

The ghosts of Ohio® Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org Volume 8 Issue 1

From the Spooky Desk of James Willis: Happy Halloween!



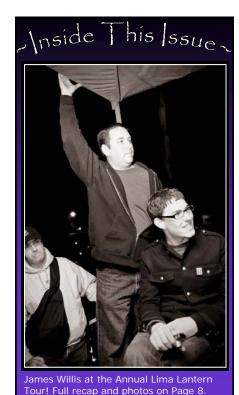
Not only are we celebrating Halloween here at The Ghosts of Ohio, but this issue also marks the 8th anniversary of The Ghosts of Ohio newsletter. And with each passing Halloween, I feel myself growing

more and more nostalgic. You see, when I was a kid, trick-or-treating took place on the same day every year-October 31st. There was no "official" two-hour window during which you had to go out, either. Rather, you were free to roam the neighborhoods to your heart's content until your parents forced you to come in. I have fond memories of literally dragging my treat-laden pillowcase down the street. All that's changed over the years. Now, parents have to scan the newspaper to see what day Beggar's Night falls on and during what hours everyone must go out and "beg" for treats. For me, it's a little weird that we're not even allowed to call it trick-or -treating anymore. It's as if we keep trying to condense Halloween until it finally goes away completely. Which is a shame, really. Because despite what

people will try to convince you about the evil side of Halloween, ask any child and they will tell you what Halloween's all about; dressing up, getting candy, and maybe getting (or giving) a good scare or two. It makes me a little sad to think this all might be slipping away from us.

Which brings me to this issue of the newsletter. In the spirit of two-hour windows to celebrate, we've decided to jam as many tasty treats into this issue as possible. We've got some of our traditional favorites, but take a peek and you'll find some cool treats in here, too, including a book review by Darrin that approaches the Amityville Horror from an angle many are not familiar with. Oh yeah, and then there's got to be one of the creepiest personal experiences I've read in a long time. So grab yourself some cider and some of those mini-Snickers bars you know you hid from the trick-or-treaters and check out the treats we've gathered up for you. Enjoy!

Cheers, James A. Willis Founder/Director



Ohio Paracon: From Crop Circles to Environmental Sensitivity



Wendy

I love to attend conventions. It's a great way to learn about new research and ideas in your chosen field without getting hammered over the head with them. So, in August, I headed down to Dayton for the Ohio

Paranormal Convention, which took place at Hara Arena. This convention is very reasonably priced compared to others I have attended, and even though it is a 3½ hour drive for me from Cleveland, it is a home state convention!

There were speakers all day Saturday, and for a good portion of the day on Sunday, talking about everything from ghosts, Bigfoot and UFOs to the archeology of the ghost hunt. Since I am a perpetual student, I like to target subjects I don't know a lot about. The two presentations I specifically targeted this year were Crop Circles by Earle Benezet, and Environmental Sensitivity by Brandon Massullo.

Let's start with Crop Circles. Earle Benezet has been working in the UFO sector of the paranormal world for approximately 50 years. A former state director of Kentucky Mufon, he is now the director of the Kentucky UFO Reporting Center and host of an online radio show called Conspiracy. Last year I heard him give a presentation at Ohio Paracon on UFOs, Mars, and hollow moons—and he totally freaked me out. Ghosts and demons I can handle...the information he was giving me had my head in a total whirl. Since that time, I became a member of the Cleveland Ufology Project to further pursue my education in this area.

Continued on Page 4



Way Off The Beaten Path: Ghost Towns!



Imagine vou're on a road in the middle of a desert canyon. You're surrounded by rocks. scraggly plant life, and an assortment of desert critters that, in the heat of the midday sun, choose

to hide from your roving eyes. The only sounds to be heard are the wind and the crunch of gravel as you slowly inch your car through what seems like the middle of absolutely nowhere. Beside you is a map, but the further you go on this lonely road, the more you begin to doubt its accuracy. Maybe there was a mistake. Maybe there's nothing to find after all. Maybe you should turn around. But just as you consider going back, you finally find it: the ghost town.

A couple of years ago, my good friends in New Mexico introduced me to their favorite hobby: visiting ghost towns. Although I knew that such things existed somewhere, I never considered making them part of my travel itinerary. I mean, who would think that visiting an abandoned town would be fun? Boy, did I have a lot to learn!

Finding ghost towns isn't as difficult as you'd imagine, especially when the Internet has so much to offer. My friends primarily use www.ghosttowns.com as their so-called tour guide. There you can find maps, photos, and history about



The Chloride Hangin' Tree.



The Chloride General Store.

thousands of ghost towns throughout the United States. It's very easy to navigate and, to be honest, it can be pretty addictive! I couldn't help but get excited as my friends and I hit the road in search of these all-but-forgotten towns.

Our first destination was called Lake Valley. It's located waaayyy out in the southwestern New Mexican desert. We're talking a nearly two-hour drive on a two-lane road, and that's after the drive to get to the two-lane road. It is so far out in the middle of nowhere that there's no cell phone reception, no help if you need it, and no ranch fences to keep the cows off the road. (Yes, cattle blocked our path at one point!) It was an unreal drive. However, when we finally reached Lake Valley, I was in awe. Although there was very little left of the town, it was clearly chock full of history.

Lake Valley was founded in 1878 after silver was discovered in the area. Its population exploded to around 4,000 residents; and it had saloons, churches, stores, hotels, mills, and a school. However, like so many Old West towns, the drying up of the mine and a devastating fire took their toll, and Lake Valley slowly became a ghost town-full of

memories, but no people. Today, all that's left are a few sad buildings. I saw homes that still had their original (although peeling) wallpaper on the walls, a stone church that seemed mostly intact, and the schoolhouse, which has been (thankfully!) turned into a sort of visitor's center. It houses original schoolhouse furniture, artifacts from the town, and old photographs from a time when the town was booming. It was amazing to see how active and sprawling the town was at the turn of the century in comparison to the desolation of today. This was also made apparent by a visit to the nearby cemetery. Although Lake Valley's population was once over 4,000, there are only a handful of grave markers left. It was a sad realization that the majority of the people who once lived there are now forgotten forever, without even a marker to prove that they ever existed.

After our visit to Lake Valley, my friends and I once again hit the road toward another ghost town destination: Chloride, New Mexico. This time the route wound through gorgeous desert The view was so mountains. breathtaking that I simply couldn't take

Continued on Page 5



Book Review: The Night The Defeos Died



Everyone knows the story of the Amityville Horror. The story of the Lutz family and how after a mere 28 days, they were forced out of their home by evil new entities. This book is about the true horror

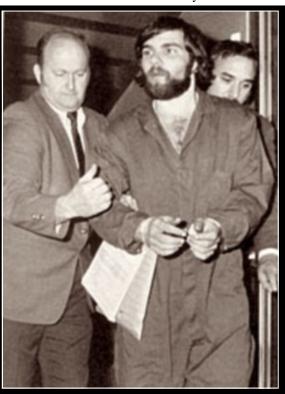
story that happened 14 months prior to those supposed events the Lutz's experienced. It is about what happened on November 13, 1974, and what is still happening. That night Ronald "Butch" Defeo shot and killed his parents, his two younger sisters, and two younger brothers. Mr. Osuna has interviewed Butch Defeo's former wife, Geraldine, and Butch Defoe; as well as looking at all the case's evidence he could, in order to try and find out what really happened that night and in the years after. The results are a book that tells a story of events and facts that tell a very interesting story and yet leaves a main question unanswered—what really happened that night? The evidence that he presents along with the claims Geraldine, Butch, and others make are very compelling; but as you discover more about Butch, you are always left wondering as to what is true and what are lies. Even with this in mind, it is clear from testimonies, evidence from the crime scene and court documents that almost everything that happened after the murders was at best a very poor example of the judicial system in action and how greed can work its way into any situation.

The book also shows how the tragedy spins even further out of control with the entrance of the Lutz family and the subsequent Amityville Horror story. Although it's a smaller part of the book, he does show how this murder case gave

> birth to the infamous haunted house story and various books by the prosecutor and others. It seems that, at some point, the loss of six lives became nothing more than a way of getting rich for all parties involved. The truth of what happened simply didn't matter anymore. This is also evident in the many law suites that both George Lutz and Butch Defeo have filed against multiple parties, including Ric Osuna, throughout the years. All of which seem to bring up more questions abut what really happened.

> I thought this was a good book and I would suggest it to anyone. It left me wondering if it's possible to ever know what really happened or if at this point if it really matters. How does a murder case turn into something that gives birth to one of the most widely known ghost stories of our time? In

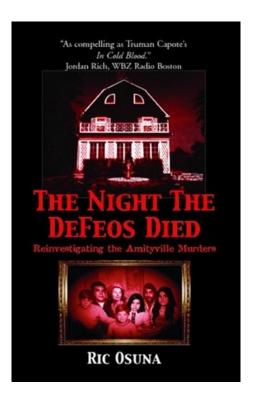
addition to the book, Mr. Osuna has also created a very good companion website http:// www.amityvillemurders.com/ which is well worth a visit.



On December 4, 1975, Butch DeFeo was sentenced to six consecutive sentences of 25 years to life.

tragedy, murder, lies, and corruption that still continue to this day. It's a true story about the end of six lives and how that act has changed countless others forever.

Osuna's book compiles a series of



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

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.

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

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

Twitter

http://twitter.com/ghostsofohio









Ohio Paracon: From Crop Circles to Environmental Sensitivity

Continued from Page 1

This year, yet again, he left me amazed. The discussion was on Crop Circles. Here I was thinking, "OK, we get pretty designs in the crops that are supposedly created by aliens." But, his hour long talk left me feeling gob smacked, to say the least. According to the research he was citing, there are blatant differences between crop circles that "we" create with boards and strings, and those made by "others." The crop circles in question actually appear to be created by massive doses microwaves. The plants within the circle are not bent or creased as in a man-made crop circle-they are literally melted into shape. The genetic structure is also altered. The plants within the circles show elongated nodules...those little "knee" looking joints you find in cereal plants. Also, the grain itself is often elongated, while the plants outside of the crop circle are normal. So while a human can certainly get a board and create a circle or design, he can't change the genetic structure of the plant-and certainly not overnight!

Some of these patterns we are seeing are actually instructions for creating propulsion units, and those units have since actually been built by engineers. Many are mathematical equations or bits of music. And research has been conducted in which "we" create a pictograph-type circle asking a question—and we are getting responses! Freaked out? This was a whole new world for me. I had no idea this was being studied so scientifically...to the extent that we can read the codes! I have included the link to both Earle's website. his radio show, and the website for the information on the plant changes (including photographs and charts) at the end of this article.

The next talk that drew my interest was on environmental sensitivity and how it plays out in paranormal occurrences. Brandon Massullo is currently working as a clinical counselor at the Cleveland Clinic, and has degrees in psychology from Toledo University and parapsychology in Edinburgh, Scotland. It is in Scotland that he did his research in 2008 in the field of environmental sensitivity, the link to which is at the end of this article.

First, the set up. Environmentally sensitive (ES) individuals have stronger physical reactions to changes in their environment. They often have allergies, suffer from migraines or headaches caused by weather changes, have a low pain tolerance, IBS, fibromyalgia, are light sensitive, suffer from depression or anxiety, or have chronic fatigue. These reactions can be seen and tracked by MRIs. For example, a person without ES will show some brain activity while being pinched, while a person with ES will show a heavier amount and longer period of brain activity after being pinched. So ES is scientifically backed.

Brandon's research took place at Mary King's Close in Edinburgh. For those who have not heard of it, it is the "underground" of Old Edinburgh supposedly haunted by the ghost of the child Mary King. You may have seen it portrayed on Haunted Travels or another show of that type. Many Close visitors leave small dolls for Mary, and there is now a huge pile of them in one of the cave-like rooms. For several months, Brandon took test groups into the Close for overnight ghost hunts on the weekends. These groups were broken up into 2 factions: 10 people with ES, and 10 without. Each person was given a notebook in which they answered questions for each area they were stationed in, such as: "Did you feel tingling? Did vou feel like vou were touched? Did you feel like you were being watched?" etc.

While an ES person can detect magnetic waves much easier than others, they can also detect environmental changes when there is no magnetic wave present. In Brandon's research, 10 rooms in the Close were pre-classified. Four had low EMF, four had high EMF and two were borderline. After reviewing the papers handed in after the nights spent in the Close, he found that people with ES reported almost 50% more paranormal experiences than those without, whether in a low EMF room or a high one. When it came to the high EMF rooms, there were more instances reported as a whole, whether or not the participant had ES.

That's quite a bit to chew on, and it may go far in explaining why one person in your group always "feels" things or has experiences that others do not. If they, like me, suffer from four or five of the above physical complaints, then saying they are sensitive is actually accurate. Not psychically sensitive, but environmentally sensitive!

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For more information on the works of these two speakers, visit:

- Earle Benezet at www.kymufon.anomalyresponse.org director's page.
- Earle's radio show at www.strnradio.com Friday, 10 p.m.
- The crop circle article is at www.bltresearch.com. Go to the section on the left called "plant abnormalities" for the research conducted on plants within crop
- Brandon Massullo's research paper can be found at www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk. Browse authors "M" and scroll until you find his name for his article.



Way Off The Beaten Path: Ghost Towns!

Continued from Page 2

a picture that would do it justice! However, I was able to take a picture of a couple of cows that chased each other across the road in front of us. I swear there's nothing more amusing that seeing cows run!

The town of Chloride was, like Lake Valley, founded near a silver mine with high-grade silver ore (hence the name "Chloride"). During the 1880s there were about 2,000 residents. The town had multiple saloons, stores, restaurants, boarding houses, a hotel, and more. However, when the mine began to dry up, people left. Today, several structures still remain there, as well as about 20 residents. I was bummed that by the time we arrived in Chloride, it was after 4 p.m., which didn't leave us much time for exploration. However, the owner of the Gift Shop (formerly a saloon) and the General Store was gracious enough to allow us into the store to look around. What we saw was a General Store with 90% of its original contents in their original places! Apparently, when the original owner left Chloride for good almost a century ago, he simply closed the doors of the store and left. When the new owner opened it for the first time, it was like opening a time capsule. Despite the fact that everything inside was covered with layers of dust and animal



droppings, all of the merchandise was still in place. Amazingly, the owner and some volunteers painstakingly removed, cleaned, and replaced every single item in the store until it looked exactly as it had when it was first abandoned. The store is now a museum, containing such items as tools, medicines, furniture, and even a child's coffin! This General

Store, along with the friendliness of the residents, made this trip one I would take again in a heartbeat. There was so much to see and discover! On our way out of town, I even snapped a picture of the Hangin' Tree that's still standing in the middle of town. Jeepers!

Perhaps by now you're wondering why a paranormal investigator like me would be writing an article about ghost towns without telling any juicy ghost stories to go along with them. Well, for one thing, it's hard to find ghost stories about towns where almost no one lives. I suppose it's like the question about a tree falling in a forest. Does a ghost still say "boo" if there's no one there to hear it? Sure, there very well might be paranormal activity taking place in some ghost towns. However, being a paranormal investigator also involves delving into history, and there's so much history to be discovered in these forgotten places. How were the towns founded? Who lived there? What did they do? What caused the towns to dry up? And how many people are buried there, forgotten by decay and time?







The Sego train track (left) and view into the remains of Lake Valley (right)



My Personal Encounters: The Man in the Mirror

By: Andrew A.—Toledo, Ohio

First off, let me just tell you that you guys have a great newsletter! I am sort of a new subscriber because I never really believed in ghosts. But all that changed about two years ago when I encountered something that still freaks me out whenever I think about it.

It all began when I had to make a trip to Columbus for business. I was going to be there for a couple of days, so I made reservations at a hotel near downtown. (I don't think I should name the hotel, but it is a major chain.)

The trip to Columbus was very stressful because it was snowing the whole way and traffic was bad. So I was very excited when I checked into my room and saw it had a Jacuzzi tub. It might sound a little weird, but I couldn't wait to get into that tub and unwind. I climbed into the tub and after a while I kind of put a washcloth over my face and lay back to relax. I really don't know how long I was lying there and I might have even drifted off a little bit. But then something didn't feel right. I can't explain it, but I just had this weird feeling that I wasn't alone anymore. I took the washcloth off my face and saw that there was a man in bathroom with me!

The man was dressed in a black suit and tie. He looked to be in his 30s with dark hair. He was standing in the middle of the bathroom staring into the mirror with his hands on the sink. I am not

Got a Scary Story?

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 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!

ashamed to admit that I screamed and kind of flopped around while I tried to climb out of the tub. I tried to grab a towel that was hanging nearby, but I fell over the edge of the tub onto the floor. That must have been a sight to see! When I got up, the man was gone!

I ran out of the bathroom, soaking wet, and tried to find the guy, but he was gone. I threw on some clothes and went down to the desk. I told them there had been a man in my room and demanded to know who they gave my room key to. The woman at the desk was the same person who checked me in and she had been the only one on duty. She had not given anyone else a key to my room. I told her if that was the case, I was going to call the police because someone just broke into my room. I also started telling her I was going to let everyone know how bad their security was. I guess that got to her because she looked around to make sure we were alone. Then she said, "I'm not supposed to talk about this, but your room is haunted." I told her that wasn't funny and that I didn't believe in ghosts. She said, "It's true. We're not supposed to talk about it because the ghost is of a young man who killed himself in your room." When I told her I still didn't believe it, she said, "You saw him, right? What did he look like? I bet he had on a black suit, was about 30 years old, and was just staring in the bathroom mirror." That totally freaked me out because that was exactly what I had just encountered. I guess she could tell by my look that she was right because she said, "People have been reporting seeing this guy ever since I started working here two years ago."

I just stood there without being able to comprehend the whole thing. She offered to move me to another room on another floor and to even have a bellhop go up with me to help move my stuff. I took her offer to change rooms but decided to go back up to my original room alone just to make sure I hadn't made the whole thing up.

When I got back to the room, everything looked normal except for all of the water on the floor in the bathroom. I didn't think it would amount

to anything, but I checked the entire room again and never found any sign that someone other than me had been in the room.

Needless to say, I didn't sleep at all that night. I decided to check out in the morning and move to another hotel. When the guy working the desk that morning asked why I was checking out early, I just lied and said my business trip had been cancelled.

To this day, I have no idea exactly what I encountered in that room. But it did make me a believer, which is how I found your group and newsletter. When I saw you were asking people to share their own stories, I thought it would be a great time to share mine. Thank you!

Ghost Towns!

Continued from Page 5

The next time you decide to plan a trip, I recommend adding a ghost town or two to your itinerary. Just go to www.ghosttowns.com to see what ghost towns are located near your destination. Who knows—you just might get addicted, too!

By the way, the journey I described at the beginning of this article was on the way to a ghost town called Sego in Utah. Fellow Ghosts of Ohio member Wendy Cywinski and I traveled to Utah primarily for the National Parks, but I discovered Sego online when I was searching for ghost towns in the area. Sego Canyon is home to some very large Native American petroglyphs as well as the remains of the town of Sego. The town was founded in the 1890s after the discovery of coal, but failed because the water supply dried up.

Once we arrived, Wendy and I found the shell of an old store, a collapsed boarding house, a section of railroad track, and a seemingly small cemetery that, strangely enough, contains the grave of a Vietnam War veteran. Why he was buried in such a remote and barren town is quite the mystery! It really made us wonder, and it proves how very interesting history can be. Just imagine what you'll discover!





With Halloween on everyone's mind, we decided to ask The Ghosts of Ohio members what was the worst treat they ever received. Here's what some of them had to say:



An STP Oil Treatment bumper sticker.



Homemade pumpkins made out of orange construction paper and cotton balls.



We had this elderly friend of the family who always wanted to see my brother and my costumes on Halloween, so we'd stop over at her house after trick or treat. She had a big jar of pennies and would tell us to reach in and grab one handful. But she never realized the hole was too small to get our fists back out, so we'd have to drop most of the change to get our hand out.



A scoop of ice cream in the hand. The lady asked if we had a bowl. We replied no, so in the hand it went. Not sure if she ran out of bowls or did it to everyone.



An apple and a penny.



A stale popcorn ball. It smelled up the entire bag of candy and was better served for squirrels or other small varmints that roamed our backyard.



A toothbrush.



Marshmallows. They weren't a kid's Halloween bag?



I honestly don't recall any bad trick-ortreat treats!



gum in them.

The Ghosts on the Road: Lima Lantern Tour



Friday Saturday, October 16th and 17th, "ghosts" invaded the town of Lima, Ohio... The "Ghosts" of Ohio, that is! James A. Willis, author and founder of The Ghosts of Ohio,

accompanied tour attendees on the Third Annual Lima Lantern Tours on both nights.

Guests attending the 8:30 p.m. tours on Friday and Saturday got a special treat. Not only did they get to hear spooky stories and the fascinating history of the town from the tour guide, but they also got to hear Willis share some fun facts and ghost hunting tips. Several of The Ghosts of Ohio members, Darrin, Julie, Stephanie, and Sheri, rode along on the horse-drawn carriage ride and handed out equipment, such as EMF meters, contact thermometers, ELF meters, and the very popular night-vision goggles. Guests got to explore and investigate behind the scenes at the former Garrett Wykoff Masonic Lodge and the Ohio Theater. They even got to go back stage to the dressing rooms during a live rock concert at the theater!

The nearly three-hour tour was both interesting and informative, and it's a great way to enjoy the festive fall season. This is a definite must-see for locals and visitors! We look forward to joining in the experience again next year, and hope that you will come "haunt" Lima with us, too!

See Pages 9 and 10 for Additional Pictures from the Lima Lantern Tour, courtesy of Harrington Photography (www.harringtonphotos.net).











The Ghosts on the Road: Lima Lantern Tour Photos



The historic Ohio Theatre was one of the many stops on the Lima Lantern Tour (above). Attendees had the opportunity to explore the interior of the building and learn more about its ghostly past (below).



The Ghosts on the Road: Lima Lantern Tour Photos Continued



The ticket booth of the historic Ohio Theatre (above). Select participants of the tour had personal experiences with the other side (bottom left). The Lantern Tour employed horse-drawn carriages to transport attendees to each location (bottom right).







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		Cold Spot Dead Air				Ectoplasm EVP				Orb			Vortex			

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 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/servicesinvestigations.html.

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.

Administration

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