



The ghosts of Ohio® Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

February 2009—Volume 6 Issue 3

Greetings From the Spooky Desk of James Willis

As I'm writing this, I'm sitting looking out my window and gazing upon something I haven't seen in what seems like forever: grass.

I don't know about you, but once the New Year holiday passes, I'm ready for winter to be over. Not only do I hate having to shovel the driveway, but it's often next to impossible to concentrate on potential ghostly activity during an investigation when you're struggling to keep warm.

But as our Earth slowly makes its way closer to the sun, everyone here at The Ghosts of Ohio is beginning to gear up for what promises to be a very busy

year. As you'll soon see as you read through this issue, we've got a lot of new and exciting things on tap for 2009, including a brand-new, and some would say downright tasty, program for our fans.

Also, while you might not realize it just yet, you are currently reading a bit of Ghosts of Ohio history. This issue is the very first one that features a brand-new format. It might not look like it, but trust me, you're just a click away from seeing all the changes.

Finally, in honor of Valentine's Day, we decided to change the "Ohio Ghost Stories" section up a bit and

instead focus on a more holiday-themed haunting. Ghosts associated with Valentine's Day are few and far between, so the one we're covering isn't even in Ohio. Still, it's one of the most infamous events in American history, so we're sure you'll enjoy it just the same.

OK, once again it's time for me to shut my pie hole and let you get down to catching up on The Ghosts of Ohio.

Cheers,

James A. Willis
Founder/Director

The Ghosts of Ohio—Now in Technicolor!

Boy, do we have a lot going on here at The Ghosts of Ohio. So much so that we've decided to give all the new things their own column in this issue. There is one thing that we're so excited about we just need to let you know right now.

For years, fans and subscribers of our newsletter have been asking us to add photos. They felt that pictures would really help spice things up.

To be honest, we felt the same way, but our automated newsletter system was such that we could not mass-send attachments, as most email clients would then flag the newsletter as spam (if letting it through at all). Also, since our

newsletters have grown to more than 8 pages in length, adding photos would make the files so large that they would bog down our subscribers on slower computers or Internet connections.

But now, thanks to the work of several of our members, Adam, Sheri, Kathy, and Steph, we are able to bring you the first-ever edition of The Ghosts of Ohio Newsletter, complete with color photographs.

Every other month, newsletter subscribers will still receive the same text-only newsletter they have come to love. Within the newsletter will be a link that will take you to the full-blown color

version in PDF form on The Ghosts of Ohio website. So you'll have your choice of which one you want to read.

Since this is the first issue we've done like this, we're sure there's going to be a glitch or two. Either way, we'd love to hear what you like and don't like about the new format.

Spooky Social Networking

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.

Celebrating a Decade with The Ghosts of Ohio

On May 9th, 2009, The Ghosts of Ohio organization officially celebrates its 10th anniversary.

It's hard to believe now, but back when the doors of The Ghosts of Ohio office first swung open for business, James Willis was the only member and all our equipment couldn't even fill the trunk of Willis' Honda Accord. My, how things have changed! At present time, the organization consists of more than

30 members and enough equipment to fill 3 SUVs...and one Honda Accord.

At present time, rumors run rampant about anniversary celebrations and Ghosts of Ohio merchandise giveaways. And while we cannot confirm or deny any of those rumors, we can tell you that there will be a lot of anniversary-related surprises popping up in the coming months!



The GOO Logo, circa 2001.

P-CON 2009

Our very own James Willis will be a guest speaker at P-CON 2009, which is being hosted by the Prodigy Paranormal Group.

The event will be held on Saturday, May 30th, 2009, at the Dayton FOP Hall (4725 Powell Road) In Huber Heights, Ohio from 11:00 AM until 8:00 PM. Admission is only \$15.00, which includes admission to all the lectures and workshops.

For more information, including a schedule a events and how to reserve your tickets, visit <http://www.theprodigygroup.org/16.php>.

Dinner and Spirits With the Ghosts of Ohio

The Ghosts of Ohio is proud to announce another program that we are getting ready to roll out in 2009: our Dinner & Spirits Tour. We don't have any dates and venues confirmed yet, but we thought you would all like a sneak peek.

For our Dinner & Spirits Tour, The Ghosts of Ohio will be working with some of Ohio's reportedly haunted eateries to create a truly unique evening. The evening will begin with a specially created (and possibly themed) menu. Guests will enjoy their meal while hearing The Ghosts of Ohio members recount some of the ghost stories and legends associated with the building and, in some instances, showing evidence we acquired during our overnight investigations at the location. Some of the locations will even allow a few lucky guests to join The Ghosts of Ohio on an

investigation after the meal has concluded.

As we mentioned, we are still in the process of confirming dates and locations for 2009. So keep an eye on The Ghosts of Ohio newsletter and website for more information. And if you happen to be the owner of a haunted eatery and would like to be included on our Dinner & Spirits Tour, please contact info@ghostsofohio.org and we'll be happy to discuss the details with you.



Scary Sleepover: Spend the Night with The Ghosts of Ohio!

Last year, The Ghosts of Ohio kicked off their Spend the Night program, which created the unique opportunity for some of our lucky fans to take part in an overnight investigation with us.

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 rented out was totally ours.

Based on how successful the program was last year, we have begun finalizing locations for our 2009 Spend the Night program. And just like last year, we want you to come along with us! We'll bring all the equipment, so all you need to bring is your courage.

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

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 each venue). In addition, we'll be drawing at least one lucky Grand Prize winner 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!

As far as locations we're in the process of scheduling, we don't want to give away too much, but they include a castle, a B&B, a lighthouse, and a theater.

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



The Ghosts of Ohio at Prospect Place in Fall 2008.

most of you have already done!!

For each investigation, we'll pick several names from our list of newsletter subscribers and giving them the first shot at spending the night with us. All

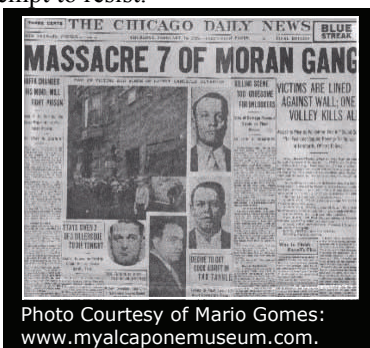
Ghost Stories: My **BLOODY** Valentine—From Gangsters to Ghosts

What would become known as one of the bloodiest days in gangland history began innocently enough on the morning of Thursday, February 14th, 1929.

Several members of Bugs Moran's North Side Gang began arriving at the SMC Cartage Company building at 2122 N. Clark Street in Chicago. By 10:00 AM, there were seven men inside the building, five of which were Moran gang members—Peter Gusenberg and his brother Frank, Adam Heyer, Albert Kachellek (aka: James Clark), and Albert Weinshank. The other two men in the building were Reinhart Schwimmer, who was considered more of a groupie than an actual member of the gang, and mechanic John May.

Around 10:30 AM, two cars similar to those driven by Chicago detectives pulled up in front of the SMC Cartage Company building. Two men dressed as police officers left the cars and entered the building while two other men, dressed in civilian clothes, waited outside.

From what is able to be reconstructed, the police officers made it appear as though the building was being raided and made all seven men inside line up against the rear North wall of the building, with their faces towards the bricks. From the evidence, all seven men believed the raid was real and made no attempt to resist.



Once the men were lined against the wall, the two men who had been waiting outside entered the building. At that point, those two men, along with the two police officers, all opened fire, using a combination of multiple Thompson submachine guns and shotguns. It is estimated that over 70 shots fired were fired in the assault.

When it was over, the policemen led the two men in civilian clothes out to the cars at gunpoint, apparently to give the impression to anyone hearing the noise that things were under control. The four men then got in their cars and disappeared.

Several hours later, police were called to investigate the reports of a dog crying and howling. When they arrived and entered the building, they found a bloodbath unlike anything they had ever seen. Six of the seven men were dead from multiple gunshot wounds. Frank Gusenberg was still clinging to life, but he would succumb to his wounds several hours later. Interestingly enough, his last words were said to have been "nobody shot me." The only witness to survive the slaughter was John May's dog, Highball, whose mournful wails had first alerted police to the building.

So what was the cause of what became known as the St. Valentine's Massacre? It would appear as though it was the result of bad blood between Bugs Moran's North Side gang and Al Capone's South Side gang. The two gangs had been battling for control over



The grisly crime scene of the St. Valentines Day Massacre. Photo Courtesy of Mario Gomes: www.myalcaponemuseum.com.

Chicago's bootlegging business and there had been several attempts to knock off members of each gang. Even though no one was ever convicted of any of the murders, most historians believe that Capone ordered the hits and wanted Bugs Moran to be killed, too. It is thought that lookouts stationed across the street mistook one of Moran's men for Moran himself and prematurely called for the massacre to take place. As for Moran, he was on his way to the Cartage Company, but arrived shortly after the two bogus police officers had already entered the building and had his driver keep going to avoid being arrested himself.

It should come to no surprise to anyone that the scene of such violent death would become haunted. Indeed, shortly after the massacre, rumors began circulating that the Cartage Company building was haunted. Strange sounds, including those of gunfire and men screaming, were reported coming from inside the building, as was the ghostly

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Investigations and Consultations: Now Scheduling for 2009

The Ghosts of Ohio is continuing to scheduling investigations for 2009. 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 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>.

Beyond the Technology: Darrin's Tools of the Trade



Darrin Boop

Past articles have been about tools, both technical and non-technical, that can be bought and learned how to use. But, in this article, I will be discussing the most important tool investigators can use — themselves.

We just need to learn how to interpret what our bodies are telling us and realize that we can also easily misinterpret it as well.

We have all been in situations where we get scared, excited, or nervous and our senses really seem to become heightened from an adrenaline rush. We think we can hear, see, and maybe even smell things better. Our hearts start to beat faster and our breath comes a little quicker. When this happens during an investigation, we have to remember several things — and that can be hard to do.

Although we are in this excited state, we have to try to keep our heads and remember that we are still in control. We have to realize that while we are excited, we can try to use the information our bodies are giving us to our benefit.

There is nothing wrong with getting excited about what we are doing and what is going on, that's why we got into this field. The main trick is to try and not let ourselves get too carried away and to use the information our bodies are giving us.

As you start an investigation, try and remain as calm as possible. Your breathing and heart rate will probably already be higher than normal. As the evening goes on, try to pay attention to your body when something happens and see if your breathing and heart rate increase before or after things occur. Since no one really knows what a ghost is, or how it can manipulate the

environment, we really don't know how or if it can affect our bodies. Some people seem to be sensitive to EMF fields and can get a feeling of nausea when they are exposed to higher fields. If that's the case, then shouldn't it also be possible that people could experience higher pulse and breathing rates if they are around a ghost that is trying to manifest itself? The big question we have to ask is—did our breathing and heart rates go up because of the situation we were in or was it because of some environmental effect caused by a ghost? If the latter is the case, what was happening that made our pulses and breathing rates increase? Use your

hearing really that much better or are you hearing the beat of your own heart? Always try to remember that our minds can take information our senses collected and interpret it in a totally different manner than it truly occurred.

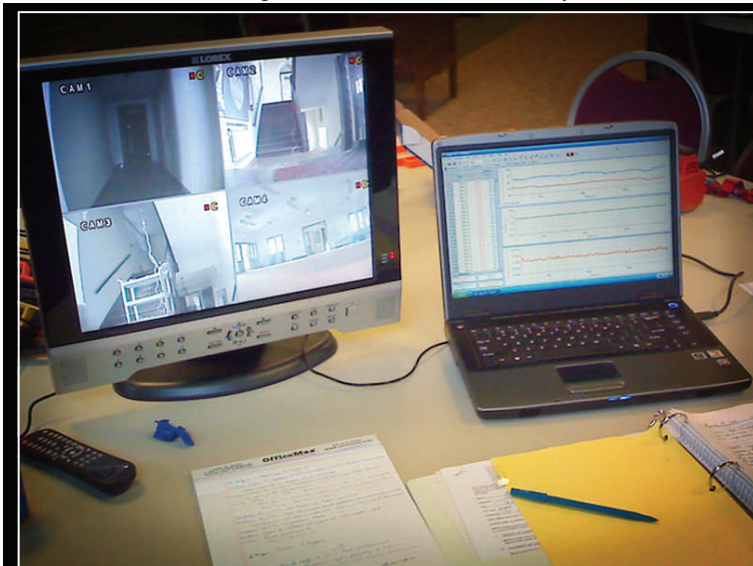
For example, if you go into a room and suddenly feel a heaviness, make sure you use your equipment and see if you are getting any unusual readings. It could be that you have gone into an area that has been closed up for a while and has a slightly higher temperature and stale air, and in your heightened state of awareness, you may have misinterpreted your senses. You could think that there is a presence in the

room with you instead of realizing the feeling is caused by normal atmospheric changes.

When getting ready for an investigation, know that we all have varying levels of excitement and that we all will deal with it in different ways. For some, this might never be more than just a pure adrenaline rush from doing something fun. While for others, it may be something that can be used to the benefit of the overall investigation.

Finally, if you haven't gotten the message already, remember to always use the equipment you have to try and verify what you are experiencing.

There is no way anyone will accept as evidence an investigator's feelings from the time an event was experienced. But, if we can show some kind of correlation between what we were feeling and similar unusual readings with our equipment, we might be able to offer another form of validation for any paranormal situation that might be occurring. It's not scientific evidence, but it may show that we can use our own bodies as a tool. Most importantly, use your head and have fun.



Rely on your senses: conducting a complete investigation requires more than the latest technology.

equipment to try and verify that there is an EMF spike or that the temperature is dropping.

We also need to pay attention to our senses, but once again, we have to keep ourselves in control. I don't mean that you shouldn't be excited, just keep in mind that you are worked up and try not to let yourself get carried away. Try to be aware of how you feel at the start of the investigation so that as it goes on, you can tell if you start to feel differently. At some point, do you feel as though things are closing in on you? Do you feel like something else is in the area with you? Or, do you feel a prevailing type of emotion? Is your

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wailing of a dog. Stranger still was that people walking their dogs past the building claimed their dogs would suddenly pull away from them and refuse to walk in front of it.

But by far, the strangest ghostly report to come out of the St. Valentine's Day Massacre centers on no other than Al Capone himself. Though he was never formally charged with anything related to the murders and maintained his innocence until his death, Capone was still tormented by the ghosts of those killed. In particular, Capone was convinced that the ghost of Albert "James Clark" Kachellek was following him. When Capone was doing time in Alcatraz on an unrelated charge, fellow inmates reported that Capone would often keep people up at night repeatedly screaming "Jimmy, leave me alone!" After leaving prison, Capone's bodyguards would often come rushing into Capone's bedroom upon hearing him scream. They would find Capone cowering in the corner, claiming that "Jimmy's ghost" was after him. Capone supposedly went so far as to hire a psychic to try and get the ghost to leave. She was apparently unsuccessful because until his death, Capone kept looking over his shoulder for Jimmy's ghost.

As for the haunted building itself, in the late 60s, the Cartage Company building was being torn down when Canadian businessman George Patey



The site of the former SMC Cartage Company-Chicago, IL.

stepped forward and purchased the entire bullet-ridden North wall of the building, all 414 bricks of it. Patey had the wall taken apart brick-by-brick, numbering each one along the way so it could be reassembled later. Then the entire wall was shipped back to Canada.

Patey tried putting the bricks on tour and eventually reconstructed the wall as part of a themed restaurant. In the late 1990s, Patey attempted to sell the entire wall, but was unable to find a buyer and

instead decided to start selling individual bricks. According to legend, some of the brick buyers returned their purchases, claiming they were cursed and had brought nothing but bad luck since the bricks had arrived in the buyers' homes. Patey himself passed away in 2004. The current location of any of the bricks that remained in Patey's possession remains a mystery.

ADMINISTRATION

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