



The ghosts of Ohio[®] Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

Volume 17 Issue 5

IS THIS THE REAL LIFE?



James

Make no doubt about it: We are living in some strange, troubling times. And as I lay awake in bed each night, my mind spinning from all the madness, a familiar question will inevitably pop into my head: What do the ghosts think of all this?

Sounds a bit silly at first, I know. But over the years, I've adopted a practice of trying to put myself in the ghost's shoes: What are they

thinking? Do they understand what is going on around them? Can they experience happiness? Sadness? And I've found that when I try to put that filter on, especially on investigations, it can often yield some interesting results.

So what do ghosts think about what's going on in the world right now? Hard to say. I do know that the number of emails I have received from people regarding possible paranormal activity in their homes has increased since the COVID-19 quarantine began. Of course this could simply be that people are spending more time in their homes and are not used to the normal noises their houses make. But another explanation could be that more people staying home longer means more energy in the house—more energy for a ghost to draw from in order to manifest.

I've also noticed an increase in supposed "dark" or "evil" entities. To be honest, things were trending that way for several years, for which we can probably blame the ghost shows needing to up the ante in order to stand out from the ever-growing herd of "entertainment." Still, one can't help but wonder if all the negative energy us living folks are putting out there isn't attracting more of the same.

As with all things in the paranormal, much more research is needed. And that's where you all come in. If you think you have something paranormal going on in your home or business, don't necessarily think just to "ghost" or "evil spirit." Consider all your options, take a break, then reconsider everything all over again.

The answers are out there. It's just that right now, it's hard to find a paranormal explanation for things when nothing in life seems normal.

Cheers,

James A. Willis

Founder/Director





James

NUMBER REVEAL AND EXPERIMENT

Before we get to the big reveal of the number I was thinking of for the little experiment I was conducting (see newsletter 17.3 and 17.4 for background), I wanted to take a moment and thank everyone for participating. I originally thought maybe a few of you might be interested in playing along, as it were. But it turned out that a lot of you were totally into it!

To put things into perspective, there are roughly 4,000 active subscribers to The Ghosts Of Ohio Newsletter. I received roughly 400 guesses regarding the number I was thinking. Granted, some of you sent in multiple guesses, but that's still about 10% of all the newsletter subscribers!

Needless to say, you convinced me another experiment was in order. But before we get to that, let's put the first experiment to bed. The number I was thinking of, every day at noon EST for the past few months, was **952**.

No one got within 10, so in that regard, one could consider the experiment a bust. But we're all still figuring this out, which got me to thinking: Maybe a single number was too concrete, too specific.



Maybe we need to start with something a bit broader. Which brought me to the **next experiment**:

I'm still going to spend roughly 5 minutes every day at noon EST focusing on something, but it won't be a number. It will be a SONG.

The reason I chose to focus on a song was because there are multiple elements involved: Title, melody, lyrics. On top of that, you have the whole idea of imagery and how a particular song can make you feel.

So for those of you who choose to participate, I'd like for you to not focus so much on the title of the song. Instead, see if you can pick up on any words, emotions, melodies, or images.

Without giving away too much, I will say that the song I have chosen is an actual song (as opposed to a nursery rhyme-type song) that, even if you are not a fan of the artist/genre, you will still at least be familiar with the song. And the song debuted sometime between 1950 and 2010. Vague enough for you?

SO that's it. If you're interested in participating, just try to "tune in" to me at noon EST beginning July 1st and let's see what happens. If anything comes to you, shoot me an e-mail at jim@ghostsofohio.org and let me know your guess. I'll reveal the song in the August 2020 newsletter, along with if anyone guessed the song correctly or any impressions people got that I thought could be connected.

THE GHOSTS OF OHIO NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

We are currently in the process of revamping our entire website. One of the sections of our site that we're going to make available is a searchable archive of all The Ghosts Of Ohio Newsletters. And while it is nowhere near complete, with so many people currently searching for something to read, we wanted to let everyone have a little peek behind the curtain, so to speak. So follow the link below, where you will find over 13 years of our newsletters—close to 80 issues—all available to read and download for free.

[CLICK HERE](#)



INTERVIEW WITH JEFF BELANGER



Josh

I've always been the kind of guy that tries to find the positive in just about every situation. I know most of us have been staying in as

much as possible and doing our best to stay sane during these most unique and uncertain times. I've really tried to stay "connected" to all of my family and friends as much as possible. I take great comfort in knowing I can pick up my phone and shoot a text, or I can use FaceTime to keep my daughter connected with grandparents. Even though we might not be physically able to sit down and chat in the same room, it's still nice to have that human connection. Back in early May, I received my "Close Personal Friends of Jeff Newsletter" (it's a newsletter that Jeff Belanger writes, more on Jeff in a moment), and it was titled "How Are YOU Doing?" That really stuck with me; here's someone I don't personally know and yet he's checking in with his readers. In part of the article, he writes, "It's okay to have good moments within a bad day, and bad moments within a good day. Moments don't define anything but moments. Suddenly, the check-in has become an important part of my life, and one I hope to keep post-lockdown." At the end of his newsletter, he said

to reply, he might not be able to respond to them all, but he will read each one. I felt inspired after reading that. I knew I wanted to do another article for the GOO newsletter, but I was kicking around several ideas. Then it hit me—what if I were to email Jeff Belanger back and see if I could interview him for the newsletter? I knew I've had several questions I would love to ask the guy, so after much thought and several drafts, I finally hit send and am so happy that I did. I received an email back from Jeff a couple days later saying he would do an interview. I guess the point of my little prelude is even though we are all separated right now, don't stop checking in on those you care about. Make sure you keep the human connection up and running. Always look for the positive and try to be the bright spot in someone's day. You never know just how much that might mean to them. I can't thank Jeff Belanger enough for being such a kind and compassionate soul to his fans.

I've never done an introduction for anyone like this. I was talking with my wife Sarah (who has met



Jeff several times), and she simply stated, "Give your honest opinion of him; that's what matters most. "What does Jeff Belanger mean to you Josh?" Sometimes you just need the wife to talk you through everything, and it all comes together (thank you Sarah). Jeff Belanger is without a doubt one of the hardest working people in any field. He's a well-known author, public speaker, researcher, podcast host, and writer/producer of his own PBS series. Oh, and he founded this little website called GhostVillage.com You name a haunted location, and chances are he's been there. Name just about any legend or myth, and chances are he's researched it. The man is a walking database of knowledge. I've always thought very highly of Mr. Belanger's work, and "30 Odd Minutes" will still be my favorite

INTERVIEW WITH JEFF BELANGER *continued*

podcast of all time. The man just has a way with words and keeps the listener tuned in wanting and waiting for more. Without further ado, I present my interview with Mr. Jeff Belanger! Hope you all enjoy.

I was in such awe and disbelief when you agreed to do this interview with me, it made me think. What person has asked for your help that you couldn't believe?

One of the biggest honors of my career was when the great Brad Steiger asked me to write a blurb for the back cover of one of his many books. Steiger was doing this longer before most of us. I read his paranormal books as a kid, and for him to ask me for an endorsement was quite a thrill.

What first sparked your interest into the paranormal and legend field? What got the mind of young Jeff Belanger rolling?

I grew up in an old haunted New England town and had friends who said their homes were haunted. We used to have sleepovers at these homes that dated back centuries. I was intrigued that the stories I heard from my friends weren't ripped from some Hollywood slasher horror movie; it was more matter of fact: someone else lives here with us. I also grew up in the town next to Ed and Lorraine Warren, so I knew since I was 12 years old. After attending their lectures as a kid, going to their home and museum, and later interviewing

them for some of my own paranormal projects, I guess it was the perfect paranormal storm.

How has it been being the lead researcher for Ghost Adventures? Any memorable stories?

I started working for *Ghost Adventures* on Episode 1, Season 1 of the series on the Travel Channel. That was March 2008. There have been many memorable stories over the years. Too many to list! It's funny how some locations you expect big things but then find maybe it's over-hyped, and other locations that may seem more obscure turn out to be incredible locations. I love digging into the history and finding possibilities in the research—events, deaths, and other nuggets that occurred in and around these locations that may contribute to the haunting.

How do you even begin to research a location that isn't as well known and/or documented? At this point, are you dealing with the local historical society?

Research is an endless process. Unfortunately, sometimes we only have days or maybe a week or two to prepare for a location. When I go in, I look everywhere. If it's a private home, we run a title search that includes former owner names. I search newspaper archives for the address and the names of the former owners, and I reach out to local libraries and historical societies. You'd be amazed how fast you can network. Someone will say

something like, "I don't know anything about that property, but you should talk to my friend Bill who lives over by there." The next thing you know, Bill is telling you everything and leading you to other sources.

Any tips or suggestions for those of us who might not be as savvy or well versed in the research field?

It's fine to start your research online, but don't let it end there. Wikipedia is an okay place to start, but you must verify facts, dates, names, and stories. Many people fall into the trap of just repeating something they saw on a website. Then that story gets copied somewhere else, and it may be wrong. If a building is said to be haunted by the ghost of a little boy wearing a brown jacket, I want to know why. So you go back in history as far as you possibly can and then inch your way forward.

Do you have one particular legend/myth that you keep going back to time and time again? What would you say is your most researched legend or myth to date?

I can tell you that since the quarantine began a few months ago, I find myself revisiting the many vampire legends I've explored. Vampires (before the days of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* in 1897) had always been associated with plagues. They feed on the life force (blood) of the living. They're the folklore answer as to why a

INTERVIEW WITH JEFF BELANGER *continued*

plague hurts certain people but not others. When there's a plague, people are afraid, and their suspicions sometimes turn to the diabolical or supernatural. It's happened before; it's happening again. These legends help me put things into perspective.

What is the strangest case you ever researched that turned out to be true? In other words, when you first heard about it you thought "no way that could be true," but it was.

There's a cemetery in Massachusetts called Spider Gates. There were stories of Nine Gates to Hell, a hanging tree where locals committed suicide, robed figures who come into the small cemetery holding candles and chanting, roads that appear and disappear, and a flat level of ground or altar inside where rituals took place. It turned out that all of those legends were true! (Sort of.)

Spider Gates is a small Quaker cemetery out in the woods. There used to be a small meeting house, and that explains the curious, flat rectangle of land. The roads appear and disappear because in the 1960s, all of the houses were removed nearby because of a runway expansion at Worcester Airport. The roads remained and decayed. In the summer, weeds grow six feet tall, and the roads disappear. In the winter, the weeds die, and you can clearly see the roads. There are also gates blocking the intersections so you can't drive in there anymore

(9 gates to hell). There's a large tree in there with a branch that sticks way out. The suicides did happen in the 1970s, but it was across town. Over time, locals forgot where and assumed it must be at this legendary location. The robed figures turned out to be students from Worcester Polytech Institute coming to pay some secret homage to one of the school's founders who is buried inside. They don't have permission to be there at night, but that doesn't stop them.

Everyone in the paranormal field has that "oh crap" moment that truly shakes you to the core and solidifies your belief in what you are doing. Can you tell us about yours?

My moment happened in the catacombs of Paris, France. It was 2003, and I was down there alone surrounded by millions of human skeletons stacked all around me. While walking down a long tunnel, I suddenly saw a shadow the size of a man step across the tunnel and then back again. And then he was gone. I couldn't explain what I saw with any other word other than "ghost." Plus, I had to walk through that very hallway to get out. It was my first ghost experience; I'll never forget it.

Out of all the haunted locations that you have traveled to, do you have a personal favorite?

My favorites change all of the time. But I do love the big, creepy, abandoned buildings with a ton of history. Places like Waverly Hills Sanatorium in Louisville,

Kentucky, or the Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield, or the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum in West Virginia. Those places are magic to me.

Any locations that you still haven't been able to investigate that you'd really like to get into?

I've been fortunate to get into most of the locations I've wanted to explore. I even had the chance to visit the White House for my children's book, *Who's Haunting the White House?* But I wasn't allowed upstairs to the First Family's living quarters. The only way to get up there is by invite of the sitting president. I'm still waiting for the call to investigate the Lincoln Bedroom of the White House!

What was the last paranormal investigation that you took part in?

From a research standpoint, I take part in investigations on a weekly basis, whether for *Ghost Adventures* or my weekly New England Legends podcast. As far as getting inside the building, I was part of an investigation at *The Conjuring* house in Burrillville, Rhode Island.

Do you have a favorite piece of paranormal investigating equipment? And if so, for what reason?

I'm not a big fan of the equipment. I prefer to use my eyes and ears. That being said, my camera is always close by because I'm trying to document all that I can.

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INTERVIEW WITH JEFF BELANGER *continued*

Where do you see the paranormal field heading in the next 10 years?

There's a funny kind of recycling that happens in the paranormal. Theories and trends that get tossed seem to make their way back. For example, orbs were a big thing back in the early 2000s, then went away, then came back. I'd love to see us all get more organized with research and data sharing instead of trying to become the next big TV personality, but that has to be a collective decision.

With all of the odd occurrences in the Bridgewater Triangle area, which is your favorite and why?

Pukwudgies! These miniature magical creatures from Wampanoag folklore have made a triumphant comeback from obscurity. Described as miniature magical beings that can turn themselves into balls of light, they match the description of other creatures on different continents from cultures who didn't have contact with the Wampanoag, which is curious. It makes me think maybe it's more than just a story.

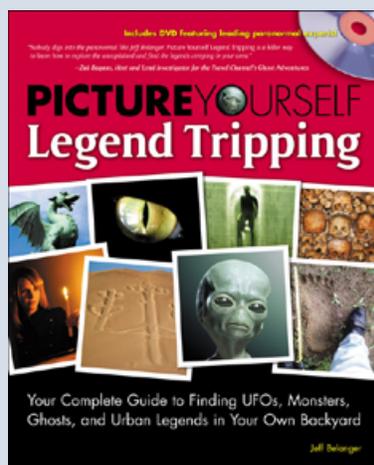
Do you think there might be another Bridgewater Triangle documentary? (JK note: If you haven't seen this documentary, I highly recommend stop what you are doing and go find it!)

You never know when there will be another Bridgewater Triangle documentary. That first one called a lot of attention to the region and got more people looking and interested.

You have written several books over the course of your career. Do you think you would ever consider doing a children's book, complete with slides, flaps, and noises? My daughter would love it!



I've actually published three books for children—more for middle readers than the picture books. My first was *Who's Haunting the White House?*, then *The Mysteries of the Bermuda Triangle* (part of Penguin's early reader series), and a non-paranormal book called *What It's Like to Climb Mount Everest, Blast Off into Space, Survive a Tornado, and Other Extraordinary Stories*. I'm always chasing stories and trying to figure out the best ways to tell them. So you never know!

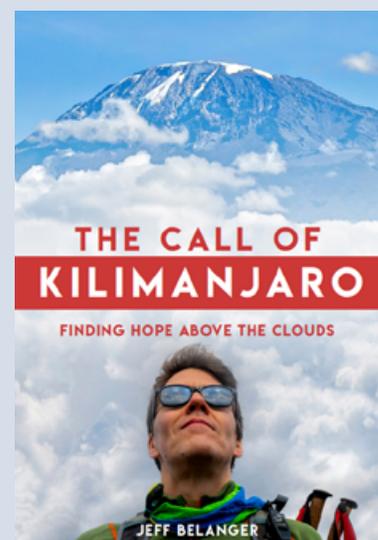


Which book that you've written do you hold the most near and dear?

That's like asking which of your children is your favorite! I really love each of them for different reasons. One of my favorites was a book called *Picture Yourself Legend Tripping*. Not a great title, and that one didn't sell very well because many people don't know what legend tripping is, but it really encompasses my approach to all of this.

What book would you say presented the most challenge for you to finish?

I have a book coming out in March 2021 called *The Call of Kilimanjaro*. It's a memoir about my 2017 Mt. Kilimanjaro climb in Tanzania. It's the most personal book I've ever written and by far posed the biggest writing challenge.



INTERVIEW WITH JEFF BELANGER *continued*

Have you ever presented an idea to a publisher about a book that they said was a bad idea?

Ha! I've had publishers pass on some of my proposed books. Others have said, "We'd like it if you included this or dropped that." I guess I know enough about the market that I wouldn't pitch a book idea that is that far off the mark.

My wife and I loved watching you document your climb of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Besides from reaching the summit of the mountain, what moment sticks out to you the most? Would you ever consider climbing any other mountains anytime soon?

Climbing Kilimanjaro was the most transformative experience in my adult life. So much so that I wrote a whole book about the experience. I still climb other mountains somewhat regularly. The Kilimanjaro moment that sticks out the most was watching the sun rise from the rim of the volcano the day we reached the summit. The summit was a great experience but not as profound as that sunrise. It's an image I'll never forget. It was that moment I felt a connection to my maker, that I had been judged, and deemed worthy of being there. As difficult as it was to breathe, I knew in that moment I would make it to the top.



Speaking of mountains, who would be on your paranormal Mount Rushmore?

Oh man, that's not a fair question because I'd be leaving so many great people out, but I think you'd have to include people like Harry Price, Hans Holzer, Brad Steiger, Rosemary Ellen Guiley, Ed and Lorraine Warren, and Joseph B. Rhine.

Any chance that 30 Odd Minutes will ever return? The world needs more of you and Andrew Lake!

You never know! I still think about 30 Odd Minutes, and people still ask about it. Lord knows the technology has come a long way since then, and it would be easier to pull off. One of these days the Mother Ship will fly again!

How has COVID-19 affected your everyday work? I see you are doing Zoom meetings, and my family watches the Speakeasy Live Show.

Like a lot of people, my life basically stopped. *Ghost Adventures* suspended filming until it's safe for the crew to travel, my weekly New England Legends podcast couldn't get out there safely, and all of my lectures and story nights were cancelled. But I don't sit idle very well, so I started offering virtual programs, plus the *Speakeasy Live Show* through my Facebook and YouTube pages. It's a way for me to connect with others, which I've discovered is crucial to my own well-being.

I watched the Speakeasy episode with Mike Zohn. Do you have any haunted items or collections?

I have a bunch of Ouija boards but only because people keep giving them to me. I'm not a collector, but I have more than eight. I collect stories and experiences more than items.

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INTERVIEW WITH JEFF BELANGER *continued*

So a dad-to-dad question: How do you handle being the “ghost guy” when it comes to your daughters’ friends and parents? I always like to ask fellow investigators with kids because I know my day is coming when I too will be the ghost guy.

I’ve been the “ghost guy” for over 20 years now. When I’m around muggles, I’ve taken the position that I never bring it up unless someone else asks first. Then I’ll answer whatever is asked of me. I’m not ashamed at all, but I get that this stuff doesn’t appeal to everyone. Plus, I want my daughter to have as normal of a childhood that’s possible given I’m her dad. Some people think it’s novel and kind of cool, others don’t ask. It’s all good to me. I have other interests as well. But to quote the great philosopher Popeye: I am what I am.

My wife Sarah wants to know if you still love Swedish Fish?

Truth be told, I think I ate enough Swedish Fish for ten lifetimes. So many people have brought me bags of the stuff over the years that I overdosed. Once in a while I’ll have a couple, but I’ve moved on to dark chocolate (don’t judge).

Please tell us about any projects that you have coming out in the near future.

My book, *The Call of Kilimanjaro: Finding Hope Above the Clouds* is being finalized right now to be published in March 2021. I’m also hosting my *Speakeasy* interview show on my Facebook and



Jeff Belanger and Sarah Kitchen, Mansfield Reformatory, 2012.

YouTube pages, producing my weekly New England Legends podcast, and doing quite a bit of virtual lectures. Many of these lectures can be attended by anyone from anywhere, and they’re usually free. My schedule can be found here:

<https://jeffbelanger.com/events-list/>.





BOOK REVIEW:

GOT POLTERGEISTS?

THE BLACK MONK OF PONTEFRACT



Wendy

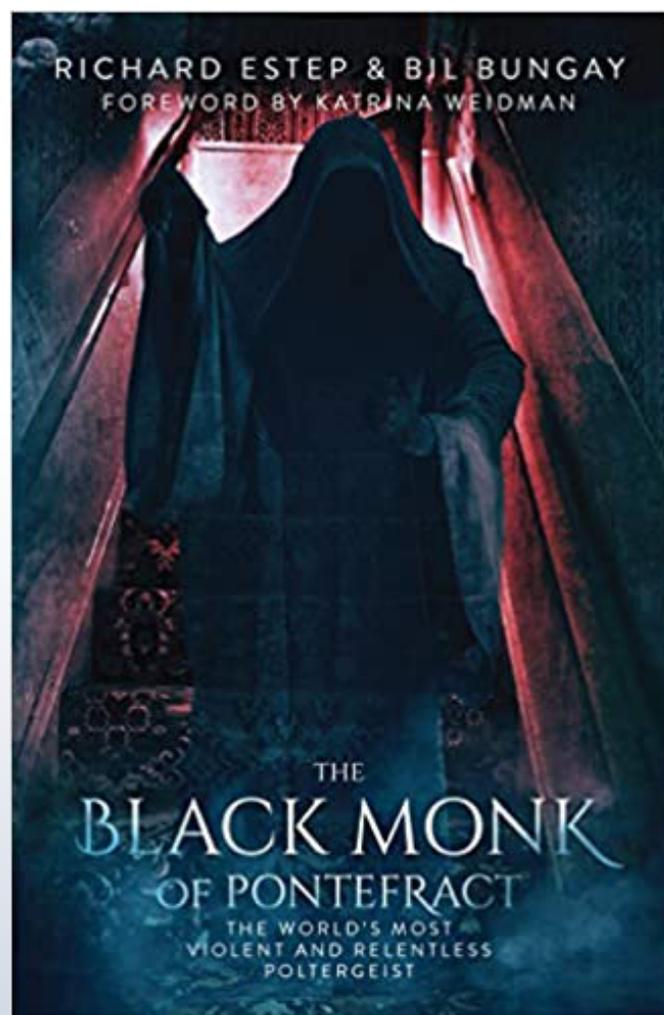
At the last Ghosts of Ohio Meeting B.Q. (Before Quarantine), fellow team member Frank passed a book along to Sam called *The Black Monk of Pontefract*. She then passed it off to me to read, and well into quarantine time, I ran out of new books and then remembered I had put this one down in my pile from the March Ghosts of Ohio meeting. So I picked it up (not really excited or interested) but needing something to read while waiting for my latest *Longmire* mystery to arrive from thriftbooks.com. And horror of horrors, I was so quickly immersed into this book it was shameful.

Truth be told, I'm only midway through but was excited enough by what I was reading to share my thoughts with you quarantine readers. This is self-published and co-written by Richard Estep and Bil Bungay, the current owner of 30 East Drive, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, England, an apparently well-known poltergeist-infested home that I was unaware of. How did I miss this? This haunting is apparently second only to the Enfield Haunting, which had its heyday back in the late 1970s. The main difference? This haunting is still happening and can be experienced by anyone who wants to stay overnight in the house!

Quite frankly, I am oversaturated with ghost hunter TV shows, ghost books, and ghost podcasts. Right now I am pretty jaded when it comes to picking up anything ghostly and have just been trying to ignore the whole scene for the

last year or so. But one of the things that drew me into this book was...no pictures. "Huh?" you say. Yes, no pictures. Instead they used QR Codes, and the book is littered with them. I hate to say this was brilliant, but...this is brilliant! While extremely annoying because you have to read the book and then stop and pick up your phone to capture the QR Code, it gives you a lot more insight into the stories. You will get copies of documents, emails, pictures, video, and audio evidence right there at your fingertips. It's almost like having your own mystery case to unravel step by step.

What I did was first go through the book and look at every QR Code so I had all the details in my head already. Then, as I am reading, I am reassessing the QR Codes so I can re-listen to the EVPs and re-watch the videos as they come up in the stories. I feel like a 10-year-old, super excited about something that some of you might be laughing about. When it comes to photographs in books, they are always clumped in the center, and there are never as many as you would like. That is because (and you can ask Jim about this), adding photographs to books is very pricey. And publishers like



to keep their costs down so that they have a higher rate of return on their investment. Adding QR Codes in with the print, I am going to guess is a lot more cost effective because this book probably has well over 100.

Ok Wendy calm down. What is the book about?

Here is a quick synopsis. This book does NOT give the history of the original haunting, which started after this council house was built on the Chequerfield estate after WWII for a

(continued on page 10.)



BOOK REVIEW: GOT POLTERGEISTS? THE BLACK MONK OF PONTEFRACT *continued*

returning vet. This estate is actually on the site of the Battle of Pontefract, on the hill overlooking Pontefract Castle. The book starts with a short history of the area and the house being built, but then the authors advise you to read Colin Wilson's work, *Poltergeist*, or a myriad of other books by authors that revolve around the hauntings of the Pritchard family if you want to know what they endured when they lived in this semi-detached home in the 1960s and 70s. What this book deals with are the current goings on.

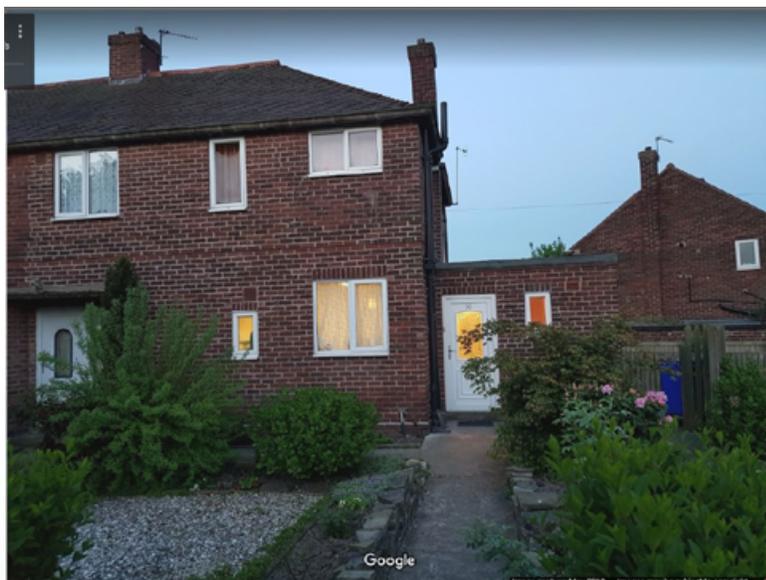
The author Bil Bungay had always been interested in the Pritchard case, otherwise known as 30 East Drive, and had produced a film *When the Lights Go Out* with director Pat Holden, who was a relative of the Pritchard family. They used a stand-in home because Pat did not want to cause distress to Jean Pritchard, the widow they assumed was still living in the home. But shortly after the film, Bil, who was on a trip to Pontefract, swung by to look at the real house and found a For Sale sign on the property. The house was sitting vacant for several years after the death of Jean Pritchard, unable to sell because of its haunted history. The property was looked after by the neighbor in the semi-detached home next door, Carol Fieldhouse, who happened to be a medium. Bil was surprised and delighted to snap up the house.

After purchasing the house (just to have, not to live in), Bil began looking into the reputed paranormal incidents in the house, and when his own experiences added up, he opened it up to groups to come and see if they could also experience the paranormal events happening inside 30 East Drive. This book is literally a compilation of those groups' findings—from known investigative groups, to TV shows, to winners of "spend a night" programs like ours. It also explores what each

group and Bil himself went through debunking findings, which is another thing I am enjoying about this book. Bil has a lot of cinematique experience and knows all the ways that film and photos can be manipulated, and he puts all evidence to the test.

Some of what I am hearing, reading, and seeing is pretty creepy. Creepy to the point where I am asking myself what I would do if I was in the shoes of the experimenter. In some cases, I think I would be hard put to remain in some of those situations for the sake of investigation. Do I really want to be pushed down the stairs? Bil always warns overnighters to be sure to hold the railing when navigating the stairs. Do I really want to be scratched or burned? Some of the pictures of injuries are painful just to look at. Do I want to see things apport from the ceiling or have marbles and dominoes thrown at me by an unseen force?

I am also wondering what is really going on in 30 East Drive. Is it just an angry spirit or something more demonic? I am not an angel/demon type of person; my feelings and beliefs are much more pagan. Looking at some of the evidence, especially ankles that are gripped, burned and scratched, it smacks to me of an earth elemental. Since this council house was built on a bloody battlefield, over



30 East Drive

multiple underground waterways including a medieval well, that theory seems valid to me. But honestly, who really knows? And that is the crux of this field—there really are no answers. All we can do is experience, document, and then argue with each other over what we think is happening.

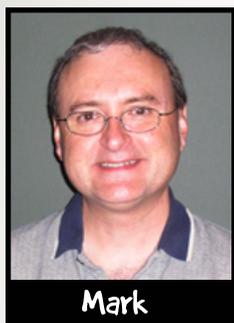
If you happen to be in England or are traveling to England and want what could be a very scary experience, you can book your stay online at 30eastdrive.com. But keep in mind (and Bil reiterates this throughout) this haunting is feast or famine. Some people who stay have experiences that start when they walk in the door and increase with aggression and hostility as the night goes on, while some people have maybe one or 2 slight questionable things happen that have them scratching their heads wondering what the fuss is all about. Like Jim says during his presentations, it's like ghostly fishing. Will the ghost grab the bait and drag you into the water, or will it simply nibble and swim away. But before you click on that link and make that reservation, pick up this book and see if this is really something you want to experience yourself.

SECRET SYNCHRONICITY

The following is a work of fiction. All characters and incidents are products of the author's imagination and any resemblance to actual people or events is coincidental or fictionalized.

CHAPTER FIVE:

“ALL THE WORLD IS BUT A STAGE...”



Mark

About 400 million years ago, give or take a few 10 million years, sunlight once caressed a warm, tropical, and shallow sea

floor covering much of what would one day become southwest Ohio. In such sparkling sunbeams refracted through the ever-undulating surface of the water, trilobites roamed freely among the horn coral, most entirely oblivious to their impending extinction a mere 200 million years later. On such a vast historical scale, all of human history amounted to a few seconds on that primordial clock.

Now deeply buried by eons of time and unfathomable earthly changes in stage scenery, one mineralized trilobite defiantly stood its ground. Above it, the underground TANIS Laboratory anchored itself to this ancient, solidified sea floor mud that formed the bedrock floor of the top-secret facility. Looking thoughtfully downward, Mark gazed reflectively upon the large fossilized trilobite showcased within a 2-foot square opening in the otherwise sleekly futuristic composite flooring. Discovered during the rock-boring phase of the TANIS construction project, the founders had decided to leave this ancient treasure exactly

where they found it, resting peacefully beneath an edge-illuminated transparent glass window that was itself hardly visible at all.

A dark shadow wearing a familiar fedora wandered quietly alongside Mark's shadow on the floor. That shadow, a continuous extension of its owner's crisply defined black suit and dress shoes, contrasted starkly with the other shadow, somehow less dark, arms folded, and donning a white lab coat and matching white sneakers today.

“So near in space, yet so far away in time,” spoke Orion in earnest wonder, both hands in his pockets.

“Indeed,” replied Mark without looking up, “quite the amazing journey, yet humbling in its simplicity.”

Nearby, golden hexagonal grid lines, radiating ethereally along the surface of the saucer-shaped craft, illuminated a small team of engineers and scientists dressed in clean-room “bunny suits” attended the ship like bees caring for the colony queen. Over a year had passed since they had successfully unlocked the hatch and gained entry. And while they had learned a great deal in that time, so much of everything about this extraterrestrial machine eluded them. At its heart, the ancient golden portal still presented a crystal-clear view of



(continued on page 12.)

SECRET SYNCHRONICITY *continued*

countless stars while it effortlessly hovered peacefully at the center above the slowly rippling dais. Only recently had they begun to understand its immense power and the beginnings of how to control it.

“Arcturus and I were wondering about something. How do you think it is going between you, James Willis, and the Ghosts of Ohio team he has formed?” asked Orion. “Does he trust you?”

“Yes, mostly I think,” answered Mark, chuckling. “Or at least, as James would say, ‘I believe you... as far as you know!’”

“Good. That’s essential to our plans. Does he know anything yet about where you work specifically at the base?” asked Orion.

“No, other than WPAFB, which clearly covers a large range of possibilities,” said Mark.

“We think it’s time to reveal backstage to James. Once he knows you work topside at the very facility he pinpointed in his book, he will have no choice but to accept more of what you have to say and further enhance his trust in you,” Orion stated, meeting Mark’s inquiring gaze head on.

“That will take a little more than just showing him a picture of the hangar exterior and pointing to a page in his book. I can start there, but you know I’ll have to invite him to visit me backstage, to hear the narrative script, to see ‘inside the box’ if you will, to touch the staged scenery you want him to perceive,” said Mark. Slightly tilting and nodding his head yes as he turned to walk away, Orion simply answered with, “Of course, and we are most definitely counting on it.”



So many layers of colorful and deep national secrets woven into the fabric of reality here, thought Mark, now left in quiet contemplation while his team continued their focused technical work on the “star ship” out of earshot and knowledge. Every member knew the significance of the backstage deception topside, and everyone had their own parts to play. It all reminded Mark of lines from William Shakespeare’s play *As You Like It*: “All the world’s a stage, And all the men and women merely players; They have their exits and their entrances; And one man in his time plays many parts...”

The MIB intended to seamlessly raise the curtain on Act 1 with James Willis center stage, without ever revealing the play to its principal character. Too much was at stake now. But the deception bothered Mark a little more than he expected. He genuinely liked Jim and the entire Ghosts of Ohio team. And he could never tell them the real truth behind the web of secret synchronicity that connected them.



*Coming in the
August Newsletter*

*Chapter Six:
A Night
at the Opera House*

A NOTE ON OUR APPEARANCES CALENDAR

At present time, all of the following appearances and presentations are still going to take place as scheduled. In the event that the rules and regulations regarding COVID-19 and the size of gatherings will make it so the event cannot take place as scheduled, we will take every attempt necessary to see the event is rescheduled.

As always, unless otherwise noted with a "\$", our presentations are free and open to the general public. Of course, since seating for these are usually limited, we suggest contacting the venue beforehand to see if they require pre-registering.

Hope to see you all soon!



Thursday, October 1st @ 6:30 pm

Meet The Ghosts of Ohio presentation
New Lebanon Branch—Dayton Metro Library
715 W. Main Street
New Lebanon, OH 45345

Saturday, October 3rd

UFOs Over Ohio presentation
Lorain, OH

Details soon!

Saturday, October 10th

My Strange & Spooky World presentation
McConnelsville, OH

Details soon!

Wednesday, October 14th

The Strange & Spooky Side of Abraham Lincoln
presentation
London Public Library
20 E 1st Street
London, OH 43140

Saturday, October 17th

The Strange & Spooky World of James A. Willis
presentation
Defiance Public Library
320 Fort Street
Defiance, OH 43512

Investigations & Consultations

While The Ghosts of Ohio are continuing to schedule investigations and consultations for 2020, the current situation with COVID-19 has most certainly changed the way we conduct business. Until further notice, The Ghosts Of Ohio is not permitted to conduct investigations within private homes and businesses based on the current Ohio Stay At Home Order.

However, that does not mean we cannot conduct photo interviews and begin background work in preparation for the time when the Stay At Home Order is lifted. So 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>



The Ghosts are now on Instagram

It took a while, but The Ghosts of Ohio have finally stumbled our way onto Instagram. We're just getting started, which means you can start following us now, and years later, you can tell all of your friends that you were one of the first Cool Kids who Followed The Ghosts of Ohio on Instagram.

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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[INSTAGRAM](#)

Administration

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