

NEWS from the Paranormal Investigators of Milwaukee

August 2014

Issue 24

Special points of interest:

PIM members Noah, John, and Missy will be returning to Ashmore Estates in Illinois. Since their first visit in May, Ashmore has been sold and is currently undergoing substantial renovations. PIM is so excited to return under better conditions and will hopefully encounter less wildlife during their visit.

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Mini Expedition to Villisca and Farrar School

In the early hours of the morning on August 21st PIM will once again embark on an exciting adventure! This time the destination is Iowa to investigate two of Iowa's most famed "haunted locations" Farrar School and Villisca Axe Murder House. Our first stop will be Farrar School. Before 1919, Farrar School was nothing more than a plot of farm land. The Washington County School District decided it was time to merge all the areas "one room school houses" and build a much more modern school for the area children. So in 1921 the school was built with a large \$100,000 price tag and included boiler heat, electric lights and indoor bathrooms. It was quite lavish for it's day. For 80 years class after class was educated in this school but after time the walls began to crumble and the school closed it's doors in 2002. Over the decades employees and students reported hearing voices, slamming doors and sightings of unnatural figures walking the halls. The school was bought in 2006 by Jim and Nancy Oliver. It has become their home while they slowly restore it to it's original appearance. After hearing of it's exciting paranormal claims PIM has decided to conduct an investigation. We are very excited to have the opportunity to experience the Farrar School for ourselves!!!

Next stop is the Villisca Axe Murder House. In the early 1900's Villisca, Iowa was a flourishing happy town of 2,500. But after the heinous crime of June 12th, 1912 the townspeople began to distinguish and identify themselves by who they believed committed the crime. Friendships became strained and in many cases, irreparably broken. The town to this day still stands divided from the emotional wounds that never healed.

What crime you may ask? Well 102 years ago a prominent business man by the name of Josiah Moore and his wife Sarah, their 4 children and 2 young house guests were found brutally bludgeoned to death in their beds with an ax. No one will ever really know what happened on that dark night inside the Moore's home. The murderer or murderers were never caught and their dark secret was carried with them to their graves.

In 1994 Darwin and Martha Linn purchased the former home of the Moore family with plans to return the home to it's original condition at the time of the murders. After many painstaking hours and searching through pictures to get it just right, the couple succeeded. It was then listed on the National Register of Historic Places and opened for tours. This will be a very interesting investigation. Just doing research for this investigation has been very emotionally frustrating and it's hard to understand who would create such a tragedy and why. The town must have been terrified and angry during the days following the murders. Perhaps this is why some claim that even though the people who lived in Villisca in 1912 have died, their spirits remain.

PIM is very excited to investigate both Farrar School and the Villisca Axe Murder House. We will be keeping you updated on both of these investigations on both FB and Twitter and of course post reports on both upon our return.



PIM WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

PIM would like to welcome it's newest member Cassie!! We are all excited to work with Cassie and can't wait to see what she brings to the PIM family. Stay tuned for September's newsletter to learn more about PIM's newest member.



Paranormal Investigators of Milwaukee

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Tinker Swiss Cottage Event

PIM would like to thank everyone who came out to Tinker Swiss on Saturday July 26th! We had such a great time! Everyone participated and as a result we had some interesting activity. We are still reviewing evidence and will keep you updated on our findings.

We would also like to send a big thanks to Kathi from Haunted Rockford and Steve from Tinker Swiss!!!

We hope to see everyone again soon at one of our future events. If you would like more information on how you can participate in one of our investigations please check out our website or feel free to contact us.



The John Krahnicles: Written by John Krahn

One of the most common claims we hear from people are reports of "shadow people" or "shadow figures" being observed. A shadow figure is generally theorized to be a type of manifestation of a ghost, demon, or even an entity from another dimension. In the vast majority of these claims, the shadow figure is observed out of the corner of the eye, in the peripheral vision. When the shadow figure is observed out of the corner of the eye, the person moves their head and will attempt to look directly at the shadow figure, at which point it disappears. There are several natural explanations for this perception. The first and most likely explanation is the "corner of the eye phenomena". Peripheral vision is mostly accomplished by the retinal rod cells in the human eye. Rods have poor detail resolution and lack of color sensitivity, however, rods are very sensitive to movement. This combination is what causes a person to perceive that something is moving in their peripheral vision and appears dark due to lack of color discernment. A person even just turning their head can create the illusion that they are seeing something dark moving in their peripheral vision. When the person turns their head to get a better look, the retinal cone cells in the eye, which are better at determining detail, go to work and the "figure" disappears. Logically, it does not make sense a shadow figure would disappear from your view simply because you turn your head. Based on how the eyes work, it should be more distinct. Other explanations for seeing shadow figures are sleep paralysis (see last month's article for more information on this) or actual shadows being created by light sources. So do paranormal shadow figures actually appear at times? As of right now, no one has been able to definitively prove or disprove this theory and more information is needed.

Upcoming Events/Investigations

- On August 9th PIM will be investigating a residential home in Sturtevant, WI.
- In mid-August PIM will be returning to continue their research of the Modjeska Theatre in Milwaukee. PIM investigated the Modjeska for the second time in June and encountered some unexplainable lights in the balcony that only 3 out of the 5 investigators present could see and also had some equipment malfunctions in the basement. Who knows what this beautiful building has in store for us upon our third visit.
- August 21st PIM members Noah, Gravy, John, Tony, Missy and Denys will be heading to Iowa to investigate Farrar School and the Villisca Axe Murder House. For more info see page 1.
- In late August PIM is very excited to have the opportunity to investigate the Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear. The Chudnow is a beautiful Milwaukee history museum in a historic building displaying the late Avrum Chudnow's extensive and eclectic collection of early 20th century Americana.

PIM offers scientific investigations of suspected paranormal activity in homes, businesses, and historic sites. We pride ourselves on providing confidential, professional services free of charge.

To have PIM conduct an investigation for you, contact Noah Leigh (Lead Investigator) through our website or by the phone number listed above.

We look forward to meeting you at a public event, investigating with you, or just hearing from you on Facebook or Twitter!