

The Paranormal Press

The Official Newsletter of the Northwest Indiana Ghost Trackers

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Newsletter Creator
and Creatrix

Chris & Jennifer
Mojica

IGT NEWS

Congratulations to Len and Michelle for becoming the new **Hunt Coordinators!**

Congratulations to Gayle Kretz for taking on the new position of

Member Coordinator!

Effective immediately

All investigations will consist of a pre-investigation meeting and a post-investigation meeting. Members must be available

to attend both meetings to participate in actual investigations.

St. Valentine's Day Bus Tour, Chicago, February 11th from 4:30-midnite will include: the haunted Red Lion Pub, Dillinger's last stand - Biograph Theatre, the famous St. Valentine's Day massacre site, "Death Alley", Eastland disaster site (approx. \$20/person)

Troy Taylor is scheduled for a talk March 18th; time and location to be announced.

There will be statewide training in Ft. Wayne in March and another scheduled in Indy for June—check website for details as they become available.

Please speak to Hunt Coordinators with your suggestions and before making ANY arrangements for hunts!!

Dues must now be paid thru Corporate—check website for details

Hannah House overnite Friday, April 7th, \$50/person

DEADLINES

*Exorcism Gone Wrong;
Two Children Dead*
by Christopher Lee Mojica

In a mountain community in western Mexico this past December, two young sisters were murdered when their family believed them to be possessed.

The brutal "exorcism" was carried out because relatives said that the girls' faces would take on animal features.

Judge Ana Maria Raya Razo said family members insisted faces of monkeys and demons would appear on the 7-month and 13-year

old girls.

The incident was instigated after an aunt had recently gone to see a faith healer. The murders were committed by nine family members, including the girls' parents, grandparents and aunts.

Police reports indicate that during the ritual candles were lit, prayers were said and farm animals were sacrificed, as the 7-month old was severely mutilated and the 13-year old was tied to a stake and stoned to death.

An anonymous phone call led authorities, traveling on foot, to a desolate location in Guanajuato state township. Several other family members were discovered

locked up, also suspected of being possessed.

The family members admitted to the killings and said they had to kill the girls in order to save themselves from the demons.

Razo went on to say, "The psychiatric testimony showed that they were suffering from a delusional psychotic state, with paranoia and hallucinations."

The young girls' parents were found to have taken part in the killings, but were not convicted of murder, due to insanity. All nine were committed to a psychiatric ward for 40 years.

CREATURE FEATURE

Romance Is Dead

by Christopher Lee Mojica



Available January 31, Tim Burton's *Corpse Bride* hits the shelves, just in time for Valentine's. It's a beautifully morbid love story with a dreadfully happy ending.

Tim Burton, the master of dark fantasy films such as *Beetlejuice*, *Edward Scissorhands*, *Nightmare Before Christmas* and *Sleepy Hollow*, graces the big screen once again with his second stop-motion animated feature film.

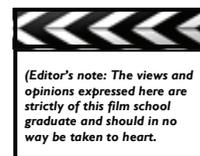
Based on an old Russian folk tale, the story is about a groom, Victor (voiced by Johnny Depp), who inad-



vertently proposes to a deceased bride (voiced by Helena Bonham Carter), who was murdered on her wedding day. The smitten Corpse Bride sweeps Victor away from his gloomy and boring 19th-century Victorian village to the vibrant, colorful and exciting world of the dead for the big wedding. Victor must find his way back to the land of the living before his "true" bride-to-be is given away to another.

Corpse Bride does not quite capture the creativity and magic of its predecessor and holiday classic, *Nightmare Before Christmas*. The sound track alone is a little bland and at times makes it feel like you're watching the Nutcracker. But with colorful characters, intricate miniature sets and impeccable cinematography, *Corpse Bride* is definitely worth your time.

I give this film four popcorns.



LOCAL HAUNTS

Lady in White—

A Tale of Ill-Fated Love

by Jennifer Mojica

As Hammond was beginning to flourish, a young and beautiful Polish girl, named Sophia, caught the eyes of many. During this time it would have been customary to marry within one's nationality, but Sophia had found true love with a 23-year old of Puerto Rican descent. Theirs was a secret affair, as Sophia's parents would never have approved, and so they would meet along the isolated banks of the Calumet River near the outskirts of town. Although Sophia hated deceiving her parents this way, she and her man persuaded a priest in Griffith to marry them. Sophia worked for a local grocer and saved her earn-

ings to buy a wedding dress she spotted in a local store. Their planned day in September had arrived and Sophia told her parents she would be working late and then spending the night at a friend's. Sophia headed for the store to buy her dress and then took a cab to the church in Griffith. Dressed in her new gown, she waited for her groom to arrive. She waited and waited and waited some more...he never showed. The explanations have varied with some saying he may have been in an accident at the mill where he worked or on the way to the church. After two hours, Sophia rushed from the church and into a cab. As she realized she could never return home because of the shame she would bring her family, the cab driver turned west onto Cline Avenue, approaching the Calumet River. Sophia had the driver pull over and she ran toward the water. The driver called after her, but she did not respond. At the exact spot where she had declared

her love and planned her wedding, Sophia waded into the river. Between the weight of her dress and the current, Sophia was swept under; water filling her lungs. Local fisherman found her floating along the shore in her wedding dress. Her lifeless body was later claimed at the Lake County morgue by her parents, after realizing she was missing and reading her diary. Sophia was buried in a Hammond cemetery. Reports of seeing this "lady in white" have ranged from seeing her running toward the river or, as one cabbie claims, she was a fare. After picking up a lady in an old-time wedding dress, he immediately felt a chill fill the cab, but the windows were closed. Looking at his passenger, his heart almost stopped because she was now soaking wet in a muddy dress. Alarmed, he lost control of the cab. When he regained control and looked back, the lady was gone...only the smell of the river remained.

GRAVESITES

www.VegasExplorers.com

THE haunted Vegas tour

www.spiritsearchers.net

Husband & wife ghosthunting team

www.hauntedportraits.com

Available for purchase...turn from innocent to grotesque

www.ghostinvestigator.com

Linda Zimmerman, author and paranormal investigator



WHAT'S ON SLAB

FEBRUARY						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 IGT Meeting
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 St. Valentine's Bus Tour
12	13 Full Moon	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

Notes:

*This month's meeting will be from 4-6:30 at Langel's, Highland.

*One of our hunt locations will be Kaske House, Munster.

TOPICS FOR DISSECTION

COFFEE & TALK



- ☞ When can we schedule some mock investigations to learn roles (residential vs. commercial investigations), report writing expectations, new protocol (pre & post meetings) and do's & don'ts????
- ☞ Can we have an equipment refresh at an upcoming meeting (what we have, how to use it, what we need...)?? Good cold-weather activity!!
- ☞ Thank Len for our Chapter's webpage! Let's hope we get it back and he can continue to make it a standout!!

THE LIBRARY

St. Valentine's Massacre

by Christopher Lee Mojica

What's better than receiving a box of mystery chocolates and some over-priced flowers for Valentine's Day? How about some tickets to the Indiana Ghost Trackers' St. Valentine's Day Bus Tour!? (Now, that's sweet!). The tour is scheduled for many different stops around the Chicagoland area.

One of these stops will be the famous St. Valentine's Day Massacre site. The brutality of this event further cemented notorious gangster Al Capone's reputation as a brazen criminal, by devising probably the most creative and gutsy set-up ever to be plotted and executed.... literally!

Al Capone was one of the better known mobsters on the Chicago mob scene. The other was George "Bugs" Moran, who was in control of the North side and was cutting in on Capone's action. The saying "This town isn't big enough for the two of us" is pretty much the way it was back then. There was only room for one leader in the business of organized crime. Capone decided that the dance floor had one too many; he and Jack "Machine Gun" McGurn devised a plan to eliminate the competition. Knowing that he would be the number one suspect in the death of his rival,

Capone left for his summer home in Palm Island, Florida. With Capone far away from the Windy City, he had an airtight alibi. This left McGurn in command and in control of the job. To further complicate the investigation, McGurn assembled a squad of out-of-towners to make the hit harder to piece together. McGurn knew the heat would be on him as well, so he sealed his alibi by taking his girlfriend to a hotel at the time of the assassinations.

On February 14, 1929, at 10:30am, Moran and his men were to meet with a bootlegger in a parking garage at 2122 North Clark Street to purchase some hijacked liquor. Two of McGurn's men were staking out the garage and waiting for Moran and his men to show for the meeting. Once they arrived a call was made and the rest of McGurn's men, dressed in stolen police uniforms and driving a stolen police car, raced over to the garage. Acting as policemen, McGurn's men entered the garage and found Moran's men. Knowing the routine, Moran's men did not put up a fight and did what the "police" said. They were told to line up against the wall and, once relieved of their weapons, McGurn's men opened fire, killing all, but one, Frank Gusenberg.

As the icing on the cake, two of McGurn's men buttoned up their trench coats, raised their hands in the air and walked out of the garage being escorted by uniformed "policemen".

Thus, giving the appearance that a bust had just gone down.

When police finally arrived, they asked Gusenberg who shot him. His reply, "No one shot me."

What seemed like the perfect mob hit was actually a bit of a screw-up. Unfortunately,

Bugs Moran arrived late to the meeting and, noticing the police car sitting outside the garage, he turned away. But, the massacre was a big enough sign for Moran to back off of Capone's territory. Moran himself said, "Only Capone kills like that."

No one was ever convicted for the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. Everyone had a pretty good idea of who was behind it, but with no evidence, no indictment.

Today, a small fenced park marks the location of where the garage once stood; a tree now grows where the bullet ridden wall was located. One rumor is that if you listen real close, you can hear the sound of guns firing or the yelling of men being gunned down.



Biograph Theatre

Last year's St. Valentine's Day Bus Tour was a great turn out and this year should be even better. One of the stops on the bus tour will be the Biograph Theatre, just across the street from the Red Lion Pub. This is the site where John Dillinger was shot dead in the alley.

Last year's tour produced several great pictures. One in particular was taken by IGT's very own, Sheila Reed. The picture was taken very near the front of the theatre on her way to the alley.

Notice the woman in the picture and the image that is captured from the shaky photograph. The image of a pale woman, in period clothing, appears to the left of the woman in the black coat and possibly a second face to the right of her, as well. If you compare the faces, you will notice there are similarities between the two.

Is this just a case of a photographic anomaly or something deeper?? You can decide for yourself.

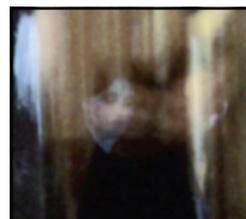
Special thanks to Sheila for submitting this great photo.



Original picture outside the Biograph Theatre



Cropped picture of anomaly, slightly lightened



Cropped picture of anomaly

Quote of the Month

"To Die, to be really dead,
that must be glorious!"

Bela Lugosi, Count
Dracula (1931)

Eerie facts

A famous suicide "hot spot" in Hong Kong is being considered for a theme park. The haunted flat will be available to tourists who would like to spend the night with past jumpers.

OFFICERS

Northwest

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Trainer
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EULOGY

THANKS & GOODBYE!

Special Thank You to Ron & Danielle Garrison for all of their contributions to the Indiana Ghost Trackers! We wish them the best in their future endeavors!!

We enjoyed the New Member nite get-together! If you missed it, you missed out on great pizza and conversation. Thanx to those who came out!!

AVAILABLE

Handmade Dowsing Rods — — Check them out at the next meeting & have them on hand for that night's hunt!!

UNWANTED BOOKS— WANTED

If you have unwanted ghost-related books laying around, please feel free to drop them off at any of the IGT meetings. We would like to increase our IGT library.

Ghosthunting 101

Basic Ghosthunting classes are held every couple of months. If you are a new member, please contact the Trainer for the next class. You **MUST** complete this course to be eligible for investigations!!!

IGT Donations!

A donation jar will be set up at monthly meetings and other functions. All donations will be appreciated!

IGT EXCLUSIVE

In case you missed it, here are the exclusive pictures of when two worlds collide—IGT meets GYT (Not quite Frankenstein meets the Werewolf, but I think you get the idea!)—Indiana Ghost Trackers on the set of Graveyard Theatre. The January live show featured IGT's own.

For those of you who are not familiar with Graveyard Theatre, it's a public access show in Northwest Indiana that screens B-movies with wisecracking commentary from an eclectic band of ghouls and one sexy demon. The cast has appeared at several IGT events in the past.

Unfortunately, the program only airs in Hammond, Indiana.... Sorry!



These are good examples of why you should lock your doors at night!



Wanted

Photos from the hunts for inclusion in the newsletter. These can be group shots; pics with possible paranormal activity; photos of the buildings, cemetery signs, tombstones, etc. Please provide a brief description and the names of individuals in the photos. Any questions, shoot us an email or chat with us at a meeting.

E-mail submissions for *The Paranormal Press* to: paranormalpress@hotmail.com