

CORPS Has Tea With Ghost At The Colorado Grande

By Danielle Purdy

Like many other mining towns of the old west, Cripple Creek is said to be haunted. In fact, many claim it is the most haunted city in America.

Given its dramatic history, complete with mining accidents, floods, fires, lawlessness and bloody battles between mine owners and labor unions, it isn't so hard to believe that there may be ghosts who continue to wander this historic town.

The Fairley Brothers and Lampman building at 300 East Bennett now houses the Colorado Grande Casino and Maggie's Restaurant. Here, you can enjoy a little gaming and great food, but guests may get a treat that they weren't expecting - a glimpse of a ghost.

In addition to the slot machines heard throughout the building today, many have claimed to have heard or seen the ghost of "Maggie," described as a young woman of about 25, dressed in 1900s attire. She wears a white shirtwaist, a long cotton skirt and high heeled boots. The young beauty, with her hair piled atop her head, is known to leave behind the scent of her rose perfume.

Most often sighted on the top two floors of the building, the sound of her high heeled boots are often heard echoing in the halls. Some have reported that singing and dancing is heard emanating from the old ballroom as well as the sounds of Maggie's soprano voice singing an Irish-accented concertina.

Last Friday, five team members from the Colorado Researchers of Paranormal Science (CORPS), a Colorado-based paranormal investigation organization, spent the night at The Grande in hopes of experiencing "Maggie" themselves.

The CORPS team employed a variety of equipment for the investigation, such

as thermal imaging cameras, hand-held video cameras, closed circuit infra-red cameras with DVRs which were monitored via laptops, digital voice recorders, EMF meters (which measure electromagnetic fields), K2 meters (which also measure EMF's), and ambient air thermometers which detect unusually cold or hot spots believed to be the result of a ghost pulling energy from the air in an attempt to manifest in some way.

The CORPS team was still analyzing the hours of tape and other possible evidence as of press time Monday, but CORPS co-founder Terri Wardell was able to share some of her personal experiences during the overnight investigation.

"I do know that Maggie favored the female investigators with activity," explained Wardell. "In Maggie's room my own hand-held video recorder went to standby mode, which requires pushing a button, numerous times when I was in there with another female investigator. We then had a male investigator in with us and it stayed on the entire time - at least half an hour. Exactly three seconds after he left the room it went to standby mode again and continued doing that about every five minutes while we were alone."

"We also had all five female investigators go down to the restaurant around 2:30 am. We sat around the large round table in the furthest room and started talking to Maggie, asking her to join us for a "Ladies tea." The rose smell became so strong that you could literally taste it in the air. It (the smell of rose perfume) travelled around the room - we could follow it. It would travel around the table and over near the doorway. This continued until we got a call from the men on the two-way radio around 3:30."

Wardell also stated that they got at least one Electronic Voice Phenomenon (EVP) from Maggie's room which will be posted on the CORPS website:



Volunteer members of CORPS (Colorado Researchers of Paranormal Science) wire the team's many cameras to laptop computers for overnight monitoring of the top floors of the Colorado Grande Friday night. The team, although not finished with their analysis of the evening, did confirm recording some unusual events.

www.paranormalcolorado.com, along with any additional evidence that may have been discovered during the analysis.

So is the mystery of Maggie

solved? The CORPS team prefers everyone to make up their own minds. The entire adventure will be posted at their web site within the next few weeks.

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