

# THE PARANORMAL INFORMANT

Volume 4, Issue 2/2

Fall/Winter 2015

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**HAUNTED  
CHICAGO!**

MORE STORIES INSIDE! INCLUDING:

Famous Case: The Winchester Mystery House

**HAUNTED BACHELORS GROVE CEMETERY**

**PARANORMAL 101: THE POLTERGEIST PHENOMENON**

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## LEGAL JARGON

*The Paranormal Informant is written and published for Rock Paranormal by it's founder, Robert Markin, and contains comments and opinions of members, writers, and featured guests/interviewees that do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Rock Paranormal itself, or it's members. Rock Paranormal publishes the Paranormal Informant on a Quarterly basis via free PDF downloads and subscriptions. By submitting works or correspondence in regards to topics featured in the Paranormal Informant, you give Rock Paranormal permission to print your correspondence in any issue of the Informant. The Paranormal Informant is published for informational and educational purposes.*

## MEET THE WRITERS

**Robert Markin** acts as writer and editor-in-chief to the Informant, in addition to his duties as team Manager, Administrator, and organizer. He has been researching and investigating the paranormal for nearly twenty years. He is the Founder and Team Manager at Rock Paranormal.

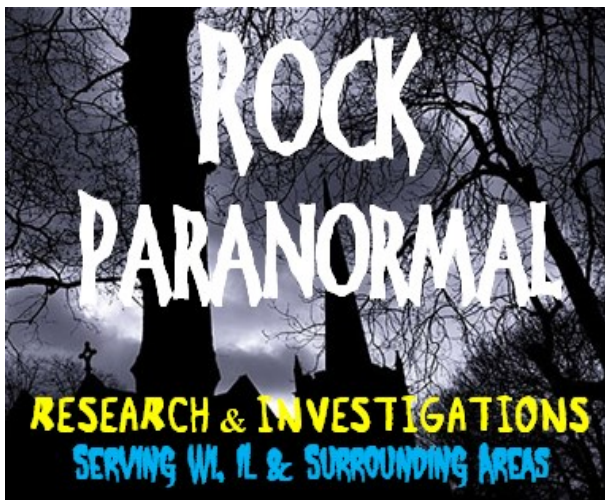
**Erin Rose Tollefsen** is the Lead Investigative Researcher at Rock Paranormal, and has researched and studied the paranormal for also nearly twenty years. She works from home as an Artist for her own company, Kooky Spooky Arts. She has investigated the paranormal with Bob for over 10 years.

**Russell Tollefsen** is Rock Paranormal's Equipment Manager. He is in charge of maintaining and setting up investigation equipment, and acts as "video documentarian" during the team's investigations. . He is married to Erin Rose Tollefsen.

**Donna Taylor** is one of Rock Paranormal's Apprentice Investigative Researchers. She joined Rock Paranormal within the last year, and has had a life-long interest in the paranormal. She likes mainly to study how the paranormal affects children, and child paranormal sensitivity.

**Brittany Cordell** recently joined the Rock Paranormal team. She has had an interest in the paranormal for many years, and believes herself to be a "null", which means that paranormal activity won't happen when she is present. We look forward to testing this theory on our upcoming investigations. She is an Apprentice Investigative Researcher.

**Joseph Hernandez** is Rock Paranormal's Historical Researcher and Chief Skeptic. He doesn't normally participate in many of the investigations, but he loves researching history and mythology.



### THE PARANORMAL INFORMANT

Published by Robert Markin/Rock Paranormal

2015 Publishing Year

**ROCK PARANORMAL**

**Research & Investigations**

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<http://www.facebook.com/RockParanormal>



## A Note from Founder Bob Markin...

**My how time flies** when you're busy! For me personally, it's been super busy this past summer, especially with my delayed move to the Big City. But, now that things are finally settling down, it's time to get back to business, so-to-speak.

We haven't planned any investigations at this time, but are once again open and taking calls and requests. We have had to put the Starved Rock Research Project on hold for a bit, as we are having trouble finding who to get permission to investigate the location. We will still be conducting research in preparation for this project, so we will still update you from time-to-time.

Erin Rose and I are ramping up to celebrate All Hallow's Eve this year, and I can't wait to start throwing my decorations up around the house! It's also the time of the year when the veil between the worlds is reportedly at it's thinnest, and communication and visits with long lost loved ones is highly probable and possible. Every year for Halloween, I always include some fun tid-bits about celebrating Halloween and/or the history of the event in various cultures, and I hope you enjoy this year's selections as well.

We're still looking for new team members for the Chicago-based office. I'd really like to find at least one or two more person(s) interested in vol-

unteering as Investigators. Erin Rose and Russell will continue to work with the team, but in a much more limited capacity than before, as they will not always be able to attend all investigation events and meetings. Erin Rose will continue to help with the Social Media sites.



We're also excited to welcome Samantha Yonts to the team, who will be joining us from time to time as well as Photographer and assistant investigator. Joseph will also be joining the investigation team from time to time to assist me with my research while we recruit a few additional members.

We don't have much planned for the upcoming months before winter. I do plan on conducting a new team member orientation and PNP Refresher course in January for new and current members. Remember, in order to remain active on the investiga-

tion team, you must pass the Investigator Certification course, and pass the PNP Refresher annually thereafter.

We're still hot and heavy into updating the last bits and pieces of the Midwest UFO Sightings project. We've had to trim it down from what we originally planned because of so much data on so many sightings, but we think you'll really like what we've narrowed it down to.

Until next time, Happy Halloween and Safe and Happy Ghost Hunting!

**--BOB--**

# **ROCK PARANORMAL NEWS & UPDATES**

***By Robert J. Markin***

## **PARANORMAL INFORMANT TO RESUME QUARTERLY PUBLICATION SCHEDULE!**

That's right! Starting in January, the Paranormal Informant will once again return to a quarterly publication. This means that once this issues goes to "press", I'm already working on the next issue!

### The 2016 Publishing Schedule:

Issue 5:1 - January 15th, 2016

Issue 5:2 - April 15th, 2016

Issue 5:3 - July 15th, 2016

Issue 5:4 - October 15th, 2016

We hope you'll enjoy the once again seasonal approach to the e-zine, as well as more issues with even more paranormal tid-bits delivered to your inbox quarterly! Subscriptions are still free!

## **ROCK PARANORMAL TO PUBLISH IN- VESTIGATION HOW-TO E-BOOK?**

A while ago, we started revamping our Policy and Procedures manual (the same manual we use to train our investigators), and someone cracked a joke that we should turn it into a how-to book.

Well, after some thinking, I've decided, why not? After I've finished revamping the PNP manual for this upcoming year, I'm going to add the rest of the training modules to the book, and release it as a free .pdf download on our website. It will include protocols and procedures for conducting proper paranormal research and investigations, resources for obtaining information, how to use basic equipment, debunking photographic anomalies, and more!

More information will be available soon!

## **ROCK PARANORMAL SEEKING VOLUNTEER INVESTIGATORS...**

Rock Paranormal is looking for a few good people to add to our investigation team in Chicago, Illinois. These person(s) should have a serious interest in the paranormal and paranormal research, not be afraid to go the library or use a computer, shouldn't mind having to write/submit reports, and have a desire to study the unknown. If you think this description fits you, email Founder Bob Markin at [rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com](mailto:rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com).

## **ROCK PARANORMAL WILL BE ON HIATUS FROM AUGUST 30-SEPT 5, 2015. NORMAL OPERATIONS WILL RESUME SEPTEMBER 6, 2015 IN CHICAGO, IL.**

## **WELCOME SAMANTHA YONT'S AS GUEST INVESTIGATION PHOTOGRAPHER!**

### **SIGHTINGS WANTED!**

Submit your sighting of a ghost, UFO, alien, big-foot, or other strange creature to Rock Paranormal, and have it included in our next Local Legends or Living with the Paranormal feature!

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT  
ISSUE (5:2, DUE OUT 1/15/2016) WILL BE  
11:59 PM CDT JANUARY 1ST, 2016.**

**SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE  
DEADLINE WILL BE CONSIDERED/  
INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING ISSUE.**

[www.rockparanormal.net](http://www.rockparanormal.net)

# LOCAL LEGENDS, SIGHTINGS & STORIES

***Compiled by Robert J. Markin***

## SHADOWS FOLLOWED ME HOME...

*Submitted by Anonymous*

I used to hang out in a cemetery with my friends sometimes. We used to just go and walk around, enjoy the peace and quiet so we could talk about the crazy things going on in our lives.

Once, it was a full moon and very late. A friend had stayed over, and we had been drinking and wanted to get outside and enjoy some fresh air. We decided to walk to the cemetery, which wasn't too far from my house.

We walked around a bit before it started to get really cold and the wind picked up. We thought it was strange because it was a really warm summer night in July, so we couldn't understand how it got so cold so quick. We decided to head home and have another drink and grab our hoodies before we came back to do some more strolling.

On the way out, my friend thought he saw someone running through the cemetery up ahead of us. We called out, but no one answered. We figured maybe it was someone trying to scare us, or that we may have scared someone else taking a jog through the cemetery!

We started to head out, shaking a little from the cold but also because we were scared someone was going to jump out at us at any minute. No one did, and we walked through the gates and headed up the street.

This time, I saw the shadow of a person running up ahead of us, and told my friend. He couldn't see anything, so we continued on. We kept seeing someone or something very dark and shadowy run-

ning just ahead of us the entire way home. It darted from tree to tree, or between houses and cars. It moved pretty fast, too.

When we got to my house, we decided not to go back to the cemetery. We took a shot and went out on the veranda in back for a cigarette. It didn't take long for us to see that the shadow thing had followed us home, and was darting back and forth behind some bushes and trees in the back yard. We immediately threw down our cigarettes and went inside.

We didn't sleep very well that night. Every time one of us looked out the window, we saw it, just out there, waiting for us to come back outside.

When morning came, it was no where to be seen. My friend left in a hurry, and we haven't talked much since. I haven't gone back to that cemetery since that night, nor have I gone into any cemetery unless absolutely necessary. Whatever it was that followed me home that night, I got the message. I'll stay out of it's yard, and it'll stay out of mine.





## **PARANORMAL 101:**

# **The Poltergeist Phenomenon**

***By Robert J. Markin***

Most people have seen the movie *Poltergeist*, where a young girl is taken from her family by the malevolent spirits of souls trapped in the hallowed grounds hidden beneath their suburban dream home.

Although I love the movie, it's sequels, and the recent remake, they are really good horror movies. Granted, much of the phenomenon that occurs in the movie (items moving on their own, lights turning on and off, cold spots, etc) are reported during poltergeist phenomenon, poltergeist aren't usually caused by spirits.

That's right. Most of the time, poltergeist phenomenon has a human agent. Yes, a person. In fact, most cases of poltergeist activity occur to pubescent teens, majority female, between ages 11-17. The current theory is that the changes our bodies undergo during puberty, which cause emotional outburst, acts as a trigger for a part of our brains to engage in psychokinesis (the ability to move objects with your mind).

Yet, some others insist that it is caused by lower-level demonic entities or malicious spirits. Both cases have merits, and both angles have been investigated thoroughly through the years by many investigators on many cases.

In going with the psychokinesis theory, parapsychologists and paranormal researchers alike have touted multiple cases, including the Enfield Poltergeist case (See next issue), as demonstrating that emotionally unbalanced or sensitive pubescent teenagers can cause psychokinetic outbursts, acting as an 'agent'.

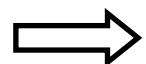


One investigator found that the target of the poltergeist phenomenon he was investigating was always someone with whom the "agent" recently argued or had a disagreement with. Yet others cite cases such as the "Bell Witch" and Borley Rectory as prime examples of Poltergeist Phenomenon.

In the Bell Witch case, a man named John Bell and his family experienced all kinds of paranormal activity, from scratching to hearing heavy breathing and cackling, as well as object levitating and persons being physically attacked. It was rumored that the spirit of an old woman he crossed was seeking revenge. In the end, John Bell was poisoned to death, allegedly by the Bell Witch herself.

Some other angles and research on this case have yielded the possibility that one of John Bell's daughters, emotionally distraught from her drunk and abusive father, was acting as a poltergeist agent, and that she herself was actually the "Bell Witch".

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# PARA101: Poltergeist Phenomenon, Cont'd:

***By Robert J. Markin***

There was also a young female “agent” in the Enfield case, and the Rosenheim Poltergeist case. In each of these cases, furniture or objects would move on their own, lights would flicker/power on or off, and there were levitations of person(s) or objects. In each case, it was determined that there was a specific person acting as an “agent” for the phenomenon.

However, the Borley Rectory case is just a little bit different. Built in 1862, the building was rumored to be haunted since construction. In 1929, reports of activity at the location multiplied, and it was investigated by the infamous Harry Price.

Activity ranged from strange footsteps to ghostly specters, even claiming it's own headless horseman apparition. But the poltergeist-like activity is what intrigued people the most. Just as Harry Price arrived, objects such as stones and vases began to be thrown about the property. Strange rapping and tapping noises were heard that seemed to tap out messages like Morse Code.

However, once investigator Price left, the poltergeist activity seemingly stopped. However, Mr. Price was not the only person to experience

such phenomenon, others reported similar incidents through out the years. One person even reported being attacked by a spirit while in bed.

No specific agent could ever be found for these phenomenon, although it was later revealed that some of it was hoaxed to cover up an extramarital affair. The activity at Borley Rectory continued up until the building was destroyed by fire in 1939,, but some people report strange activity on the property still from time to time.

So, it still isn't very clear exactly what a poltergeist is. Most researchers accept the theory involving the human “agent”, while others still insist its purely paranormal or evil in nature, and it targets a human.

It's hard to say one way or another, as some cases display signs or “symptoms” of multiple types of paranormal phenomenon. It is also true that many reports of demonic activity do include poltergeist-like activity at various stages of the encounter.

You can also have poltergeist-like activity at other hauntings, as well, as some spirits may manifest and throw an object or move something to catch your attention. However, this doesn't necessarily mean that it is a poltergeist.

One of the hardest parts of the field is sorting out all of the events and incidents and trying to determine exactly what type of spirit you are dealing with (see our past issues of the Informant for information on the types of ghosts, spirits and hauntings!)

In the event you deal with a classic poltergeist, the kind with a human agent, the best way to find a resolution is to determine what is causing the agent to “act out”, and try to find resolution for the individual and family at the source of the issue.





# **ASK ROCK PARANORMAL!**

***By Robert J. Markin***



We've had such a great response to the Ask Rock Paranormal Column, but one of our readers (Ann from Chicago, IL) brought up the fact that since I am the

one always writing the responses, that perhaps it should just be an Ask Robert column!

Well, we decided to do just that. Ask Rock Paranormal will become Ask Paranormal Bob! You will still be able to ask all of your Rock Paranormal questions as well as any general paranormal questions you may have! So let's get started!

**Q: Have you ever encountered a demon and what happened if you did? - Amber, Janesville**

*A: Well, Amber, I would say that we have encountered some dark spirits, possibly even a few malevolent entities, but I do not think we have encountered a demon specifically before (at least not one that made it known).*

*Demons are believed to be evil beings that were once angels that fell from God's graces. Many times, the result of an encounter with a demon is possession. Although Erin Rose and I both have experienced possession, I do not believe that either of us were possessed by a demon, either.*

*So I guess the answer is that no, we have not encountered a demon. Sorry, Amber!*

**Q: What's your favorite piece of equipment to take with you on an investigation?**

**-Bradeen, Clinton, WI**

*A: Well, my favorite thing to bring is a camera or audio re-*

*recorder. Those are always where you find the best evidence, IMHO. Don't get my wrong, I love using an EMF and I'm particularly fond of a MEL Meter, but nothing is more exciting than analyzing your evidence after an investigation and coming across those photos or sound bits that you didn't see or hear while you were investigating.*

**Q: Where is your favorite place to investigate in Wisconsin? - Alesia, Barron, WI**

*A: Alesia, there are so many places in Wisconsin alone that it's hard to pick just one! If I had to narrow it down, I'd say that Fulton Cemetery was always very interesting. I didn't get the chance to get up to Summervind in Lake Somerset yet, but that is one of Wisconsin's most famous hauntings (you can read about it in one of our earlier issues of the Informant).*

*There are literally dozens and dozens of books about Wisconsin and Midwest ghosts and hauntings. Even though I've read several of them multiple times, I always find more places every time I pick one of them up. Plus, there are always the stories and sightings that aren't reported in books or online. If you are interested in finding a few places to check out, try asking around. There's always a hidden tale or two in urban legend for a fun place to check out. Just be careful!*

**That's it for this issue's Ask Rock Paranormal!**

**Don't forget that starting next issue, this column will be called "Ask Paranormal Bob"!**

**To Submit Questions to "Ask Paranormal Bob", email: [rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com](mailto:rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com)**

**By emailing your question, you give Robert Markin and Rock Paranormal permission to edit and publish it online and in the Paranormal Informant E-Magazine.**

**ASK PARANORMAL BOB!**



# HAUNTED CHICAGO

*By Robert J. Markin*

## GHOST STORIES FROM THE WINDY CITY...

Every person in Chicago has either heard of or has their own ghost story or two to share. Being one of the oldest and largest metropolitan areas in the history of our country (being one of the largest cities in the world, matter of fact!), it comes as no surprise when someone tells a tale of a ghostly spirit trotting around town.

There are numerous ghost stories in Chicago, so it's hard to narrow down the "best" to showcase for you. So, we've decided to start a featured column. Every issue, we will relate a few of the crazy, scary, or even funny ghost stories that have dotted the Windy City's history and lore for centuries.

In this issue, we will discuss Chicago's most famous hitch-hiking phantoms (But there are so many to choose from!) Chicago boasts several leg-

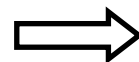
ends of phantom hitch-hikers, but only a few of them have stories that collaborate with actual facts.

### **HITCH-HIKING RESURRECTION MARY**

Nearly everyone has heard of the classic phantom hitch-hiker scenario. A driver sees a hitch-hiking woman late at night on the side of the road. They pick her up, and take her to her home. However, when they arrive, the woman is nowhere to be found, and when they inquire about her, they discover that she has been dead for a long time.

Chicago is no stranger to these scenarios. Multiple witnesses have reported picking up a wide range of spirits along the roadside over the years. One of the most famous is Resurrection Mary.

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Several men since the 1930s have reported seeing Resurrection Mary while driving along Archer Avenue in Chicago. She is most often spotted walking between the Willowbrook Ballroom and Resurrection Cemetery (hence the name Resurrection Mary).

Almost all of them report the exact same scenario. They see a young female hitchhiking along the road. She is wearing a formal-esque white party dress and has blonde hair and blue eyes. Some say she wears a shawl, dancing shoes, and carries a small purse. All report that she is very quiet and timid.

As the driver is proceeding to take her “home”, she usually requests to be let off right near Resurrection Cemetery, where she disappears into the night. One ghost hunter in Chicago named Richard Crowe claims to have gathered over three dozen reports of encounters with Resurrection Mary, ranging from the 1930s to present time.

It is rumored that Mary went out with her boyfriend at the then Oh Henry Ballroom. At some point, an argument ensued, and Mary stormed out into the cold winter’s night in a rage. She was walking up Archer Avenue when she was struck and killed in a hit-and-run accident, and was found by her parents. She is rumored to be herself buried in Resurrection Cemetery, wearing a beautiful white

dancing dress and shoes. The person who killed Mary was never found.

Sightings began in the 1930s, and peaked in the 1970s and 1980s. There is also legend that she burned her handprints into the iron fencing surrounding the cemetery. Attempts have been made to paint over the markings, but they keep coming back no matter how many coats are used.

A taxi driver in 1979 reported picking up a young blonde woman on Archer Avenue who asked him to stop at the Cemetery and vanished before she could even exit his cab.

Many researchers believe that Resurrection Mary is the ghost of Mary Bregovy, who died in a 1934 car accident while driving on the Chicago Loop downtown. Ursula Bielski, who authored Chicago Haunts, traced a connection to a Anna Marija (Maria) Norkus, who died in 1927 in an auto accident on the way home from the Oh Henry Ballroom, which many now accept as the most potential candidate to be our spirit hitch-hiking lady.

Resurrection Mary has been featured in folklore, multiple research papers, and even has been featured in a few songs, most notably “Resurrection Mary” by Ian Hunter on his 1996 album the Artful Dodger.



***EVER THOUGHT OF BEING A  
REAL-LIFE GHOST HUNTER?***

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good people interested in serious  
paranormal research. Interested?**

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[Facebook.com/RockParanormal](https://Facebook.com/RockParanormal)  
[rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com](mailto:rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com)**



**THE W FILES**  
[w-files.com](http://w-files.com)



**GhostStop**  
Ghost Hunting Equipment [.com](http://ghoststop.com)



# 2015 HALLOWEEN & FALL EVENTS CALENDAR

By Robert J. Markin

This time of year, everyone's out for a little bit of Halloween fun! As we do every year, we are providing a list of great places to check out and visit this Halloween season! (Please remember to check dates/times/pricing on the event's website, as it is subject to change. Rock Paranormal is not responsible for opinions or information listed on third-party websites.)



*Winner of Chicago Halloween Awards Best Haunted House and Best Overall Halloween Event Awards.*

Located between Milwaukee and Chicago near the Racine/Kenosha area. Call 262-886-1182 for more information, or visit:  
[www.abandonedhauntedhouse.com](http://www.abandonedhauntedhouse.com)

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Located just moments from I-43 in Milwaukee, 1 hour from Chicago. Sure to scare you.  
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The Haunted Barn is back and better than ever! We're excited to announce that the Haunted Barn in Stoughton has returned to scare the crap out of you! Opening in October, Check them out at:  
[www.thehauntedbarnstoughton.com](http://www.thehauntedbarnstoughton.com)



This is supposed to be the most terrifying haunted house in the Midwest. Two Haunted Houses combined into one, boasts to be too intense for many! Named "America's Best Haunted Attraction"  
[www.13thfloorchicago.com](http://www.13thfloorchicago.com)

## PALOS PARANORMAL CONFERENCE

*Moraine Valley Community College  
Near 111th St & 92nd Ave, Chicago, IL*  
Visit and talk with paranormal researchers, UFO investigators, Author Ursula Bielski (Author of the Chicago Haunts books) and more!  
October 10-11, 2015, Tickets \$15  
visit: [palosparanormal.com](http://palosparanormal.com) for more info!



## **America's Most Haunted Places:** **BACHELOR'S GROVE CEMETERY**

***By Robert J. Markin***

This small, abandoned cemetery hides in Bremen Township, just outside of Chicago in the Southwest Suburbs in Cook County, Illinois. It has been cited time and time again as one of the most haunted, if not the most haunted cemetery in the Midwest, if not the entire United States.

The location was founded around 1840 after a group of English Settlers from New England began to inhabit the area. It contains 82 plots, most of which have never been sold or used.

There are rumors that burials started in the cemetery as early as the 1830s, when German immigrant workers who while working on the Michigan and Illinois Canal were killed were reportedly buried at this location. It is also rumored to have been a dumping ground for some of Chicago's gangsters during the 1920s and 1930s, but this has never been proven.

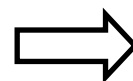
There have been multiple reports of various

phenomenon over the years, most of which entails floating balls of light and/or orbs, and near crashes with phantom vehicles.

There have also been reports of a "White Lady", also known as the "White Madonna", who is reported to appear during a full moon, and walks the graveyard while carrying an infant.

There is also reports of a Phantom Farmhouse. This farmhouse is reported to appear as a solid house in the distance to the onlooker, but then either shimmers, floats, seemingly moves or completely disappears. There are also reports of spirit monks wearing robes roaming throughout the cemetery, and encounters with a mysterious "Black Dog".

Claims of paranormal activity peaked between 1970-1980, and many paranormal researchers visited the location and documented their experiences. CONTINUED NEXT PAGE...





## BACHELOR'S GROVE CEMETERY, Cont'd...

Most researchers reported not being able to capture any anomalous photographs, but many reported that cameras wouldn't function properly, or that film simply wouldn't expose during investigations. Many investigators also reported the classic "battery drain" phenomenon.

The Ghost Research Society conducted multiple investigations into the reports, and they were able to obtain a few images containing reported ectoplasm and orbs (we are unable to publish those photos here). There was also a photo taken by an individual in 1991 that includes a full-figure image

of a ghostly figure. It was never proven to be "genuine" or a fake, but remains a mystery.

The cemetery is located just Northwest of Midlothian and Oak Forest, close to the Rubio Woods Forest Preserve located on the Midlothian Turnpike near where it intersects with Central Avenue. There is no direct driveway into the cemetery, you will have to park and walk.

If you do visit Bachelor's Grove, we encourage you to visit only during the day and do not go alone. Do not visit at night. This cemetery has been plagued by vandals, partying teenagers, and even satanic activity. The local police do monitor activity at this cemetery, and you will be prosecuted for trespassing.

We recommend visiting this location at least once in your life. Rock Paranormal is in the process of completing a full research inquiry on Bachelor's Grove Cemetery.

Although we haven't spoken with anyone who has any photos or hard evidence, we have heard some interesting stories and tales about people's encounters with whatever it is that haunts and lurks in Bachelor's Grove Cemetery.

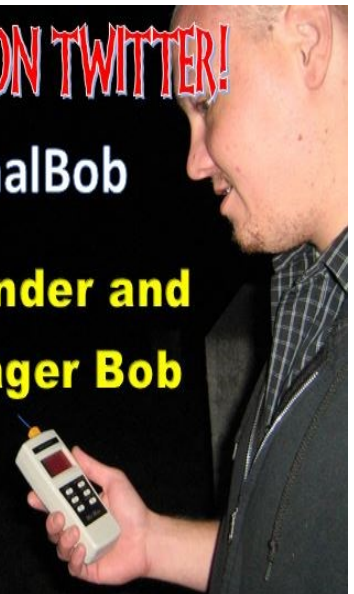


Bachelor's Grove Cemetery is located in Bremen Township just outside of Chicago. The cemetery is under constant surveillance, and trespassing is discouraged. Images from Wikipedia/Google.

**FOLLOW BOB ON TWITTER!**

**@ParanormalBob**

**Follow Founder and  
Team Manager Bob  
Markin on  
Twitter!**





## **FAMOUS CASES:**

# **The Haunted Winchester House**

***By Robert J. Markin***



Sarah Winchester, heir to the Winchester rifle fortune (and according to her, the Winchester Family Curse), believed that she was being haunted by the spirits of everyone ever killed by a Winchester Rifle. A psychic advised her to construct the seemingly-endless Winchester Mystery house to help her hide from and confuse the ghosts that were haunting her.

The home, a modified Queen-Anne Style Victorian, located on South Winchester Boulevard in San Jose, California, is massive. Construction began in 1884 and didn't stop until Sarah Winchester passed away in September 1922, even after a massive earthquake destroyed half of the house in 1906.

Before the earthquake, the home soared up into the sky seven stories, but after the earthquake

was made only to the current four stories that still stand today. Built on a floating foundation, the house contains approximately 160 rooms, however it is estimated that between 500-600 rooms have been built, tore down and rebuilt over the years of continuous construction on the house.

Boasting gold and silver plated chandeliers, ornate decorative pieces and furniture, parquet floors and art glass made by Tiffany's of New York, the home's estimated value is nearly incomprehensible. There are forty-seven fireplaces, hundreds of windows, stairways that lead to no where, dead-ends, maze-like hallways and corridors.

Sarah Winchester lived in the home during its construction, and remained there for her entire life. She stayed mostly in the Daisy Bedroom...



# The Haunted Winchester House, Cont'd...

...but also spent many nights in her special-built séance room, where she would try to communicate to the spirit world and with her long-lost love, William. It is said that she derived her construction changes and plans from these séances.

Once Sarah died, construction immediately stopped. After nearly forty straight years of construction, the home was still unfinished. After Sarah passed, rumors of her spirit haunting the séance room and the Daisy bedroom began to surface.

The Winchester House has since been purchased and reopened as a tourist attraction. Visitors can tour many of the rooms and get lost in the hallways. There is also a gift shop and small café on premises. You can literally spend all day walking the house and the grounds, and still miss out on most of it.

Is the Winchester House haunted by Sarah Winchester? Is it still haunted by the same spirits

Sarah was running from when she was alive? Many people who have visited the property say “yes!”

Many witnesses have seen the apparition of Sarah Winchester in the Daisy Bedroom and the Séance room, but there have also been reports of other spirits roaming the property. One workman who was working on a restoration project at the home found himself following the spirit of what appeared to be another workman!

Tours are offered daily at the Winchester House. You should plan and buy your tickets ahead of time, as space tends to fill up fast. I would totally recommend making a day trip out of it. I'm sure you'll want to go back again very soon!

For more information about the Winchester House, it's history, or for tour information, you can visit the home's official website at:  
[www.winchestermysteryhouse.com](http://www.winchestermysteryhouse.com).



The Winchester Mystery House as it appears today (photo from Wikipedia/com). Although some of the house is still undergoing construction to make it habitable/accessible, majority of the house is accessible to guests. They also now have a license which allows alcoholic beverage service. For tour information, visit [www.winchestermysteryhouse.com](http://www.winchestermysteryhouse.com)!



# GHOST STORIES FOR ALL HALLOW'S EVE...

***By Robert J. Markin***

Just in time for Halloween, I've decided to share some of the best "It happened on Halloween" stories that I've been able to collect over the years. I hope you enjoy them as much as I have! So without further ado, here are some Ghost Stories for All Hallow's Eve...

## GHOSTS IN THE GRAVEYARD

Every year for Halloween, my friends and I put together our own Halloween displays at our house to wow the trick-or-treaters. After Trick-or-Treat, we usually get together for a fun night of drinking, Halloween shenanigans and scary movies.

We usually always end up at a Cemetery. This year, the five of us decided to check out a few cemeteries. The first few, although frighteningly fun with the full moon and spirit of the evening, didn't have anything too strange happen. It was when we were at our last Cemetery playing "Hide-and-Go-Seek" amongst the gravestones that things started to get weird.

At first, we noticed that it seemed to get a little colder really quick, and that the wind began to pick up. You could hear the barren tree branches snapping and dancing in the wind. Dry leaves spun around and twirled through the air. It was then that we heard the "thunk".

It was very loud, and we couldn't see what caused it. We didn't give it much thought at first, until it happened again, even louder. That's when we saw that something dark was moving around in the trees surrounding the cemetery.

Thinking we were being duped on Halloween, we thought it would be a good idea to turn the tides of our would-be hunter. We saw that it appeared to be one person, hiding in the trees. We decided to pretend to leave, but after we turned out of

the cemetery, we would kill the lights, and two of us would exit and come back and scare the crap out of our "haunter".

We executed the plan, and when we turned out of the long cemetery drive way, we killed the lights, and two of us jumped out quick and started to make our way through the woods towards where we had seen the person hiding.

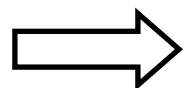
It didn't take us long to find where he had been hiding and see where we were just hanging out in the cemetery. However, our Hunter was nowhere to be found. We kept low and hidden, and tried finding our Hunter in the graveyard. We didn't see him anywhere, and after about ten minutes of looking, we decided to just give up and head back home for a few more drinks and to start our annual Halloween Bon-Fire.

As we were making our exit through the woods towards the car, we felt like we were being watched. We kept looking around, but couldn't see anyone or anything watching us. When we finally got into the car, our other friend was nervously waiting.

She said she kept hearing voices and seeing movement in the cemetery, but it wasn't us. She said she could see where we had been hiding, and that something or someone else was still in there. Kind of scared, we jumped in the car.

As we turned the headlights back on, we were terrified when right in front of the car...

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE...





# GHOST STORIES FOR ALL HALLOW'S EVE...

***By Robert J. Markin***

Appeared the black figure from the woods. Except this wasn't a man. You could see what appeared to be an outline of a man, but it was all shadow. Our car headlights shined right through the figure and onto the trees and road behind him. His long, black arms were outstretched and reaching for us. He made this terrible moaning sound that sounded like nails on a chalkboard.

My friend threw the car in reverse, and we spun a 180 and took off in the other direction. When we looked behind us, we couldn't see anything anymore, but that didn't stop us from driving straight home that night.

Needless to say, we didn't get very drunk that night at the bon-fire. We were terrified of what we saw in the cemetery that night. All night, we kept looking over our shoulders and checking strange shadows to make sure nothing followed us home. And that was the last night we visited a cemetery on Halloween.

## **THE JACK-O-LANTERN GHOST**

I always love carving pumpkins. It's my favorite thing to do for Halloween. I can't carve enough pumpkins. I have my own traditions every year where I carve the pumpkins on Halloween Day, light them just before Trick-or-Treat, and keep them lit at least until midnight or later.

I heard a story when I was a kid about why we have Jack-O-Lanterns. The light of the Jack-O-Lantern is supposed to ward off evil spirits that may come across the veil between worlds when it is at it's thinnest on Halloween Night. They actually used to carve turnips, I believe, and carry them with them like a flashlight.

Anyway, one year, I was particularly upset because with all of the madness in my personal life at the time, I had forgotten to buy pumpkins in advance. Racing around on Halloween, I couldn't find a single place that had any pumpkins left. Devastated, I drove home upset with myself and confused because I wouldn't be able to keep with my Halloween tradition.

Then, as I was just a few blocks from my house, I saw this old woman with a pickup truck selling pumpkins in a parking lot. I was so thrilled. She was very enthusiastic and cut me a great deal on several pumpkins. Needless to say, I was excited!

Once I got home, I carved the pumpkins. This year, however, it felt different. The faces that I carved weren't my normal style of carving. They seemed almost alive. When I carved the eyes, it felt like they were watching me.

Posting it up as "Halloween Heebie-jeebies", I just went about finishing the carving and placing them around my home. Near Trick-or-Treat, I couldn't find my matches to light the candles. To my surprise, however, all of the pumpkins already had their candles lit. I had not done it, and I was the only one home. I thought maybe I had done it and forgotten, and again went about my business.

The strange thing was, I never had to replace any of the candles. I use the little tea light candles, which usually burn out after a few hours, but this night they burned for a solid ten hours. It was nearing two in the morning when I was wrapping up my Halloween's Eve activities. When I went to extinguish the candles, they had already extinguished themselves. I think I had a friendly ghost that year that just wanted to give me a hand.

**Bob's 2015**

# HALLOWEEN & HORROR HIT LIST!

**By Robert J. Markin**

Here it is! What we've been looking forward to all year! Halloween is finally here, and everyone is excited for Trick-or-Treat, or to hit up that favorite Haunted House! While you are out and about celebrating the Halloween Season, you may want to check out some of these books and movies that will give you a good scare! (We are not affiliated with the authors/producers, and are not responsible for content or opinions presented in the following books/movies)



## LEARN ABOUT HAUNTED CHICAGO WITH URSULA BIELSKI!



Ursula Bielski takes you on a haunted tour through Chicago in her books *Chicago Haunts* and *More Chicago Haunts*, both available on Amazon or at your local book retailer.

You can read about historic haunts, phantom hitch-hikers, vengeful spirits, playful spirits, dark entities stalking you through the huge and ancient graveyards dotting Chicago's landscape, and more. Read about the hauntings of Wacker Drive, Resurrection Mary, and more!

I love these books. Ursula really does her research, and she tells you the entire story (sometimes all the variations of each story, as well!). You can also learn about Bachelor's Grove Cemetery, one of the most haunted places in Chicago, perhaps even the United States!

I would highly recommend picking up one of these (or even any one of her other paranormal books, they're all good!) and giving it a read this Halloween season. It'll give you the chills, and if you are near the area, you might even want to take a hike and check out the haunt for yourself (no trespassing, of course!).

This is a great book to pick up for a good true ghost story on a cool, fall evening. It goes great with a pumpkin spice latte or cup of warm apple cider and a crackling fire.

Don't miss out on these books. Check them out from your library or get a copy for yourself online or at your local retailer today!

*(We are not affiliated with Ursula Bielski or her publishers.)*

# HALLOWEEN & HORROR HIT LIST!

**By Robert J. Markin**

## AT THE MOVIES:

### GOOSEBUMPS: THE MOVIE

I know all of you read R.L. Stine's Goosebumps series when you were kids, and we've been waiting for years for this to happen. Just in time for Halloween, The Goosebumps Movie premieres October 16th.

### PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION

Yes, they did another sequel. Although I haven't even seen The Marked Ones yet, I plan on watching it just in time to catch this one in theatres. Although more of a shock-and-scare fest than a true paranormal movie, it still makes for a good scare. This movie premieres October 23.

### VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN

We all have seen the original Universal Studios Frankenstein, and perhaps even Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, but this entire new take promises to be a Frankenstein you won't forget! 11/25/2015.

### KRAMPUS

Do I even need to say anything about this? We've heard the stories and legends of Krampus, but this movie promises to be a Christmas scare-fest I don't think anyone can wait for! Premieres 12/4/2015!

## VIDEO/DVD RELEASES:

### POLTERGEIST

The scary but unnecessary remake to the original, which features several homages to the original, is being released on DVD and Blu-Ray 9/4/2015!

### INSIDIOUS: CHAPTER 3

These are some of the best paranormal movies that have come out of late, right up with the Conjuring series. This one promises to be even more of a scare than the previous two! Chapter 3 is released on Blu-Ray and DVD on October 13th, 2015.

### TALES OF HALLOWEEN

Ten stories woven together by their shared theme of Halloween Night (sound familiar? A little Trick R' Treat-esque?) and is being released by Video-On-Demand in select markets/providers. October 16.

### THE EXORCISM OF MOLLY HARTLEY

Molly Hartley, now all grown up, is being possessed by evil spirits and must seek help before it's too late! The sequel to the Haunting of Molly Hartley makes it way to Blu-Ray and DVD on October 20th.

**HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HALLOWEEN  
FROM PARANORMAL BOB AND THE  
ROCK PARANORMAL TEAM!**



# **INVESTIGATION TIPS & TRICKS:**

## **Interviewing Witnesses...**

***By Robert J. Markin***

One of the most important parts of the investigation process is interviewing the witnesses. The witness is the entire reason you are conducting the investigation. They will be hereinafter referred to as “the client” or “the witness”.

So, the client has come to you, and reported something paranormal. You’ve had them fill out a report form, and they’ve consented to be interviewed because they’d like an investigation.

### **SETTING UP THE INTERVIEW**

One of the most important things to remember is that when you meet with the client for the first time, you will want to make them as comfortable as possible. Ask them if they have a preference for a meeting place. It can be at a coffee shop, their home, or even your office. Don’t force them into a meeting place. You want the client to be comfortable enough to open up and tell us all the details of their experience(s).

Once you pick a place, make sure you have the right equipment. Take only one other person with you if necessary, but if you are meeting the client by themselves, it might be best to meet them solo the first time.

Break the ice and introduce yourself. Ask the client if they have any questions about the pro-

cess, you or the organization you represent. Do your best to answer all of their questions about the process ahead of time, as it will help put them at ease and help establish trust between you and the client.

Once you have established trust, you can start the actual interview process.

### **THE INTERVIEW**

Once the client is comfortable, start any recording devices, and open your notebook. Note the pertinent information, such as name, time/date, and what equipment you are using to record the interview. Then, ask the witness to recall their encounter in full.

As they tell their story, listen carefully. Take notes while you are listening about anything that

seems odd or that you want to ask follow-up questions about later. Make notes about the witnesses physical and emotional states, and any other observations you deem pertinent to the investigation.

Make sure you check your recording devices from time-to-time. You don’t want to have run out of tape halfway through the interview and not realized you didn’t record it!

CONTINUED... ➡

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when you grew up?**

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## **INV. T&T: Interviewing Witnesses Cont'd...**

After the witness has recalled their entire account, that's when you start to ask questions. At Rock Paranormal, we utilize a set of "Scripts" with necessary questions about the background of the location, the witnesses, and they delve into greater detail about encounter specifics.

This would also be the time where you would want to ask any follow-up questions that you thought of when you were listening to the client retell their story. Try to ask open-ended questions, and if you get a yes-or-no answer, try asking probing follow-up questions.

Remember, the point of the interview is to gather as much background information about all aspects of the case from the witness before the actual investigation. Once you have asked all the questions you can think of, it's time to conclude the interview and move on to the next steps of the investigation process.

### **WRAPPING UP THE INTERVIEW**

Once you have completed the interview, obviously thank the client for their participation. Depending on your group or organization's specific policies, you may ask them to schedule the investigation vigil at that time, or tell them you will be in touch in a few days to schedule the vigil.

Turn off all of your recorders, and note the end times in your log-book/notebook. You should have the audio recording of the interview

transcribed as soon as possible. This will help you later in your research to be able to recall specific information from the witness without having to re-member where it is on a tape or recording.

You should consult with your team manager at this point, and determine what next steps you should take. You will have gleaned enough information from the witness to be able to establish starting points for the Investigation Vigil and your historical/background research.

You may find it necessary to conduct additional interviews as the investigation progresses. Sometimes, information comes up during research or investigation that warrants additional interviewing and questioning.

***In the Next Issue's Investigation Tips & Tricks Column, we're going to explore conducting Historical and Background Research! See you then!***





# A Brief History of Spirit Photography...

***By Robert J. Markin***

Spirit photography is where investigators or researchers use photographs in an attempt to capture ghosts or spirit energies on film. The history of spirit photography dates back to the late 19th century, when William Mumler discovered the technique by accident. In an 1860s photo of himself, he found a second person, which he determined was a double exposure.

He began working as a medium, using Spirit Photography as his draw. He would doctor negatives and add “lost loved ones” into the backgrounds using other photos as his basis. Eventually, his fraud was discovered after he accidentally used a photo of an identifiable living person who was supposed to someone else’s loved one as a spirit.

Eventually, other Spirit Photographers began to emerge. Fred Hudson started photographing for Spiritualists and other mediums around 1872. The phenomenon remained popular into the 20th century with support from famous folks such as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and William Crookes (the pioneer of the vacuum tube).

William Stainton Moses, a famous spiritualist, first started to claim that ectoplasm, a fluidic substance through which spirit energy manifests itself, was the source of spirit photography’s images.

William Hope was one of the world’s most renowned spirit photographers until psychic researcher Harry Price revealed him as a fraud. Price secretly etched a logo into all of Hope’s photographic plates, so that when they were developed, would show the specific logo Mr. Price had selected.

However, after taking several ghost photos for Mr. Price, none of Hope’s photos contained the

logo etched on the plates by Price, thus proving that Hope was changing out the “new” plates for ones that already contained pre-exposed elements so he could make a double exposure trick possible.

Later in his career, Harry Price indicated that there has been “no good evidence that a spirit photograph has ever been produced”. This is also the same view shared by majority of psychical and paranormal researchers.

Most Spirit Photographers were eventually proven to be frauds or hoaxers, most using double exposure or being unable to reproduce results in a controlled environment.

Today, we are plagued by just as many photographs and videos all over the internet claiming to have captured paranormal activity. Many people cite orbs (spherical balls of energy) in many pictures, but fail to realize that dust, moisture, or even bugs can appear as orbs (and most often cause the most frequent cases of false positives). Or, they get a misty form on their photo that they didn’t see when they took the picture, not realizing that it’s ten degrees outside and they are breathing.

However, there are still quite a few “good” and unexplainable photos that come up time and time again. It is the job of the paranormal researcher to analyze these photos, test them for signs of fakery, and to investigate these cases to determine if they are indeed paranormal. Try to recreate the photos, and don’t just assume that because the person believes that it is paranormal, doesn't mean that it necessarily is truly paranormal in nature. Investigate all potential causes for phenomenon captured in pictures. It is our duty as investigators and researchers to leave no stone unturned, especially when it comes to spirit photographs and videos.

# Rock Paranormal Team Events Calendar

## OCTOBER 2015

### **\*Grand Re-Opening Celebration\***

*New Store opens online! Big Website Updates!*

[www.rockparanormal.net](http://www.rockparanormal.net)

### **October Training Investigation**

*Locations TBD, Date TBA, RSVP for details*

[www.rockparanormal.net](http://www.rockparanormal.net)

## NOVEMBER 2015

### **New Member Recruitment & Training**

*Interested in becoming a Paranormal Researcher?*

*Visit our Website for more information:*

[www.rockparanormal.net](http://www.rockparanormal.net)

## DECEMBER 2015

### **Team Christmas Party**

*Sat. Dec 19th, 6p-9p, Location TBA, RSVP*

[www.rockparanormal.net](http://www.rockparanormal.net)

## JANUARY 2016

### **Paranormal Informant Issue 5:1**

*Quarterly Publication Schedule Resumes*

[www.rockparanormal.net](http://www.rockparanormal.net)

## FEBRUARY 2016

### **Team Meeting & Investigator Training**

*Sat, Feb., 20th, 6p-9p, Location TBA*

*Date Subject to Change, please RSVP*

## MARCH 2016

### **Team Meeting & Training Investigation**

*Location will be outdoors, weather permitting.*

*Sat. Mar. 12, 4p-7p, Please RSVP*

## APRIL 2016

### **Paranormal Informant Issue 5:2**

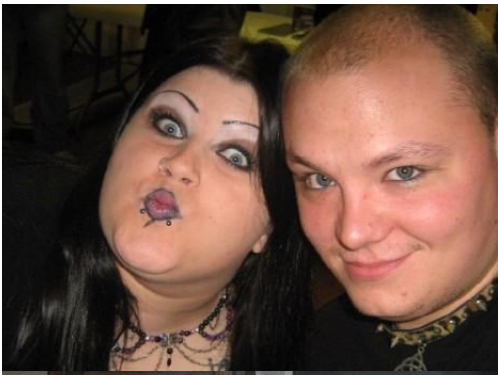
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**HALLOWEEN**  
**Photo Collage**

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## TEAM MEMBERS WANTED

Rock Paranormal seeking a few good people to join our team of investigators. Must be interested in serious paranormal research, be willing to conduct historical research, write reports, and participate in trainings and other events. Membership is voluntary. For more information, visit [www.rockparanormal.net](http://www.rockparanormal.net), or email us at: [rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com](mailto:rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com)

more information, contact Bob at [rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com](mailto:rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com)

## ADVERTISE HERE!

Advertise your paranormal group, event, or otherwise occult-related items in our free classifieds! Limited space per issue, first come, first serve! Non-paranormal-related advertisements will be rejected. Contact Bob at: [rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com](mailto:rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com)

## CALLING ALL PARA-EVENTS!

Do you run/own a ghost tour bus? Perhaps a paranormal tourism center? Are you looking to increase your customer count and connections? Look no further! Contact Bob at Rock Paranormal, and advertise your business for free in the Paranormal Informant!

[www.rockparanormal.net](http://www.rockparanormal.net)

## WANT TO DO A GHOST HUNT?

Rock Paranormal is beginning to plan for a few ghost hunts in the 2016 year, and we are looking for volunteers to help coordinate these events! You may be required to help coordinate tourists, assist with equipment and reporting, providing refreshments, and be willing to help answer questions. Training provided, and you'll even get a free T-Shirt! For more information, please contact Bob at Rock Paranormal: [rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com](mailto:rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com)

## LOOKING TO BUY EQUIPMENT

I am looking to purchase a used, good-working EMF or MEL Meter for my team. Not looking for ELF, prefer Gauss Master or similar. Reasonable prices paid. Contact Bob @ [rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com](mailto:rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com)

## DONATIONS NEEDED/WANTED!

Rock Paranormal is seeking donations of old paranormal and occult-related books, movies, and other media. We are looking to amass a large reference library that will be available to the public for paranormal research. For more information or to donate, please contact Bob: [rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com](mailto:rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com)

## CALLING ALL HAUNTS!

Do you own/operate a haunted house? Either an actual haunted house (such as a Haunted Bed & Breakfast or similar public-access locations), or even an amusement-type haunted house? Are you looking to boost your customer base and call attention to your business? Advertise in the Paranormal Informant for free! For

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**Markin, Team Manager:**

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**[rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com](mailto:rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com)**

# IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE PARANORMAL INFORMANT

The next issue of the PARANORMAL INFORMANT is due out January 2016! It's going to jam-packed full of paranormal peculiarities, so be sure to check it out!

## **ARTICLES IN NEXT ISSUE INCLUDE:**

**Famous Case: The Enfield Poltergeist**

**More Local Legends & Strange Sightings!**

**Historic Haunts: Borley Rectory**

**The Roswell UFO Incident & Area 51**

**Paranormal Tips & Tricks: Conducting Background Research**

**Spiritualism: Introduction to Beliefs and History...**

**Big Change in 2015 News & Updates**

**Encounters with Extra-terrestrial Biological Entities (EBEs)**

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**NEW! Chicago Ghost Stories...**

**& SO MUCH MORE...**

**Check it out January 15th, 2016!**

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for more information.

### More About Rock Paranormal

Rock Paranormal was founded and is operated by Robert (Bob) Markin. You can contact him with questions in regards to this publication, the organization, it's activities, or for membership information. Please email:  
[bob@rockparanormal.net](mailto:bob@rockparanormal.net)

If you would like to submit something for the Paranormal Informant, such as a response to our PSYCH101 Column, a Question for Ask Rock Paranormal, or any inquiries to the editor/publisher of the Paranormal Informant, Robert (Bob) Markin, can be directed to:

[rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com](mailto:rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com)

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