



# The ghosts of Ohio<sup>®</sup> Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

Volume 20 Issue 5

## THIS TOO SHALL PASS



James

Right now, the paranormal field is in a pretty dark place: People calling out “paranormal professionals” as being fakes, AI-generated “evidence” popping up all over social media, podcaster-on-podcaster verbal assaults, unscrupulous behavior like stealing research and/or claiming it to be your own.

Sadly, this is nothing new. And as a result, people are starting to leave this field in droves. Some are ones who thought they could make a quick buck or simply wanted to latch on to the latest fad. Those are the ones, I have to admit, I won't miss at all. The ones who I will miss, and the ones who is makes me sad to see go, are the people who just got so fed up with all the lies and deceit in the paranormal field that they're trading in the EMFs and walking away. To them, I have but one thing to offer:

### Please stay.

Look, I have been part of the paranormal community since 1985—long before ghost reality shows and even the Internet. Heck, if we wanted to try and take a picture of a ghost, we had to send the photos out to be developed and we couldn't use our phones even if we had a 100-foot cord attached to it (man, I'm old). But even back in those days, we had paranormal drama. Someone always wanted to dump on your evidence, thought you didn't know what you were talking about, and believed they were better than you. Sound familiar?

How did I manage to survive in this field all these years? It wasn't easy. In fact, I came close to quitting more times than I care to admit. It was during those trying times when I would just put my ghostly head down and go about my business. All this drama was nothing but a distraction, so I ignored it. I got into this field to find answers for myself, and that's what I'm continuing to do today.

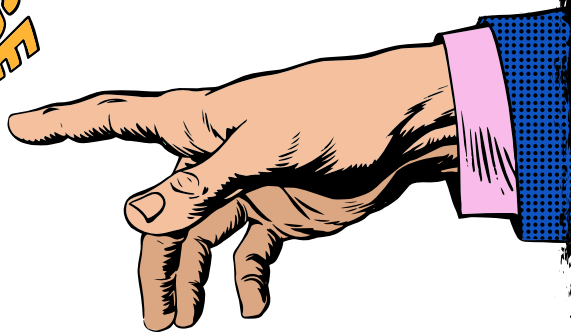
So if you're out there, feeling like it's time take a break from all his paranormal stuff, then go ahead and hit the Pause button. Take a walk, read a book, give yourself a month or so to re-evaluate. Just don't simply walk away. Because if you got into this field because of a burning desire to find answers and seek the truth, we NEED you. Don't let that flame go out.

This too shall pass.

Cheers,

James A. Willis

Founder/Director



## PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

# “Come here, I need you!”

Carol T.  
South Bend, Indiana

A little bit of background about me: I was born in Indiana and was 8 years old when both my parents were killed in a car accident. I was their only child and I ended up moving to Ohio to live with my grandparents. I would rather not say where her house was exactly, but it was a farm in Southern Ohio that backed up to several acres of woods that my grandparents also owned.

I don't know why, but those woods always creeped me out. Even in broad daylight, if I got close to the woods, I would just get a weird feeling, like something was in the woods, watching me. Back then, being so young, I remember that I thought there was something bad in the woods. Now that I'm grown, I'm convinced that what was out there was evil.

I say that because I can still remember the first time I heard the voice coming from the woods. It was summer and right around dusk. I was playing on a tire swing in the back yard, when I heard what I clearly took to be my mother's voice, coming from the woods.

**“Carol, come here. I need you!”**

I can remember stopping the tire swing and looking at the woods. There was nothing there and even though I was young, I remember telling myself that my mom had gone to heaven, so it couldn't have been her. But then I heard it again. And again.

**“Carol, come here. I need you!”**

That scared me a lot. I couldn't comprehend what I was hearing, only that I was hearing something. It was real, but it couldn't be my mother. So I did what any young girl would do in that situation—I ran into the house and didn't tell anyone about it.



But that would not be the only time I would hear the voice. I would actually hear it for almost 10 more years before I moved away to start college. At first, I would hear the voice maybe once a week. Over time, it would become less and less frequent until I'd hear it maybe once a year. But no matter when I heard it, it was always saying the same exact thing:

**“Carol, come here. I need you!”**

The other common thing was that the voice always sounded like it was in pain or distress. And whatever it was, it was trying to get me to go into the woods.

But by far, the most disturbing thing was the over time, the voice would change. Sometimes it would sound like my mother, other times I'd swear it was my grandmother. But most of the time, I couldn't place the voice, only that it was female.

As I mentioned, once I moved away for college, my trips back to the farm became less and less frequent. Both of my grandparents have since passed away and their property, including the woods, have been sold. I haven't been anywhere near those woods in almost 20 years. Sometimes, I wonder what would happen if I took a trip to Ohio and stood near those woods. But since I only ever heard the voice coming from those woods and nowhere else, I think its best that I leave whatever's out there alone.



# GHOST HUNT AT THE BIRD CAGE THEATRE

Anyone who knows me is well aware of my love for the desert southwest and Old West history. So, of course, it was only natural that I'd eventually wind up exploring Tombstone, Arizona. Visitors can watch a reenactment of the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral, take a tour into the original silver mine that started the town, take a historical stagecoach ride through the dusty streets, visit the legendary Boothill Graveyard, and, yes, ghost hunt inside the infamous Bird Cage Theatre!

The Bird Cage is a fascinating building. If you're picturing a theatre similar to the Cleveland Playhouse or the Ohio Theatre in Columbus, you're way off the mark. Remember that we're talking about a desert mining town in the 1880s. Opulence was hard to come by. Instead, the Bird Cage is neither huge nor particularly ornate. Once I paid the entrance fee for my self-guided exploration of the building, I stepped beyond the velvet rope (yes there is one) and found myself in a large room where audiences once sat on long wooden benches to watch performances that included magicians, comics, singers, musicians, daring feats, and more. Sometimes this room also



served as a dance hall or casino. Today, it serves as a museum, filled with a treasure trove of antiques and informative displays, all from Tombstone's colorful past. I saw Doc Holliday's faro table, the forceps that may or may not have been used to remove a bullet from Virgil



# GHOST HUNT AT THE BIRD CAGE THEATRE *Continued*



Earp, and the Theatre's original grand piano, still on the spot it was placed when the building opened in 1881. (There are also a LOT of bullet holes in the ceiling!) In the balcony around the room are 12 small, curtained boxes called "bird cages" where prostitutes entertained those who could afford to pay for such a luxury. To the left of the stage is a short staircase that takes you up onto the stage, where there is a decorated horse-drawn hearse called the Black Moriah (considered Tombstone's most prized antique) that transported all but 6 people to the Boothill Graveyard. Nearby, a set of stairs on stage left takes you down to the basement. The basement houses two dressing rooms, a storage area, and the original table & chairs from the world's longest poker game (1881-1889), preserved as it had been left when the Theatre closed in 1892. As with many mining towns in the Old West, a lot of Tombstone's residents left when the mine was no longer profitable. When that happened, the Bird Cage faded, too. It was locked up with all of its contents & history. It would take decades before the doors were once again opened. Fascinating, indeed; and I'm only able to scratch the surface for you in this article! But I'm sure you're antsy to hear about the ghosts, so here goes...

I would be an absolutely terrible paranormal investigator if I passed up the opportunity to do the ghost tour/ghost hunt inside the Bird Cage Theatre, reportedly one of the "most haunted" locations in America. Not only did I sign up and pay the \$35 fee (which was pretty cheap, comparatively speaking), but I also came prepared with a camera and voice recorder. We were encouraged to take all the photos & recordings we wanted as long as we promised to share with them anything we may find.

Our tour guide for the evening was a woman named Shelley, who openly admitted to our small group that she's afraid of things that go



bump in the night and is terrified to be in the building alone. (Personally, in all the time I spent exploring each area by myself, I didn't feel anything strange or uncomfortable in the building. I appreciated her honesty, though.) She gave us a basic tour of each area, filling us in on both history and ghostly experiences. As far as paranormal activity is concerned, she told us that human figures have been seen with the naked eye, as well as in reflections and camera flashes. There's a ghostly cat, and even a dog that had been shot & killed during a performance when a man in the audience thought the female actress was in danger. (The dog had been part of the show.) We also heard about two children who supposedly haunt the Bird Cage. "Sarah" likes to tug on clothing and play. (I asked where the name Sarah came from, but Shelley didn't know.) "Joshie" likes to play and sometimes appears with Sarah at the top of the stairs. (Shelley told us that Joshie was one of two brothers who drowned trying to save one another in the San Pedro River. However, their grave at Boothill Cemetery simply

*(continued on page 5.)*

# GHOST HUNT AT THE BIRD CAGE THEATRE *Continued*



says, “Brady Bros. 1883,” and a website called BillionGraves.com lists their first names as John & Frank. So where did “Joshie” come from?)

Shelley also shared a lot of photos of strange things people have captured. There were run-of-the-mill dust orbs, and some “shadowy figures” resulting from pareidolia, but I have to admit that there were a few convincing pictures that piqued my interest. I was eager to see if I could experience anything or capture something on my audio.

Unfortunately, the ghost hunt was different than I expected. We sat on folding chairs in the large room, and we weren’t permitted to get up and walk around “for insurance purposes.” Shelley set up a REM pod on Doc Holliday’s faro table behind me, set a dog toy on the stairs to my left, and she brought out a light-up stuffed dog and a demonic-looking doll that cackles when someone touches it. (I would gladly take Mark’s marionette over that doll, for sure!) Since I had my voice recorder running the entire time, Shelley must have concluded that I had some investigation experience because the next thing I knew, she was handing me a spirit box so that I could listen for any words that might come through the static. Before turning the lights out, she instructed us to take lots of pictures with & without a flash, aiming toward the bird cages, the stairs, and even over our shoulders.

She placed the light-up dog on a table near her and began asking the spirits to come play. Over and over, she specifically addressed Joshie and Sarah, attributing every flashing light to them. I don’t know if it was a nervous habit, but Shelley didn’t wait for a response before asking another question. It was as though she was trying to fill the silence, lest she hear something spooky. Since I was saddled with the spirit box for the first 20 minutes (therefore unable to hear anything but static), I was surprised to discover on my recording later that a man sitting across the room commented that he’d heard a young

boy’s voice near him say, “Stop” or “Stop it.” The man said that he doesn’t even believe in this stuff. “Nobody else heard that???” Since no one had, Shelley carried on with her barrage of questions.



This is how the rest of the hour went. Shelley kept talking, the dog lit up, and we took pictures.

In the end, the most exciting thing that happened was the man across the room hearing a voice. I heard nothing on the spirit box, nor did I capture anything on my audio recording. The same goes with all of the pictures I took. Why the stuffed dog lit up so much is a mystery. It didn’t always happen in tandem with Shelley’s questioning, and pounding on the table didn’t set it off. I would like to buy one and experiment with it.

All in all, my experience at the Bird Cage Theatre was incredible (historically speaking). Sure, the ghost hunt left much to be desired, but so what? The money I paid will help preserve the building and its history for years to come. That’s important when so many historical places are in danger of being demolished, or even forgotten. I don’t know which is worse. In a way, I’m helping to keep history alive, and that makes me very happy.

# HEY, LIMA!

## WHERE'S YOUR CRYBABY BRIDGE?

For as long as we can remember, Lima's Crybaby Bridge was the one located along Greely Chapel Road. Recently, however, someone emailed us, saying that Lima's real Crybaby Bridge is actually in a different location. And it comes with its own unique backstory, too.

So tell us, Lima: Where's your Crybaby Bridge at? If it's somewhere other than Greely Chapel Road, we want to hear from you! We realize we're being a bit vague here, but it's on purpose. We don't want to sway you by providing too much information. What we can say is that the story surrounding this bridge is said to have been around since the 1980s and does not involve any of the specifics usually associated with the bridge on Greely Chapel Road (including the school bus accident).



*Greely Chapel Road Crybaby Bridge.  
But is it THE Crybaby Bridge?*

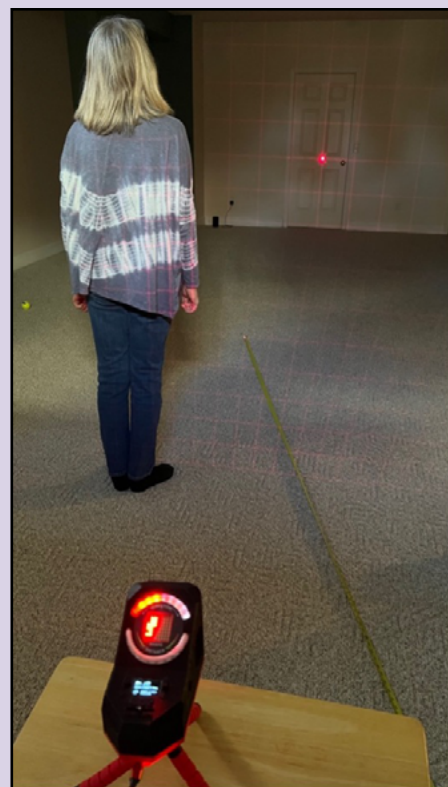
# GS2 LASER GRID SYSTEM REVIEW



Mark

This spring, the Ghosts of Ohio added a new piece of heat & motion sensing equipment to our toolbox of investigative instrumentation: the GS2 Laser Grid System ([GhostStop.com](http://GhostStop.com)). As shown in the accompanying photos, the GS2 combines several capabilities into one piece of equipment. Firstly, it projects a laser grid into a three-dimensional space, which provides a useful way to survey anything that “breaks” the light grid pattern within that space. Secondly, the GS2 can detect thermal departures from a baseline reference level established when the unit is initialized. Objects warmer than that baseline activate amber-colored light-emitting diodes (LEDs) on the square display, while anything colder than the room baseline (like the ice bag held in the photo on page 8) changes the LEDs to blue. The main square “SHAPE” display of thermal LEDs partitions the room space in up/down and left/right directions. Thirdly, the GS2 detects relative motion in the investigative space. It highlights left-right angles via color-changing LEDs arranged in an arc along the top of the device. Fourth, relative near-to-far distance to the motion-activated change is mapped on the lower arc of LEDs. A simple switch controls three detector sensitivity settings for the differential temperature change, though the high sensitivity setting tended to cause all the square-matrixed LEDs to flash in activity and was not very useful in our experience. The GS2 can be battery operated (for a short time) or plugged into an available outlet for extended periods of operation.

So, at face value the GS2 does functionally provide capability as advertised in all these areas. It really does what it’s supposed to do...within reason. But there are limitations that became apparent during our evaluation



Testing the G2’s temperature and motion capabilities

(continued on page 8.)

## GS2 LASER GRID SYSTEM REVIEW CONTINUED



**When placed in close proximity to the G2, the device was able to detect both the bag of ice (blue squares) as well as the person holding the bag (red squares)**

study. For example, the product features a main display matrix of LEDs that only approximates the shape of hot or cold objects when they are very close to the sensor. The coarse mapping of each LED into the sensor's large field of view quickly reduces recognizable shapes after only a few feet of distance change. The much higher angular resolution of the projected laser grid gives the impression that each block of that laser grid corresponds to a single LED in the shape display region. That is simply not the case. Many laser grid boxes fall within a single shape-display indication region (which can be seen in the photo with the ice bag positioned about 12" away). This means that a recognizable hot or cold spot observed on the shape display would have to be exceedingly large if it were happening "far" away from the GS2 sensor. This aspect of operation suggests that the GS2 may have applications better suited to smaller spaces rather than large rooms. Secondly, there is no data logging capability. Thus, either an observer must always stay with the GS2, or a video camera must be dedicated to the instrument. To record the displays at readable levels, a video camera must be dedicated to the GS2 and focused on the readouts, not the room itself. So, two video cameras are needed to both cover the room and record the GS2 activity at useful resolution. In summary, this instrument can serve as a coarse stand-in for a more expensive infrared video camera, so long as its limitations factor into consideration.



## SPECIAL PRESENTATION: THE LOVELAND FROG AMALGAM

If our fearless leader's recent presentation at March's Frogman Festival was any indication, people are really interested in discovering that there's a whole lot more to the frogman legends than gun-slinging patrolmen and Pokémon players. In fact, Willis has collected so much research and data on the subject that he was only able to fit half of it into his Fest presentation.

What was initially called "part 2" of his presentation has morphed into something brand new:

### **The Loveland Frog Amalgam.**

As of this writing, the only scheduled date for this presentation is Saturday, October 14th at the MUFON Ohio Conference (see page 10 for more information). But more dates are in the works. And you can always wander into your local library, convention center, or events building and tell them you want Weird Willis to visit and tell you all about the Loveland Frog!



## **EQUIPMENT REVIEWS**

Got a piece of paranormal equipment you've always wondered how it works? Does it really do what it's supposed to be doing? Or maybe you've created some paranormal equipment you'd like field tested? Either way, let us know because The Ghosts Of Ohio would love to help! Drop us a line at [info@ghostsofohio.org](mailto:info@ghostsofohio.org) with the subject line "Equipment" and we'll take it from there!

## DATES STILL BEING ADDED TO OUR CALENDAR

Armed with a whole slew of new presentations, as well as updates to our most popular ones, The Ghosts Of Ohio continues to add appearances and dates to our calendar. So while the list below is only the confirmed dates and locations, you better believe that list is going to continue to grow as we roll on through 2023. So keep an eye on this newsletter or better yet, follow The Ghosts Of Ohio on any of our social media channels to be the first to know when new dates get confirmed.

Unless the event is marked with a "\$", it is free. In all cases, seating may be limited, so it's always a good idea to check with the venue regarding needing to pre-registration.

**Monday, July 31st @ 6:30 pm**  
**Weird Ohio Road Trips presentation**  
 Rodman Public Library—Main Branch  
 215 E. Broadway Street  
 Alliance, OH 44601  
[More information here](#)

**Monday, August 7th @ 6:30 pm**  
**Weird Ohio Road Trips presentation**  
 Mentor Public Library  
 8215 Mentor Avenue  
 Mentor, OH 44060  
[Pre-register here](#)

**Wednesday, August 23rd**  
**Monsters In Ohio presentation**  
 Mentor Public Library  
 8215 Mentor Avenue  
 Mentor, OH 44060  
[Pre-register here](#)

**Thursday, September 28th**  
**The Secrets of Hangar 18 presentation**  
 Sylvester Memorial Wellston Public Library  
 135 East Second Street  
 Wellston, OH 45692

**Friday, October 6th, 2023 @ 6:00 pm**  
**Ohio's Historic Haunts presentation**  
 Oxford Lane Library  
 441 S. Locust St #2126  
 Oxford, OH 45056

**Friday, October 9th, 2023**  
**Northern Ohio Legends & Lore presentation**  
 Morley Library  
 184 Phelps Street  
 Painesville, OH

**Thursday, October 12th, 2023**  
**The Secrets Of Hangar 18 presentation**  
 Dayton Metro Library: New Lebanon Branch  
 715 W. Main Street  
 New Lebanon, OH

**Saturday, October 14th, 2023: 10 am – 6:00 pm**  
**2023 MUFON of Ohio Conference (\$)**  
 Quality Inn and Suites  
 1000 Comfort Plaza Dr.  
 Bellville, OH 44813  
[Tickets on sale now](#)

**Saturday, October 21st @ 1:00 pm**  
**TBD**  
 Public Library of Steubenville and  
 Jefferson County  
 407 South 4th Street  
 Steubenville, OH 43952

**Thursday, October 26th @ 6:00 pm**  
**Ohio's Historic Haunts presentation**  
 Wayne County Public Library  
 220 W. Liberty Street  
 Wooster, OH 44691

**Saturday, October 28th @ 6:00 pm**  
**Meet The Ghosts Of Ohio presentation**  
 Xenia Community Library  
 76 E. Market Street  
 Xenia, OH 45385

**Friday, December 1st–Sunday, December 3rd**  
**GalaxyCon Columbus (\$)**  
 Greater Columbus Convention Center  
 400 North High Street  
 Columbus, OH 43215  
[Tickets on sale now](#)



## Investigations & Consultations

The Ghosts Of Ohio are continuing to schedule investigations and consultations for 2023. All members of the organization who would participate in investigations have been fully vaccinated.

Additionally, we can also make arrangements to drop off ghost-hunting equipment at your home or business and walk you through how to set it up yourself if you prefer. So, 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 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](#)

 [TWITTER](#)

 [INSTAGRAM](#)

## Administration

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