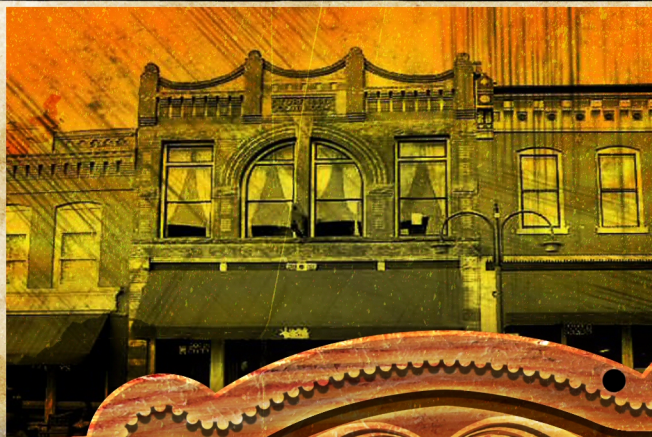




REPORT

BUFFALO BILLY'S CASINO

INVESTIGATION



Cripple Creek

Colorado

C0003

SOUTHWEST GHOST HUNTERS ASSOCIATION



SOLVED

2001

COMPLAINTS
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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 have 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

Buffalo Billy's Casino

237 East Bennett Avenue

Cripple Creek, Colorado

Part 2: Location History:



William P. Bonbright built the Turf Club to house exclusive rooms for the city's most successful businessmen. A year later he sold the building and the business to John Harnan, who continued to operate the club. Harnan earned his fortune with Victor's famed Portland Mine. From January 1892, the Portland Mine grew from 1/10th of an acre to 135 acres.

During that time, it paid out more than \$900,000 in dividends. John Harnan and his partners received majority of the profits. The building now houses Buffalo Billy's Casino.

Part3: Witnesses

This section identifies the witnesses to the reported activity.

Name	Sex	Connection with reported incident	Interviewed
Janice*	Female	Employee at casino	03/24/2001

*Witnesses given aliases are noted by a **

We interviewed several employees, all of which choose to remain anonymous. However Janice was the most helpful and took the time to show us around the building while discussing what she knew about the building's resident ghost.

To her knowledge the ghost story started sometime in the late 1980's when a former employee started telling her co-workers that she had seen a ghost of a



little girl in the bar upstairs. She claimed to be able to telepathically communicate with the ghost and said the girl's name was Lilly.

We asked Janice about the drawings that the ghost had supposedly drawn at the top of the stairs. She told us that she had worked at the casino for five years and has only

seen the graffiti once. She believes that the markings were put there by a "living" child as they are often in the building.

During our visits to the casino, we were unable to find anyone who had experienced anything paranormal. However when anything goes wrong, the "ghost" is often blamed.

Part 4: Reported Phenomena and Sources

It was at that time a ghost was found in the building, a lonely little girl, only six years old. She had inhabited the building, undetected, for nearly one hundred years until she attached herself to a receptive female employee of the casino. The lady did not understand in the beginning that Lilly was a spirit of the past. She saw a little girl sitting on the stair step, cradling a rag doll in her arms.

Known as "Lilly," the friendly little girl has sometimes been seen sitting on the stairs, cradling a rag doll in her arms. Looking incredibly real, an employee once asked her if she was lost, to which Lilly replied, "No, I'm not lost, I live here." When the employee left to get a security guard, the pair returned only to find the little girl gone.



On another occasion, when a tourist was playing the slot machines, she lost track of her daughter. When she began to search, she found her perched on the staircase. Asking her daughter what she was doing, the young girl replied that she was playing with Lilly.

Penciled numbers, letters and primitive drawings are found in the hallway at the top of the rear stairs. The walls are scrubbed down every week, yet Lilly comes and draws on them again.

Lilly causes problems with the computerized signs that record the winning values of the slot machines. She makes them spin so rapidly that the numbers cannot be read. Others have often seen Lilly peering from an upstairs window down to the street below.

(Sources: Ghosts of Bennett Avenue- Cripple Creek, by Kathi Mac Iver, 2000 and third hand stories told to us by a local tour guide.)

Part 5: Hypotheses

1. Living children are being mistaken for the ghost of Lilly. The “ghost” has no physical description other than the dress she is reported to be wearing and even that is a vague. The source material clearly indicates that children could be in the building.

“On another occasion, when a tourist was playing the slot machines, she lost track of her daughter. When she began to search, she found her perched on the staircase. Asking her daughter what she was doing, the young girl replied that she was playing with Lilly.”

Interviews with Janice and other employees also confirm that children can be present in the building. Without a clear definition of Lilly’s physical characteristics, any young girl could be mistaken for the ghost.

All of the reported phenomena have very plausible explanations. The phenomenon also lacks the repeating behavior associated with hauntings.

Part 6: Conclusion

The “haunting” at this location is the product of myth building that has grown through publication in multiple books and through word of mouth on the local ghost tour.

The lacks of eyewitnesses combined with the variants in the story telling indicate an urban legend.

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Part 7: Photographs



The stairs where Lilly is reported to be seen.

