



The Paranormal Press

The Official Newsletter of the Northwest Indiana Ghost Trackers

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Newsletter Creator
and Creatrix

Chris & Jennifer
Mojica

NEWS/UPDATES

IGT welcomes **Michelle Walavich** as our new Treasurer!! Thank for all of your hardwork!

We also welcome **Len Walavich** as our chapter's webpage designer...& helper to his wife, Michelle!! Thank Len!

We have permanent digs for our monthly meetings now: the even months are at Langel's Pizza in Highland and the

odd months are at the Valpo Elks.

Meetings are the first Saturday of the month (except for holidays or other events). November's meeting is the 12th due to the IGT banquet on the 5th.

Elections for all positions will be held in December—this is statewide. Submit your name (or nominate your favorite person). Mike cannot be our director any longer; we need candidates.

IGT's new gameplan is to become a Midwest organization...with Indiana as a chapter. Let's meet this goal, Ghost Trackers!!

We need new places for our monthly hunts. See Mike for the planning/scheduling process.

IGT is looking for individuals who are interested in the paranormal and have a spirit of cooperation and volunteerism. We can be most successful when our members share responsibilities.

LOCAL HAUNTS

A theme for this month's newsletter is cemeteries. *The Library* (page 2) includes information on gravestone symbolism. So we decided to provide an abbreviated list of Lake County's cemeteries (which we obtained from

www.rootsweb.com/~inlake/cemetery).

These are not necessarily known to be haunted, but they may be places that simply have yet to be hunted/investigated by the Indiana Ghost Trackers!!!

-Old Settlers Cemetery, Hobart

-Cedar Creek Cemetery, Lowell

-Crown Hill Cemetery, Hobart

-Goff Family Cemetery, Crown Point

-Hack Family Cemetery, St. John



-Hessville/Paupers, Hammond

-Hobart City Cemetery, Hobart

-Lake County Paupers, Hammond

-Lake Prairie Cemetery, Lowell

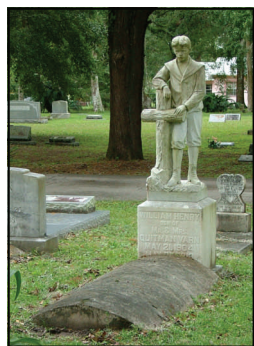
-Meyer/Mound Cemetery, Cedar Lake

-Resurrection Cemetery, Hammond

-Schubert Family Cemetery, Cedar Lake

-Waldheim German Cemetery, Gary

Those that are listed as "Pauper" cemeteries could prove very interesting. Are the unclaimed and unnamed deceased still lingering...patiently awaiting a family member to find them and give them a more proper burial????!! You be the judge....



Cemetery Symbolism

{Reprinted from an article by Pamela Reid, USGW Tombstone Project, USGenWeb}

Family research is one hobby that has the power to provoke the need to know more about our ancestors and their lives. But why has it become almost an obsession? Perhaps because this is our chance to truly become detectives. We are searching for the secrets and passions of our ancestors, and perhaps we are even learning more about ourselves in the process.

The research involved in genealogy eventually leads to cemetery visits and tombstone reading. What was once considered a morbid pastime has become a normal part of the investigative process for the family history researcher.

Cemeteries can tell us much about our ancestors. Information can be gleaned from the words carved on headstones. We can learn a great deal concerning family relationships from the placement of a grave within the cemetery itself.

As more and more researchers venture into cemeteries to seek out ancestral graves, questions arise about the meanings of the artwork and symbols found on the tombstones. The researcher wants to know what a symbol might mean and if the meaning might provide more clues about this ancestor and his/her life, ideals, associations, etc. Can reading and understanding these symbols help us gauge and unravel some quintessential element of this ancestor's life?

Understanding the Symbols

The task of interpreting the symbols on a tombstone is a daunting one. Though most symbols engraved on a stone have a textbook meaning, it is possible that the particular item you find engraved is there simply because someone liked the look of it. Therefore, it will have no meaning beyond the taste of the deceased or the preferences of those who choose the stone's appearance. The point is, many people who choose grave motifs have no idea that the ornamentation they select has meaning. What they do know is that they like the design and feel it is just somehow right. Also, the ideas of the person designing the monument cannot be known to us, so the true representation may never be ascertained.

Symbols can express ethnic identity, religious affiliation, association membership or simply the predilection of the time or community. A symbol that was commonly used in one area might mean something completely different in another area. Therefore, it is important to understand the history of the area and of the time.

During your visit to the cemetery, you may or may not be able to interpret the meaning of symbols on gravestones. Either way, you will enjoy the inherent beauty and workmanship involved in carving these intricate designs. Cemetery engravings are art in the truest sense of the word. The stonecutter was an artist and some of the sculptures you'll find in cemeteries are as beautiful as art found in the finest museums.

The article continues with Ms. Reid categorizing symbols under: *mortality, religion, plants, trees, hands, animals, resurrection/eternal life/immortality and trade & occupation.*

Final Note from *The Paranormal Press* staff: Please check out <http://usgenweb.org/projects/> for more information on this worthy endeavor. As Indiana Ghost Trackers, we should constantly seek new information on ways to interpret data, as well as pursue community-based projects that protect historical structures.



This year will be remembered as the year that horror fans, young and old alike, were given the greatest gift since free candy on Halloween. This month marks the initial launch of the highly anticipated **The Horror Channel!** That's right! What could be better than blood-squirting, limb-dangling, axe-slinging action 24/7. It's the gift that keeps on giving!

The first American cable network devoted totally to the horror genre debuted October 31. Not all the details

CREATURE FEATURE

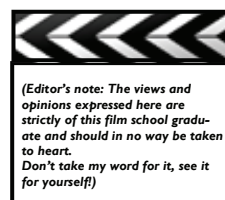
have been ironed out as the programming will be limited due to contracts, copyrights and trademark legality, not to mention the high costs of starting up an independent network. In fact, what's really scary is that **The Horror Channel** won't even air 24/7 to begin with, but is expected to eventually.

The process of bringing **The Horror Channel** from conception to reality has not been an easy task for the creators. First, **The Horror Channel** was scheduled to launch October 1st, but was pushed back due to multiple problems. Second, a couple

of original partners in the project left early on to start their own horror channels. **Horror Network** and **Fangoria TV** are also scheduled to debut soon after **The Horror Channel**. Three horror channels! The only thing that could top this would be two Halloweens a year!

CEO Nick Psalto and COO John Giunti hesitate divulging too much information on the programming; however, they have indicated that original short films, coverage of award shows and conventions and original programming are currently scheduled for air.

So, call your local cable provider and ask them to drop the **ESPN Shuffle Board Network** and replace it with all that's good in the world....**The Horror Channel**.



IGTU

Today's Topic: The Warrens

Every once in awhile individuals stand out from the rest and excel in a specific field. Their work creates a standard that most try to emulate and others try to debunk.

Ed and Lorraine Warren are those individuals. Their work in paranormal investigations has made them the foremost experts in psychic research. They have worked in some of the most interesting investigations in history, with the most famous being Amityville.

Since a young boy, Ed has been intrigued with the paranormal. Growing up in the rough side of Bridgeport, Connecticut, his family lived in a haunted house where he often would be confronted by a spirit. Lorraine's special gifts have been docu-

mented at UCLA. She is a clairvoyant, who uses her sixth sense to hear, feel and sense. She is also able to "see" an individual's Aura. Together they make an effective investigative team. Lorraine uses her abilities to decipher what type of spirit they are confronting and where most of the activity is occurring. Ed then uses this information to determine what course of action should be taken. They document all paranormal activity in every case. If the spirit turns out to be demonic and the church needs to be brought in, they have the evidence to back up any and all claims. Ed Warren works closely with the exorcist and lends a hand wherever one is needed. He has been attacked by evil spirits more times than he likes to remember. And if you think that the Warrens are in this for the money, you're wrong! The Warrens don't get paid for their services; housing and transportation is all they request from families.

The Warrens still conduct investigations, albeit very few due to their age, and hold

limited lectures that cover some of their investigations. Pictures, video and recordings are some of the never before published material that are presented to the audience. The Warrens also hold the largest collection of paranormal artifacts in their "Occult Museum". The contents of which will be donated to a British University in the future. Among the many artifacts are: possessed dolls, a pearl necklace that will choke its wearer and a mirror that was used to conjure demonic spirits. Why don't the Warrens destroy these items? The destruction of these artifacts could bring harm to the past owners as a kind of revenge for this act. It is also possible that the exorcised spirit may be released back to where it was originally cast out.

To read more about the Warrens, log onto their website at www.warrens.net. Here you will find information on the lectures, their published books and their annual Halloween Dinner.

GRAVESITES

www.ladyhawkstreasures.com

Shop wicca, goth, pagan and new age items

www.holidays.net/thanksgiving

Tips, games, recipes for Turkey Day

www.ancestry.com/learn/library

Genealogy-related site with articles, magazines

www.interment.net

National and international cemetery listings



WHAT'S ON SLAB

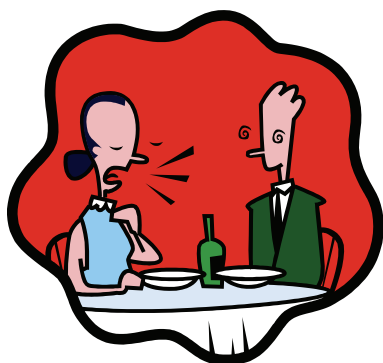
NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 IGT Banquet
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Meeting Valpo Elks
13	14	15	16 Full Moon	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Happy Turkey Day	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Notes:

This month's meeting begins at 2:30. As always, a hunt will follow. Please dress for the weather and bring your ghosthunting gear, photos, EVP & stories from last month's hunt and nominations for officers!!

TOPICS FOR DISSECTION



☞ Let's discuss the 2005 Halloween bash...did you attend?? Did you have a blast?? (Keep in mind suggestions for next year, so we can be even more successful and have an even scarier time!!)

☞ Anyone have a paranormal encounter/experience over the haunted season?

☞ Suggestions for group activities during the colder months (i.e. movie nite, pizza party, cemetery restoration training, etc.)

Quote of the Month

"People only see what they are prepared to see."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Eerie Facts

In some cases, under the right conditions, a deceased individual may be transformed into a "soap mummy" through a decomposition process called adipocere.

OFFICERS

Northwest

Interim Director
Mike McDowell

Secretary
Jen Jacob

Treasurer
Michelle Walavich

Public Relations
Denise Williams

SPOOKTACULAR!

If you missed the IGT 5th Annual Halloween Bash, you missed a great time! It was a good turn out with a lot of fantastic costumes.

Congratulations!

To Chris, aka "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde", Northwest's very own, who walked away the winner of the Scariest Costume contest. Nice work, Chris! Oh yeah, and to the idiot who has dressed as Edward Scissorhands two years in a row and has won Best Costume both times!!

(Geez, I hate it when that happens!)

Let's start a fund for him so that he can buy a new costume for next year.

EULOGY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

IGTKudos

A very special thank you to all who gave of their time and volunteered for the Ghost Tours as well as the Halloween party.

It's individuals like you guys that make an organization a success.

You guys are fantastic!!
THANK YOU.

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ELECTIONS

December is election time. All positions are open and all members are eligible to run for office. If you think you can help contribute to our organization, please notify Mike McDowell of your desire to run for office.

Only serious nominations will be accepted! Elvis is not eligible, nor is Dr. Evil!!

Ghost Wear

T-Shirts, polo shirts, denim shirts, sweat-shirts and lanyards are still available to purchase. Quantities are limited!

Ghosthunting 101

Basic Ghosthunting classes are taught by Paul Benninghoff every couple of months. If you are a new member, please contact Paul for the next class. You MUST complete this course to be eligible for investigations!!!

Let's See 'Em!

If you have some good pictures of the Ghost Tours and/or the Halloween Party, send them in and we'll try to get them in the next newsletter!

Annual Dues

Dues can be paid in three different ways: mail, in person or online with PayPal. Our website will provide all the necessary information to help you through the process.

Simply select "Membership" from the homepage to begin.

E-mail submissions for *The Paranormal Press* to: paranormalpress@hotmail.com