



# Spirit Society of PA.

## A P P A R I T I O N S

A Monthly Journal of News & Upcoming Events • Vol 10, Issue 2 - Feb. 2006

### "ROO's" BOOS - NOTES FROM KELLY

Happy Valentine's Day! John and I will celebrate our fifteenth wedding Anniversary on Valentines Day this year. Congratulations also go out to Lori Good and her fiancé Bert. They will be getting married on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. We all wish them the best that life has to offer!

I'm happy to announce that John and I will be making "Visions from the Other Side" a reality once again! I was contacted last week by HBN Radio about reviving our Internet Show which was a part of the former PAWebcast Network. We will have free reign of topics, time, etc. I'm thrilled to say that we will begin the show in April 2006.

The show will be paranormal in nature (similar to the Coast to Coast AM radio show) including: Ghosts & Hauntings, UFO's, Angels, After Death Communication, Crypto topics and a lot more!

In the summer you will be able to go to channel 20 on your television and hit the SAP button on your remote and you can listen to it through the television. "Visions" was a successful internet radio show that John and I did a few years ago with PaWebcast.com which folded due to financial difficulties. We loved broadcasting this show and look forward to reviving it once again.

I'll keep you updated on the times, and how to listen in future newsletters.

#### Spirit Day in May Update

I've been diligently trying to line up a keynote guest speaker for our Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> event. Unfortunately, there is a program at Fort Delaware that most authors (Ed O, Charlie Adams, etc.) are going to be attending on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Rosemary Ellen Guiley hopefully will be able to make it, but may have another obligation. This is the only time that the Senior Center is free, so we have to just persevere and put together a fun day with what we are given.

Our old friend from the "Skywatch" Days, Professor Charlie Emmons from Gettysburg College was invited, but will be in Greece. He has, though, volunteered to speak at one of our future meetings.

So far, we will have an interactive tech seminar in the morning, Rick Fisher speaking about the Mysteries Museum and Research Center opening in PA in the near future, a white elephant sale all day (to raise money for the group) and a Spirit Circle in the evening.

I'm still working on the rest of the lineup. If you have any suggestions, please contact me via e-mail or at tonight's meeting.

#### Haunted Spots and Cooking Pots

The book is complete and is now available to members and the public for \$6 per copy, proceeds going to SSP. Copies will be for sale at tonight's meeting. Thanks to Melissa, Gail, Craig and everyone in the group who helped make this wonderful idea a reality! (See inside for more details on this fascinating "official" publication from SSP)



Big Ben? The Bus? Here's the real secret behind the Steelers' incredible run to their 5th Super Bowl Title: SSP's own ghosthunting Canine: BRUTUS! With this guy on your team, how can you lose? (Sure hope his dad, SSP NE Founder Ed Dubil didn't lose any HAIR during that dramatic game in Indy!)

#### FEBRUARY WORD SEARCH

Find the following words in the puzzle below:

Valentines Day	Heart	Love
Joy	Romance	Dinner
Roses	Candy	Chocolate
Gift	Jewelry	Cupid
Lingerie	Red	Massage
Flowers	Diamond	February
Angel	Bling	

R E D C U P I D Z V E  
 K J O H N T R A E A E  
 G I F T O U E V O L T  
 R O M A N C E Y B E R  
 O Z C I A R I U O N U  
 S C A N D Y G I E T O  
 E O D V L E G N A I F  
 S Y S T R A E H S N Y  
 B L I N G E R I E E R  
 C H O C O L A T E S A  
 K I N D R E N N I D U  
 J E W E L R Y B A A R  
 M A S S A G E J O Y B  
 F L O W E R S P I N E  
 W H I D N O M A I D F

## BIOGRAPHIES of the STRANGE and PARANORMAL

by Gail Dull

### A Humdinger! The Taos and Kokomo Hums

The “hum” as it’s called, has been reported and studied in several places, most famously in the United States in Taos, New Mexico and Kokomo, Indiana. Other famous hum locations are Bristol in England and the famous “Larg” hum in Scotland.

The hum has one thing that distinguishes it, its sound. It is a low rumbling kind of sound, almost a vibration similar to what an eight-wheeler gives off or a jet engine before take off.

People who live in effected areas often complain of headaches, memory loss and nausea. One psychologist who worries that the continued effects will act similar to the effect of dripping water and eventually begin to drive people who hear the hum crazy.

In Kokomo, so many people were claiming that they were being affected by the hum that the city ordered a \$100,000 study. The company that studied the city stated that the Kokomo region “has a fairly complex electromagnetic environment for a small city.” In many of the homes where people claimed to be affected, they found that the radio-frequency radiation was unusually high.

In Taos, New Mexico, which is the most famous of the hum locations, the United States Congress has ordered studies into the hum and so far, the studies have come up empty. One study suggests that the approximately only 2% of people in the Taos, New Mexico area are able to hear the hum. If you would like to hear “the hum” a .wav file can be heard here: <http://www.eskimo.com/~bilb/freenrg/taos.wav>

What causes it? No one knows, but there are several theories. The first is that it is a natural phenomenon and may be caused by things such as the magnetic composition of ground in the area. Other theories include radio waves, industrial machinery and ELF or Extra Low Frequency waves. Most theories believe that the hum rates from approximately 16 to 60 Hz. Normal human hearing can range from 20 to 20,000 Hz. While the hum frequency is near the bottom range of human hearing...it still would make it seem possible. Additionally, women tend to have better ranges of hearing which would correspond to the larger amount of women being able to hear the hum.

In the case of Kokomo, local large industries installed special “vibration dampeners” which some people claim helped their perception of the hum, while others in the area claim that the dampeners have made no difference.

The other main theory “of the moment” is that Extremely Low Frequency Communications or ELF waves are the cause. The ELF that is used in communications is of critical importance to the United States Navy. The navy uses ELF waves to communicate with the submarine fleet. Normal communication methods are not able to be used underwater as saltwater prevents the conductivity of the signal. In order for a submarine to receive “normal” communications, they would have to be very close to the surface and therefore make it vulnerable to detection.

The EMF waves are “bounced” off of the Ionosphere in the atmosphere and are then able to be picked up by the subs. Without it, our subs would be incommunicado. It is estimated that these waves travel at approximately 40-80 Hz.

Why is this important to us? Depending on the website you visit, there are reports of the hum as close as York, West Chester and Westmoreland County. Could we be next?



**UPDATE from Rick Fisher of the PSP:** On January 28th 2006 Rick Fisher gave a presentation and proposal for a National Museum of Mysteries and Research center -- A museum dedicated to preserving history’s mysteries. Those attending the presentation favored and supported the idea. It was agreed then that a Board of Directors and a committee be set up in order to establish the museum as a non-profit organization. The next meeting will be to select the positions of Board members and to write the Articles of Incorporation. A domain name [museumofmysteries.org](http://museumofmysteries.org) has already been registered and we hope to have a website up soon. Thank you for your support and to those who have already made donations. The museum will feature items and artifacts related to the mysteries of Hauntings - UFO’s - Strange Creatures and other phenomena. We are still looking for items related to the paranormal or other mysteries from newspaper clippings, signed business cards from researchers, books, videos, magazines, newsletters, artifacts. If you have something you would like to donate send to Rick Fisher, 109 South Second Street Apt. 2 Columbia, PA 17512

*Kelly and I attended this meeting and I have agreed to serve on the board. (By law, husband and wife cannot serve on the board of non-profit organizations, so Kelly opted to serve on a non-voting visionary committee) Rick has received considerable support for his project from some of the most prominent names in the paranormal field, including Lloyd Auerbach, Stanton Friedman, Rosemary Ellen Guiley, Frank Freschino and Mark Nesbitt. The photo below taken at last year’s PSP Conference represents a tiny portion of the incredible assortment of items Rick has already collected, both through his own funds and donations from others. At our Spirit Day event on May 20, Rick will give a presentation on his collection and the museum. Along with contributions, other volunteers are certainly welcome to assist with the project. If interested, please contact Rick at [rfisher@redrose.net](mailto:rfisher@redrose.net)*



# Musings of a Ghost Adventurer

By Melissa Griffith

## Ask Not for Whom the Bell Tolls

Why is a passing bell, soul bell or mort bell rung after a death? Most believe it is to keep away the evil spirits who are eagerly awaiting to claim the soul of the recently deceased. Another reason was to announce a passing into the next world and to prompt prayers from mourners. It was also once a custom to ring the bells during a thunderstorm when evil spirits would surely be hovering about.

The ringing of the bell also kept the townsfolk informed. They would know the age and sex of the deceased because the bell tone for an adult would be a tenor (a treble tone was used for a child) and it was rung three times for a man; twice for woman and a moment's pause for each year of their life in between. All who heard the ringing of the bell, acquaintance of the dead or not, was to cease their work and give a moment's thought or prayer to the dearly departed.

Some older customs involved ringing the bell three times before the grave digger would break ground; or sometimes the bell would ring from the time the procession was spotted until the mourners entered the church yard.

Towns once actually employed a bellman whose job it was to ring for the death of a person on his or her "obit day" and also on the anniversary of the death. His ringing of the bell was to announce the funeral or anniversary ceremony.

In some communities, it was customary for four old men (if the deceased was a man) or four old women (if the deceased was a woman) from the local alms (poor) house take a path through the town preceded by two barefoot orphans announcing the death in the following manner:

"We recommend to your pious prayers, Mr. Smith, who has died today and whom we shall bury tomorrow. Take notice therefore, such of you as are faithful, to pray for his soul. May he rest in peace."—(*De Braz*)

We may have come a long way from these funeral practices, but in today's world no one seems to have time to 'pause to honor the dead.' These customs involved the entire community who valued life and, perhaps, were more aware of their own immortality.

## But I Don't have a Thing to Wear

Mourning garments were known as "doole"—from the Latin word "doleo" meaning to grieve. It was customary for the family of the deceased to provide mourning clothes (usually a black cloak) to the family, clergy, close friends and, in the way of charity, to the poor.

At Queen Mary's funeral, all of Parliament was given a black cloak as well as four hundred women of the lowest class. Although accused of flaunting wealth, over 900 cloaks were distributed for the funeral of the Earl of Oxford.

In Ben Jonson's work, "The Old-Time Parson," a quote:

*Of the chief mourner; and whoever lacks*

*Of all the kindred, he has first his blacks*

Providing funeral clothes for practically all attendees must have carried a hefty sum, but as is today as well, to not provide what was expected, particularly in time of mourning, was to dishonor your family.

In the Middle Ages, a woman would wear a "barbe" (Latin for "beard").

This was a long, pleated garment that would hang from above the chin (for a baroness) and just below the throat for lower ranks.

Men would wear what was known as a "weeper." This was a band that would fit around their hats and dangle down their back. The weeper was usually black, unless the funeral was for a female child, in which case the weeper would be white to signify purity. In Switzerland, men would carry their hats under their left arm and the trailing weeper would be six feet long. Over the brim of the hat would be a lemon encased in a handkerchief. The lemon, symbolizing the sharpness of grief, would then be placed in the grave.

## Why Black?

It was believed that if a person veiled themselves in black, they would become invisible to spirits who might otherwise torment them. Also black—the absence of all color—seemed fitting and proper to express the grief of an absent soul.

Yellow (pertaining to decay) was used by the Egyptians. Central Africans would use yellow paint on their bodies while in mourning; Australians used the color white; Native American Indians used black. Turks adorned blue for funerals, particularly of those for children, to symbolize the heavens and also the color worn by the "Mother of the Savior." Catholics and Christians sometimes drape themselves in purple—as what Jesus was draped in by the Roman soldiers.

## HAUNTED SPOTS & COOKING POTS - NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE SSP -- ONLY \$6.00

*Haunted Spots and Cooking Pots* reveals fascinating true ghost stories and local legends of Pennsylvania. Combined with delicious recipes from *Spirit Society of Pa.* members, friends and families, this book will entertain you for years to come.

Discover which local establishments and eateries have more than food on their menu!

Savor recipes that run the gamut from appetizers, main dishes and desserts all the way to yummy treats for your furry friends.

*Haunted Spots and Cooking Pots* will delight your spirit and tummy with spooky superstitions pertaining to the spirit world **and** its relationship to food.

Find out why you should not drop your spoon downwards in your bowl.

Did you know there are certain superstitions regarding how you eat off of your plate?

Why shouldn't a single woman wipe the bottom of the pan with a piece of bread? What doom awaits her?

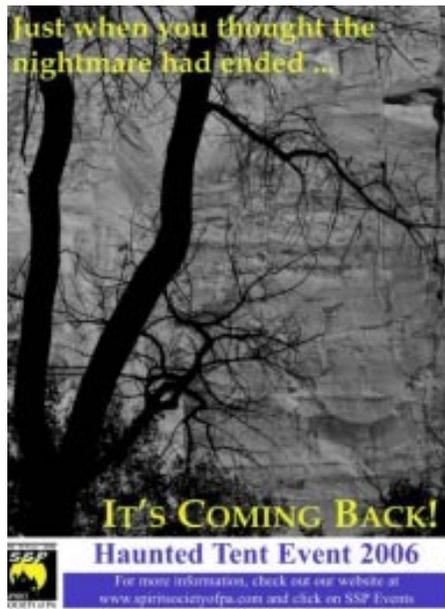
How do you prevent the Devil from fouling up your meal? Read *Haunted Spots and Cooking Pots* and find out the answers to these questions and a lot more.

I guarantee that you'll never look at your kitchen utensils in the same way again! - Kelly Weaver

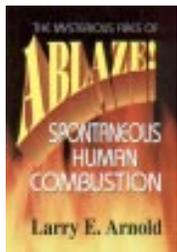
(All proceeds from this book benefit the Spirit Society of PA)



**ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE** topic at Feb. 15 S.E.A.R.C.H. Meeting Paula Dews, long time SKYWATCH / S.E.A.R.C.H. member will make a presentation on this controversial topic. A machine that can supposedly "cure" cancers will be on display for up close examination. SEARCH meetings held 3rd Wed. of the month at the East Shore Library behind Colonial Park Mall at 7pm. For details, contact Steve Groffat SGROFF@paonline.com

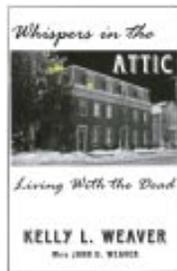


## BOOKS AUTHORED BY S.S.P. MEMBERS



**Ablaze by Larry Arnold** Perhaps the world's leading authority on SHC - Spontaneous Human Combustion - and a dedicated paranormal researcher, Larry is a long-time supporter of local groups such as ours, S.E.A.R.C.H. and the former Harrisburg SKYWATCH. Larry's site is [www.parascience.com](http://www.parascience.com)

**Whispers in the Attic - Living With The Dead by Kelly Weaver** Look for upcoming signings at Mark Nesbitt's Ghosts of Gettysburg store on Baltimore St. and at her NJGH & ERPC appearances in Spring & Summer '06. Also available locally from Civil War and More in Mechbg.



**Ghosts, Legends, Mysteries and Rogues of Mechanicsburg by Melissa Griffith** Melissa is the SSP Activities Director, and planning another great "Haunted Tent Event" in Sept 2006 at Little Buffalo Campground in her native Perry County. Her book can be purchased locally at Civil War and More in Mechanicsburg

**Ghosts at Carlisle Barracks by Allen Campbell** is also available locally at Civil War and More. (Had no image of Allen's book, thus I chose the famed MP LeTort photo rather than a really scary one - Allen himself! - JDW)



## Spirit Society of PA.

# APPARITIONS

Story & Photo Contributions are Solicited - send to:

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E-mail: [weaviate@aol.com](mailto:weaviate@aol.com)

S.S.P. Website: [www.spiritsocietyofpa.com](http://www.spiritsocietyofpa.com)

**2006 CONFERENCE NEWS** - It's not too early to make plans for the spring & summer with all these great events coming up locally and in nearby states!



**PA PARANORMAL CONFERENCE - MAY 6, MARIETTA, PA** Lloyd Auerbach, Stanton Friedman, Rosemary Ellen Guiley Frank Feschino & Ed Okonowicz will be speaking along with PSP Founder Rick Fisher at his 2006 event at the haunted, historic Railroad House!

Details at <http://home.supernet.com/~rfisher/paconf.html>



## NEW JERSEY GHOST CONFERENCE

**APRIL 22, HACKETTSTOWN, NJ** Speakers include Kelly Weaver, Rosemary Ellen-Guiley, John Zaffis, Vince Wilson, Jeff Belanger, Charles Adams and more! Lots of "extra" events at haunted venues, too and close to the PA border, too!

Details at <http://www.njghs.net/pages/9/index.htm>



**AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD GHOSTHUNTERS SOCIETY "BOOT CAMP" EVENT & EXPO - APRIL 21-23, FREDERICKSBURG, VA** Speakers include SSP NE Founder Ed Dubil, Mark Nesbitt, ABGHS Founder Patrick Burke, Dale Kaczmarek & more. Ghost Tours (in the town) & Battlefield Investigations.

Details at <http://www.americanbattlefield.com/webPage54.html>

## EASTERN REGIONAL PARANORMAL CONFERENCE - JULY 21 - 23 GETTYSBURG



Vince Wilson hosts the 3rd Eastern Regional Paranormal Conference at Gettysburg Holiday Inn Battlefield July 21-23rd. Troy Taylor, Mark Nesbitt, John Zaffis, Rosemary Ellen Guiley, George Hansen, Katherine Ramsland & more, plus: A bus tour hosted by Mark Nesbitt, a Spirit Circle hosted by Kelly Weaver, a Haunted Pub Crawl hosted by Vince Wilson, an investigation of the G.O.G. HQ and a Haunted Train Ride!

Details at <http://conference.marylandparanormal.com/>

**NOTE:** If you don't have internet access & need phone #s for events, contact John Weaver @ SSP Meetings or call me @ 932-9900 (9-5)