



Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I O N S

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Hersheypark Arena: Haunted?

This is a landmark season for one of the most storied minor-league sports teams in America, the Hershey Bears. It is their 75th year of play in the American Hockey League. From the time it opened in 1936 until the new Giant Center was built in 2002, they played in the old Hersheypark Arena, a truly great venue for hockey and other sports and events. Upon seeing my first Bears game in the mid 1960s, I was hooked on the sport and began playing myself. I've seen and played more games in the 'old barn' (as it was called) than I can recall, and recently in a conversation with Jack Thomas, got yet another report that the place may be haunted!

Several years ago, Jack told me of a friend who's office was in the arena, that when working late at night, would hear the sound of skates on the ice and pucks rattling off the boards, only to walk out and see the main lights were not on and could clearly see from the muted 'emergency' lights no one was skating on the darkened rink! Then just a few weeks ago, Jack had a conversation with a neighbor who also spent considerable time alone in the place and reported similar activity. (I won't mention this person's name but I know him and played in the same league with his son years ago). Two independent reports of similar activity certainly merit some attention, and given the passion people share for the game, might there not be something here than just the memories? (After all, an entire book has been devoted to reports of hauntings at baseball stadiums)



From a ghosthunters perspective, the activity described certainly sounds residual. I must say, despite countless nights of being one of the last people in the place, hauling my goalie gear up the

stairs after playing the late game in the old Central Penn Amateur league, I never experienced it myself. However, there is no doubt that the dim lighting made for a very eerie, surreal experience during many treks out of the place. Again, while this seems residual, if there is any Bears great from the past who might again lace up the skates from the 'other side', I could think of no one more suited to it than famed player, coach and GM, Frank Mathers (Who died in 2005)! - JDW

New Spontaneous Combustion Case (C2C 2/13/13)

First hour guest, researcher Larry Arnold reported on a possible new case of spontaneous human combustion (SHC) which took place in Oklahoma. Fire Marshall Ronnie Marshall said he'd never seen a body burnt like that of the victim Danny Vanzandt. There was also a lack of heat and flame damage to the areas surrounding the body, "which is the hallmark of what history has defined as the concept of spontaneous human combustion," said Arnold. He added that the new case bore similarities to the famous 1966 SHC case of Dr. John Bentley who got crispy in Coudersport, PA (famous pic @ rt).



At tonight's meeting, we will hear Larry's interview with C2C host George Noory. In this segment, Larry once again demonstrates why he is such a respected researcher of fortune phenomenon and a popular repeat guest.

Additional details: The sheriff of Sequoyah County in Oklahoma believes that a 65-year-old man recently died by spontaneously bursting into flames. "If you read about spontaneous human combustion that's what we have here," Sheriff Ron Lockhart told KFSM. After a neighbor contacted police on Monday, authorities discovered the burned body of Danny Vanzandt in the kitchen of his home.

I have been in touch with Larry regarding this case; he feels this is the 'real deal' and was originally supposed to fly out to OK last week. This was postponed by the blizzard in that area, but he reports this trip has been re-scheduled. Larry



will keep me posted on developments. - JDW (Left: The grave of another famed SHC victim Mary Reeser - what little was left of her - can be seen in Mechanicsburg's Chestnut Hill Cemetery)

Top 10 Most Famous Ghosts (According to www.livescience.com) - *Thanks to Melissa for submitting*

King Hamlet - Though ghosts appear in several of Shakespeare's plays (such as "MacBeth" and "Julius Caesar"), King Hamlet is among the better known of the Bard's ghosts and plays an integral part in "Hamlet." Hamlet may be the central character in the play named after him, but without his father's ghost, there would be no story. King Hamlet appears three times in the play, each time during the night (apparently ghosts, like vampires, prefer darkness). The ghost tells Hamlet that he was murdered by his treacherous brother Claudius, and asks Hamlet to avenge his death.

The Flying Dutchman - The Flying Dutchman, the world's best-known non-human ghost, is a seventeenth-century merchant ship said to haunt the high seas. According to sea lore, the ship, which often appears as a hazy image or a strange light, is said to be a portent of bad luck and doom. The ship and its crew became eternally cursed when its Dutch captain refused to take safe harbor during a storm despite pleas from the crew and passengers. Instead the impudent Dutchman challenged God to take them down. The "ghost ship" has been reported on the ocean from time to time, including appearing off the coast of South Africa in 1923. Though never seen on land, The Flying Dutchman most recently appeared in movie theaters across the country in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" films.

The Bell Witch - The events that allegedly happened at John Bell's Tennessee farm between 1817 and 1821 are said to be one of the classic American ghost tales. Bell shot at a strange animal on his farm, but the creature disappeared before it could be harmed. Several weeks later, the Bell family was tormented by a ghost that made terrifying sounds, shook the house, and physically attacked Bell's daughter Betsy. The spectral assaults continued for several years, and at one point Andrew Jackson is said to have dabbled in ghost hunting and did his own investigation. Though some authors recount the Bell Witch tale as a true account, there is little evidence that it is anything other than a ghost story. Jackson, for example, never mentioned the Bell Witch case at all; it seems that the future president's role was created from thin air, possibly to lend verisimilitude (the appearance of reality) to the fictional tale.

Casper - While Bloody Mary spends her time in the ghostly realms waiting to be summoned to dark bathrooms so she can scare kids, Casper (whose legal last name is "The Friendly Ghost") is the white-outlined, smiling ghost who tries not to scare people. In the Harvey comic book series, Casper was often joined by friends such as Wendy the Good Little Witch and Hot Stuff the Little Devil. While some found the idea of a dead child's ghost hanging around with a witch and a devil a bit creepy, the characters were made benign and kid-friendly with the addition of "good," "friendly," and "little" to their names. Casper had a revival of sorts with a self-titled 1995 film, a modest success that managed to avoid the direct-to-video graveyard.

Bloody Mary - "Bloody Mary...Bloody Mary...Bloody Mary..." With those words, many schoolchildren had their first experience with a ghost. According to folklore, Bloody Mary is a ghost of a woman who murdered her children long ago. If you want to see her, go into a bathroom (usually at school), turn the lights off, stand in front of a mirror, and repeat her name three times. While countless children (and surely more than a few adults) have tried to summon Bloody Mary using the prescribed method, to date few if any have actually succeeded. Most either stare at their scared reflection in the dark mirror or lose their nerve after saying the second "Bloody Mary" and run screaming from the bathroom in girlish giggles. An updated version of the Bloody Mary legend was made into a horror film series "Candyman."

The Drury Lane Ghost - There are many theaters in the Covent Gardens district in London's West End. Plays have been produced in that area for over 300 years, and some of the world's greatest actors have appeared there. Yet one theater is better known more for its ghost than its productions. There is actually more than one ghost said to haunt Drury Lane's halls and wings, including those of several actors. The most famous, however, is a "Man in Grey" seen as a nobleman carrying a sword. Any theater worth its salt (and many that aren't) reputedly have a resident ghost treading the boards, and the Drury Lane ghosts carry on their part of theater tradition.

The Vanishing Hitchhiker - "This didn't happen to me, but my friend, she heard it from her hairdresser, it happened to her parents. It seems that they were driving along a lonely country road one night- it was really cold, maybe up in Minnesota, or Montana. Anyway, it was snowing and as they turned a corner they saw a barefoot young girl wearing a dress and a green shawl. Of course they stopped to help her, and she got in the back seat. She didn't say much, and when they asked her where she lived, she pointed to a farmhouse in the distance. A few minutes later, when they pulled into the driveway, she was gone! The couple were puzzled but got out of the car and knocked on the farmhouse door. A somber, grey-haired woman answered, and the couple explained that their mysterious passenger had said this was her house. 'That's impossible,' the woman replied. 'My daughter died near here twenty years ago, on this very night.' Just inside the door, on an old wooden peg, hung her daughter's green shawl!"

The Ghost of Christmas Past - In Charles Dickens's famous novel "A Christmas Carol," cold-hearted miser Ebenezer Scrooge has a change of heart after being visited by several ghosts representing different eras of his life's Christmases (Past, Present, and Yet to Come). Ghosts are often associated with life lessons and morality tales, and these spooks are no exception. The ghosts aren't wasting time rattling chains or scaring kids; instead the Ghost of Christmas Past rehabilitates Scrooge by showing him visions of his past Christmases. Scrooge comes to appreciate the true meaning of Christmas-no, not holiday commercialism but friendship and goodwill.

The Murdered Peddler - One day, in the early 1840s in Hydesville, New York, a young peddler arrived at the home of a Mr. and Mrs. Bell to sell his housewares. He was invited into the home by the Bells' housekeeper and in fact stayed for some days. The maid was shortly dismissed from service but abruptly rehired a week later. The peddler was gone, but many of his items were now in use in the Bells' kitchen. The maid thought little of it until she began experiencing strange, ghostly phenomenon, only to find out from the peddler's ghost that he had in fact been murdered in her absence. At least that was the story told by two sisters named Maggie and Katie Fox, who claimed to communicate with the ghost. Years later, the sisters admitted it had all been a hoax; there was no murdered peddler, and the spirit communications had been faked. Still, the sisters had inadvertently founded a religion called Spiritualism, which is still practiced today. The Murdered Peddler is the only fake ghost whose presence started a real religion

Slimer - Slimer is the grotesque green ghost featured in the "Ghostbuster" films and cartoons. He's green, he's obnoxious, and he can spew slime... what's not to love? In fact, Slimer proved to be so popular with kids that he got a starring role in the spin-off series "The Real Ghostbusters." A reformed evil ghost that joined the Ghostbusters team, Slimer's voracious appetite and guttural burps make him among the most memorable cartoon ghosts.



Ghost Hunters Workshop
March 23, 2013
4:00 PM to 7:00 PM
At the Museum of Mysteries
301 Locust Street
Columbia, Pa 17512

Learn how to investigate reports of hauntings with nationally recognized ghost hunter Rick Fisher. Fisher has appeared on local and national TV and is considered one of the most credible investigators in the country. He has taught hundreds and his techniques are used by many ghost hunting groups. Don't be confused by TV ghost hunting programs which are for entertainment.

What you will learn.

Ghosts and Hauntings - Witness Interviews - Ghost Hunting Equipment
 How to Communicate With Spirits - How to Conduct and Investigation

Investigation of a haunted location after the Workshop.

What to bring.

Notebook and Pen - Camera and Recorder - Flashlight
 Any ghost hunting equipment you may have - An open Mind

Cost: \$25.00 per person

(payment must be received by March 20, 2013 minimum of 5 people required)

To register send check or money order to

Rick Fisher
 109 South 2nd Street Apt. 2
 Columbia, PA 17512

For more information visit www.paranormalpa.net

Or call 717-341-7574

Sponsored by the National Museum of Mysteries and Research Center

From Eric Altman (PBS Founder)

It's official, next week on finding bigfoot, they come to my home state of Pennsylvania. Check out the cool area of PA they are in and some of the great stories at the town hall meeting and you just might get to see me in the back leaning against the garage door. Next week, finding bigfoot on the Animal Planet.

Bigfoot and the Redhead - SUN MAR 3 10PM (look for re-broadcasts regularly and Comcast customers can view the show OnDemand)

John & Kelly Weaver will be guests on Eric's **Beyond the Edge** radio show on St Patrick's Day Sun March 17.

Todd Sees case update: In the Feb. MUFON Journal, NUFORC founder Peter Davenport details the mysterious Todd Sees Case from 2002 in the first of a 2 part article. NUFORC gave this case prominence and the debate continues about possible UFO involvement (one report claims to see a man being levitated in a beam, similar to the Travis Walton case). Nothing new is revealed thus far, but I'm interested to see what is mentioned in part two, given my own encounter with someone who claims to have known Sees. More next month - JDW

EERIE
UFO CONFERENCE

SATURDAY (ERIE) PA
MAY 4, 2013 9:AM - 6:PM

MUFON
 Mutual UFO Network
 International Convention

SPEAKERS

- REV SWOPE - LAKE ERIE UFOS
- JOHN VENTRE - THE CASE FOR UFOS (LUNCH)
- STANTON FRIEDMAN - MAN'S PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE
- STAN GORDON - MYSTERIOUS CREATURES
- KARYN DOLAN - UFOLOGY vs PARANORMAL

1 Sassafras Pier Erie, Pa 16507

Pre-register
www.MUFONPA.com
 724 836 1266

Erie Bayfront Convention Center



Spirit Society of PA.
APPARITIONS

Story & Photo Contributions are Solicited - send to:
weaviate@aol.com

S.S.P. Website: www.spiritsocietyofpa.com