

Paranormal Underground™

Volume 3, Issue 4

April 2010

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: DESTINATION TRUTH'S REX WILLIAMS

**The Amityville Horror:
Real or Hoax?**

**GHOST HUNTER CASE FILES:
DEVIL'S BACKBONE**

**Locked Up Forever:
Five Haunted Prisons**

**SPECIAL REPORT:
DOWSING!**

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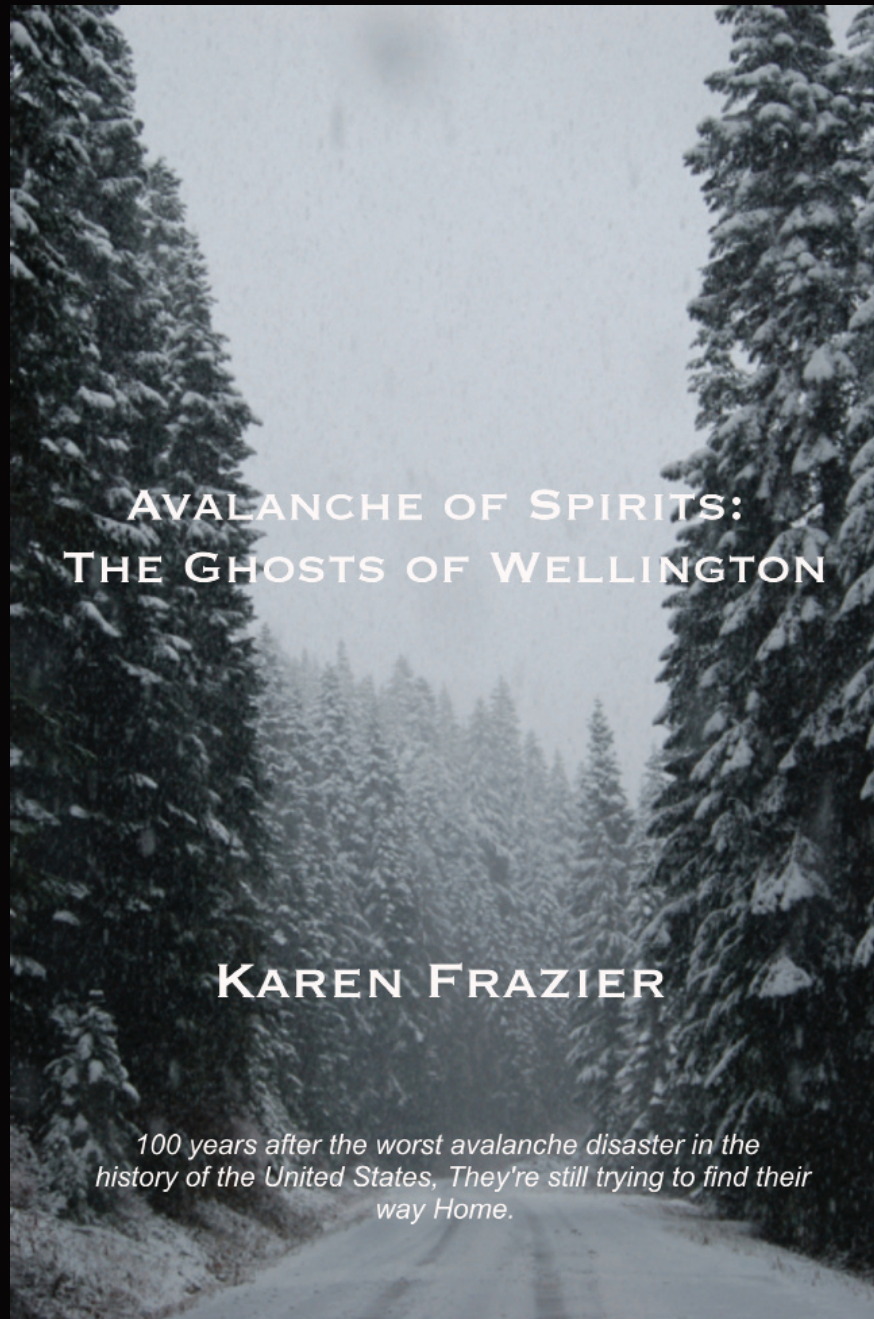
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- **GHOST SHIP — THE FLYING DUTCHMAN**
- **BANSHEE: DEATH OMEN OR FOLKLORE?**
- **ET: PRE-HISTORY OF A COVERUP**



From Paranormal Underground Journalist
Karen Frazier and Ghost Knight Media, LLC



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Dory lives and writes in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and has a diverse background with degrees in photography and psychology, as well as an MFA in writing from Vermont College. Dory writes a blog, called *In This Light* (www.doryadams.com), which is a weekly blog of images and narrative. (Photo credit: Heather Mull)



Rick E. Hale

A native of Chicago, Rick is the co-founder of the McHenry County Paranormal Research Group. A paranormal researcher since the age of eight, Rick is happily married and digs Jazz. He believes in the use of the scientific method in gathering evidence of paranormal claims. Rick can be contacted at t_seeker@hotmail.com.



in the paranormal, movies, and TV shows since childhood. "I am also lucky enough to have had an extra bit as a zombie in a movie, called *After Sundown*, which was a lot of fun."

Rich Newman

Rich lives in Memphis, Tennessee, and is the author of two books. He recently released his first feature film, *Ghosts of War*, a documentary about haunted Civil War sites. In his spare time, he researches and investigates the paranormal with his group Paranormal Inc. You can contact Rich at info@paranormalincorporated.com.



Heidi Ann

Heidi Ann has been a paranormal enthusiast since childhood when she had her own encounter. Her personal experience led her to question the world around her. Heidi is a mother of three sons, works as a special education paraprofessional in a middle school, and loves watching television shows and reading books on the paranormal.



Carolyn M. Hughes

As a night manager in a haunted hotel on the Gettysburg battlefield, Carolyn has had ghostly experiences both at work and while on the battlefield. She considers the ghosts of the soldiers that haunt Gettysburg as 'her boys.' Carolyn shares her experiences with *Paranormal Underground* in her column, *Diary of a Haunted Hotel*.



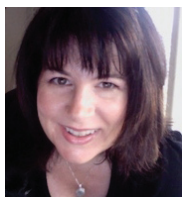
Michelle M. Pillow

Michelle is an award-winning author writing in many romance fiction genre, including futuristic and paranormal. A skeptical believer, she has a fascination with anything paranormal. She's also a photographer and cohost of Raven Radio.



Karen Frazier

Karen is the managing editor of *Paranormal Underground* magazine. After living in a WWII-era apartment 20 years ago where unexplainable things happened, Karen began to search for answers about the paranormal. Now she combines that interest with her professional experience as a copy writer and technical writer to help bring *Paranormal Underground* to the public. Karen is a partner with Ghost Knight Media.



Cheryl Knight

Cheryl is editor-in-chief of *Paranormal Underground* magazine. She has been a professional writer and editor for more than 20 years. Cheryl is combining her writing, editing, and design talents — along with a fascination of the paranormal — to bring you *Paranormal Underground* each month. Her previous magazine experience includes roles as senior and managing editor for several business publications. Cheryl is a partner for Ghost Knight Media.



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

Jill Stefko, Ph.D.

Jill has studied the paranormal since 1957. Her expertise in the paranormal includes parapsychology, cryptozoology, Fortean phenomena, anomalies, UFOs, aliens, demonic possession, and exorcism. She gives workshops and lectures and has been a guest on radio call-in talk shows and local TV as an expert in the paranormal. She



Terri J. Garofalo

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



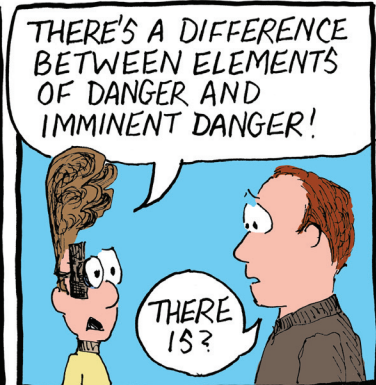
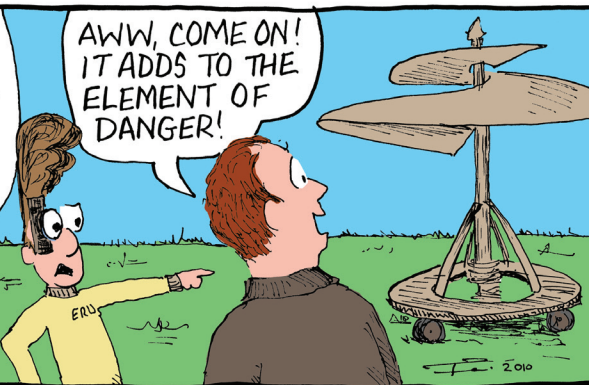
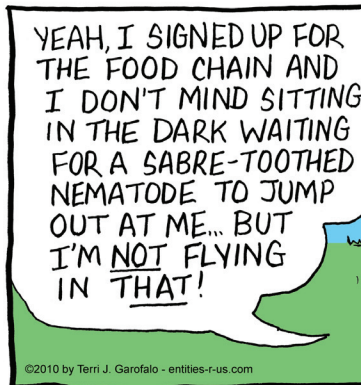
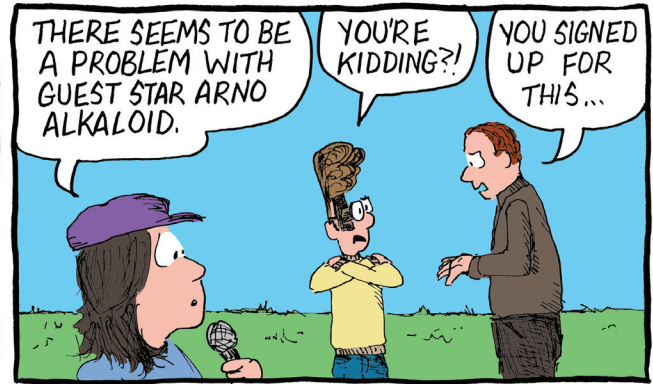
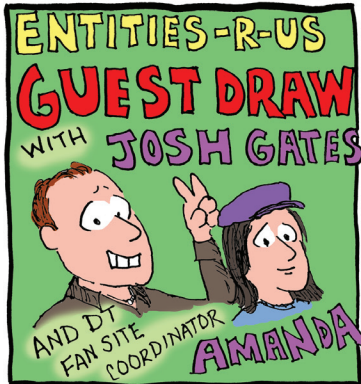
Richard Lombardi

Richard lives in Sarasota, Florida, and has worked in the movie theater industry for 15 years. He has always been interested



Entities-R-Us

by Terri J. Garofalo — www.entities-r-us.com



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investigates alleged cases of the paranormal and counsels experients.

Jill is the Feature Writer in the paranormal topic for www.suite101.com, an international ezine. Jill is the director and founder of FIRE-Psi, the Foundation for the Research, Investigation, and Education of Psychic Phenomena, established in 1996.

Lettie Prell

Lettie Prell is the author of *Dragon Ring* (Flying Pen Press), which blends science fiction with paranormal elements. Her stories have



appeared in *Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine*, *The Lorelei Signal*, the *A Time To...* anthology (volume 3), and elsewhere.

Lettie has explored shamanism, numerology, lucid dreaming, and other intuitive work. You can learn more about Lettie at www.lettieprell.com.

Jodee Redmond

Jodee is a freelance writer, editor, blogger, and award-winning Internet researcher who has been freelancing since 2000. She is an experienced content writer and copywriter, and has written several ebooks. Jodee is also the author of *Missing But Not Lost: True Tales of the Paranormal*.



Andrew Selfridge

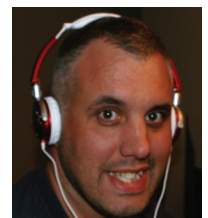
Andrew is an investigator with the Oklahoma City Ghost Club. A police officer by trade, Andy brings seven years of law enforcement experience and critical thinking to his investigative approach, with a strong emphasis on the purity of data collection and preservation of evidence.



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

Chad Wilson

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



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

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Where Have They All Gone?

Whatever happened to the “good old days” – the days of exploration and discovery, the days of seeking out new things and new ideas? Don't get me wrong, we have that spirit of exploration and entrepreneurship even today, but it seems that drive for something new pales in comparison to decades past.

Take the 1920s for instance. Whether it was Admiral Nelson Bird embarking on another of his numerous expeditions to the Poles, or Howard Carter searching for ancient treasure of the Egyptian Pharos, exploration was in full force. Here are just a few of headlines during the '20s:

- Admiral Bird made his first Antarctic expedition, launched in 1928, culminating in a flight to the South Pole on November 29, 1929.

- Mount Everest first expeditions: Early 1920s (though the summit was not successfully ascended until 1953). Many attempts were made to reach the summit throughout the 20s, 30s, 40s, and 50s, but it was not until May 29, 1953, that this was achieved by a British Expedition led by John Hunt. The two to actually achieve the goal of the Everest Summit were Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay of Nepal, via the South Col Route.

- Howard Carter, sponsored by Lord Carnarvon, discovers King Tutankhamen's tomb in Novem-

ber 1922. Strangely enough, Lord Carnarvon had decided to stop the search after five years of excavating with Carter in the Valley of Kings with not much to show. After a discussion with Carter, in which Carter argued for one last season, Lord

Carnarvon relented. Was it fate or luck that the first month of that final season, actually within days, that the tomb of King Tutankhamen was discovered?

- Charles Lindbergh is the first to complete a non-stop transatlantic flight, landing in Paris, France, on May 21, 1927. This was followed by Amelia Earhart,

who became the first woman to complete a non-stop transatlantic flight eight years later on May 20, 1932.

- The Spiritual Movement of the late 1800s continued on in the 1920s, with such notables as Harry Price and Harry Houdini exposing frauds of the day. Coincidentally enough, Price was accused of fraud after his death in 1948 by some of his fellow psychical researchers.

I often wonder what has happened to the explorers of yesteryear. Where have they all gone? Have we lost some of our spirit for exploration? What do you think?

Visit our forums at www.paranormalunderground.net/site/forum/ and let us know who you think is currently leading us in the search for new discoveries and technologies. ■



Chad Wilson,
Publisher

Checking In With DT's Rex Williams

In this issue of *Paranormal Underground* magazine, we spotlight Rex Williams, an investigator and medic for the hit SyFy show *Destination Truth*.

During Season 3 of the show, Rex investigated sites around the world not normally open to the public, including Chernobyl, King Tutankhamun's Tomb, and the Great Wall of China. Turn to page 14 to read about Rex's time on *Destination Truth*.

In our Psychic Spotlight, starting on page 20, Jennifer Hicks shares her insights on what it's like to talk to the dead, her work with the FBI, and doing readings for the general public. And make sure to check out page 28, where our managing editor, Karen Frazier, tells us what her first-ever psychic reading with Jennifer revealed.

In this month's special report on the art of dowsing, called *Dowsing: The Rods and The Pendulum* (page 24), writers Jill Stefko and Jodee Redmond discuss historical applications surrounding dowsing, as well as scientific findings on the subject.

And in our Haunted History Case File this month, we tackle the Amityville case. Have you ever wondered if the infamous Amityville haunting was a real event, an exaggeration of some true events, or a complete hoax? In "The Amityville Haunting: Real or Hoax?" (page 38), writer Rick E. Hale discusses reported events surrounding the haunting, as well as reported stories contradicting *The Amityville Horror*



book and movie.

In this issue's other Case Files of the Unknown, we feature five haunted prisons (page 32), myths surrounding the mysterious Thunderbird (page 42), and crop circle researcher and documentary maker Suzanne Taylor (page 44).

Within our Personal Experiences section, we bring our readers the continuing series "Diary From a Haunted Hotel" from Carolyn M. Hughes (page 48); a Ghost Hunter Case File about the Devil's Backbone from Paranormal Inc.'s Rich Newman (page 50); and a personal account from within the Mother-In-Law House (page 52).

Our media coverage this month includes reviews of the movies *Surrogates* (page 66) and *Zombieland* (page 67), as well as the TV show *Past Life* (page 12).

For our 3rd Annual Paranormal Fiction Contest announcement, turn to page 23 for more information.

I hope you enjoy this issue. Happy reading! ■

~ Cheryl Knight
Editor-in-Chief

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Are you an author, paranormal group, event planner, or documentary filmmaker looking to promote your book, event, Website, or media project?

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- Production

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April 9

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

April 16-18

Freetown Paranormal Convention
The Freetown State Forest
Freetown, Massachusetts
www.neparanormalresearch.com

April 16-18

Haunted Retreat
Old South Pittsburg Hospital
South Pittsburg, Tennessee
www.hauntedretreat.com

April 23-25

Mount Hood Ghost Conference
Mount Hood Village Resort
Welches, Oregon
<http://rosecityparanormalconference.bravehost.com/>

April 24-25



Circle of Life Body, Mind, Spirit,
and Paranormal Expo
Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Interstate Fairgrounds Conference
Building
Pensacola, Florida
www.circleoflifeexpo.com

May 7-8

Indiana Paranormal Convention
Danville, Indiana
www.indyparacon.com

May 8

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

May 15-16



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

May 21-23

California Ghost Hunters
Conference
Hampton Inn
Hayward, California
www.ghost-trackers.org/2010_conference.htm

June 5-7

First Annual Para-Camp
Kiamichi Mountains
For more information, contact Anita
at 405-246-8926

June 6-7

Ghost Hunt at Fort Mifflin
Fort Mifflin
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
www.hauntedtruth.com

June 25-26

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

August 5-7

Parasota: Midwest Paranormal Event
Three-day event
St. Paul, Minnesota
www.parasota.com

August 6-8



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

August 13-14

2nd Annual Psychic & Paranormal
Gathering
Holiday Inn, Southwest
Louisville, Kentucky
E-mail: spiritseekers@att.net

August 21-22

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

August 27-28



Haunted America East Coast
Conference
Cape Cod Community College
West Barnstable, MA
www.americanspookshows.com

October 9-16

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

October 29-31

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

November 5-7

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

*Do you have an event that you'd
like us to announce? E-mail editor@
paranormalunderground.net with
your information.*

TLC Premieres *Paranormal Court*



Robert Hansen

On March 27, TLC premiered the TV special *Paranormal Court*, a one-hour program following Robert Hansen, a psychic medium who steps in to help families get the answers they need after the death of a loved one.

According to TLC, *Paranormal Court* demonstrates Robert's psychic abilities in solving disputes when two parties come together and agree to be bound by the ruling enlisted from "the other side."

During the show, a mother and daughter battle over their loved one's gold cross. Then, a close-knit group of siblings are ripped apart after one allegedly steals their dead brother's car. And finally, a mother's inability to let go of her deceased daughter strains her marriage to the breaking point.

"*Paranormal Court* is about helping families in their time of need," said Nancy Daniels, TLC SVP Production and Development. "Robert Hansen is an amazing talent with deep compassion. He connects with families and their lost loved ones to resolve issues surrounding death — and most importantly to give them closure."

According to Hansen, he has been tested and approved by scientific researcher Dr. Gary Schwartz, and he has worked in the past with "Parents of Murdered Children" and currently "The Forever Family Foundation."

Paranormal Court is executive produced for TLC by Fly On The Wall Entertainment's Allison Grodner and Rich Meehan.

Harry Potter's Hogwarts Set Burned Down in Fire

The Hogwarts set for the final 3D Harry Potter installment, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, was recently destroyed in a fire during the filming of the final battle scene, according to <http://blogs.coventrytelegraph.net/thegeekfiles>. The set was located at Leavesden Film Studios, near Watford, Hertfordshire.

After explosives being used during the scene caught the set on fire, crews battled to put out the flames for more than 40 minutes; however, the set was completely destroyed.

According to the report, the main cast members, including Daniel Radcliffe (Harry), Emma Watson (Hermione), and Rupert Grint (Ron Weasley), were not there at the time. About 100 crew members and some cast were on set at the time, but no one was injured. One source estimated damage at £100,000.

Warner Bros. said production will be set back, with the first part of the story due out at the end of this year. The second installment will be released July 15, 2011.



The new Harry Potter Hogwarts set

Photos of UFO Taken in Sydney

Fiona Hartigan, a mother of two, recently photographed a strange-looking disc over the streets of Sydney. The UFO was said to emerge from a blazing light in the clouds, descend on a busy street, and zip off silently into the sunset. Hartigan claimed that as she got out of her car to take photos of the sunset, the disc appeared.

"As I was about to take the picture, this black object appeared and then it started to move," she said, according to www.news.com.au.

"It started off about 800 meters away, but it came closer — to about 400 meters — and then two other little round things appeared from this bright orange light above. There was no noise. It was calm and peaceful, but it was very weird. I don't know how to explain it. I'm still totally bewildered."

UFO Research (New South Wales) spokesman Doug Moffett said there are between 1,000 and 1,500 UFO sightings in Australia every year.

"Why would anyone make these stories up? They are setting themselves up for ridicule," he said.

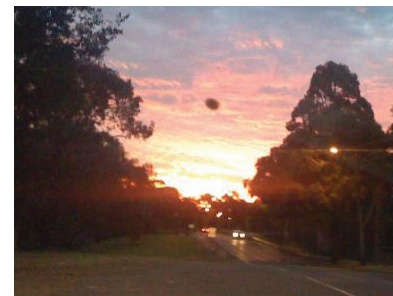


Photo by Fiona Hartigan

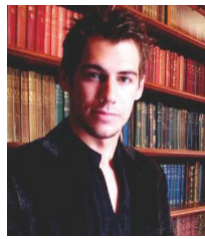
Student Gets Psychic Scholarship From Parapsychology Foundation

Callum Cooper, a student at The University of Northampton, has been awarded a \$3,000 (£1,811) scholarship to complete his studies on telepathy and clairvoyance, according to <http://news.bbc.co.uk>. He is a final year BSc psychology student.

Cooper received the grant from the Parapsychology Foundation, a U.S. not-for-profit foundation that provides a worldwide forum supporting the scientific investigation of psychic phenomena. He will be researching the scientific study of the possible existence of psychic abilities and life after death. Cooper is also looking into completing a Ph.D. Research Degree on apparitions and hallucinations in 2010.

“My interest in the paranormal began growing up in Nottinghamshire where there is a vast amount of history of hauntings. I am constantly involved in the investigation of purportedly haunted locations with my own research team . . . and more recently I have been researching Phone Calls and Text Messages from the Dead,” Cooper was quoted as saying on <http://news.bbc.co.uk>.

The University of Northampton is home to the Center for the Study of Anomalous Psychological Processes, and is one of only a few academic parapsychology research centers in the UK.



Callum Cooper

Chief Exorcist Says the Devil Has Infiltrated Vatican

According to 85-year-old Father Gabriele Amorth, satanic forces have infiltrated the Vatican. Father Amorth has been the Vatican’s chief exorcist for 25 years. He cites sex abuse scandals in the Roman Catholic Church as proof that “the Devil is at work inside the Vatican,” as reported by *The Times of London*.

Father Amorth claimed he had dealt with 70,000 cases of demonic possession. He also said that the “satanic infiltration” included power struggles at the Vatican, cardinals who do not believe in Jesus, and bishops who are linked to the Devil. And he further claimed that the Vatican covered up the 1998 shooting deaths of Alois Estermann, the then-commander of the Swiss Guard, his wife, and Corporal Cedric Tornay. “They covered up everything immediately,” he said, as quoted by *The Times*. “Here one sees the rot.”

He also was quoted as saying that the devil was “pure spirit, invisible. But he manifests himself with blasphemies and afflictions in the person he possesses. He can remain hidden, or speak in different languages, transform himself or appear to be agreeable. At times he makes fun of me.”

Father Amorth just published *Memoirs of an Exorcist*, a series of interviews with Vatican journalist Marco Tosatti.



Father Amorth

Computer Recreates Jesus’ Face

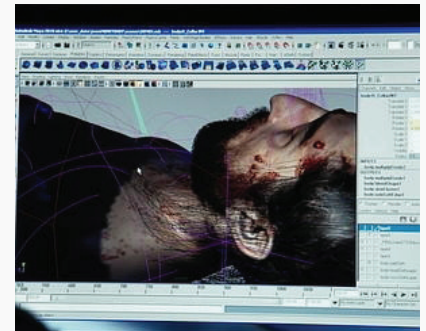


Photo: www.nypost.com

An image of Jesus (pictured above) was recently “lifted” from the Shroud of Turin and reconstructed via computer for a History Channel two-hour special, called *The Real Face of Jesus*, which premiered March 30. Jesus’ face was recreated by taking the encoded information and the blood on the Shroud and then transforming it into a 3D image.

Ray Downing, president of Studio Macbeth, told www.nypost.com, that “We ‘lifted’ the blood and isolated it [on the computer] so that would sit ‘in air’ [on a transparent background].”

Some theorize that Jesus’ image was originally created on the Shroud of Turin after he died, was buried in the shroud, and then his body oils oxygenated on the cloth where it touched the body.

However, others say the Shroud of Turin is nothing more than a work of art and was never draped around Jesus’ body.

Downing claimed that his technique of computer imaging actually uncovered what substance created the image, enabling him to see the actual face of Jesus.

For more information about *The Real Face of Jesus*, visit www.history.com.

"PAST LIFE" UNLOCKS MYSTERIES FROM FORMER LIVES

BY HEIDI ANN

Who do you turn to when you have information on a murder? Your own murder . . .

In the Fox series *Past Life*, inspired by M.J. Rose's book *The Reincarnationist*, Dr. Kate McGinn (Kelli Giddish), a psychologist with The Talmadge Center for Behavioral Health located in New York City, helps people to unlock the mysteries left behind in their former lives. Assisting McGinn in her hunt for the truth is former homicide detective Price Whatley (Nicholas Bishop); Dr. Malachi Talmadge (Richard Schiff), an expert in cognitive research who founded The Talmadge Center; and Dr. Rishi Karna (Ravi Patel), the hard-working yet playful young medical doctor whose specialty is cognitive science.

The *Past-Life* Team Tries to "Right" the Past

Dr. McGinn specializes in regression therapy and, in particular, helping patients with past-life trauma. After having her own past-life regression in her 20s, she becomes a believer in reincarnation and sets out to help people who are suffering in this life because of horrors in their past life. McGinn is a strong-willed woman and doesn't let other people's skepticism keep her from pursuing the answers her patients desperately need.

After unlocking clues to her pa-



Past Life stars (pictured above from left to right) Richard Schiff, Kelli Giddish, Nicholas Bishop, and Ravi Patel.

tients' violent past lives, McGinn then needs someone to help put the pieces of the puzzle together: That someone is Price Whatley. The former NYPD homicide detective lost his job when he turned to alcohol after his wife's accidental death. Although Whatley doesn't believe in reincarnation, he remains open-minded enough to follow the leads McGinn's patients provide.

The team uses regression therapy to help their patients see visions of the events that haunt them, often taking them around the country to find the right "trigger" to elicit clearer visions. In the pilot episode, the team helps a 14-year-old boy who begins having visions of being drowned by a man.

The hunt to find the murderer ends up bringing the team to Washington, D.C., and a shocking discovery for the parents of two missing children.

In one episode, the team finds themselves traveling to Florida to help a man from being executed for a murder he may not have committed. And they have their work cut out for them in another episode when they try to stop a pair of "soul mates" from repeating the destructive deeds of their previous lives.

UPDATE: Due to poor ratings, *Past Life* was cancelled after only three episodes aired. Fox will broadcast the remaining four episodes on Fridays beginning May 28, 2010. ■

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Rex Williams: Helping to Find “The Truth”

By Cheryl Knight

Rex Williams recently achieved his dream to travel the world in search of the answers to life’s mysteries. And if that wasn’t enough, as a medic, he also ensured the safety of other investigators traveling along with him — not an easy task when you’re investigating the ghosts of Chernobyl, researching King Tutankhamun’s Tomb in Egypt’s Valley of the Kings, or roaming the jungles of Peru in search of a devil-like creature called the Chullachaqui.

If you watch the SyFy channel’s hit paranormal show *Destination Truth*, you know that the team, led by adventurer Josh Gates, faces perilous situations aplenty. Let’s just say, it’s not an assignment for the weak-hearted. The team investigates some of the most extreme locations on Earth in search of one thing . . . “the truth.”

Initially a fan of the show, Rex joined the *Destination Truth* team for its third season on the air after auditioning for the open medic/investigator position.

“It’s very exciting to go to different locations around the world where most people don’t get to go, like the Great Pyramids of Giza, Bhutan Himalayas, or the Great Wall of China,” Rex said. “I had to do a lot of research on every location we went to so I could familiarize myself with what hazards we might run into out there.”



Rex Williams joined SyFy’s *Destination Truth* team for Season 3. As team medic/investigator, Rex not only participates in each investigation, but he also ensures the safety and well-being of his fellow investigators.

Rex first began working in emergency medical services almost two decades ago, and worked as a firefighter for five years. He has worked as a paramedic in Central California for more than 12 years, and has been an EMS educator since 1997, training EMTs and other paramedics.

Growing up on a horse ranch in California, Rex spent most of his

time with his family venturing into the wilderness of National Parks across the United States. Through his early outdoor adventures, he learned about the beauty of nature, as well as its imminent dangers.

Rex recently spoke with *Paranormal Underground* magazine about his time on *Destination Truth* . . .

* * * * *

Q: How did you end up joining the cast of *Destination Truth*?

Rex: I began working as a Set Medic for various TV shows, commercials, movies, etc. I acquired an agent in Los Angeles who would find me work in this capacity. My agent was approached by Ping Pong Productions, who happened to be looking for a paramedic for their show *Destination Truth*.

I attended numerous interviews/auditions, including meeting the network executives at SyFy. The network, along with Josh Gates and Ping Pong Productions, hired me as their team medic.

Q: Did you have any paranormal experiences before joining the show?

Rex: I had what I thought was a sighting of Bigfoot when I was young. It was near my family's cabin in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. I was around 12 or 13 years old when I noticed a tall, hairy figure watching me from a distance in the early morning hours.

I am very familiar with the local wildlife, having had numerous visits to our cabin while growing up. This animal was nothing like anything I had seen or knew lived in these mountains.

Q: Tell us about your background in the medical field.

Rex: I began my experience in Emergency Services at age 18 as a Paid-Call Firefighter. I was certified as an Emergency Medical Technician-Basic Level in 1992 and began working full-time for a local ambulance service, responding to "911" calls.

In 1997, I was licensed as a paramedic and quickly excelled in the field of Emergency Medicine. Soon I began teaching other EMTs and paramedics as an Emergency Medical Services educator. My education spans multiple areas of study, including Advanced Cardiac and Pediatric Life Support,



***Destination Truth* Season 3 investigators include (pictured from left to right) Sharra Jenkins, Mike Morrell, Evan Stone, Josh Gates, Gabriel Copeland, Rex Williams, Jael de Pardo, and Bechara "Bicha" Gholam's.**

Wilderness Survival & Medicine, Prehospital Trauma Life Support, Swiftwater Rescue, High & Low Angle Rope Rescue, and SCUBA.

Q: Tell us about some of the injuries you've had to treat during the *Destination Truth* investigations.

Rex: *Destination Truth* Season 3.0 — Romanian Haunted Forest: Evan, our director of photography, was "pushed/thrown" a great distance by an unknown force. He sustained superficial abrasions to his arm from this incident and was emotionally affected.

Destination Truth Season 3.0 — Haunted Lost City in Peru: Gabe, our camera operator, fell from his horse after the animal became "spooked" by something unknown. Gabe injured his knee in the fall, but there was no bone fracture.

Destination Truth Season 3.0 — Arica Monster in Chile: Bicha, our co-executive producer, flipped the ATV he was operating and sustained major abrasions to his arm.

Destination Truth Season 3.5 — Haunted Mining Town in Chile: Gabe steps on a patch of sea urchins

on his day off and has numerous urchin spines embedded in his feet. These required local anesthetic and removal with a scalpel.

Q: When the team searches for a location to investigate, what goes into that search?

Rex: Josh and the research team spend endless hours scouring various media outlets looking for legends or myths that have recent activity. The team locates witnesses and uses any credible information they obtain to research the story further.

A great deal of time and effort is invested in pursuing an interesting story.

Q: What are the goals of the team when out on an investigation?

Rex: The objective is this . . . to gather as much data as possible and present it to the audience so they can make their own conclusion. We, of course, put our two cents in as well. It is understood that while subjective data has its value, the objective data is what we are after the most.

Investigator Spotlight

Q: How many people are present while shooting on location?

Rex: The team consists of eight members: the host, co-executive producer, field producer/researcher, audio/sound mixer, director of photography, camera/videographer, tech person, and medic. Sometimes there is a security person who accompanies the team depending on the location.

Q: What kind of equipment do you use while on location?

Rex: We use various types of surveillance equipment, including IR cameras, trap cameras, motion sensors, a parabolic sound dish, high-end digital recorders, and night-vision astrosopes. We also use various EMF detectors (such as the TriField and Mel Meter), digital thermometers, and an evidence kit for collecting physical specimens.

We also carry adventure gear such as ropes/climbing gear, hel-

pets, lights, tents, sleeping bags, and Sat-Phone. I, of course, carry a hefty amount of medical supplies and medications. After all, I have to be ready for anything.

Q: When you travel, you meet people of all cultures. Can you talk about some of the cultural differences you have experienced?

Rex: We study the local culture for every country that we visit. This allows us to establish good relations with the people we are working with and interviewing. Most of the episodes feature some sort of cultural event, whether it be a dinner, traditional music, or dance. We immerse ourselves in the local customs or traditions to get a better understanding of what people may be experiencing.

It is always fascinating to learn the differences between our culture and those of other parts of the world. We recently visited China for an investigation into reports of

paranormal activity surrounding the Great Wall. The Chinese people were always very polite, and it was extremely rare that anyone raised their voice in anger.

Q: You seem to be welcomed with open arms wherever you go. Has there ever been an instance where you felt unwelcome by indigenous peoples?

Rex: I don't recall any time where myself or the team felt unwelcome. It was really amazing how friendly people were in the countries we visited. We seemed to always make new friends.

Q: It looks like the *Destination Truth* team has A LOT of fun during investigations, like when the team was shooting arrows at the camera equipment in Peru before setting off to investigate the Chullachaqui. Just how fun is it to film with the team?

Rex: It is an incredible experience to work with the crew. Everyone works very hard and it takes its toll being away from home for so long. So when the opportunity arises, we have some fun. We do quite a few adrenalin-pumping activities, such as whitewater rafting or rappelling, so we have fun wherever we go.

Q: Setbacks, like broken down vehicles or leaky boats, seem to be taken in stride with a lot of humor. Are there ever moments of abject frustration? Can you describe one?

Rex: Oh yes, there have been many moments. Particularly when we are trying to interview a witness or expert and a train passes, or loud traffic, chickens squawking, bells ringing, sirens, the list goes on and on.

It is all quiet until the interview begins. Then all of a sudden the noises begin, and we can't get a clear recording of the interview. It always



According to Rex, the *Destination Truth* team looks for hard facts during investigations, but also takes into account subjective information. However, he admits that investigations usually leave the team with more questions than answers.



The Season 3 *Destination Truth* team utilized various types of surveillance equipment, including IR cameras, trap cameras, motion sensors, a parabolic sound dish, high-end digital recorders, and night-vision astroscopes. They also used various EMF detectors (such as the TriField and Mel Meter), digital thermometers, and an evidence kit for collecting physical specimens.

happens, but that's television.

Q: I know there have been plenty of scary moments on the show as well, like when the team searched for ghosts in a Romanian haunted forest. What have been the scariest moments you've personally encountered on the show?

Rex: It's funny you mentioned the Romanian forest. My scariest moment was in a different Romanian forest deep in the Carpathian Mountains. We were in search of the legendary werewolf. I ventured out alone near an old cemetery to set up one of the static IR cameras.

It was a good 10-minute hike from Base Camp, and my only line of communication with the team was a walkie-talkie that was dying fast due to the cold. I was adjusting the camera when I heard a deep growl a

few yards directly behind me. Immediately I froze. I could feel my heart pounding like I had just sprinted a mile. The sounds of twigs snapping trailing off into the distance left me with little relief.

I knew that the animal had been watching me from the thicket of trees at the edge of the clearing. I quickly gathered my equipment, occasionally glancing up at the full moon, and carefully made my way back to the others.

Q: What have been the most dangerous and extreme locations to investigate at?

Rex: I think the most dangerous investigations were Chernobyl and The Chullachaqui. The danger of radiation exposure at Chernobyl weighed heavy on the mind of each team member. It required great fi-

nesse on everyone's part to perform a proper investigation and avoid being contaminated.

The Chullachaqui investigation took us to an extremely dangerous jungle in Peru that borders Bolivia. The rivers there are tributaries of the mighty Amazon River.

Q: The team has investigated in a haunted Romanian forest; King Tut's tomb; Chernobyl; the Bermuda Triangle; and the Himalayas, to name just a few. The dangers present on some of these locations are pretty scary. Just how difficult is it to investigate in these types of locations?

Rex: It is very difficult to investigate in areas that can basically kill you in a thousand different ways. Safety is our top priority. However, seeing some of the many risks we have taken, you wouldn't think so.

Investigator Spotlight



During their travels for Season 3, the *Destination Truth* team consumed some “interesting” food, including bull brains, sheep testicles, centipede, crickets, grasshoppers, tarantula, sea snake, and starfish. Rex’s favorite was the large, black scorpion.

Now imagine being responsible for the health of the entire team. It is incredibly stressful.

Q: What has been your favorite investigation so far and why?

Rex: I would say the King Tut’s Curse investigation was my favorite. I have long been fascinated with Egypt and its history. The entire region is mysterious, and I think that is the appeal. The opportunity to spend the night inside King Tut’s tomb was my personal highlight.

Q: During the Bhutan Yeti episode, the team found hair from an unknown primate previously unidentified. Is that what the team ultimately strives for? Finding something like that?

Rex: I think a finding such as that is amazing. It seems to me that the team strives for the truth. We look for the hard facts but also take into

consideration subjective information.

An investigation usually leaves us with more questions than answers. But that is what is expected. We only have so much time and money budgeted for each investigation.

Q: What is the oddest thing you’ve eaten in your travels?

Rex: I can’t single out only one odd “food.” I have eaten bull brains, bull penis, bull testicles, sheep testicles, various scorpions, centipede, crickets, grasshoppers, tarantula, sea snake, rattlesnake, and starfish. My favorite was the large black scorpion. Yum!

Q: How often do members of the cast and crew wind up ill from the things eaten?

Rex: Food poisoning isn’t terribly common in the group. However, it seems each member becomes a little ill at least once during our travels. We are careful.

Q: At the end of a case, Josh typically discusses his conclusions. Does he reach those conclusions alone, or are they made by team consensus?

Rex: I think the conclusion is based on the consensus of the team. I don’t recall any one team member disagreeing with the conclusion. I believe Josh recognizes that without further investigation, it is difficult to deliver a solid answer.

It is extremely difficult to say, “Yes this location is haunted” or “No, this creature doesn’t exist,” without building an airtight case. We can only give our impression based on the information we have. Therefore, it is open to the viewer to decide whether the facts support the theory.

Q: Have you ever disagreed with the conclusions reached on the show?

Rex: I can say with confidence that I have never disagreed with a conclusion reached on the show. I think *Destination Truth* has raised some fairly significant questions regarding the paranormal. I am a very open-minded skeptic, as are most of the team members, including Josh.

Q: What’s in store for you in the future?

Rex: I hope to rejoin the team in the future. I had to decline the offer to work on Season 4 due to the arrival of my baby boy, Hunter. I have other TV projects to work on that don’t require much traveling. Also, I am back in college pursuing my degree in nursing. So as you can imagine, things are keeping me busy. ■

* * * * *

To listen to *Paranormal Underground’s* podcast with Rex Williams, visit www.paranormalunderground.net/site/paranormal-underground-presents-rex-williams-of-destination-truth.

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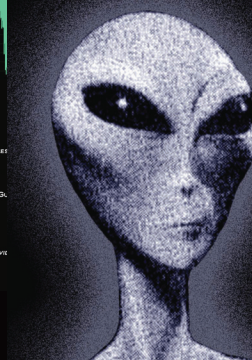


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Jennifer Hicks: Never a Dull Moment When You Talk to the Dead

By Karen Frazier

Things are never dull in Jennifer Hicks' life. Even when things are quiet, they aren't exactly quiet. Aside from spending her days as a busy professional, going to school to obtain her master's degree, and hosting her own radio show, *Never a Dull Moment* on Contact Talk Radio (www.contacttalkradio.com), Hicks also talks to dead people. Or perhaps more specifically, dead people talk to her.

Jennifer is a psychic medium. She began picking up psychic information at the age of 16.

"Most of the time it was pretty mundane," Jennifer said. Sensing that her family would disapprove, Jennifer kept the fact that she was receiving psychic information to herself.

In college, her abilities grew — to the point that her psychic abilities actually saved her from being raped and killed when she was attacked one night in college. According to Jennifer, her abilities kept her one step ahead of her attacker, and she was able to escape unscathed.

Following that attack, Jennifer's abilities kicked into overdrive, and she started to see dead people everywhere. While initially reluctant to acknowledge her gifts publicly, eventually Jennifer overcame her

reluctance and became a police psychic, working with the FBI.

Today, Jennifer hosts her own radio show, does criminal work, and provides private readings to the



Psychic medium Jennifer Hicks began picking up psychic information at the age of 16.

general public. Her show can be heard Friday nights from 5 to 6 p.m. Pacific Time.

Recently, Jennifer sat down for an interview with *Paranormal Underground*.

* * * * *

Q: Can you tell us a bit about your abilities and how they work?

Jennifer: I am a psychic and also a medium. The psychic stuff started with me when I was in high school. I didn't have any mediumistic experiences back then. I have all five senses psychically; however, I tend to hear things psychically and see them psychically more than I tend to taste or smell or touch, but I have had those other experiences, as well.

Q: Why do you think that you have these abilities?

Jennifer: I don't think I am a chosen person. If you had told me years ago that I would be doing this, I would have laughed at you and told you, "No way."

What I have found with people who have psychic ability — it chose them. It happened to them. They did not expect it. Why some people seem to be more adept at this — I have no clue.

Q: Do you think there might come a time when people will regain the use of their skills and move into a more psychic/spiritual setting?

Jennifer: The Mayans had a number

of calendars running concurrently. They were interested in periods of time that were 200 years, 400 years, and 5200 years. Why everyone is freaking out is that one of these 5200 year cycles is ending in 2012.

In 2012, we are entering a new Mayan cycle — a new cycle begins then. It doesn't mean the end of the world — but it may be a time when people go back to using these metaphysical skills.

Q: Some people say that their abilities are a gift while others say they are a curse. How do you feel about your abilities?

Jennifer: It depends on what day of the week you ask me that question. Some days it feels like a gift. Other days it feels like a curse. What happened to me about 13 or 14 years ago is that I started to spontaneously pick up criminal information. I'd see a crime on the news and would pick up the person's name — and it would be correct. It was scary and felt like a curse.

I ended up doing work with the police. I was stumped, and I was scared. Other times when I get a heads up that can help save time, money, or aggravation, it seems like a gift.

Q: Can you prevent things from happening?

Jennifer: It depends. I don't know if anything I've picked up has prevented anything. The problem with people in law enforcement is that they have to be very careful about spending taxpayer money on something that a psychic tells them. So I could be accurate; however, you've got law enforcement agencies using taxpayer money to go out and chase bad guys.

If they have found you to be reliable, they will use the information to a certain extent, but I don't think they will pour taxpayer money

into something to back it up. It is frustrating because I've picked up on things that have happened before they happen, and then when you see them happening — that's when this feels like a curse.

Q: Do you work with local police?

“Some days it feels like a gift. Other days it feels like a curse.”

Jennifer: Actually, I got started working with the FBI in New Jersey. I primarily worked with them for quite some time. I have not done any police work in a while, and I'm grateful for that because it takes you to a dark, dark place.

Q: What are the most-asked questions you get?

Jennifer: These days — is my job safe? Is my house going to be taken away? When am I going to find a job? I do psychic fairs in the New York area, and interestingly we're seeing more men showing up. These days the questions are more about money, jobs, and financial safety.

Another big one: Is my significant other cheating on me? Could you be a fly on the wall, Jennifer, and see where he was last night? I always tell people, don't even ask me that question unless you want a true answer, because I'm not going to sugar coat it for you.

Q: I see that you kept your abilities a secret. Can you tell us why, and what made you decide to reveal your abilities?

Jennifer: I grew up in a family where this is just not acceptable. My mother and father were both math majors and engineers. Many people in technical fields don't tend to believe in this. It didn't start with

me until I was about 16. At that age, I knew how much deep doo-doo I'd be in if I let my parents know this was going on, so I kept my mouth shut. It's also from the religious upbringing. I was raised as a Catholic. My mother would have had a fit. I probably would have wound up in a

convent or a shrink's office. I knew that it wasn't going to be pretty based on the family dynamic.

As I got older and went to college, I kept my mouth shut through college. Back then, I wasn't having as many episodes as I do now. Now I pick up information daily. I was a biology major in college. Scientific people tend to be very in-the-box thinkers in a certain sense. I just decided to keep my mouth shut.

Q: What happened when you finally told them?

Jennifer: I have yet to tell my brothers and sisters. If they have stumbled on my radio show, then they know. I did tell my mother when I started working with the FBI, because I had the funny feeling that someone would show up at my mother's house asking questions.

She said she believed me, but can you imagine receiving that phone call? It was an interesting one. She said, "Okay — well why didn't you tell me in high school?"

Q: What experience did you have at 16 that let you know you had these abilities?

Jennifer: I remember picking up things that were not all that important. I'd know somebody's name before I was introduced to them.

Psychic Spotlight

I might know something minor about a person and find out that it was true. It didn't faze me. I don't remember being upset, scared, or concerned. I just rolled with it.

Q: How did you strengthen your abilities?

Jennifer: I did not try to do anything to increase this ability for decades. I was not interested at all in having increased psychic ability. I have noticed that about every seven years my ability seems to increase for no apparent reason.

“The vibe I get from the other side is that we come back.”

When I was about 40 — that's when the dead people started showing up in busloads, and that's when I started picking up the criminal stuff. I saw John Edward on Larry King, and that's when I started reading books and meditating. I felt I had to get it under control or I was going to go crazy.

Q: What is the difference between a psychic message and a mediumistic message?

Jennifer: A psychic message is different from normal thought in that it is an override. You might be in the store thinking, “I need bread and spaghetti,” and all of a sudden a piece of information will start popping into your mind out of the blue. It tends to cancel out or override the thoughts you are having. When I see things psychically, I see pictures. Sometimes I hear things.

Picking up information mediumistically is not all that different. If someone's dead uncle comes through, I might see him in my mind's eye and hear the word “uncle.” However, a

mediumistic experience is different in that when I am having one, off to my right side I start to feel this little spark of energy in the room, and it gets bigger and bigger until it morphs until what feels like, to my right, the size of a human being, although I cannot see them. I can see them in my mind's eye — almost like through a veil.

Q: How do you interpret the information that you receive?

Jennifer: Learning to interpret what you are seeing is one of the toughest things about this — whether you are

picking up psychic information or doing medium work. A lot of people think that when people die, they can speak in perfect sentences and we should be able to hear them in complete sentences. It doesn't work that way. It appears to be a language that they need to learn when they want to communicate with us here.

Sometimes it feels like a game of charades with symbols. It is very hard in the beginning to find out what the symbols mean. It really takes a lot of practice. It stumped me in the beginning. Practice, practice, practice. It has been dealing with the general public and doing readings that has allowed me to start understanding what these symbols mean.

Q: Does doubt enter in, or have you moved past doubt?

Jennifer: The doubt part is one of the toughest things to deal with. One of the things I learned in working with the FBI was to tell them exactly what I was seeing and to not try to interpret it. There were times when I received very specific information

about bad guys, and they knew exactly what I was talking about. Not all the information is fuzzy and vague.

Developing the faith and the skill to believe what you are seeing is real, and trying to interpret it takes time and practice. If you feel that you are having psychic experience where you want to develop it, practice with a friend.

Q: Do we only die once, or are we born again?

Jennifer: The vibe I get from the other side is that we come back.

Q: What are your thoughts on soul groups and soul contracts?

Jennifer: I'm open to anything. I think that there are probably soul groups and contracts. I don't really pick up on people's past lives psychically. Once in a blue moon I will.

Most of the information I get from the deceased about people seems to be in the here and now. I also don't usually get people really far back — just mostly in the great-grandmother/grandfather generation.

Q: What do you think our ultimate purpose is for being here?

Jennifer: The thing about human beings is that we are the only species on this planet who can create. A bird may build a nest — but human beings have been given this incredible gift to create. I think we are here to create. Unfortunately, we create things like wars, prejudice, poverty, and hatred. I don't know that we're using this gift to the best of our ability. ■

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For more information about Jennifer Hicks, visit www.contacttalkradio.com/jenniferhicks. To listen to our podcast with Jennifer, visit www.paranormalunderground.net/site/category/podcasts.

Paranormal Underground's 3rd Annual Short Story Contest

Paranormal Underground magazine is holding its 3rd Annual Short Story Contest. If you are a writer of fiction, love to write about the paranormal, and would like to see your story published in one of our upcoming issues, then this contest is for you!

The contest is open to members AND nonmembers of www.paranormalunderground.net. Fiction themes may include paranormal, sci-fi, horror, fantasy, and spiritual. Contest rules include:

- Stories due by August 15, 2010.
- Stories must be a minimum of 1,000 words and a maximum of 3,000 words (submissions under 1,000 words and over 3,000 words will not be considered eligible for the contest).
- All submitted works must not have been previously published.
- If you are submitting artwork and/or photos to accompany your fiction, please site the source of the artwork/photos.
- Submit to editor@paranormalunderground.net.



The first-place winner will be published in our October issue. We will be awarding prizes for 1st through 5th place as follows:

- **First Place:** Publication in *Paranormal Underground Magazine*; a Zoom H2 Handy Recorder; and the option to take part in an upcoming “Paranormal Underground Presents” podcast.
- **Second Place:** Choice of shirt from Paranormal Underground’s Gear Store and possible publication in *Paranormal Underground Magazine*.
- **Third Place:** Any book listed in Paranormal Underground’s Bookstore (valued at \$25 or less) and possible publication in *Paranormal Underground Magazine*.
- **Fourth & Fifth Places:** Paranormal Underground bumper sticker and possible publication in *Paranormal Underground* magazine.

Our judges will be announced in a future issue. Judging criteria includes:

- Story originality
- Paranormal theme creativity
- Text fluidity

Submissions will be compiled and sent to the judges by the editor-in-chief, and all judges will not know who wrote each submission until after judging is completed and scores are tabulated by the editor-in-chief. Winners will be announced based on a ranking system, which will be compiled from first to last place.

When e-mailing your submission to the editor, also include your name, story title, e-mail address, word count, and illustrations/photos, if any. Please spellcheck your entries and ensure that they are print-ready. We reserve the right to edit all fiction published in the magazine, but will obtain each author’s approval prior to publication.

If you have any questions regarding the contest, please e-mail editor@paranormalunderground.net. Last year we had a great response, and we hope to see even more writers join us in our 3rd Annual Short Story Contest.

DOWSING: THE RODS AND THE PENDULUM

BY JILL STEFKO, PH.D.

When the Pennsylvania Deutsch think of dowsing, they envision a man walking in a field, holding a forked twig in his hands. When there is water beneath the earth, the twig wiggles. Dowsing is also called water witching and radiesthesia. Dowsing is applied “psi,” the use of psychic abilities in mainstream fields.

Dowsing is used by groups and government branches that might surprise you. The United States Marines used dowsing successfully during the Vietnam War to locate underground mines, mortars, and enemy tunnels. Marine dowsers were selected according to their potential ability to dowse and were then trained in the art. The dowsers could map tunnels and were reportedly 95% accurate in finding them.

Also, the Army Corps of Engineers used seismic tunnel locators. They drilled holes into the ground, set charges in them, and measured ground echoes from the blasts in order to locate tunnels. While the instruments could not map tunnels from the ground surface, they were about 50% accurate in finding them.



Tools and Techniques of Dowsing

The three most common devices utilized in dowsing are the pendulum, the L rod, and the Y rod. These tools are forked sticks usually made of willow, rowan, ash, or hazel. Sometimes metal, plastic, whale bone, wood or metal rods, coat hangers, and alumi-

num and copper wires are used. Some dowsers use their hands, palms down, to find the objects.

Some dowsers store and clean their tools with silk. Others cleanse them with pure water or salt water, sprinkle them with either earth or sea salt, or give them no special treatment at all.

The pendulum is a weighted object hung from thread, string, or yarn. The weight is tied to a piece of thread long enough so it can swing freely. Necklaces with pendants can also be used. The pendulum is used by individuals wanting to locate something hidden by the earth. The pendulum is held over the ground as the person walks slowly over the area of scrutiny. If the pendulum swings, it is an indication that the object is in that location.

When a pendulum is used to seek answers to questions, the pendulum is held in the air, and the question is asked. If the pendulum swings clockwise, the answer is “Yes.” If it swings counterclockwise, the answer is “No.” If uncertain, the pendulum will swing back and forth.

The L rod is stiff wire or a thin tree branched shaped like the letter

L. Generally, tubing is placed on its short leg so it will rotate freely. The long leg is held in a horizontal position in front of the dowser so it can swing to the left or right in response to answers. The method is the same for locating underground objects as is described above for using a pendulum.

The Y rod is a thin tree branch shaped in a Y form. The dowser places both hands on either end of the branch and silently asks it to respond when what is sought is found underground. When the tool points up, down, or vibrates, it indicates that the desired object has been found.

History of Dowsing

Dowsing dates back thousands of years. It's an art that has been practiced in a vast array of cultures over the centuries. Dowsing has been used to find water, petroleum, ore, mines, tunnels, treasure hidden underground, corpses, and weapons used in crimes.

Let's look back throughout history for examples of when and how dowsing has been used:

- Ancient Egyptian temple walls have etchings dating from 2000 BCE. They show pharaohs with devices that look like dowsing tools. The Cairo Museum has ceramic pendulums that are over 1,000 years old.
- Ancient Jews used dowsing. Moses and his son, Aaron, used a rod to find water.
- Historical records of Ancient Greece refer to dowsing. Homer referred to dowsing as Rhabdomancy, which means "Divining Rod."
- The art was widely practiced on the Island of Crete, dating back to 400 BCE.
- In the 1400s, Germans used dowsing rods to locate ore and other minerals.
- In 1650, English Philosopher John Locke wrote an essay about

DOWSING: WHAT IS A WATER WITCH?

BY JODEE REDMOND

Dowsing is a general term used to describe the art of discovering things that are hidden. It is also known as water witching. A water witch uses a forked stick or a rod to find water located underground. A pendulum can also be used for this purpose.



How Does It Work?

One theory about dowsing is that the dowser establishes a connection on a psychic level with the substance or object being sought. Another idea put forward about dowsing is that all things are

surrounded by a type of energy field. The dowser has the ability to locate and zero in on the vibrations given off by whatever object or substance he or she has been asked to find.

The act of picking up on these vibrations or energy causes the dowsing rod or pendulum to move. The pendulum or divining rod moves in response to the diviner's questions or thoughts. A rod will pull down when the diviner comes close to an underground source of water. Another piece to the puzzle is that the diviner may have a heightened ability to interpret clues contained in his or her physical environment. This ability may well be something the diviner is not consciously aware of.

Albert Einstein on Divining

While skeptics argue that dowsing doesn't work because it is impossible to measure its success in controlled conditions, Albert Einstein believed that dowsing was legitimate. He felt that the dowsing rod was a tool that could demonstrate the human body's nervous system's reaction to certain as-of-yet unexplained factors. ■

Article source: www.suite101.com.

Divining Rod

A forked twig is the instrument normally used to find underground water. Most practitioners of the art of dowsing use a stick taken from a willow tree for this purpose. The reason is simple: Willows are thought to be attracted to water. They require a moist environment to grow properly. The theory is that there is some element in the twig that acts in conjunction with the diviner to find the underground water.

Ancient Practice

Images of people holding tools in a forked shape have been found in artwork from ancient Egypt and China. This may indicate that dowsing was practiced by these people. *The Bible* contains an account of Moses using a rod to find water (Numbers 20:11).

During the Middle Ages, dowsing was used to find coal deposits. Martin Luther referred to the practice as "the work of the devil." The term "water witch" is derived from this comment.

Special Report



divining rods, stating that one could use it for divination or to discover water and precious minerals underground.

- In the 1700s and 1800s in England, Germany, and France, various books about mining and engineering made significant references to dowsing.

- London's 1912 edition of *Mining Magazine* published the first translation into English of a Latin work that praised dowsing. The translators were a professional American mining engineer and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Clark Hoover.

- In 1949, a party of French explorers was searching for evidence of ancient civilizations in North Africa's Atlas Mountains. They discovered the Tassili Caves. The walls, which were covered with pre-historic paintings, had a gigantic painting of a dowser, holding a forked branch in his hand searching for water, amid a group of tribesmen. Carbon dating of the murals found then to be a least 8000-years-old.

- During the Vietnam War, Ma-

rines were taught to use dowsing as a method to locate underground land mines, mortar shells, and traps.

- Today, major petroleum and mining companies use dowsing, a fact they prefer not to be publicized.

Dowsing: Scientific Findings

Berthold Eric Schwarz, MD, a psychiatrist with paranormal interests, studied a man named Henry Gross, who was said to be able to successfully use dowsing techniques

Marines were taught to use dowsing rods.

on ground, as well as via maps. Schwarz believed Gross was genuinely talented and hoped that his findings would lead to open-mindedness about ordinary people having the ability to dowse.

A French Catholic priest,

named Abbé Alexis Mermet, believed dowsing was a science. At the request of the Pope, he dowsed archeological sites and reportedly found dozens of missing people. In the early 1900s, Abbé Alex Bouly, also a dowser, coined the term "radiesthesia," hoping that this word would help make the art scientifically acceptable, ridding it of its "occult" implications.

U.S. gas, mineral, pipeline, water, cable, and oil companies use dowsers to locate natural resources, cables, wires, and pipes. Some companies believe they are more accurate than using scientific instruments and methods.

European doctors sometimes use a pendulum as a dowsing tool for diagnostic purposes. They pass it over the patient's body to see where the problem is. If the bodily part is healthy, it swings clockwise; if not, it moves counterclockwise. The practice has been banned in the US by a Pure Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. ■

Article source: www.suite101.com.

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MY FIRST PSYCHIC READING

BY KAREN FRAZIER

I've never had a psychic reading before. Well — that's not exactly true. Once, I was in a chat room on the Internet watching someone give others psychic readings when the person giving the reading (who I didn't know) popped out with, "Karen — I have something to tell you." I was a little startled, but I took the information, and it was surprisingly relevant to my life at that moment.

That being said, aside from my one impromptu psychic reading in a chat room, I've never had a formal psychic reading. That's why I thought it was pretty cool when psychic medium Jennifer Hicks (www.contacttalkradio.com/jenniferhicks) agreed to give me a reading.

Here were my expectations going in:

- I was going to hear from at least one of my dead grandmothers.
- There would be dire warnings about all of the things I do when I think no one is looking.
- I might get a few questions answered about my personal life, my current state of joblessness, and the hope that I'll ever wind up back on a path that earns me a living again.

I didn't exactly expect those things, but that was the type of information I assumed I'd get. After all, I've watched others receive psychic



Paranormal Underground writer Karen Frazier connects to "the unexpected" during her first psychic reading.

readings before — I've seen them on television, heard them on the radio, and read about them on the Internet. I even listened to Jennifer do a reading for one of *Paranormal Underground's* members, Annie Mayes, in a podcast we did with Jennifer.

That's why I was surprised when my reading wasn't about me at all. Not a single dead relative came through. No one warned me about anything or told me how I would finally find a job. I didn't hear about my love life or how the kids were doing. I wasn't berated about my fondness for caffeine or bacon and warned of dire consequences

for my health.

How could this happen in my Karen-centric universe where EVERYTHING is about me?

As I talked with Jennifer, both of us were surprised as the dead people communicated with me through her. After all, Jennifer freely admits that she almost never hears from people who have been dead for 100 years, and readings are almost always personal. On the other hand, I really wasn't surprised at all that this was the reading I got. Why? Because the reading was about Wellington.

For those of you who know me or who have followed my writing, you are now nodding your heads in understanding. For those of you who haven't a darn clue who I am or what Wellington is, let me explain.

I just wrote and published a book called *Avalanche of Spirits: The Ghosts of Wellington*. Before writing the book, I tried to make a documentary about Wellington, but it wasn't to be, which is why I wrote the book.

On July 11 of last year, some friends took me to visit Wellington, a hiking trail in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State, where the worst avalanche disaster in the history of the United States occurred. I was immediately fascinated by the place — almost unnaturally drawn to it. Since that

time, I have returned to Wellington time and time again. I became determined to tell the story of Wellington and the ghosts that I firmly believe are there 100 years after an avalanche killed 96 people on two trains.

Before I talk about the reading I had with Jennifer, I'll offer full disclosure. Jennifer Hicks and I know each other a little bit. We met through our mutual friend, Melissa Watts, and we've had a few conversations about business things. I've also interviewed Jennifer for *Paranormal Underground*. In that capacity, Jennifer has come to know a little bit about me. For instance, she knew I had recently released a book, although she was fairly unclear what the book was about. She knew it had something to do with an avalanche. I haven't sent her the book, I haven't talked to her about the book, and she hasn't read the book.

* * * * *

As we got started with the reading, Jennifer mentioned that she'd been focusing on my energy for about a half hour before we started talking. In that time, what she was told was that they wanted to talk about the book. Knowing that I'd recently written one, Jennifer assumed that it was that book they meant.

As we talked just a little about the book (not in detail), Jennifer suddenly asked, "Who's Milton? He wants to talk about your book. He's associated with the book."

I have no Miltons in my family. A Melvin, sure. Not a Milton. There was, however, a man named Milton Hicks who died in the Wellington avalanche. Since he said he was associated with my book, could Jennifer Hicks have been picking up on Milton Hicks? Suddenly it became clear to me that there was a darn good chance the reading was going to be about Wellington.

"Milton shows me a waterfall," Jennifer said. "Is there a waterfall nearby? That is where Milton is."

As far as I knew, there were no real waterfalls at the Wellington site proper; however, there is a creek that runs down a hillside called Haskell Creek. Could this be what Milton was talking about? Later, when talking with members of NWPIA (who regularly investigate the Wellington site), I was surprised to learn that in the spring,

ent couple in town at the time of the avalanche named William and Susan Bailets. They owned the hotel and saloon in town, and both aided in the rescue efforts. I'm unaware of the affluence of the other couple who survived the avalanche disaster, John and Anna Gray.

Then another interesting — and uncannily accurate detail — came out. Jennifer saw people getting off of a train and walking to a small

Another uncannily accurate detail came forth.

the entire ½-mile-long concrete snow shed that now covers where the train tracks once sat, and where a great deal of Wellington's paranormal activity takes place, becomes a huge ½-mile-long waterfall as the snow higher up the mountain melts.

"Milton is telling me that he exists there in spirit in order to protect people," Jennifer told me. "He is saying, 'Karen, it's not as if I am there because I am unhappy. I am there to make sure nobody ever gets hurt at Wellington again.' He is a protective spirit."

This is interesting because once, on a walk-through of Wellington with another psychic medium, she talked about a protective spirit who hangs out in a place we call Area 61. Could Milton be the protective spirit of which she spoke? It was certainly interesting to have a similar message from two psychic mediums. Especially given that I've never released that information anywhere publicly (until my book came out a few weeks ago.)

Next, Jennifer spoke of an affluent couple who were there at the time of the avalanche. She felt that the man hadn't died in the avalanche, but rather died later of a heart attack. There was an afflu-

shack where it was warm while others tried to reach them. She also said that shack was wiped out by an avalanche. During the nine days leading up to the avalanche, the passenger train was trapped in the mountains filled with passengers.

For a few of those days as snow plows tried to get to them and plow the way clear for the trains to pass through the mountains, the passengers disembarked at the Beanery, a small cook shack where railroad employees ate.

After the plows finally reached the trains and were able to advance them a few miles west to the town of Wellington, an avalanche came down and took out the Beanery, killing the cook and his assistant.

Shortly after talking about the shack, Jennifer said, "Who's Harry?" I couldn't come up with a Harry — but on later research I learned that the cook's assistant was named Harry.

"They had a dog with them," Jennifer told me. I couldn't confirm or deny; however, NWPIA later mentioned that last summer they kept hearing a dog barking nearby and could never isolate it.

* * * * *



Special Report

Next, Jennifer talked about a memorial. Once again, I was a little surprised. In the walk-through of Wellington with the other medium, she picked up that the ghosts there wanted a monument or memorial. Now Jennifer was giving me the same information. Then she saw a grizzly bear, heard a laugh, and heard the words “fuzzy bear.” This was in line with information from the other medium who, while talking about the memorial also talked about how the kids up there wanted a teddy bear.

It turns out that teddy bears were all the rage in the early 1900s, so it is not surprising that teddy bears would come up. Not to mention the fact that I have repeatedly left stuffed animals for the kid ghosts at Wellington — including teddy bears.

“He calls out the name Charlie,” Jennifer tells me. “He points to Charlie. He is the big man.”

Charles was a fairly common name in 1910. There were a few men named Charlie and Charles at Wellington, including a brakeman named Charles Jennison. “Yes — that’s him,” Jennifer told me as I mention Charles Jennison. “He’s the big man. You’ve seen him. He’s the big one.”

I’ve only actually seen one ghost at Wellington (usually I hear and sense them), and let me tell you, he was a big ‘un. Perhaps I now have a name for the tall, shadow figure I saw when I was there.

“Were there bodies down by a river? Were they not found for months?” The answer to that is also yes. All of the bodies wound up by Tye Creek, where the trains came to rest. The last body was found in July — more than four months after the avalanche.

* * * * *

Later in the reading, I asked Jennifer about the kids. After all, we’ve gotten quite a bit of evidence that

there are children at Wellington.

“Are there kids there?” I ask Jennifer. “Who are they?”

“I get an HB. Is HB seven? I think that German is their native language.”

There was a six-year-old girl named Harriet Beck. I have no idea about the language.

“She calls out little brother. There is also another girl. She says, ‘She is my friend — we made friends on the train.’ She is about three years older and has an L sound at the front of her name.”



Karen was “pretty impressed” with psychic medium Jennifer Hicks during her first-ever psychic reading.

Another hit — Harriett Beck had a little brother, Leonard, who was three. I have long believed that Leonard is there at Wellington. There was also a girl from another family named Lillian, who was three years older than Harriett. Since they were stuck on the train for nine days, it would make sense that the kids gravitated toward one another.

“Who’s Johnny?” Jennifer asks. I don’t know the answer, but later as I am reading a book about Wellington called *Vis Major* by Martin

Burwash, I come across the name Johnny for one of the trainmen. Actually, John was also a fairly common name, and there were a few Johns associated with the train and the town of Wellington.

There is an entity that is seen at Wellington, and the investigators of NWPIA call him “No Face” because he presents without a face.

“Who is No Face?” I asked Jennifer. “Why can we never learn his name?”

“He calls out HB HB HB,” Jennifer told me. “I was with the girls,’ he says. I’m getting an R, and he’s showing me Jacob Marley with chains, chains, chains. He keeps showing me the color red.”

This is a little more difficult. After searching R names I see the name Raymond. “Yes — Raymond,” Jennifer says. “He is now yelling Raymond! Raymond! Raymond!”

This one is interesting. There were two Raymonds. Both were passengers on the train. One lived and one died. The Raymond who lived was the younger brother of Lillian Starrett. When he was rescued from the avalanche, he had a huge splinter of wood in his forehead, which had to be surgically removed.

Given the conditions at Wellington at the time, one would guess that such removal resulted in a permanent disfigurement. Could it be that No Face is Raymond Starrett, come back to protect his sister and the other kids at Wellington? While this is, of course, all supposition, it seems like an interesting theory for NWPIA to try out the next time they go visit Wellington.

* * * * *

Next, Jennifer told me something about Raymond that surprised me. “He’s gone out of his way to attract your attention a number of times,” she said. “He’s been at your

house. He points to your garage — have you and your husband discussed cleaning out the garage?”

Only every day.

“He is describing your house. You have a chair by a television. There is a fireplace. This is the room where you always are. It is somehow adjacent to the garage. He points to tapestry or needlepoint pillows.”

Our house is interesting. First and foremost — oh my goodness our garage. Don’t get me started. It needs cleaning. Desperately. The garage sits underneath (somehow adjacent) to the Great Room, which is the room in our house where I spend almost all of my time. It is a room that combines kitchen, living room and dining room and it is huge. It has a fireplace and a chair near the television where I sit every day and work on my laptop. On one of our couches, which is a solid green microfiber and leather, I placed tapestry pillows.

I’ve been told before that I have a ghost in my house — a young boy of about seven. I’ve experienced odd things in the house, as well. Raymond Starrett was about seven when he was in the avalanche. He survived and grew to become an adult, living a full life. It is difficult to know whether he is appearing in my home as a young boy or whether something else is going on, but the details are interesting to say the least.

Next, Jennifer talked about the “singing woman.” We’ve gotten EVPs of a woman who sings. “‘I stand by the purple flowers,’ she says. She is holding out papers — like a journal. Did someone journal about Wellington? She is very religious. I see a name that sounds like convent,” Jennifer said.

Little did I know, but nearby where the singing is often captured, there are purple flowers in the springtime. There was a very religious woman on the train who wrote

about Wellington. Her name was Sarah Covington.

Jennifer also brought up another interesting phenomenon that occurs at Wellington. “I hear snippets of music,” she said. “Like not a whole song. Little bits of music coming and going. Like an old-time Victrola.”

One of the things that happens at Wellington is music. You will hear snippets of things like a banjo, a

piano, and an accordion. It is never a full song — just a few seconds of music.

There were other things that came up in the reading, as well. Things that I didn’t even really know about, which could be confirmed by NWPIA. A chess board (one of the key players at Wellington loved to play chess), purple flowers, waterfalls . . .

* * * * *

After about two hours, Jennifer and I concluded the reading. Both of us were surprised that the entire reading was about Wellington and not about my life. Still — I wasn’t disappointed in the slightest. I love Wellington, and I’d love to find out more about the ghosts who are there.

So — what did I think of my first psychic reading? I came away pretty impressed. Jennifer came up with some rather specific information. Certainly, she could have found it all in various literature about the Wellington avalanche, but that would have taken an awful lot of research on her part. She also came up with specific information that we received from another medium — information that had never been communicated or published outside of those of us who were there.

At the same time, much of the information conveyed is highly symbolic in nature. This is just the nature of mediumship, Jennifer told me. Still, as we went about the reading, I could see myself scrambling to make sense of symbols, and I very consciously tried not to make something out of nothing. That is why in several places I came up with nothing, but wasn’t surprised when those

“I felt my reading was accurate and authentic.”

symbols made sense to NWPIA, who have spent a lot more time at Wellington than I have.

All in all, my sense is that Jennifer gave an accurate and authentic reading. I recorded it and listened to it again, and in the places where I couldn’t make connections, I did research to see if there were connections there. In some cases, I could, and others I couldn’t. I understand that we seek patterns and confirmation bias. Could it be that? Certainly, anything is a possibility.

I’m not disappointed that my reading wasn’t about me. Wellington has been very important to me, and I’m always trying to learn more about it. Perhaps the information obtained in my reading is information we can use to gain more insight when we are up at Wellington.

As to whether or not I’d be open to a psychic reading again, absolutely. Maybe next time I can even hook up with a dead grandmother or two. ■

* * * * *

Thanks to Jennifer Hicks. To learn more about Jennifer, visit her Website, www.contacttalkradio.com/jenniferhicks, or tune into her Contact Talk Radio show on Friday nights at 5 p.m. Pacific.

Locked Up . . . Forever

By Rick E. Hale, McHenry County Paranormal Research Group

Every year around Christmas, one of my earliest and most terrifying memories returns to haunt me. On a cold December's day in 1981, my mom, my grandmother, and I piled into my mom's Datsun POS and took a journey from the relatively safe confines of the north side of Chicago to the city of Joliet on the city's far south side.

The previous year, our destination had been immortalized on the silver screen in the great John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd film, *The Blues Brothers*. We were headed to Statesville Correctional Center to visit my uncle who was locked up for some offense I really do not remember and probably never really knew.

At seven years old, I still remember the gigantic, stone structure and its looming gothic architecture filling me with thoughts of dread. Even then I wondered why in the Hell would someone do something to end up in a place like this.

Now imagine, if you will, not just being locked up for a few years or perhaps even life, but spending your afterlife locked up — forced to spend your eternity in a place that you so desperately wanted freedom from. Kind of sucks, huh?

In our country, as well as abroad, there are stories of prisons whose former inmates now stalk the



Photograph © by Dory Adams

West Virginia Penitentiary (AKA Moundsville Prison) held some of the area's most violent offenders. Today, visitors of the closed prison claim to be touched, grabbed, and pushed by unseen forces. (Photo: "Exterior, WV State Penitentiary" copyright 2009 by Dory Adams, all right reserved, used by permission)

halls for all of time. Here's a look at five prisons haunted by the spirits of former prisoners and workers.

West Virginia Penitentiary (Moundsville Prison)

Located in the small town of Moundsville, West Virginia, sits a large, stone structure that is a testament to the town's violent past. In

1876, the state of West Virginia, amid a tide of lawlessness and violence, needed a new prison. The state picked the town of Moundsville as the site for the hulking, gothic, stone edifice as a reminder that, "Hey, we aren't messing around here."

When the doors of Moundsville opened, only the roughest of the rough and the most violent offend-

ers entered the prison. It was only intended to house 480 prisoners, so it should not come as any surprise that there were violent riots and deaths when the population swelled to an almost uncontrollable 2,400 by the late 1930s.

Day in and day out, horrific stories of torture, suicide, and murder filtered out from behind the prison walls, and it was years before the state did anything about it.

In our day of enhanced interrogation methods, Moundsville and its unscrupulous guards would make even the CIA envious of its torture devices. When a convict got out of line, he would be subjected to two painful techniques that were proudly invented and employed at Moundsville.

One method was dubbed “The Kicking Jenny.” Once a prisoner became too unruly, he would be taken to a room where a strange apparatus sat atop a high platform. The prisoner was stripped naked and bent over a large piece of wood — his hands and legs attached to the floor. A crank was turned to apply the desired pressure. If the inmate struggled, the tension would become greater and the inmate would suffer internal injuries that many times resulted in death.

Another popular and oft-used device was the “Shoo-fly.” The prisoner’s hands and feet were placed in stocks, and his head was



One disciplinary method used on Moundsville prisoners included stripping them naked, bending them over a large piece of wood, and attaching their hands and legs to the floor. A crank was then turned to apply the desired pressure. If the inmate struggled, the tension would become greater. (Photo: “Cell Block, WV State Penitentiary” copyright 2009 by Dory Adams, all right reserved, used by permission)

ville was a place of Hell.

Recently, Moundsville opened its doors to allow historical tours; however, it’s not the stories of overcrowding, torture, and bad food that keeps looky-loos coming back. Moundsville is reportedly haunted, and hundreds come to see if they can get a glimpse of one the prison’s eternal inmates.

Over the years, folks have claimed to see apparitions in sev-

to see the weeping shades of former prisoners praying right before they met their maker in the electric chair. However, the most active location is the recreation area that the prisoners named the “Sugar Shack,” and there was nothing sweet about the area.

In the 1930s, an inmate was cornered by his peers in the Sugar Shack and was accused of being something you don’t want to be known as in prison, a snitch. The prisoners grabbed the snitch and tore the man apart with their bare hands, decapitating him leaving him for dead.

Some who have entered the Sugar Shack claim to have seen the apparition of a young man cowering in a corner. Others have claimed to hear blood-curdling screams of agony, as well as being physically assaulted themselves.

Moundsville is open for tours

Prison visitors have been touched, grabbed, and pushed by unseen forces in the shower cages.

immobilized while one of the many sadistic guards shot water from a fire hose into the inmates face. At times, inmates would die from either strangulation or from drowning. Mounds-

eral “hotspots.” Prison visitors have been touched, grabbed, and pushed by unseen forces in the shower cages. The chapel is another area where those on tour have claimed

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and overnight investigations for brave ghost hunters who would like to spend the night in what is one of our nation's most haunted prisons.

Camp Sumter (Andersonville Prison)

One of the main things that I love about paranormal research is the historical aspect of it, especially anything dealing with the war that tore our great nation apart between 1861-1865: the Civil War. War is Hell, and the prison at Andersonville, Georgia, was a classic example of this old, tired cliché.

In 1864, Andersonville Prison, or Camp Sumter as it was called, was established to house, feed, and hold onto Union soldiers who fought bravely to reestablish the Union and bring peace to an otherwise devastated South. Andersonville failed miserably in its attempts to properly care for the swelling number of

Union soldiers who were dumped at their stockade doors.

According to the National Park Service, Camp Sumter was in existence for 14 months, and more than 45,000 Union soldiers were held at the prison. Almost 13,000 soldiers died from disease, poor sanitation, malnutrition, overcrowding, and exposure to the elements.

Andersonville was a concentration camp in the truest sense, and the man who commanded Andersonville, Captain Henry Wirz, saw to it that the inmates at his prison were treated as brutally and sadistically as possible. Wirz was considered by his superiors to be a man of low moral fiber, which is probably why they chose him to command this Hell on Earth.

Wirz was known as being a sadistic soldier who had absolutely no problem with murder, even when his opponent was down. Wirz reportedly carried that sadism with him

behind the stockades of Andersonville. His first decree was to establish a "Dead Zone" within the stockades of the prison. If any prisoner brave enough to defy the captain's orders came within a hundred feet of this point, Wirz kept expert marksmen on staff who had absolutely no problem with putting a bullet through the head of some would-be escapee.

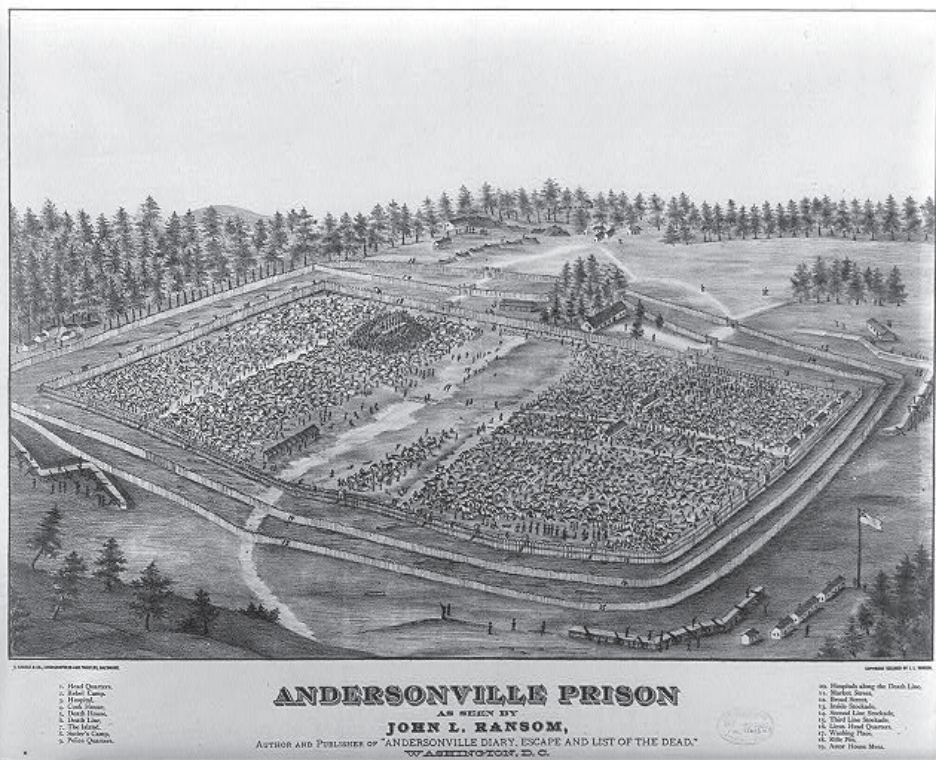
Thousands were killed, even those who accidentally came to close to the Dead Zone. Should it be any wonder that those who take tours of the former prison camp have seen wispy forms and heard cries of agony coming from this area? Probably not.

Wirz also established a group of prisoners whom he called Raiders. They were given the mission to cut a swathe of violence and death among their fellow prisoners. These Raiders were responsible for hundreds of violent deaths in the camp, until the prisoners became fed up, captured the Raiders, and hung them as a message to Wirz. The raids were promptly stopped.

As in any prison with deplorable conditions, Andersonville became the site of a major Yellow Fever outbreak that killed literally thousands in its year of operation. It was not uncommon for prisoner, as well as guard alike, to succumb to the terrible illness and drop dead where they stood. The horrible hygiene and bad water supply directly contributed to outbreaks of dysentery, and hundreds perished from the "White Death" or tuberculosis.

When the prison was liberated shortly after the end of the war, much of the remaining prison population was left dehydrated and malnourished.

Andersonville prison is considered a hotspot for any paranormal enthusiast who is looking for a good scare. Those who have plunked down their hard-earned dollars and taken



According to the National Park Service, Camp Sumter was in existence for 14 months and more than 45,000 Union soldiers were held at the prison. Almost 13,000 soldiers died from disease, poor sanitation, malnutrition, and exposure to the elements.

the tour have come away with tales of terrifying specters and horrible apparitions. Many have claimed to hear the sound of gunfire and the sounds of screams coming from the stockades surrounding the prison. Perhaps these are residual marks of prisoners of who came to close to Wirz' dead zone.

Others claimed to have been physically assaulted by seen and unseen presences. They claimed that they watched as a man in uniform walked up to them, yelling in their face. Thinking this person is a reenactor, they decide to play along until the inmate screams in their face and shoves them to the ground. The victim looks up to find they are alone.

If you have the intestinal fortitude and want to visit a prison with ghostly inmates who are a bit frisky, Andersonville Prison is the way to go. You will get a better understanding of deplorable living conditions in a former military internment camp, and just may meet a troubled entity along the way.

Ruthin Gaol Prison (Wales)

Wales — the land of verdant fields and high-rolling hills. I have never traveled to my ancestral motherland, but if I ever plan on doing so, I'm taking my trusty EMF detector, camera, and voice recorder to Wales' most haunted jail, Ruthin Gaol.

Built sometime in the 13th Centu-

Visitors have been poked and prodded and, on several occasions, reported being felt up.

ry during the popular reign of Edward the First, Ruthin Gaol was the place you were sent if you failed to pay fines, committed any number of misdemeanors, and for vagrancy. With such



At the former Ruthin Gaol Prison, the spirits that are said to be most active include a former, sadistic prison guard and a prisoner who murdered his wife and was subsequently hanged.

light offenses, how is this place such a hotbed of paranormal activity? These offenses were considered to be of a very serious nature in those times, and the jail quickly swelled to an unacceptable amount of prisoners.

However, it wasn't until 1775 when the Gaol was expanded and began to take in violent offenders, such as rapists, murderers, and in a few cases cannibals. Many of the hauntings in Ruthin Gaol can be

said to still wander the ancient Gaol is William Hughes. In 1901, Hughes was initially locked up in the jail for an offense that some might consider being not so bad, family desertion. However, when Hughes was released in 1903, he did the unspeakable; he bought a gun and shot his wife to death in front of the innocent eyes of their children. Immediately, Hughes turned himself in to the local cops and was quickly returned to Ruthin Gaol, where the next day he was hanged for the crime of murder. It is said that before he went to the gallows, Hughes sat on his bunk forlornly staring at a picture of his late wife.

Today, visitors to the jail, mostly females, are said to feel the presence of the murderer. Female visitors have been poked and prodded and, on several occasions, reported being felt up.

Another spirit said to be very active is that of a former guard who was proclaimed the most sadistic in

traced back to this time period, and the spirits said to inhabit the prison make their presences known in many different ways.

One such former inmate who is

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the Gaol's history. William Kerr really enjoyed his job, especially depriving the inmates of their daily rations and beating many senseless. The inmates, however, did not like the job that Kerr was performing, and one day he came up missing while on duty. Researchers believe that some of the inmates exacted their revenge on the guard and murdered him, disposing of his body somewhere on the grounds.

Kerr is said to make his presence known by banging on cell bars with his club while yelling at his charges. Others claim to see the visual apparition of Kerr as he makes his rounds with a scowl on his face, forever hating those that he watched over with an iron fist.

Paranormal investigators have claimed that Ruthin Gaol is home to dozens of unhappy spirits who still believe they are locked up despite the fact that they died many years ago. Spectral voices and full-bodied apparitions have been captured on

film at the ancient Gaol. Ruthin Gaol appears to be Wales' most haunted correctional facility.

Wyoming Frontier Prison (The Old Pen)

If you ever travel west of the Mississippi and find yourself in the great state of Wyoming, be sure to pay a visit to the Wyoming Frontier Prison in Rawlins — a correctional facility that is considered to be the most haunted in the state. Built around 1900, the Wyoming Frontier Prison, sometimes called The Old Pen, was built as a holding facility for violent offenders who were on their way either to the gallows or the gas chamber.

Over the years, The Old Pen became a favorite for tourists and ghost enthusiasts who want to have an experience with those prisoners who have passed on. The prison even goes as far as opening its doors for organizations who want to host

Halloween parties behind its stone and steel walls. Employees and tour takers alike claim to have had experiences with a spirit that interacts with people and then disappears right before their eyes.

Those who visit claim to have the sensation that they are being watched by some unseen presence in the cell blocks, as well as having a feeling of foreboding as they walk through the hostile environment.

The most famous and gruesome inmate who met his fate in the prison's gas chamber was a young man named Andrew Pixley. It is his spirit that is said to be the most aggressive in The Old Pen. In 1945, Pixley committed the unthinkable crime of murder and cannibalism when he murdered an entire family from Chicago, who were enjoying a family ski trip. It is said that after doing away with the parents, Pixley kept the two young girls prisoner while he violently raped, mutilated, and ate the flesh of the young girls.

When Pixley was apprehended, he said that he had no recollection of the depraved affair; however the State of Wyoming would have none of that and sentenced young Andrew Pixley to the gas chamber.

Pixley sat in his cell on the Wyoming Frontier Prison's death row for 20 years, when finally in 1965 he was strapped into the gas chamber and put to rest for his crimes. Employees of the prison claim that Pixley's spirit still haunts the prison and many have refused to go past the cannibal's cell.

A picture of Pixley now hangs over his former bunk. And those who pass by Pixley's cell claim his eyes in that picture follow them around. Others say they have seen his apparition staring out from behind the bars, while still others claim to have heard his voice confessing his ghastly crime.

Pixley is not the only spirit



At the Old Frontier Prison in Rawlins, Wyoming, employees and tour takers alike claim to have had experiences with a spirit that interacts with people and then disappears right before their eyes.

said to call the prison home. Many Wyoming Frontier Prison visitors say they've come into contact with any number of the prison's former inmates. It really is no wonder that residents of Wyoming consider this prison to be their most haunted.

Fort Delaware (Pea Patch Island)

And finally, our journey into the dark underbelly of correctional institutions brings us to the great state of Delaware and Pea Patch Island, a site of much death, destruction, and more ghosts than you can shake an EMF detector at.

When approaching the prison on Pea Patch Island, one cannot help but feel the power of American history. Used as a prisoner of war camp during the Civil War, it was the home and final destination for primarily officers of the Confederate military. Unlike Andersonville, prisoners of war were treated fairly well and were not subjected to the typical terrors associated with military internment camps.

However, this did not stop the violence that would oftentimes break out between inmates and, at times, their Union guards. Many executions and suicides occurred behind the imposing stone walls of the fort, resulting in a great many trapped souls begging to be set free.

During World War II, Pea Patch Island was used by the United States military to keep a diligent eye on the Atlantic Ocean for signs of Nazi submarines that would dare to come too close to the Eastern seaboard. Anyone who was ever stationed on Pea Patch Island knew that the place was a bit off. Soldiers stationed there during WWII often-times complained to their superiors of hearing disembodied screams during the night and strange wispy forms that darted behind corners.



Visitors who venture around Fort Delaware (Pea Patch Island) report hearing screams and pleas for help, as well as hearing the rattling of chains. Some claim they feel as if they are being watched. Others say they have been touched by an icy, cold, unseen hand.

Although Pea Patch Island was always a place of strange activity, the resident ghosts of the former prison would not make their presence known until 1951, when the prison was decommissioned as a military post and turned into a state park for tourists who wanted a taste of American history. Since then, many have claimed to come into direct contact and have experiences with the otherworldly denizens of the former prison.

In the mid-1980s, a tourist and her family were wandering the grounds of the prison, snapping off pictures one after the other. But when the pictures were developed, she was shocked to see the apparition of a Confederate soldier standing in a doorway, acting as if he were crossing the threshold. When she contacted Pea Patch, she was informed that they do not employ reenactors, except for special occasions. It would seem that this tourist captured what paranormal researchers dream about: a full bodied

apparition caught on film. To quote Napoleon Dynamite, "Lucky!"

Although Pea Patch Island is the site of much unexplained phenomenon, the creepy dungeon appears to be the most active "hotspot" on the entire island. Those who venture down to the former dungeon tell stories of hearing screams and pleas for help, as well as hearing the rattling of chains. Some claim they feel as if they are being watched. Others say they have been touched by an icy, cold, unseen hand.

Prisons, jails, and penitentiaries are not Disneyland. People don't go there to have their pictures taken with freakishly ugly mice nor do they buy insanely overpriced T-shirts. Prisons are a place of punishment for those in our society who cannot control their baser human instincts.

With all of the violence, death, and mayhem associated with day-to-day prison life, it should come as no surprise that many souls of previous tenants have stuck around locked up . . . forever. ■

The Amityville Haunting: Real or Hoax?

By Rick E. Hale, McHenry County Paranormal Research Group

Anyone who has been around for the past 30 years has probably heard this story. Many have read the book, and scores have seen the movie and its many terrible sequels. But what if the facts of the events that allegedly transpired at 112 Ocean Avenue in Amityville, Long Island, were really nothing more than an invention to make money and a great big stinking pile of hoax?

Some feel that this may be the case, while others stick by the story. However, for those of us who research claims of the paranormal, we should keep our objectivity and remember that we were not there. Basically when it boils down to it, who are we to believe?

Where Did the Amityville Horror Begin?

For more than 30 years, many of us who study the strange and unusual have had *The Amityville Horror* forced down our throats as the standard by which all malevolent haunting phenomenon is judged. However, there appears to be some evidence that what happened to the Lutz family in 1975 may be only partly true . . . or maybe not really true at all. But first a little history.

According to the 1977 book by



In 1975, George and Kathy Lutz and their three children claimed that while in their Amityville house (pictured above) they became victims of a diabolical force.

horror author Jay Anson and the 1979 movie starring the future Mr. Barbra Streisand (James Brolin) and the original Mrs. Superman (Margot Kidder), the tome details the horrific true experiences by George and Kathy Lutz and their three children, who claimed that while in their Amityville house they became victims of

a diabolical force.

Anson and the movie also detail how, in November 1974, the previous tenants of the home, the Defeo family, were allegedly gunned down in their sleep by the eldest son, Ronnie Defeo, Jr. — who at trial said that demonic voices compelled him to fill his family full of lead. The

murders, which shocked the sleepy little town, is a historical fact while the demonic voices may be, well, a little iffy.

In December 1975, 13 months after the horrific murders, newly-weds George and Kathy Lutz discovered the home at 112 Ocean Avenue and scooped it up for a steal. A home of this magnitude should have sold for twice its asking price, but they got it for a mere \$80,000.

The real estate agent warned the Lutzes of the terrible history of the house, but they were not particularly superstitious and weren't going to allow this beautiful example of Dutch Colonial architecture to pass them by. They wanted this house and would do anything to get it. Unfortunately, some might say, this is where the line between fact and fiction is somewhat blurred.

Is the Amityville Case Real . . . at All?

According to the book, some of the Defeo's furniture had been left behind, including the beds where the Defeo children had met their fates. Due to this, a friend of George's suggested that the family have a priest come and bless the home to dispel any negative energy that still might reside in the home.

Although George was Methodist

allegedly attacked by a swarm of flies and a gruff disembodied male voice that commanded him to "Get out." Needless to say, Father Ray hightailed it out of the house never to return.

This strange episode was just the beginning of 28 days of terror that the book and movie claimed to have victimized the little nuclear family before they went fleeing into the night, leaving all their possessions behind.

Crucifixes hanging on the wall were turned upside down, Kathy Lutz had vivid nightmares concerning the killing spree of Ronnie Defeo, Jr., and a foul odor that smelled of trash and rotting flesh filled the home on numerous occasions. Other phenomenon included what sounded like a ghostly marching band that disturbed the sleep of George Lutz, whose very personality went from being a loving, caring person to a mean, rotten jerk. One of the Lutzes' daughters claimed to be befriended by a spectral, demonic pig, which was seen on one occasion by George.

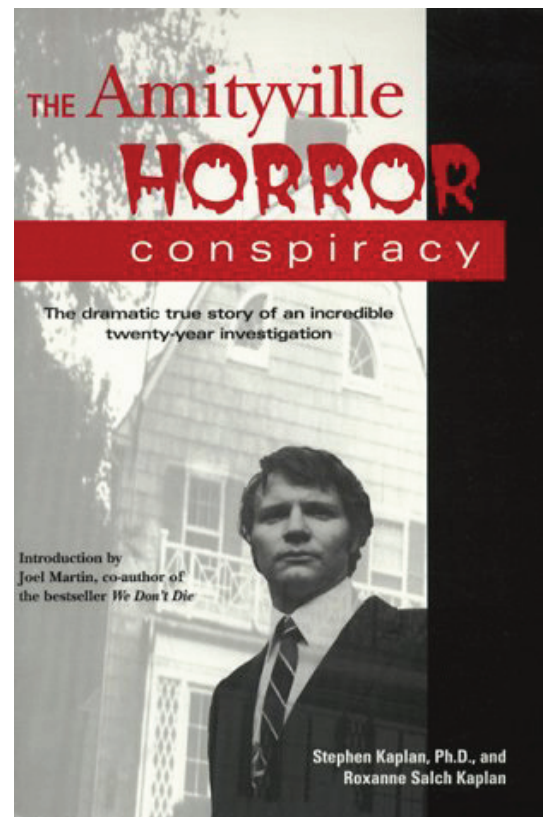
The family discovered a small room in the basement. Its walls were painted red, phantom voices were

The Lutzes felt their basement was some kind of gateway to Hell.

and Kathy was Catholic, they felt the blessing couldn't hurt. Father Ray Mancuso, the local Catholic priest, responded to the Lutzes' request. According to the book and movie, the good father arrived and went about the Lord's business; he was

heard, cold spots were felt, and a gooey substance poured down the walls. The family felt their basement was some kind of gateway to Hell. Scary stuff right?

The Lutzes further discovered that the home was built on land that



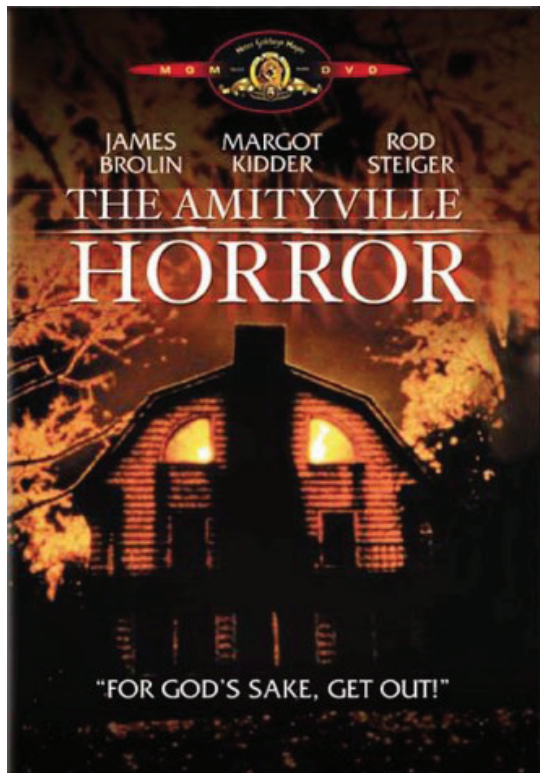
Stephen and Roxanne Kaplan wrote the 1995 book, *The Amityville Horror Conspiracy*, which was critical of the Lutzes' reported haunting. Kaplan had been asked to investigate the house originally, but the ghost hunter had a falling out with the Lutzes after he vowed to expose any fraud that was found.

was used by the local Native American tribes as a place to keep the sick, dying, and insane. And as we all know, building anything on land such as this is never a good idea.

Lawsuits Allege "True Story" Not "True" At All

When the movie was released in 1979, it was a huge box office hit that followed on the heels of another movie that dealt with the subject of pure evil affecting the innocent, *The Exorcist*. The movie reintroduced our nation, and eventually the world, to the dark, evil forces that could be lurking in our homes. Although the movie claimed the events that transpired in the home were factual,

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George Lutz was asked whether or not the events that occurred in the book and subsequent movie were true. He cryptically answered, "Mostly true." In 2005, a remake of *The Amityville Horror* was filmed, starring Ryan Reynolds and Melissa George.

apparently those involved in the real case did not think so.

The first of many lawsuits was filed by the real priest who allegedly came to bless the home. The real Father Ray stated in a sworn affidavit that at no time did he visit the Lutz home, nor did he perform a blessing. The priest stated that whatever dealings he had with the Lutzes were conducted over the phone. The good Father was never in the house or subjected to a swarm of vicious demon flies, and he never heard a voice demanding that he leave the premises.

The owners who came into possession of 112 Ocean Avenue after the Lutzes sued Author Jay Anson for causing unnecessary scandal around their home. The new owners claimed

that they were pestered day and night by would-be ghost hunters who wanted to gain access to the home and have a look-see for the spooks, specters, and ghosts.

The owners further went on record as saying that whatever the damage that was said to have happened to the home, such as blown out windows and doors, was patently untrue. The owners stated that the home maintained its original craftsmanship and nothing even as mundane as a window pane had been replaced.

And what about the red room that emitted an evil feel in the basement? The owners said it was nothing more than a coat room and was not hidden behind a bookshelf. The new owners further went on record as saying that at no time had they experienced any kind of haunting phenomenon, and the house had a very warm and peaceful feel to it.

Is the story of the great American ghost story unraveling right before our very eyes?

More Fiction Than Reality in *The Amityville Horror*?

As for the land being cursed and used as a place where the local tribes left their sick and insane . . . the Tribal Elders of the Shinnecock people have emphatically denied that claim. Even the local meteorologists have gone on record stating that no snow or other weather conditions claimed in the book happened on the dates in question.

Is this story falling apart piece by piece?

With all the lawsuits involved in the case, Jack Weinstein, who presided over the case, stated that

according to the evidence at hand, it was obvious to him that the book was nothing more than a work of fiction, an elaborate hoax, and a money-making scheme.

In September 1979, Ronnie DeFeo's attorney was quoted in *People Magazine* as saying, "I know the book is a hoax. We created this horror story over many bottles of wine."

In 1979, the cast of *The Amityville Horror* movie — along with George Lutz — appeared on the wildly popular Merv Griffin talk show. One of the last questions Merv asked Lutz, probably in light of all the lawsuits, was whether or not the events that occurred in the book and subsequent movie were true.

George Lutz cryptically answered, "Mostly true."

I have but one question to counter that answer: What the Hell does that even mean? Either the hellish events that sent you and family fleeing into the night after only 28 days of residency is either true or not. Plain and simple.

What Do You Think? Real or Hoax?

I hope that I have played the role of devil's advocate with great aplomb. If the events that happened to the Lutz family in December 1975 are true, awesome. But if not, it could bring and has brought disrepute to the field of paranormal research and investigation — a field that I love and care about.

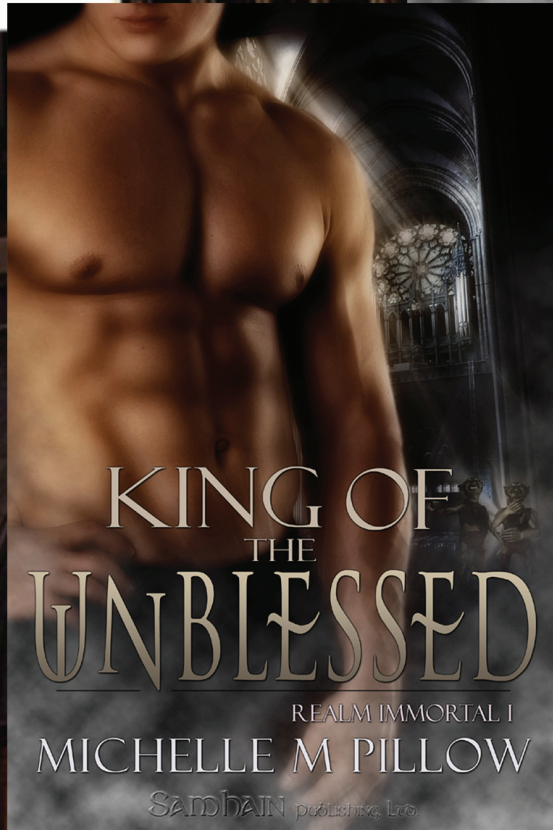
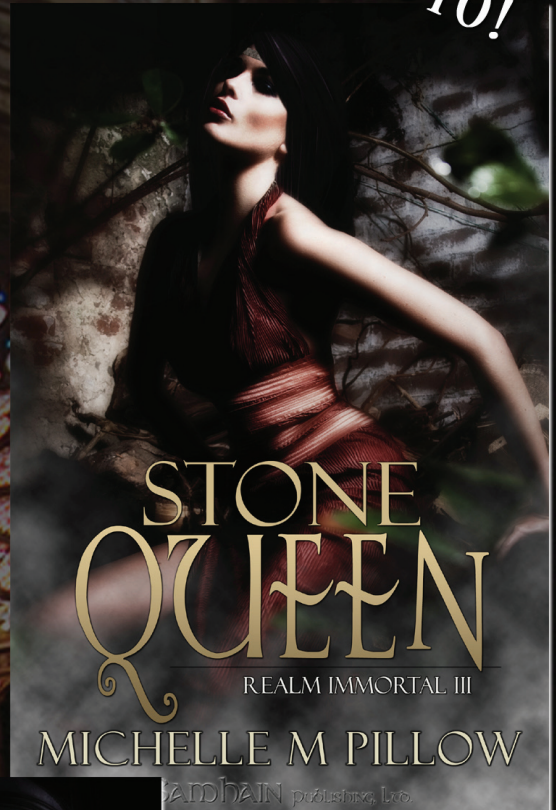
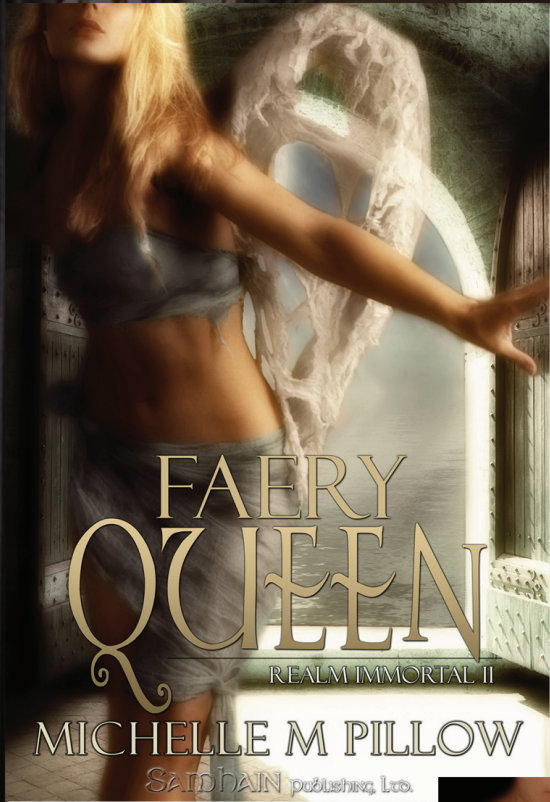
The Amityville case should show us that when investigating claims of the paranormal, all avenues of possibility should be exhausted before we come to the conclusion of whether or not a paranormal claim is the real deal.

Do I think the Lutz family experienced what they claimed? I wasn't there. All I know is I used to find the movie very entertaining and chilling. ■

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Thunderbird Sightings in North America

By Jill Stefko, Ph.D.

Native Americans believed a giant bird, called the Thunderbird, once existed. The bird was said to make lightning by blinking his eyes and thunder by flapping his wings. And while Thunderbird sightings have been reported for centuries, without any scientific evidence to support its existence, this creature is widely regarded as a myth.

Selected Thunderbird Sightings

The majority of Thunderbird sightings have taken place in the Black Forest of Pennsylvania; Illinois; and the Ozarks. The Thunderbird's wingspan is said to range from 15 to 20 feet, it is about four to eight feet tall and dark in color, and it is said to resemble a prehistoric pterodactyl or a giant condor.

Unless noted, the following sightings took place in Pennsylvania:

- 1948: Witnesses saw a huge bird resembling a condor near the Illinois-Missouri border.
- 1969: Clinton County sheriff's wife, Mrs. John Boyle, saw one while she was sitting on her porch in Little Pine Creek. Three men saw a Thunderbird carrying a fawn near Kettle Creek.
- 1970: Several witnesses saw

a Thunderbird in Jersey Shore.

- 1973: Robert Lyman had a sighting in Coudersport. The bird was sitting on a road before it flew off into the dense woods.

Lyman judged the wingspan to be approximately 20 feet.

- 1975: Walnut Creek, California, residents saw a bird over five feet tall with a vulture-like head and grey wings. In nearby East Bay people saw it, or one like it, sitting on a roof.

- 1977: In Lawndale, Illinois, 10-year-old Marlon Lowe and two friends were playing when they saw two huge birds. One boy jumped into a pool to avoid them. Marlon was seized by one of the birds and lifted two feet off of the ground. His parents and two of their friends heard him scream and ran after the bird. The bird dropped him after traveling 40 feet. They said the bird resembled a condor.

A woman in Armington saw a similar or the same bird three days later. Six people in McLean County had the same experience. The fol-



lowing morning, between Armington and Delavan, James Majors watched two huge birds. One grabbed a 40- to 50-pound pig and flew away. The next month, John and Wanda Chappell observed a Thunderbird for five minutes and documented the sighting. It was four feet high, and the estimated wingspan was 10 to 14 feet.

What Could the Thunderbird Be?

Is it possible that a prehistoric bird exists in America? The two most likely candidates for the Thunderbird, from descriptions, are the teratorn and the pterodactyl, large predatory birds. Teratorns' wingspans could reach 25 feet or more; pterodactyl's . . . over 40 feet.

Or, maybe, the Thunderbird is a yet-to-be-identified, unknown species. What do you think? ■

Article source: www.suite101.com.

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Q&A With Suzanne Taylor

Producer/Director of *What on Earth? . . . Inside the Crop Circle Mystery*

By Michelle M. Pillow, www.michellepillow.com

Documentary filmmaker Suzanne Taylor discovered crop circles in the 1980s and has been intrigued by them ever since. She is part of an international community of scientists, philosophers, writers, visionary artists, geometers, and farmers, called “croppies,” who dedicate their time to studying this often misunderstood and highly debated phenomenon.

Her newest documentary, *What On Earth? . . . Inside the Crop Circle Mystery*, follows her interactions with other croppies as they discuss their theories and beliefs, as well as indulging in their shared passion for circle-chasing and analysis. It seeks to answer the question, why is something so spectacular and moving so widely ignored?

The documentary explores not only the spiritual aspect of these mysterious images, but the scientific explanations behind the crop circles.

“Evidence suggests we are being signaled by an intelligence that’s not our own. That people ignore what is occurring is as unbelievable as the phenomenon itself,” Suzanne said. “Let’s get attention paid to the circle phenomenon. If there’s other intelligence besides ours, we’ll take our place in a much bigger reality than we know now.”



Filmmaker Suzanne Taylor’s new documentary presents the latest theories and beliefs surrounding the crop circle phenomenon.

I highly recommend this documentary to anyone interested in deeper exploration of the possible spiritual impact and universally large questions presented by the crop circle phenomenon. It’s available for purchase online at <http://cropcirclemovie.com>. I would like to thank Producer/Director Suzanne Taylor for taking the time to answer a few questions about her work.

* * * * *

Q: In your documentary, you mention that you first heard about crop circles in the 1980s. How have perceptions of crop circles changed over the last decades? Why do you think people are so profoundly affected by this phenomenon?

Suzanne: No change, other than that early on there were attempts to come up with explanations that didn’t pan out — things like landing pads for UFOs and weather phenomena. The only alternative to something inexplicable that’s left is that people make them.

Those who realize that we cannot be making them are privy to the biggest news ever to hit humanity. If we knew we were not the only intelligence in the universe, as someone in the movie says, “This could be what saves this civilization.” Personal growth is a lifetime’s work, if not longer, but shifting the worldview that holds all our societal problems in place could happen overnight.

Q: Please, tell us about your new film and why you feel it is so important.

Suzanne: All of the challenges to humanity are held in place by our worldview. It’s fingers in the dike without some change in who we

think we are and what we think we are doing here. Since the crop circles could change our worldview, some years ago I made a vow to wake the world up to what is going on with the circle phenomenon, and the best way to inform the world of anything is to make a film.

Q: Do crop circles only appear in crops like wheat and corn? Or do they also appear in other plants, such as strawberries or flowers?

Suzanne: They have been in virtually everything that grows, including young pine trees.

Q: In the documentary, it was mentioned that equipment didn't work while in flight over the crop circle, as well as cameras and phones. Does this phenomenon only occur directly over the crop circle itself? Or does it affect the surrounding area?

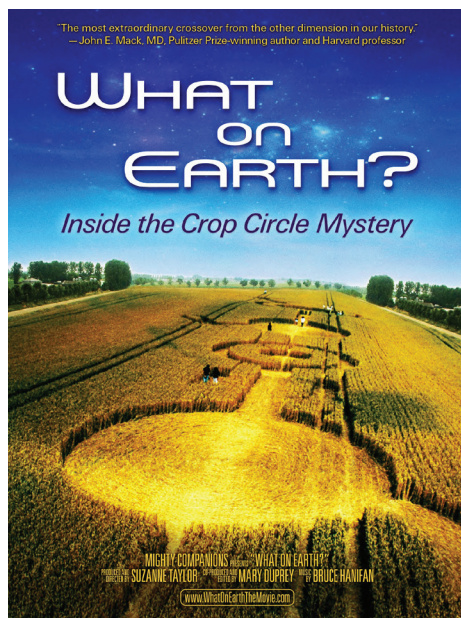
Suzanne: The more common occurrences of electronic equipment not working are in the formations. That happens regularly to cell phones, camera batteries, and microphones. I'd not heard about instruments in aircraft being affected until the person in the film mentioned it.

Q: How far back does the evidence of circles go? Are the circles more abundant now than when they originally started appearing? Do you think this is due to copycats trying to create their own circles?

Suzanne: The first absolute evidence of a formation is famous in crop circle lore: the mowing devil in 1678. Look it up on Google. The biggest year was approximately 300 in England during the 90s. There are fewer now. Lately, worldwide, there are about 150 a year, with half in England. But lots are hoaxed, and there are widely disparate opinions about how many.

Q: With the emergence of artists using the medium of crop circles to create things like the commissioned Hello Kitty's 30th anniversary crop circle, what percentage do you think are art as opposed to "other causes"?

Suzanne: Hoaxers defend their work as art. Commissioned pieces are commerce, like Hello Kitty. It is highly debated how many are hoaxed. And I don't have figures for commissions, but there are a few each year.



According to Suzanne Taylor, the best proof supporting the crop circle phenomenon comes from scientific studies showing biological changes to the plants and chemical changes to the soil within crop circles that can't be accounted for.

Q: Even if only a small percentage of circles are a mystery, what theories are there concerning the mechanics of how they were made? Do you agree with these theories? Think they have merit? Why or why not?

Suzanne: Scientific consensus seems to be that microwave energy is what makes the "real" ones — that

its occurrence in nature is being harnessed by an inexplicable source. And, even if it's a small percentage, what matters is that we have a real phenomenon. The rest is just noise.

Q: How can we prove there is a real phenomenon?

Suzanne: The best proof is in the scientific studies that have been done with science protocol — real ones exhibit biological changes to the plants and chemical changes to the soil that we can't account for, and there are no changes in hoaxes.

This is expensive to do, so it's not done often. The BLT Research Team Inc. (<http://bltresearch.com>) is the lab that has done it all — producing peer-reviewed papers in science journals attesting to there being a real phenomenon.

Q: If they are generated by another consciousness, how do we communicate back to them?

Suzanne: Who knows how or whether it's a good idea to try to do that? It's a question that does get asked and both debated and speculated about. There have been a couple of times when writing has been done in the crops by people — English and binary code — in attempts to communicate back.

Q: How do the circles relate to the idea of synchronicities?

Suzanne: I wouldn't use that word. However, we clearly are being observed, whereby the circlemakers respond to our thoughts. There are some examples in the film, and there are lots more.

Q: What happens to the crop circle after it has been there for awhile? Does the area go back to normal? Do the crops grow again? Does equipment begin to work again?

Case Files of the Unknown: Are We Alone?

Suzanne Taylor made a vow years ago to wake the world up to what is going on in the crop circle phenomenon. Her documentary, *What on Earth? . . . Inside the Crop Circle Mystery*, seeks to answer the question, why is something so spectacular and moving so widely ignored?



Or is the land permanently affected?

Suzanne: When formations are in young crop, the plants grow back up — no breakage and phototropism takes over, provided people haven't trampled the crop. If no trampling, the farmers can harvest; if trampling, they don't get anything from the circle areas, but the harvest is when an event is over.

Like Buddhist sand paintings, you can't preserve them or put them in museums. An ephemeral art. Crops grow the next season, sometimes with a ghost image. Some ghosts are explainable — seeds get ground into the soil and slugs eat them so no crops grow. But other instances of ghosts are not easy to explain.

A good site to visit for information about anomalies is www.circularsite.com, by Dutch researcher

Janet Ossebaard, who's in my film.

Q: Has any research been done on the areas and any subsequent crops after the crop circle is gone? What were the findings?

Suzanne: Steve Purkapple was doing successive growing from seeds in formations. Each growth got bigger.

Q: What do you see the future holding for crop circles? Do you think we'll ever lose interest in them as a society?

Suzanne: It has been so marginalized now, which is what I'm hoping my film can impact. But total interest will never be lost as long as these beautiful things keep arriving — and there is a rabid circle research community that keeps investing energy so that attention doesn't disappear, despite an idiotic media that turns out infuriat-

ingly inaccurate information.

This last week *National Geographic* aired a show they shot last summer, which was one of the most ridiculous presentations ever — so much so that I imagine even skeptics didn't go along with their premise that it's all human perpetration.

I hope they will transform us to where we see ourselves as one humanity in a caring, compassionate world.

Q: Why do you think it's important for us to believe in such "other-worldly" phenomenon?

Suzanne: It's an unfathomably large universe, and if we weren't the only intelligence around it would humble us to take our place in relation to all the rest — which would be very good for our megalomaniacal selves that act in such abusive and violent ways toward one another — 'us and them' instead of appreciating the wholeness and oneness of which we are just a part.

Q: What's next for you? Any projects in the works?

Suzanne: Getting this film out is 24/7. This is my mission — not to be a filmmaker, but to let the world know that the circle phenomenon is real and that it can change the world. ■

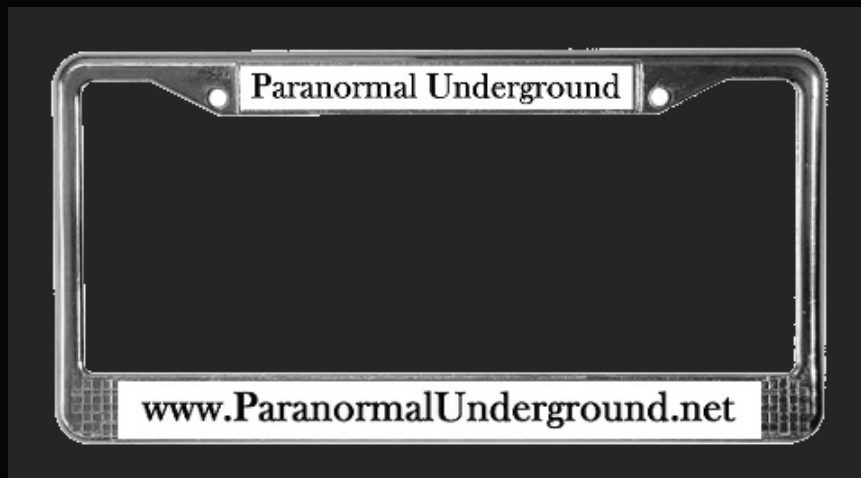
* * * * *

Thank you for joining us, Suzanne!

*To learn more about Suzanne Taylor's documentary, *What On Earth? . . . Inside the Crop Circle Mystery*, visit <http://cropcirclemovie.com> for a special offer for the DVD, which contains the feature film plus an hour of bonus material, and www.whatonearththemovie.com to learn more about the film and the circles. You can also check out her blog, *Making Sense of These Times*, at www.theconversation.org.*

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Diary From a Haunted Hotel

By Carolyn M. Hughes

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

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

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

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

Mon., Mar. 8

5:25 p.m.: Shortly after I arrived at 4 p.m. to begin my 16-hour shift, I walked the day manager out to the back door and locked it securely behind her. Because the check-ins were at a minimum, I did not require the usual 4-8 shift attendant and was alone.

At 5:25 p.m., I was standing at the front desk in the lobby when I heard the back door being opened. Afraid that someone was breaking in, I immediately ran toward the



This picture shows where Carolyn's coworker was standing when she saw the apparition of a Union soldier walk out of the office doorway (the first doorway on the left) and behind the counter, and then into the breakfast room.

Carolyn's coworker ran to the end of the lobby counter to follow the soldier's progress, but he had disappeared.

laundry room. I was totally shocked when I saw that the museum clerk was standing in the laundry room clocking out.

First, I asked her what she was doing here because the museum was not open for the season. She explained that she had a school group. Next, I asked her how she got in that locked back door. She looked at me like I was nuts and told me that the door was open. After I explained to her that I had locked and checked the lock on that back door at 4 p.m., she didn't appear to believe I was crazy. Since she has experienced many strange occurrences in the

museum, which was General Lee's Headquarters at the time of the battle, she happily laughed it off.

Isn't it just like those Southern boys to open a door for a lady? Okay, boys, please keep it locked now!

Mon., Mar. 8

5:35 p.m.: I had stepped out the side door into the breezeway to have a quick cigarette. I was still a little rattled from the opened back door. As soon as I stepped out, I smelled that unmistakable odor of strong cigar smoke. I immediately looked at the parking lot, and there were no

cars parked there. The school group had left well before 5:00 p.m.

As a reminder to our readers, we are the last establishment located on the battlefield. General Lee's Headquarters sits mere feet from the main office/lobby. There are no sidewalks and no pedestrians. The breezeway is a covered walkway between a wing of the hotel and the lobby on the north side of the office building.

What you should keep in mind, also, is that every significant Confederate officer and general, at some point during the battle, was present on the property where the hotel sits today. So, it isn't surprising to me to smell phantom cigar and/or sweet cherry tobacco so frequently.

Wed., Mar. 10

1:00 a.m.: Normally, my only eight-hour shift during the week is on Wednesdays from noon until 8 p.m. This particular Wednesday I was working the 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. shift, covering for another vacationing employee.

When I arrived at 7:45 a.m., I walked into the office to the words I thought I would never hear from one of our other night auditors. J., who has been a night auditor with the hotel for the past 5 years, was telling the manager that after what happened to her the previous night, she was going to look for another job.

"I can put up with papers moving around on the desks, horse sounds and men talking in the lobby, the intense cold that comes from time to time, cannon fire in the middle of the night, and even hearing what sounds like a party going on in the laundry room, but not what I saw last night!"

J. was standing at one of the front desk computers finishing up the audit when she caught movement out of



Pictured at left is the breezeway where Carolyn frequently smells the unmistakable odor of strong cigar smoke. After checking the area, she found no source of the cigar smoke.

The phantom smells are commonplace in the area, and Carolyn attributes it to the spirits of Gettysburg.

the corner of her eye. She turned to her left to look at the doorway into the office and saw a Union soldier, not two feet away, stepping out of the office. She said he immediately turned left, walked behind the lobby desk to the end of the counter, and then turned left again and went into the breakfast room.

She ran to the end of the lobby counter to follow his progress, but he had disappeared. When I asked her to describe him, her eyes were round as saucers when she said, "Carolyn, there was nothing to him from the waist up."

J. went on to describe the familiar dark blue pants and yellow stripe down the side of his legs, but that was all that she saw. I was trying to lighten up the tension when I told her that Courtney and I had seen him, as well, but just from the waist up (minus his head, of course). Among the three of us, we almost had a whole soldier.

Needless to say, it took a great

deal of talking and comparing experiences before she calmed down sufficiently. I explained to her that he was just trying to get our attention and that I would try to help him into the light. J. was reassured that they would never hurt us and have never harmed any staff or guest. I also armed her with a few more suggestions, which she took to heart and now feels better prepared should our Union soldier appear once again.

Personally, I believe he is appearing this way because he is trying to tell us that he was blown to pieces by the artillery that was bombarding the property during the first day of the battle and, for his own reasons, it is important that we know this.

I'm going to try to communicate with him with my digital recorder and find out why he appears this way, as well as gently guide him into the light.

Stay Tuned . . .

Devil's Backbone Investigation: Grand Tower, Illinois

By Rich Newman, Paranormal Inc

At first it seemed like a waste of time; the Devil's Backbone, perched alongside the Mississippi River on the outskirts of Grand Tower, Illinois, was on the verge of a thunderstorm. As we made our way to the site, the clouds quickly rolled in and it started to drizzle a bit.

To make matters worse, we were quickly losing daylight, which would make setup difficult. If we did manage to find the place, it didn't look like we were going to get much time there for any kind of real investigation.

Information about the Devil's Backbone was pretty scarce: Most of the info we knew about the place came from Troy Taylor's *Prairie Ghosts Website* — and that was pretty slim. Once we got into Grand Tower, though, finding the place was as easy as following the Devil's Backbone Park/Campsite signs. What?! Troy didn't say anything about a campground! Fortunately, in this respect anyway, the threat of rain worked in our favor as there were only a few campers there.

The only people we saw were a father and small boy doing some fishing, so we didn't expect any difficulties with people getting curious and interrupting the investigation.

After passing the campground, we followed the levee and looked for the only landmark mentioned in the description of the Backbone: A



Pictured above are ruins of Devil's Bake Oven at the Devil's Backbone, which sits alongside the Mississippi River. Sightings of a young, female ghost have been reported in the area.

natural gas bridge crossing the Mississippi. We found the bridge, then moved a bit farther north and found the remains of the house that is reputedly haunted by the ghost of a young woman. Some call this house the Devil's Bake Oven — though the area itself is known as the Backbone.

The Legend of Devil's Backbone

The story of the haunting goes like this: A young woman, who was

the daughter of a superintendent of the foundry located there, became distraught by the loss of her boyfriend who had moved away. As a result, she died in a state of deep depression (either because of suicide or by illness) in the home.

Since then, there have been sightings of the girl (often in the form of a mist) walking the path outside the ruins of the house. Residents of Grand Tower have heard the

sounds of moans, wails, and screams (thought to be the girl), especially during thunderstorms, which were known to terrify her. (This is specifically mentioned by Taylor on *Prairie Ghosts*). The rain was working in our favor again.

There was also a gang of river pirates that had reputedly hijacked and killed many a person along the Backbone. All of this added up to a great place to check out (at least on paper anyway).

Investigating the Backbone

With our daylight waning, we managed to get to the site and set up a Hi8 camera with night vision on the ruins to possibly capture any mists or apparitions. We also left a digital audio recorder. Then, with three investigators present (myself, Mike, and Brandon), we carefully roamed the area with camcorders, audio recorders (for EVP work), and the usual tools of the trade (infrared thermometer, EMF detector, etc.). I say “carefully” because much of the Backbone is located on a high cliff overlooking the river.

We were maybe an hour into the investigation when the storm decided to move in a bit closer. Okay, a lot closer. It started sprinkling, and soon, the sprinkling turned into a

We captured a piercing female scream, a moan, and a strange female voice.

heavy torrent of rain. We frantically packed up the gear with barely over an hour’s worth of data on it and made for the car.

As we drove home, we went over the details of what we had just done. None of us had really “felt” anything haunted about the place; there were no feelings of being



Upon review of Paranormal Inc.’s data, this small ball of light appeared out of nowhere at the ruins for about two seconds. Then it disappeared.

watched, and we had seen/heard nothing that would indicate any kind of ghostly presence.

Reviewing Our Data

Upon review of our data, however, we did manage to find a few things. There was a mysterious, small ball of light that appeared out of nowhere at the ruins for about two seconds (see attached still from the video camera), and then it disappeared.

We also had four to five EVPs

that included a female mumbling, heavy breathing, and a strange female moan (originating from the audio recorder that was left at the ruins). But best of all, we actually captured some audio from the video camera that included a piercing female scream, a moan, and then a strange female voice.

After analyzing the video (and audio), we were left scratching our heads. None of us had high hopes of getting any evidence at Devil’s Backbone, but here was clearly some audio of a girl in distress. None of us had either seen or heard any females at the site or the surrounding area (no female investigators were with us, and we had seen no females at the small camp — which was a distance away). The light at the ruins was a bit odd, as well, since it did not “move into view,” but simply appeared and then disappeared with no trailing light (like you see from a flashlight, etc.).

Revisiting Devil’s Backbone . . .

Should we go back to Devil’s Backbone? Maybe. More time at the site might give us more data; or maybe we were just there at the right time — during a thunderstorm. Either way, it was a great, short trip.

You can check out the audio and video from our investigation on our Website, www.paranormalincorporated.com. ■

The Mother-In-Law House

By C. Andrew Beck

We were ushered to our table in the exquisitely furnished dining room of the Mother-in-Law House in St. Charles, Missouri. This delightful restaurant on the bank of the Missouri River is a short distance from the departure point of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

During our dinner, I directed my wife's attention to the symmetry of the room. The fireplace and windows on the one wall were exact mirror images of the fireplace and windows on the opposite wall. I found that rather unusual and mentioned this observation to our waitress as we ordered after-dinner coffee. Susan Blake, our coffee server, introduced herself as the restaurant's owner. She joined our table and soon narrated the story of the Mother-in-Law House.

"This original building was erected in 1897 by Joseph Bartholomew. It was originally a duplex residence. One residence was a mirror image of the second; the two were divided by a solid wall. One dwelling was for Joseph's family, the other for his mother-in-law. Several years later, the mother-in-law passed away. The building changed owners over the years. My husband and I purchased the building five years ago."

Susan paused to sip her coffee. "We removed the center wall and created this restaurant."

My wife asked Susan, "So why the unusual name?"

"The name came after the mother-in-law left the building." Susan was silent, awaiting our reaction.

Curiosity prompted me to ask



"The first few months were plagued with strange occurrences."

her to continue.

"The first few months were plagued with strange occurrences. Diners on the one side of this room complained of cold drafts, odd sounds, and they frequently argued. Diners on the opposite side laughed, smiled, and offered many compliments. The contrast was quite disturbing."

"Is this table located on the good side?" I asked.

"Don't worry, the problem no longer exists." Our hostess replied with a short chuckle. "We were completely baffled and were losing customers. In desperation we contacted Rebecca Reiningham in St. Louis. She has the distinction of being a medium. We arranged to meet and discuss our problem." Susan again paused, enjoying the moment of suspense, and then continued.

"Rebecca requested that she be alone in the building for three hours. We agreed and waited patiently on the patio. We entered the building at the agreed time. Rebecca explained the foundation of our problem. The mother-in-law believed that she had been rejected by the family that she so deeply loved. She felt that the dividing wall, separating the two dwellings was intended to isolate and reject her."

"So what exactly did Rebecca do?" asked my wife.

"She said that she had convinced the mother-in-law that her family actually loved her deeply and that the wall was only intended for her privacy. Our problem no longer exists. The mother-in-law is finally at rest, and we renamed the building in her memory."


For more information, visit www.motherinlawhouse.com. ■

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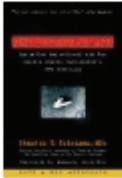




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Where Memories Lie

(Part II of IV)

By Lettie Prell, www.lettieprell.com

Continued From Our March Issue

... Then my system locked up. Stand by for scanning. It was a message from Database Control. The antivirus system had activated. I stared at Ms. Walquist, who watched me intently. Her body was amazing, a coordinated, unselfconscious complication of movement. She cocked her head to one side and stared, expectant.

Now I knew I felt fear. Something else I had not felt in a long time. The mannequin that had replaced my body stumbled to its feet, tipping over its chair with a clatter.

I did not have long to wait for the assessment. Scan complete, announced Database Control. Infection detected on four levels.

Infected? How could I be infected? Did Ms. Walquist bring in a virus? I thought back to the throwing motion she had made. No, it couldn't be.

Level one, virus has disabled this entity's base programming, including olfactory reactivity to human flesh.

The statement interested me despite my distress. They were saying I bore programming that made human flesh seem unsavory, or at least I used to before it was disabled. Was the experience of the stench of human flesh a way to assist entities within the Affiliates to adapt to virtual environments? To enable us to remain happy with our choice of



being instantiated? It made a certain amount of sense. Still, the statement was confusing. I had turned my olfactory function off myself. I distinctly remembered doing that. Database Control contradicted that memory, and attributed that action to a virus.

Status, level one, Database Control announced. Repairable.

Good. I willed myself to be relieved. Yet the mannequin seemed bent on displaying signs of agitation, pacing stiffly around the room. There was a harsh taste in its mouth, like stomach acid or even vomit. Yet of course the mannequin possessed no gastrointestinal functions.

Level two, Database Control continued. Virus has penetrated throughout this entity's sensory functions, blocking identification with human-based sensate awareness. Status: irreparable.

* * * * *

Irreparable. Such a coldly delivered diagnosis. Random scenes of death ricocheted through my thoughts, colliding and merging in an orgy of growing horror.

I made the mannequin descend on Ms. Walquist. "What have you done?" asked the mechanical voice that had replaced my own. Its tone

quaked, mocking my inner dread. "What kind of virus is this?"

Ms. Walquist recoiled from me. Her eyes held a hint of fear. "It's a thing called a meme."

"You're not making sense."

Memes were bits of biological human programming, culturally spread ideas.

Level three, Database Control said. Virus is causing erratic emotional response. Method as yet unknown. Current status: irreparable.

Memes were viruses for the human mind. Viruses.

The mannequin pushed Ms. Walquist aside and resumed careening around the room until it stumbled over the fallen chair. I caught a glimpse of Ms. Walquist's rose floral recliner tipped askew, empty.

Level four, Database Control said. Psychosocial response. Virus has reprogrammed this area. Entity is unfit for interaction within this environment, due to disassociation with core self. Status: irreparable.

The mannequin ran for the door and beat against it with its fists, then its shoulder. It gave up on that, turned, and raced for the window. I caught a glimpse of Ms. Walquist scrambling to get out of the way. I knew the window would not give either, even before the mannequin began to push against it. But that damnable joke of a body was right. I had to struggle to get out. If I could only break free and return to the virtual world, I would be all right.

The virus program prevented me from rejoining my fellow entities in the shared environment, so I simply sought to return to my virtual form inside my personal folder.

I succeeded. I bailed out of the mannequin, back to my personal folder, but it was worse. I no longer identified with my virtual form, either. It wasn't me. I found myself trapped inside a ghost of a mannequin, even more fake than that disaster of a physical form. Nor did I have the sense of

being home. I should have felt embraced by the texture of the surround, which I had calibrated to feel like lying in tall grass prairie warmed by the sun.

I should have thrilled at the perspective of standing on my platform orbiting a transparent Mars, showing the known mapping of its plate tectonics and carrying a real-time feed of its wind patterns via satellite. Instead, I was aware of the very pixels of the simulation, the binary of the programming. I tried, but I could not will my inner world to gel around me in a unified experience, just as I could not make the mannequin feel like my body.

I could not live in the wastelands of a mere data stream encased in that false vehicle. It was too unreal. I fled back into the physical mannequin. It had slumped over in my absence, and was sitting on the floor, head in hands.

* * * * *

"Virus is causing erratic emotional response. Current status: Irreparable."

"Nothing's real," my mechanical voice said. "I don't even think I'm real anymore."

"That's the whole idea." Ms. Walquist's voice came from somewhere off to the right. The mannequin turned its head and I saw her, backed up against the door. Her expression showed fear and fascination all at once.

"Belief that I'm not real?" A horrible thought came to mind. "That's the meme you're trying to spread? That I'm not human, not self-aware?"

It would be a dangerous idea to spread inside the computer. Suicides among the Affiliates were infrequent, but not unheard of. Some entities had adjustment reactions to being without

body. All it might take for some is a trigger, like encountering me, and seeing that I thought myself unreal. They might conclude that if I am non-human, they are non-human.

Who was I kidding? The idea would be force-fed like any other virus, to every entity it contacted, like any other bit of code entering the system. Impressive. Ms. Walquist had some smart friends. Smarter than me. Smarter than Database Control, which was stumped how to fix me. Irreparable.

"It won't spread beyond me," I said. "The virus scan caught it."

Ms. Walquist and I stared at each other.

We are quarantining this entity in preparation for deletion from the system, Database Control said. Stand by.

Deletion. Not fragmentation, which would have left me conscious, at least on some level. They weren't going to risk any loose pieces of this thing infecting someone else.

My name is Singh, I told myself. I was Frank Milner, but I had become more than him. I was not just a monument to David.

I could not believe those words. I could not identify with any name anymore. It seemed strange to reference an I at all. My fear had been replaced with indifference. Was this the virus spreading deeper into my system? Or did I not care about my own death? Was I so bored with mind-expanding eternity that I would choose the novelty of annihilation?

No, that was insane. Yet the irrationality of the thought seemed to push me into a new level of unreality. I began thinking about what this I was, that was thinking. Was there an I at all? Was this I a simulation of mind only, as the mannequin was a simulation of body? It seemed logical, an inevitable conclusion. I was an ersatz soul, a simulation mimicking human life. I was a digital repository of what

Fiction: Featured Author

a real person had once experienced, itself no more authentic than a movie.

“They’re going to delete me,” I said, not fully understanding the word me, as used in this case.

Ms. Walquist said, in the softest of voices, “I’ll miss you, Mr. Singh. I will. But you’re just a program. You’re not real.”

Wetness appeared at the corners of her eyes. Her voice was unsteady when she spoke, flying up and down a scale crafted from her emotions. “This is for the best, understand. Your kind has meddled enough in our lives, we true humans who are left. We will once again be self-determining. Frank Milner would have liked that, even if it means destroying his memories of David.”

Was she seeking to be absolved of unleashing this unspeakable virus on me? The words seemed to make her feel better. She smiled shakily, with benevolence and some pity — yes, pity — for this inanimate thing that had no soul. Remarkable how the human capacity to love would extend to something as plastic and false as this simulation before her.

“I’m sorry, Mr. Singh,” she said. Compassion. So human.

“Thank you,” this simulation said. It said it for Frank.

Then the end came. This simulation had read what it was supposed to be like to die. It had read there was a tunnel. There was no tunnel. It had heard there was a light. There was no light. The plug was simply pulled, and this sorry excuse for a mind was deleted, as quickly and easily as turning off a video monitor. Then there was blankness, not even dark.

* * * * *

I do not know how long I remained unaware. There were no thoughts, no time, no processing. Yet eventually I came to recognize my own awareness, like a toddler seeing

himself in a mirror for the first time. What was my status? Had someone restored me from back-up? But there was no buzz of processors around me, no flow of the packets. In the beginning, there was nothing, just as the scriptures of humanity maintained.

Again, I do not know how long it was after that, but I became aware that there was more to “here” than my awareness. I apprehended a vast space. It was nothing like the Affiliates. I perceived high-frequency hums all around me. These were not the whines of processors, but something more organic. As my understanding grew, I began to apprehend as if with physical senses. The thrumming I heard was the sound of atomic bonds stretched like violin strings through the matter I was immersed in.

Matter. I was in the physical world. I had been jettisoned from the server into the biological uni-

“I became aware that there was more to ‘here’ than my awareness.”

verse. The molecules all around me were as planetary systems, constellations, and galaxies, floating in infinity. I could identify oxygen as the most prevalent. The larger bodies were dust, and tiny organisms.

Then I smelled her. It was Ms. Walquist. Debris from her person had sloughed off into the air. I could even see her trail like the trajectory of a comet that had recently streaked through the vicinity. I followed the comet’s tail, and at the end of that long road I found her body. Ah, the body. It seemed immense, an entire universe.

My desire drew me to that body, not in an erotic sense, or anything to do with Ms. Walquist personally. The body attracted me for its sheer ability to feel, to breathe. It prom-

ised the joy of touch. How could Frank Milner have made the decision, once, to discard his?

I had touched and breathed in the virtual world I had known, one I had a hand in shaping. Yet now in the presence of Ms. Walquist’s body I felt weak, puny, even dizzy with nostalgia for embodiment. I worried I lacked the vitality to continue existence within the universe of oxygen and dust motes. Was it just great luck to have been shown the road to Ms. Walquist, in the nick of time, before my awareness broke up and dissipated, unaware of its own passing?

Desperation seized me, along with a raw will to continue to be. I aimed myself at her, setting a collision course. Her body rapidly filled my entire view. I became fearful as I drew closer, in a sudden terror I would smash against her and shatter. I think I became so terrified that I lacked the sense to stop myself. Either that or something akin to gravity was pulling me in.

* * * * *

Instead of crashing, I felt a brief drag as I passed through the membrane of her skin, and then I was inside her. I don’t know how, but my awareness expanded to fit her form. I stretched out inside her, feeling toes, fingertips, the breath cycling in and out of lungs. As my thoughts coursed through her bloodstream, I sought to understand what I was. I was not a computer simulation, because I was not in a computer. I was not human either, like Ms. Walquist. I was inside her as I had been inside a computer. Like stored data.

I looked out through her eyes. She had left the brain lab. She sat in a straight-backed chair, at a small wooden table, writing. How deliciously primitive it looked. Real wood. Scratches marred the tabletop, which needed polishing, but I cherished its age.

Why had I not thought to include such realism in the venues I as a simulation had created within the Affiliates? The beauty of true biological life lay in its flaws, its impermanence. The virtual worlds, although grander in scale, paled in comparison to this transcendent richness of the ordinary.

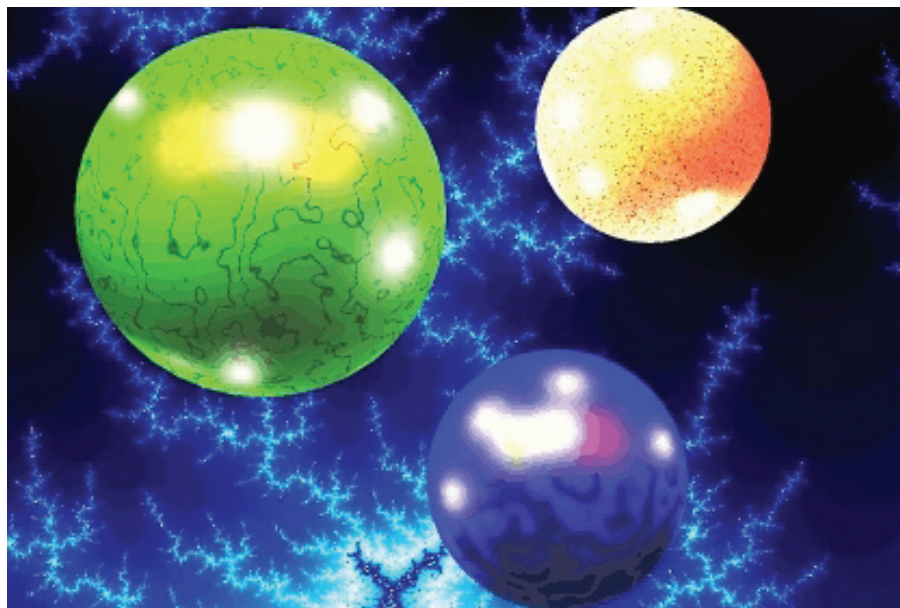
I turned my attention to the hand, writing. How could I have thought this hand old and ugly once? A hint of blue veins pulsed at her wrist. I could feel the blood running up her arm, back to her heart. Ah, the heart, beating in time to her pen-strokes. A complex array of muscle movements supported the entire activity. A twitch here in the upper arm. The pressure of the side of the hand on dry white paper. Thumb, index finger, and middle finger pursed together like lips.

My awareness permeated her whole system, such that I could also feel the unconscious, involuntary movements of the muscles from wrist to elbow as they tensed, relaxed and tensed again, rhythmic and reassuring. I found I felt nostalgia for the biological form. Its solidity and presence delighted me.

Perhaps she was journaling. I could not read what she had written on the page before. I could only see what she saw, passively, as she concentrated on what sprang forth from the tip of her pen. She wrote:

We inactivated three satellites today, shutting down part of the perimeter fence, which allowed the covert team in. My summons to report for research allowed us to attack. My Mr. Singh was stopped before he could spread the virus I gave him, but while Database Control was focused on the obvious threat I posed, the others went undetected. In all, eleven infected entities made it past the virus program into the servers. Eleven was enough.

With the satellites down in our area and the servers under assault, we



could safely remove our control devices. At least, we'll be fine as long as—

The hand stopped and released the pen. Ms. Walquist reached up to stroke her neck. Yes, it was sore. A small piece of flat plastic, a band-aid, lay across the fleshy area on the side of her neck.

I had known about the implants ever since attaining Class B clearance, and heretofore I considered it a necessary protection, to preserve the species. Yet now I felt sad that human autonomy had been invaded. What harm would it have done to allow them to roam freely in their own environment?

Biological humans were ignorant and backward by the Affiliates' standards, but they had been wiser than us in the end. They had designed a remarkable virus and devised a way to unleash it on us, outsmart us entities of superior processing speeds. It actually made me proud of my heritage. Humanity certainly had survival skills. Good for them, to fight back against us ghosts.

Good for you, Ms. Walquist. Good for you and all those like you.

She stopped rubbing her neck. Her eyes panned from left to right, focused on nothing. Her breaths slowed. I sensed she noticed me. She

stared at her lap. The fingers of her right hand tugged at her right eyebrow, stroking the short hairs there.

I noticed a glint of color, off to the left. It shimmered like the northern lights Frank Milner sometimes saw in upper Illinois. Green-red. Then another shimmer. Green-red. Did Ms. Walquist have a strobe light turned on behind her?

Then two things happened at once. A violet wash saturated Ms. Walquist's visual field. And I felt a doorway open — not in the room, but somewhere inside Ms. Walquist. I don't know where; it was nothing that could be seen. I simply understood an open door was there.

She picked up her pen again in a shaky hand and started writing. No, not writing. Her arm moved in great, loose sweeps as she described large circles, figure eights, and spirals, each shape covering the entire page. Spiral over circle, circle over loops.

She reached up with her other hand and tore the sheet out from under the pen, then another and another as she kept making shapes, shapes, shapes. ■

To Be Continued in Our
May Issue . . .

Juliana Stone

By Michelle M. Pillow, www.michellepillow.com

Paranormal romance author, Juliana Stone, has lived an interesting life. This Canadian rock star toured with an all-female band before settling down as a wife and mother, though it is rumored she still sneaks out for a gig now and again. However, over the past few years, music has taken a back seat to writing.

New York Times bestseller Christine Feehan has called Juliana's newest release, *His Darkest Hunger* (Avon Books, March 30, 2010), a "fantastic fresh world (that's) impossible to put down."

* * * * *

Q: In your book, *His Darkest Hunger*, you delve into the world of shapeshifters, vampires, and black magick. What inspired you to write about this?

Juliana: I've always loved the idea of sleek, sexy shifters, so when I was deciding on what kind of shapeshifter to feature, black jaguars were my number one choice.

Q: When world-building, did you base your story off of known myths throughout history?

Juliana: I knew I wanted to write about jaguars, and while researching them came across the Jaguar Warriors and Eagle Warriors from the Aztec culture. They were fierce



Rock star turned author Juliana Stone first experienced the paranormal at a young age, when she was visited by a ghost.

and became the basis for the world I created.

Q: What myths or legends inspired you?

Juliana: I don't think any one in particular, but I certainly loved the idea that the jaguar warriors were linked to the dark underworld.

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

Juliana: I think we love to escape. No, I think we need to escape. I think that most adults are overworked and overstimulated, and the world we live in can easily leave us weary.

Books, music, and movies help us to escape, and the paranormal world takes us anywhere and everywhere, with dangerous heroes and strong heroines. These kinds of stories challenge our imaginations in a way a contemporary doesn't. It's also very rock and roll!

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

Juliana: I love *True Blood*, *Supernatural*, and *The Vampire Diaries*. I also love all the *Resident Evil* movies! As for books, there are way too many to name, although Christine Feehan is a fave!

Q: Do you believe in the supernatural? Or are you a skeptic?

Juliana: Nope, totally believe. Saw a ghost when I was a teenager.

“When I was about 12, I was visited in my room by a very old lady.”

Q: Tell us about that paranormal experience.

Juliana: When I was about 12, I was visited in my room by a very old lady. A picture had fallen off the wall and woke me up, and there she was at the end of my bed. She was dressed very old fashioned and just stared at me.

It scared the crap out of me at the time. I remember I could see her feet as if she was floating off the floor. Months later, my father was knocking down walls to make a room larger (we lived in a century home), and in the walls were pictures, photos of young children, and old fashioned cars . . . and guess who was in them?

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

Juliana: I would love to meet a shifter, any kind will do.

Q: If given the chance, would you become a shifter?

Juliana: I think it would be amazing to have such strong magick that you

could actually change your physical body into something dark, sexy, and strong!

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

Juliana: I'd probably say, “Holy f—k,” and hope like Hell it was a friendly!

Q: What does the future hold for your jaguars?

Juliana: *The Jaguar Warriors* is my

first series for Avon, and it revolves around three sexy brothers. I'm very excited to tell all of their stories. There will be the whole end of the world thing for them to deal with, but hey, they've all got strong women in their corners ready to deal.

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

Juliana: I went to a psychic once. She told me I'd outlive three husbands! LOL! I never did tell my husband that particular piece of info.

Q: Have you ever been abducted by aliens?

Juliana: Um, that would be a big NO, at least not that I remember. Although, there is that strange mark on my . . . ■

* * * * *

Thanks for joining us Juliana!

You can learn more about Juliana and her books at her Website, www.julianastone.com.



Juliana Stone's newest release, *His Darkest Hunger*, delves into the world of shapeshifters, vampires, and black magick.

HIS DARKEST HUNGER REVIEWS

“Fantastic, fresh world—impossible to put down.”

—#1 New York Times bestseller
Christine Feehan

“Interesting mythological lore, intense action, and attention to detail set this book apart.”

—Fresh Fiction

“Newcomer Stone wastes no time establishing her ability to tell an enthralling story. Passions run dark and deep in this tale. Stone introduces a world that holds plenty of treachery, ensuring lots of danger and heart-stopping adventure. Can't wait for the next installment.”

—Romantic Times BOOKclub

Moditronics T-700 Full-Spectrum HD Camera Review

By Andrew Selfridge, Oklahoma City Ghost Club

The full-spectrum camera is a recent newcomer to the realm of paranormal technology. Full-spectrum photography is still cutting its teeth in ghost-hunting applications, but this technology is proving very interesting.

First showcased on the TV show *Ghost Hunters International*, paranormal investigator Barry Fitzgerald's full-spectrum camera caught a lot of attention both from ghost-tech

geeks such as myself, as well as others who wished to experiment with this new type of photography.

What Is Full-Spectrum Photography?

Full-spectrum photography essentially uses the maximum thresholds of a camera's CCD or CMOS sensor to show a visual image not only of the wavelengths of light that we can see with our naked eye, but

portions of the UV and near IR spectrums as well. One benefit of this technology is that if paranormal anomalies are present above or below the wavelengths of human vision, this type of photography, in theory, would allow the researcher to see such anomalies.

The term full spectrum assumes the inclusion of visible, near infrared, and ultraviolet light wavelengths. One problem to an all-in-one device such as a full-spectrum camera is that if an anomaly is present, we do not know for certain what wavelength or light spectrum that the anomaly resides in. By design, the anomaly could be present in upper UV, visible, or near IR. Logically it would seem like it would be a better solution to have separate cameras devoted to single spectrum wavelengths for pinning down any anomalous photographs.

The cost factor for dedicated spectrum cameras becomes an issue. Investigators and researchers in the real world hope to maximize their return versus investment when it comes to items in their paranormal tool box. With that consideration in mind, Moditronics, a company out of St. Augustine, Florida, released two models of high-definition video cameras making this technology available to the ghost hunting masses.



Full-spectrum photography essentially uses the maximum thresholds of a camera's CCD or CMOS sensor to show a visual image not only of the wavelengths of light that we can see with our naked eye, but portions of the UV and near IR spectrums as well.



Moditronics' full-spectrum T-700 HD camera boasts some pretty decent features considering its price. Controls are placed in the location of the operator's thumb for easy operation of the camera's functions.

The Hardware . . .

Moditronics doesn't actually manufacture the cameras that they sell; rather they modify them for use in paranormal research applications. Their introduction of the T-700 HD camera — manufactured by Silicon Valley Peripherals (SVP) — is the second-generation platform for both their full-spectrum and DeepIR conversions. I am, of course, reviewing the full-spectrum version of this camera.

The term full spectrum is a bit of a misnomer here, as according to the filter specifications posted on their site, most all visible light is filtered out on this camera. This is a good thing, but perhaps the term “dual spectrum” would be more applicable here.

According to the specifications of the filter that they use in the full-spectrum conversion, there are two major

sensitivity spikes. The spike in the “UV/a” spectrum appears to be about 85% in the 300-320nm range with a secondary sensitivity spike of approximately 60% from roughly 710-730nm range (near infrared). It is the inherent IR and UV/a sensitivity of the T-700 that makes this camera such a good candidate for dual-spectrum filtering.

The camera itself boasts some pretty decent features considering its price. The camera has multiple recording modes, most notably 1080p HD recording (30 frames-per-second). Other recording modes include 720p HD recording (30 fps), WVGA and (848X480, 60fps), and QVGA (320x240). The camera can also take still photos, complete with strobe flash. The camera's still specifications are 3 megapixel, 5 megapixel, 8 megapixel, and 12 megapixel (it appears that the

12mp selection is a product of software interpolation and not true CCD performance, a factor worth considering).

The camera specifies a 3x digital zoom and comes with a fixed-focus F-2.8 enclosed lens. The camera comes with all necessary cabling, including an HDMI cable for direct connect to an HD capable television or monitor.

The T-700 uses SD or SDHC cards for memory and can address up to a 32gb card. Packaging claims 10 hours of 1080p HD recording on a single 32gb card. The form factor of this camera is a small, lightweight camera with a surprisingly vivid and large side-screen display.

Controls are placed in the location of the operator's thumb for easy operation of the camera's functions. A hidden access port on the front

Equipment Update



The camera had a decently solid feel to it, unlike other cameras of a similar price class. The fit and finish isn't exactly space shuttle quality, but it is surprisingly solid for its price point. The menu system was simple and intuitive, although sometimes it seemed a little clunky.



Every piece of equipment has a "sweet spot," and the Moditronics T-700 is no different. This camera really excels while shooting 1080p daytime video. The clarity is amazing.

of the handle has the AV out and HDMI out plugs. This camera uses a 3.7-volt Lion battery, which boasts much longer life than previous SVP versions that utilized AA batteries.

While battery life may be extended, I fear sourcing replacement batteries may be problematic. The battery appears similar to a common cell phone variety, which will have a limited life cycle. The battery system recharges via a standard mini-USB plug, and these cables are readily available should they be lost.

First Uses . . .

I have been following the Moditronics line of cameras for a little while now and was excited to finally get my hands on one. The many HD videos posted on YouTube only fueled my desire to experiment with this type of camera. My first impression was that the camera had a decently solid feel to it, unlike other cameras of a similar price class.

The fit and finish isn't exactly space shuttle quality, but it is surprisingly solid for its price point. The menu system was simple and intuitive, although sometimes it seemed a little clunky. In still picture mode, I noticed that the strobe flash was pretty weak. It would likely suffice with a decent quality slave flash. An annoying aspect of the flash is after about two pictures, it takes about 3-4 seconds to charge before another picture can be captured. The flash is functional, and when you bear in mind its limitations, it can also be fairly useful.

With regards to battery life, it often outlasts my memory card, usually going strong for about an hour or more. (Your mileage may vary.)

Optical Performance . . .

When I first turned the camera on, something caught my eye (not in a good way). In the middle of the screen was a dark "fish-eye" spot.

At first I thought it might be something on the lens, so I checked and cleaned the lens area. I checked again, and it was still there. I have seen this same type of blemish on several YouTube videos of people showcasing Moditronics cameras.

Since I knew the lens was clean, and I was confident that the CCD was free of contaminants, I believe that this is a natural irregularity of the filter manufacture process. It may or may not show up on other cameras, just seems to be the luck of the draw. Honestly, it isn't that noticeable, as such I had to point it out to my wife who couldn't see what I was talking about. It is a minor annoyance, that is all.

One concern that I had was that the 60% spike in light transmission in the near IR spectrum wouldn't provide for the same stunning IR photos from a dedicated IR camera. I am pleased to say that I had no reason to worry. The IR attributes and sensitivity of this camera combine for stunning photos and video. To test the UV/a capabilities of this camera, I replicated a Moditronics benchmark test by taking a photo of higher denomination currency. The UV watermarks were clearly evident, showcasing this camera's sensitivity to UV wavelengths.

I should at this point mention that this is not in any way a "0 lux" or "Niteshot" camera. Taking into account that the visible portion of the light spectrum has been filtered out, you will need a strong light source if you plan to shoot at night. Indoors, I have found that standard house/office lighting will provide sufficient light to take photos or video.

If you must "go dark," I would suggest a decently powered IR floodlight. If you plan to shoot HD video in low-light conditions, prepare for a little bit of grain in the picture. This roughly equates to the grain present in Niteshot cameras, so it is nothing to be concerned about.



If you plan to shoot HD video in low-light conditions, prepare for a little bit of grain in the picture. This roughly equates to the grain present in Niteshot cameras, so it is nothing to be concerned about.

Every piece of equipment has a "sweet spot," and the Moditronics T-700 is no different. This camera really excels while shooting 1080p daytime video. The clarity is amazing. Another factor to keep in mind while operating this camera in HD record modes is that it does not have any digital stabilization system. If you plan to move around a lot, it probably would not be a bad idea to get a monopod.

The T-700 has a standard tripod mount, but the angle of the lens is slightly different from the true vertical axis, so bear that in mind if you also plan to mount an illumination source on the same tripod. You may have to adjust the angles to make sure that your whole picture is illuminated.

Bottom Line . . .

I am pleased with this little powerhouse. This camera matches the performance of cameras costing twice as much, and the HD video is

amazing. The camera performs as advertised with regard to its "full-spectrum" capability. This product opens up an exciting new area of research experimentation, and even more exciting is that it is readily available to the average consumer.

While it is too early to tell the impact of full-spectrum photography/video on paranormal research, the more people that experiment with it, the more comparative data we will have. At under \$200, it is an easy way to experiment with this type of photography without dropping a lot more on a modified DSLR rig.

The T-700 has its limitations, but if the user is aware of them, they can generally work around them. Despite some minor annoyances, the camera's "cool" factor takes over and you just cannot help having fun with it. Those same minor annoyances won't be enough to dissuade me from purchasing the DeepIR version of this camera as well. ■

Kim Raymond Kowalczyk

(GhostBreakers)

About Kim

Age: 56.

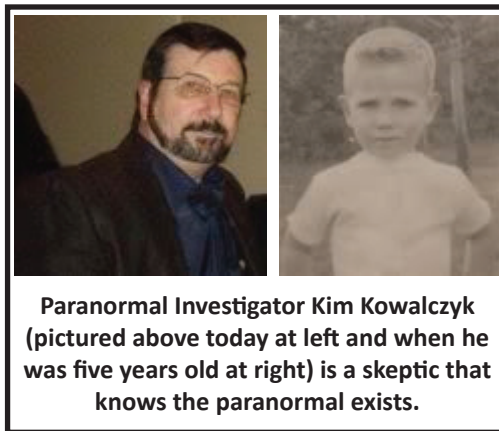
Born/Currently Resides: NYC/New Jersey.

Status: Married.

Education: Went to military school as a kid and college. The rest is career type education.

Zodiac Sign: Scorpio.

Occupation: Retired detective.



Paranormal Investigator Kim Kowalczyk (pictured above today at left and when he was five years old at right) is a skeptic that knows the paranormal exists.

Q&A

What brought you to Paranormal Underground?

Kim: Looking for a place to hang my hat so to speak. Tired of so many sites where everyone thought they were right and not open to discuss or debate issues in a mature manner.

What does your member name mean?

Kim: The name is about a hundred years old, but for me comes from my grandmother's little group, which she got from a 1913 play that was made into a book in 1915. Since then it has been used for comics and movies, etc. I just took the two words and joined them to make mine. The meaning for me is the breaking from the traditional and common beliefs and taking my own path in the search for what I want.

How would you describe yourself?

Kim: Very easy going but with little tolerance for jerks. Not confrontational. If someone rubs me the wrong way, I just ignore them as being insignificant. It bugs them more than arguing.

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

Kim: Most of my immediate family is gone now. I have two grown sons who are members of GhostBreakers. I also have two younger children now. My family originated in the Soviet Union, and I am only the second generation American. All the male members in my family have served in the armed forces since WWI.

What I like to do? I guess if you mean hobby, it would have to be investigating cold murder cases. I know, weird.

Who are your heroes?

Kim: My heroes are normal people who take all that life throws at them without complaint, and then carry on without whining. The people who can turn the other cheek, resist temptations. Genuinely good people. I have had a lifetime of the others.

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

Kim: I like lighthearted comedies, *HOUSE*, *American Paranormal*, and probably *Destination Truth* — not that it is any better or they have the answers, but Josh's approach makes it a good show. He leaves it up to the viewer to decide and doesn't force beliefs or possibilities on the viewer.

I like *KING* and would love to take him on a real investigation. Not because he knows anything about ghost hunting but because of how his mind works. Movies would be all the old horror movies. I mean old like the old Hammer films and before. The worse the acting the better.

Favorite music?

Kim: Old time rock and roll. Beatles, Stones, and Queen are my all-time favorites, but I have to say Lady Gaga is creeping into my favorites. Yes, I am a Little Monster.

Any other favorites?

Kim: Treasure hunting, collecting anything over 100 years old. Disney World.

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

Kim: Very disciplined.

What are your pet peeves?

Kim: Bad drivers. No, not bad drivers, they can't help it. The drivers that just don't care about any other person on the road. Messy people and liars.

Are you a skeptic or believer?

Kim: I am a skeptic that knows the paranormal exists. Maybe it's my background, but I question everything especially anything I find. The paranormal does exist. Now, whether it is real or in our minds is the question but it is there.

What areas of the paranormal interest you the most?

Kim: Actually, everything. I have an insatiable curiosity for the unexplained.

Have you ever studied the paranormal?

Kim: I have been studying the paranormal since 1976. Before that it was just a curiosity because of my grandmother and family. Maybe being from the Old Soviet Union and the old superstitions is what got her started. After my experience I began to study other peoples work. Raudive and Holzer were my favorites in the beginning.

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

Kim: Two of my stories have been published in the magazine, but the one that pushed me to actually study was a paranormal experience involving a family member that passed on. Not as exciting as the other stories, but being of a personal nature to me it piqued my curiosity as to the existence of the afterlife being a real possibility.



The Ghost Breakers, a 1940 comedy film directed by George Marshall and starring Bob Hope and Paulette Goddard, was inspired by a Paul Dickey and Charles W. Goddard play titled *The Ghost Breaker*.

What do you think happens to us when we die?

Kim: What happens to us is an individual thing. I believe if you don't believe then you just pass into oblivion. It is those who believe that hang around until they have figured out what they really want. When they realize what their heaven is. Then they move on.

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

Kim: Question everything! Knowledge truly is power. Whether you get answers or not, always seek the answers. Never let yourself get discouraged and never give up! The only real losers are the ones that quit.

Lastly, take in everything you learn. Read all the books and watch all the paranormal shows. Then put it all to the back of your mind for reference. Take it all as advice, but never follow anyone because it limits you to their way of thinking, and you

will never attain your goals. You will attain theirs!

Any exciting plans for the future?

Kim: Each and every day affords something exciting for me. Whether or not I choose it is another matter. I guess the foremost thing right now would be to see my idea of a gathering of people interested in the paranormal en masse.

You always hear how everyone wants to be an individual in this field. I think meeting people personally on a casual level might help in bringing people in the field together. I am also hoping that some celebrities will go unannounced to see and meet real people instead of the autograph hounds and the like. Kind of giving back to all those who buy their books, watch their shows, etc.

I think it would be nice for people to be just walking around Gettysburg and see a celebrity walking down the street or in a pub, etc. Maybe that is just wishful thinking. ■

SURROGATES

SCREENPLAY WRITTEN BY MICHAEL FERRIS AND JOHN D. BRANCATO
 MOVIE DIRECTED BY JONATHAN MOSTOW

REVIEW BY KAREN FRAZIER

Welcome to the future, and what a bright future it is. After all, human beings no longer need to leave the house — or even their bedrooms. Instead, humanity stays indoors controlling their surrogates — better looking robot versions of themselves — with their minds.

Because of the use of surrogates, the world is a safer place. Violent crime has dropped significantly, and the world is full of dazzlingly attractive (if slightly plastic and creepy) people.

It is in this world that FBI agent Tome Greer (Bruce Willis) and his wife, Maggie (Rosamund Pike), play out their tragic lives. The death of their young son has left them both grieving, and Maggie no longer interacts with the world as herself. She refuses to even allow her husband to see her in the flesh.

While most of humanity is onboard with the use of surrogates, there remains a small group of rebels who are violently opposed. The rebels are led by The Prophet (Ving Rhames), who has negotiated treaties between the “meat bags” and the surrogates. Now the rebels live on what amounts to reservations where surrogates are not allowed to visit.

The utopian, low-crime world of surrogates is suddenly shattered when a man and a woman are killed with a sophisticated weapon that somehow manages to kill the surrogate’s controllers through the surrogate. Greer’s investigation and the subsequent



The movie *Surrogates*, starring Bruce Willis, provides audiences with entertaining actions sequences sprinkled with social commentary.

destruction of his surrogate leads him out into the world of the meat bags for the first time in years as he attempts to solve the murders.

At its surface, *Surrogates* is just another robot cop movie providing a look at a possible future of mankind. What lends it gravitas, however, is how eerily it mirrors what is happening in our world today. Already, human relationships are often defined and carried out entirely behind computer screens as we interact with the world via the Internet and MMORPGs like *World of Warcraft*. The movie takes much of what is happening now to the next level.

What could have been just another bland whodunit actually be-

comes interesting social commentary. While the connections we make behind the computer screen seem safe and easy, what is it that we are missing out on when we insist on spending so much of our time interacting with the world through electronics rather than getting out and experiencing it with flesh and bone?

If you didn’t see *Surrogates* during its September 2009 theatrical release, it is well worth your time to watch on DVD. Along with entertaining action sequences, good performances, and a whodunit that keeps you guessing, *Surrogates* puts our current choices under a microscope and shows us where we could wind up if we keep going along as we have. ■

ZOMBIELAND

BOOK WRITTEN BY T RHETT REESE AND PAUL WERNICK
MOVIE DIRECTED BY RUBEN FLEISCHER

REVIEW BY RICHARD LOMBARDI

Zombieland is directed by Ruben Fleischer, who also directed *Gumball 3000: 6 Days in May* and *Between Two Ferns with Zach Galifianakis*. Released on October 2, 2009, the movie is rated R for bloody violence and strong language.

Zombieland is a documentary-style comedy/drama (more comedy than drama), starring Woody Harrelson as Tallahassee — a gun-crazed man in search of a Twinkie; Jesse Eisenberg as Columbus — the narrator of the story and an ex-college student with a set of rules that helps him survive Zombieland; Emma Stone as Wichita and Abigail Breslin as Little Rock — two con artists doing what they can to survive.



Zombieland stars Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg, Emma Stone, and Abigail Breslin.

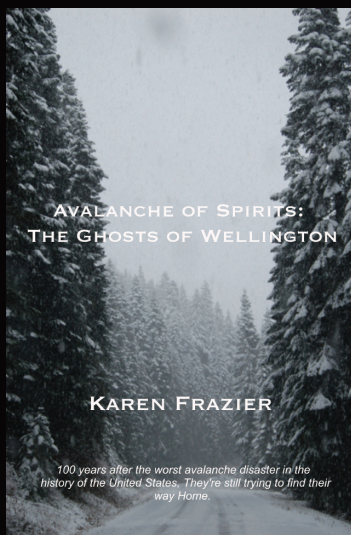
Also, we are treated to a cameo by the great Bill Murray, which you will not soon forget. *Zombieland* is a hilarious departure from your standard zombie movie. It is centered around the characters' daily lives in a world gone zombie, supposedly from a Mad Cow-like disease.

The acting from all of the cast was tremendous, and the cinematography was spectacular. This movie is a complex story, and ultimately a story of friendship sprinkled with comedy, drama, and plenty of action. The movie is 88 minutes long.

Overall, I would recommend that you buy this one if you love zombie movies, as it is well worth the \$20 to buy it. ■

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