

THE PARANORMAL INFORMANT

Volume 5, Issue 2/4

Spring/April 2016

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Chicago Ghost Stories!

USING A OUIJA/SPIRIT BOARD

THE BELL WITCH HAUNTING

The Haunting of Black Hope

ROCK PARANORMAL & ODD BOB UPDATES

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<http://oddbob.tripod.com/>



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 Robert Markin and 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 Odd Bob Investigations and is the sole-proprietor of Odd Bob Collectibles.

ERIN ROSE TOLLEFSEN is the Assistant Lead Investigator at Odd Bob Investigations 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 Odd Bob Investigation's acting 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., and is eager to join the hunt.

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.

SAMANTHA YONTS joined Rock Paranormal/Odd Bob Investigations as Investigation Photographer. She has had an interest in the paranormal for several years, and takes wonderful investigation photos for the team.

MELISSA LeBARON rejoined the team as an Editor's Assistant. She helps Robert and the rest of the team proofread their articles and format them for this publication! Melissa has a degree in Journalism, and has worked as a reporter for multiple publications. She is a welcome asset to the team!



THE PARANORMAL INFORMANT

Published by Robert Markin & Rock Paranormal

2016 Publishing Year

ROCK PARANORMAL RESEARCH & INVESTIGATIONS

<http://www.rockparanormal.net/>

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A Note from Founder “Odd” Bob Markin...

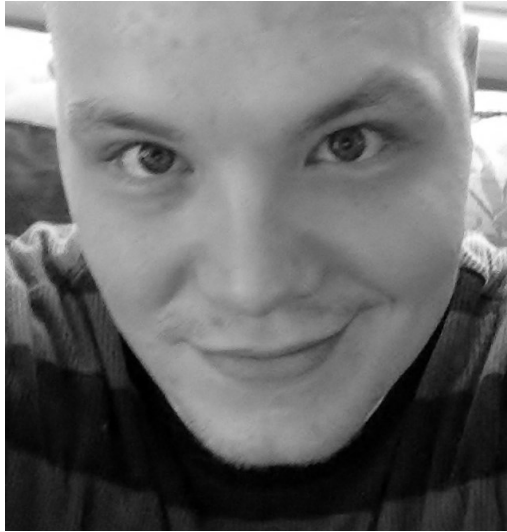
Spring time is here, and we are gearing up to start our 2016 Official “Season”. Now that the weather is more permitting (aside from the occasional spatter of cold and reminder that Mother Nature can do what she pleases), we will be able to get outdoors and access some wonderful locations.

This year, I am planning a trip to Starved Rock State Park so we can do some investigating of the grounds where alleged haunting activity occurs. I am also trying to plan a trip to the infamous Bachelor’s Grove Cemetery in Midlothian, Illinois.

I am also excited to announce that I will begin my “Find-A-Grave” activities again in the coming weeks. Since my move to Chicago, I discovered that I am literally a block a way from some of the largest and oldest cemeteries in the Chicago area! I’m so excited to visit and take a few photos, and hopefully secure map(s) so I can start taking photo requests very soon!

In the coming few weeks, I plan on getting the last bits and pieces of the “Odd Bob” project completed. I will be launching the Odd Bob Online Stores official website by the end of the month, and I also expect to have finally secured all the necessary tools and equipment to offer my hand-crafted items and energy cleansing kits. The T-Shirt printing is still on hold, as I am trying to secure a printing device (but may just decide to do it the “old fashioned way” by hand). More information will be posted about these events on all of my social media outlets as it happens.

Also, you will see a few changes in the Para-



normal Informant in the coming issues. With both time- and space-constraints, I will be thinning out future issues of the Informant so that they can be more easily uploaded/downloaded to and from our website. This will mean smaller issues with a few less articles, but I will be focusing more on the quality of the articles in the coming issues instead of the volume and variety.

The Paranormal Informant will continue to publish on it’s quarterly publication schedule, however, as indicated, there will be fewer articles in each issue. We will also be eliminating the “Paranormal Classifieds”.

With that, I leave you to explore this issue of the Informant! Some of my favorite famous cases are being featured in this issue, and I can’t wait to hear your feedback! Any comments, suggestions, or Letters to the Editor can be sent to me directly at: robert@rockparanormal.net.

Happy Haunting! ~Bob~



ROCK PARANORMAL / ODD BOB NEWS & UPDATES:

PARANORMAL INFORMANT TO UNDERGO SOME CHANGES

Last issue, we had several problems trying to upload the issue file to our website servers and publish it to the public. We couldn't even post it to our Facebook page, mostly due to the fact that it was so large it was "over the limit" (hence why we finally had it published in two parts!).

To try and keep the issue under the limits, and to help me personally save some time, I am eliminating a few articles from the Informant. You shouldn't notice that much of a change, the largest being that the "Paranormal Classifieds" will no longer be published.

This change will give me a chance to write more quality articles over a quantity, and keep the e-zine within publishing/web server limitations. Changes will take effect starting this issue.

ODD BOB ONLINE STORES OPENING DELAYED SLIGHTLY, BUT OPENS SOON!

It took longer that my partner and I originally planned to get all of our stuff (and my starting inventory needs) out of storage back in Wisconsin down home to Chicago. But, now that we've crossed that bridge, I am starting to find the pieces I've been waiting for to finish and launch this project and get the store fronts open and stocked.

It will still take a little longer for the hand-crafted items I plan on listing, and a few other items will be in stock within the next month or so.

Odd Bob Online Stores will open on May 1st, 2016. Website and Facebook pages online soon!

ROCK PARANORMAL TEAM MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO RSVP TO INVITATIONS

Online invitations will soon be sent to Rock Paranormal team members in regards to a few dates and events I am trying to plan for the team for the summer. Check your inboxes for more information about the events, tentative schedules, and more.

ROCK PARANORMAL RECRUITING NEW TEAM MEMBERS IN CHICAGO AREA!

With my move means the move of the Rock Paranormal HQ. We are now happily settling into our new home in Chicago, Illinois. As our current members cannot always be as active as they'd like on investigations due to distance, I am looking for a few good people to add to my new local team.

More information and a complete description of the member responsibilities is included later in this issue of the Informant. For more details or to apply online, visit: www.rockparanormal.net.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MEL LEBARON!

Happy Birthday to one of our contributing editors, Melissa LeBaron! Thank you for all your help, and we wish you the best and brightest on your birthday! Cant wait to celebrate many more with you!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO BOB & JOE!

Happy Fifth Anniversary to Founder Bob and his partner Joe! Many more years to a beautiful couple!

HAUNTS & SIGHTINGS:

Compiled by Robert J. Markin

You may have noticed that the name of the column has changed from “Chicago Haunts” to “Haunts & Sightings”. I’ve decided that this will allow me to feature more than just Chicago Haunts, but haunts, legends, sightings, and more from not only Chicago, but surrounding areas in the Midwest and beyond!

I am also combining the “Living with the Paranormal” submissions into this column, allowing me to share with you haunts and sightings from everywhere!

THE EASTLAND DISASTER

Chicago, Illinois

The Steamship Eastland capsized on the Chicago River between the Clark and LaSalle Street bridges on July 24, 1915. It had just left dock and was headed to Indiana, and had about 3,200 passengers on board.

As it began to depart, it immediately began to list to one side. As passengers pushed, it tilted even more. Suddenly, the ship just turned over on its side.

Passengers on the exposed decks were thrown into the water. People tried saving as many as they could, but most of them perished after being crushed by waves or snagged by the undercurrent. Workers started to cut holes into the sides of the ship to try and free passengers trapped inside, but only a few escaped. The rest had drowned before they could be rescued.

The bodies were hauled and transferred from place to place before being shipped home to loved

ones or buried as “unidentified”. Over two-hundred bodies had been taken to the 2nd Regiment Armory building on West Washington. By the time the body count had been completed, over eight-hundred souls had perished.

However, in recent years, the armory where over 200+ bodies were stored in a ramshackle temporary morgue, is now part of the infamous Harpo Studios, owned by the magnanimous Oprah Winfrey. Many employees have reported strange sightings over the years, including one most commonly reported “Gray Lady”. The most reported phenomenon include hearing phantom footsteps, laughter and whispers, which is enough to send chills up anyone’s spine.

A memorial plaque marks the site of the disaster today, and some even report hearing screams of terror late at night on the Clark Street Bridge...

THE SAUSAGE VAT MURDER

Chicago, Illinois

In 1894, at the corner of Hermitage and Diversey, Adolph Luetgert built a sausage factory and a three-story house. He was married to Louisa Luetgert. According to history, things started out well for the young couple, but Adolph had a wondering eye when it came to young ladies, and this caused scandal for the young Mrs. Luetgert. Then, one day in May 1897, Louisa simply disappeared. Adolph told their children that their mother had “gone to visit family”.

After intense investigation, it was determined that Louisa had been seen entering the factory the night before... CONTINUED



HAUNTS & SIGHTINGS CONTINUED...

... she disappeared. After even more extensive investigation by the vigilant officers of the law, it was determined that Mr. Adolph Luetgert had lured his wife to the factory and killed her. He was charged with burning her body, but it was rumored that he had ground her body into sausage and sold it to the markets.

Adolph was eventually tried and sentenced to life imprisonment in Joliet, Illinois. While incarcerated, Luetgert often spoke to the guards and claimed that he was being haunted by the spirit of his dead wife. He died in 1900 while incarcerated.

Not long after her husband went to prison, Louisa's ghosts had begun to be encountered by workers at the house and the factory. Claims of a woman in a white dress leaning near the fireplace ran rampant through the staff. The home was rented time and time again, but no tenants ever stayed the duration of their lease.

Recently portions of the old and abandoned sausage factory were turned into condominiums, but no reports of strange encounters have been found. It is rumored, however, that if you are in the area of the old factory and homestead on May 1st, the anniversary of her death, you will see her spirit roaming the area where she lived her life and now lives her death.

PHANTOM SHIPS ON THE LAKE

Chicago, Illinois

Lake Michigan is one of the largest of the Great Lakes, and connects multiple states through its channels and tributaries. It has always been heavily used as a transportation route since man could first travel by boat centuries ago. Since that time, thousands upon thousands of men, women and children have traversed Lake Michigan while on route with cargo or passengers.

Several shipwrecks have been found at the bottom of Lake Michigan, ranging from old fashion steamships to modern day craft. But, there are also reports of the ghosts of some of these doomed ships, forever roaming the rolling waves of the great lake.

Lights have been seen, and even at times, whole apparitions of ships, appearing clear as day to the witness, then suddenly disappearing into thin air or out of sight. Many reports involve what appears to be a pirate-type ship, complete with skull-and-crossbones flag. Still, some say more modern sailing ships and even a ghost steamboat or two have all been witnessed by credible witnesses through-out time just off the shores of Lake Michigan.

There is also a theory that I've recently discovered that calls parts of this area the "Midwest Triangle", a strange, localized version of the Bermuda Triangle in a sense that it is reportedly a hot bed of paranormal activity, ranging from ghost sightings to UFO sightings to cryptid creature sightings.

Next time you are out near Lake Michigan, take a look at the ships on the horizon... you never know which one of them might be a phantom!

TO SUBMIT CONTENT, SIGHTINGS,
LOCATIONS, STORIES, OR TO ASK
QUESTIONS OR WRITE LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR, PLEASE EMAIL:

ROBERT@ROCKPARANORMAL.NET

I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING
FROM YOU! HAPPY HAUNTING!
~Founder Robert "Odd Bob" Markin~

PARANORMAL 101:

The Haunting of Black Hope

By Robert J. Markin

With the release of the recent “Poltergeist” remake, it has come to my attention that we have never discussed the Black Hope Horror case, which makes the phrase “They moved the headstones but left the bodies, didn’t they?” and understatement.

In the early 1980s in Crosby, Texas, a new subdivision was being constructed on land that once belonged to the McKinney Family. Newport Subdivision sold out faster than eggs fry on blacktop under the noon soon. Many families moved into the subdivision to begin new lives, including the Haney and Williams families. It didn’t take long, however, for those lives to be interrupted by strange activity.



Photo of Black Hope Cemetery, from: http://unsolvedmysteries.wikia.com/wiki/Black_Hope

were realized. Upon digging about six feet into the earth, the bodies of two people, a male and female, were discovered to be interred under the Haney’s yard. The bodies were exhumed and examined. It was determined that the graves belonged to Betty and Charlie Thomas, who were later re-interred at a nearby cemetery.

After the bodies were discovered, the “cat was out of the bag”, so-to-say, and the neighbors began to discover that they weren’t alone in their supernatural nightmares.

It was also discovered that the subdivision was built over what was known as “Black Hope”, a town built by freed African-American slaves after

Strange sounds and events began to plague many of the families living in particular area of the subdivision. Faucets would turn themselves on and off, lights would do the same. Strange sounds ranging from laughter to voices were heard, and apparitions of spirits plagued the neighborhood. Toilets were reported to flush on their own, and one neighbor even reported his garage door opening and closing on it’s own accord. Sinkholes approximating the size of buried coffins appeared in backyards among the houses and brush.

However, it wasn’t until Mr. Haney decided to dig a pool in his backyard that their worst fears

the Civil War. The town was burned to the ground in an accident, and no one remained to rebuild, so the land was sold to the developer to build the Newport Subdivision.

The developer, however, to save on time and costs, made a fateful decision when it came to the Black Hope Cemetery that laid smack in the middle of the planned development. They moved the headstones and markers that they could find, but didn’t move any of the bodies. To this day, they attest that they “didn’t know” about the cemetery being located in the middle of the... CONTINUED



PARANORMAL 101: The Haunting of Black Hope, Cont'd...

... development, and that they simply “built on top of” what they thought was “open land”.

The Williams’ tried to dig up one of the graves on the property, but the sudden death of their daughter, which they believed was caused by supernatural forces, ended their attempt to prove the cemetery existed.

The Haney’s, the Williams’, and other neighbors tried to sue the developer and get their money back for having not been told that the home resided on a cemetery, but it was to no avail. The movie “Poltergeist” had recently become a box office sensation, and due to the similarity of the stories, many thought that the residents were simply trying to cash in on a “good story”.

In fact, the movie was even presented as “evidence” during the Williams’ attempt to sue the developers in court. However, the Haney’s and Williams’ research proved that the cemetery did indeed exist, and that many of the bodies were buried by a local man named Jasper Norton. Mr. Norton was the person who informed the Haney’s that the homes in the subdivision were built atop the old cemetery. He also confirmed that at least sixty people were buried in pauper’s graves in Black Hope Cemetery, many without a permanent marker. Many

of the persons buried at Black Hope were freed slaves, and the last burial in the cemetery took place around 1939.

Eventually, the Haney’s won their suit and were awarded over \$100,000 for mental anguish, but a reversal caused the verdict to be dismissed and the Haney’s ended up paying over \$50,000 in court costs.

Many of the residents of the Newport Subdivision sold their homes, many incurred a loss because they had the responsibility to tell potential buyers that the home was built on top of a graveyard and that it may be haunted according to the law.

However, in the years since many of the original owners have moved, not one of the residents who purchased these homes “second hand” have experienced (or reportedly experienced) any type of supernatural or paranormal phenomenon.

Ben & Jean Williams published a book about their experiences called “The Black Hope Horror”, and the story was featured in an episode of “Unsolved Mysteries”. The book later inspired a film starring Patty Duke entitled “Grave Secrets: The Legacy of Hilltop Drive”.

RESOURCES:

http://unsolvedmysteries.wikia.com/wiki/Black_Hope

http://www.ghosthauntings.org/Black_Hope_Cemetery.html

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Black-Hope-Horror-Haunting/dp/0688051766>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0104365/reviews>



Photo of the graves dug up on the Haney Property, from:
http://unsolvedmysteries.wikia.com/wiki/Black_Hope

Do you have an interest in the paranormal?

Do you love learning about history?

Do you like helping people?

WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU!

Rock Paranormal is looking for a few good people to join our team as Investigative Researchers.

You must live in the Chicago area, be over the age of eighteen (18+), and have an interest in serious paranormal research.

It's not always just like you see on TV! You will be required to conduct actual research as well as write reports on your findings. Basic Training provided. For more information, visit our website below, or email Bob

Markin, Team Manager:

www.rockparanormal.net

rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com



The Bell Witch Haunting is one of the oldest and most famous ghost stories of our time. It inspired many authors and movie writers over the course of the years following the events described here.

It was in the 1800s when John Bell and his family moved to what would later become Adams, Tennessee. The family had acquired some land and a large house, and they were moving to start a new life. Over the years, the Bell family acquired more land and had more children.

In 1817, John Bell encountered a strange animal while inspecting his fields. He said it had a dog's body but the head of a rabbit. Bell claimed he shot at it several times, but the animal simply vanished. He didn't give the incident much more thought, until later that night when they began to hear what sounded like knockings on the walls of their house, coming from the outside.

For every night that followed, activity increased. Many times, Bell and his sons would run outside to catch who ever might be causing the disturbances, but to no avail. Soon after that, the Bell children would hear the sounds of scratching and gnawing on their bedposts. Then, their covers and pillows would be yanked away by some invisible entity bent on terrifying the children.

The Bells soon began to hear whispers and

faint voices. They claimed that they were usually very hard to hear and impossible to understand, but sounded like an old woman singing hymns and/or laughing.

Poltergeist activity began to plague the Bell household. Plates and dishes would fly around and crash into walls. Chairs and other furniture would levitate and move across the room. Locks would lock and/or unlock themselves, and doors and windows would open and shut of their own accord.

It wasn't long before the Bells' youngest daughter, Betsy, began having terrifying encounters with a malevolent and unseen entity. Scratches would appear on her body. Welts and bruises resembling hand prints would appear out of thin air. Neighbors witnessed many of the events that occurred in the home, as the Bells desperately tried to find an answer to their paranormal plague.

Over time, the strange voice grew louder and harder to ignore. It seemed to sing, speak, preach, and laugh. Even the then-Major General Andrew Jackson claimed to have visited the Bell Homestead and to have witnessed strange and malevolent activity.

When Betsy became interested in a boy named Joshua Gardner, the spirit often reportedly cursed his name and told Betsy not to marry him or "she'd be sorry"... CONTINUED



THE BELL WITCH HAUNTING, Cont'd...

... It was also reported that Betsy couldn't spend any time with Joshua anywhere near the property, else the entity would taunt them. Eventually, Betsy gave into the demands of the spirit and broke off her engagement to Joshua.

THE ENTITY TURNS IT'S ATTENTION

After forsaking her marriage to Joshua, incidents seemed to decrease for the family. John Bell, however, continued to be a target. The voice of the spirit relentlessly vowed to kill Mr. Bell. As the years continued to pass, and Mr. Bell fell into worsened health, the entity continued to taunt and attack Mr. John Bell, laughing at him. One time it was even reported to have pulled his shoes out from under him, causing him to fall.

In December of 1820, John Bell died shortly after falling into a coma. Shortly after his death, the family found a suspicious vial of unidentified liquid in the cupboard. When given to an animal, the animal died on the spot. The entity was then reported to have given John Bell "a big dose" of the poison on the night of his death. In disgust, one of the family members threw the vial, which exploded in flames and disappeared.

THE ENTITY RETURNS

At John Bell's funeral, attendees claimed to hear the voice of a woman signing hymns and laughing loudly, even though no earthly person present was singing or laughing. It was also said that the ghost laughed and sang all the way until the last person left Mr. Bell's graveside.

In Spring of 1821, the entity visited Mrs. Bell and told her it would return seven years later. It did, and the activity centered around John Bell, Jr., with whom the entity talked of deep, spiritual things. The entity eventually said good-bye to the Bells, promising to return to a direct descendent after 107 years. It was never seen again.

RESOURCES:

<http://www.bellwitch.org/story.htm>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bell_Witch

<http://www.prairieghosts.com/b-cave.html>

http://www.bellwitchcave.com/ghost_hauntings/bell_witch_legend.htm

<http://bellwitchcave.com/>



Rock Paranormal Recruiting New Team Members in Chicago Area...

By Robert J. Markin

Since I have moved to Chicago, and taken the headquarters for the team's operations with me, I have to find a few good people to join me on my quest for knowledge as a paranormal researcher.

Erin Rose, Russell and Melissa are all staying on board, but with the distance between us, will be taking a less active role in the organization. They will still partake in investigations and team activities whenever possible. That leaves a large gap in the team.

I'm only looking for a few serious and dedicated individuals who would like to learn about, discuss, investigate, and write about the paranormal. It's not always as you see on TV, with cameras and instant fame. It's about hard work, dedication, and a commitment to learn about, try to understand, and share your experiences of the paranormal with others, and help others who are experiencing the paranormal and need it.

This could be one person, it could be two or three more people. It will really depends on who is sincere enough in their interest to complete the application and training processes, and has a commitment to working as a team.

THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS

There are a few basic requirements for any member of Rock Paranormal:

1. You must be able to stand, walk, sit, or hike for extended periods of time. We investigate different places, and partake in different activities at various sites which will have you doing all varieties of physical activity.
2. You must have an interest in studying and re-

searching the paranormal. This is more than just a passing interest in ghost hunting, or enjoying the television shows (although that doesn't hurt, either). You must want to spend hours researching at the library, interviewing witnesses, sitting in strange places, sitting reviewing hours of videos, photos, and audio recordings, and be able to write about your experiences during the investigation.

3. A willingness to follow all standards, policies, and procedures as required by Rock Paranormal and it's founder, Robert Markin.
4. An ability to commit time to the group for meetings, investigations, research and other related tasks.
5. You must complete the Rock Paranormal Investigator Orientation and Training Program in order to actively participate in field investigations.

WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING

From the television shows, many people assume you simply stroll up to a haunted location and start investigating. That's not always the case, and even when you do investigate, there is usually a lot more than what they show you on the television.

- You will be operating small electronic equipment, such as digital cameras/camcorders, audio recorders, and sensitive measuring devices such as EMF and/or MEL meters. Training will be provided.
- You will be interviewing witnesses using prescribed scripts and methodologies.
- You will be conducting background research into cases, which ... CONTINUED



R.P. Recruiting New Members, Continued...

- ... will involve book and paper research, internet research, and physical research using prescribed methods and practices.
 - You will be reviewing and analyzing photographic, videographic, and audiographic evidence using prescribed methods and practices, and presenting findings to clients.
 - You will be writing reports based on the investigations, your encounters and experiences during the investigation, and the background of the case as requested by the Lead Investigator/Case Manager.
 - You will be conducting EVP sessions, using Era Ques, and participating in recreations/re-enactments at the request of the Lead Investigator/Case Manager.
 - You will be meeting with your team members on a regular basis to discuss cases, plan events/trainings/investigations, and conduct other team business as deemed necessary by the Lead Investigator/Case Manager.
- dent's leisure, but must be completed within six months of acceptance into the group as an investigator in order to participate in investigations/vigils.

To complete the program, investigators must complete a written assessment, and will participate in one of the Cemetery Training Investigations.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The first step is very simple. Get online and visit www.rockparanormal.net, and fill out a "Volunteer Membership Application" on the Team Page of the website. After we receive your application, you will be contacted through email with a questionnaire.

This questionnaire is to be completed in lieu of an initial interview. It will help us determine your sincerity but also allows us to share your answers between our Managers without having each one contact you and ask you the same questions over and over again. After we review your questionnaire, we will then contact you to schedule an interview should we decide to continue to process.

You will have an interview over the phone, which should last around twenty minutes. After that, we make final selection and proceed with the final paperwork and scheduling training sessions.

If you think you've got what it takes to be an investigative researcher for Rock Paranormal, visit our website now: www.rockparanormal.net, or email: robert@rockparanormal.net for more information or to request a paper member application.

THE TRAINING PROGRAM

The Rock Paranormal Investigator Orientation and Training Course was designed by the team's Founder and Lead Investigator/Case Manager Robert Markin. It is broken up into several modules, each which has a lecture, required reading and questionnaire, discussion questions and/or applicable case studies.

Participants will study a broad selection of paranormal topics, including ghosts and hauntings, UFO Sightings & Encounters, Cryptids & Creatures, and famous cases. They will also learn of the history of Rock Paranormal, and learn about investigation practices and procedures, equipment handling, and more.

The course is designed to be taken at the stu-



ODDBOB ONLINE STORES OPENING SOON DESPITE SERIES OF DELAYS...

By Robert J. Markin

I've been talking about it for months, but the time has finally come, and this time I mean it! It took longer than we originally anticipated to get the items I needed out of storage to start listing items on the storefronts, but now that we've completely moved all of our stuff down from Wisconsin, I've started to find the items that were going to be listed in the stores.

So, Odd Bob Online Stores are opening on or before May 1st, 2016! I simply have to add the items, update the website and Facebook pages, publish and boom! We're open! It's exciting that this is finally going to come to fruition!

WHAT ARE THE ODD BOB ONLINE STORES GOING TO BE SELLING, AGAIN?

I have been a collector of all kinds of sci-fi, horror, occult, paranormal, pagan and fantasy items since I was a boy. I've parted with my collections many times, but somehow I keep accumulating new stuff (and even repeat stuff!).

So, in order to help me keep my collection thin, I'm going to be selling assorted items from time-to-time in my online stores. I will select a small selection of items I have acquired and list them every month on either Amazon or eBay, and will feature some of my hand-crafted items on Etsy. We

will continue to feature the third-party printed items in our Zazzle store.

However, within the next month or so, I should also finally have all the equipment and supplies I need to start hand-pressing the new Logo Shirts for both Rock Paranormal and Odd Bob, as well as a few other hand-printed items that will also be featured on Etsy. Also, the energy kits (there will be two Energy Kits with herbs, candles, oils and instructions) will be available soon. We will feature an "Energy Cleansing Kit" as well as a "Building Psychic Awareness Kit". They will also be featured on the Etsy website.

My goal is to have all the stores up and running by the end of this month (April) and have the Hand-Printed items and Energy Kits available by the end of June. All is currently on track for that to happen according to schedule.

In the meantime, you can visit the Odd Bob Facebook page, at: www.facebook.com/OddBobOnline for more information and updates about products, the website launch, and more!



<http://oddbob.tripod.com/>



COMMUNICATING WITH SPIRITS:

THE OUIJA BOARD

By Robert J. Markin

We've all heard those stories involving a Ouija Board. Someone and their friends used it to hold a séance and strange things started happening. Some versions include paranormal activity that increases until they throw the board away, only later to rediscover that the board has mysteriously reappeared in a very peculiar place.

Entire movies and books have been spun on the idea that Ouija boards can be used to contact spirits of the undead, or demons. "The Exorcist" is just one example I can think of that starts with a game of Ouija. Countless movies about haunted houses and contact being made using some version of the Ouija, also known as a "Spirit Board", which causes activity to increase and/or climax.

Many of these accusations against the Ouija board are true. There have been documented cases of so-called "haunted" spirit boards that have reappeared after being discarded. There are also numerous cases in every investigator's files where someone inadvertently used a Ouija board.

I've had my own share of personal experiences with Ouija boards and séances, some of which ended badly (with a possession incident) and

others that ended in friendly contact with the spirit realm. The spirit board can be a useful tool for a paranormal investigator, but its evidence doesn't usually stand up to any scrutiny from the scientific community. It is too easily affected by outside elements, and therefore cannot be scientifically repeated with accurate results. Because of this, many investigators do not use Ouija boards or séances during investigations.

Others think they are invaluable tools to be used at the discretion of the investigators. Many people also say there is a right and a wrong way to use a Ouija board, and that is something that I personally agree with.

Although contacting the spirits using a Ouija board or through a séance is something that should normally be left up to a professional psychic or medium, we understand that people are going to do it on their own anyway.

Therefore, I believe that it is in the best interest of anyone interested to have some basic safety tips that should be used when conducting séances and/or utilizing a Spirit or Ouija Board to contact the spirit realm. CONTINUED...



THE QUIJA BOARD, Continued...

YOUR PERSONAL SHIELD

First, you should always be concerned with your safety. Psychics usually go through a practice they call “Shielding”, in which they use their personal energy to erect a shield or wall against energies, which creates a personal protected space around the individual. This is a good practice for everyone who will be partaking in the event.

You do this by meditating and envisioning your inner energy created a shield that moves out from and away from your body, creating a wall of armor that is impenetrable. Once you have erected your “shield”, you can move to the next steps.

CREATING A PROTECTED SPACE

The next step you should undergo is creating a protected space. Many believe that casting a circle of salt will create a protective wall against negative or evil energies. Others insist that an imaginary wall, or an energy wall, such as created by Wiccans for their practices, is effective as well.

Personally, I use both methods. I use salt when I cast a circle for Wiccan work, and I would

probably use the same circle for protection during the séance. It is important to remember not to cross the barrier of the circle without cutting open a door and sealing it behind you every time you enter and exit the circle. Failure to do so can allow spirits to cross the doorway once the seal is “broken”.

DO NOT PROVOKE THE SPIRIT

You are already potentially making any spirits you are trying to contact angry by disturbing them, you don’t want to provoke them with harsh words or language. This will result in only a few different results: you will be ignored, you won’t get full cooperation, or you’ll anger the entity in question.

Also, do not ask it to touch you or invite it to take control of your body. It should be obvious why you should avoid these circumstances, as they will open doorways into your sacred space that will allow potentially negative entities into the space.

REMEMBER TO CLOSE THE CIRCLE

Thank the spirits for attending you at the seance and/or for communicating with you. Bid them goodbye and don’t be afraid to tell them they

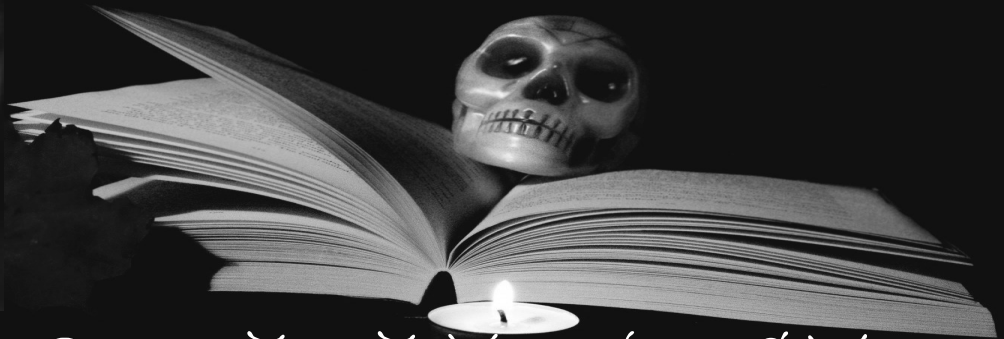
can’t follow you home and that they have to go back where they came from. Also, remember to close/take down your circle in reverse of how you erected it.

If you follow these steps, you’ll have some basic protections should you decide to utilize a Ouija Board or conduct a séance. Just remember, be careful, you really don’t know who may be on the other end of the planchett! Good Luck in your endeavors!



The Parker Brothers Ouija Board, from Google Images

Ask Paranormal Bob...



Answering Your Questions About All Things Strange & Unusual...

Greetings, Boils and Ghouls! Time for me to answer your questions about the Paranormal, Occult, Rock Paranormal and more!

QUESTION: “Dear P.B.: How long have you been investigating the paranormal? Did I read you’re also a witch? Are you a natural born witch? What kind of magic do you practice? Do you ever use magic on your paranormal investigations?”

-Adam Johnson, Illinois

ANSWER: Dear Adam, I have been investigating the paranormal for over fifteen years now, and have operated Rock Paranormal for just about six years now. And you are correct, I am a “Witch”, although the correct term would be “Wiccan” or “Pagan”. Although I have no direct lineage, the craft does run in my family in very subtle ways, from my Grandmother’s herbal remedies to my mom’s near psychic intuition. I was always attracted to the craft and what it stood for, and started studying/following the religion when I was about thirteen.

As far as the “type” of magic I use, if you are referring to if I am a “good witch” or a “bad witch”,

I think *The Craft* got it best when it said “Magic is both (good and bad) because nature is both”. But, if you are talking about the types of magical studies I follow, I am most interested in spirit communication/psychic awareness, herbal remedies, and energy work.

I have never had to cast any spells or conducted any rituals of any type during any of my investigations, aside from perhaps a chant or two for protection from dark entities. Usually, before an investigation, I “put up my shields” to prevent me from becoming psychically attacked, but that’s more related to my empathic abilities than my pagan roots, although I learned to do it using pagan methods.

Whew, that was a long response. Hope I answered all of your questions, Adam! Thank you for writing in,, and hope to hear from you again soon!

QUESTION: “What is your favorite paranormal documentary?”

-KYLEEN B., Illinois.

... CONTINUED ...



ASK PARANORMAL/ODD BOB CONTINUED...

Dear Kyleen, that's a very hard question. There are so many "good" documentaries out there, that it's very hard to pick just one... I will just have to list a few of my favorites.

SPOOKED: THE GHOSTS OF WAVERLY HILLS was excellent. It is a Booth Brothers documentary, and they also make several other very good paranormal documentaries (and some good B-Horror as well!).

The *GHOST STORIES* collection by Dan T. Hunt was excellent, IMHO. It is a series of four documentaries (Ghost Stories 1-4) that follow various investigators and researchers to various haunted places looking for spirits and paranormal activity.

The History and Discovery Channel's also have a wide variety of excellent documentaries on various paranormal subjects available to purchase from their respective websites.

I hope this helps. I told you, it's hard to pick just one, but these are some of my all-time favorites. I can watch them again and again! Enjoy!

QUESTION: "What do you think of Ghost Adventures? Isn't it like the coolest show ever?"

-Braden W., Wisconsin

Dear Braden, I can't lie, I do enjoy watching Ghost Adventures every now and again. They get to visit some amazing locations and at times even capture some really creepy potential evidence. The first documentary they ever did, also titled "Ghost Adventures" really captured some scary phenomenon at one particular famous location.

However, there are several things that they do that I do not approve of. First, they allow themselves to be "possessed" or otherwise invite harm to themselves. They also vocally provoke the spirit by

swearing at them, cursing at them, and again, telling them to touch and/or attack them. You should never provoke a spirit/entity in such a manner. It's not safe, especially when you do not know the type of entity you are potentially dealing with, not to mention rude and disrespectful.

That's what I honestly think, but I hope it doesn't 'change your opinion of me or of the show. It's still some decent paranormal on television.

QUESTION: "What is 'Find-A-Grave'?"

-Melissa, Wisconsin

Dear Melissa, Find-A-Grave is a website ran by Ancestry.com that allows members to host virtual memorials and cemeteries for lost loved ones, and aides in genealogical research. I am a volunteer photographer, and I also manage several virtual cemeteries and online gravesites for family members and friends.

We've had several inquiries about Find-A-Grave, so we are doing a feature on it in the next issue of the Paranormal Informant! Check it out for more information! Thanks for your question!

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

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!

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New Member Training & Orientation

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CEMETERY TRAINING INVESTIGATION

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Team Meeting & Training Session

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New Member Training & Orientation

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Visit to Bachelor's Grove Cemetery

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IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE PARANORMAL INFORMANT

The next issue of the PARANORMAL INFORMANT is due out July 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: Waverly Hills Sanitarium

Even More Haunts & Sightings!

The Legend of Starved Rock

All About Find-A-Grave.com

Paranormal 101: Presenting Evidence to Clients

Steps to Increasing Your Psychic Awareness

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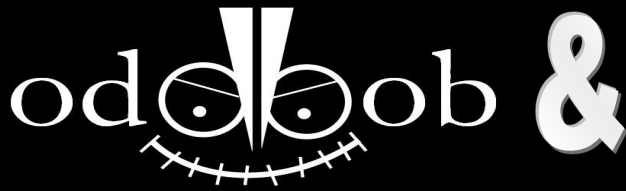
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& ODD BOB ONLINE STORES

Rock Paranormal & Odd Bob Online Stores were founded and are operated by Robert "Odd Bob" Markin. You can contact him with questions in regards to this publication, the organization, it's activities, or for investigation team membership information. Please email him directly:

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If you would like to submit something for the Paranormal Informant, such as a classifieds ad, column response, or any inquiries to the editor/publisher of the Paranormal Informant, Robert "Odd Bob" Markin, can be directed to:

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