



# Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I O N S

A Review and Preview of SSP Activities and Items of Interest • Vol 9, Issue 6 -June 2005

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

I'd like to thank each and every one of you who helped John and I plan and execute the informative and fun **Spirit Day in May!** It went off without a glitch or a drunken musician to be seen.....and from the notes I've received, I feel the day was a resounding success. **Thank you!**

Our next fun time together will be the **Haunted Tent Event on June 25 at Sickman's Mill.** According to Melissa, the planner of this event, we have a nice group of 'ghosties' attending. I am looking forward to having a fun-filled day with all of you.

I will be holding a drumming session *before* the séance. Please bring any percussion instruments that you have/or can make that will 'drum up' a sound. I'm looking for tambourines, drums, rattles, bells, etc. (John and I have several and will be able to share a few) We will be raising the 'cone of power' in order to hold the séance. This will be fun, but it also has a very serious purpose. Remember, for obvious reasons, **NO one under the age of 18 is allowed to attend this spiritual session.**

**HELP is needed from all for GOOD HTE WEATHER!**

*Tonight I will share with all of you ways to have good weather for our tent event using yellow/blue candles.*

### SUPERSTITIONS

Here is a continuation of some 'fun superstitions' from the book: *The Dictionary of Superstitions* by David Pickering – Cassle Publishing

**Dragonfly** An old superstition claims that anyone who catches a dragonfly will marry within the year. An angler may observe from the position of a dragonfly where the fish are. This will only work, however, if the angler is of good character: if he is not, the dragonfly will mislead him by hovering over empty water.

**Dwarf** People in Britain, Canada and India are agreed that meeting a dwarf of the opposite sex is very lucky. This tradition probably derives from the ancient idea that dwarfs are guardians of precious metals, which themselves have magical powers. Among their other attributes, dwarfs are reputed to be able to see into the future and to make themselves invisible at will.

**Ear** According to the ancient science of PHYSIOGNOMY, much can be learned about a person's character by an examination of their ears. If they are small, the owner is naturally mean, but if large this is a sign of generosity. Flat ears indicate a lack of refinement in the owner, while square-shaped ears are proof of a noble heart. The wise, meanwhile, can be distinguished by their long ears. Any vertical lines or creases in the ear apparently warn of a heart condition.

If a person's ears tingle, this is a sure indication that someone somewhere is talking about them. If it is the right ear that tingles, good

things are being said; if the left, the gossip is malicious. Pinching a tingling left ear or making the sign of the Cross over it will immediately cause the slanderer to bit his tongue. A traditional English rhyme goes one step further and actually identifies the person;

*Left your mother, Right your lover.*

Hearing a ringing in the ears has its own significance. British superstition claims that, because the sound resembles that of distant church bells, it warns of the imminent death of a friend or a member of the family. The noise may, however, be turned to a person's advantage: if on hearing the ringing a person requests a friend to choose a letter at random from the alphabet (or else a number that corresponds to a certain letter) that letter is assuredly the first letter of the name of the person's future spouse.

**Earring** Some people wear earrings for reasons other than mere physical adornment. It is a widespread superstition that piercing the earlobes will improve poor eyesight, though there is no medical evidence to support this and sailors maintain, for reasons lost in antiquity, that wearing a gold earring will protect them from death by drowning.

### POSITIVE LIGHT

"At this very moment the universe is trying to manifest miracles through your visions, intuitions, and longings. Imagine that your inklings are God's whispers to your heart. The same God that gave you the idea will give you the means and support to see it through. The world is being transformed through people like you, who love themselves enough to trust their inner guidance, and relax enough to let the universe take care of the means." — **Alan Cohen**

"I trust inner Wisdom as it guides my choices. There is within me that which knows the best choice for me now, including the choice to be still and listen and wait. Every day, love sparkles in my experiences. Love goes forth from me to all people." — **Rev. Mary Murray Shelton**

"I have not been able to resolve these issues in my life and I have used every technique I know. I would like to show my trust in the Divine force by simply turning them over to your Divine hands. As I do this I know that the Divine force that is you, God, is also me, and I trust that this action will lead to a resolution of these problems." — **Wayne Dyer**

"Sometimes it is like a tiny voice in the wilderness; at other times it is loud, clear and direct. When we learn to stop, listen, and follow the guidance that it provides, we experience bliss, or at the very least, a deep sense of personal fulfillment." — **Hal Zina Bennett**

"It's that time of month - give me chocolate, or I'm gonna do something that will end up on one of those forensics shows!" - **Kelly Weaver**



# PARA-TECH

Opinions & Observations by JDW

**THE AMPHITHEATER** Along Hancock Ave. on the Gettysburg Battlefield sits the amphitheater-shaped New York State Auxiliary Monument, which lists all the NY units which fought and bled here, and those who led them, from the controversial 3rd Corps Commander Dan Sickles to the heroic Patrick Kelly of the Irish Brigade.

Other than an impressive eagle which sits atop it, its not really that dramatic a monument, and that's likely why I never paid much attention to it until recently. On a beautiful Saturday evening while Kelly was doing a booksigning at Mark Nesbitt's, I spent a couple hours on the battlefield and while driving by it, I wondered if it's amphitheater shape might have any effect on enhancing EVP recording efforts.

Fortunately, despite many cars being on the field that evening, hardly any came by during my 1/2 hour there. I first took a sampling of EM readings (with nothing remarkable) and then began recording in several areas within the monument, wondering what effect different distances from the wall might have. I



always record at the highest volume level, and when began reviewing and first heard myself prompting responses, the sound in my headphones made me jump! I got several voices, including a response to "where" that seems to say "Poughkeepsie". (Although this salute's NY state in general,

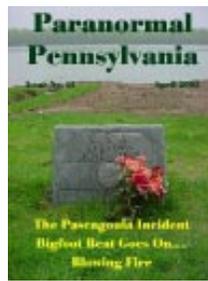
rather than a specific regiment, numerous NY units were positioned in this general area of the Federal line on July 2 & 3rd; NY suffered more casualties than any Northern state -- approx 6,700!)

Most of the evident vocal responses are loud, but rather distorted - perhaps an effect of the acoustics. The most clear EVP recorded was captured just before leaving. I was at the outer edge of the monument's base and had said the usual "Thanks and goodnight"; there are some more distant and distorted voices early (I have not yet tried to clean this up) then what sounds like a very clear response of "Farewell". This location certainly merits return visits!

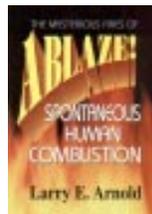
**MARK NESBITT'S NEW GUIDE BOOK** - Just released on May 28, *A Ghosthunter's Field Guide: Gettysburg and Beyond* is another outstanding effort! Drawing from his evolution from historian to experimenter to chronicler to investigator, Mark offers insights on the most active areas of the battlefield and town and how to improve your chances of capturing credible evidence. (He even mentions one area I had not yet considered - Hospital Road) One of the things I've long admired about Mark is his historical knowledge; I've also long believed that this knowledge is fundamental in conducting paranormal research on the battlefield. Such an approach is evident in this book. While it offers sound advice on equipment and techniques for beginners, its focus on the who, what, when and why of particular locations is invaluable in obtaining and interpreting evidence! (It also offers excellent directions to the sites) Even vastly experienced ghosthunters - especially those making their first trip to Gettysburg - will learn from this book! Thankfully, Ed left Spirit Day early and filled a request Kelly and I got to escort the CAIPRS guys from MA on their first visit to Gettysburg (see his column). Had he been unable to, and had this book been available, it would have been the perfect solution!

**GHOST CHASER on "AIRLINE"** Just when you thought the public perception of those who investigate the paranormal could not get any worse following Sci-Fi sharing the Roto-Rooter brigade's adventures with the world, I've learned of an episode of "Airline" which shows one Patty Starr of "Ghost Chasers Intl." entertaining herself while waiting for a flight by showing how not to use an EM meter! Airport terminals are awash with EM sources from power & communications lines, monitors, lighting, speakers and, of course, the thousands of people! This twit was shown walking up to people at random and thrusting her meter at them and asking *if they have a ghost!* Ughh! Does anyone *have an air sickness bag?* - JDW

**PARANORMAL PENNSYLVANIA** Available in printed form at SSP meetings or save \$ and subscribe to receive .pdf file copies direct from publisher Rick Fisher. Writers include Eric Altman, Tom White, Stan Gordon, Troy Taylor, Katherine Ramsland, Ed Okonowicz, Patty Wilson, Mark Nesbitt, Charlie Adams, Dorothy Fiedel, Scott Ditmer, Bruce Haines, John & Kelly Weaver, Rick Fisher and more. Details at <http://home.supernet.com/~rfisher/magazine.html>

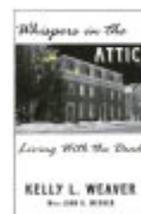


## BOOKS AUTHORED BY S.S.P. MEMBERS



**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** Upcoming book signings with Kelly include July 2 & Sept. 3 at Mark Nesbitt's Ghosts of Gettysburg store on Baltimore St. 7-10pm each night. (Mark Nesbitt will also be signing on those dates, and will be at Civil War and More in Mechanicsburg on Jubilee Day, June 16)



**Ghosts, Legends, Mysteries and Rogues of Mechanicsburg by Melissa Griffith** Melissa is planning our June "Haunted Tent Event" at Sickmans Mill in Lancaster Co. and the delightful "GORE TOUR" in spring 2006 to the Lizzy Borden House and Salem, both in MA. 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

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## A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM ED DUBIL, JR.

*Those of you who get the SSP Yahoo Group messages know of the recent situation with Ed Dubil, Sr. The way everyone responded with notes of encouragement and prayer shows another meaning of the SPIRIT in our group's name. As we close on 10 years since SSP was founded as the Capital Ghost Forum in 1996, it's great to know we're more than just ghost hunters or paranormal enthusiasts -- we're a close-knit group of people who truly care about one another. - JDW*

Hi everyone! I wanted to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for your thoughts and prayers for my dad. My gosh, I couldn't believe all the e-mails I received. I printed each and every one out and gave them to my dad. I can honestly say, when my dad read them, he got all teary eyed. that was worth it all guys..Thanks. I didn't want to update anything on his condition until I knew more of what his diagnosis was..I guess I was afraid of getting my hopes up and your's and then something happening in the negative. My dad's pancreas was enlarged due to problems with an onset of diabetes and gall stones. They both aggravated everything, plus there was a small growth inside the pancreas. Everything is fine now. My dad is not one to always follow instructions, but now he can't eat fatty foods, so no stopping at Dino's unless for a salad. (John, Kelly, and Brenda, how much do you think we have spent in that place over the years? Think we should talk about stock options?) So, thanks again to all of you...SSP has the power of healing in numbers! Love all of you. Ed

### FRIDAY THE 13<sup>th</sup> by MELISSA GRIFFITH

*Your editor extends his apologies to MG for overlooking this article in May (which had a Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>), when it should have been published. I await appropriate punishment... JDW*

Fear of Friday the 13th is rooted in ancient, separate bad-luck associations with the number 13 and the day Friday. The two unlucky entities combine to make one super unlucky day.

There is a Norse myth about 12 gods having a dinner party at Valhalla, their heaven. In walked the uninvited 13th guest, the mischievous Loki. Once there, Loki arranged for Hoder, the blind god of darkness, to shoot Balder the Beautiful, the god of joy and gladness, with a mistletoe-tipped arrow. Balder died and the Earth got dark. The whole Earth mourned.

There is a Biblical reference to the unlucky number 13. Judas, the apostle who betrayed Jesus, was the 13th guest to the Last Supper.

A particularly bad Friday the 13th occurred in the middle ages. On a Friday the 13th in 1306, King Philip of France arrested the revered Knights Templar and began torturing them, marking the occasion as a day of evil.

In ancient Rome, witches reportedly gathered in groups of 12. The 13th was believed to be the devil.

Both Friday and the number 13 were once closely associated with capital punishment. In British tradition, Friday was the conventional day for public hangings, and there were supposedly 13 steps leading up to the noose.

It is traditionally believed that Eve tempted Adam with the apple on a Friday. Tradition also has it that the Flood in the Bible, the confusion at the Tower of Babel, and the death of Jesus Christ all took place on Friday. Numerologists consider 12 a "complete" number. There are 12 months in a year, 12 signs of the zodiac, 12 gods of Olympus, 12 labors of

Hercules, 12 tribes of Israel, and 12 apostles of Jesus. In exceeding 12 by 1, 13's association with bad luck has to do with just being a little beyond completeness.

**Did you know ...** More than 80 percent of high-rises lack a 13th floor.

### **"TRUST YOUR GUT" ... AND SAVE YOUR LIFE!**

Usually, it's my wife who relates stories of the following nature -- after all, she's a wise woman who teaches intuition and uses "trust your gut" as a favorite phrase. How true!

It seems that doing just that may have saved the life of one of my hockey buddies and his girlfriend!

One of the younger guys who skates with our groups is infused with wanderlust: Ever since finishing college, he has spent several months a year travelling the world, supporting himself with jobs as diverse as cleaning rain gutters and playing professional soccer!

Chad recently resurfaced at our Saturday morning skate, and as usual, had some interesting foreign adventures to share. During this most recent trip, his girlfriend from Spain accompanied him throughout several North African and Middle Eastern countries. (And he thinks I'm crazy for going to explore haunted places!)

Much of their travel is done by bus, and late one day they boarded a bus in Egypt to take them north to the Mediterranean. Chad explained that normally, they prefer to sit in front of the bus, but despite several seats being open there, his girlfriend insisted they sit in the back for a change. She did not say why.

By now you've likely surmised where this is headed. Late at night, the bus driver fell asleep, and veered into oncoming traffic. It was hit head on by a large truck and the bus driver was killed along with 12 other people - all seated in the front of the bus!

Chad and his girlfriend were asleep at the time, and ended up being violently thrown from their seats. Fortunately, their injuries were not severe, and they were able to crawl out of the wreckage. His description of the mangled front of the bus, bodies, body parts and blood underscores what a horrific scene it must have been.

I asked if his girlfriend had mentioned anything like a precognitive dream; he replied the only thing she said is *something just told her they should sit in the back*. Whether it was a form of precognition, the prompting of a guardian angel or spirit guide or simply "trusting her gut", it's almost certain this change in routine spared their lives! - JDW

### SPEAKING of HAUNTED OBJECTS...

Anytime Ed O is around, (as at Spirit Day) I think about Haunted Objects! While returning from the rink early on a recent Sat. AM, I stopped at a large yard sale. Amongst the many items displayed was a classic aquamarine toilet! Perhaps they thought its unique color masked the lurid brown stains in the bowl! It had been marked down from \$50 to \$25! Wow! I contemplated suggesting that if they really wanted to sell this thing, they **fabricate a story about it being HAUNTED and sell it on E-Bay!** Naw, I kept my mouth shut, but it's just a matter of time...



*(This story was prompted by finding this dwg I did of a toilet ghost while searching my files. I cannot recall why I did it and if anyone has a recollection, I shall be gratefully indebted! - JDW)*

# Babbling With Brutus

By Ed Dubil Jr & Brutus



Hi to everyone!!

It's been awhile since I wrote in the newsletter, been so busy up this way, that I had to work everyday for 6 months now. YUCK! It was so nice to see all my old friends at "Spirit Day 2005" and also see new faces in our group. I can't believe how far we have come since Capital Ghost Forum was first founded by Kelly.

I wanted to explain more in-depth why my dad, Brutus, and myself left just after the Tech seminar that Saturday. John and Kelly asked us to be guides to a group from MA that is actually an extension of Troy Taylor's group. Since Kelly is a Rep for Troy, he asked her if she could show them around. Since they could not due to Spirit Day, John asked me. The man I met there and his group is called CAIPRS. This stands for "Cape and Islands Paranormal Research Society". It is headed by Derek Bartlett. We met Derek at about 2pm and completely canvassed the battlefield. Keep in mind, Derek and his 4 investigators were never at Gettysburg. They were in complete AWE of this sacred place.

We started off at Sach's Bridge due to the fact it closes at dusk and wanted to show them that first. Derek is somewhat of a "magnet" and he stated how he felt the bridge itself held much residual energy from both sides. Now he had no idea, until I told him later, that both Union and Confederate Armies used the bridge during the campaign. After Sach's Bridge, we traveled to Devil's Den, Triangular Field, Plumb Run, and the Bottom of LRT. Now, as you can imagine, the area was packed with people..HUNDREDS of people. Now, there was no investigating here, the group just wanted to feel out the area due to its huge historical importance. We spent over an hour there just explaining the history and the carnage that took place. After we were finished there, we went to the quiet and serene area of Rose Woods. This is an excellent area due to its overlapping canopy of trees, which you can get excellent pictures even during the day, and also the tranquility that allows you to get great EVP.

Now, I must say, the next account is something I would rather not write, but what the heck. I wanted to show Derek and the group the area in the Rose Farm where there is the possible Mass Grave that Uncle Cecil spoke of and also the rock that was mysteriously brought back after years of being missing from the field. I did find the rock, which I must say, is amazing to see. You can see that the ground was disturbed around it, and the bottom of the rock has not settled into the ground. Now, there are no scuff marks on the rock at all. What I can't figure out is this: How did anyone bring that rock back? The ground, according to a ranger I spoke to, has been soft since the thaw. There would have been tire tracks in an extreme case, the vehicle, with the weight of the rock, would have gotten stuck. This is truly a huge mystery. But, the rock is back! But as I mentioned, here is the part I wasn't going to write about. As we were in the field, and as many of you know, it is used for grazing land for the cattle. Well, lets just say there were "land mines" all over the place. I stepped in one first, then Derek, then good ole' Brutus stepped in A FEW. Now you can imagine what a fresh, green, cow chip looks when it is up to your WHITE DOG'S KNEES. Hey, at least it was my dad's car we were driving. My dad's car still smells like a Amish farm. I think you could probably grow fresh produce in my dad's back seat. HAHA.

After a long afternoon, we all went to GETTYSBREW for dinner. This is a place that just oozes history. During the Battle, members of Johnson's Division retreated from the area of Culp's Hill. The Monfort Farm was used as a Confederate Hospital for 1,300 soldiers. In recorded history, it is believed to be the largest field hospital ever used in an open space with limited inside shelter. When the battle was over, and the Confederates retreated, 446 soldiers were left behind. They were left there for over 28 days until Camp Letterman was formed near Hospital Hill. 47 died at the farm and were buried there. They were disinterred and later taken to Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond. If any of you want more info about possible paranormal activity at the restaurant, ask John Weaver about his experience a few years ago at the urinal....Sorry John.

We ended the night walking the complete area of Spangler's Spring, then the Bottom Part of Cemetery Hill near the Gate House of Evergreen Cemetery. This was a very chilling experience for all of us. As I was walking the lead showing them how the Louisiana Tigers charged up the hill to take the artillery of Ricketts Battery, we all heard the most horrible scream from "something" in the woods. Now, it was probably a Rabbit being caught by a predator, but it screamed and wailed for a good 5 minutes. I felt sorry for it not being a quick death. But can you imagine having 5 people who have never been to a battlefield at night, knowing it is probably the most haunted place in the world, and you hear this? Even Brutus wanted to get in the car. The funny thing, is that we had our super night shot on our cameras and as we viewed the connecting field to our left, we saw brilliant green eyes. I decided to let them ponder on this for a bit. Then I couldn't hold in the laughter any longer and told them that there was long-horn cattle in the field.

I am very glad and honored to have been asked to show Caiprs around. I made some great friends and I have spoken to Derek almost every night since then. The group itself is doing a documentary film on what we did in Gettysburg that day. It is being called, "Tragic Heroes - Battleground Ghosts". I will keep all informed when it comes out. One of the investigators is actually a professional editor and film maker. He was on the production crew for Will Smith's Movie, "I, Robot". So, they were first class with all the film and cameras they used that day. I felt like I was truly with a professional film crew. And as far as the group, I can say that Derek and his group are some of the nicest people I have ever met. They have protocols just like ours, and know when and where to take EVP and pictures. I was so glad to have been around people who have a belief in all things paranormal and respect for history just like SSP.

I will keep you all posted as to when the film comes out. If you want to check out their site, here is the address, <http://www.caiprs.com/index.htm>.

Until next time.....Whispers and Sneezes,  
Ed and Brutus.

*No "Land Mines" here - Ed & Brutus pose by the 11th PA Monument on Oak Ridge which pays tribute to their gallant bulldog mascot "Sallie" who survived Gettysburg and many campaigns only to perish at Hatcher's Run in 1865. Seriously, I've heard great praise from Derek - you really enhanced their visit! The respect I and lots of others have for you cannot be understated! Thanks again, buddy! JDW*



# Musings of a Ghost Adventurer

By Melissa Griffith

## INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS

In the early 1800s little was known about the workings of the human body. The knowledge that was obtained was done so by dissecting animals. By law, medical facilities were allowed only one corpse a year for learning purposes. This cadaver was generally a criminal who met his fate by being hanged at the gallows.

The thirst for anatomical knowledge was so insatiable for medical students and practitioners of medicine they sometimes—out of pure frustration—illegally procured bodies for dissection on the sly, paying criminals called “Body Snatchers” (or the more clinical name of “resurrectionists”) to bring corpses to the ‘back door’ of medical schools for clandestine human anatomy sessions.

Where did these bodies come from? Usually from the grave of a recently buried person. By the dark of night, body snatchers would take their shovels, ropes and sheets into the local cemetery after a burial and dig up the grave, tie ropes to the corpse’s ankles and pull the body out. (Who can forget the late night cemetery scene in “*Tom Sawyer*” when Tom & Huck accidentally venture onto some body snatchers!) The payment for a cadaver would be determined by the level of decomposition and any bruising or other marks that might have been made on the body by the snatchers in their haste to abscond with it.

This ungodly practice led to relatives burying loved ones under cement slabs and/or in metal crypts with padlocks in an attempt to thwart body snatchers. Some families actually took shifts watching over the grave of a loved one. This would last a few days, until the body would be too decomposed to be useful to the anatomist.

Although today leaving your body to science is a noble cause, in the early 1800s ending up on the wrong end of an anatomist’s knife was considered a fate worse than death (perhaps because it was associated with those who were condemned to hang—a fate befitting only a criminal).

The most famous of body snatchers were a diabolical duo with the names of William Burke & William Hare in Edinburgh, Scotland in the late 1820s. Otherwise known as “Burke & Hare”—they were the scourge of Scotland. They made a fast buck selling corpses on a “no questions asked basis” to a medical man named Dr. Robert Knox.

Burke & Hare came up with the brilliant idea that instead of carrying equipment into the cemetery, suffer all the physical labor of digging & lugging of the dead body and risking detection—why, it would be so much easier to simply murder people in their home. The bodies they sold to Dr. Knox would be extremely fresh and unmarked—which was sure to bring a pretty penny.

A ditty of the day goes like this:

**“Burke is the butcher, Hare is the thief, Knox is the man, Who buys the beef.”**

Burke & Hare would deliberately choose victims whom no one was likely to miss—perhaps offering a homeless person a fine meal at their home or under the guise of a prostitute’s customer. Once in their clutches, the victim was suffocated to death. Interestingly, the word “burke” (actually derived from William Burke’s name) description is: “To kill by suffocation or strangulation so as to leave the body intact and suitable for dissection.”

The infamous Burke & Hare committed their lucrative, evil deeds for almost a year before being caught. Some claim that Burke had a mo-

ment of conscious, displaying pity for a mute, deaf boy he had murdered.

Hare secured immunity by turning kings evidence against Burke—although most believed he was the ‘brains’ behind the duo, convincing Burke do to the ‘dirty work.’

William Burke confessed and detailed 16 murders carried out by Hare and himself. Strangely, he seemed particular proud of the fact that he never “robbed a grave”—as if murder were a more acceptable crime.

Burke was hanged in 1829 and—in an ironic twist of fate—was scheduled for the anatomy table. His body had to be secretly transported as authorities feared the public would rip it apart before the anatomist had time to sharpen his knife.

Many people claim to have pieces of Burke’s skin—which was cut into strips, tanned and sold as ghoulish souvenirs. It’s been widely rumored that Charles Dickens used one as a bookmark!

Have you ever covered your mouth as you drive by a cemetery? This superstition was started in Edinburgh years after Hare & Burke’s reign of terror. As people would pass the creepy, dark alleyway named “Old Wynd” they would cover their mouths in a belief that this would prevent one from being chloroformed by Burke who just might (theoretically) be lying in wait there for his next victim! (*This was a common superstition—even though Burke never used chloroform on his victims. Chloroform’s anesthetic properties were not discovered until 1847.*)

William Hare lived out the rest of his life in virtual obscurity. Dr. Robert Knox was never prosecuted.

*Those folks who caught Ed O’s B a l t i m o r e Ghosts talk at our May Spirit Day event may recall that Davidge Hall is one such destination for stolen bodies destined for dissection! Of course, this 1812 structure - the*



*oldest building in the US used continuously for medical education - will be the scene of this summer’s **EASTERN REGIONAL PARANORMAL CONFERENCE.***

**On July 22-24, join host Vince Wilson (author of the excellent new book *Ghost Tech*) and authors/investigators Troy Taylor, Ed Okonowicz, Mark Nesbitt, Rick Fisher, Rosemary Ellen Guiley, Kelly Weaver, Dale Kaczmarek, Charles Adams and Ursula Bielski for a fascinating weekend in one very haunted city!**

The weekend begins with 2 optional events - a Ghost hunter’s workshop/ investigation of Bertha’s Mussels and a tour of haunted, historic Fells Point. Speakers will give their presentations Saturday and Sunday. This was a great event last year and will only get better - Vince and his BSPR members are a first class, friendly group! Kelly and I hope to see some SSP members there! For details and to register, here’s the link <http://conference.marylandparanormal.com> (If you don’t have internet access, contact Kelly for Vince’s phone #)

# BIOGRAPHIES of the STRANGE and PARANORMAL by Gail Dull

## Did TV's "Man of Steel" Crack?

We all know the quote, "Faster than a speeding bullet..." Truth is, Superman may have been faster than a speeding bullet, but unfortunately for fans of TV's Superman, George Reeves did not share his counterpart's rapid reflexes.

George Reeves was found dead in the bedroom of his home at 1579 Benedict Canyon Road in Beverly Hills, California on June 16, 1959 at 1:59 a.m. The cause of his death, a 38-caliber gunshot wound to the head has never disputed. How that bullet ended the life of the "Man of Steel" has been hotly contested in the years since.

"That certainly is an odd upward trajectory for a bullet to take—if this is a suicide." The first detective on the scene observed. ([www.crimemagazine.com/superman.htm](http://www.crimemagazine.com/superman.htm)) Regardless of the initial detective's feelings the coroner ruled the death an "indicated suicide" even though no suicide note was left behind.

Was Reeves suicidal or despondent? Reeves was due to marry his fiancée Lenore Lemon in three days and had that very day purchased \$5,000 in traveler's checks. They were to be used in the subsequent honeymoon to Spain and Australia where he would pick up an additional \$20,000 for personal appearances as Superman. His show had been picked up for another season with a hefty pay raise for him and he was scheduled to direct a feature film. Was this a man with nothing to live for?



Many others including close friends and Reeves own mother say no, because they believe he was murdered.

Who could have wanted to hurt the "All-American" hero? Let's start a list. While he played a squeaky clean idol on TV, in real life

his choice of life style was less than perfect. He was known as a womanizer, a love them and leave them type. Could one of these scorned women have had a hand in his death?

What about Lemon? Lemon was heard to comment as Reeves left the party in his living room to go to his bed room, "He's going to go shoot himself." She was also famously jealous of Reeves often accusing him (and rightly so) of having affairs and had even struck women who she thought were looking too intensely at "her man". Additionally, even though he was engaged to Lemon, he was openly dating another woman, a *married woman*, Toni Mannix.

Toni Mannix was married to Eddie Mannix the vice president of Lowe's Theater chain and former head of MGM studios who was known to have mob connections. It was shortly before his death that he broke off his relationship with Toni to marry Lemon. Was Mrs. Mannix seeking revenge? Or was it her embarrassed, mob-connected angry husband Eddie Mannix or thugs supplied by his connection to the mob?

Was this the only anomalous incident in our hero's last months of life? No. In the months proceeding his death he was involved in three serious car accidents. It was with luck more than skill that he escaped

with his life. Then came the threatening phone calls for which he filed a police report. He even named who he thought the perpetrator was... Toni Mannix.

After his death Reeve's mother spent \$49,000 to hire a detective agency to look into the death of her son. Three things stand out as big red flags...1. Weapon was not a repeating weapon...detectives found 2 bullets in the bedroom, one lodged in the ceiling that was the actual cause of death but also a second slug was found lodged in the wall. (How many suicides take two shots?)

2. The only shell casing at the scene was found **under** Reeves body. Which had fallen backward...Most of the time a victim of a self inflicted wound falls forward.

3. There was no gun powder residue on Reeves face. The gun would have been fired at **arm's length**, not too practical for a suicide?

Added to the complexity of the situation, when Reeves' will was read the **ONLY** beneficiary was...no not his mother...no not his fiancée...keep going...**TONI MANNIX**, his *former* mistress!

## Does Reeve's former house harbor the "Ghost of Steel"?

In the years following his death, the house where Superman left our plane of existence has had many different occupants, most of which do not stay very long.

It has been reported that occupants will hear loud noises coming from the master bedroom and upon entering the room will find it in disarray. Others have seen Reeves in the room wearing the bathrobe he was reported to be wearing



when the incident occurred. Yet the most common version is that he will appear in full Superman regalia, standing with his hands on his hips, his cape blowing in a breeze only felt by the man of steel.

One young boy on the property was reportedly chastised by Reeves in his Superman costume for trespassing.

Police have been called to the property by neighbors complaining about loud party noises (Reeves had left a party celebrating his impending marriage and gone upstairs to his bedroom to kill himself) only to arrive and find nothing.

While the specter of Superman has appeared quite frequently, he apparently has taken the secret of his crossing with him. Was it a scorned ex-lover? Could it have been the jealous fiancée? The rejected mistress? The mob-friendly husband of the ex-mistress?

Most of the characters in the case have since passed away, taking with them their secrets. What about modern day forensic science? Unfortunately, Reeves body was exhumed and cremated a few years after his passing.

Unless he starts talking, I guess we'll never know.

Sources:

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