

The Ghostly Gazette

News

We are approaching our busy time of year. Thank you to those that were able to participate in the Prairie Grove Battlefield investigation with Channel 5 News. Look for the news story to be on the news Thursday, October 30th.

We also had a great investigation at the residence in Rose Bud, Arkansas.

API has a great group of investigators. Thank you for being professional and making a good representation of the group. We have such a great time together and all of you are appreciated!

API Investigator Spotlight



Myrna Coyle—Investigator

Myrna was born and raised here in Arkansas, and she is currently a medical clerk at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Fayetteville. She grew up hearing stories of the paranormal and is now living the dream of helping others deal with and understand the paranormal.

Upcoming Events

October 25—Investigation of Radio station in Searcy Arkansas.

November 15—Boonville Tuberculosis Sanatorium investigation.

December ?—Investigation of Norfolk Lake Inn, Mountain Home Arkansas.

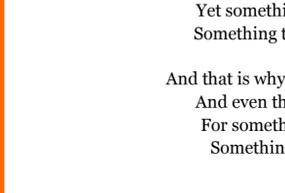
December ?—Holiday Get Together.

Myrtle's Plantation—The team voted and we are planning a trip sometime next year. Please email Tammy with your choice of either late spring or early fall. Also, some have expressed an interest in spending a day or two in New Orleans. Let us know if you have any suggestions on ghost tours, etc. for us to do. Tammy's email: apighosthunters@yahoo.com.

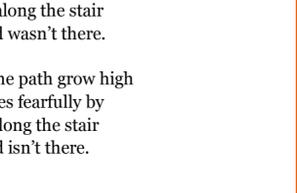


This is how ghost hunters become one with their profession.

API Investigation Photos



Orbs at the Prairie Grove Battlefield



Borden House under a full moon at the Prairie Grove Battlefield

The Haunted House

By Vic Crume

Not a window was broken and the paint wasn't peeling
Not a porch step sagged yet there was a feeling
That beyond the door and into the hall
This was the house of no one at all.

No one who breathed nor laughed nor ate
Nor said "I love" nor said "I hate"
Yet something walked along the stair
Something that was and wasn't there.

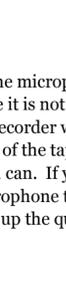
And that is why weeds on the path grow high
And even the moon races fearfully by
For something walks along the stair
Something that is and isn't there.

Happy Halloween!

API Ghost Hunting Tips

- Always Consider All Aspects of a Haunting**—Go into an investigation with a kind heart and gracious attitude. But know that most haunting can be explained. i.e. house settling, furnace noises, etc.
- Always Remember, You Are the One In Control**—You have the body and thus you have the power. It's really simple, you are in your element. This is your dimension and your reality.
- Be Familiar With All Aspects of the Supernatural**—Know well the entities you pursue. Understand them and the things of their world. Knowledge is power. The more you know, the more confident you become. Be careful though, not all knowledge is good. Acquire it with a scientific standpoint.

Equipment Showcase



Using a Digital Audio Recorder



By Steve Gonsalves of T.A.P.S

Introduction

We use an audio recorder when we try to gather EVP's or Electronic Voice Phenomena. Basically we try to capture voices from the other side electronically. We always get a very high success rate with the audio recorder. An audio recorder should be one of the most important basics in your ghost hunting kit.

EVP Sweep

Always start the investigation off with an EVP sweep. This is in hopes that we will capture some voices that we did not hear at the time.

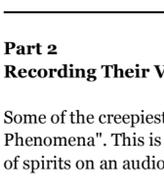
Audio Recorder

Make sure you are not covering up the microphone and leave it on standard play. Put it on record mode and make sure it is not on voice activated setting, just let it record. You can also use an analog recorder which is actually a small tape recorder. But be careful to rule out the sounds of the tape recorder gears running. You want to cut out as much extra noise as you can. If you really want to get a clear recording, you will want to use an external microphone that can be plugged directly into your recorder. Using an external mic can up the quality of your recording about 10 times.

EVP Sessions

Walk around and ask the entities questions while being patient, giving them time to respond. Ask questions like, "What's your name?" or "Are you here with us?". Wait at least 10 seconds between questions. When you review the recording you are going to listen for voices or sounds that were not present at the time of the recording. Sometimes during the playback, you will hear responses to your questions.

Give Me Some Proof



By Grant Wilson of T.A.P.S

Part 1

Catching them on Film

Ghost Hunting/Investigating, as we know it, is an attempt to understand and prove the existence of paranormal beings, powers or intelligence. Understanding it isn't that hard, but providing evidence can be more than difficult.

Photos that claim to have captured the image of a supernatural being are among the most scrutinized evidence out there. (short of maybe UFO pictures or maybe even photos from the OJ Simpson case) The simple fact is, ghosts tend to appear as mists, orbs or other vaguely distinguishable forms which, unfortunately closely mimic very natural, very earthly circumstances. And so they are easily debunked.

So, how do you get people to believe you? Take some very deliberate precautions.

1. The first and foremost rule a ghost hunter should follow is, "Be Skeptic" Just because you see a shiny orb in the woods through your night vision video camera, don't think you've caught a ghost. Try and think of what earthly item it could be. Ask yourself questions like; "Is it moving or standing still?" "Does it show up in every photo I take?" "Is there ANYTHING that might have caused a reflection?". If you ask these type of questions, you'll catch your own "hoaxes" before they are debunked by someone else hence ruining your credibility.

2. "2 or More Witnesses" Even in the legal systems, two or more witnesses will always outweigh what one person claims to be the truth. If you can say "There were eight of us there and no one saw the figure in this image." chances are people will believe you. Especially when they interview the other seven people and get the same story.

3. "Never Smoke" on a case that is. If you can say, with confidence every time, that no one was smoking or had been smoking, you rule out 98% of skeptics' excuses for "mist" type pictures. In the case of cold weather cases, let everyone around you know you are about to take a picture, then have everyone hold their breath for at least five seconds (if not ten) before you snap it. If you make a habit out of this, then you'll know for sure that you didn't catch anyone's breath on film. (It should be said that it is quite easy to distinguish cigarette smoke or human breath from ethereal mists.)

4. "Surprise Them" Take the ghost by surprise. Some ghost want to be caught on film, some don't care, others don't want to be caught at all. Because we don't know the ghosts' feelings about this, there is only one way to pretty much guarantee that you'll catch it on film. This is by casually snapping a picture, over your shoulder even, whenever you get the inkling to. It may sound silly but it works. Trust me. There's no need to line up a perfect shot, as long as there is a ghost in it, no one cares if it's not "framed" right.

5. "Trust your Feelings" Learning to trust your feelings can yield astounding results. If you get even the slightest urge to snap a picture somewhere, Do IT! Don't hesitate. Most often pictures taken like this will be the only ones that show results.

6. "Get a Digital Camera" Ok, so this isn't a "rule" but a personal suggestion. Number one, you don't need to worry about film. Number two, you get instant gratification. There's nothing quite like knowing exactly where these things were just a few seconds earlier. Number three, you can instantly email them to TAPS so everyone can see what you've found!

Hopefully, these tips will help increase the amount of specters you catch on film, and therefore increase your desire to continue looking for and learning about the paranormal.

Part 2

Recording Their Voices

Some of the creepiest evidence of paranormal activity are EVP's or "Electronic Voice Phenomena". This is the mysterious and often disturbing act of capturing the voices of spirits on an audio tape.

Much like photos of the paranormal, there are hundreds of examples of EVP's to scrutinize. They range from unrecognizable groans and mumbles to three hour long conversations.

Many scientists have studied this phenomenon and have not been able to explain it. I can't explain it other than this is yet another way for spirits to communicate with us. Frankly, I don't care how it works, I just know that it does and here is not only how to do it, but how to remain credible at the same time.

How do you do it?

Set down your recorder and relax. Settle down into your chair and get comfortable. Clear your mind and just sit still for a few minutes. You can say some sort of prayer if you feel like it, but it doesn't seem to affect the outcome at all.

Turn on some kind of background noise. Keep it pretty low, you don't want it to overpower the recording. Some suggestions are white noise (you know that fuzz you get when there's nothing on the TV or a particular radio station.), running water or even a vacuum cleaner. Anything that will give you a steady stream of jumble.

This may sound weird but the spirits have a hard time creating any sound that makes sense. This is why people usually hear moans or groans. This takes a lot of energy to do. The background noise allows them to piece together sounds from the static to more easily form words. Plus, the recorders are more sensitive than our ears. So, essentially, we are making it easier for them to talk.

Ok, now that you're comfortable and you've got some noise going, you can either just sit there, you can leave and see what turns up later or, you can start asking questions. Be sure to ask simple straight forward questions such as, "What is your name?". And don't forget to leave a long pause between questions so that the spirit has time to answer. Give them about three times as long as you would give a living person to answer.

When you're done with the recording, politely thank the spirit if you want to, once again this has no effect on the outcome of the recording. Then you can go home and listen to it.

How do you remain credible?

Just doing a few simple things can save you a lot of grief when trying to prove your recording.

Unplug anything you don't need to do the EVP. Almost everything that can be plugged in will make noise that will turn up on your tape, possibly fooling you into believing it is a ghost.

WHILE THE TAPE IS RECORDING, do the following:

When you first get to where you want to record, make every sound possible that could be mistaken for a spirit. Cough, breathe, scoot around, etc.

Next, have someone go into all of the surrounding rooms and talk at various volumes. Also, have them bang on the walls etc.

Announce that you are done with your comparative noises and begin your EVP.

Some general rules to follow when creating an EVP:

Don't use a crappy little recorder.

Try to use something better. This isn't always possible. Even a portable stereo has better recording capabilities than a walkman sized unit.

Use an external microphone.

Any unit, no matter how nice it is, will put off some kind of internal sound that will be picked up by the microphone. Steer clear of using the microphone that is mounted on the actual unit or you'll pick up the gears inside the unit that are moving the tape. This kind of interference makes it VERY difficult to make out the voices.

Spend the extra two bucks and buy some high-quality tapes.

Remember, this is what holds the valuable recordings. The better the tape, the clearer the sound.

Don't whisper.

When you talk or ask questions speak loudly and clearly. Don't speak directly into the microphone because when you play back the tape you'll most likely have the volume cranked up so that you can hear every little sound. If you come cranking over the speaker at 50,000 decibels, your chances of ever hearing anything else again are slim.

Ask simple questions.

Don't ask "How often did you think about going to your mother's house, and if it was often which days did you not do it?"

Use some background noise. (If you prefer)

Running water, white noise, vacuum cleaner... just make sure it doesn't dominate the recording. Remember, it's called BACKGROUND noise. This will help to "raise the sound floor" or allow for easier filtering.

Get comfortable.

The less noise YOU make the better.

Respect the dead.

Be courteous to the spirits. Thank them for their help and try to help them once you've heard what they have to say. Don't immediately ask if they know they are dead, etc. Try to keep in mind the time period in which they lived when asking the questions. Someone from the 1600's won't know what a "recorder" or a "camera" are.

Most of all, try and do it where there is spiritual activity, this will always increase your odds. Good luck, and happy hunting!

-Grant (TAPS)

Arkansas Paranormal Investigations

Please feel free to visit our website for more information about requesting an investigation or joining the group.

www.paranormalbeliever.com

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at aspilot@aol.com.

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*Steve Gonsalves article was transcribed from a video featured on the syfy.com web site.

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www.the-atlantic-paranormal-society.com

