

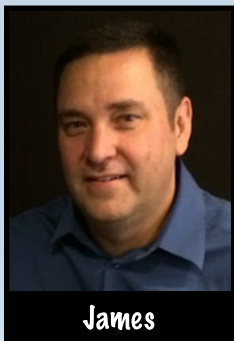


The ghosts of Ohio[®] Newsletter

Volume 15 Issue 2

www.ghostsofohio.org

Do You See What I See? Happy New Year!



James

In the words of the late, great John Lennon: another year over, a new one just begun.

The song *Happy Xmas* always makes me feel a bit melancholic

whenever I hear it. But it also fills me with a sense of nostalgia and gets me thinking back to the year that was...and how I can change moving forward.

Funny, because that was the very topic that The Ghosts of Ohio organization had during our November meeting, which is our annual "year in recap" meeting. We talk about the previous year, what worked right, what went wrong, and what we can do differently. That's usually when the magic happens. And it did this year, too.

It started by us talking about a recent investigation at a local business where our K-II meter began behaving erratically. While we were reviewing the video of the incident, several Ghosts of Ohio members noticed that the K-II meter was positioned close to

the company's router. Once we saw that, we immediately assumed the router was the cause of the K-II's erratic behavior. Things, however, changed, when we returned to the location for a follow-up investigation.

What started as a simple confirmation exercise turned into something different when we placed a K-II meter at the same exact location near the company's router and absolutely nothing happened. Not a single blink or a single light. The router was on and its lights were flashing, but the K-II remained silent. It was then we noticed that while it was a K-II meter, it was not the same exact one that had been used earlier. So we placed that one there and wouldn't you know it, that K-II started flashing.

So while we stood there, commenting on how one would go about calibrating a K-II meter, it suddenly hit us: Has anyone ever lined up all these different EMF-type meters and watched to see which ones react to individual "interferences" like routers, cell phones, etc.? We've all heard stories about how such things can create false positives, but how do these vary from device to device or even between models?

Well, that's one of the things The Ghosts of Ohio aims to find out in 2018. We're going to be lining up each and every make and model of ghost-hunting device we possess and subjecting them to all sorts of things to see how they react. Seems pretty simple and straightforward, but as far as we can tell, it hasn't been done before.

We will keep you posted as to our results in future editions of The Ghosts of Ohio Newsletter. But until then, we want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you out there for being part of The Ghosts of Ohio universe and, more importantly, supporting us. It means the world to us and we can't wait to share all the new, exciting things that are waiting for us just around the corner in 2018!

Cheers,

James A. Willis
Founder/Director

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

The Record

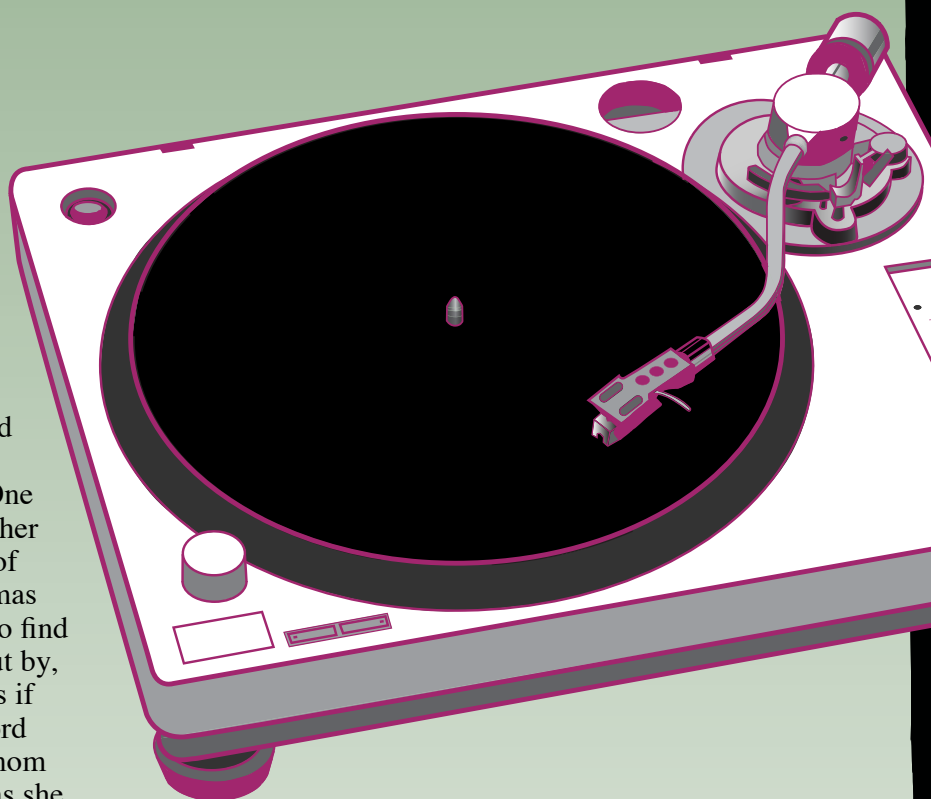
—Robert J., Columbus, OH

My father died when I was very young, leaving my mom to raise my older sister and I on her own. I'm sure it must have been very hard on my mother, both emotionally and financially. But I never knew because we ever did without. Christmas was, as I'm sure it was and still is for children, a very special time of year. One of my first and fondest memories was of my mother pulling out a stack of record albums, the covers of each one looking like a brightly wrapped Christmas present. When I was much older, I would come to find out that these records were part of a series put out by, of all things, the Firestone Tire Company. I guess if you bought tires at Christmas you got a free record or something. I never really found out how my mom came to possess them. I only knew that as soon as she put one of those records on, it was Christmas time.

My mother passed away about 10 years ago. It's far too sad of a story to get into here, but my sister and I ended up parting ways about a year after my mom's passing. No one's really to blame, but we started fighting over silly things while we were both still trying to work through the grieving process. When I went to my mom's house to begin cleaning it out, I found that my sister had already gone through the house and pretty much threw away everything, including those Firestone Christmas albums. Like I said, it's too sad to get into here, but that was pretty much the day I declared myself an only child and an orphan.

I never married. I only mention that because of the fact that I have always lived alone. Over time, the realization that I'm growing older and just might spend the rest of my life alone comes creeping in every once in a while. Add to that the very sad state our country seems to be in right now and you can see how sometimes things seem very bleak around my house, especially come Christmastime. Those are the days I wish for nothing more than to be a kid again and experience all the joy and wonder that used to permeate my childhood Decembers.

It was the evening of Saturday, December 2, 2017, when I encountered something that I really can't explain. I guess I first heard it shortly after 11:00 pm. I was lying in bed, watching the news, when I became aware of a



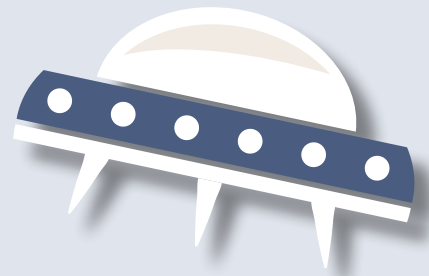
familiar melody playing somewhere off in the distance. It took me a moment to realize it was coming from my living room. Thinking I had left the TV on, I got out of bed and trodded out to turn it off. As I entered the darkened room, almost at the exact time I noticed the TV was off, it hit me that the sound was coming from my mother's old record player, one of the few things I was able to salvage from her house. Walking over to the player, which I had not used in years, I saw that there was a record playing. And that's when I recognized the song—it was from one of the Firestone Christmas albums. Volume 4, to be precise. Sure enough, that very record was now playing on my mother's old player.

I sat down on the couch and wept. Once the record was over, I flipped it to side 2 and continued listening. I need to point out that I am 100% sure that record was not on the turntable at any point since it had been in my house. In fact, I don't even own the record. Several years ago, in an attempt to recapture my youth, I had looked for the records on CD and found that they do not exist. So I have no idea where it came from or how it started to play that night.

OK, that's not entirely true. I think it was my mom's spirit, who wanted to let me know that life's too short to not allow yourself time to sit back and just relax. And that you're never too old to return to your youth and enjoy Christmas.

CONVENTION REVIEW: MUFON Pittsburgh

November 4, 2017



Samantha

When I found out who would be speaking at this year's MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) Conference in Pittsburgh, there was no

way I was going to miss it. The lineup was nothing short of a who's who of weird stuff, including Travis Walton (alien abductee who's experience was the inspiration for the *Fire in the Sky* movie), Steve Mera (British parapsychologist who has appeared on numerous television shows and in a variety of publications), Nick Pope (Journalist who once worked for the British government investigating UFOs), and...drum roll, please...David Paulides (former detective and author of the *Missing 411* books).

Would you pass on the opportunity to see these people speak and possibly chat with them? I didn't think so.

Fellow Ghosts of Ohio member Wendy Cywinski and I took to the road to experience this event, which was held (interestingly) in a church at the Bishop Connare State Police Training Center in Greensburg, PA. We were lucky enough to get front row seats, and I took copious notes so that I could share this experience with all of you!

Travis Walton

Travis Walton was the first to speak. I've seen his presentation before, but his story never fails to fascinate me,



particularly because he has been so diligent in providing facts and evidence to support the truth of what happened to him. If his name doesn't ring a bell with you, I would encourage you to read my August 2011 article titled, "Travis Walton: One Decision Can Change a Life." http://www.ghostsofohio.org/services/newsletter_aug11.pdf

You'll understand why his experience stands out as the "best documented case of alien abduction ever recorded."

What I find most interesting about Mr. Walton is the fact that he has spent his life searching for understanding about what happened to him. Most of the abductee stories I've heard never really go beyond the abduction, horrible things happening at the hands of aliens, and being returned to Earth. Mr. Walton has taken the time to truly reflect on every detail of his experience; and he believes that the idea of a hostile abduction "doesn't fit in with the details and circumstances of what happened." He has come to the

conclusion that what happened to him was an accident, and that the aliens took him away to heal him. "[It was] less of an abduction than an ambulance call," he said, chuckling. He has even pondered the question of aliens being contradictory to religious beliefs: "What is it about all-powerful and all-knowing that you don't understand?" All in all, I was happy to see that Mr. Walton has become more comfortable telling his story, even allowing himself to laugh about certain aspects of it. In my opinion, he's humble, likable, and above all, credible.

Steve Mera

This parapsychologist got his start in the paranormal field in Liverpool, England, in 1983. Since then he has obtained degrees in Electrical Engineering, Psychology, and Parapsychology, taught science at a number of colleges and schools in the UK, served as a Telecommunications Officer for NATO, became the owner of *Phenomena Magazine*, and has appeared on television and radio

(continued on page 4.)

CONVENTION REVIEW: MUFON Pittsburgh Cont.



programs (as well as in print media) throughout the world.

His presentation for the MUFON conference was titled, “UFOs through the Ages,” which took us on a pictorial tour of UFOs throughout history. Sure, we’ve all heard about Egyptian hieroglyphs and ancient petroglyphs all over the world that seem to depict UFO-like objects as well as beings that possess bulbous heads, unusually large eyes and halos of light. But how many of us have noticed the same sorts of strange things in works of art hanging in museums? We were shown painting after painting, each depicting things like beams of light shining down on individuals, figures that look like astronauts, and even hat-shaped UFOs. If you’d like to see a few examples, take a look at a 1710 Aert de Gelder work titled, “Baptism of Christ,” a 1350 painting titled, “The Crucifixion,” a 1486 painting titled, “The Annunciation,” and a 15th century painting called, “The Madonna with Saint Giovannino.”

And it wasn’t just paintings Mr. Mera presented to us. Apparently, Alexander the Great made references to “flaming shields” diving at his men during battle. Christopher Columbus recorded “a light glimmering at a great distance” that vanished and reappeared throughout the night. In Renaissance France in the 1600s, there were coins depicting UFOs, as though in commemoration of a significant event. In the 20th century, mysterious “foo fighters” were seen during World War II; Hitler had an obsession with creating a UFO-like aircraft to win the war; and the Swedish Army saw “ghost rockets” in the 1960s.

It’s all very bizarre. Is it possible that UFOs and alien beings were more generally accepted in the past than they are now? If so, what happened to change that? Does it have something to do with changes in religious beliefs over time? Mr. Mera’s presentation was riveting, and I look forward to finding out more.

Nick Pope

For 21 years, Nick Pope worked for the British Ministry of Defense, where one of his duties included investigating reports of UFO sightings. No kidding! Before you get too excited, however, he stated that he still takes his oath of secrecy very seriously. He only speaks about information that the MOD has declassified. That being said, what he shared with us paints a very frightening picture of what’s possible (even likely) in our future as a human race.

He posed several important hypothetical questions, beginning with whether or not we want an alien race making contact with us. For years we’ve been sending messages into space—including our location—with the hope of receiving an intelligent response. However, there’s no guarantee that we will be able to decipher their message (if we get one), and we really don’t know that an alien race will welcome us with open arms. If an alien race should pay us a visit, Mr. Pope’s strategy is simply, “We surrender.” After all, an alien race that is capable of interstellar travel will overwhelm any defenses we might have. It’s scary, but it’s important to face facts.

Another hypothetical assumes that an alien race wants to communicate with us. Who will be the spokesperson for the human race? “No one nation can speak for Planet Earth,” said Pope. So how about a religious leader? That won’t work because we’re too diverse. How about a scientist? That person would be ousted by political figures. Right now the most likely scenario would involve someone from Silicon Valley since there is growing investment in space travel. Virgin Galactic, Google, and innovators like Elon Musk are likely to discover extraterrestrial life and go public with it.

Probably the most frightening information Mr. Pope shared with us was from a Ministry of Defense document called, “Global Strategic Trends to 2045.” It’s a strategic plan for what is likely to happen in society through the year 2045; and its purpose is preparedness as well as serving as a cautionary tale. Because of our society’s love for evolving technology, one of the topics covered involves the possibility that, in the next couple of decades, we may see the development of brain-to-brain communication. This could change the way we work, the way we coexist with one another, and could begin to blur the lines between human and machine. There’s some interesting food for thought in this document, and you can read it here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/global-strategic-trends-out-to-2045>

(continued on page 5.)

CONVENTION REVIEW: MUFON Pittsburgh Cont.

David Paulides

I've wanted to see David Paulides speak in person for a while now. I've read all of his *Missing 411* books, and I listen to podcasts whenever I can. However, I've longed to see his presentation and get a feel for what he's like as a person. To be honest, I've been a little conflicted about him. On one hand, his research reveals a really spooky phenomenon, and he seems to genuinely care in giving people tips on how to avoid becoming a statistic. On the other hand, I haven't found much background information on him beyond the one brief description that is available everywhere, and when I've attempted to ask *Missing 411* questions through his website, the response from his team is that I have to read the books. The thing is, I HAVE read the books! And I still have these questions! It's like my spidey sense is tingling about him, but I can't pinpoint why.

Wendy and I approached his book signing table shortly after he arrived. He seemed friendly enough, but didn't seem to believe us when we told him that we've read all of his books. (Strangely, he also holds a rather arrogant assumption that everyone knows his work. That's a little contradictory, right?) Once we started telling him what we've learned from them, he became more open to hearing what we had to say. I finally got to ask one of my questions, which was: "One of the commonalities of disappearances is the fact that severe weather tends to hit the area where someone's vanished, hampering search efforts. Have you researched the weather forecasts to determine if the bad weather had been predicted?" It's been my belief that if the weather

was predicted, then perhaps forecasts can be used to warn people from entering those areas, thereby preventing disappearances. Mr. Paulides's answer was that yes, he researched weather forecasts, and no, the bad weather was not predicted. Very interesting!

His presentation, unfortunately, was a bit disappointing. It didn't seem to be well-organized, and it appeared that he was operating under the assumption that everyone already knew his work. He should always assume that there are some in the audience who haven't heard about *Missing 411*. He should have an introduction, a list of commonalities between disappearances, some cases that illustrate his points, and finally a conclusion that gives people information to keep in mind. Since he didn't do that, it wasn't surprising that people had questions, especially if they haven't read the books. Unfortunately, he doesn't seem to like getting questions from people who haven't read the books. His response to them (instead of just answering the questions) was, "Have you read any of the books?"

And this is why I'm still conflicted about him. His books and podcasts make it seem like he genuinely wants to get the word out about the



Missing phenomenon, but assuming that everyone knows about his research and constantly answering questions with, "Read the books," make it seem more like a book-selling, money making scheme rather than a true call to arms. To be fair, what I'm saying here may not be true at all. He may just be sick and tired of answering the same questions over and over again. While that frustration is understandable, I just think that he needs to make adjustments to how he is perceived by people. After all, my spidey senses are still tingling. After seeing him speak, they shouldn't be.

If you aren't familiar with the *Missing 411* phenomenon, feel free to read the article I wrote in April 2016: http://ghostsofohio.org/services/newsletter_apr16.pdf

HELLTOWN REVIEW



James

When I first learned that Destination America was going to be running a 2-hour program on the truth about Hell Town,

I immediately began planning to do a review of it for an upcoming newsletter. For the premiere, I even made sure that I had a notepad and laptop within reach so I could take notes, including references and different aspects of the legend that I needed to dig deeper into. I had snacks and beverages and had even turned the cell phone off. This was going to be fantastic: 2 hours of in-depth history on the legend of Hell Town. And then the show started.

For the next two hours, I sat there in stunned silence. Twenty minutes in, it began to dawn on me that the huge review article I had been planning could be boiled down to two simply words:

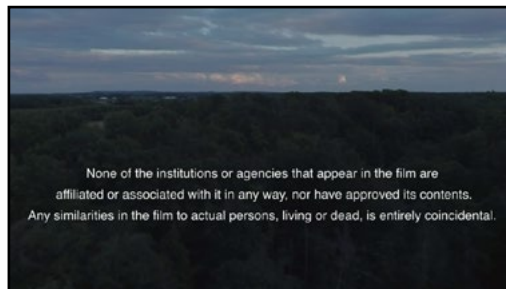
It's fake.

That's the short version, anyway. The full thought would be that *Helltown* was the most ridiculous piece of garbage that I have ever seen on the Destination America channel. And let's be honest here: that's saying a lot! In fact, the idea that Destination America would willingly put out this piece of work speaks volumes as to how low this channel has sunk. Yeah, I get it, they called it *Helltown* instead of using

the more popular two-word title that most have come to know the area as. But this was 2 hours of the most bizarre and outlandish claims I have ever heard, which is again saying a lot.

I could take up pages of this newsletter going scene by scene, pointing out the various inaccuracies, but since I found roughly 95% of what I saw to not only be inaccurate, but total fabrications, that would take forever. Plus, I'll be honest with you: I don't want to devote any more of my time and effort to this steaming pile than is absolutely necessary. So, let's just get right at it and rip it apart as quickly as possible.

Let's start with this: ALL of the people shown in *Helltown* are actors and actresses. Canadian ones, no less. I'm not going to list their real names because they are just trying to make a living here. But if you want to find their names, just wait until the end of the credits for *Helltown* and you'll see them all there, right along with a good 3-4 screens' worth of disclaimers about the so-called "facts" of the case and one screen, which flies by, that all but admits it's all made up and that, among other things, actors were used.



What, you mean this guy, too? The one who was from the area and knew all about the local history, especially all about the reports of human sacrifices and cults in the area? It even says he's a Professor of Folklore and Mythology at Cuyahoga Community College, so he has to be real, right? Nope, another Canadian actor. And one who couldn't even pronounce "Cuyahoga" correctly, which is a little weird since, you know, it's part of the name of the place where he works and all.



OK, but this guy, Conor Dwyer, has to be real. He's even shown as a young man in that television special that ran back in the 1980s. He's sitting with his grandfather on their front porch and the grandfather mentions that he doesn't want to move his family out of the area because Conor is deaf and would have trouble in a new location.

(continued on page 7.)

HELLTOWN REVIEW CONT.

He's fake, too. Plus, he's a great example of how far Destination America was willing to go to mess with its audience. You see, *For The Good Of All* was indeed a special about the Boston Township area that ran in the 1980s. In Helltown, they make it appear as though they are playing a clip from that 80s special and are interviewing a local resident, who is not named. He talks about not wanting to move, especially because his grandson, Conor, is deaf and there are concerns about how he will be able to function outside of the only home he's ever known.



The problem is that in *For The Good Of All*, the comments Helltown attributes (and shows) as belonging to Conor Dwyer's grandfather were actually said by someone else: a man named Burrell Tonkin. And in the original, Tonkin is not talking about concerns over relocating his grandson, but rather his elderly mother.



I could continue, but let's leave it with this guy — Terry Greenbaum, the big conspiracy theory guy who ran a website and posted conspiracy videos about Helltown and other locales. He's the one who teams up with some weird video guy and they go off in search of those hidden tunnels under Helltown.

Yeah, he's a Canadian actor, too. Don't believe me? Just fast forward to the point where Greenbaum and his buddy are in the tunnels and they get scared—they both totally lose their fake accents and start sounding like a bad SCTV skit.

Oh yeah, and none of his websites or videos exist, either.

As I've thoroughly documented, beginning as far back as 2001, the legends surrounding the area that would become known as Hell Town sprung up as a result of the US Government declaring eminent domain and pushing residents out in order to create and extend what is now known as Cuyahoga National Park. That's it. It's a sad, tragic story, but one that does not involve government conspiracies, satanic cults, slaughterhouses, or secret tunnels. And for God's sake, please don't go out there looking for any wendigo, either. I know, I know, it's incredibly tempting because who wouldn't want to meet a creature that Helltown depicts as being something straight off the back cover of a

King Crimson album:



To sum everything up, Destination America's *Helltown* is about as truthful as Animal Planet's *Mermaids: The Body Found*. Still, the most appalling thing about the presentation is how gullible Destination America must think their audience is. I'd like to give them credit and say that perhaps they were trying to create a thrilling mockumentary, but I can't even do that. The acting is horrible, the plotline is incomprehensible, and it appears as though they went the "found footage/home movie" route to cover up the fact that no one on the crew appears capable of successfully framing a single shot.

For these reasons, I would suggest you not walk, but run from your TV should this monstrosity appear on the screen. And if someone suggests that you watch it yourself, immediately make a mental note to remove said person from your holiday gift exchange list. For clearly, anyone who suggests *Helltown* to you is not a friend.

For more information about what really happened in the area known as Hell Town, please visit http://ghostsofohio.org/lore/ohio_lore_36.html

SEND THE GHOSTS OF OHIO BACK IN TIME:

RAVENNA TRAIN WRECK

I saw that you do a lot of things with cry baby bridges and when I saw in one of your newsletters that you also go back and try to find out if childhood ghost stories are true, I thought I would give you one. I grew up in Ravenna, Ohio, in the 1980s. Some of the older boys would scare us and tell us that a long time ago, some would tell us it was like in the 1800s, two trains crashed into each other at midnight on Christmas Eve. It was on a long bridge and the trains caught fire and fell over the side of the bridge. People died and some were even burned alive. They used to say that if you went to the bridge on Christmas Eve, you could hear the sounds of the trains crashing together, followed by people screaming and even the sounds of the fire burning the trains up. I admit that I sneaked out of the house a couple of times on Christmas Eve and went to the bridge where they said it happened, but I never heard anything. I also could never find anything about trains crashing on Christmas Eve in Ravenna. Do you guys know anything about this?

—Stephen A., Portland, OR

Thank you for sharing your story! It will make a great addition to our December newsletter! We'd never heard of ghosts being associated with a train wreck in Ravenna, so of course we were all very intrigued and dug right in!

We started by taking a look in the historical records (newspapers, etc.) for train wrecks in/near Ravenna. Truth be told, there were a few instances where two trains did indeed collide with each other. However, the only incident that had several similarities to the tale you mentioned took place in 1891.

In the early morning hours of July 3rd, a freight train was passing through Ravenna when it rammed full speed into a passenger train that was stopped on the tracks near Erie Road. As a result of the crash, portions of the passenger train caught fire before all the passengers could be safely evacuated. When firefighters were finally able to get the fire under control, 20 individuals had lost their lives while an additional 23 were taken to local hospitals with injuries.

So as you can see, there are a few things in this story that are consistent with yours. But more importantly, there are several major plot points that are missing, namely:

- The accident occurring on a bridge
- The trains falling over the side of said bridge
- The event taking place on Christmas Eve



Additionally, we were not able to locate anyone who knew of any ghost stories associated with the 1891 Ravenna crash. It was at this point that we started to consider that the Ravenna story was merely an urban

(continued on page 9.)

SEND THE GHOSTS OF OHIO BACK IN TIME:

RAVENNA TRAIN WRECK CONT.

legend. And since all urban legends migrate from place to place, we started looking for train-related ghost stories around the Ravenna area. We had to cross county lines, but eventually we found the real-life event that we believe gave rise to your urban legend: The Ashtabula Train Disaster.

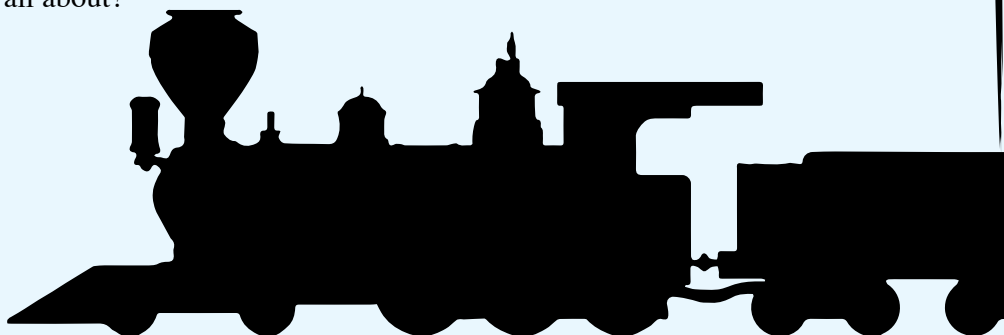
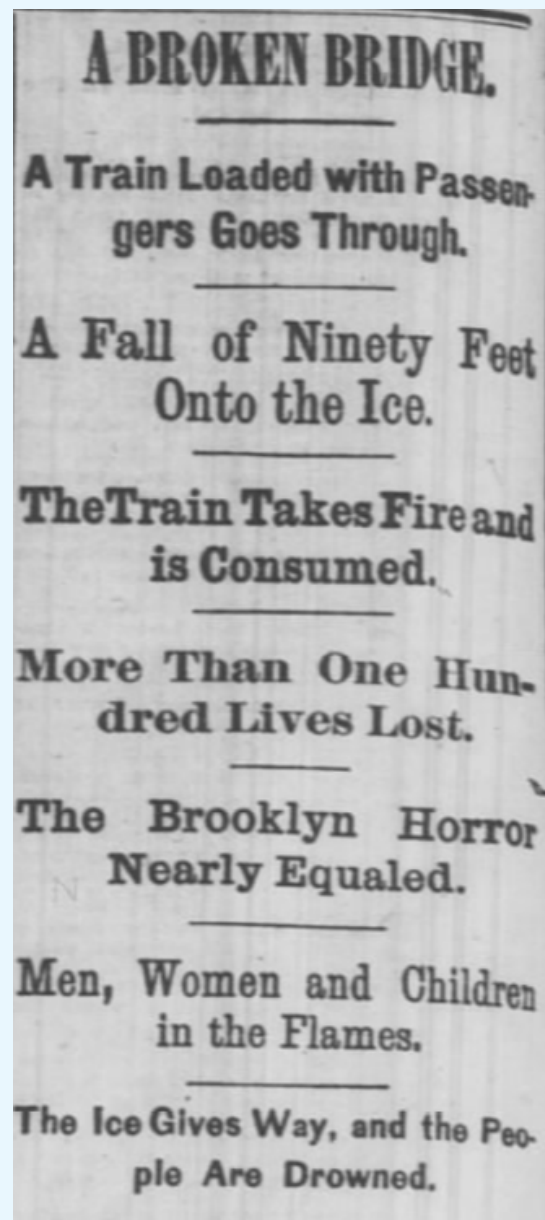
On the evening of December 29, 1876, the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway train, The Pacific Express, had left its destination in Erie, Pennsylvania, and was heading towards Ashtabula, Ohio. The train, which consisted of two locomotives and 11 railcars containing 159 passengers, was crossing a bridge spanning over the Ashtabula River when the bridge began to collapse. The first locomotive was able to make it safely across the bridge before it gave way, sending the remaining locomotive and all 11 railcars crashing down into the river, roughly 76 feet below the bridge. As the rail cars collided, the heating stoves and lamps inside them ignited, which soon turned into a raging fire. Many of the people who had survived the crash soon found themselves trapped inside the fire with no means of escape. In the end, 92 passengers and crew members died during the crash or as a result of their injuries. Some of the bodies were burned so badly as to be unrecognizable and had to be buried in a mass grave in nearby Chestnut Grove Cemetery.

According to legend, it is said that on the anniversary of the crash, phantom sounds that appear to be reenacting the crash can be heard near where the original bridge once stood. There are also reports of

hearing people screaming and the occasional crackling of fire. Finally, the area around the monument erected over the mass grave of the crash victims at Chestnut Grove Cemetery is also said to be haunted.

Admittedly, there are a few specifics that don't match up against the story you were told. Namely, that the event you heard about allegedly happened on Christmas Eve and involved two trains crashing together. In Ashtabula, we only have one train crashing (although there were two locomotives involved) and it didn't happen on Christmas Eve, although it did happen in the month of December (and only 5 days away from Christmas Eve), so we're still pretty close.

If we had to guess, we'd say that the version you knew and loved from your childhood was nothing more than a transplanted variant of the Ashtabula Train Disaster. In other words, you were sneaking out of the house for nothing. But no worries; isn't that, after all, what legend tripping (and growing up) are all about?



MY FAVORITE MERRY SCARY MOVIES



James

One of the things I have always prided myself on is having good “background noise” at my parties. Usually, that amounts to having a good mix of music that everyone can enjoy. But for our annual Merry Scary Holiday Party, I also like to have some of my favorite merry scary movies playing, too.

What exactly is a merry scary movie? Well, since our parties are family

affairs, I tend to shy away from the more traditional holiday horror-type movies like *Black Christmas*, *Silent Night*, *Deadly Night*, or even *Krampus*. Rather, the movies I’m looking for are the ones that truly believe in their celluloid hearts that they are a traditional Christmas movie. But ask anyone who’s seen the following films and they will tell you that they are some of the most bizarre and unsettling things that they have ever subjected their eyes and brains to: nonsensical plotlines, horrible acting, nightmare-inducing costumes. You get the idea.

With all of this in mind, and since I have been getting a lot of feedback regarding my article about some of my favorite Halloween movies in the October issue of The Ghosts of Ohio Newsletter, I thought some of you would enjoy seeing which movies were featured at the 2017 Merry Scary Holiday Party.



The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)

Guests at every Merry Scary party since the very first one back in 2004 have seen *The Nightmare Before Christmas* playing on the TV as they arrive. And with good reason: The movie perfectly captures the merry/scary balance we’re looking for. It also stands as a nice intro into the bizarre movies that are soon to follow. It sort of lulls the party goes

into a false sense of security by first presenting them with something that are familiar with...and then lowering the boom on them!



Santa Claus and the Ice Cream Bunny (1972)

I try to get this movie on early just so people don’t blame what they think they’re seeing on the alcohol. The wafer-thin plot centers around Santa somehow managing to get his sleigh caught in the sand on some remote Florida beach. Once this happened, his reindeer bolt, leaving jolly ol’ St. Nick to lament and sweat in the hot sun.

After Santa sings a ditty that could be titled “Oh Woe Is Me,” he uses some sort of psychic power to rally the local children, who are quickly dispatched to try and find something to get Santa’s sleigh unstuck. After several unsuccessful attempts using everything from a donkey and a pig to a guy in a cheap gorilla costume, the Ice Cream Bunny is summoned. Upon arriving on a fire engine (and with nary a scoop of ice cream), the Ice Cream Bunny has Santa hop aboard the fire engine and the two ride a short distance before suddenly disappearing. Moments later, Santa’s sleigh disappears, too.



Santa with Muscles (1996)

This flick takes the idea of Merry Scary to a whole other level. *Santa With Muscles* stars Hulk Hogan (yes, that Hulk Hogan) as an obnoxious millionaire who hits his head, develops amnesia, and starts believing he is Santa Claus. But wait, there’s more! Seems there is a local orphanage that is in danger of being taken over by an evil scientist, played

by Ed Begley, Jr. (yes, that Ed Begley, Jr.). And why would an evil scientist want to take over an orphanage? Why, to retrieve the magic crystals that reside in a secret cave under the orphanage, that’s why!

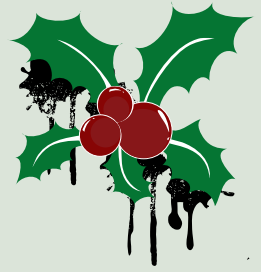


Santa Claus Versus The Martians (1964)

Let’s face it, when a movie’s main selling point is that it features Pia Zadora in her first role, you really can’t go into it with high expectations. But the plot of *Santa Claus Versus The Martians* is just so bizarre and absurd that it hooks you. Seems the

(continued on page 11.)

MY FAVORITE MERRY SCARY MOVIES CONT.



children of Mars are so busy with their work, they never have time to have fun. So their Martian parents decide they need a Santa Claus of their very own and go down to Earth to kidnap Santa. When the Martians get confused with all the Mall Santas running around, mayhem ensues, along with some rather dark subplots involving trying to murder Santa Claus. No worries; they attempt to carry out these murderous plots using plastic guns and arts-and-crafts robots. As for the Martians themselves, I have no doubt that green face paint was in very short supply for the year following the release of this film.

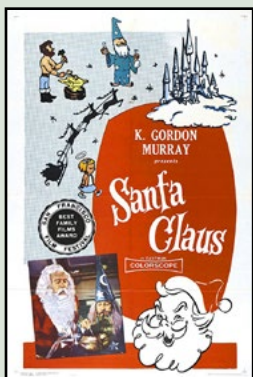
children of the world all look like they are from Mexico) do bad things like steal, and yes, kill Santa. I won't spoil the ending for you, but there is a showdown between Santa and Pitch where jolly ol' St. Nick needs to call out for some help. And whom does he reach out to? Why, Merlin the Magician, of course!



The Munsters' Scary Little Christmas (1996)

Given the enormous popularity of *The Munsters* TV show, even today, it's a little hard to believe the original series only ran for 2 years back in the 1960s. But thanks to syndication, you'll be hard pressed to find anyone who doesn't know who the members of the Munsters

family are. They are that iconic. And that's where this Christmas special runs amuck. You see, this was released in 1996, almost 30 years after *The Munsters* were off the air. This means that this special was shot in color, while the original series was in black and white. What's more, while this special has all the original characters from *The Munsters* in it, the original actors and actresses play none of them. So the whole thing comes off as a bunch of people wearing garish makeup and trying to do impressions of the Munsters.



Santa Claus (1959)

I try to save this until towards the end of the evening as it tends to fry people's brains. This film was originally filmed in Mexico and then dubbed in English...poorly. The plot starts out OK and quickly falls off the rails into pure madness. Seems that on Christmas Eve, while Santa is preparing for his annual ride around the world, the one and only devil is hatching a plan to bring

about Santa's ruin. To help with the plan, the devil puts his right-hand man, Pitch, in charge. Pitch is to try to make the children of the world (although, for obvious reasons, the



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 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 out 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!

WANT TO SEND THE GHOSTS BACK IN TIME?

For those of you unfamiliar with what we're doing, it all goes back to the idea that everyone, even though who might not believe in the supernatural, has one thing in common when it comes to ghosts: A scary story of a haunted place from your childhood. You know, the old house you weren't supposed to go near or the creepy old grave sitting all by itself on top of a hill. Maybe the monster that lived in the woods behind your house. Well, whatever it was, we're sure that you've often thought to yourself, "I wonder whatever happened to that place?" Well, now's your chance to find out!

The Ghosts of Ohio wants you to send us your childhood ghost stories. We'll take it from there and dig into the history to find out if there really was any truth to the tales that chilled your bones as a youth. Just send an email to info@ghostsofohio.org with as much information as you can remember and we will jump right on it. We'll even supply you with a free report with everything we were able to uncover. So what are you waiting for? Send The Ghosts back in time!





2017 MERRY SCARY

You would think that of all the issues of The Ghosts of Ohio Newsletter, our October issue would be the one people read the most. And you would be correct in that assumption. But running a very close second is our December 31st issue. You could make a case that part of the reason is because people have time off around the holidays and are able to catch up on their reading. But we think we know the real reason: Our December issue contains pictures from our Merry Scary Holiday Party!

For those of you unfamiliar with our Merry Scary Holiday Party, it was born out of the fact that everyone here at



The Ghosts of Ohio is usually too busy with appearances, presentations, investigations, etc., in October to have a proper Halloween party. So our fearless leader decided to combine Halloween and Christmas into one big party and the Merry Scary Holiday Party was born. Think A Nightmare Before Christmas on steroids and you'll get the idea: animatronic werewolves singing Christmas carols, stockings hung by the fire (some with severed feet still inside them), ghosts flying through the air bearing gifts, the Christmas Angel Of Death hovering over the Christmas tree, and on and on.



WANT TO SPEND THE NIGHT WITH THE GHOSTS OF OHIO IN 2018?

Hard to believe that 2017 is drawing to a close, isn't it? But it is. And while the very thought of that might send you into a panic over shopping lists, wrapping paper, and how many extra folding chairs you'll need to put around the dinner table, there's something else that just might make you smile a bit: The Ghosts of Ohio have started making plans for the 2018 Spend the Night With The Ghosts of Ohio program!

What's the Spend the Night program? Simply put, it's an opportunity for some of our fans to get locked inside of a haunted location with us on a private, overnight ghost hunt.

All you need to be is an active subscriber to this very newsletter. As long as you are, there's a chance your email address will be randomly pulled from the list. When that happens, you and a guest are headed to a haunted location with us for the night!



Investigations & Consultations

The Ghosts of Ohio are continuing to schedule investigations for 2018. If you or someone you know is experiencing something unexplained in a home or place of business, contact us at 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 also 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 of Ohio

In addition to our website, here are a couple of places where you can find The Ghosts of Ohio lurking online:

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

 TWITTER
<http://twitter.com/ghostsofohio>

Administration

The Ghosts of Ohio Newsletter is a free, bimonthly email newsletter. To subscribe, unsubscribe, or change your email address, please visit http://www.ghostsofohio.org/mailman/listinfo/mailman_ghostsofohio.org
Please do not send vacation notices or other auto-responses to us, as we may unsubscribe you.

The Ghosts of Ohio collects your name and email address for the purpose of sending this mailing. We will never share your name or email address with advertisers, vendors, or any third party, unless required by law. The Ghosts of Ohio will never sell, trade, or rent your personal information.

For more information, please visit us online at www.ghostsofohio.org.

NEWSLETTER STAFF: Editor-In-Chief: James Willis Copy Chief: Kathy Boiarski Designer: Stephanie Willis
Contributing Authors: Samantha Nicholson, James Willis