



The ghosts of Ohio[®] Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

Volume 9 Issue 6

From the Spooky Desk of James Willis: Ol' Blue, The Circus Clown Car



James

Those of you who know me well or have followed The Ghosts of Ohio organization for any length of time are no doubt familiar with Ol' Blue—my 1997 Honda Accord. For well over a decade, Ol' Blue has

been my go-to vehicle for investigations and ghost hunts. That is due mainly to the fact that Ol' Blue is something like those cars you see at the circus. You know, the compact cars that pull into the center of the ring and then an endless stream of clowns comes spilling out. Well, that's Ol' Blue. You can pile as much equipment as you want inside her and she still wants more. It's almost as if she's bottomless. So much so that I've grown accustomed to the amazed looks

on my clients' faces when they see the pile of equipment cases, cables, and monitors being wheeled into their house and they ask, incredulously, "all this came out of one car?"

Recently, I've been embarking on a series of overnight investigations for one of my upcoming books. Since these overnights have fewer people involved than a typical Ghosts of Ohio investigation (in some cases, I'm even flying solo), I've had to take a look at the mounds of equipment at my disposal and pair things down to the bare essentials. And that got me to thinking; what are the essentials for a successful ghost investigation? Is it actually possible to bring too much equipment on an investigation? And to that end, what actually constitutes an "investigation" versus, say, a "hunt"?

While I was still pondering those questions, I decided to make it a focal point of this newsletter. So for this issue, we've got articles on all sorts of things people might consider bringing on an investigation; everything from digital recorders and psychics to salt. Yes, salt. It's our hope here at The Ghosts of Ohio that you'll give the articles a read and start thinking for yourself about investigations and what one needs (and doesn't need) to bring along with them. If you reach any sort of consensus, we'd love to hear about it! We might even feature it in an upcoming edition of our newsletter.

Think of it this way: inquiring ghostly minds want to know: what's in your ghost hunting bag?

Cheers,
James A. Willis
Founder/Director

Salt and Superstition



Samantha

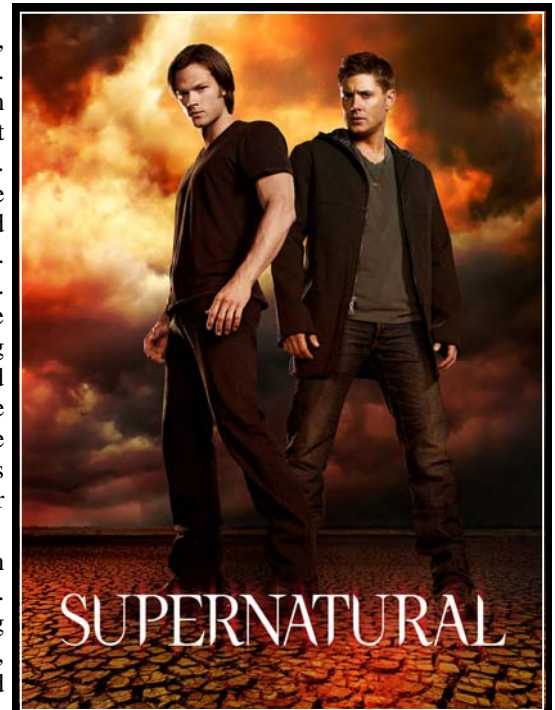
Anyone like me who's a fan of the TV show *Supernatural* is all too familiar with Sam and Dean Winchester's mode of spirit elimination: salting and burning the deceased person's bones. As with a lot of fiction out there, I often find myself wondering what inspires such an idea. Sure, fire is well known as a physical and spiritual cleanser. But what is the story behind the use of salt? How did people use it in the past, and how did it become the subject of superstition and folklore?

It makes sense to begin at the beginning with man's discovery of salt. A Time Magazine article from March of 1982 titled "History According to Salt" sums up salt's history very well: "The history of the world according to salt is simple: animals wore paths to salt licks,

men followed; trails became roads, and settlements grew beside them. When the human menu shifted from salt-rich game to cereals, more salt was needed to supplement the diet. But the underground deposits were beyond reach, and the salt sprinkled over the surface was insufficient. Scarcity kept the mineral precious. As civilization spread, salt became one of the world's principal trading commodities." Salt was considered a symbol of wealth throughout the world, and was often used in place of money. In some places, it was even traded ounce for ounce for gold!

Scarcity wasn't the only reason salt was considered precious. Besides being used in flavoring food, it was also used to preserve it, purify it, and it also made a good antiseptic.

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Using Psychics on Investigations



Wendy

The use of psychics on investigations seems to be an ongoing debate, not only whether you should use them, but how you can work them into your group dynamic. Some groups prefer to investigate only using scientific equipment (especially if you are looking for acceptance within the scientific community), while others rely on having a person on their team who can not only point the way, but can also help a trapped spirit move on to their next phase of existence. So is there a middle ground? I don't think you should be too much of either. Only working with the science rules out our innate feelings...our gut instincts. And those can be very important. On the other hand, only doing an investigation "psychically" isn't providing your client or the scientific world with any hard evidence. It's merely your "word" that you want them to trust.

The Ghosts of Ohio have been giving this a lot of thought. A lot of teams are science-driven, yet they have people within their group that are sensitives. They can feel energy fields and fluctuations, and can sense when something else is in the room. This can give the team the ability to weed out whether there are electrical circuits or appliances that are leaking EMF, creating an energy field that a sensitive person can pick up and this proves to be helpful when setting up equipment.

But, if the team decides that the "something else" is not human or electrical interference, then what should they do? The assumption is that it could be spiritual energy, and we should highlight that spot with our equipment. But, if it is spiritual, it is not static and

that energy is on the move, whether residual or intelligent. So, is putting all your eggs in one basket a smart thing? You could be setting up the equipment to watch a spot where a team member "felt something" an hour ago... meanwhile that energy has moved to a part of the building you are not covering and you end up with another investigation with no evidence. So using your sensitives as sniffer dogs has its plus and its minus.

Which leads us to and even harder scenario—using actual psychics—people who can see, hear, and talk to dead people. And there are several factors to consider:

- *How did you find the psychic?*
- *What is their track record/reputation?*
- *What will they be getting out of working with your group?*
- *How should you utilize them?*

Once you've answered those questions, there are (what I feel) a couple of very good shows to use as guides on how to properly use psychics during investigations.

The first show ran on Crime TV (now TruTV) called *Haunting Evidence* (no longer in production—*sob*). These were not paranormal investigations per say, but rather a psychic look at cold cases. The team consisted of John J. Oliver and Carla Baron on the psychic work, and Patrick Burns handling equipment and research. Basically, the psychics would be driven to an undisclosed location—the scene of a crime or the scene where a body was found—where they would attempt to connect with the murdered or missing victim. The goal was to come up with some sort of information that could be given to the police as a fresh lead.

Afterwards, a communication session



occurred where Patrick used his arsenal of equipment in an attempt to capture solid evidence that spirits were actually in contact with John J. and Carla. Anything they came up with was handed over to the police in the hope that it would catch the person who had committed the crime and close the case.

In this show, Patrick never gave the psychics information beforehand. They went in blind. This is key when using a psychic. You do not want to give them information that they may latch on to which can taint their vision and feelings. If you have ever gone to see John Edward or Lisa Williams in action, you will hear them say time and time again: "do not give me information, just answer with a yes or no." Giving a psychic information when they are attempting to understand what they are seeing/hearing from the other side only causes them confusion, because they can't tell if what

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Investigations and Consultations: Continued Scheduling for 2012

The Ghosts of Ohio is continuing to schedule investigations for 2012. 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>.

Bad Mexican Food & The Ghost of Rush Limbaugh: Misadventures in EVP Land



James

Let me just get something out the way from the very start: I am a weirdo who has been chasing after ghosts since way too early an age. It's strange. It's uncommon. It's downright spooky... and I wouldn't change

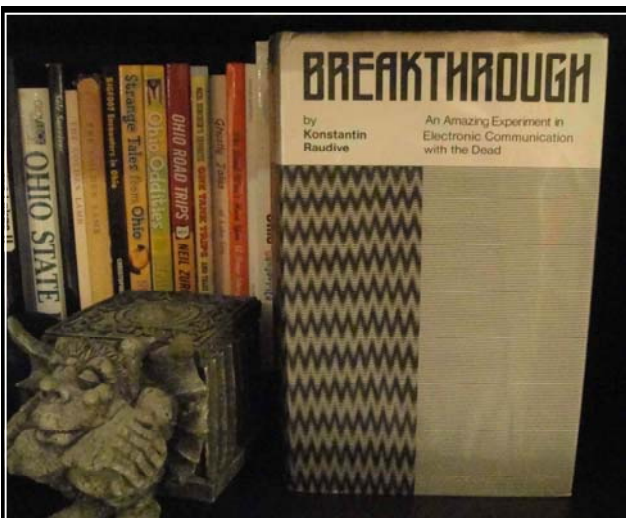
a thing.

I say that because, while it may seem odd to some people, I was still in elementary school when I decided I wanted to try and talk to ghosts. I'd already been peeking under my bed and walking around cemeteries looking for them for a few years. But then I stumbled across an old book that made me want to take my hunting to the next level.

I found the book in an old bookstore (I was a rabid reader and my mom always encouraged me to read as much as I could). The cover was unassuming and had the very bland title *Breakthrough*. But what really caught my eye was the subtitle:

An Amazing Experiment in Electronic Communication with the Dead. What's that? Communication with the dead? Sign me up!

Published in 1968 (although we'd have to wait until 1971 to read it in English), *Breakthrough: An Amazing Experiment in Electronic*



Konstantin Raudive's work in *Breakthrough* serves as foundational reading material, pioneering research in the realm of Electronic Voice Phenomena.



Although stylish and practical for most standard recording situations, the AIWA reel-to-reel device lacked the microphone quality necessary to effectively converse with the other side.

Communication with the Dead, was written by Konstantin Raudive. Long story short, Raudive had stumbled upon, and been intrigued with, the work of Friedrich Jurgenson. Seems that Jurgenson was out one day recording bird calls and when he played back the tape, he found that there were human voices on there, too.

Anyway, Raudive was intrigued by the idea of capturing ghost voices and decided to start experimenting with a reel-to-reel recorder. He chronicled his work in *Breakthrough*. It's interesting to note here that throughout the book, Raudive never uses the term EVP or even Electronic Voice Phenomena. In fact, the voices Raudive captured were often referred to simply as "Raudive Voices." It would not be until several years later than the term Electronic Voice Phenomena came to be.

Regardless, using what little information my tiny brain could absorb from the book, I began my first foray into trying to capture ghost voices sometime in

the mid 1970s. Even though I was still a wee lad of 9, the idea of being able to talk to the dead had quickly become somewhat of an obsession. For some reason, I got it in my head that I would be able to just sit down with my oh-so-stylish (and slightly used) AIWA reel-to-reel tape deck with its clunky iPhone-sized microphone and engage in two-way conversations with the ghosts. So I would just sit in a well-lit room (I was still young and skittish, after all) and ask questions for the ghosts to answer. I can remember thinking, for some reason, that I would also be able to hear the ghost's answers with my naked ear in real time. So I would quickly get impatient and immediately go to the recorder and rewind it to see what, if anything, I had managed to capture. For the most part, I only succeeded in recording my muffled voice as the quality of microphone I was using was, shall we say, very poor. I did walk away from that phase of my EVP obsession with a key learning: either get a better quality microphone or get the ghosts to move closer to said microphone. Otherwise, I wasn't ever going to capture anything.

The next stop along my EVP journey began in the early 1980s, when I began dabbling with using cassette recorders as opposed to my reel-to-reel. It seems to

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Locked Inside Mansfield Reformatory with The Ghosts of Ohio

On Thursday, July 21st, The Ghosts of Ohio gathered up a few lucky contest winners and whisked them away to Mansfield Reformatory...where we promptly locked them in for the night!

As part of our Spend the Night with The Ghosts of Ohio program, we randomly pulled a few names from our list of newsletter subscribers and gave them a chance to investigate Mansfield Reformatory with us during a private hunt. The Ghosts of Ohio provided all the equipment, our guests provided their courage, and the Reformatory provided the pizza...and the ghosts.

Beginning at 7:00 pm, our tiny group of 20 was given a guided tour of the prison. After that, we broke into smaller groups and then, lights out! For the rest of the night and into the wee hours of the morning, we had the entire prison to ourselves! And while no ghostly prisoner appeared before us to proclaim his innocence, some of the activity reported that night included hearing footsteps, muffled voices, K-II interactions, the feeling of being touched, and in one scream-inducing moment, an extremely loud noise that sounded like a cell door, complete with chains, being slammed shut. All in all, a very memorable evening!

A final congratulations go out to all of our contest winners. And to all those who didn't win this time, hang in there; there are more Spend the Night contests coming up soon. So keep your fingers crossed!



Misadventures in EVP Land—Continued

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me that it was around this time that people began postulating as to exactly how ghosts were able to imprint their voices onto the tape. Some believed that the tapes were simply picking up something the human ear couldn't hear. But there was another camp that theorized that since ghosts can have an effect on the electromagnetic field, that they were somehow manipulating it so they could get their voices on the tape. With that in mind, I decided to try to capture ghost voices using magnetic tapes as opposed to regular cassette tapes as I figured since the tape was magnetic (and as such, part of the electromagnetic field), that the ghost would have an easier time manipulating things. Of course, since magnetic tapes were more expensive than ordinary ones, I wasn't able to conduct as many experiments as I wanted, especially since I was a poor student at the time and also because I made it a point to not reuse tapes to avoid the possibility of an old recording bleeding through and being mistaken as a ghost voice.

Lucky for me, I don't believe any photos from my initial EVP experiments during this period exist. That's because my first cassette recorder of choice was a gigantic Sony "boom box," complete with equalizer. I recently came across a photo of me with the boom box at the beach and while I looked totally cool back then, looking at the pic today elicited much laughter and mocking. I can only imagine what reaction a photo of me with it "conducting experiments" would have.

I had learned my lesson about using a better microphone, though. But to be honest, with my meager income, I was only able to afford a Radio Shack stereo microphone, but it was a huge step up from what I had been using. Still, I was only able to capture a few muffled "things" that may or may not have been voices. Even switching over to a compact cassette recorder (and then a microcassette recorder) didn't have a significant impact on the number of voices I captured.

When digital voice recorders burst



As the popularity of digital recording technologies increased, the ghost-hunting community widely adopted the pocket recorder as a new standard, replacing reel-to-reel recorders for EVP sessions. The Ghosts of Ohio has since taken audio recordings a step further, implementing studio-quality Superlux microphones and multi-channel mixers to capture pristine sound during investigations.

onto the scene in the 1990s, I was one of the few people who didn't jump headlong into the fray and begin using them. For one, it threw my whole idea of "ghosts manipulated the electromagnetic field to imprint their voices on the tape" out the window, mainly because there's no tape involved with digital voice recorders. On top of that, it went against my belief that one needed to have the best microphone possible to capture EVPs. I just couldn't believe the tiny built-in microphone on these recorders could pick up anything. For me, it just seemed like a big step backwards.

But as more and more of my ghost-hunting friends and associates started using, and swearing by, digital voice recorders, I finally broke down and got one in 1999. If for no other reason than I had finally gotten tired of everyone mocking me dragging around my microcassette recorder. The first night I broke out my new digital recorder, I was out on an overnight at a private home where the owners had reported hearing weird growling noises coming from various corners of the house late at night when nothing was there. For most of the night, I just had the recorder in my pocket, turned off. But at the evening wore on and we

weren't getting any results, I decided to sit in the living room with another investigator and put my digital voice recorder on the table between us. We did the standard routine and asked a bunch of questions. Not feeling or hearing anything strange, we packed up and went home.

Days later, as I am pouring over the audio, video, and photos from the overnight, I grabbed the digital recorder and started listening to what I had recorded. About 10 minutes into the session, I ask the question "could you make a noise so we know where you are?", which is immediately followed by a very soft, yet quite distinguishable, growling noise. Actually, it sounded like a growling-gurgling noise. I was floored! This recorder really picked something up! I had been there at the time of the recording and had heard nothing, which excited me even more.

Not wanting to wait a minute longer, I called the other investigator who had been there with me that night and played the recording over the phone to him. It was then that the investigator embarrassingly had to admit that the growling noise I heard was actually his stomach, the result of consuming what he termed "bad Mexican" for dinner. He

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Salt and Superstition—Continued

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For these reasons, salt became associated with longevity and health. In fact, the Roman word for salt—*sal*—is related to *Salus*, the goddess of health. Therefore, spilling salt was not only considered a waste of money, but it was also a symbol of bad luck.

It was during the Middle Ages that people began getting superstitious with salt. Since they knew that it had healing properties and protected food from spoiling, people thought it would protect them, too. By far, the most common superstition in cultures throughout the world is that of spilled salt, and the most common remedy to avert such bad luck is to toss a pinch of salt over the left shoulder. Why the left shoulder, you ask? It may derive from the *Kabala*, which describes three paths: the right-hand path, which is love and light, the middle path, which is the one most of us walk, and the left-hand path, which is the path of evil and the devil. It is believed that by throwing salt into the eyes of the devil, you are blinding him from seeing your error.

It appears that every culture in every country around the world has used salt to ward off evil and promote good fortune. The superstitions vary wildly. In Japan, actors sprinkled salt on the stage to ward off bad luck, hosts sprinkled salt on their doorsteps to avert any evil brought in by their guests, and families threw salt into their fireplaces to prevent discord among family members and promote good fortune. In Ireland, newlyweds were given plates of salt and oatmeal to ensure happiness. In Germany, three grains of salt in a milk pot would ward off witches, and homesickness could be cured with salt sprinkled in the afflicted person's trouser hems (while he/she looked up the fireplace, of course). In Holland, salt was sprinkled in cradles to protect babies from harm; and Canadians sprinkled salt in stable doorways and on the backs of horses to ward off mischievous imps and fairies. Egyptian women threw salt on burning coals to bless a caravan's journey, and salt was among the funereal offerings left in Egyptian tombs. In India, salt and wine

cured scorpion stings; and the Swiss thought bread and salt in the pocket could ward off evil. In Hawaii and Samoa, salt was sprinkled in the four corners of a home and on the door threshold to ward off evil spirits. In Scotland, a family's salt box was the first item moved into a new home, and salt was added to beer during brewing in order to keep witches from ruining it. Even today, several European countries still believe that salt thrown into a deceased person's coffin will keep the devil away. It isn't an exaggeration to say that this list can go on and on and on.

Besides all of the regional hocus pocus about salt, its story wouldn't be complete without mentioning its role in religion. It seems clear that this mineral's ancient folklore had a large influence on faiths around the world. To them, salt represents purity, and has therefore been used regularly in blessings, prayers, rituals, and spells. Covenants were even sealed with it, which is how the word "salvation" came into being. Although it's not clear which religion used it first, they all use salt for the same purpose—to ward off evil. It is customary for Buddhists to throw salt over their shoulders after funerals to prevent evil spirits from following them home. Hindus use it in housewarmings and weddings. Jewish Temple offerings include salt, and Jews dip their bread in salt on the Sabbath. Wiccans keep a dish of it on their alters and use it to cleanse areas of negative energies. The Pueblo Indians worship the Salt Mother, and the Hopi Indians have restrictions on who is permitted to eat salt. The Shinto religion uses it for purification purposes; and, of course, Christians use Holy Water (which contains salt) to purify and protect against evil. Interestingly, this may have been inspired by the ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans, who called upon their gods with salt and water offerings.



Superstitiously speaking, there's nothing on Earth that can hold a candle to the powerhouse that is salt. Its influence on economics, politics, health, and especially folklore and religion has been monumental. Given all of the ways salt has been used throughout history, it's easy to buy into the idea of dispelling angry spirits with Sam and Dean's salt-loaded shotguns, keeping evil at bay by pouring salt along windowsills and doorways, standing inside a salt circle to be protected from evil, and salting and burning the bones of the dead to keep their spirits from coming back. Do I honestly believe that any of that works in the real world? Not really. But I suppose it couldn't hurt to keep a little salt on hand...just in case.

Salt Trivia

- Ancient Greeks used salt to purchase slaves. If a slave wasn't living up to his price, he was said to be "not worth his salt."
- Ancient Romans paid their soldiers with salt rations. Their pay was called *salarium argentum*, which is where we derived the word "salary." A soldier's salary was cut if he was "not worth his salt."
- In the late 18th century, guests at a banquet were ranked by where they sat in relation to the salt on the table. Distinguished guests sat "above the salt" at the head of the table, while everyone else sat "below the salt."
- In the Roman Catholic Church, holy water is created by exorcising and blessing salt and water separately, then by dissolving the salt in the water with a benediction pronounced upon it.

Misadventures in EVP Land—Continued

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admitted that during the night, when his stomach growled and I didn't react, he would just pretend he didn't hear anything, either. It was then that I realized that despite their small size, the mics on digital voice recorders are surprisingly strong. Not only that, but as I was to come to find, they really like to distort things. I can't tell you how many times I caught what I thought was a ghostly male voice only to find that it was a female investigator's voice that had gotten distorted by the recorder. I can even remember one famous Ghosts of Ohio investigation where one investigator captured what, to all of us, sounded like a demonic dog growling. Turned out it was nothing more than another (male) investigator whose voice had been distorted due to a combination of being off to the right of the recorder's mic and having his voice echo through the empty room. And I can't tell you how many times a gentle breeze blowing across the mic had made me think, if only for a second, that there a kindly ghost whispering into the recorder's mic (something to think about next time you see someone on a ghost reality show violently whipping their voice recorder around in the air). Lesson learned? Digital recorders will pick up lots and lots of weird stuff...and only a small portion of it may be caused by ghosts.

While I and The Ghosts of Ohio continue to use digital voice recorders

on investigations, we also incorporate a Korg D888 mixer with an internal hard drive to help us try and capture EVPs, as well as any other ghostly noises like footsteps. And in keeping with my practice of always trying to use the best microphone you can afford, we also use professional grade Superlux studio microphones. As soon as we started using the mixer/microphones, we noticed a sharp decrease in the number of EVPs we were capturing as opposed to when we were using the digital voice recorders. This was due mainly to the quality of the studio microphones, which, when coupled with a shock mount to reduce vibration, quickly allowed us to hear things for what they were (stomachs growling, etc.) as opposed to hearing them distorted. That's not to say we the studio mics haven't fooled us on occasion. On a recent investigation, after running cables down from the microphone we placed in a "haunted" room to the mixer, I was shocked to hear the voice of a man coming through the mixing board headphones. It clearly sounded like there was a man up in the room, speaking to someone...only that someone never responded. Still, the man kept talking and talking. I was about to start frantically signaling the other investigators over when I suddenly realized the man's voice sounded a bit familiar. Sure enough, I was listening to

the voice of Rush Limbaugh. After a quick online search confirmed that Mr. Limbaugh was still alive, I was resigned to the fact that I was picking up RFI (Radio Field Interference) and needed to check my mic cables.

So after all this time and equipment, where do I stand today with regard to EVPs? Good question. Obviously, I believe that there's something out there. But if that "something" is actively trying to communicate with us verbally, I'm not so sure we've hit on the right way to go about doing that. I'm sure there are many researchers out there who will disagree with me, but I just have a hard time believing a ghost is going to store up all its energy in order to communicate with you and then just say "left...side..." I would think it would want to blurt out its name or maybe just "yup, I'm a ghost." So I think we've still got a ways to go before we land on the correct way to communicate with the other side. Which is why when people ask me how to capture EVPs, I tell them to do what I do: experiment. Bring all your audio equipment along on the investigation and mix things up. See what works best. But you might want to leave the boom box at home and don't decide to try out a new Mexican restaurant before the investigation.

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 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!



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:

Facebook

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

Twitter

<http://twitter.com/ghostsofohio>

facebook



myspace®
a place for friends

Using Psychics on Investigations—Continued

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they are getting is real. After John J and Carla had done their psychic work, one of them (usually Carla) sat down with the victim's family and tried to ascertain more information about the victim by seeing or handling personal articles. Otherwise, they knew nothing about the case.

The second show is currently airing on The Travel Channel at 10 pm on Friday and is called The Dead Files. I have pretty much stopped watching any paranormal show. The market is just over-glutted with paranormal shows at the moment, none of which are teaching me anything. So when a co-worker asked me if I was watching Dead Files, I replied that I wasn't watching any paranormal TV at all. He suggested that I catch an episode, since it was completely different than anything else on TV. So I set my DVR to tape an

episode...and fell in love.

This show features a team of two: former NY Homicide Detective Steve DiSchiavi and psychic Amy Allen. While they are a team, they never work together. They want to keep their personal experiences and information from tainting the other person's findings. Amy arrives in the evening with her husband Matt, who removes all photographs, maps, etc. in the building that might influence or distract her before she walks in. She speaks to no people, has no idea who the clients are or what the situation is. Basically she walks through the site, contacting the spirits, getting descriptions and feelings of what went on (all recorded via video by Matt) and afterward sits down with a sketch artist to come up with a portrait of who she was dealing with.

During the day, Steve, who arrives

alone, carries on interviews with owners, witnesses, talks to local historians, and does library research to document what went on and who lived/died in that building. At the end, he sits down with Amy and the clients, and Amy begins to tell what happened to her. He then backs up as much as he can with documentation he has found. She presents her sketches (which are sealed until the reveal) to Steve and he looks at them before handing them to the clients. If he can match her sketches with photographs he has found, he does. The client is then able to clearly connect their experiences to what Amy, backed by Steve, has found.

All in all, it is an extremely interesting show. You are watching a psychic in action, and you are watching her information being utilized properly.

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Have Spirits, Will Travel: Come Out and See The Ghosts!

Hard to believe, but before you know it, October will be here. And while it makes us all a bit sad to realize another summer has slipped by, it also means it won't be long before you can come out and meet The Ghosts of Ohio and swap a scary story (or two...or three) with us!

We're still cooking up a couple of super-spooky and fun events, but for now, here's some of the confirmed places where you'll be able to find us this October.

Please note that unless there's a dollar sign (\$) associated with the entry,

it is free and open to the public. Still, some of these locations have strict guidelines with regard to how many people can attend before the room is at capacity. It's always a good idea to call the venue for times and more information, just to be on the safe side.



OCTOBER

Wednesday, October 10, 2012 @ 6:00 pm
 "Meet The Ghosts of Ohio" TEEN Presentation
 Fairborn Community Library
 1 East Main Street
 Fairborn, OH 45324
<http://www.greenelibrary.info/Branches/Fairborn-Community-Library.html>

Thursday, October 11th, 2012
 "Meet The Ghosts of Ohio" Presentation
 Hurt/Battelle Memorial Library
 270 Lilly Chapel Road
 West Jefferson, OH 43162

Wednesday, October 17, 2012 @ 6:00 pm
 "Meet The Ghosts of Ohio" TEEN Presentation
 Lane Library: Fairfield Branch
 1485 Corydale Drive
 Fairfield, OH 45014
<http://www.lanepl.org/fairfield.html>

Friday, October 19th–Saturday, October 20th, 2012
 Lima Lantern Tours \$
 Allen County Memorial Hall
 120 W. Elm Street
 Lima, OH 45801
<http://limalanterntour.com/>

Tuesday, October 23, 2012
 "Meet The Ghosts of Ohio" Presentation
 Hurt/Battelle Memorial Library
 270 Lilly Chapel Road
 West Jefferson, OH 43162
<http://www.hbmlibrary.org/>

Thursday, October 25, 2012
 "Meet The Ghosts of Ohio" Presentation
 Southern State Community College: South Campus
 12681 US Rte 62
 Sardenia, OH 45171
 (740) 362-3861
<http://www.sccc.edu/about-us/campus/south.html>

Saturday, October 27, 2012
 Somerset Ghost Tour
 Details To Come

Using Psychics on Investigations—Continued

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Her reactions/experiences are not influencing Steve in his research and interviews, and his research is not influencing her thoughts.

So, if you do want to use a psychic, or currently use one, these two shows may give you a good idea of how to start your process, or tweak the process you already have in place. There are some basic steps you do want to incorporate. You want your psychic to have absolutely no information going in. He/she should talk to no one before, during, or after the investigation. They need to be kept in the dark. A true psychic shouldn't want to be led by outside information any more than a tech person might not want to be led to put his equipment in a place he might not want to put it. Don't tell them what to say/feel/hear...let them come up with it on their own. That is the only way to know that what they are getting is genuine, and not just something they heard someone else say, or worse, gleaned from Internet

surfing. They should go in with a person to document what is happening on video, so that you can then play that back and match up parts that your tech/research team has come up with.

The two shows differ on the reveal portion. With *Haunting Evidence*, the team is working with the police, so at the end, the psychics were working with Patrick as he was trying to get evidence using equipment to back up the events the psychics said were occurring. It was necessary for Patrick to have everything put together as one file to present to the police department, so he was privy to all the information BEFORE the reveal.

In *The Dead Files*, Amy and Steve are working with private clients. The first time they speak to each other about the case is at the reveal. The first time they are comparing their findings is in front of the clients. Since paranormal groups are generally working for private clients, I think that following the *Dead Files* scenario would be advisable. That

way, neither the psychic nor the tech team can finagle their findings to more closely match.

So these were just my thoughts that I wanted to throw out there as food for thought. Whether you decide you want to stay completely technical, you want to go by the guidance of your sensitive, or you want to work with a psychic is a decision for you and your team...no one else should influence you. But as we strive to be professional in what is not considered a professional field, we need to keep in mind that when we create guidelines for how to use our equipment properly, we also want to give that same attention to the people within our group. All it takes is one person faking evidence, or one supposed psychic coming up with information they actually gleaned off a team member or personal research to throw your entire team's reputation into question.

Special Event Announcement: Merry-Go Round Museum Investigation

On Saturday, November 17th, 2012, The Ghosts of Ohio will be taking part in a very special fundraiser with the Merry-Go-Round Museum in Sandusky, Ohio.

One lucky raffle winner and a guest will have the unique opportunity to investigate the Merry-Go-Round Museum with The Ghosts of Ohio.

The evening will feature an all-you-can-eat pizza dinner and then you and your guest will take part in a hands-on ghost hunting experience. All ghost hunting equipment will be

provided by The Ghosts of Ohio for you to use as you please and we will be there to give you a crash course in ghost hunting.

Raffle tickets are available for purchase at the Museum (301 Jackson Street, Sandusky, OH 44824) and can also be ordered over the phone (419-626-6111). All proceeds benefit the Merry-Go-Round Museum.

For more information, visit <http://www.merrygoroundmuseum.org/> or <http://www.facebook.com/merrygoroundmuseum>.

Got Ghosts? Request For More Information

From time to time, The Ghosts of Ohio learns about a haunted location that, try as we might, we just can't seem to dig up any additional information on. That's when we turn to one of the largest groups of Ohio ghost experts out there—our newsletter readers! That's right, we're asking you to let us know if you have any information (or better yet, have had a personal experience) at any of the following locations. If you have, shoot us an email at info@ghostsofohio.org. And who knows? You just might get the chance to investigate the location along with The Ghosts of Ohio!

Bloody Island
(Columbus/Franklin county)

Glendower State Memorial
(Lebanon/Warren county)

Green Eyes Cemetery
(Shelby/Richland county)

Hell's Church
(Batavia/Clermont county)

Weidler's Pass
(near Arcadia/Hancock county)



The Ghosts of Ohio 2012 Jamboree

Once a year, everyone from The Ghosts of Ohio likes to turn off their infrared video cameras, put the EMF back in its case, and kick back and relax with each others' families. It's sort of like putting the ghosts on hold for a while to focus on what's really important—family and friends. Because without their love and support, there's no way The Ghosts of Ohio could exist.

This year was no exception as The Ghosts of Ohio invaded Salt Fork State Park, where we spent a nice, long weekend sitting in the sun (or diving for shade) during the day and huddling around the campfire at night.

Since Salt Fork is rumored to be the stomping grounds of Bigfoot, several of us were asked if we spotted the big guy while we were there. Well, the answer to that is “no,” sadly, there were no sightings. However, upon our return home, it was discovered that little Courtney Willis now had a new Bigfoot bestie, courtesy of Adam & Sheri Harrington!



Coming Up—Next Issue: October

- Do Ghost Apps Really Work?
- The Ghosts of Ohio Hits the Road
- Halloween Tricks & Treats
- James A. Willis' Ghost Library

Administration

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