



The ghosts of Ohio[®] Newsletter

Volume 16 Issue 3

www.ghostsofohio.org

WELCOME TO THE LOST AND FOUND



James

Several years ago, all of us here at the newsletter decided to take a shot at creating “themed” issues that focused on one specific topic. They were immensely popular—our Amityville Horror issue continues to be the most read/downloaded issue that we’ve ever put out—but were also incredibly cumbersome and a bit of a

daunting task to try to pull everything together (see the aforementioned Amityville Horror issue). On top of that, the themed issues tended to take us away from the feel we were looking for in our newsletter—that of a variety of topics pulled together under the “paranormal” banner. So for that reason, we decided to move away from the themed issues.

So as I sat down and reviewed this very newsletter, all primed and ready to write my introduction, you can imagine my surprise when, purely by accident, all of the articles fell under the theme of “lost and found.”

Sure, there are articles that focus on the ever-evolving world of the lost, *Missing 411*, but there’s more. We have Q&As from not one, but two new members that we “found”...or rather, as you’ll soon read, they found us. And we have articles on new equipment that we found and are really excited to field test.

So is all this a mere coincidence? Probably. Of course, synchronicity—Carl Jung’s term for seemingly random things that be believed were “meaningful coincidences”—has recently become all the rage in the paranormal field, so perhaps this issue was no mistake at all. Perhaps it’s all connected in some weird way.

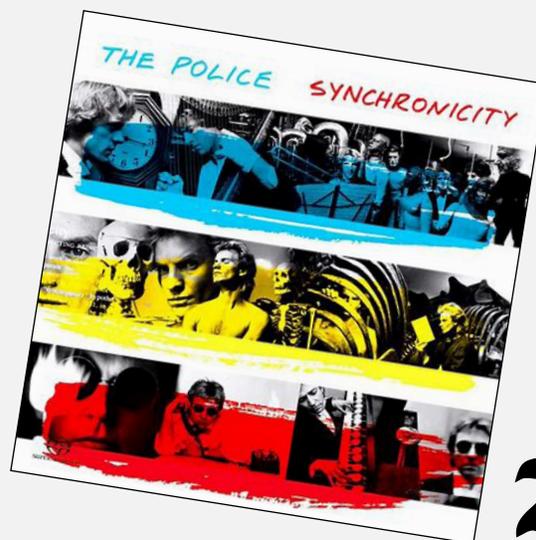
Now that I think about it, The Police released an album back in 1983 called *Synchronicity*. And that album also had two different songs called *Synchronicity* on it. And the song *Synchronicity II* makes reference to something crawling “to the surface of a dark Scottish loch.” That has to be the Loch Ness Monster, right? When I was little, I told people I wanted to grow up and become a scientist so I could find the Loch Ness Monster. So maybe...

Forgive me, but there’s a rabbit hole I need to go explore now.

Cheers,

James A. Willis

Founder/Director



MISSING 411: LAW (LAND, AIR, WATER)



Samantha

“Here we go down the rat hole...” David Paulides is not wrong with that statement. What he uncovers in his books definitely leads to some very

bizarre cases; and there seems to be no end in sight. In this latest installment, he has begun to break down the disappearances into categories depending on where people went missing—on land, in the air, and in the water.

The “Land” category takes up the largest segment of the book and covers the same territory (no pun intended) as previous volumes. Same strange commonalities, different cases. I don’t say this to diminish their impact in any way. All I’m saying is that, if you’ve read any of the other books, you’ll know what to expect. That being said, I scribbled quick notes to myself highlighting some of the weirdest stories. I’m assuming you’re already familiar with everything *Missing 411*, so I think you’ll understand why I made notes of these:

- Odor of rotting human, but no one could find body
- 2 brothers disappeared together and found dead together
- Horse couldn’t be located by man looking for it, man goes missing
- Confused man asks to get off bus, found dead in shallow creek, no shoes
- Missing girl found dead in area previously searched, strange positioning
- 2 boys in completely separate areas disappear at the same time

- 24-year-old found alive in oil barge, no memory of what happened
- 2 sisters disappear together, found dead 2 ft. apart, intact, in area previously searched

The “Air” category is the shortest in the book, but it packs a punch. Not only does Paulides provide the facts surrounding the disappearances (pilots often report seeing strange lights and experiencing problems with their electronics), he also includes transcripts between pilots and control towers, which are absolutely fascinating (and chilling) to read.

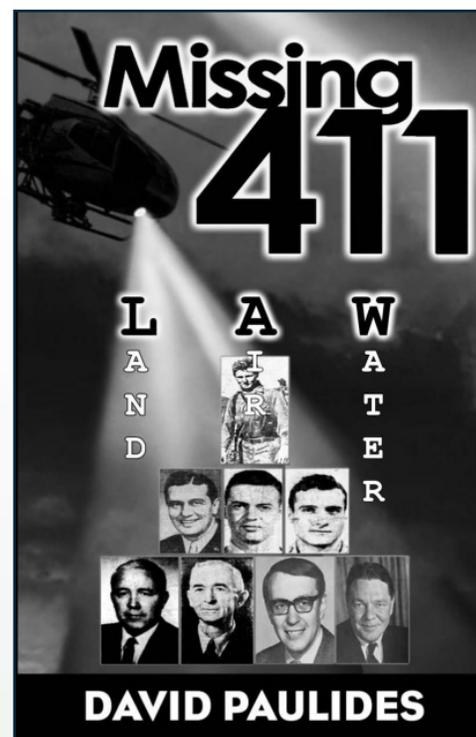
In each one, the pilots stop responding, and their planes disappear off the radar. Here are some of my notes from this category:

- Blimp crash, pilots missing
- Pilot & plane disappear—pilot’s intact body found 4 wks. later in area previously searched
- Plane tracked on radar until it “merged with an unidentified object”
- Plane found 6 yrs. later, crashed—no human remains found
- Faint distress signals heard, nothing found during searches

The “Water” category is interesting in that disappearances in water don’t happen everywhere. In fact, Paulides has identified clusters. “The areas with the highest number of these incidents are Wisconsin, Chicago, New York, Boston, & Michigan,” he says. It’s unclear why these areas are hot spots. In this segment I only made a note about one very strange case:

- Coroner determines drowning, but last voicemail (from a pocket-dial!) has victim screaming he’s been shot

Weird, weird, weird!



In addition to the land, air, and water categories in the book, Paulides finally added a chapter for something I’ve been anticipating for some time: Triangles. With all of the “Missing” cases he’s covered, I’m surprised it’s taken him so long to include these mysterious areas. Was he reluctant to do so because of the pseudo-science perception of them? I can’t say, but it’s hard to ignore the hard fact that planes and people have vanished in these locations time and time again. There’s got to be something going on. He covers five different areas of disappearance: The Alaska Triangle, Bermuda Triangle, Great Lakes Triangle, Michigan Triangle, and Nevada Triangle.

If you’ve read any of David Paulides’ other *Missing 411* books, you’ll have no trouble digesting the information presented in this latest volume. It’s as straight-forward as the others, and the author’s observations certainly make for good discussion. I look forward to seeing what he uncovers in his future books.

THANKS TO DOLBEY SYSTEMS, THE GHOSTS OF OHIO JUST UPPED THEIR DIGITAL RECORDING GAME



Wendy

The Ghosts of Ohio would like to give a huge paranormal shout-out to Dolby Systems, Inc. and the TranscriptionGear folk for setting us up with enough voice recorders to outfit the entire team! This allows us to make sure all areas of our location are being monitored on audio, and every team member has their own recorder to review as soon as the investigation is done.

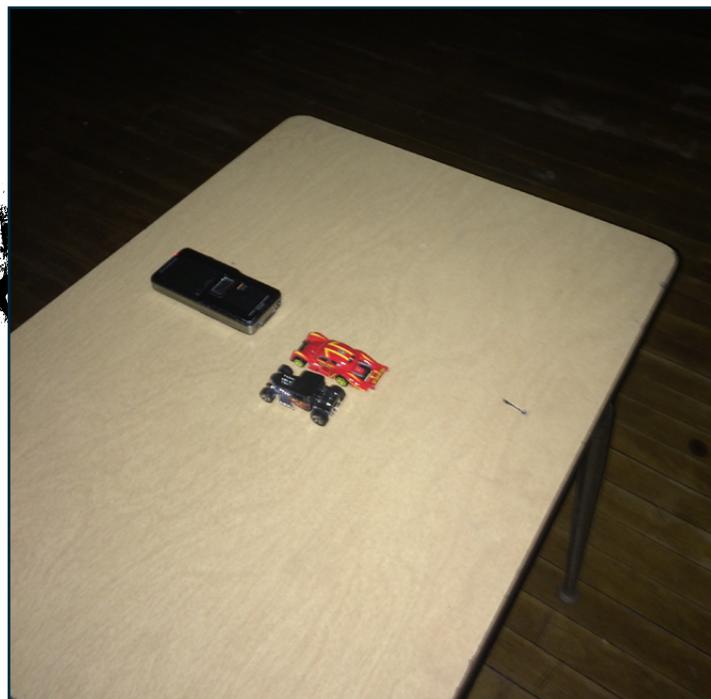
We recently put these to the test at the old South Main School in Bowling Green, Oh. This building has been an elementary school and a local artists' studio before being abandoned around 10 years ago. This site is currently

without power and water (although trace EMF was still picked up since the electrical lines run under and past the building itself). Not being able to use our studio mics or our DVR system meant we had to go old-school, so being able to pepper the building with these voice recorders was a relief.

Did our new recorders capture anything? The jury is still out. The recorder I was using picked up a voice in the boiler room where Mark, Sam, and I were just walking into that doesn't seem to be ours. Mark has done a comparison analysis on our voices versus this voice, and it is not one of us. Either way we are thankful for the people that support us, and that means you, Dolby Systems!!



Recorders being fitted for their new home inside an equipment case.



Recorder at work inside Bowling Green's South Main School, attempting to elicit a response from the spirit that allegedly moves these toy cars.



SBOX GHOST SCANNER AND RECORDER



James

I recently came across a new piece of ghost-hunting equipment that I'm rather excited to take out for a test drive: the SBox Ghost Scanner & Recorder.

Before we go any further, I should probably address the fact that while some of you read that last sentence and got excited, a good portion of you rolled your eyes and thought, "great, another ghost box." And in the event you did neither and simply said, "what the heck are they talking about," let's go ahead and bring us all together.

Simply put, regardless of what you call the device—Ghost Box, Frank's box, Ghost Scanner, ITC (Instrumental Transcommunication) device—we're all talking about the same thing: A radio receiver. What does it do? Basically, you turn it on, it scans through the stations, and, if you're lucky, ghosts are said to be able to speak to you through the radio.

Wait, ghosts speak to you through it? How does that work? Well, that's where things get a little...cloudy. The simple answer is that we don't know how a ghost box/scanner allows a ghost to talk to you. Sure, there are people who will tell you that the radio produces white noise that the ghost is somehow able to manipulate. The problem with that explanation, however, is that it doesn't really explain anything. How do we know a ghost is using the white noise to speak? Or that they really are ghosts speaking as opposed to, I don't know,

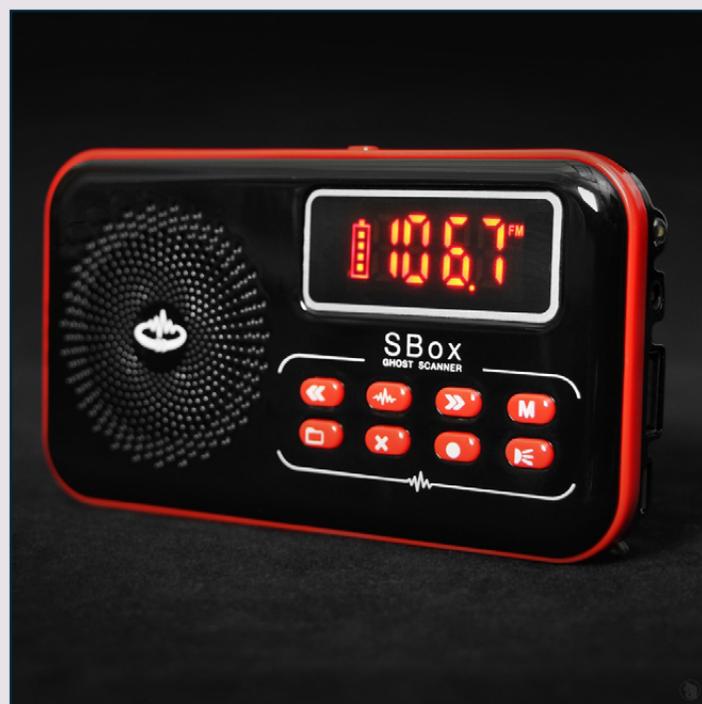
disc jockeys who are just going about their business broadcasting?

That's not to say that The Ghosts of Ohio hasn't gotten some rather interesting "results" when using a ghost box on an investigation. We have had instances where a single voice came through and spoke an entire sentence, which doesn't seem possible since the box was scanning through the stations very quickly—far too fast for one disc jockey's voice to be heard for that long. Of course, it doesn't rule out signals and interference that could be coming from other sources. And that's where the SBox Ghost Scanner & Recorder might be able to help.

The SBox comes with a recording function that allows you to record for long periods of time, directly onto an SD card. This means that if we do hear a voice during the recording session, we can listen to see if that same voice appears again, around the same frequency it did the first time. If so, it could imply we are just picking up a voice from a radio station as opposed to a ghost. And, since the whole thing is being recorded onto a single SD card, we can pull the "voices" and use audio software to analyze them and see if they are

indeed coming from the same person/source. Analyzing and comparing audio that originates from different sources (a studio mixer and a digital voice recorder, for example) often creates its own set of issues. So having them all come from the same 1st generation source is a huge benefit.

Even if we only have a single instance of a voice and aren't able to compare it to anything, we can still analyze it to



see its characteristics and then compare those to any future "voices" to determine if there are any constants regarding what the SBox Scanner & Recorder is able to record.

Will any of this help us determine how ghost boxes work? Probably not. But it's hopefully at least going to be a step in the right direction. Stay tuned!

REVIEW:

DAVID PAULIDES' **VANISHED** DOCUMENTARY

Samantha

Finally! A documentary worthy of the *Missing 411* phenomenon!

Many of you probably read my review of David Paulides'

Missing 411 movie, which, in a word, sucked. Besides poor choices of specific cases to highlight, this is what I said was my main gripe with it:

"Its biggest failure is the fact that—unbelievably—it contains no explanation of the *Missing 411* phenomenon or David Paulides' research! There's nothing about the commonalities that make the *Missing 411* cases stand out from ordinary disappearances, and there's no background to let viewers know how Paulides was able to connect the dots between cases. Without this core information, there's no chance that viewers will understand the scope or gravity of it, and they certainly won't care enough to spread the word." I still stand by those words. Don't watch it. It's terrible.

But now we finally have something that I wholeheartedly recommend! *Vanished* is a full-length documentary (about an hour and a half long) that aired on the History Channel on January 5th of this year. Since I don't get the History Channel, I was unaware of the film at first. Thankfully, someone on the "Missing 411 Alternative" forum on Facebook posted the movie in its entirety on January 8th.



First off, David Paulides himself is front and center throughout the entire documentary, which is in stark contrast to the *Missing 411* film where he was practically non-existent. In *Vanished*, we get to hear directly from him and see his investigative process, beginning with a list of criteria that a case must meet before Paulides takes it on as a *Missing 411*. Those stipulations include:

- A thorough search and rescue must have been done
- Criminal activity ruled out
- Voluntary disappearance ruled out
- Missing person was mentally stable
- No evidence of animal attack

The documentary then proceeds to highlight two *Missing 411* cases that are familiar to readers of his books. The first is that of Carl Landers, who went missing while hiking on Mt. Shasta in California. He walked ahead of his friends and somehow disappeared, despite the barren terrain of high altitude. The second case sticks out in my mind

as one of the strangest—that of Dale Stahling, who disappeared in Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado. What I remember most about this case is that, sometime following the disappearance, hikers heard a man calling out for help, but no one could identify where this man could be. This is a phenomenon that has happened in other cases, too, and it never ceases to give me the willies.

Throughout both cases, Paulides takes us along on his investigative journey, starting with thorough research of the locations. He found articles and documents related to the disappearances, examined topographical maps of the areas, looked into weather and seismological data, and discovered folklore related to Mt. Shasta and Mesa Verde. He also conducted interviews with friends and family of the missing, law enforcement officers, scientists, historians, a Commander of one of the search and rescue teams, and an expert tracker, all in an effort to better

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DAVID PAULIDES' VANISHED DOCUMENTARY CONT.

understand the lives of the missing men and the circumstances surrounding their disappearances.

Of course, no good investigation would be complete without actually visiting the sites where the men vanished. When Paulides hiked Mt. Shasta with tracker Dennis Pfohl, we could clearly see that the area where Carl Landers vanished was so vast and barren that there would have been no way for him to leave his friends' sight. At Mesa Verde, Paulides walked the trail with Dale Stahling's son, Steven. On the day of the disappearance, Dale should have been only a short quarter-mile walk away from where he left his family and camper in a parking area. Instead, despite the fact that his intended trail was clearly marked, he somehow wound up on a different, much longer trail before he disappeared altogether. There's never been any sign of him.

So what is happening to these people? Without definitive evidence, there's simply no way to know, and there are no answers in this documentary. However, Paulides proves that he's open to any and all potential explanations. On Mt. Shasta, after hearing from scientists that strong electromagnetic bursts could cause unusual phenomena, he used a TriField meter to determine whether there are EM anomalies present on the mountain. He followed the same procedure at Mesa Verde, and even got assistance from two scientists to carry out an experiment in time dilation, which (very basically) is a measurement of how time ticks in one area relative to another. Incredibly, they discovered an anomaly when measuring the time on one side of a kiva to the other! Could a person literally walk into a different time if the conditions are right? It was

Sherlock Holmes who said, "When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth." There are a lot of things we simply don't have the capacity to understand yet, so we have to leave all possibilities on the table.

Overall, this documentary was wholly satisfying. It was clear, informative, and a faithful representation of David Paulides' work. It's obvious that he cares deeply about each missing person, and respects the friends and family who have had to cope with their loss. I have no doubt he'll continue getting the word out about the *Missing 411* phenomena, and I hope he continues to do it with documentaries like this one. And his books, of course!



GOT A SCARY STORY TO TELL?

Have you had a ghostly encounter in Ohio? Want to see it featured in a future issue of The Ghosts of Ohio Newsletter? Then here's all you have to do:

Just write down your story and send it to info@ghostsofohio.org with the subject line "Newsletter Ghost Story." Be sure to also include your name as you'd like it to appear with the story. We'll take it from there and send you out an email letting you know which issue it is going to appear in. That way, you can get all your friends to sign up for the newsletter so they can see how famous you are!

MEET THE GHOSTS OF OHIO'S NEWEST MEMBERS



Josh and Sarah at Peggy's Cove in Nova Scotia

Name

Josh Kitchen

Length of time in The Ghosts of Ohio

I have been a member for a little over a year.

What got you interested in ghosts?

Growing up as a child I was always into legends, lore, hauntings, history, etc. My grandparents told me stories about growing up in the farmland of Kentucky and of an encounter they both had with a lady in white. Later on in life, they both became my biggest supporters and even helped with research on a few locations. My mom even taught me how to drive a car in Greenlawn Cemetery. Almost every great memory I have in life is tied back to a "haunted location" or some sort of legend I was trying to debunk or uncover. I was even blessed enough to meet my wife at Waverly Hills.

Why The Ghosts of Ohio?

I remember the first time I picked up *Weird Ohio*. It's still to this day one of my favorite reads. (It's proudly displayed on our coffee table.) I began to take a notice in Mr. Willis and his work. Followed shortly by finding The Ghosts of Ohio. I signed up for the newsletter and became an avid reader and follower. I kept up to date on investigations and all the goings on in the world of The Ghosts of Ohio and after many years, my wife and I were actually able to attend a few events and meet everyone. It was such a fresh take to see other people who thought like we did and were just as passionate about the paranormal. The reputation they have built really speaks for itself and I'm happy I was able to go from fan to member!

Favorite piece of ghost-hunting equipment

My digital recorder is still my favorite piece of equipment. I believe under the right circumstances, EVPs are some of the most concrete and not as easily dismissed evidence we as paranormal investigators capture.

Favorite place you've investigated

Anyone who knows me would say, "it has to be Moundsville Penitentiary" and while it is my most visited and most researched location to date, it falls short of Brownella Cottage in Galion, Ohio. Trust me, it's worth the trip up just to see this place for a daytime tour. The history and lore of the cottage is one of the most fascinating in my opinion.

Three places you'd love to investigate

Loftus Hall in Ireland, Buffalo Trace Distillery in Frankfort, Kentucky, and lastly the RMS Queen Mary in Long Beach, California.



(continued on page 8.)

MEET THE GHOSTS OF OHIO'S NEWEST MEMBERS CONT.



Sarah with Mark and Debby Constantino at the Pennhurst State School and Hospital

Name

Sarah Kitchen

Length of time in The Ghosts of Ohio

I have currently been a member for going on a year.

What got you interested in ghosts?

The biggest influence for me was growing up in an “haunted” house. My whole family has, or is still experiencing, the energy of that house. I also would spend every chance I had watching *Unsolved Mysteries* and *In Search Of*. Both of those shows really piqued my interest with the paranormal and other phenomenon.

Why The Ghosts of Ohio?

It all started when my husband and I first met James—we stood and talked for at least a solid hour at an event in Westerville—and the rest is history.

Favorite piece of ghost-hunting equipment

My trusty digital recorder. I really feel they are the most overlooked and under-appreciated piece of equipment. Most people tend to spend so much time behind a camera or fooling with the latest gadget, they lose that “connection,” per se, that a recorder offers. Nothing beats asking questions or just talking and then listening back live and getting evidence. It’s truly unique.

Favorite place you've investigated

My favorite place is Pennhurst State School and Hospital in Spring City, Pennsylvania. I was fortunate enough to investigate this location with a small number of people over the course of two nights. From the physical experiences, to the audio that was captured with Mark and Debby Constantino, it was an all-around eye opening few days for me. Learning more in-depth information about the history of the location itself from people who worked and lived there was truly, I feel, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Three places you'd love to investigate

If I could do an actual true investigation of Alcatraz, that would be awesome. I have visited the prison but would love to go back and investigate it! That’s my number one for sure, followed by The Borley Rectory in England, and The Myrtles Plantation in St. Francisville, Louisiana.



WANT TO SPEND THE NIGHT WITH THE GHOSTS OF OHIO IN 2019?



It's true: The Ghosts of Ohio is getting ready to start releasing a list of locations where you can investigate with us as part of our Spend the Night with The Ghosts of Ohio program!

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

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



Investigations & Consultations

The Ghosts of Ohio have begun scheduling investigations and consultations for 2019. If you or someone you know is experiencing something unexplained in a home or place of business, contact us at info@ghostsofohio.org or visit our website to fill out an investigation request. All investigations are offered free of charge, and confidentiality and discretion are assured.

Not sure if you want or need an investigation? The Ghosts of Ohio also offers consultations. Let us sit down with you to discuss your current situation and what help we may be able to offer. For more information, please visit <http://ghostsofohio.org/services/investigations.html>

Interact with The Ghosts of Ohio

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

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Administration

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