspecting it may be park watch or a ranger (he was there after hours - something we in SSP do not condone) he stepped into the woods, and the figure passed only feet from him. No features were noted, save for a slouch hat (typical Confederate headgear). Interestingly, our friend Rene Kruse has also reported a shadowy figure in this general area. In the coming weeks, I plan to spend some time in this area (which few but serious historians & ghosthunters take time to explore) and see if we can document any "Shadow Figure" activity.

(July 2 is when heavy fighting occurred in this area -- between Rose Hill and the bottom of the Triangular Field -- and thus that is one of the days I hope to be there.)