August is here! What does August mean to you? For some it means the end of summer, for some the start of a new school year, for others it means vacation time, and for others it just is summertime! No matter what August means to you we hope it finds you healthy and happy.

For TnT Paranormal it is a busy time for us, but also the calm before the storm. We have a big investigation this month at Tinker Swiss Cottage in Rockford, but also we are preparing for the upcoming fall library series and the Para-conference in September. Lots to do and little time to do it in.

This past month our founder, Melissa, and case manager, Tracey, were interviewed for an upcoming book by author Dane Ladwig. The book is a three part book about the paranormal. Part 1 is a paranormal fictional story, part 2 is about Dane’s paranormal experiences, and part 3, Chapter 13, is from interviews of paranormal teams and individuals, some famous, some not. We enjoyed meeting Dane and speaking with him. Once more information about the book is available we will pass it along.

We have landed one "Investigate with TnT Paranormal" event in Alton, IL (see page 15) and we are working on another one in Rockford. The event in Alton is on 10/20. These are perfect events for the novice paranormal investigator that wants to be able to investigation but may not have the means to do it otherwise. We will keep you posted as more information is available.

We have a lot of interesting articles in this months issue from What is Matrixing to cell phone apps that can produce fake photos of ghosts to provoking versus using trigger objects to Gadgets don’t make the investigator. We are on the lookout for new topics, equipment or book reviews, ghost stories, etc. If you are a budding author, or even an experienced one, and would love to have your article in our newsletter, please let us know.

We are always on the lookout for new cases and places to investigate, so please keep us in mind if you hear of anything. That’s all for this issue but not all, by any means, for us and what we are up to. To learn more go to our website (www.tntparanormal.com), check us out on FaceBook (https://www.facebook.com/#!/home.php?sk=group_146712678732927&ap=1), or Twitter (@TnTParanormal).
Paranormal "U"

What is Matrixing and Pareidolia?

By Angela Schultz, TnT Paranormal Investigators LLC

Pareidolia is a type of illusion that involves the capacity of people to see patterns in formless data, the way in which the human brain is optimized to recognize faces. This also explains why we are so good at picking out meaningful shapes in random patterns. This phenomenon could be responsible for a host of otherwise unexplained sightings, such as the face of the Virgin Mary on a toasted cheese sandwich. In the same way, a chance arrangement of clothing, shadows, or rocks could account for ghostly figures or faces in photographs. It is the desire to see something in nothing, to connect reality to our fantasies. Everything around us is powered by, made of, and sustained by the invisible -- atoms, dust, cells, microbes, molecules, genes. Even the most ordinary things are mysterious. There are almost a thousand particles of dust in every cubic inch of air (Marsching, 2003). When one closes their eyes and stares at the darkness, even nothing becomes something: a star field, a fractal simulation, a blurry halo. It satisfies our desire to place ourselves within the world-we connect the known with the unknown to create an order that is vibrant and a reflection of ourselves. Jesus was seen in a Hubble image of the Eagle Nebula. They took a small portion of the tip of one of the gaseous columns, turned it on its side, and found an image of Jesus with long, flowing hair that seems to point right at us. Never mind the fact that the light coming from there is seven thousand years old, about five thousand years older than Jesus. Their faith drove them to see the divine in a photograph of the unreachably remote (Marsching, 2003). According to scientists, the phenomenon occurs because humans tend to recognize familiar objects as a survival technique. We look at randomness in nature; clouds, trees, rock formations; and see images of the familiar (Kozlowski, 2009).

SyFy's Ghost Hunters describe matrixing as being, "...the human mind's natural tendency to find familiar shapes in complex shapes or colors. In other words, finding a face in the shapes and shadows of a collection of objects."

As paranormal investigators, we cannot stop our natural tendency to recognize patterns from occurring, but we can certainly be aware of it, and look to expect it. By examining closer what we believe we see and hear, we can then attempt to get closer to the truth. Take the time to understand how you perceive things, and how the world around us can appear differently to different people. By doing so, you will sharpen your own paranormal investigation skills.

References


Missouri State Penn (MSP), Jefferson City, MO

www.missouripentours.com

On January 3, 1833, the Missouri House of Representatives passed a bill to build a penitentiary in Jefferson City. Starting with a fund of $25,000, the prison reached completion on October 1, 1834. The first inmate arrived in February of 1836. His name was Wilson Eidson. The first death occurred in 1841 during an escape attempt. It was an officer by the name of William Ballard.

By 1900, the penitentiary was named “the greatest in the world” by the Jefferson City Star Tribune. More death occurred in 1905. Three more officers were killed during another escape attempt. In 1925, Pretty Boy Floyd arrived and the prison was then deemed “the worst in the U.S.” Twelve years later, a gas chamber is constructed and it would be the location of 40 executions. Years after a major riot, it became known as “the bloodiest 47 acres in America.” On September 15, 2004, 1355 inmates are shipped to the Jefferson City Correctional Center. The Missouri State Penitentiary served as the oldest prison west of the Mississippi River for over 168 years. More than 3000 deaths have been documented during the prison’s years of operation. Corporal punishment was severe and cholera, typhus, tuberculosis and other fevers raged through the facilities, unchecked. Many people were buried on the grounds in unmarked and shallow graves, possibly in the clay pits of the prison quarry and under the ball field.

Throughout its history, the Missouri State Penitentiary gained a reputation for the violence that took place inside its walls. As the prison population continued to grow, more and more inmates were being housed together. By 1954, the overpopulation had grown to the point that it was not unusual to find six to eight inmates confined in a single cell. Coupled with the deteriorating state of the prison, the over-crowding led to a violent uprising on September 23 of that year. The riot began in the maximum-security “E Hall” of the prison, which housed some of the prison’s more violent criminals. When order was restored, four inmates were dead, three guards and over thirty prisoners were injured, and around eight buildings were either destroyed or heavily damaged by fire. Though the riot was quelled, two more minor riots would break out a month later on October 23rd and 24th that would again cause the death of one more inmate and injure 36 others.

Prison punishment in the early days often included cruel and harsh treatment. Hanging prisoners from rings, extreme periods of isolation, whippings with the cat-o-nine tails, and water cure treatments were among the few. Missouri was one of the last states to abolish the use of whippings in 1894 though some administration still used it well into the 1900’s. Water treatments involved strapping the prisoner down and allowing a stream of water to pour toward the face. The rings involved chaining a man’s hands above his head to a metal ring with the feet barely touching the ground, where he would be forced to stand for hours. A convict by the name of Steve Willis was forced to stand for twenty days until he confessed to the provider of contraband found on his person. It was not until after 1917 that corporal punishment began to subside.

It is no wonder MSP is haunted. Footsteps can be heard throughout the prison. Apparitions have been witnessed in the old shoe factory, one who is described as a middle-aged Caucasian. Apparitions in striped uniforms have been seen in the oldest residence hall walking in lock-step formation with one hand on another’s shoulders - a march that has not been required in decades. Disembodied laughter or the sounds of cell doors slamming can be heard when no one is around.

The prison now offers many tours from walking history tours to ghost hunt and ghost hunt classes. They also offer open paranormal investigations and private paranormal investigations for organized paranormal teams.
What's on your mind

Provoking vs Trigger Objects

By Melissa Tanner, Tracey Tanner, and Tom Dziekan, TnT Paranormal Investigators LLC

A common practice used by paranormal investigators is to conduct “an EVP session” during an investigation. An EVP session is where the investigator will ask questions out loud, while some type of recorder (audio or video) is recording, hoping to get a response from an entity present. We won’t get into EVP sessions and their practices in this article, but we would like to focus on a few of the response techniques used during EVP sessions and/or investigations: provoking, triggers, trigger objects, role playing, and using props and/or signs.

Provoking

Provoking could mean many things to many people, but let’s first start by defining the word “provoke”. The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary defines provoke as: to arouse a feeling or action; to incite anger; and to stir up purposely. In the paranormal field provoking is a technique used where most commonly name calling, negative comments, or other argumentative statements are made to try and entice an entity to respond to the investigator. So basically using negativity to obtain a response.

Because provoking is an aggressive way to elicit a response from an entity, we do NOT recommend this as the first technique you try during an EVP session. For a client location we do NOT ever recommend this technique. Also, if you choose to provoke you are doing this at your own risk. Entities are energy and you don’t want to challenge an energy that you cannot see.

If a location has reports of people being pushed or scratched, an example of provoking could be a question like “I heard you like to push and scratch people. How about you try this on me? Come on! Bring it on! I dare you!”. The investigator might even resort to name calling. We at TnT Paranormal feel that provoking is a disrespectful technique to use to communicate with entities.

The other thing to note is that provoking may indeed back fire on you. An entity may not want to communicate because of your aggressive nature. We use the rule of thumb, “It is easier to attract bees with honey than vinegar”.

Trigger Objects

An opposite and more positive technique is called a “trigger” or use of “trigger objects”. A trigger is defined as an act or event that serves as a stimulus and initiates or precipitates a reaction or series of reactions. In the paranormal field using trigger objects is a technique where you use normal everyday objects to try and obtain a response from an entity. Most generally these are objects that would be familiar to the entity you are trying to communicate with.

The use of trigger objects can do three things:

• Convey to the entity that you have nothing but the friendliest of intentions in mind
• Adds an item to the environment they may directly interact with
• Increases the chance of them being talkative

Here is an example of how to use a trigger object to try and communicate with an entity believed to be a child. You could start by placing a ball in the center of the room and then ask the entity if they would like to play with you. Going on to ask if they can push the ball towards you. You
Provoking vs Trigger Objects (Part I)

may get a physical response where the ball actually moves or the entity may provide an audio response to your request. In some cases you may wish to leave the room for a while and see if it will move without you present (maybe the entity is shy). If you do this make sure to mark where the ball is located and when you come back see if the ball has moved.

If you are communicating with an entity that died as an adult you can bring along one of their favorite food items or an item they had a close attachment to such as a family photo, book collection, or radio. If you are trying to communicate with a child entity, bring along games or toys. Some examples of positive triggers we have used are: laying out Oreos for someone who had a love of oreos; using candy or book reading for children; offering a cigar; put a book out written by the favorite author or even read to the entity; put out favorite flowers for someone who had/has a love of that particular flower; offering a beverage that was the favorite of the suspected entity; play music of either the time frame the suspected entity was from and/or their favorite songs; or turning on the TV to a favorite program of the suspected entity (if known).

Another response technique is the use of props. A prop is a trigger object or something that brought memories (good or bad) to an entity. For instance, if you are investigating a civil war battlefield you may want to dress in a civil war uniform, bring along a canteen of water or play a song on an audio device like the “Battle Hymn of the Republic”. If you are investigating a client location when it’s suspected a deceased family member is still lingering around, you can bring along something they liked in their past life like a cigar, radio, or deck of cards. Props are similar to role playing where you introduce something into the environment that will elicit a positive response from an entity. There was one investigation in particular where a ball was brought to a location and a child entity interacted with it by moving the ball around.

We will also use signs on an investigation to see if we can get a response. What we mean by a sign is literally a sheet of paper with instructions for the entity. If you are investigating a location where there are reports of lights being turned on and off you can post a sign near the light switch that states: “If you can read this please turn the light off”. Entities that were once human can probably still read. Right? So a sign seems like a reasonable object to bring along when you have reports of something recurring over and over again at odd times.

On several investigations we have used trigger objects to see if a response can be documented. We have had some success with these techniques. You can go to our website to see some examples (www.tntparanormal.com).

Role Playing
Another response technique is that of role playing. Role playing has to do with acting out in a way that an entity can relate to and make them want to interact. For instance, if you are investigating a location where a child has passed and/or child entity is suspected, you may do something like simulating a game that they may have liked. TnT Paranormal has done this on a number of investigations with positive results. In two situations we were investigating locations where there were numerous reports of child entities. Both times we role played a situation where the team played a game of “Duck, Duck, Goose”. In both situations we recorded EVPs of children giggling or directly responding to us when playing the game.
Continued from Page 5

Provoking vs Trigger Objects

We believe that role playing helps the entity feel at ease and puts them in a friendly situation that they enjoyed in their past life and is a great way to elicit a response. We also believe that you can win people over easily by gentle persuasion and flattery rather than by using hostility.

Technique used can change the outcome

At times we use different mechanisms or trigger objects. We may use an item that an entity loves or that could trigger other positive feelings. There are items that can be used to trigger negative feelings as well. People need to be cognizant to the potential outcome when choosing a trigger mechanism, because the mechanism used could alter the outcome (either positively or negatively). Another type of ‘trigger mechanisms’ is simply talking about the memories the entity may have.

For example, if we have a case where the entity is reported being the person who built the property, we will talk out loud about how proud they must have been with their build; Or how it must have been in the world at the time that they were alive. Again, one must keep in mind all possibilities of the outcome. Perhaps it was a very tough time and bringing up these ‘memories’ could be hurtful in some way. Same with speaking about their memories of their family and loved ones.

Should the location warrant which technique used?

We believe it does. If we have a location that has reports of children a good mechanism could be candy. Or investigators playing a childhood game such as Kick the Can or Duck Duck Goose. We choose mechanisms according to the locations history or from alleged sightings. We will never use an item that we feel could be harmful or hurtful in anyway.

For instance, if a person lived a lonely, sad, unfulfilling life after the passing of their spouse, we would NEVER use the clothing (or personal articles) to try and get a response. We use empathy, compassion, respect and common sense when choosing the proper trigger mechanism for each case. We do not provoke or intentionally try to get an entity to communicate with us by using what we know is a negative trigger.

Respect the dead

For us at TnT Paranormal we respect and honor the dead and that policy is mandatory whenever conducting paranormal investigations. Entities after all where once human and retain their humanlike qualities. They will respond positively if treated like human beings. We truly believe that you get back what you give out. Meaning, show respect and you will get respect back. When conducting EVP sessions it’s important to address an entity in the most non-threatening way possible. Pretend like you are talking to a living person.

For instance, TnT Paranormal always starts EVP sessions with statements such as: “Hi. My name is Tom. I mean no harm to you. I do not want to change your environment or ask you to leave. I only want to talk to you and give you a voice you may not have had in a long time.” In addition, during your EVP session ask friendly and helpful questions such as: “Is there something we can do for you? Is there a message we
Continued from Page 6

Provoking vs Trigger Objects

can give someone? Do you need help?” Never tell an entity you want it to leave. You can politely suggest they can cross over and be at peace. However, if they are sticking around it’s probably because of unfinished business and they will leave when they feel the time is right. So try and ask questions in a tone where your motivations are clear that you want to help and assist. Lastly, when your EVP session is complete ALWAYS say “Thank You”.

We have a policy to never provoke an entity especially at a client location because that is disrespectful. An example of provoking could be saying something like: “I heard you like to scare people. You want to scare or harm someone? Come on! I’m here! Let’s see what you got!” The fact is we typically cannot see or hear entities. They can manifest when they want and have the power to do things we simply don’t understand. Therefore, if you provoke, you never know what can happen. The entity can follow you home and cause havoc in your life. Or worse, if you do this at a client’s home you can cause the paranormal activity to increase and make the situation even worse for your client.

It’s also important to make sure you never disturb or remove items from a location. This can stir up and make paranormal activity worse. For instance, if you are investigating a cemetery, don’t sit on a gravestone, stand on a grave, take anything from the cemetery, or leave trash. Rather, watch where you walk, bring flowers for a grave, fix a fallen gravestone, or cleanup any trash you come across.

Lastly, don’t ever trespass. Make sure you get permission from the property owners. Trespassing is not only disrespectful to the dead, but if you get caught in a location where you don’t belong you can get hurt or arrested and give your paranormal team a bad reputation.

Remember your goals

Depending on the reason why you investigate the paranormal you might first want to consider if you wish to provoke a negative response or do you just want a response. If you go into an investigation looking for a fight, then you might find one. If you go into an investigation and are searching for answers and do it politely, you can also get a response.

If you are at a pay location then the manner used may not be important. However, if you investigation on the behalf of a client that thought should always be in the forefront in your mind. Ethically you have an obligation to them. You and your team would not want to do anything that would make the activity worse. Therefore, for our team we will only provoke at pay locations and never at a client location. However, we will use trigger objects to see if we can get a response. We do so in a polite and kind manner and never do anything negative or disrespectful.

Sources for the article:
http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/provoke
http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/trigger
What’s on your mind

Gadgets don’t make the Ghost Hunter

By Ghost Gadget Guy, aka Michael Kravchuk

Not too long ago, I found myself in a sailing class. I had purchased new deck shoes, really neat gloves, and I read several great how-to books on sailing. As I learned when the boat listed 45 degrees in the 30 knot wind, having the best tools, did not make me a sailor!

So, I had to laugh out loud recently when I read several people debating in a forum about which FLASHLIGHT was the best for ghost hunting. By the way, the one that had all the participants in the debate oohing and awing was a 4100 lumen light that can cook an egg (and your face apparently). Seriously? We’re not talking sailing, where the boat, the wind, and the waves are real. We’re talking ghosts people! A phenomena no one has yet to even prove exist.

But flashlights aside, the forums still hum with everyone debating what works, what does not, what’s worth the money, and what’s garbage. My favorite? The old EMF meter debate. Your Magni DSP-523 tri-axial meter kicks my KII’s butt? For about $250 more, I certainly hope so. But let’s be real, for ghost hunting, this is the same as saying your Ferrari gets you to work better than my Yugo. Yeah, yeah, I know. My kids Tickle-Me-Elmo sets off my KII. But when we say (and you know you do) “Hey, Mr. Ghost, can you make the needle/light/digital display change?” your gadget is no longer a scientific device, but a divination tool NO MATTER WHAT YOU PAID.

And speaking of meters, I have to laugh as I watch teams spend an hour taking baseline readings, only to think registering a deviation later is paranormal phenomena. Did you use the same meter, same spot, same axis? Did you account for explainable EMF that may occur like a radio, or refrigerator turning on? Did it occur while other phenomena was experienced, and more importantly, captured? Can it be repeated?

My point is this. This may sound hypocritical coming from the Ghost Gadget Guy, but we spend way too much time focused on using various meters and cameras and recorders, that we fail to use our best tools, that being our senses and our experience. Don’t get me wrong. I truly believe Thomas Edison was right almost 100 years ago when he said IF we will be able to one day speak to the deceased, it will be through the use of technology. And currently, all the data, EMF, pictures, video, etc. will do nothing to silence the critics as they will make claims of natural phenomena, improper use of equipment, or even downright fraud.

But I know what I see with my eyes. I know what I hear, smell, feel, and sometimes even touch. I’ve learned that the MEL Meter is a great single axis meter, but that quick movements and walkies can make it spike. I’ve learned infrared thermometers do not measure ambient temperature and validate cold spots. I’ve learned the H2 is great recorder, but it can pick up people talking a block away.

It’s our phenomena we experience and knowledge of our gear, and good documentation with an objective mind that validates our paranormal perception, and hopefully assuages ours, or our client’s fear of what goes bump in the night.

Having the best sailing shoes did not make me a sailor. But experience taught me that cool breeze in my left ear meant I should let out some sail, adjust my port tack, and flip up the collar on my Wal-Mart fleece and get ready for the seas ahead.
Tools of the Trade

Smartphone "Ghost" Applications

By Angela Sangster, Talk Paranormal

As paranormal researchers, our first goal should always be to exhaust all possible explanations before calling anything unknown. This is especially true with audio, video, and photo data that is submitted for review. The sad reality is there are people who will fabricate "evidence" to gain fame, attention, or in some cases just to see who they can get to fall for a fake. One way this is attempted involves using cell phone applications that contain 'ghostly' images that can be placed within the picture.

The purpose for these apps is entertainment. A 'ghostly' pic sent in fun to a friend, a harmless joke revealed upon getting the desired effect, background for wallpaper on phones or computer screensavers--these are some of the intended uses. Unfortunately, some of these pictures are getting submitted to paranormal team’s websites, often left to sit there presented as paranormal data until it is noticed and called out.

There are ways to avoid getting taken in by these photos. First and foremost, always question an image that looks too good (or too bad) to be true. This is even more the case if it was taken on a cell phone. EXIF data (Exchangeable Image File Format) is the photo's information that is embedded into the digital image itself. Not every cell phone supports EXIF data, and uploading the photo to some sites, such as Facebook, will destroy the information. If the data can be retrieved from the original photo, it will show if any programs or apps were used in its creation.

Another way to spot these images is to learn as many of them as possible. These apps, which are either free or very cheap and easy to use, are also constantly updated. It saves a lot of time to educate ourselves on as many of these images as possible. There are also apps with even more options that allow for adjusting contours and transparency as well as ones that allow for other images to be added. Asking others for their input can also be helpful, as another set of eyes might recognize the 'ghost'.

Anyone who is searching for answers or proof about the unknown would be over the moon at a genuine piece of unexplainable data. However it should never be at the expense of absolute scrutiny and critical thinking. Always look for the truth.

For further reading:

http://appadvice.com/appnn/2010/03/spook-your-friends-ghost-capture


http://paranormalsight.webnode.com/phone-photo-apps/ (for many examples of phone 'ghost' apps)

http://www.cellutips.com/exif-data-is-your-friend/ (information about reading EXIF data)
Legends and Lore of Illinois: Case Files Volume 1

Published since January 2007, the Legends and Lore of Illinois has been defying convention to bring you Illinois ghostlore in an exciting, informative, and occasionally controversial format that has left readers begging for more.

With this new collection, you may enjoy the past two years of the Legends and Lore of Illinois in one convenient volume, distilled to its very best and featuring updated content.

This unique look at Illinois ghostlore is presented in a fun, entertaining way that sheds light on the dark recesses of our imagination. Get ready to explore infamous locations such as: Bachelor's Grove, Shoe Factory Road, Airtight Bridge, Lakey's Creek, Blood's Point Road, Peck Cemetery, Resurrection Cemetery, and many more!

But that's not all. Delve into the secret history of your favorite paranormal adventurers with two rarely-seen stories from the early days of The Fallen. Plus get a special preview of their next adventure: Black Willow Grove. This is the Legends and Lore of Illinois as you have never seen it before!

Author: Michael Kleen
ISBN-10: 0979040132

Ask TnT Paranormal

The following question(s) was/were submitted by our readers, by our online subscribers, or at events.

Who makes a better investigator? Male or female.

Gender should never be the question in assessing one’s value in any endeavor. Your dedication to your work and the integrity with which you conduct yourself is what truly makes you shine. An open mind, practical skepticism and complete honesty in your findings should always be your guiding light. The contribution of positive personal qualities that enriches others will always make you an invaluable asset to any investigation...male and female alike.

-- Jennifer

We have TnT Paranormal t-shirts. Place your order today at:
http://www.tntparanormal.com/apps/webstore/

Sneak Peek

In the next issue of Bumps in the Night!!!:

- Paranormal “U” - Origins of Halloween
- Famous Haunts – Milton School
- Tools of the Trade – Ovilus
Paranormal Talk with Rev. Kathy

Terror From Beyond

Contributed By Rev. Kathy Houck, Independent Paranormal Investigations Research Consultant

As a young child, my son suffered from what doctors called ‘night terrors’. In children between the ages of two and six, these nightmares occur in the deepest stages of sleep and result in bursts of screaming fits in the middle of the night without the child actually awakening or remembering the incident whatsoever. For a parent it can be an unnerving experience that lasts years, for the child the causes and the psychological effects are to this day completely unknown.

I don’t find it particularly coincidental the timing that people are generally most psychically aware also falls within this age group. One thing I noticed during my son’s night terror episodes was that he often complained of strange lights in his room during the night. Prior to actually falling asleep, he said the lights coming through the room-darkening mini blinds and heavily insulated curtains were brighter and more blinding than the daylight sun. In an effort to provide a more comfortable sleeping space, at one point I covered the windows in paper grocery bags thinking the cars lights from the street must somehow be coming through the second floor windows. It was all to no avail; still the ‘lights’ would bother him until he could finally slumber peacefully. That was of course, until the screaming would begin.

I can’t help but wonder if there is a correlation of the psychic development of a child and one who is experiencing night terrors. If those blinding rays of light my son described were somehow paranormal or moreover supernatural, could there be symptomatic experiences in other children that may be present along with night terrors as well? Possibly it is the younger generation we should most closely listen to when it comes to matters of the unexplained. Could they be closer to the truth of the great beyond than we think?

Paranormal or Not?

The picture above was taken by a friend of the team, Tkay Anderson, in her backyard. What do you make of the photo? Is it paranormal?

Answer will be provided in next month’s issue.

Answer from the previous issue:

The picture to the left was taken by a friend of the team, Tkay Anderson, in her backyard. What do you make of the photo? Is it paranormal?

Answer from Tkay: A Spider outside my house. I noticed this spider and I took the picture to show others what a bug will look like when it is in the flash. Auto setting.
Mary Taylor told me her story in December of 1966, shortly before her death from metastatic breast cancer. We met at a coffee shop in the downtown area of her small town, and did this interview over the course of several weeks. For the purposes of continuity and brevity, I have done some editing, but for the most part, Mary’s tale is intact and told in her own words, from her point of view. I know what I think of it, while you, dear reader, must make up your own mind.

“Miss Adams, I really don’t understand how you came to hear of my house, but since you have, and I have very little time left to me, I am going to tell you the truth about what happened and let you come to your own conclusions. I have lived on Bellflower Avenue since 1946, when I was married to Joe. We had a beautiful wedding right there in the garden with all our friends and relatives. It was in mid-June and Lord, but the flowers were pretty that year. We’d had a lot of rain that spring so there was just a profusion of every kind of flower and the greenery was absolutely luxuriant. Reverend Longacre was the pastor that married us, long before the scandal that drove him out of town, but that’s another story. Anyway, that house seemed to be meant for us from the very beginning, and we were so happy there, at least at the start. We started a family in December of 1947, when Anita was born, and I remember thinking that nothing could be more perfect than our lives at that time. I was right, and I was wrong, as you’ll see.

Anyway, what I’m telling you about, it started right that December. Anita was born on the 3rd, so Joe went to Duffy’s Hardware and bought a nice blue spruce for the living room window that Christmas. We strung lights and put up the ornaments. Joe insisted on that ugly silver tinsel, so it was practically dripping off the tree. We did the same every Christmas, put up a tree in the window and Joe’s tinsel all over the blessed house. The cat would drag it everywhere. We put the presents under the tree and took pictures on Christmas morning of Nita amid the wrapping paper. It was really very special, you know? The odd thing was that there was an extra gift under the tree. It was in an ancient shoebox and Joe swore up and down that he hadn’t put it there, and I know darn well it wasn’t me either. We had no idea where it had come from. In the box was a figurine of an angel, but one of the wings was broken. No note, no gift tag. I just put it in the hall closet and forgot about it. No use worrying about it, I thought.

Joe thought that maybe one of the neighbors had dropped it by when we were out, but nobody ever made mention of it. Just weird.

The next year, the same thing happened. An extra box under the tree, with no gift tag or note. This time it was a tiny bottle of that cologne, Midnight in Paris. Ghastly stuff, really. I tucked it in the hall closet amongst the galoshes and odds-and-ends that wind up in there, thinking that maybe I could give it to one of Joe’s teenage nieces when they came for Easter. Of course, I simply forgot about it. Three years later little Tony was born and we had accumulated five unexplained gifts in the hall closet. It was becoming a running joke with Joe and me. We simply couldn’t explain it, so we laughed it off, like folks do, I suppose.

In 1956, we had a drought here, and all of my flowers died, as well as the farmer’s crops. The backyard looked like those pictures you see of the Dust Bowl, you know the ones I mean? Swirls of dust and nothing green to be seen for miles. I was honestly devastated. Joe decided he was going to take advantage of the fact that everything was dead and do the underground piping for a new garden shed in the back corner of the yard.

To read the rest of the story go to page 9 of the January 2012 issue, see link below:
Illinois Paranormal Conference
Saturday, September 22, 2012
12:00-6:30 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Hall
211 N. Main Street
Rockford, IL
Price: $15.00 in advance or $20.00 at the door.
Visit www.hauntedrockford.com for details.
This event is being offered by Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum,
Haunted Rockford Paranormal Events, and
Veterans Memorial Hall

PKC ILLINOIS PARANORMAL KICKS CANCER
SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2012
THE BARTONVILLE ASYLUM
POLLAK HOSPITAL
BARTONVILLE/PEORIA IL
NEW INVESTIGATIONS OF THE HAUNTED ASYLUM
JOIN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

We never charge a client for an investigation!
Is Milton School Haunted???
You be the judge!

Join us for a night of ghost hunting....if you dare!

Hosted by TnT Paranormal Investigators LLC

We are pleased to announce an Investigate with TnT Paranormal Event at Milton School in Alton, IL on Saturday, October 20th.

Information from the Milton School site: http://www.vivantproject.com/events/
Information for our site: http://www.tntparanormal.com/events.htm#881584471

When: October 20th at 8:30PM to ??? (times subject to change)

Where: Milton School, Alton, IL

Cost: $50 per person
Hurry space is limited!!!

To Sign-up: Go to http://www.vivantproject.com/events/

If you have questions please contact TnT Paranormal Investigators LLC (info@tntparanormal.com).
I was eating dinner tonight. It was around 8:30. Don was at work. I had just used the rest of the gallon of sweet tea, so the empty jug sat in front of me, with the top on it, but not pressed down. I had a bottle of water as well, with the top sitting on it. All three dogs were with me - hoping they would get some food, which they did not.

I was reading the newspaper, when all of a sudden the top on the gallon sweet tea, flew off, hit the counter and landed on the floor. I thought that was a little odd, since I had not recently touched the top, but I figured it was a vacuum or something in the empty plastic gallon jug. I put the top back on and continued eating, thinking nothing more of it.

About 3 minutes later, the top on my water bottle, flew off, hit the counter and landed on the floor. Once occurrence is a little weird, but acceptable. But two, with the exact same thing happening, was really strange. The dogs did not react at all, when either incident happened. Since dogs are very good indicators of out of the ordinary things, I'm going to assume both things were just a fluke, that just happened to happen at the same time. I've been using a bottle water for a few years at dinner and I have never had this happen. I tried duplicating the incident, but neither top budged. I did not get any of my equipment out, because the dogs did not react. IF the dogs would have reacted, then I would be more likely to think there could be something here.

So far, nothing else has happened. I'm not afraid, but more perplexed. I know something could be here; could have been here all along, and never show itself - could just be "watching." Maybe tonight it wanted to play a game, called Pop The Top. LMAO!

THEN, two nights later (day before yesterday) the following happened with my husband:

Today, while Don was in the den, he heard Daffney (our Beagle) growling in the bedroom. (The bedroom is right behind the den). Don went in there to see what the problem was, thinking it could be she and Bessie Mae (our other Beagle) fixing to go at it. Instead, he saw Daffney on our bed, looking at the window, growling. He watched her for a few seconds and said she appeared to be looking at something - towards the window. She stopped growling and Don went back in the den. A couple of minutes later, she started growling again and Don went back in the bedroom. Again, she was looking at the window (looking UP, because we have a half window that is high) growling. She never barked. Just growled. The window was obviously closed - we don't open it. It's a half window that we can't reach, because our dresser is in front of it. The mini blinds stay closed in that room. Don didn't ask any questions, but went back in the den. Daffney didn't growl anymore. We haven't changed anything on our dresser.

This is the same bedroom that Don and I both felt something on the bed, last year. To me, it felt like a dog walking on the bed and it would lay down by my legs. Don felt this too. This only happened half a dozen times and it has not happened in a long time. Never the less, it is the same room, Daffney was growing in.

I did an EVP session yesterday afternoon. Got nothing! LOL!
**Bumps in the Night!!!!**

**Upcoming TnT Paranormal Events**

- September 5, 7PM – Plainfield Public Library (101)
- September 20, 7PM – Cary Area Public Library (101)
- September 22 - Paranormal Event in Rockford
- September 27, 7PM – Roselle Public Library (101)
- October 2, 6:30PM, Three Rivers Library, Minooka (102)
- October 4, 7PM, Oak Brook Library (102)
- October 11, 7PM – Franklin Park Public Library (101)
- October 16, 7PM, Carol Stream Library (102)
- October 18, 7PM, Steger Library (101)
- October 20, TBD, Milton School, Alton, IL (Ghost Hunt with...)
- October 25, 7PM, Lockport Library (101)
- October 30, 6:30PM, New Lenox (102)

We are adding new events all the time, so check the updated list often. We hope to see you at an event in your area soon. [http://www.tntparanormal.com/events.htm](http://www.tntparanormal.com/events.htm)

If you know of any location looking for a team to present at and/or host an investigation at please feel free to pass along our contact information.

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**AMT Counseling Management**

**Services**

Ages 2 through Adulthood

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**Contact us:**

815 N. Larkin Ave
Suite 104B
Joliet, IL 60435
Phone: 815-730-8900
Email: amtcounseling@yahoo.com

**Services offered**

- ADHD
- Anger Management
- Anxiety
- Asperger's Syndrome
- Autism
- Depression
- Domestic Violence
- Family
- Grief and Loss
- Marriage
- PTSD
- Sexual Abuse
- And much more

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**Investigator Spotlight**

**Marcie Clarke**

*Investigator and Case Manager*

Marcie was raised in Mokena, IL and moved to Joliet when she was 12 years old. She is currently working on her Master's degree in counseling at Governors State University. Marcie is a country girl and loves the outdoors. She is into camping, fishing, horseback riding, and ghost hunting, of course. She has held an interest in the paranormal for a long time and has had several personal experiences in her life. This is her first opportunity to work with a team of paranormal investigators and looks forward to learning all she can about the field.

**Upcoming Paranormal Events**


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*www.tntparanormal.com*