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Indiana Ghost Trackers Indy Chapter

My Experience At Moundsville!

By: Mark Campbell

On April 25, 2009 we investigated one of my favorite places, Moundsville State Pen. This was my second time there and this time I had my wife and some friends with me. Last year, we experienced things such as footsteps and banging, shadows, and a few EVP's. But nothing like what happened this year.

This year I had my first experience that happened just to me. There were about 10 of us in the "Sugar Shack". This was an area underneath the building where inmates had recreational time when it was too cold outside. Guards very seldom went down there. It was a very violent place where inmates were violated and killed regularly.

We were sitting in a circle doing an EVP session. Not a whole lot was going on. Towards the end however was when it happened. Kelli McQueen had stated something along the lines of "we're getting ready to leave so hurry up and do something" I was sitting on a backless bench facing away from the middle of the room. A few seconds after Kelli asked that, I heard what I thought was something moving behind me. And then I felt a warm sensation on the lower left side of my back. This was significant in my mind because I was cold the whole time I was down there. Then I felt something scratch or bite me. I let out an "ouch!!!" and the

group know came over to look. The group really shocked me with their gasps upon turning on their flashlights and lifting my shirt up. I was speechless with the images I saw.

Why did they pick me? Maybe because I was provoking in the cell blocks earlier. I don't know why they chose me but in a weird way I'm glad they did. It is the proof I've been looking for my whole life; something to actually happen to me. And it only increases my hunger for more.....

Note: Please see the back page of this issue for the very exciting pictures of Mark's back.

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The Murder of Louiza Fox

By: Kelli McQueen

On Saturday, April 25, 2009 many members of the Indianapolis Chapter of the Indiana Ghost Trackers traveled to Moundsville, West Virginia to spend the night hunting for ghosts at the penitentiary. Myself, Angie Miles, Rebecca Auker, Kara Herrmann, Tandi Foster, and Doug and Elizabeth Wynn stayed overnight in St. Clairesville, Ohio. Prior to this trip, I had done a little research trying to find out if there were any haunted places connected with the city or the county of Belmont. I came across the story of Louiza Fox and Thomas Carr.

Carr was a civil war veteran who was known to be a heavy drinker and to have a reputation for violence. He worked in a coal mine digging coal for Alex Hunter and that is where he met Louiza. She was a 13 year old domestic servant for the Hunter family. Carr fell in love with her but Louiza's parents disapproved of the age difference and they were equally concerned about his overall character. On January 21, 1869, Louiza and her brother were walking home from work when Thomas Carr appeared near a fence not far from her home. He sent her brother home, kissed Louiza farewell, took out a razor, slit her throat from ear to ear, and then stabbed her 14 more times before dumping her body in a ditch. Her brother witnessed the whole thing from afar and ran home alerting his family and neighbors. A search party was formed and when they found Carr hiding in a coal bank, he had tried to commit suicide, first by shooting himself, and then by cutting his own throat. Carr was taken to the Belmont County Jail in St. Clairesville and was found guilty of first-degree murder. On June 29, 1869 the judge sentenced Carr to death by hanging. He was granted a stay of execution due to a legal technicality and on March 25, 1870 Carr was hung from a scaffold built inside the jail. He was the only person ever hung in Belmont County.

On the day of his execution, Carr was visited by two teenage girls who idolized him. He gave them each a ring and a photograph and told them he would "see them in heaven." He calmly went to the gallows and gave a speech on the evils of alcohol. He also confessed to killing at least 14 other men in addition to Louisa, but these claims were doubted by many who considered him to exaggerate the truth.

Louiza was buried in Salem Cemetery across from the church she attended. The cemetery is located in the Egypt Valley Wildlife Area. The church no longer remains. The site near the cemetery where she is murdered is marked as well, and the story goes that her ghost is often seen both roaming the cemetery and walking near the site of her murder.

We were intrigued by this story and wanted to visit all of the sites for ourselves. Earlier in the evening, four of us headed to the old St. Clairesville Jail and Sheriff's Residence. We wanted desperately to get inside the old building as we could see that it had not been in use for many years. The actual police station was next door and Tandi went in to ask if they ever give tours of the place or if they had any information about Thomas Carr. Well, to our surprise, an officer on duty was very familiar with the case as he had even found Carr's jail records and framed them in a nearby restaurant that he owned. He agreed to let us in the old jail and along with another officer, gave us a full tour of the building from attic to basement. It was amazing! We couldn't believe that they hadn't done anything with the building. There were stacks of record books and prisoners' files lying all over the place in one of the rooms. It was such a shame to see so much history forgotten. The highlight, of course, was seeing the exact spot where Thomas Carr was executed. It was in a hallway and we could see where the ceiling had been rebuilt to cover the scaffold. The officers were so incredibly gracious to have given us that opportunity. It just goes to show that if you ask, you just very well may receive.

In the wee morning hours on Sunday after we had left Moundsville, we decided to all drive into the Egypt Valley Wildlife Area to find Louiza's grave and murder site. This area has many ghost stories attached to it including, witches, demon dogs, and dead bodies discovered in ponds. The gravel roads were creepy, dark, and very deserted, and we did get lost many times. Eventually we found the murder site, marked by a memorial marker. It was beginning to get light out by then but it was creepy nevertheless. Standing in the spot where Louiza died was powerful. We conducted an EVP session and expressed our sorrow for her misfortune. We then found the cemetery and after a brief search, located her grave which was adorned by various gifts visitors had left. Though exhaustion was beginning to take over we nonetheless were overcome by both the satisfaction of having found what we were looking for, and the sadness once we found it. Staring at this grave of a young girl whose life was tragically cut short so long ago was surreal. I hope Louiza finds comfort in knowing that Thomas paid for his actions and it is my hope also that her spirit can someday be free of the fear of him and can truly rest in peace.

Note: Photos on back page.

The Royal Theater and The Indiana Ghost Trackers

By: Angie Miles

The Indy Chapter will begin doing a fundraiser with the Royal Theater on Friday, June 26th. We will start things off with the movie a Haunting in Connecticut and then we will have an over night ghost hunt. For more information on the movie/ghost hunt at the Royal please visit us at, www.indyghosts.org. or you can email us at igtindianapolis@yahoo.com.

History of the Royal Theater

It was standing room only, Wednesday, May 25, 1927, when the newly remodeled Royal Theater opened its doors to the citizens of Danville. It was not the town's first theater but it was the most elaborate structure constructed for that purpose. The Republican stated that the building was nothing less than "...the last word in the art of theater-building."

The Royal began its career as a one-story brick structure built just south of the alley on the east side of the square. Ed Caldwell who had operated a picture show in another building on the west side purchased the lot and had the old log structure, the last cabin on the square, torn down. Caldwell's new Royal was the first building in town constructed solely for the purpose of showing movies.

The new Royal opened on October 28, 1914 with the picture "The Million Dollar Mystery." In the newspaper announcement, Caldwell stated that "there will be offered for entertainment of the Royal patrons, only the best and highest class feature photoplays.... Its central location and ample facilities will always make the Royal the recognized home of high class photo drama in Danville.

In 1926, Thomas J. Barnett purchased the Royal. A native of England, his family settled in New Albany, where he grew up and was married. He became involved in working in the new field of motion pictures. He moved to Danville and began his career here in the room formerly occupied by Caldwell on the west side, and finally purchased the Royal building that Caldwell had erected on the east side. In 1926 he purchased the adjoining lots to the south of the Royal with plans to build a newer, larger, and grander theater. The old Royal building was blended into the new two-story structure which was designed in the Tudor Revival style.

The new Royal Theater Beautiful, as Caldwell titled it in his advertisement, opened with "Rookies," starring Nash Dane and George Arthurs, as its first attraction. The new theater attracted hundreds of people who "were lost in amazement at the sumptuousness of their surroundings," according to an article in the Republican. "For a show-place with a seating capacity of less than a thousand," the reporter stated, "the Royal ranks first according to visiting theater men. Fame of its design and furnishings has

so spread that people have driven miles just to see the new theater."

The Republican gave a detailed description of this new "palace of amusement": The old Royal building and the New Royal building combined, changed the skyline on the east side of the square as they were welded into one building with it's beautiful English architecture.

The lobby is in the south side of the building, with plenty of room, the box office being to one side. The lobby floor is of red brick set in black mortar... French doors separate the lobby from the foyer which encircles the auditorium. Heavy draperies adorn the foyer, the floor of which is covered with heavy velvet. The whole is suggestive of the Egyptian.

The auditorium looks larger than it really is but this is because of the details, the English gothic arches, the French windows.... The walls of the lobby, foyer and the auditorium are a rough-textured finish now used in the finest theaters with beautiful results. To produce the required finish, a plastic paint which produces both texture and color-tone was used. After the paint was dry, colored glazing was applied. A deep buff was first used and then red and blue put on it patched and carefully blended with each other and with the buff. The beams are finished in a "bark" texture resembling the bark of a tree. The aisles of the auditorium are covered with rubber and the floors are of wood for warmth. The wood is laid on solid cement. The auditorium seats 600 and the chairs are "staggered." That is, no chair is directly behind another, so every one has a clear vies of the screen... The draperies are red velour, trimmed in black and yellow, giving a peculiarly rich and impressive effect." Another impressive feature was the new theater organ that gave musical accompaniment to the films. Powered by a five-horsepower motor, the electronically controlled instrument could duplicate eh sounds of a ten-piece orchestra plus special keys to imitate the sound of horses' hoofs.

The new Royal opened in a blaze of electric lights, with 50 lights around the front canopy, 5 in the lobby, 15 in the foyer, 132 lights in the arches of the auditorium plus 30 in the chandeliers and 20 surrounding the stage

Today, nearly three-quarter of a century later, the Royal is being made Beautiful once more, Thomas Barnett's dream is being restored, and new generation will be able to enjoy that moment that begins when the lights are dimmed and the screen is filled with magic.

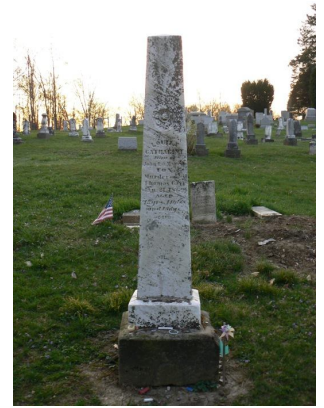
Hendricks County Monthly Magazine



These are pictures taken of Mark's back in the Sugar Shack at Moundsville State Pen.



Left: Louiza's murder site
Right: Louiza's burial site
Lower Left: The IGT gang at Moundsville State Penitentiary.
Lower Right: Old jail-house where Thomas Carr was hung.



IGT Indy Items for Sale

The Indianapolis Chapter is proud to announce we have Chapter items for sale.

We have T-Shirts and flashlights. The T-shirts come in Large, X-Large and XX-Large. They are a dark gray with a really cool cemetery scene on the back. The cost of the T-Shirts are \$15.00 for Large and \$20.00 for X-Large and XX-Large.

Also for sale are flashlights. They flashlights are blue and have the IGT website listed on there. It is the Groups website so

anyone in any chapter would enjoy this item. The flashlights are \$4.00 for members and \$5.00 for non members.

We still have Lanyards for sale as well. They are \$5.00 each.

Another new thing we have are ink pens. Ask us for some ink pens and we can give you some for you to leave laying at different places around Indianapolis to get our name out. They too have the Groups website show on them.

