



The ghosts of Ohio® Newsletter

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Feels like I'm living a lifetime of Tuesdays



James

For me, the one day of the week that always seemed to be a “lost” day was Tuesday. Tuesday is just sort of there. It comes after Monday, the day most people hate and is followed by Wednesday, the universal “Hump Day.” Then you had Thursday, which

was always a good day for me since I was one step closer to the weekend (or, in my college days, Thursday night was the start of the weekend if I managed to not schedule any Friday classes). Then came Friday, the official start of the weekend, and Saturday and Sunday, the weekend proper. So every day meant something to me...except Tuesday. Tuesday is just a day to say to yourself, “what day is it again?”

Which is why, for the past few months, I feel like I'm living a lifetime of Tuesdays. Not in a Bill Murray / *Groundhog Day* sort of way because he ended up living the same day over and over. My days change and I end up doing different things, but I just can't keep the days straight. I've talked to enough of you to know that this, for better or worse, is what a lot of us are going through. We're all in a weird place. And I get that. But what was really starting to get to me was all of the paranormal-related events being canceled. The conventions, the overnight hunts, even ghost groups being allowed to meet inside in a group. It got so bad, I wasn't even looking forward to Halloween this year. That is, until I realized that Halloween 2020 takes place on a Saturday during a full moon! Talk about a sign that there are better things to come!

I guess the point of all this is that I'm right there with you guys: I hate all this anger, rage, and uncertainty that's taking place around the world right now. And those feelings of uncertainty have even gotten me to the point where I started losing interest in the things I love to do—mainly, the paranormal. And just like everything else, it doesn't appear that you can say or do anything that doesn't quickly turn into something political. I'm not saying

that political conversations shouldn't be taking place. It's just that sometimes a ghost is just that: a ghost. But let's look at it another way. I think that regardless of your personal beliefs or political affiliation, we can all agree that if aliens do exist and they were to enter our atmosphere tomorrow, they would quickly turn their UFO around and get as far away from us as possible.

But through all of this mess, Halloween 2020 is coming! And even if trick or treating gets canceled, that doesn't mean you and the family still can't dress up. Or head out to your local library and stock up on some spooky books to read together (Sam's got some recommendations for you later in this newsletter). Or break out some spooky board games (Josh has a recommendation on that in this newsletter). Watch some scary movies. Decorate the inside of your house. Talk to relatives about their favorite Halloween costumes. The options are endless. Don't let the uncertainty and confusion overwhelm you. Give yourself a Paranormal Break and do nothing but think about all things strange and spooky.

Because Halloween 2020 is coming. On a Saturday. With a full moon. What more of an excuse do you need?

Cheers,

James A. Willis
Founder/Director



The EXPERIMENT continues



James

In the June 2020 issue of this very newsletter, we introduced the latest version of our “experiment”: Namely, that every day at noon EST, I would listen to and reflect upon a song. Readers were asked to spend a few minutes at noon EST and see if they could figure

out the song in a remote viewing sort of way. A few of you even submitted guesses...and didn't receive an email back. Apologies for that. But it was those intertwined with several “frustrated” emails because people were getting impressions but not entire songs. So it was clear we needed to revamp things a bit.

So here's the thing: We're extending the experiment with the same song. Still at noon EST. The new wrinkle is I don't want people to

necessarily feel like they need to guess the entire song title and artist. That can certainly cause undue stress and that's not what we're looking for. Stress can put up barriers to communication and we just want things to flow naturally. So just sit back, close your eyes, relax, and make a note of anything that pops into your mind. It could be a word, a sound, a color, a feeling. Anything, really. Just relax and let it flow.

And then send an email to jim@ghostsofohio.org and let me know anything you “saw.” I will email you back and let you know if you might be on the right track or not. But unless you have a specific title for me, I will probably keep my responses down to a vague “you're heading in the right direction” as I don't want to give too many hints. I want the answer to come to you naturally.

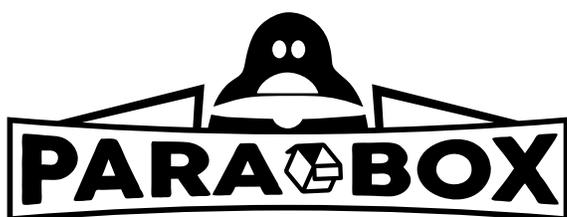
The results will be revealed in the October 2020 edition of this newsletter.

THE GHOSTS OF OHIO NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

We're still 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 of 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



Josh

I've slowly started to accept the fact that I doubt I will get the chance to investigate any haunted location this year, no

in-person presentations, and most importantly not being able to see my extended family in The Ghosts Of Ohio. So what's a guy to do with all this extra time and extra energy? I sit down and think a lot. No, seriously. My mind is always at work. My wife can tell you that I am not a sit down and relax type of person. I'm always doing something. I really don't think I have (or at least I did) that part of my brain that controls the ability to relax. Undoubtedly, I feel like most of us have more time on our hands right now. Which leads me to my next interview and first product review.

ParaBox has been a life saver over the past few months. It gives me a chance to problem solve, and it gives us an excuse to have some of our best friends come over (at a safe distance of course). So let me break this down for you. Each month you get a shirt and a card. The shirt "theme," if you will, can be anything from a legend, haunted location, cryptid, or alien related. The shirts are extremely soft and well made. Not poorly



made or printed cheaply at all! In the box will also be a card. The card will have factual information that pertains to the theme. I personally have enjoyed finding a few new locations and going back to revisit topics that maybe I hadn't thought of in several years. So once you get it all unboxed and do your quick reading over the card, you have to log onto a website. But in order to get access into the page, you have to first figure out the password. Usually the clues are hidden on the shirt (some are more obvious than

others), and once you think you have cracked that, enter your password. If you are right, you move onto another puzzle; if you are wrong...well keep trying. We've all been there, trust me. I stayed up almost an entire weekend once working on the Queen Mary theme. It had the most in-depth story and map. You had to use a full blueprint of the Queen Mary, going deck by deck, cabin by cabin to find clues. By the time I was done, my kitchen table looked like a deranged madman was working on some real

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INTERVIEW CONTINUED

groundbreaking stuff. But let's continue. Once you figure out the password and enter it correctly, you'll be taken to another page. This page will contain another story (fiction), and you'll have a bigger puzzle to figure out. We've seen everything from maps, blueprints, crosswords that contain the answer or at least will help you find the answer. Some are very challenging (as mentioned before, HA!) others just flat-out need teamwork! I can't tell you how many times I've been thankful that our friends Doug and Kristen were able to come over. Besides, what's a pot of coffee without good friends and puzzles? Once you decode everything that is given, you'll have the next location/theme for next month's box, as well as the "bonus question." Get them both right, you'll be entered into a drawing for ParaBox swag! How awesome is that, right? If you are still on the fence about this, I assure you it's really worth a shot. Besides, worse case, you still get an awesome shirt out of the deal. And if it makes you feel any better, we were probably three themes in before we really started to get both the next theme and bonus question guessed correctly. So being the enquiring mind that I am, I kept thinking to myself, I really need to talk with the guy who thought of this! It's seriously a genius idea and a lot of fun. We all have a story and things that make us all unique, but we all also share a lot of common interests and thoughts. I'm always looking for the next opportunity to sit

down (well more like email now these days) and talk. So once again, I decided I'm going to see if I can get the creator of ParaBox to talk with me. And sure enough, Mr. Jim Hamilton did just that.



Jim Hamilton

Please give us a little background on yourself.

Growing up, I've always been fascinated by the paranormal. One of my earliest memories growing up in Michigan, my mom would take me to the local library and I would spend hours combing through the books on UFOs, ghosts, and bigfoot. To this day, anytime I walk into a library or bookstore and I smell that distinct book smell, I transport back to those days as a kid. That love of mystery and the unexplained has never left me. I now live in Arizona and have a graphic design business that's been in operation since the late 90s.

What inspired you to start ParaBox?

As a graphic designer, it's sometimes hard to relax your mind. For me it seems my brain

gears want to start turning in the early morning hours when I'd rather be fast asleep. Many times this happens I'll start playing a podcast to focus on one thing and not the 1000s of other thoughts that are trying to bombard my brain. Of course my podcasts on my playlist are 90% paranormal, 10% true crime—great nighttime listening :). Often times I'll just try to harness one of those ideas and zero in on it. Sometimes those ideas that come into your head at that hour are amazing. If we listen to them and explore them, they can lead to great things. ParaBox was one of those ideas. I wanted to combine my interest for the paranormal and unexplained with my talents as a graphic designer. A few more sleepless nights turning on that idea and ParaBox was born.

Do you have a ParaBox team who come up with the ideas, or is that something you do on your own? (If you have a team, I want in!)

Currently, ParaBox only consists of me and my amazing family. I come up with the theme, artwork/design, the puzzle, website, and print production, and my family comes to the rescue to help me get the shirts folded and shipped out. I do have some bigger plans for expanding and enhancing the ParaBox experience. Once that phase commences, I'll need a ParaBox team for sure, so send your (or any readers') resume in!

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INTERVIEW CONTINUED

Over the past year or so, there have been a couple of locations that might be considered a little lesser known (I won't give those away), but how do you get the ideas for those versus a more well-known location/creature?

Fortunately there is no shortage of themes for the paranormal. I do try and incorporate a little bit of everything throughout the year. One thing I do take into consideration is if the theme will make an interesting t-shirt. Not everything translates well to a t-shirt design. When doing research on themes, sometimes it's nice to educate our subscribers on a location, event, or creature that they had never heard of before. It's always fun to learn new things and explore those further on your own. Who knows, they just might become your new favorite story.

Do you ever find yourself going down the rabbit hole when doing research for themes? How do you finally decide what facts will make it and which ones won't?

I always go down a rabbit hole when thinking of these things. You have to. The rabbit hole will branch out and lead to other themes or mysteries I want to explore as a later theme. I was thinking to myself recently that if I was offered a gift to have the ability to know all the mysteries of the world, what would I do? I know I would reject it. It's the

mystery in the world that makes life interesting. It allows us to use our imagination and come up with theories and discussion. If we knew the answers, how boring would our existence be.

Is there ever any truth to the stories or clues that you provide to help solve the next month's location? I swear sometimes when I read them it sounds like a personal experience or something that really does sound like it should be true.

That's all fictional, those stories and elements provided are all made up. There might be some truth behind what they reference, but they're just to set the stage for that month's puzzle. Just a teaser...they're going to get a bit crazier come November.

How do you plan and decide on how hard to make the puzzles from month to month? Just as a side note, the Queen Mary theme was by far the hardest one I have done to date. I lost sleep over this one!

Going back to my childhood, my mother would create a scavenger hunt every year for us on Easter. Many years she would have to work, so on Easter Sunday, my sister and I would spend hours going through the clues she left us to try and find our Easter baskets. My mother's goal was to keep us occupied until she got home and she could enjoy us finding our surprise. I've taken a bit of that talent my mother had

passed on to me and incorporated it into ParaBox. I try not to make the puzzle too difficult. It's designed for individuals, families, or teams to enjoy. Everyone has a different skill level.

Speaking on that subject, do you ever sit back and grin upon the agony you are causing some of us? But honestly, in the end, it's really worth it once you get the email saying you are correct!

{sinister smile} A little bit. I've come to the conclusion that many of our subscribers are just in it for the t-shirt (which is fine). Less than half of the people make it to the actual puzzle page. My suggestion for those people would be to make it an event with your friends. Our product is designed to be interactive. We would hope that everyone would enjoy all aspects of it and not just think of ParaBox as a t-shirt. Another little teaser—starting in 2021, we're going to have a little bit of a different process for our contest entry.



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INTERVIEW CONTINUED

To date, which theme have you been the most proud of and why?

That's a tough one. I've looked forward to so many. Every year I have one that I anticipate releasing. This year, I really looked forward to Kincaid's Cave. Maybe because it's a little closer to home and one of those themes that is a little lesser known.

Do you usually have all of the themes planned out, say months in advance? Or do you go month to month with them?

The themes are all planned and t-shirt designs are complete for 2021. I do have some of those puzzles completed as well. They'll all be ready to go before the new year, and then I will focus on finishing up 2022. 2021 will be a little different than before. I can't

give it away, but it's going to be pretty epic.

What are the biggest deciding factors that go into picking out a theme? Is it more history and facts? Or just something that makes a great story?

The biggest factor is, "Will it look good on a shirt?" If it passes that checkpoint, it goes to the next question, "Is there enough material?" Some stories are interesting, but there just isn't quite enough substance to make something out of it. I've had to pass on a few themes because there wasn't enough to work with.

Do subscribers ever write in with suggestions on themes, and have you ever used any of them? (Because I have a few ideas that I would love to see become a theme some month!)

I have had subscribers tell me personal stories of encounters but haven't had anyone suggest themes. I'd love to hear their suggestions. I'd give them a shout-out as well if they're not already in the works. So send them in!

Do you believe in the paranormal, and, if so, do you have any stories that you would like to share?

I am a believer. My father was a police officer and would tell me stories of the things he would encounter. Mostly stories of seeing UFOs and the one time he saw aliens walking on the beach in Florida (not sure I believe that one). Although I've never had an experience with a ghost. I've witnessed (on a few occasions) UFOs. One occasion in the 90s I witnessed a red light extremely high in the night sky. It was

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INTERVIEW CONTINUED

moving at a pretty decent speed, and it made a 90-degree right turn. I'm not sure what that was. The other time I was star gazing, and I witnessed the stars being blacked out by a black rectangle shape. Who knows what those could have been. I just know that it was nothing like I had ever seen before or since.

What is your favorite legend and or creature?

I don't know if I necessarily have a favorite, but what I do love to study about cryptids is that every country or area has their own legends. For example, here in Arizona, we have the Mogollon Monster, a bigfoot-like creature that has been reportedly seen in the Mogollon Rim area. If I had to pick one that seems to stand out more than others, I would say it would be the Mothman. The legend of the Mothman has some other strange ties to it around the same time as it was originally sighted, and that legend can get pretty fascinating when you look into those cases.

With the current situation of COVID-19, have you seen a spike in new subscribers?

We have had continual growth since we started in October of 2017. We unfortunately have had some subscribers cancel due to economic issues but not many. I think that ParaBox provides an escape from the news and problems in the world. It allows us to escape (even for a little bit) to a different reality and distracts us



from all the bad news in the world. We've had more people email us about their appreciation that we're still shipping out boxes than cancelations. We're living in strange times, and we're very grateful for our fans that keep us going strong.

Do you have any other projects coming out in the near future? Or anything else that you would like to do besides continuing ParaBox?

For 2021, we will be launching our new ParaBox website. Our November and December boxes will lead in our new brand and will continue to baffle the brains of our subscribers with even more difficult challenges. We can't reveal too much about what's

coming down the pipe, but ParaBox will always continue to evolve into a fun and mysterious company. We're focused on providing great adventures and apparel for our subscribers.

Sound interesting enough for you? Think you would like to give ParaBox a try? Jump on over to paraboxmonthly.com and use code **OHIO** at checkout for **10% off your first order.**

I really can't thank Jim Hamilton enough for not only making such an awesome subscription box but for taking the time out of his busy schedule to answer some questions for an inquiring mind!

READY OR NOT, SPOOKY READS ARE HERE!



Samantha

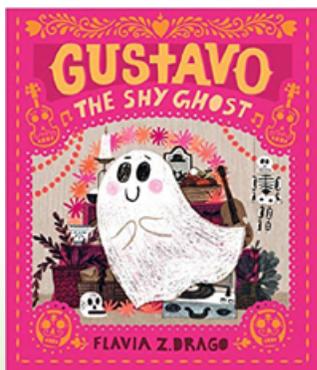
I don't know about you, but it seems like this year has been flying by at lightning speed. It's almost as though someone hit the fast-forward button on a remote control, and now suddenly it's August. Time for school to start, leaves to fall, and, in the book world, fresh releases of spooky Halloween tales for kids.

Oh? You say you're not ready for Halloween yet? That's okay because these titles don't contain a single reference to the holiday. They're just full of silly, spooky fun!



How to Build a Haunted House By Frank Tupta

A new family is moving to town, and a whole host of creatures (witches, werewolves, mummies, etc) have until dawn to build a house that's just right for the new residents. Through simple rhymes, kids are kept guessing about the identity of the new family until the very end. This picture book is a winner!



Gustavo the Shy Ghost by Flavia Z. Drago

Gustavo is a ghost who enjoys doing all of the things that ghosts do, but he especially loves playing the violin. However, he's also painfully shy and

longs to have friends, particularly the monsters he sees around town. He devises a plan to invite them to a concert at the cemetery, and to his surprise, they all come! If you're hoping to read something with a happy ending, look no further than this sweet picture book.



She Wanted to be Haunted by Marcus Ewert

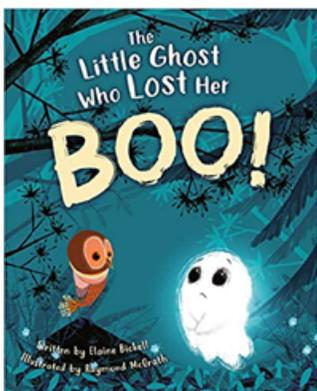
Clarissa is an adorable pink cottage that is tired of being ordinary, but also wants friends. She asks her parents (a spooky vampire's castle and a creepy witch's hut) for something to make her look less cute.

"If only I were haunted - I'd never be alone! But look at me: I'm cheerful! I've got to change my tone!"

Their solutions don't work, however, and she winds up attracting a whole host of flora and wildlife. While she's no longer alone, she continues to be unhappy until a unicorn arrives—a unicorn who's an absolute jerk. This creature rips up the flowers and chases all of the wildlife away. Strangely (for a children's picture book), this behavior makes Clarissa very happy, allowing her to "be herself at last: horrible...and cute." Personally, I was

READY OR NOT, SPOOKY READS ARE HERE! CONTINUED

incredibly disappointed by this book. The message it seems to send is that allying yourself with a bully is okay, which isn't necessarily the lesson people are trying to teach their children. What a bummer!



The Little Ghost Who Lost Her Boo

By Elaine Bickell

This adorable picture book features a little ghost who discovers that her “boo” is gone when she attempts to frighten someone.

Little Ghost went out in the middle of the night and flew up to someone to give them a fright.

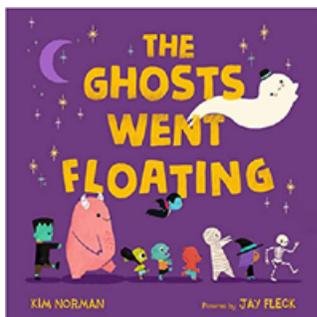
She opened her mouth—but her BOO wasn't there!

All that came out was a rush of cold air.

“I've lost my BOO! I've lost my BOO!

Where has it gone? What will I do?”

She explores the forest in an attempt to find it. In the end, an interactive moment allows readers to help her find what she's looking for. This is a sweet, fun story to read aloud.



The Ghosts Went Floating

By Kim Norman

Okay, so this book does mention Halloween, but it's so much fun I wanted to include it here. In case you couldn't guess, the lyrics are all set to the tune of “The Ants Go Marching”:

*The ghosts went floating, one by one,
BOO-rah! BOO-rah!*

when Halloween had just begun.

BOO-rah! BOO-rah!

*The ghosts went floating, one by one,
so why don't YOU come join the fun?*

This tale features a variety of creepy characters who are trick-or-treating around town. It's so much fun to read/sing aloud, and the counting element is important for kiddos. I'll definitely be sharing this one at library story time!



All My Friends Are Ghosts

By S.M. Vidaurri & Hannah Krieger

This graphic novel (for ages 8+) features a smart, creative girl named Effie who is dealing with the challenges of growing up and fitting in. She spends most of her time feeling awkward and lost, like a ghost. That is, until she meets a trio of real ghosts who attend a ghost school in the nearby woods. They strike up a bumpy, comical and sweet friendship, and Effie ultimately helps her new friends save a lost soul. She learns that, if you want to feel like you belong, all you have to do is find the right people.



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 SIX:

“A NIGHT AT THE OPERA HOUSE”



Mark

Dusk's dark grey mantle had begun to cover the small Ohio town when Jim, Mark, and Sean all arrived in

McConnelsville. Behind the historic and iconic Twin City Opera House built in 1890, the blue sky merged with the golden and red hues radiating among the clouds from the impending sunset. A horse-drawn covered produce wagon driven by an older, straw-hat wearing Amish gentleman gently clopped along the street in front of The Ghosts of Ohio team as they gazed at the large red brick opera house with its central five-story bell tower.

Sean, one of the more recent members of the team, stood smiling and beaming with excitement, today sporting a short buzz cut and goatee. He reminded Mark sometimes of a somewhat smaller, though equally jovial, Ghost of Christmas Present from the classic Dickens tale, albeit one with an even sharper and wickedly funny wit when engaged in casual conversation. If Sean ever grew a full beard one day, Mark thought he might risk



asking him to don a velvety green robe and hold up a silver torch just to solidify this vision in his mind.

The blue-shirted Amish farmer's wagon passed in front of a Civil War statue of a young Union soldier, who eternally guarded the town and the opera house. Jim and the team could hear the murmuring voices in a small crowd filing through the theater's majestic stone arch entrance, now illuminated by golden orbs of light. A show of some kind was about to begin.

Jim and the crew had arrived early to have dinner and discuss the investigation plans with the local paranormal team who called the opera house home, so this inviting scene would have to wait.

It was after 11 PM when the arch lights darkened, and the now-empty theater reset its stage for a very different kind of show. Their paranormal hosts opened the front door and led them past the exterior old-fashioned ticket counter and through the high-ceiling lobby, now partly converted to serve theatrical refreshments and snacks. The distinctly warm and inviting aroma of popcorn and chocolates of all kind intertwined in the air.

They toured through the interconnected maze of hardwood-trimmed offices in the front section of the building before making their way into the grand theater itself. Lovingly maintained and in excellent condition, the lavender-painted

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SECRET SYNCHRONICITY *continued*

tones on the interior walls perfectly accented the white gloss woodwork trim. Just beyond the entrance lobby, opposing gracefully curving stairways led to the upper balcony seating overhead. A large and decorative chandelier made of white opal glass cemented into a golden metal framework hung from a large, recessed ceiling crafted to resemble an elegant Tiffany lamp shade. Two identical, ornamentally gilded fixtures, each the height of a grown man, hung to either side of the front stage.

Lowered from the overhead backstage rigging, a gossamer white movie screen occupied nearly the entire stage, revealing the nature of this evening's earlier entertainment. With the backstage lights on, a painted backdrop image of a red barn facade appeared faintly visible beyond the movie screen's translucent surface, no doubt used for live country & western music nights. During its vaudeville heyday long ago, the acts that graced this stage included famous magicians, renowned actors and actresses, musicians, poets, and singers amongst many others. One could feel that indelible residual imprint of long-ago energy in this place. Even Mark felt it. Which was odd, all things considered about his normal day job.

If something ghostly could haunt a stage, this place definitely fit that expectation. Even more so based on the museum-quality antiques backstage. On display on a white-paneled wall hung a hefty, and frankly quite intimidating, 1890s electrical

control panel for all the theatrical lighting originally installed in the theater. Dr. Frankenstein would no doubt have approved! Nearly intact, it featured cylindrical fuses the size of rolled quarters and handles on pivoting metallic switches used to break and complete the massive electrical current passing through these junctions. Though long since bypassed by safer electrical code solutions, the panel seemed to stand in a back-eddy of time's current here.

Studying the old-time panel, Sean remarked in all seriousness, "I once had a job as a theater lighting technician. It was spot on." That was funny, and Jim and Mark chuckled a little at his joke as they all studied the backstage area, though one encouraged Sean's comic comments at your own expense, they had discovered. Then Sean wandered over to the painted barn backdrop, for now he was smiling and on a roll that couldn't be easily stopped. With a perfectly straight face, he said "I tried acting on a farm once. It went horribly; I got mooded off the stage." Now that one-liner caused a few outright laughs in the small group, though Jim was reluctant to encourage Sean any further. But it was already too late, for then Sean appeared to be searching for something on the century-old oak stage floor. "I love using our theater's trapdoor. It's just a stage I'm going through," he remarked. Mark and Jim just groaned in humorous agony and exited stage left.

There they found a narrow and steeply ascending stairway

leading upward to an original dressing room used by vaudeville stars before it continued its sharp climb toward the overhead catwalk areas surrounding the fly-rigging high over the stage. Out of sight of the audience, unfinished red brick walls, the exposed skeleton of the building, held everything together with indisputable strength. Up they climbed!

At that moment, far away in the deep underground TANIS laboratory, MIB agents Arcturus and Orion stood behind a small group of scientists busily typing commands on keyboards and checking instrumentation readouts. This was to be their first long-distance test of the control interface to the suspended multi-dimensional gateway tranquilly hovering at the center of the spacecraft. Power conduits hummed with energy in the mysterious theater of science before them. On a large high-resolution display, the Earth rotated peacefully beneath the orbital plots of several key satellites linked into this experiment. "Thirty minutes to intercept one," remarked one of the scientists, sitting back in his chair. "And now we wait."

Back at the opera house and high up in the catwalk balcony area, the small group of paranormal investigators now stood together around an odd collection of toys: a child's tea set, several stuffed animals, and two creepily smiling dolls. In odd contrast, next to the toy pile stood several bottles of wine and an unmarked dark bottle that looked like rum. "No, the booze isn't for us," said their

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SECRET SYNCHRONICITY *continued*

paranormal host team leader, “but you can play with the toys if you want. This peculiar area seems to be a hot spot of activity for us. We feel that there is the ghost of a little girl that sometimes wanders up here, and we use the toys as trigger items for her. On the other hand, the alcoholic beverages we put here as triggers for a different ghost we think haunts the theater too—an older male spirit who might have been a stagehand we named Robert.” This peculiar collection now made some sense.

The catwalk balcony floor was probably 20 feet or more above the oak stage. Here, extensive rope rigging anchored to iron batons, which gave one the feeling of being on board the deck of an 18th-century sailing ship that was somehow stuck within a theater. Red brick walls wrapped around the catwalk balcony, joining together at odd angles as they continued their upward climb to the roof support structures still further overhead. If only these walls could talk, thought Mark.

Descending the steep backstage stairs, the group continued to the last stop on the tour—the maze of structures in the basement below the theater. Here, they found a modern dressing room for live performances, storage areas, and, at a sub-basement level, a very solid fire-rated metal door attached to a counter-weighted pulley system to assist in its opening. Beyond the thick metal door lay the low-ceiling, never-developed space beneath the theater. A few modern chairs stood in the empty space toward the far end of this dirty and dark

area. The host paranormal team leader commented, “Sometimes we have activity down here too. No idea why. And we have found references to a secret passage that may have once connected this space to a local hotel in the 1890s, supposedly built so that the theater’s stars could travel out of sight of their adoring, or annoying, fans.”

Returning to the first-floor theater seating area, the group split up. Their host team members took up their posts in the front office areas of the theater. Jim, wearing his new black vest of many pockets, turned to Sean and Mark saying, “So let’s get started! We have a few pieces of equipment to set up. I’ll get started with the studio microphone system, which will be on stage. You two set up the video cameras and IR extenders in the catwalk balcony, theater, and stage area.” Everyone went quickly to work, and the evening’s investigation began. It was now about 1:30 AM, and the September darkness reigned supreme.

At the start, Mark, Sean, and Jim split up, each taking a focus area to observe as the audio and video recorders ran silently around them. These options included sitting in the theater, backstage, the catwalk balcony, or the basement areas below, trading off in rotation at set points in time. At one point, when Sean and Mark were both backstage, they could hear Jim’s muffled voice calling out from the basement area beneath them.

“What’s up with this Little Rascals metal door?!” Jim exclaimed.

“I can’t get it to open or budge at all.” Both Sean and Mark looked at each other with no clue, as they had just been down there a few minutes earlier.

“Jim, just push on it,” replied Sean. “There’s a counterweight on a pulley that easily opens the door after that.”

“I AM pushing on it!” said Jim. “Is there a lock on it somewhere?”

“No lock,” said Mark. “It just swings open. We were just down there, and that’s all we did.”

“Well, no matter how hard I push, this metal door doesn’t move!” said Jim, a bit annoyed and frustrated by the silent doorway impeding his progress. Sean walked toward the basement stairs saying, “Hang on, I’m heading down to you.”

Back at the TANIS complex, the eternal scene of stars beyond the ethereally floating gate shimmered softly for the first time in countless years, then faded to black. Moments later, a soft bluish-green image of a middle-aged, dark-vested man standing in front of a large metal door appeared within the golden star gate. One of the scientists logged the test result over the laboratory intercom system: “Remote tracking test completed on Subject 173. Releasing portal lock now. Resetting for primary track-lock sequence window beginning in 20 minutes.” He pushed an amber-colored backlit console button, and the control interface to the spacecraft initiated several shutdown commands. The endless expanse of stars once more filled the star gate’s interior

(continued on page 13.)

SECRET SYNCHRONICITY *continued*

opening as they always had. Arcturus and Orion nodded in pleased approval.

Sean arrived at the basement fire door a few moments later. "Just push on it here," said Sean, pointing to a nondescript area on the right side of the thick metal door.

"I did, and I have been!" said Jim. Sean stepped forward and pushed gently on the right side of the door, which pivoted smoothly away from them as the counterbalanced weight descended on the other side of the door mechanism. Jim stared in disbelief. "What the...! I swear that door would not budge at all a few moments ago. OK, that's officially strange in my book."

While that was going on, Mark wandered around backstage. His silenced cell phone jittered in his pocket. The message from a blocked caller ID number said "TL T1 nominal. T2 sequence initiation in 20 minutes." Then, the message shimmered and faded away, erased from all records by the digital computer worm inserted surreptitiously within the message traffic by the MIB.

"Fascinating," thought Mark to himself, his mind now divided between the historic theater and the apparent activities going on at the hidden, ultra-high-tech laboratory.

So he completely failed to notice the young girl with ponytail braids wearing a long dress from an earlier era standing silently on the stairwell landing above him. She was there only a few moments before fading or perhaps stepping

backward through the solid brick wall. Had he seen her, it would have forever and instantly changed his structured view of reality at that moment in time. Not unlike seeing one of those old, hidden stereogram images popular in the 1990s for the very first time. Magical, coherent, 3D holographic-like images appear out of nothing but seemingly random noise patterns in an incomprehensible image. And your mind is never quite the same after that experience.

As Jim and Sean returned to the stage, Jim called out "Ghosts, we are taking a five-minute break." While directed at the unseen spirits, this message also served a pragmatic purpose when later reviewing the hours of audio and video recordings from tonight's investigation. During the break, they enjoyed a few kernels of popcorn from the lobby concession stand while reviewing the events so far. Until Sean commented, "Popcorn jokes are so corny that they just pop out of nowhere." This lame joke prompted Mark and Jim to both laugh and throw several kernels of popcorn directly at Sean.

Returning to the theater stage, Jim noted on the audio tracks, "All right Ghosts, we're back!" as he, Sean, and Mark climbed the steep narrow stairs to the overhead catwalk. In the distance, a bell tolled 2 AM. Near the wine bottles on the balcony floor, Jim asked, "Robert, do you like wine?" Almost immediately, a loud solid knock sounded from the empty stage floor below them, which certainly grabbed their attention.

And while they all pondered that singular responsive knock, Agent Arcturus back at the TANIS laboratory continued his orchestrations as he said, "Reinitiate the remote tracking sequence on Subject 173 and prepare to energize the gateway upon nominal alignment." The technical crew sprang back into action, typing commands and adjusting control settings at their consoles. The power-surge hum from the spacecraft softly reverberated in the cavernous test chamber, and the crystal clear star field rippled into darkness once more. Then an image appeared within the golden gateway of Jim leaning against an old brick wall. At that moment, in one of his many vest pockets, a small sensor began to beep, sporadically at first and then ever more frequently. In the now full-color image observed through the star gate, the MIB and tech crew watched in amazement as Jim looked down and withdrew his "ghost meter" sensor from his pocket. By now it was pinging quite strongly and adamantly blinking a warning light. He had bought the device for fun because it proclaimed to be a ghost meter without any "factual basis" to that claim.

On the other side of Ohio, Mark had noted the slowly increasing beeping and flashing alert light in one of Jim's vest pockets. "Jim, something in your upper right pocket is going off on something," said Mark. Jim pulled out the ghost meter and began moving around the catwalk balcony area, testing where it pinging and where it abruptly

SECRET SYNCHRONICITY *continued*

stopped. When the phenomenon began, Jim was leaning against the brick wall, and, at first, the ghost meter only reacted strongly when held within about one foot of that back wall. As they explored the area, the signal became stronger and stronger until the sensor was pinging like crazy at least 2 to 3 feet off the canted rear wall, prompting Mark to state, "It's just this wall." More curious still, the ghost meter fell absolutely silent once it moved beyond what appeared to be an invisible doorway standing three feet off the wall. Moving the sensor to the left of the "door" frame at any height off the balcony floor, all beeping and flashing would cease, only to resume the moment the sensor moved to the right of this sharply defined and entirely invisible boundary of unknown origin. Jim questioned Mark, "Why is this sensor responding like this?"

Without thinking to guard his answer and because he was also preoccupied with pondering the experiments underway in TANIS, Mark replied with exacting scientific accuracy more in line with his professional day job there, "Because you're standing next to a portal." And he stared directly into the center of the plain brick wall when he said this, unknowingly making nearly direct eye contact with Arcturus and the technical team on the other side of whatever dimensional rift this controlled gateway created. Directing his attention at the unseen force around him, Jim said, "Need you to move away from me please."

Far away, Arcturus, with a satisfied smile, said "Close the portal." At the opera house, Jim's ghost meter abruptly stopped beeping and went back to reporting zero electromagnetic signature emissions, as usual. Jim stood amazed and in wonder at the experience on that theatrical catwalk balcony.

The investigation continued on into the early morning hours. There were a few more knocks, several being heard right after questions were raised. But no ghostly apparitions, exceedingly rare on the paranormal spectrum anyway, appeared before them or on their video recordings. And Mark had already completely missed the one opportunity to see the ghost of the little girl. Later, when they reviewed the audio for EVP events, there was one additional oddity that gave Mark the shivers, one he could never explain. From the professional studio-grade microphone recording on the stage floor, somewhere between 3 and 4 AM, a faint, musical-like voice that faded away like a dying echo could be heard. A ghostly audio from a long-ago stage performance? Perhaps there was more to this strange paranormal world than meets the eye.

It was nearly 6 AM by the time Jim, Sean, and Mark packed up their Ghosts of Ohio equipment and thanked their sleepy host investigative team for a fun and eventful experience. Outside, a light fog covered the town square area, shrouding the streetlights and courthouse bell tower in the blanketed glow.

As they said their goodbyes, Sean ended the conversation with one last, well-timed remark before hopping into his car: "I tried to catch fog yesterday. Mist."

*Coming in the
October Newsletter*

*Chapter Seven:
Into the Lion's Den*



A NOTE ON OUR APPEARANCES CALENDAR

Unfortunately, our Schedule of Appearances continues to shrink due to COVID-19. There are a few that are still listed, but if we're being honest, we imagine that those will more than likely end up being rescheduled. But as of this writing, they remain on the schedule. So please, as we get closer to October, check with the venue to ensure that the event is still scheduled to take place. At present time, we continue to work with individual venues and are making every attempt necessary to ensure that every postponed event is re-scheduled as soon as it is deemed safe to do so.

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 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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