

The Paranormal Press

The Official Newsletter of the Northwest Indiana Ghost Trackers

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Newsletter
Publishers and
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NEWS/UPDATES

Indiana Ghost Trackers hosts its 5th Annual **Ghost Tours**. Choose from several dates throughout October. All tours are \$20 and seating is limited! Details on the website.

Team leaders are needed for Division I—Research, Indiana Lore and Public Relations positions also open. Talk with Mike McDowell if interested.

Volunteers needed for Ghost Tours. You can dress up!!!

The American Ghost Society's Annual Haunted Fall Festival in Alton, Illinois. October 1st. Check out all the details at: www.prairieghosts.com/festival

Mary Shea is the new treasurer for Division I. Good luck, Mary!

IGT lanyards are still available for only \$4

Please support your IGT!

Talks at Crown Point library, local bookstores, schools and special interest groups in October—Volunteers needed—You won't have to do this solo!!!

Troy Taylor is scheduled to speak at our 2006 Conference!!!

For your convenience and also for cost effectiveness, the IGT handbooks will soon be available on CD. See Mike McDowell for the CD release date.

LAKE COUNTY'S FALL EVENTS

With the first day of Fall arriving later this month, we want to share some of the *bounty* Lake County has to offer:

Night Hike (Stoney Run County Park) - Sept. 19 @ 7PM—Call 844-3188 to reserve your spot.

Buckley Homestead Corn Maze - weekends August 27-October 30. \$4-\$5/ person with weekday group reservations available.

Legend of Sleepy Hollow (Buckley Homestead) - September 22-24—Advance ticket purchase required (\$5). Call 755-

3685 or 945-0543.

****This is one of our personal must-experience recommendations****

Hayrides at Deep River County Park and Buckley Homestead weekends thru October 30. Group rides also available.

Norm's Pumpkin Patch (Lowell)- Pumpkin picking, haunted hayrides & bonfires 9/27-11/1 (normspumpkinpatch.com)

County Line Orchard (Hobart)- Apples, pumpkins, cider, the best donuts

around—August 27 thru Oct. 31

(countylineorchard.com)

Get details (like times, prices & directions) for most of these activities at www.lakecountyparks.org under the "Special Events" tab.



Hannah House

Indianapolis



History: In 1858, Alexander Hannah started building his family home on 240 acres of land located on the south side of Indianapolis. The house was designed by Hannah in an Italianate style. In 1872, Hannah married Elizabeth and added a service building to the southeast of the kitchen wing. The service building contained a smoke house, wash house, milk cooling room, and servant's quarters.

Alexander and Elizabeth were staunch abolitionists and they had a secret room in the basement where they hid slaves who were making their way to Canada. The doors to the basement were kept locked to prevent the slaves from being discovered. Over the years several slaves died in the basement, some from a fire and others from various illnesses. The slaves were buried under the dirty floor of the basement to prevent detection. In later years, cement was poured over the graves of the slaves that were buried under the basement.

When the heirless Alexander Hannah died in 1895, the farm was subdivided and sold. Roman Oehler, a Civil War veteran and jeweler, bought the house and 21 acres of surrounding property, in 1899. During the time that Oehler owned the house, the front porch was replaced with a larger concrete one. Roman passed the house to his daughter and her family, who lived in the house until 1962.

The house was restored from 1981-1999 and is now opened as a reception hall.

Hauntings: The most common reports from Hannah House are the smell of rotting flesh from the second floor and burning flesh from the basement. The smell from the second floor bedroom is believed to be from Elizabeth's stillborn baby and the smell from the basement is associated with the fire that killed numerous slaves.

Ghostly appearances include the ghost of Alexander standing near the stairway arch, the ghost of an unidentified woman standing near a window on the second floor and the ghosts of numerous slaves in the basement. In addition to the apparitions, there are numerous cold spots that seem to move throughout the house.

Location: 3801 South Madison Street, Indianapolis

Directions: Take I-465 South to East Street (Exit 2A). Turn right at the third stop light and go back one block.

CREATURE FEATURE

THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE: THE UNTOLD STORY

On September 9th, *The Exorcism of Emily Rose* will be released in theatres nation wide. What looks like a rip-off of *The Exorcist* is actually based on true events.

Germany, 1968 One year before William Blatty began writing *The Exorcist*, a student at the University of Wurzburg by the name of Anneliese Michel began experiencing uncontrollable shaking of the body and was diagnosed with a violent condition of epilepsy. Soon after being medicated, Anneliese started seeing demonic visions and hearing “evil” voices. Doctors labeled Anneliese with a mental disorder and suggested her family place her in a psychiatric hospital. However, her family believed that her physical and emotional attacks were not the result of mental illness. With no progress in sight nor any relief through medications, her condition worsened, convincing her parents to seek an alternative solution to their daughter’s problem.

In 1973 her family’s request for an exorcism was denied by the church, due to lack of evidence that she was actually under demonic influence. In order for church authorities to grant the *Rituale Romanum* there must be 100% proof that a soul is being tormented by demonic forces. All natural explanations must be eliminated as well as all supernatural acts proven with undisputed evidence. The evidence that the church needed to prove her demonic possession were speaking in tongues or a language that was not known beforehand; inhuman strength; knowledge of future events; levitation of individual or objects.

A pastor by the name of Ernest Alt agreed to document the girl’s “possession” in order to obtain the exorcism. During this time Anneliese’s actions became even more frightening: attacking family members, mutilating her body and refusing to

eat, citing that the demons would not allow it. It was documented that demons entered her body in 1973 and in 1975 devils had also taken possession of her as well.

In 1975 her case finally met the strict criteria for an exorcism and one was granted by the Bishop of Wurzburg. In 1976 the Roman ritual began, given by Father Arnold Renz, the exorcist assigned to the case, and assisted by Pastor Alt. The ritual was given once or twice a week and were met with supernatural resistance. Although the possession subsided for a time, it did not stop. Emerging with a devastating surge, the attacks would continue for months at an intense level. Her knees ruptured due to the uncontrollable genuflection (the act of kneeling religiously) she would excessively perform during the exorcisms; while still refusing any nutrition. It was believed that the demons were in fact expelled from the body but the devils, being of higher hierarchy, held on to her till the end. Coincidentally, within 6 months, the ritual was read a total of 66 times before she would succumb to the evil forces.

At the age of 22, Anneliese died of starvation and dehydration on July 1, 1976. She had gone six months without food or water. Authorities claim her death could have been prevented with proper care. Her parents and two clergymen were accused of negligent homicide. Psychiatrists contested that the priests were the actual cause of her psychotic behavior by initiating the idea of demonic possession. They further claimed that the only power behind her attacks was the power of suggestion. Over 40

hours of recordings documenting the events would not prove to support the claim of demonic possession in court and all four were found guilty of manslaughter due to negligence and sentenced to six months in jail and probation.

No definite reason was ever discovered for why she came under possession. At the time church officials suggested she was merely a “soul victim” and that the demons did it purely out of spite for God; almost as a challenge to the almighty. Her last words to the



exorcists were “Beg for absolution” and to her mother, “Mother, I’m afraid.”

To this day, all witnesses involved believe, without a doubt, that she was tormented by demons and that the exorcism performed was to prevent her death, not cause it. Unfortunately, the demonic forces were too much for her to bare physically, emotionally and mentally and destroyed her.

In the past mental illness was thought to be a form of possession; today possession tends to be diagnosed as mental illness. The question stands, was Anneliese a victim of inhuman influence or was she just a very sick young woman who needed more therapy and constant observation?

CREATURE FEATURE

The WB continues their dark tradition of supernatural programming with a new series this fall called, how appropriately, **"Supernatural"**. Coinciding with other successful WB fantasy character dramas like "Buffy The Vampire Slayer", "Smallville" and "Charmed". **"Supernatural"** goes one step further into the dark side (the "other" dark side) and deals more with the paranormal than any other recent WB program.

With the growing success of fantasy, sci-fi and the unex-

plained genre programming on cable, the network stations are finding themselves trying their hands at alternative storytelling. NBC has Medium; FOX airs Tru Calling; CBS has Ghost Whisperer and ABC has another crappy reality show.

Filmmakers "McG" (Charlie's Angels), Eric Kripke(Boogeyman) and director David Nutter (X Files, ER) are the caretakers for this dark thrill ride.

Starring two fairly recent newcomers, **"Supernatural"** is the chronicle of two young brothers

traveling the country in their '69 Chevy Impala, the modern day "Mystery Machine" if you will. The Winchester brothers encounter ghosts, entities and urban legends on their journey to find their missing father and to confront the supernatural forces responsible for their mother's death some twenty years ago.

If this series is a success, we can be sure to see more supernatural programs as the other networks dust off the old bandwagon.



Movie, video and television reviews.

(Editor's note: The views and opinions expressed here are strictly of this film school graduate and should in no way be taken to heart. Don't take my word for it, see it for yourself!)

IGTU

Today's topic: Ghostlights

Throughout the centuries civilizations have described the presence of glowing balls of energy, not to be confused with orbs, that seem to hover through the air as though searching for the reason to their own existence. Depending on the area you are in, these lights are known as ghostlights, earthlights, spooklights or even will o' the wisps.(and we believe this is the same area that has dubbed liquor as hooch). Several cultures believe that the lights are spirits or ghosts lost between worlds, while

others believe that they are past ancestors returning to watch over the living.

Individuals who have encountered ghostlights describe an unusual sensation; one of a mystical or religious experience. However, like most paranormal activities, skeptics are quick to explain away these occurrences as a natural phenomena.

Ghostlights are common in areas where seismic activity occurs. Scientists believe the sensation felt during the encounter are from magnetic fields emitted from the earth, a theory called Tectonic Strain Theory.

Strain builds in the earth's crust and produces electromagnetic discharge and can manifest by becoming a visible, moving body of light. The trouble with this theory is that ghostlights don't always happen in seismic-active areas. Well, for these cases, other theories include: car headlights, aircraft, yard lights, swamp gas, even mirages.

One thing is known, however, there is no hard evidence supporting any theory of ghostlights natural or supernatural. The truth may be out there but we have yet to find it.

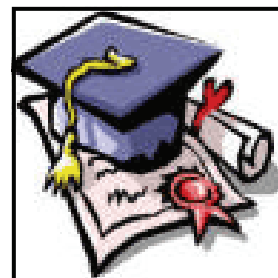


Photo courtesy of prairieghosts.com

GRAVESITES

www.ghostvillage.com

(articles on legends, personal encounters)

www.ra-chi.com

(UK paranormal research group)

www.americanghosts.com

(haunted locations)

www.universoul-llc.com

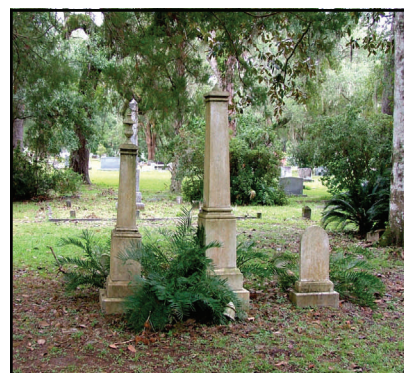
("the spa for your spirit")

www.lilydaleassembly.com

(NY Spiritualist community)

www.halloween-website.com

(history, recipes, party ideas)



WHAT'S ON SLAB

September 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	³ Div I
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 ****
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Div II
18 Full Moon	19 Night Hike	20	21	22 Autum- nal Equinox	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Notes:

****Saturday, 9/10—Annual Popcorn Fest in Valpo and Pagan Pride Day at the Lake County Fairgrounds****

Div I meeting at Valpo Elks at 2 — Div II meeting at Lowell Library at 2

Sept. 22-24 Sleepy Hollow at Buckley Homestead

Don't forget to check out the local orchards, pumpkin farms and county parks!!

TOPICS FOR DISSECTION

—How successful was our Lake County Fair booth?

—Suggestions for hunts? (Get with your Directors)

—Anyone been to Waverly Hospital/Sanatorium in Louisville, Kentucky??

Check out these books and give us your opinion....

The Complete Guide to Night and Low-Light Photography

by Lee Frost

Where the Ghosts Are: The Ultimate Guide to Haunted Houses

by Hans Holzer

Lily Dale: The True Story of the Town that Talks to the Dead

by Christine Wicker

To discuss any of these topics, log on to www.indianaghosts.org and click on "Forums." Let's hear your thoughts Ghost Trackers!

Quote of the Month

**"Good morning, Karl.
Oh, Karl, we got rats in
the attic; you better get
some traps."**

**-Chris MacNeil
("The Exorcist")**

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EULOGY

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!!!

IGT Kudos

A very special thank you to all who gave of their time and volunteered at the IGT booth for the Lake County Fair!!!!

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.

Future Hunts/Investigations

Some possible hunts or investigations came up at the Division I

August meeting:

*Moody Road

*old Valpo Jail

*Hoosier's Nest

Email us with your ideas!

Merrillville High Ghosts

Merrillville Adult Education will be offering two Paranormal classes this fall:

**Basic Ghost Hunting by IGT's own L. Thornton*

**Haunting Indiana with author Mark Marimen*

Register at 650-5310

**IT'S COMING!**

Like a silent stalker it takes its victims by surprise and leaves no time to prepare.

On September 1st 2005 it's only **61** days till HALLOWEEN!!

And don't forget: Saturday, October 29th, The IGT Halloween Party.

Don't fall victim; don't be one of the five Austin Powers of the night!

"Yeah, Baby, yeeeeeaaahh!"

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