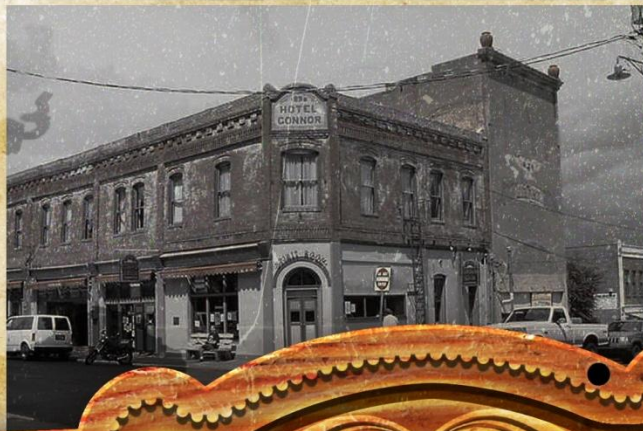




# REPORT

## CONNOR HOTEL

INVESTIGATION



*Jerome  
Arizona*

**AZ024**

### SOUTHWEST GHOST HUNTERS ASSOCIATION



**UNSOLVED  
OPEN**

**2002**

**COMPLAINTS  
STANDARD**

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## Forward

The word “investigation” is defined as  
“a searching inquiry for ascertaining facts; detailed or careful examination.”

The key word here is “facts”. Do ghosts exist? No, it has not been proven.  
Therefore are no facts to investigate.

What we do have is the testimony of the witnesses and this is where an investigational process will work. Investigations are often viewed as a skeptical activity because the main goal is trying to determine what the witness actually saw. Is it explainable or not? This is done through critical thinking and an event replication process developed by SGHA. This is an important concept because what defines a haunting or ghost sighting is “Multiple witnesses reporting unusual phenomena over a period of time”. If these phenomena can be explained, the witness reports are no longer validating paranormal activity as a cause and thus there is no ghost or haunting. Additionally historical research may be done in an attempt to validate facts.

It is important to understand that the goal of an investigation is not to find evidence of the paranormal but to attempt to identify any natural or manmade causes of the reported phenomena

### Definition of Terms

**Investigation Status:** Unsolved investigations will have either an open or closed status. An investigation is given an “Open” status if:

The investigators were unable to replicate all of the witness events. Something significant remains that is still unsolved.

It is important to understand that an “open” investigation does not mean that the unsolved facts are paranormal in nature. It simply means that we have exhausted our resources and cannot solve the “open” items/events.

A “Closed” status indicates that there is insufficient data or confounding variables that prevents replication or identifying possible explanations. This often occurs when investigators do not have direct access to witnesses or some other environmental change has occurred that creates confounding variables.



## Confidentiality Notice

Many of the witnesses interviewed have wished to remain anonymous in exchange for presenting their accounts of paranormal experiences. We honor that request and thus witnesses will often be identified by aliases. Any coincidence between aliases and actual persons is unintentional.

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## Part 1: Location Information

Connor Hotel

Jerome, AZ

## Part 2: Location History

Built in 1898 by David Connor, the Connor Hotel of Jerome has a colorful past, ranging from the heights of luxury to the depths of squalor and back again. Originally designed with 20 rooms upstairs, this first-class lodging establishment also offered a barroom, card rooms, and billiard tables on the first floor. Rooms were rented on the "European plan", for the princely sum of \$1.00 per night. The Connor's telephone number was 8.



The stone foundations were quarried from the hills around Jerome, and the brick was fired in nearby Cottonwood, in the yard of Messrs. Britton and Sharp.



Before the turn of the century, David Connor's hotel had burned to the ground twice, along with many other fine buildings in Jerome's crowded downtown. David Connor was fortunate in that he was one of the only two business owners in town to carry insurance, in the handsome amount of \$14,500. As a result, he was immediately able to rebuild the hotel, unlike many other buildings lost to fire in the conflagrations that swept Jerome before the turn of the century.



After it reopened in August of 1899, it enjoyed a heyday of being one of the finest lodging establishments in the booming mining towns of the West. The hotel had its own bus for delivering guests to the train depot, and was full to capacity much of the time. It was one of the earliest buildings in Jerome to be fully wired for electricity, and each room had a call bell for service.

However, as the fortunes of the mines waned, so waned the fortunes of the Connor Hotel. In 1931, the hotel closed. David Connor's son and heir continued to rent out the shops downstairs, but the rooms sat idle upstairs. Through the ensuing decades, various merchants renting space in the Connor eked a living out of the dwindling residents remaining in Jerome. When the mines closed in the 1950s, the town came close to becoming a real and true ghost town.



Soon thereafter, the town began to attract some slight notoriety for the dubious distinction of being a ghost town, and the merchants shifted gear to try and make a living from the scant tourist traffic wending its way through the formerly bustling town.

As the town began to attract counter-culture folks and sightseers in the 1960s and 1970s, the hotel entered its second heyday, this time as a low budget flophouse of sorts, which was quite popular, especially with people having a night on the town. In fact, many people still remember those days with a good bit of nostalgia. The rooms were twice their original size (still are, in fact), and not glamorous, but definitely the place to be in Jerome. Well, pesky safety concerns dictated that the hotel close its doors again in the 1980s.



"Kito's Place," 1941, was located in the present day hotel lobby.

You know, those unpleasant little issues like sprinkler system, fire escape, and adequate wiring, or the lack thereof. The rooms sat vacant and derelict for the rest of the century, until the owners bit the bullet and embarked upon the major project of correcting the

safety issues and providing the amenities and creature comforts that today's guests have come to expect.



Now, with a new fire escape, fire sprinkler system, and safe new wiring in place, not to mention many other modern conveniences, it is one of the most comfortable pieces of history that the West has to offer!

**Right: Jerome's Main Street in the 1930's**



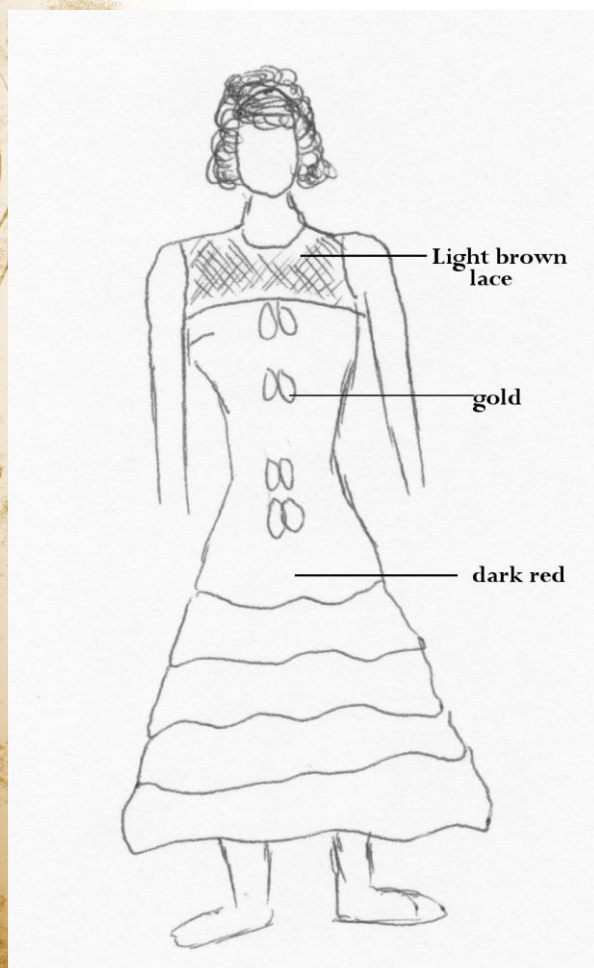
## Part 3: Witnesses

This section identifies the witnesses to the reported activity.

Name	Sex	Connection with reported incident	Interviewed
Nicole S.*	F	Employee, Witness	20 June 2002
Carol W.	F	Witness, Guest	07 Sept 2002
Renee T.	F	Witness, Guest	07 Sept 2002
Andy B.*	F	Witness	07 Sept 2002

*Witnesses given aliases are noted by a \**

### Nicole's Account



I started at the hotel as a housekeeper. The third day on the job I had a rather unusual experience.

It was 10:30 in the morning and I was busy cleaning Room 1. I just gathered up the liens and was taking them down the hall when I saw a woman wearing a red dress coming down the hall towards me. It was a rather beautiful dress so I smiled at her as she past me. I couldn't help but notice her eye (right) as there was a nasty scar around it. a second or two after she past me, I looked back for another view of the dress. She was gone. There was nobody there and she couldn't had left the hallway that quickly. While I thought that it was very odd, I was not scared or anything (I didn't think she was a ghost as she was quite "solid" looking), just curious how she managed to get out so quickly.



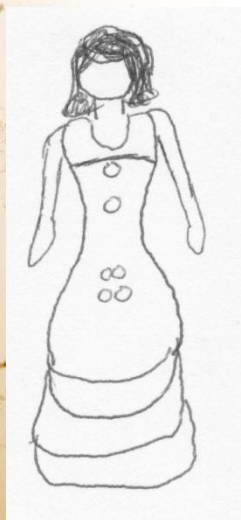
Later that day I told a co-worker about my experience and she told me about the ghost of a woman that has been seen wearing a red dress.

*(Nicole drew us a sketch of the person she saw) The woman had short dark brown hair. The dress was dark red with some sort of light brown lace at the top. The Dress was sleeveless and was calf length. The bottom had multiple folds of material and was adorned with four sets of gold buttons.*

### **Carol's Account**

We were traveling through Jerome on vacation and decided to stop and have a look around the town. It was getting late and we decided to look for a hotel. We entered the bar at the Connor Hotel and were told that rooms might still be available. The lady gave us the key to rooms 2, 6, and 7 because it was three of us gals. I opened the door to room 2 and instantly liked the fact that it would be able to accommodate the third person. We walked towards the opposite end of the hallway and I opened room 6. It had two big queen beds, but in my head, I really liked room 2. As we were leaving, I tried to close and lock the door, but the door shut in my face. It felt like someone shut it. I'm trying to be rational about it but no windows were open, so it doesn't make sense how this door slammed itself shut. I didn't say anything about this incident to my friends because it would have freaked them out.

### **Renee's account**



I was having a drink in the Spirit bar when I noticed a woman seated at the far side of the bar looking at me. She had dark brown hair and something was wrong with her right eye. It looked like she had been punched in the face or something. I tried to ignore her but could "feel" her just staring at me.

After several minutes, I decided to go over and ask what her issue was but when I looked up she was gone. I asked the bartender if he knew who she was and he said that no one had been seated there all evening. Later I read about the "Lady in Red" and was quite shocked. The woman I saw was wearing a dark red dress.



*(Renee drew the details of the dress from what she could remember) Some of the details are vague but she recall that there was gold lace at the top of the dress, three or four sets of gold buttons and that the dress had multiple folds starting at the waist.*

### **Andy B.'s Account**

I had no idea about the hotel being "haunted" and in fact had never really heard of the Connor until that trip. Later that night, while in bed early in the AM, around 3, I had an "experience" that I still cannot explain in room 6. I know that both my friends were sound asleep, but there was something else in the room directly above me.

I felt that "someone" unseen had moved down from the ceiling and was pinning me to the bed. I asked it to stop and the sensation went away. I wrote the whole thing off until several months later, but I couldn't deny that something weird, and deeply personal had happened to me in rm. 6. It may sound crazy, but something I could not see was definitely touching me as I laid there, wide awake. It was the oddest sensation.

### **Part 4: Reported Phenomenon**

Room 1: Haunted by the Lady in Red. Room 1 is located directly above the Spirit Room.

A) It was reported that one can hear women whispering, out of the ordinary noises not associated with anything else in the building and scratching sounds.

B) A cold unseen presence tried to join one frightened gentleman in bed, by lying on top of him, which inspired a hasty retreat of this gentleman to his van, where he spent the rest of the night.

C) An artist who stayed in Room 1, kept seeing a Lady in Red in his dreams. He painted the large mural found above the bar in the Spirit Room, including a picture of this Lady in Red.

Room 5:

A) People staying in Room 5 have experienced both hot and cold spots, having the hair on their arms and neck stand straight up, and heard strange noises as well.



B) The electrical appliances such as the TV & lights, and guest's Palm Pilots have been known to malfunction.

C) When Room 5 is empty, the alarm clock has been known to go off by itself.

## 2) First Floor: The Spirit Room

A) In the past, the Lady in Red has appeared to unsuspecting people who were alone in the bar or in other parts of the building. She is reported to just stand there, looking at the person, and then slowly fades away.

## Part 5: Investigation

We arrived in the morning and were given a tour of the hotel by the owner who took us to each of the rooms where paranormal activity has been reported.



Most of the reported phenomenon have rational explanations as identified below;



## **Room 1**

A.) Whispering and other noises are actually quite common at the hotel. The walls are actually quite thin and the acoustics of the building allow sound to travel quite well. Sound mapping of the second floor revealed that the whispering voices could have easily come from the street below.

B.) The events described here (cold presence lying on top of a man) and Andy's account are probably explainable as hypnagogic hallucinations as they occurred while the witnesses were in bed (and thus cannot be ruled out). Hypnagogia is the experience of the transitional state from wakefulness to sleep: the hypnagogic state of consciousness, during the onset of sleep. Mental phenomena that occur during this "threshold consciousness" phase include lucid dreaming, hallucinations, and sleep paralysis.

C.) The dreams of the artist also may be hypnagogic in nature, however the description of a woman in a red dress does match the accounts of several witnesses.

## **Room 5**

A.) Hypnagogic hallucinations also could account for reports of hot and cold spots, having the hair on their arms and neck stand straight up, and hearing strange noises. Hypnagogic hallucinations are often auditory or have an auditory component. Like the visuals, hypnagogic sounds vary in intensity from faint impressions to loud noises, such as crashes and bangs. People may imagine their own name called, crumpling bags, white noise, or a doorbell ringing. Snatches of imagined speech are common.

B.) The electrical malfunctions that are reported as being paranormal in origin are actually isolated incidents that have occurred over several years that have been grouped together to suggest ghostly activity. The actual frequency of these events does not differ much than the odds of them occurring by chance.

C.) An alarm clock, which could have the alarm set by anyone to go off at anytime, is hardly paranormal.



## Part 6: Research

While doing historical research, we came across a rather interesting story that may (or may not) be relevant.

Prescott, Ariz. April 1. – The county attorney's office this afternoon announced that it was preparing a complaint charging Mrs. Anna Irene Hopkins with a felony. Mrs. Hopkins, who is in jail here, is charged with having thrown acid into the face of Miss Lucille Gallagher, a school teacher at Jerome yesterday. The prosecutor's office said the complaint would be filed in the justice of peace court tomorrow and a heavy bond would be asked for Mrs. Hopkins. Mrs. Hopkins today denied that she had tried to rub the acid into the eyes of Miss Gallagher as witnesses to the affair charged.

~ VICTIM OUT OF DANGER ~

Jerome, Ariz. April 1. – Miss Lucille Gallagher, a local school teacher and said to be a member of a prominent family in Nevada, into whose face acid is alleged to have been thrown yesterday by Miss Hopkins, was said to be out of danger today. A Phoenix specialist who was summoned by the school board immediately after the acid was thrown, said he believed he could save Miss Gallagher's sight and that few permanent scars would result. Mrs. Hopkins, who was taken to the county jail in Prescott, refused to talk on the trip there.<sup>1</sup>

**[Read the full article here](#)**

What is interesting about this historical account is that there was some damage (scar tissue) to Miss Gallagher's right eye. This matches the witness' accounts of the facial features of the apparition. What does not make sense is that Miss Gallagher did not die from her injuries at the Connor Hotel or even in the town of Jerome. In 1940 she is in Spokane Washington.

During the investigation, Nicole and Renee were shown a "line-up" of 12 photographs of various women and asked to pick the photograph that

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<sup>1</sup> ["Woman Throws Acid In Teachers Face; Victim Will Recover," Tombstone Epitaph (Az.), Apr. 3, 1921, p. 1]



resembled the facial features with the woman they saw (minus the scarring around the eye).





The line-up was composed of images provided by the Jerome Historical Society and a few various images found on the internet. With the exception of the few images used from the web, we did not know the identity of the women in the photos. Both witnesses immediately picked the first photograph on the second row. The only difference in what Renee saw was that the woman had a "fuller" head of hair or a slightly different hairstyle.



We contacted the Jerome Historical Society to identify the woman in the photograph that the witnesses choose. The photograph they picked was of Ann Hopkins, the woman who threw acid into the face of Miss Gallagher.

Again, this doesn't make very much sense as Mrs. Hopkins did not die in Jerome either. However, the coincidence of finding the historical article about her and then discovering the identity of the woman in the photo picked by the witnesses was quite intriguing. It is important to note that this data does not indicate that the "ghost" is Ann Hopkins but that the description provided by the witnesses indicates a resemblance.

## **Part 7: Conclusion**

Most of the phenomenon reported at the hotel has rational explanations. However there are two veridical accounts.

### **Confounding Variables**

The accounts of Nicole and Renee contain veridical elements in their description of the dress and facial identification of the apparition they claimed to have witnessed. At this time a confounding variable exists which prevents the case from being solved.

## **Part 8: Photographs / images**





**Hotel Connor Was Built In 1897; Burned In 1899; Reopened In 1900**  
Upstairs Rooms Are Now Occupied By Members Of Movie Company





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# THREW ACID INTO THE FACE OF AN ENEMY SUSPECT

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PRESCOTT, Arizona. May 20.—Mrs. Ann Irene Hopkins was found guilty of assault by a jury in the superior court here yesterday.

Mrs. Hopkins was convicted of having thrown acid into the face of Miss Lucile Galligher, a school teacher in a cafe at Jerome, Arizona, March 31. At the trial the defendant attempted to show that she did this under the delusion that Miss Galligher was a tool of a group of men who were trying to discredit Mrs. Hopkins' husband, Clarence Virgil Hopkins, formerly chief engineer for a large copper company at Jerome. Sentence will be pronounced later.

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