



The Paranormal Press

The Official Newsletter of the Northwest Indiana Ghost Trackers

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Chris "BoneDaddy"
&
Jennifer "Hocus Pocus"
Mojica

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NEWS/UPDATES

IGT welcomes Denise Williams as interim PR and Wendy Deiotte as interim assistant PR.

Team leaders are still needed, as are Research, Indiana Lore and Public Relations positions to be filled. Talk with Mike McDowell, if interested.

The 2006 Paranormal Conference has been moved to 2007!!

IGT Banquet—Nov. 5th

Tickets \$25 (buy by 10/22)

Get all the details on the website at "Forums" then "IGT Statewide Events"

The **IGT Halloween Party** October 29 from 9PM—IAM. Volunteers will be needed

Porter County Home officially facing demolition...after all.

Mike is seeking input for website content. So, Ghost Trackers, check out our website and see what can be added to make us stand out even more!!

Guest speakers and topics of interest are being sought for our monthly meetings. Any public speakers among us????

October 27th, IGT will be at the Valparaiso Library to give a talk.

Members are encouraged to attend.

LAKE COUNTY'S OCTOBER EVENTS

As a continuation of last month's fall bounty throughout Lake County, here are some options for October...

Night Hike (Oak Ridge Prairie) - October 17 @ 6:30PM—Call 844-3188 to reserve your spot.

Bieker Woods (Munster) Night Walks Oct. 27 & 28 from 6:30-8:30PM—Call 836-PARK for details.

Hayrides at Deep River County Park and Buckley Homestead weekends thru October 30. Group rides also available.

Norm's Pumpkin Patch (Lowell) -Pumpkin picking, haunted hayrides &

bonfires 9/27-11/1 (normspumpkin-patch.com)

County Line Orchard (Hobart) -Apples, pumpkins, cider and the best donuts—thru Oct. 31 (countylineorchard.com)

Campfire Chillers (Deep River County Park) - October 26 @ 6:30PM...This is a FREE one, guys!!

Fall Color Walk (Gibson Woods) - October 15 @9:30AM

Buckley Homestead Fall Fest (Lowell) - October 8 & 9 from 10-5. \$3 per person (7 &

under free)

Again, check out www.lakecountyparks.org for further info, as well as other events.

We did scare up a few Porter & LaPorte County events and they can be found on the Eulogy page.

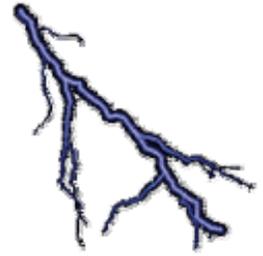
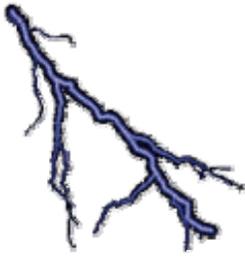


INDIANA GHOST TRACKERS

Presents a

Halloween Bash

at the Hellishly Haunted
Halls of Justice



A REAL HAUNTED BAR!

LIVE MUSIC!
Ex-Girlfriend

INFAMOUS
GANGSTER
JOHN DILLINGER
MAY STILL HAUNT
THE AREA!!!

FREE
MINI-GHOST
TOURS
FOR ALL AD-
VANCED SALES!
(A \$3 VALUE
GET YOURS
TODAY!



BRING YOUR
PICTURE OF A
REAL
GHOST AND
WIN
PRIZES!

**BEST
COSTUME
COMPETITION!**

HEAR REAL LIVE
VOICES
FROM
BEYOND
THE GRAVE!

**OVER \$250.00 IN CASH
AND PRIZES!!!**

Saturday, October 29th

9PM-1AM

**\$10/person 21 and up
\$\$CASH BAR\$\$**

**220 S. Main Street, Crown Point
Phil's Great Escape**

For more info www.indianaghosts.org

The Vampyre

John Polidri

Written by Richard Capes; Reprinted from *Rue Morgue* magazine Issue 49



Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (1897) is the first vampire novel, right? Wrong. As every self-respecting fang fiend should know, long before the count lured unsuspecting Jonathan Harker to Transylvania, his literary grandfather, Lord Ruthven, was traveling through Europe and draining his maidens' veins dry in Dr. John Polidori's *The Vampyre* (1819).

By a strange coincidence, the novella was born out of the same circumstances as those that led to the creation of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (1818). In 1816, Polidori became the personal physician of famous poet Lord Byron, and accompanied him on a trip around Europe, where they stayed with Mary and Percy Shelley at the Villa Diodati in Switzerland. Like Mary, Polidori was motivated to write his macabre tale after a group had spent a stormy night reading horror stories to one another and Byron proposed that they each compose one of their own.

The inspiration for *The Vampyre* came from the outline of a horror story that Byron started but abandoned, and allowed Polidori to use and develop. This later led to some confusion over whether or not Polidori was the novella's true author. Although Byron publicly denied authorship of *The Vampyre* and published his original outline, *Fragment of a Novel*, to prove it, many considered Polidori a plagiarist. This caused him to give up writing, and the only other work he produced was the largely forgotten, vampire-free gothic novel *Ernestus Berchtold* (1819).

The Vampyre begins with an idealistic young man named Aubrey befriending a mysterious gentleman named Lord Ruthven and leaving London with him to travel around Europe. During this trip Ruthven is shot and badly wounded. Before he dies, he persuades Aubrey to swear an oath that he will keep his death a secret in England. Aubrey later returns to London and discovers that Ruthven is still alive. Traumatized by this miraculous resurrection and unable to warn others that Ruthven is still a vampire (because he's bound to his oath), Aubrey goes insane. When he recovers, he finds out his sister is engaged to be married to Ruthven, which forces him to decide whether to protect his oath or his sister's life. In the end, he hesitates over this decision too long and his sister is discovered dead, the last line of the novella exclaiming that she has "glutted the thirst of a VAMPYRE!"

Introducing several similar aspects found in *Dracula*, Polidori's story clearly helped shape Stoker's tale. For example, although Aubrey becomes aware early on that Ruthven's a monster, he's completely under his control and unable to leave the ghoul's side, despite believing him to have murdered a girl named Lanthe, who's discovered drained of blood, with two punctures in her neck. And the way that Ruthven uses Aubrey to procure Lanthe and Aubrey's sister in order to satisfy his thirst for blood anticipates Dracula using Jonathan Harker to get close to Lucy Westenra and Mina Murray. However, unlike Dracula and almost all other vampires since, Ruthven is not harmed by sunlight, can be killed by bullets, and is able to resurrect if "exposed to the first cold ray of the moon that [rises] after his death."

The Vampyre is without a doubt the source of many of the now-standard elements of vampire mythology. Although bloodsucking creatures of the night have undergone many transformations since Aubrey first became enamored by Lord Ruthven, much of what emerges in Polidori's novella casts a long, dark shadow over all subsequent vampire fiction.



Last month the WB launched its new season with the series premiere of the highly anticipated dark thriller *Supernatural*. In case you've been spending the last couple of weeks laying out your Halloween decorating plans and have yet to catch the show, here's the 411 in a nut shell. Two young brothers travel the country investigating paranormal activity, folk lore, myths and legends while they search for their missing father, who has disappeared while on his own investigation (...and that's why you should never go on hunts alone!) , and try to find the evil force that killed their mother some 20 years ago.

The premiere episode proved a promising series as the producers have finally decided to create a show with the audience in mind, starting the series with an original story and

CREATURE FEATURE

Supernatural

keeping true to detail. And what better way to hook the paranormal aficionado than with the introduction of the infamous Lady in White story. You could feel the hair rise on the back of your neck when one of the shows characters tells the story of the Lady in White and names the different states that are known to have had reports of the apparition, including Indiana.

The first episode was structured more for the introduction and as a way to create interest in the characters and the plot allowing the audience to form a connection with them. At times the story seemed to drag a little only because of the time needed to cover this information. However, once the program progressed, the story seemed to develop a good flow. With some beautifully executed state-of-the-art special effects, well-directed action scenes and, most importantly, decent writing; *Supernatural* took on a big budget film look and feel to it.

Of course there is always room for improvement. The typical cliché gimmicks

were unfortunately used, like the fight scene between the two brothers that was right out of a Bruce Lee kung-fu movie, predictable scenes that lead the audience by the nose hair (yeah...ouch!) and an abrupt hooky ending that felt like it was thrown together because they were running out of time.

If you can look past the obvious X-Files meets the OC feel of the show and if the producers and writers can continue to produce compelling stories throughout the season, then *Supernatural* could be super-cool. But when we start to see the guys investigate Bigfoot or Chupacabra, then we'll know that the pickins' are getting slim. At the very least, I'm sure the *Supernatural* soundtrack will be available to purchase soon. Containing an assortment of great tunes, you too can cruise to your next ghost hunt jammin' to the official WB ghostbusting soundtrack!



HAUNTED ATTRACTIONS

And what kind of Halloween newsletter would this be if we didn't take time to mention various local haunted attractions to visit this Halloween...That is, if you dare! (OOOOOHH...SPOOOOOKY!!)

Halls of Horror

Lake County Fairgrounds, Crown Point

Oct. 13-16, 20-23 & 27-31

(7-10:30PM, 9PM on Sundays)

www.hallsofhorror.com

Reaper's Realm

Hammond

all weekends in October

(3 haunts for only \$20)

www.reapersrealm.com

Chamber of Terror and Trail of Fears

County Line Orchard, Hobart

Fridays & Saturdays in October

(\$8 each or the Haunted Trio including corn Maize for \$15)

www.countylineorchard.com

Haunted hayride

Woodland Park, Portage

October 27-29

(6:30-8:30PM.....\$2 per person)

www.casualcoast.com



IGTU

Today's topic: *Ouija Boards*

The never ending debate over the use of Ouija boards has been a heated issue for some time now. On one side of the table you have those individuals who believe that the Ouija is nothing more than compressed cardboard and plastic. While others insist that the Parker Brothers game is more or less Satan in a box; the place where all evil resides. The fact of the matter is that the Ouija is as harmless as a sweet game of Candyland.

The Ouija IS nothing more than cardboard and plastic. The idea that the game can harm an individual is ridiculous and no one (to my knowledge) has ever been contacted by evil spirits while playing Twister or been tormented by demons after extracting a wishbone from a game of Operation. So why do so many people feel that the Ouija board is evil? Well, the game is not evil, owning the game is not dangerous and having one in the house will not draw in evil spirits.

The Ouija board is a lot like a box of matches. Matches sitting on a counter all day can never hurt a soul. A match can't strike itself and set a fire. Matches are a tool. It takes an individual to open the box, pull out a match and ignite it for someone to end up hurt. In the same way, a demon can not summon itself and materialize from a Ouija board that is sitting idle in a closet. It takes an individual to open the box, pull out the board and intentionally strike

up a conversation with an unknown spirit that may provoke negative and possibly horrifying consequences. Like matches, the Ouija is a tool; the board does not communicate with spirits, it's the individual that does. The same results can be achieved by an individual using a wine glass and a piece of paper with the alphabet written on it.; it doesn't matter what method is used to communicate, but rather that the communication is being made.

Now, using Ouija boards doesn't always result in contacting evil spirits; it doesn't always result in communication at all, but the possibility is always present. When a spirit is contacted, the individual will never know exactly with whom or what they are communicating. Even if a person is only looking to contact grandma about some personal information. As Father Karras cautions, demons are liars!

Noted Demonologist Ed Warren, who has been involved in some of the most intense investigations including *The Amityville Horror*, warns, "The Ouija board has been proven to be a notorious passkey to terror, even when the intent of communication is decidedly positive in nature."

As everybody knows by now *The Exorcist* was based on a true story. A young boy played with a Ouija board with absolutely no intention of conjuring

demonic spirits, however, because he was messing with something beyond his comprehension he allowed inhuman spirits to enter his life. His is just one of the hundreds of cases that involved demonic influence being linked back to the use of a Ouija board .

The reason why some have such a negative experience after using the Ouija is unknown. However, I feel that the answer lies within ourselves. Through an addictive nature, poor self esteem, negative attitude/aura, as well as mental and psychological disorders, some individuals are just more susceptible to accept and/or be manipulated by evil spirits. Once these spirits obtain permission to enter one's life, it's just a matter of time before they are able to break them down and ultimately take possession of them. As unbelievable as this all sounds— demons

are REAL! Non-believers who experience these events are believers in the end.

I personally have never and will never mess with the Ouija because, one, I have no desire to hear what the dead have to say to me and, two, I certainly don't want to encounter a demonic spirit. "Fools rush in where wise men fear to tread," advises Ed Warren.

As for conjuring a demon while playing Twister or Candyland, I'm sure it's possible...if, seriously, that is your intent.



GRAVESITES

<http://playtonium.com/g.php?g=haloween>

Step right up, don't be shy! Use your skill to knock over Frankenstein, Dracula, witches and other ghosts and goblins... if you can! The Halloween Carnival is in town!

www.oakalleyplantation.com

(haunted Louisiana)

www.hauntedvoices.com

(EVP, articles)

www.frightshop.com

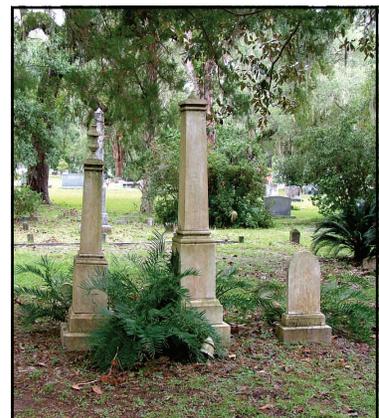
(Halloween supplies)

www.wicca.com

(self explanatory)

www.headlesshorseman.co.uk

(stories, links, haunted places)



WHAT'S ON SLAB

OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Meeting 4-7
2 Pumpkin Fest	3	4	5	6	7	8 Harvest Moon Fest
9 Fall Fest	10	11	12	13	14	15 Color Walk
16	17 Nite Hike (Full Moon)	18	19	20	21	22
23 Fright Fest *	24	25	26 Camp- fire Chillers	27 Valpo Library	28 Bieker Woods	29 IGT Party!!
30 Historic Halloween	31 					

Notes:

Ghost tours abound this month—every weekend is an IGT Event!!!!

Remember to spread the word to friends, family and co-workers about our premier event—IGT’s Annual Halloween Bash

*This is a group activity at Great America

TOPICS FOR DISSECTION

We have some spooktacular ideas to help get you (& keep you) in the Halloween spirit!!

1. Hold scary movie marathons or watch a movie a nite throughout October
2. Experiment with Halloween-themed foods (check out www.kraftfoods.com)
3. Listen to scary sound CDs & ghost story audio books
4. Make a scarecrow, a ghost to hang from your tree &/or other decorations
5. Host a pumpkin carving party—this is a great time to serve some of the new recipes you “dug” up
6. Face your fears at a local hunted house
7. Visit your local party and craft stores to see what’s new in Halloween décor
8. Go on a haunted hayride and roast marshmallows around a campfire
9. Stock up on your childhood candy favorites...& look forward to trick-or-treaters
- 10. WORK ON YOUR COSTUME FOR OUR HALLOWEEN BASH!!!!**



Quote of the Month

“Just think. Someday we’ll be buried here: side by side; six feet under; in matching coffins. Our lifeless bodies rotting together...for all eternity.”

**-Morticia
(The Addam’s Family)**

Eerie facts

In the folklore of many cultures, including Romania, Russia, China and parts of Africa, committing suicide was believed to cause vampirism.

OFFICERS

NORTHWEST INDIANA

Interim Director
Mike “The Mortician” McDowell

Secretary
Fresh Blood Wanted!

Treasurer
“Resurrection” Mary Shea

Interim Public Relations
Denise “Poltergeist” Williams

Member Relations
Kris “Caretaker” Rajchel

EULOGY

Chicago Chapter

The Chicago Chapter is still being developed. All positions, but director, are currently available. If interested, please see Mike McDowell

SPECIAL THANK!!

To Jaye, Jen, Barb & Marcia for manning IGT’s Popcorn Fest Booth on September 10th. Your efforts could not be more appreciated!

FRIGHT FEST

Who among thee will join us and travel to a far distant land (Gurnee) to face their fears? Would you dare take a ride in the Hellevator or fly under the painted moonlight with a Demon? Maybe take a Dead End Drive to the Mausoleum of Terror?? Where the only way out is thru Seven Sins Cemetery or Area 51.

For more info go to the IGT website. These and many other challenges await you. You know you’re dying to go!

Awards Banquet

Submit your best photos, EVPs and your favorite hunts since last October. Also, if you have a nominee for the “Shaggy” award (someone most likely to run in fear), get their name in. Let Mike know the number of hunts you arranged, so you can get ghost pins. As always, check out our website for the most up-to-date details—click “Forums” then “IGT Events Statewide”



LaPORTE COUNTY

Westville Pumpkin Festival
Sept. 30, Oct. 1 & 2
Prairie Meadows Park
Westville (Hwys 6 & 421)

Harvest Moon Festival
October 8 from 8-6
LaCrosse (Hwy 421 & SR 8)

Haunted Trail
Oct. 28 & 29 at 6pm
Luhr County Park, LaPorte

Ghost Wear

T-Shirts, polo shirts, denim shirts, sweatshirts and lanyards are still available to purchase. Quantities are limited!

Porter County Halloween Events

*Trick-or-Treat Fun Nite—**October 28** from 4-6 in downtown Valpo (FREE)

*Sights & Sounds of Halloween—**October 28** from 6:30-8:30 at Chellberg Farm & Bailly Homestead, Indiana Dunes (FREE)

*Historic Halloween Fun—**Oct. 30** from 1-4 at Chellberg Farm, Indiana Dunes (FREE)

Check out the Porter County Visitor and Convention Bureau website at www.casualcoast.com!!

Ghosthunting 101

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

Annual Dues

Dues can be paid in three different ways: mail, in person or online with PayPal. Our website will provide all the necessary information to help you through the process.

Simply select “Membership” from the homepage to begin.

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