



# The ghosts of Ohio® Newsletter

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## From the Spooky Desk of James Willis: Let's Get Personal



James

Those of you who know me well, or who have been reading this newsletter for any length of time, know that when it comes to ghosts, I am a big fan of personal experiences. For me, having that personal experience or encounter with a ghost is something that no reality show or book can replicate. That's why, with all the surge of ghost reality shows, I think it is so important for those of us who have a serious interest in ghosts to turn off the TV and go experience the paranormal on our own.

With that in mind, I am very excited to see that a large portion of this issue focuses on personal experiences. To begin with, this issue marks the premiere of a new segment: "My Personal Experience." Each issue, we will feature a story from readers, like yourself,

sharing their personal encounter with a ghost. And since this is the first time for this segment, we'd thought we would kick things off right and give you two stories instead of one! On top of that, this issue features the recap from our Spend the Night with The Ghosts of Ohio overnight at Mansfield Reformatory. And talk about personal experiences! You're not going to believe some of the things we encountered that hot August night.

So go ahead; turn down the lights, pull your chair up close to the computer monitor, and give yourself a few good chills reading about others' encounters with ghosts. And when you're done, shut off the computer and head outside to find some ghosts of your own!

Cheers,  
James A. Willis  
Founder/Director



The Ghosts of Ohio returned to Mansfield Reformatory! Full recap on Page 5.

## The Power of the Moon: Are You A Lunatic?



Samantha

The Moon. It's with us every single night, but how much do we really know about it? Science tells us that its orbit around our planet has an effect on animal migration and the Earth's tides. These things are hard facts that have been proven. On the other hand, folklore tells us that the Moon has the power (among countless other things) to affect crops, aid in women's fertility, predict death or recovery, give people the ability to see and hear spirits, and, of course, change a man into a werewolf. Wow! That sounds pretty crazy, right? I mean, you'd really have to be a *lunatic* to believe any of that bunk!

As a paranormal investigator, it's my job is to sift through the bunk to find the facts. While I feel pretty confident

dismissing most of the Moon's folklore as entertainment or superstition, I'll admit that I am intrigued by the notion that the Moon can have an affect on my ability to see and hear spirits. Can investigating during a particular Moon phase allow me to experience paranormal activity that I couldn't before?

Let me start by saying this: I am not a psychic. I have never had the ability to see, hear, or communicate with spirits. Also, I possess a scientific mind, which means that if someone tells me that hunting for ghosts during a full Moon will result in a heightened paranormal experience, I'd not only like to test that theory, but I'd also want to understand *how* it might work. And my first step to learning *how* begins with what has already been proven by science.

Let's start with tides. Tides are regular rises and falls in bodies of water. They

occur because of the Earth's physical relationship with the Sun and Moon. Basically, there are two main forces at work that create tides. The first is gravity, which is the force that pulls inward. The Earth has gravity, the Sun has gravity, and the Moon has gravity; and each force of gravity has an effect on the other. The Sun, which is largest, pulls the Earth toward it. The Earth, which is larger than the Moon, pulls the Moon toward Earth. You would think that all this pulling would result in some sort of collision, but that's where the second force comes into play.

The second force at work here is called centrifugal force, which works opposite of gravity by flinging objects apart. This is because of rotation. The Earth, Sun, and Moon all rotate.

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## Darrin's Tools of The Trade: It's Time for An Equipment Check



Darrin

Do we really need all of the equipment that is out there?

Anyone who is reading this knows that there is a ton of “ghost hunting” equipment out on the market. You can find just about any type of equipment you would want or need to help during a paranormal investigation, but do you really need it? And, after looking into some of it, do you really want it? When looking at all of this stuff, we need to ask ourselves three very important questions before we make that leap and buy something. The first question should be: What are we looking to do with the equipment? The second question should be: Is it really needed or just something that would be nice to have? The third and possibly most important question: Is it a legitimate piece of equipment that can be used in paranormal investigations or just eye candy? All three questions sort of overlap each other to a certain extent and all should be answered before you buy anything.

The first thing we should determine is what is the need for the new piece of equipment? Once that answer is determined, start looking at what is out there that will fill that need. There are more than likely several things available to fit most of the needs investigators have. However, sometimes there isn't a specific need other than to experiment with something new. If this is the case, you should really consider what types of tools you are looking at before you get something. Is it something that can

potentially help conduct an investigation more thoroughly and will lend credibility to the research being conducted? Or is it more of a novelty tool that can be fun to use but will not really produce results that most people would consider hard evidence.

The question of whether or not a piece of equipment is really needed is rather hard to address. I mean, we can always use a new tool, right? To help answer this question, there are two key points to think about: the cost, and, if we don't have it, will it hinder our ability to conduct an investigation? The first part is easy—if we can't afford it, we don't get it. A good example is a thermal imaging camera. I think a lot of people would love to have one to use during an investigation, but since they can run in the thousands of dollars, they are very much out of most people's price range. And since people have been conducting investigations without one for many years, it can't really be justified as a necessary purchase.

The last thing that you should ask is if you think this tool will really work. Even though paranormal investigating is not an exact science and there are no professionals, it doesn't mean that just anyone can cobble together something that lights up or makes noise and sell it as the newest and best thing to have to find ghosts. Since no one really knows exactly what a ghost is, everything we use is based on what we assume a ghost is and how it manifests. If the equipment you are looking at is borrowed from another field, like EMF meters, look into why people are starting to use it in investigations. Why do they think they

get the results they do? Is their reasoning sound or does it seem a little skeptical. Any investigator worth anything should be able to give a reason why they think they are getting results from the equipment they are using. If it is built from scratch, they should have even more reasoning as to why it works because they are putting together specific components to try and get certain results. Everyone should come up with their own standards the equipment should meet in order for it to be considered a solid piece of equipment that can be used and relied on.

As I mentioned earlier, all three questions sort of overlap each other. You have to be able to satisfactorily get answers for all three before you go out and buy. For example, you may want something that does a certain thing but the only options available are too expensive or are homemade and don't meet your standards, so why buy? As I've said in many of my previous articles, most of the time it boils down to using common sense and making a good judgment call. After all, you are your best piece of equipment, both during an investigation and after.

### Investigations and Consultations: Continued Scheduling for 2010

The Ghosts of Ohio is continuing to schedule investigations for 2010. If you or someone you know is experiencing something unexplained in a home or place of business, contact us at [info@ghostsofohio.org](mailto:info@ghostsofohio.org) or visit our website to fill out an investigation request. All investigations are offered free of charge, and confidentiality and discretion are assured.

Not sure if you want or need an investigation? The Ghosts of Ohio now offers consultations. Let us sit down with you to discuss your current situation and what help we may be able to offer.

For more information, please visit <http://ghostsofohio.org/services/investigations.html>.

### Interact with The Ghosts

Need a spooky friend? If you have a MySpace account, swing by and add The Ghosts of Ohio to your friends list: [www.myspace.com/ghostsofohio](http://www.myspace.com/ghostsofohio).

And for those of you who use Facebook and/or Twitter, you can find The Ghosts of Ohio on those sites, too:

#### Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Columbus-OH/The-Ghosts-of-Ohio/60704381381?ref=mf>

#### Twitter

<http://twitter.com/ghostsofohio>



## Increased Paranormal Activity: Are You A Lunatic?

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With gravity pulling these spinning objects together and centrifugal force throwing them apart, the result is Earth orbiting the Sun and the Moon orbiting Earth. It's a celestial tug-of-war, and all of the water on Earth gets jostled around because of it. This jostling creates our tides.

So how do tides affect paranormal activity? The answer is that no one knows for sure. On one hand, we have the theory that water is a terrific conductor of spiritual energy. If water can retain and carry that energy, then it's possible that tidal surges could increase or decrease paranormal activity in a given location. On another hand, perhaps the Moon and tides have an effect on the human brain, which is made up of around 75% water. Since I tend to think in more scientific terms, my money's on the complexities of the brain. Here's why:

If you ask anyone who works with the public if they think the Moon has an effect on people, you will almost always get a resounding "YES!" Police officers, store clerks, librarians...they'll all tell you it's true. I am a librarian and I can't tell you how many times I've had customers approach me with odd behavior or strange questions. For

example, a young man came in once and asked me if we had power, even though all of the lights and computers were on around him. He wasn't on drugs. He was simply confused for a moment until I pointed to all of the lights. He smacked his forehead in revelation. Duh! Of course, everyone's entitled to momentary lapses. However, I have found that whenever I get several strange customers in one day, it's usually around the time of a new or full Moon. Unfortunately, scientific studies haven't been able to come to a conclusion about the Moon's effects on people. Some studies found increases in violent behavior and car accidents around the new and full Moon times, while other studies found no relationship at all. Despite the lack of a conclusion, however, I am convinced that there is a correlation between the Moon and human behavior. When you add paranormal activity into the mix, though, I'm torn between two theories.

My first theory is that the Moon makes some people act weird due to slight changes in the water in their brains. Their perceptions and reasoning capabilities are temporarily skewed. Regarding the paranormal, it's possible that the people who supposedly become

more perceptive to seeing, hearing, and communicating with spirits have simply gone temporarily crazy. Of course, I'm not the first person to think this. It's a fact that the word *lunatic* is derived from the Latin root *luna*, which means "moon." It's possible that these people are simply hallucinating!

My second, more optimistic theory is that the Moon may, in fact, help people to open up the portion of their brain that is normally closed to paranormal activity. After all, it's widely known that human beings only use a small portion of their brains. It makes you wonder what the rest is for!

All in all, the idea of the Moon affecting paranormal activity or our *perception* of paranormal activity is intriguing. As an investigator, it would be nice to have a definitive answer about where and when to conduct investigations. It sure would make finding evidence much easier, and I might have a better chance at experiencing something like a full apparition! However, there is no conclusion to this debate. There are no true guidelines for paranormal activity. All we can do is test our theories and share our results with our colleagues in the field.

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## My Personal Experience: The House on Doris Drive

By: Tina Ferris

Having grown up in an old house that anyone that ever had an extended stay in would agree was haunted, I consider myself to have an open mind and to know the signs of a haunted environment. The haunted house that I grew up in was your typical haunted house; old, big, and spooky! During my adulthood, the house that I lived in on Doris was different—it was newer, smaller, and would never be suspected as being haunted. My husband Matt and I rented the house with our three daughters for what was supposed to be a six-month stay—but turned into a three-year residence. It wasn't long after we moved into the house on Doris that strange things started to happen.

### "Mommy!!!"

One afternoon, while I was working in the kitchen in the back of the house, and Matt was down the hall in one of the bedrooms, we both heard an earsplitting scream of "Mommy!!!" At the exact same time, I ran from the kitchen to the living room and Matt ran from the bedroom to the living room, both of us expecting to find one of our girls bleeding or stuck in the recliner (again). However, we both instantly realized that the living room was empty and the girls were not even home, we stared in each other's eyes searching for an explanation.

### Toys

I'm not sure that there is anything more eerie than toys in a haunted house;

dolls looking at you with empty eyes, clowns with their spooky grins, and electronic toys coming on by themselves. One night, Matt and I had put the girls to bed and had just laid down listening to the silence of the house, when we heard music coming from the living room. Our first thought was that one of our girls had gotten up and was playing with a large scooter that played music when the buttons were pushed. Matt quickly climbed out of bed with the intent to catch one of our girls in the act, but he came back to our bedroom with a puzzled look and said that there was no one in there. We both checked the girls' rooms to find that they were all sound asleep. We went back to bed and no more music played... at least not on that night.

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## House on Doris Drive

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A couple of weeks later, after going to bed, the music from the scooter played again. Matt immediately jumped up and ran into the living room to, again, find nothing. He came back to bed and we hesitantly closed our eyes—the music played again! After hearing the music three times, Matt brought the scooter into our bedroom. Saying a few choice words under his breath, he dared the music to come on again, which it didn't, at least not when it was in our room.

One evening, our family was coming home from being gone all day. When we opened the door, you could hear the sounds...the sounds of toys being played with in the living room, including the scooter playing music! Although we were bewildered, we calmly went in and turned off the toys and no one discussed it. I think that's what eventually happens when a family lives in a haunted house for an extended period of time—unexplained happenings become "normal."

### Boxes

When our youngest daughter was only a few months old, I woke up with the need to check on her (not an uncommon phenomenon for mothers of newborns). When I went to open her bedroom door, it wouldn't open and something seemed to be blocking the door. Having a blocked door to my baby's nursery sent me into panic mode, and I pushed open the door to find several boxes stacked in front of her door—boxes that had been stored on the other side of the room. As I moved the boxes, I yelled with passion at whatever was doing this and said "leave my family alone!" Her door was never blocked again.

## My Personal Experience: Claire

**By: Gail Krumheuer**

Young children are often the targets for visits from the beyond.

My father passed away on March 29, 2010, in Naples, Florida, 10 days shy of turning 90 years old. Exactly three days later, my 2½-year-old granddaughter, Claire, was playing with her father, Ken, in their living room in Dayton, Ohio. As she looked into their kitchen, she said to her father, "There's a man in the kitchen." Her father thought nothing of this, and they went on with their day. Later that evening, Ken did tell my daughter about the man in the kitchen, and my daughter then told me. After some consulting and consideration, I decided that Claire had seen the spirit of my father.

To test this theory, I brought out pictures of five family members whom Claire had never met. I asked her if she saw the man who was in the kitchen, and she immediately pointed to my father! I told her that his name was Clare, too (she was named after him). The reason they'd never met was because my father lived in Florida, and he was not well enough to travel. Likewise, for various reasons, my daughter, Ken, and Claire

had not traveled to Florida since Claire had been born.

A couple days later, Claire told her father again that there was a man in the kitchen. Understanding what we thought was happening, Ken inquired as to what he was doing. "Eating eggs," she said. Claire also offered that he said hi to her and that his name was Clare. Claire's experience is a beautiful illustration of what is said about children in the families of the departed. They are often contacted in order to transmit messages of comfort to the family, to let them know that Dad is whole and doing fine..."having breakfast." The children are the ideal chosen messengers because they still have memory of the spirit world, whence they came, and haven't learned to put blocks between worlds. A child as young as Claire, having such an experience, proves more to me than any number of other sightings.

A child so young does not even know that the person passed, does not know he isn't real, and has no cognitive ability to lie. This is proof to me that my father still lives on in another realm.

## Got a Scary Story to Tell?

Have you had a ghostly encounter in Ohio? Want to see it featured in a future issue of The Ghosts of Ohio Newsletter? Then here's all you have to do:

Just write down your story and send it to [info@ghostsofohio.org](mailto:info@ghostsofohio.org) with the subject line "Newsletter Ghost Story." Be sure to also include your name as you'd like it to appear with the story. We'll take it from there and send you an email letting you know which issue it is going to appear in. That way, you can

get all your friends to sign up for the newsletter so they can see how famous you are!



## Administration

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# MANSFIELD REFORMATORY 2

## This Time It's Personal



Kathy

If you've been reading our newsletter for the past few years, you may recall that our very first Spend the Night event was at the Mansfield Reformatory in 2008. And, even though we

didn't have too much in the way of ghostly encounters to report, something about that night at the Reformatory got under our skin and we just had to go back and do it again. So, The Ghosts of Ohio, some special guests and our Spend the Night winners headed back to Mansfield on August 6<sup>th</sup> for what proved to be an incredible and unexplainable night for many of us.

Just like the first time we went, we had the entire building all to ourselves from dusk 'til dawn. And, we also followed the same format as before: groups of five to six people that rotated through the five main areas of the Reformatory in 45-minute vigils with 15-minute breaks between each area. The plan enabled every group to see

each area at least once and then when all of the groups had been through, there was plenty of time left for going back to any section we wanted to see again.

The last time I wrote about the Reformatory, I covered a lot of the history and background of the building. I'm going to skip that part this time around and get straight to the good stuff—our personal experiences while we were there. If you want to find out more about the Reformatory, and how you can go on your own ghost hunt, check out their website at [www.mrps.org](http://www.mrps.org).

I want to start by saying that I haven't had a chance to talk to all of The Ghosts of Ohio members since our visit to Mansfield, so I can't speak on behalf of everyone. I'm just going to share what happened to me and my group for now. But, once we've had a chance to go over the hours and hours of video and audio recordings, we'll certainly let you know if anything else happened while we were there.

Our group was made up of six people:

Steve, Rosie, Sheri, Julie, Sandy and myself. Three of us belong to The Ghosts of Ohio and the other three were guests. I will admit that in my two years of being a member of The Ghosts of Ohio, I haven't had any personal experiences to speak of. We've been to some eerie places, but nothing leaving me to believe any of them was haunted—until now.

The evening started out with a brief tour of the building and then a healthy ghost-hunting-worthy dinner of pizza and pop to get us all ready for the long night ahead. Finally, around 10 p.m., we got sent off to our first area. My group went to the chapel and the infirmary—nothing much to report from there. Next we went to the warden's quarters. Again, it was interesting and a bit creepy, but nothing really there either. But our luck soon turned because right at midnight we got to head into solitary confinement.

I'll be honest with you—I am not the kind of person who "feels" things. I have never walked into a room and said, "Oh, it feels heavy/ominous/dark/etc. in here." But, when we walked into solitary, almost the entire group, including myself, said aloud that it did not feel right in there. It was heavy and unsettling. We walked half way down the right side of solitary and stopped to discuss what we wanted to do next. While we were standing there, Steve let out a (very manly) scream and said that something blew on his neck! He described it as a pinpoint area, not a breeze and demonstrated on a few of us what it felt like. Shortly after that, Sheri and I both noted that we felt odd and no sooner had we said it aloud, than we were covered in layers



Images of solitary confinement at Mansfield Reformatory. Is there a paranormal presence in these dark corridors?

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## Haunts, Burgers, and Kickball: The Ghosts of Ohio's Summer Jamboree



Sheri

In July, The Ghosts of Ohio, along with our friends and families, gathered for our annual tradition—the summer Jamboree. Every year, the kickball game is highly anticipated, and this year came with a special treat—a full-sized kickball diamond with bases and all!

The afternoon began with a cookout at Blue Limestone Park in Delaware, Ohio. The group selected this location so we could tour the reportedly haunted Blue Limestone tunnel after lunch. After burgers, brats, brownies, and more, the group headed out on a trek to the tunnel. Several brave explorers even found their way into the tunnel, which lies under a railroad trestle. According to James Willis' book "Weird Ohio," legend has it that a train accident occurred in the 1920s near the Blue Limestone tunnel and many visitors report hearing disembodied voices and seeing strange lights in the area. Our brief investigation was inconclusive, but nonetheless, fun. Who knows, maybe we had several unexpected ghostly guests at the Jamboree this year.

After the tour, the group gathered for the annual kickball game. After only two innings the game was called due to the heat, but an intense two innings were played. After kickball, the group decided to cool off with a game of water balloon toss. Then once again, we were ready to heat back up with competitive potato sack racing.

At the end of a long, hot, enjoyable afternoon, several group members cooled off one last time with a stop at Delaware's best kept secret—Ollie's Fine Ice Cream. It was delicious!!

Every year we look forward to old traditions and new memories. We can only look forward to what next year's Jamboree has in store for The Ghosts of Ohio!



## Mansfield Reformatory 2: This Time It's Personal

*Continued from Page 5*

of goosebumps. But, it wasn't just goosebumps, there was also a feeling that I have never experienced before. It's hard to describe a feeling you've never felt before, but I'll do my best. To me, it felt like I was standing on a low-voltage electrical wire. I was tingly from my feet to the top of my head and out to my fingers. It wasn't just a chill, it was so much more than that. Sheri described it as the static charge you feel in the air right before a lightning strike.

Almost as quickly as it came, it left. We, again, both said aloud that it was leaving and we both felt the feeling disappear. Next, Rosie let out a shriek. Something blew on her neck the same as it had done to Steve. She was standing next to him against the wall and as she was describing it to us, we decided to set up the EMF detector on the cell right in front of Sheri and me. No sooner had we set it up than the feeling came back to us. We were covered in goosebumps, the electrical tingle was back and at the same time, our meter went up to 4! All three things at once! This time, Sandy could feel it, too. Oddly enough, she didn't have as strong of a sensation as Sheri and I, but she was also standing to the right side of me. It was as if this paranormal event was happening right on top of Sheri and me and that Sandy was just a bit too far away to get the full experience and instead just felt a weaker version of it. What was going on? My heart was racing, that's for sure! And, this wasn't the end! It happened one more time! All of the same feelings all over again! Three times it came and went—all between midnight and 12:15 a.m.

After the third time, it was over. Nothing more happened in that area. We walked around that section for the rest of our allotted time and everything felt normal. (I could confidently say that it felt that way after experiencing something that definitely did NOT feel normal.)

Our time was up, so we headed back to the command center to tell everyone what had happened and specifically to let the next group know what was going on so they could be on the lookout for



anything that matched with our experiences. Then we were on to our next section: the West cell block.

After what happened in solitary, I was convinced nothing else would happen that night. I was wrong.

The West cell block is made up of five levels of cells, so we decided to split into groups of two and walk different levels at the same time. Sandy and I walked the ground level. We all walked a full circle around with nothing of interest happening. We next decided to sit still for a while. We went back to the middle of the right side—all on our various levels—and just observed quietly. Within moments, the EMF detector started going off on one of the upper levels and Sandy, who had been taking various temperature readings with a digital thermometer, noted that it had rapidly dropped 10 degrees where we were standing! At the same time, we both noted that we had that same tingly, chilly feeling that we experienced in solitary! I couldn't believe it was happening again! And, while the chills didn't stick around for too long, it took about 10 minutes for the temperature to rise back to where it was before all of the excitement.

It was an amazing night for our group and there are still hours and hours of videos and audio to review from our time in the Reformatory. But, I know

that even if there isn't any other evidence found from that night, I will NEVER forget my personal experiences there. It was definitely worth the trip back!

### What Did Our Special Guests Have to Say About Mansfield?

I was really looking forward to running into some ghosts, and although I didn't see them, I was really quite surprised to have the temperature drop 10 degrees and the hair raise on the back of my neck in the West cell block. To me, that was the most interesting part of the whole evening ... I really did enjoy seeing the place.

- Sandy

It was great! This is my second time. It was fun! Definitely worth it!

- Gail

It (the Reformatory) definitely exceeded my expectations. Scary part in solitary when someone blew on my neck...I'll never forget that for as long as I live.

- Rosie

Astonishing! Exciting! The Ghosts of Ohio are professional, yet a fun-filled group to spend the night with. I felt right at home.

- Mark

### Spend the Night with The Ghosts of Ohio!

As part of the Spend the Night with The Ghosts of Ohio program, we are renting out some of the most haunted buildings in Ohio for an entire night. Unlike traditional "ghost hunts," where you are often forced to share the location with total strangers, every building we rent out is totally ours.

How do you get in on all this spooky fun? It's simple, really. All you need to do is sign up for The Ghosts of Ohio newsletter—which is free...and which most of you have already done!

For each investigation, we'll be picking several names from our list of newsletter subscribers and giving them the first shot at spending the night with us. All they need to do is pay the same

registration fee that the members of The Ghosts of Ohio have to pay in order to rent out the building (dollar amount subject to change based on individual venue). In addition, we'll be drawing at least one lucky Grand Prize winner who will get to come along for FREE!

That's all there is to it! Of course, we might want to take a few pictures of you on the investigation and post them on our site so you'll be the envy of all your friends. But hey, that's a small price to pay for the chance to spend the night with The Ghosts!

If for some reason you don't have your own subscription, what are you waiting for? <http://ghostsofohio.org/services/newsletter.html>.

### Where to Find The Ghosts of Ohio

While Halloween is often thought of as prime time when it comes to seeing ghosts, the truth is that you can find them year-round. More to follow Soon!

**Miamitown Paranormal Fest**  
Saturday, October 2, 2010  
7998 Main Street—Clevés, OH 45201  
[www.miamitownghosttours.com](http://www.miamitownghosttours.com)

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### The Newsletter Is A Robot!

We'll stop reminding you when you stop sending emails to the newsletter address! If you send anything at all to the newsletter address, our surly robot will eat it... and that will make us all sad. So



The Ghosts of Ohio and guests break between investigation vigils at Mansfield Reformatory to show their spooky side on August 6<sup>th</sup>.