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Local Investigator Becomes a 'Ghostbuster' Marquette Manor Resident Explores Supernatural World

By CANDY NOLAN

Remember the "Ghostbusters" movie circa 1986 starring Dan Akroyd and Bill Murray? Well, Marquette Manor can boast that one of its residents has that particular "talent."

As the director of the Headquarters for Ghost Investigations, Howard Heim conducts paranormal searches in the hope of documenting the existence of spirits. He works alongside Jorianne, "The Coffee Psychic," who is a resident of West Elsdon. Jorianne, like many psychics, prefers to use her first name only.

"I have been doing this for the past seven years," Heim

said. "Jorianne and I have been partners for three years. We basically want to get to the bottom of stories around here and determine whether they are inflated folklore or factual. These are not stories for kids, but facts for adults."

Heim said that people who believe that they have had hauntings in their homes contact him on a regular basis. He and Jorianne conduct an average of 10 investigations per month. They have covered the gamut of Chicagoland and surrounding suburbs and have even traveled out of state.

"As I was growing up, I had many different weird experiences such as pre-conjectures as to what would happen,"

recalled Jorianne. "I just found it very, very fascinating. Mostly, it was the fact that there was so much more out there than we could see or measure through science. I wanted to research it."

What can best be described as a psychic occurrence, Jorianne said she was doing some sweeping in her house when she heard a voice saying clearly, 'that is right, that is right, clean up the house for the funeral tonight.' This happened two more times until she gave up trying to clean and put the broom away. Later that afternoon, she received word that her mother had passed away.

"I have to believe that when

you die and your spirit leaves your body, the overall being goes," Jorianne said. "However, the spirit can also fall where it can still communicate with people. Some get caught, others choose to stay here and still some get lost. That's when they need to be guided over onto the other side."

During a recent investigation in Chicago Ridge, she and Heim arrived equipped with an array of accouterments. These included a tri-field meter that measures magnetic and electrical frequencies; an ultrasonic stethoscope for listening to walls and floors; nightvision viewing apparatus that resembles binoculars to

detect infrared light and possibly see a spirit; plus a brain scanning device which is used to measure psychokinetic energy when they are investigating a poltergeist.

"We want to prove conclusively that something is actually going on," stated Jorianne. "And, to say that yes, spirits can linger. We also try and determine whether or not this spirit is a guardian angel, stuck on the earth plane or if they want to be there."

One such documentation was made this past summer with regards to what is now known as the Haunted Heartland Ghost. Heim was contacted by the producers of the "Sightings" cable program out

of California to visit the home of a young couple who had recently had a child.

According to Heim, the house was being haunted by a seven-year-old girl named Sally. On videotape, he and a cameraman from the show said they captured the ghost making a 5/2-inch scratch mark down the abdomen of the man who owned the home causing him to bleed.

"That was the first time that I have ever flat out seen with my naked eyes something of that nature," commented Heim. "While it was happening, half of my hand was cold. That half was in an energy field that had been created by



GRAVEYARD SHIFT—"Coffee Psychic" Jorianne and Howard Heim work together in searching for spirits and ghosts. (News-Herald Photo by Brandon Terrell)

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Searching for Ghosts

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the ghost. This was totally different than getting my film back and seeing something in the pictures. I actually felt like a little kid hitting a home run. I was more ecstatic than scared just to be able to capture something on film from beginning to end."

Jorianne added that it is very rare when a spirit will actually do someone physical harm and make them bleed. She added that normally they just want to convey a message they are okay and the most they do is give someone the sensation of being shoved.

When Heim is not going out to prove the existence of ghosts, he serves as the owner and operator of Ghost Bus Tours. Participants visit alleged haunted sites throughout the Chicago area and suburbs. Heim discusses

details as to how they came to be known for paranormal activity.

He also shows videos of apparent spirit activity and allows those on the tour to utilize his nightvision equipment at haunted burial sites. He offers tours on weekends for an average fee of \$25 per person. Heim can be contacted by calling (312) SPOOKY-1 for either a tour reservation or to schedule an investigation.

He also has a full-time position as a security manager for Miglin-Beitler Management in the Loop. Fittingly, he works the so-called "graveyard shift."

Jorianne's specialty is reading coffee. "This is a Hispanic custom," she pointed out. "I pour cream into a cup of coffee and I can see pictures in the cream as well as the steam. I also read the bubbles in the coffee." She also does private tarot card readings and hypnosis to determine an individual's past lives. An appointment can be scheduled by calling (312) 776-1098.

"We want to be able to help people understand what is going on," stated Jorianne. "We want them to realize that it's not their

imagination."

What makes all of this ghost hunting worthwhile? "Every investigation is different," according to Heim. "Sometimes my equipment is affected, and at other times, there is absolutely nothing. I feel that my success rate is higher than anyone else's in determining the presence of spirits. The main thing is I'm helping individuals out with a problem where they don't have anyone else to turn to."



GHOSTBUSTER—Howard Heim, director of the Headquarters for Ghost Investigations, carries out a paranormal search in a Chicago Ridge home. (News-Herald Photo by Brandon Terrell)