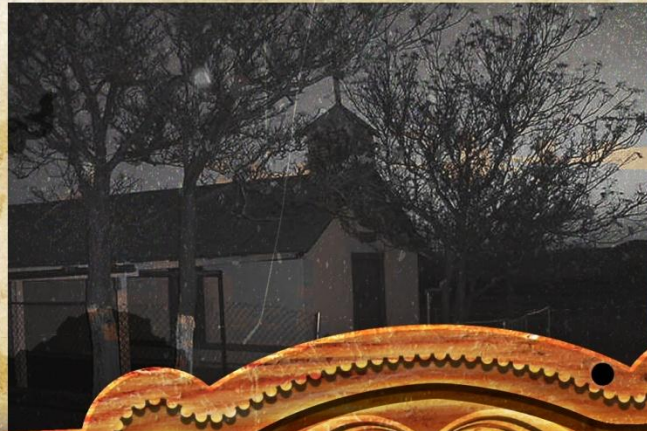




REPORT

KELLY GHOST TOWN

INVESTIGATION



Kelly
New Mexico

NM081

SOUTHWEST GHOST HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

★ SOLVED | 2001 | COMBOLS
2011 | STAFF | ARDS

WWW.SGHA.NET



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

Kelly Ghost Town

NM

Part 2: Location History

In Magdalena, turn south on the road adjacent to the ranger station. Take the left fork 1.9 miles later at the smelter foundation. The church and cemetery at Kelly are 1.4 miles from that fork.



South of Magdalena and west of Kelly is Magdalena Peak, so named, according to one legend, because a group of Mexicans were about to be slaughtered by Apaches when the face of Mary Magdalene appeared on the mountain, terrifying the Apaches and saving their intended victims.

Another story says that the peak was named because a face said to be Mary Magdalene's is discernible on the north end of the mountain.

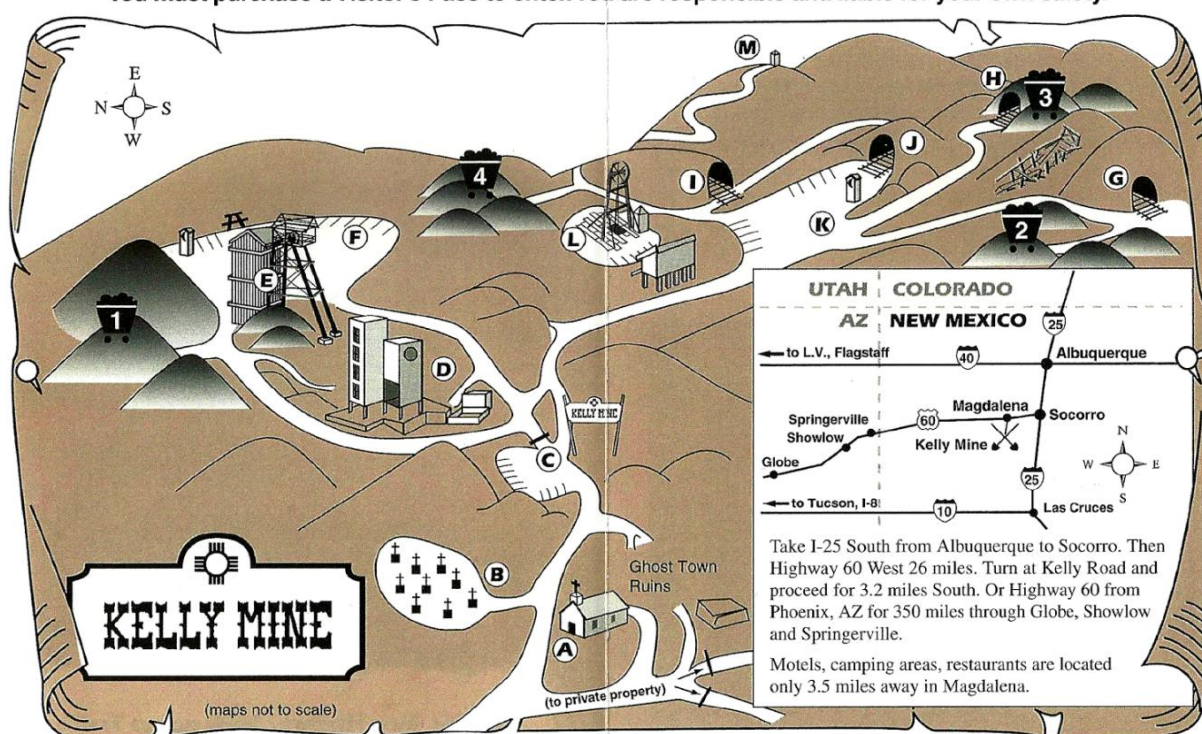
For whatever reason, the peak had some sort of significance to the Apaches, for as the miners picked their way over the canyons, gulches, and cliffs of the Magdalena Mountains, the Apaches never once attacked those miners working the slopes near the peak.

THE HISTORIC **KELLY MINE** AREA

OFFICIAL VISITOR'S HOURS:

May 15th to October 15th • Friday, Saturday, & Sunday: 10 am – 4 pm (or by reservation)

You must purchase a Visitor's Pass to enter. You are responsible and liable for your own safety.



- A. St. John the Baptist Catholic Church (*Mass in June*)
- B. Old Kelly Cemetery (*please respect the area*)
- C. Main Gate and Parking
- D. Refractory, Boiler and Assay
- E. Traylor Shaft with Famous Kelly Headframe
- F. Parking, Picnic Area, Water, Toilet
- G. Juanita Tunnel (*no entry allowed*)
- H. Germany Tunnel (*flooded, no entry allowed*)
- I. Sunshine Tunnel (*no entry allowed*)

- J. Kelly Tunnel (*no entry allowed*)
- K. Kelly Flat (*parking, water and outhouse*)
- L. Paschal Shaft and Old Headframe (*parking*)
- M. Grand Tower (*caution near shaft*)
- 1. Kelly Stockpile (*Malachite, Smithsonite, etc.*)
- 2. Juanita Stockpile (*Azurite, Malachite, etc.*)
- 3. Germany Stockpile (*Smithsonite, fossils, etc.*)
- 4. Paschal Stockpile (*Smithsonite, Pyrite, Quartz, etc.*)

Colonel J. S. Hutchason was the one who started the mad scramble in the Magdalena's. In 1866 he filed two claims after finding outcroppings rich in lead. He gave a third claim to Andy Kelly, a friend who worked a sawmill. Hutchason kept an eye on the claim, however, and when Kelly failed to do

the proper assessment work, Hutchason jumped it. By 1870 the town came to life as miners discovered lead, zinc, silver, copper, and even some gold. The town was named Kelly, perhaps in mirth at the man who had lost his claim, perhaps because of guilt pangs.

When the railroad arrived at Magdalena in 1880, operations at Kelly became more profitable since ore no longer had to be freighted by m team to Kansas City. The railroad wanted to build a spur a the way to Kelly, but the rapid ascent made the line impractical, so the ore was hauled down to Magdalena using sixteen mule and horse teams.

The post office came to Kelly in 1883. Eventually the town featured two hotels, two churches, two dance halls, seven saloons, and an estimated population of three thousand.

Just after the turn of the century, as silver deposits began to play out and zinc and lead became the major minerals of the area, Cory T Brown of Socorro had a greenish rock assayed that had long been discarded in the waste dumps of Kelly. It turned out to be zinc carbonate, also known as smithsonite, a substance used as pigment in paints. Kelly had new life. The Sherwin Williams Paint Company bought the Graphic Mine from Brown and his partner, J. B. Pitch.

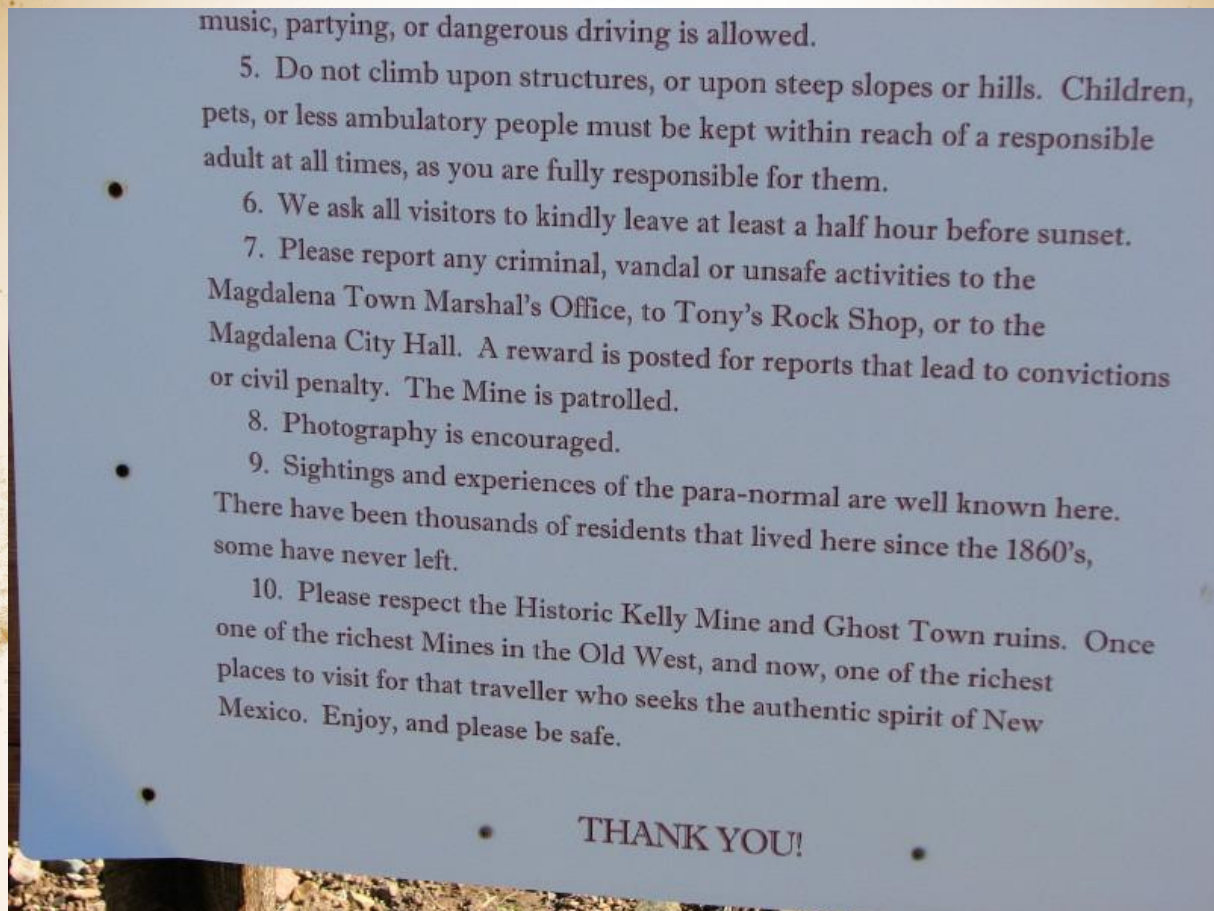
The Tri-Bullion Company bought the Kelly Mine, and the town expanded with new wealth. But by 1931 the smithsonite had been extricated, and Kelly began to die. At this time, over thirty million dollars in mineral wealth had been taken From the Magdalena Mountains.

The post office hung on until 1945. Smelter foundations, a small white stucco Catholic church, a juniper and pinon-filled cemetery, a few walls and foundations, and an old vault are all that remain of the town of Kelly. A bit farther up the canyon are the remains of the Tri-Bullion Mine, earlier known as the Kelly.

Part 3: Reported Phenomenon

There have been several sighting of "shadow-like" figures and apparitions near the ruins of the mine and near the church. Also strange noises, including disembodied footsteps have been heard by visitors touring the

mine ruins. Several ghost lights have also been reported around the old town site and its cemetery.



This sign was posted during our visit in 2001. It had been removed sometime before the 2011 investigation.

Part 5: Investigation

SGHA conducted several investigation in the ghost town of Kelly. The major excursions were in 2001, 2003, 2006 and 2011.

2001/2003

The purpose of the investigations in 2001 and 2003 was to investigate the reports of "shadow figures" that were seen around the remnants of the mine. Observation teams were stationed around the mine where the reports of the phenomenon had been reported. Several attempts were made to replicate the position and movement of the witnesses in an attempt to see what they had reported.

Eventually, when we replicated what the majority of the witnesses were doing, (moving around the site using multiple flashlights) it became obvious that the shadows are created as the light sources are passed through trees and the ruins of the mine head works.

2006

More reported had surfaced from the area, this time coming from the town's cemetery. The phenomenon was the same (moving shadows) and once again we replicated the phenomenon as we did in 2003.

2011

New reports surfaced saying that we did not address the "ghost lights" that are seen in the area at night.

The purpose of the investigations in 2011 was to observe and attempt to identify the spectral phenomena that has been reported by people who were in the area after dark.

Observation teams were posted on the night of July 29, 2011, Greg Elbring, team leader. Thunderstorms with significant lightening had just passed through and were still at the tail end with light sprinkles when we arrived at about 8:30 pm. Storms continued to move further west during the night, with skies over Kelly gradually clearing.

The first light that I noticed was when we were investigating the cemetery on the southwest side of town. It was a single bright white light high up on the ridge to the east (Figure 1). It looked somewhat like a headlight, though it wasn't moving. It remained in place for 10 to 15 seconds and I was about to draw it to other people's attention when it faded out over a period of about 2 seconds. Time would have been about 9:15 pm or so. I have no explanation for what this light might have been other than the remote possibility of a flashlight from someone hiking around an isolated ridge at night during a thunderstorm and deciding to make the rest of the trip down without a light on.

The second series of lights were seen from the tailings pile behind the main shaft structure of the remaining mine works on the ridge southeast of town. Carl was seeing a light to the southwest of town that was behaving oddly (Figure 2), but when I arrived at the ridge, Greg thought that was not the

light he was talking about, but rather a dimmer, reddish-orange glow much closer to town. This first appeared as what looked like projected light from a source blocked by the bushes in that it was very dim and spread out, somewhat like you would see from a dim headlight lighting up the area in front of it. This diffuse light was somewhat brighter to the left (south) and dimmed to the right (north). Cody and Kristen also saw this light, thinking it was the one Carl was talking about. As Greg watched, a round, somewhat larger reddish-orange light appeared at the left-hand side of the swath of light, blinked rapidly two or three times, then disappeared. It looked similar to a car taillight in color, though more orange than usual and more round in shape. The blinking was much more rapid than a turn signal or brake lights would have been.

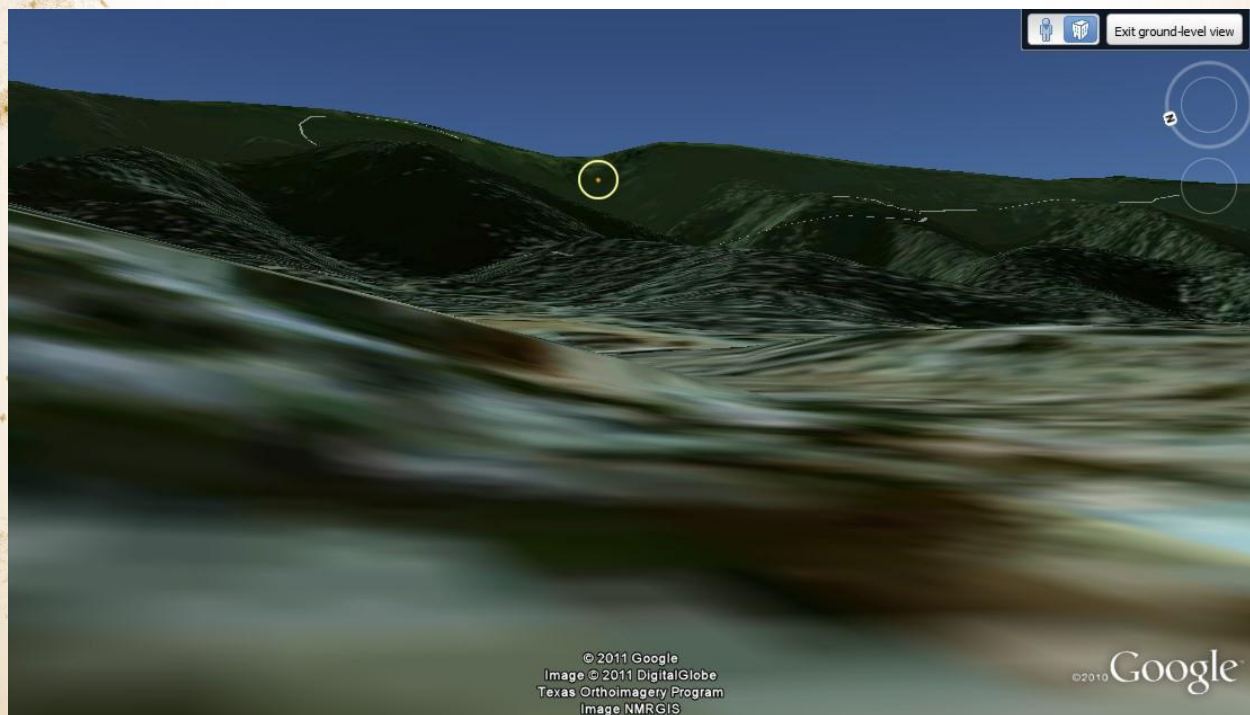


Figure 1: View from cemetery looking east. Location of light shown inside circle.

No sounds, such as car engines, crunching gravel, or car doors closing, accompanied the sighting of the light. We thought that the location of the light could have been near the cars parked at the church and that maybe someone was down by the cars, so Greg and several others went back to the cars to turn the lights on and off while Cody, Carl, and Kristen remained

on the hill. Cars were located to the left (south) of where the red light was seen as far as they could tell.

The most rational explanation of the reddish-orange light would be something to do with the cars. The plot of the location falls reasonably close to the cars and, even though the blinking was faster than a turn signal, it could have been similar to the flashing many cars do when the doors are locked or unlocked. It's possible that someone's remote activated the lock from their pocket as they climbed around near the mine, but it's doubtful given the distance from the cars (about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile) and the range of a typical car remote. It's also possible that someone was tampering with the cars, though all participants in the ghost hunt were together at the mine and there was no evidence of other people in the town at any time.

The locations of the lights as best as we can place them are shown in side view in Figures 1 and 2. Plan view of the town and its surroundings are shown in Figure 3. Figures 4 through 6 show enlarged map views of apparent locations of the observed lights if they were on the ground. The first white light and Carl's light plot in areas with no road access and the reddish-orange light falls in the town site near the church.

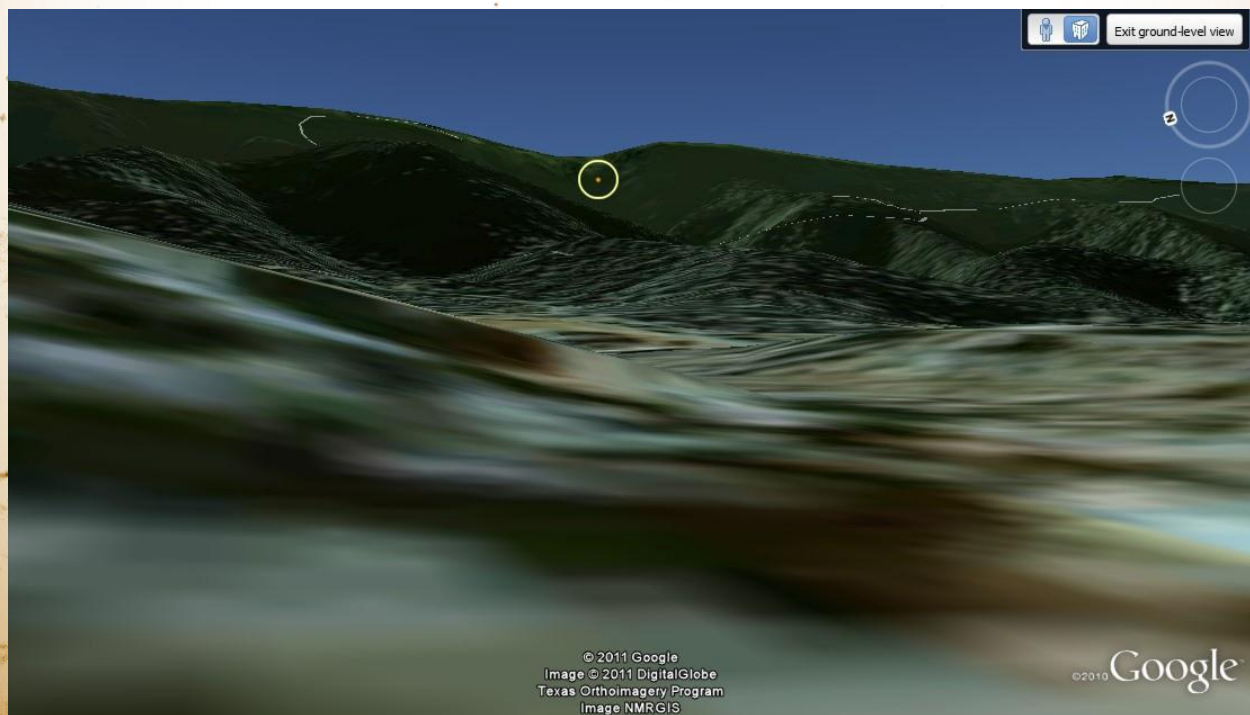


Figure 1: View from cemetery looking east. Location of light shown inside circle.

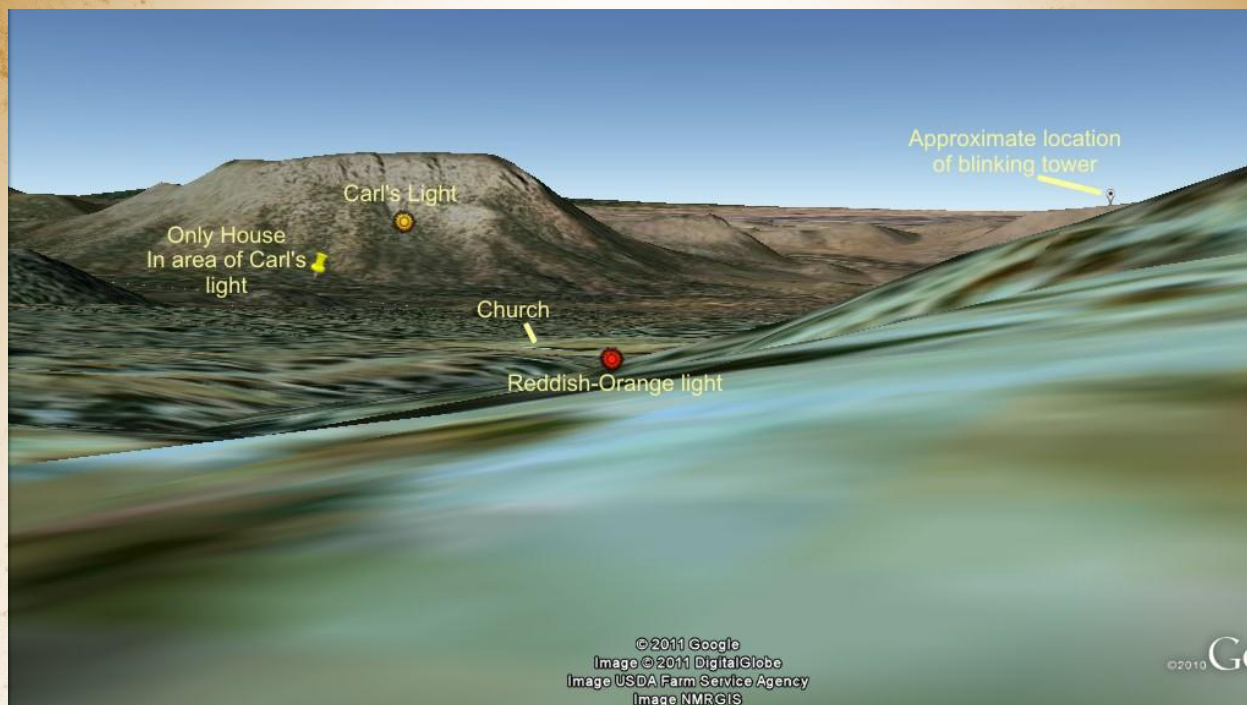


Figure 2: View from tailings pile near mine works looking west over the town site.

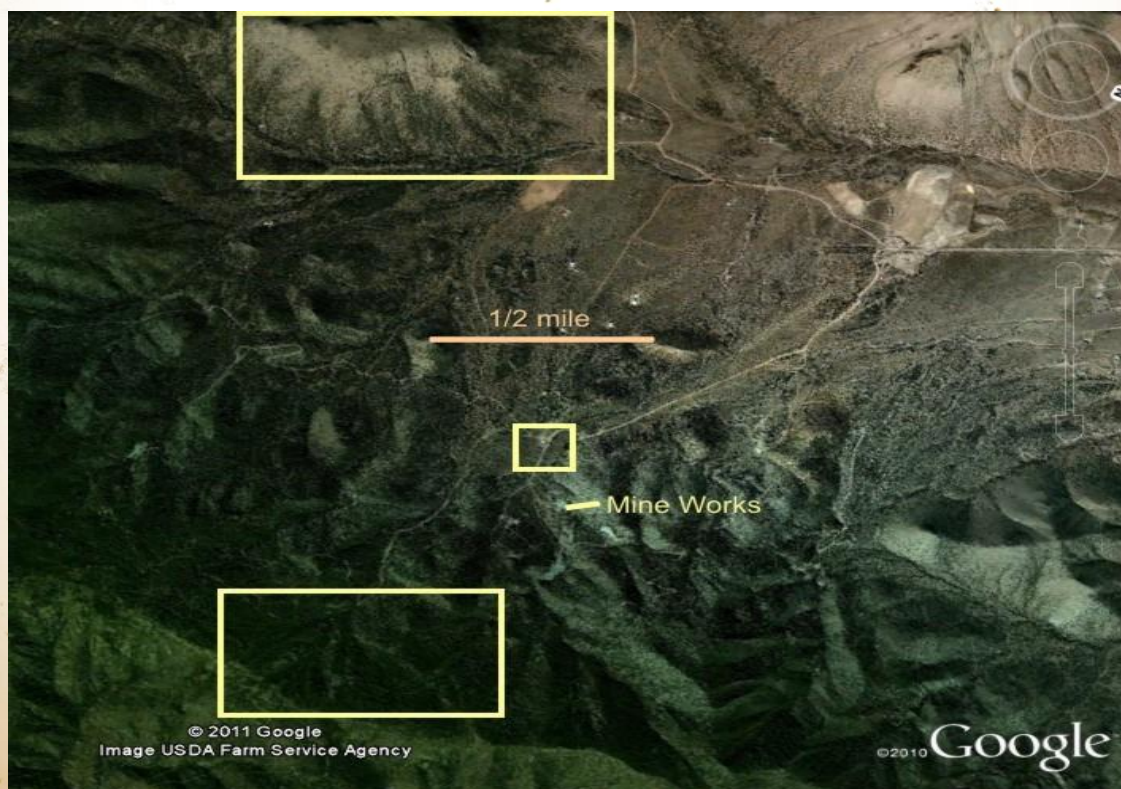


Figure 3: Map view of region around Kelly showing locations of following figures in relation to the Mine Works.



Figure 4: Approximate location of white light seen from cemetery if on ground.



Figure 5: Approximate location of light first seen by Carl if on ground.



Figure 6: Approximate location of reddish-orange light seen by Greg, Cody, and Kristen.

Part 6: Conclusion

The reported activity fails the Gurney/Myers standard in several aspects. First of all, there are no historical accounts of any tragedies (murders, accidents resulting in death, etc.) that would provide a basis for a haunting. Secondly, we were able to replicate the phenomenon that was reported by the witnesses.

The red/orange lights near the church were discovered to be coming from cars travelling up the road and turning around at the church. the other lights were identified as coming from a campsite and from ATVs that were moving in the observed areas.

SOLVED



Part 7: Photographs/Images

BIG STRIKE IN THE KELLY MINES

Kelly, N. M., Aug. 13.—(Special).—A rich strike in zinc and lead has been made in the Kelly mine, owned by the Tri-Bullion interests, and it has caused a sensation in this part of the country. The ore is very rich and consists thus far of a ten-foot vein of fine zinc and lead ore which lies alongside of another vein of lesser ore which is twelve feet wide.

Samples of the strike taken from the mine assay very rich and the indications are that the Kelly mine has broken all records in this district and will be a big proposition. The strike was made at a much greater depth than any shaft sunk so far and indicates without question that deep mining in this district will bring great results.

There is an era of prosperity ahead for this camp. Nearly all the men are working full time and there is a resumption of activity on all sides.

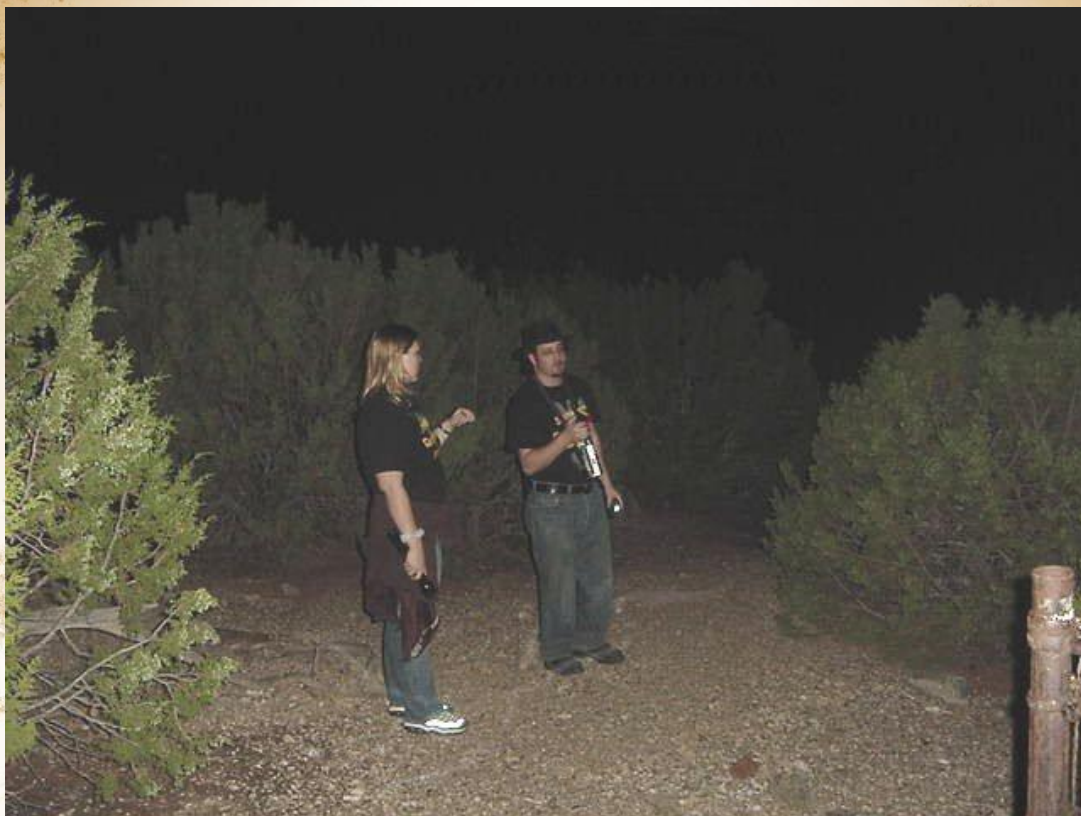
The mill at Kelly is running and both ore and concentrates are being shipped. The Graphic owners have just sent fifty tons of their sulphides to the Kelly mill for concentration as an experiment. If it is successful the Graphic people will build and operate a mill at once.

Miner Down Eighty-Foot Shaft.

Kelly, N. M., Aug. 12.—(Special).—A miner employed in the Kelly mines here fell down an eighty-foot shaft the other day and created considerable excitement, but that was about all. He was brought from the mine hurriedly by other miners and a physician summoned. Beyond a few bruises the man was unharmed and he returned to work the next day but little the worse for his experience.

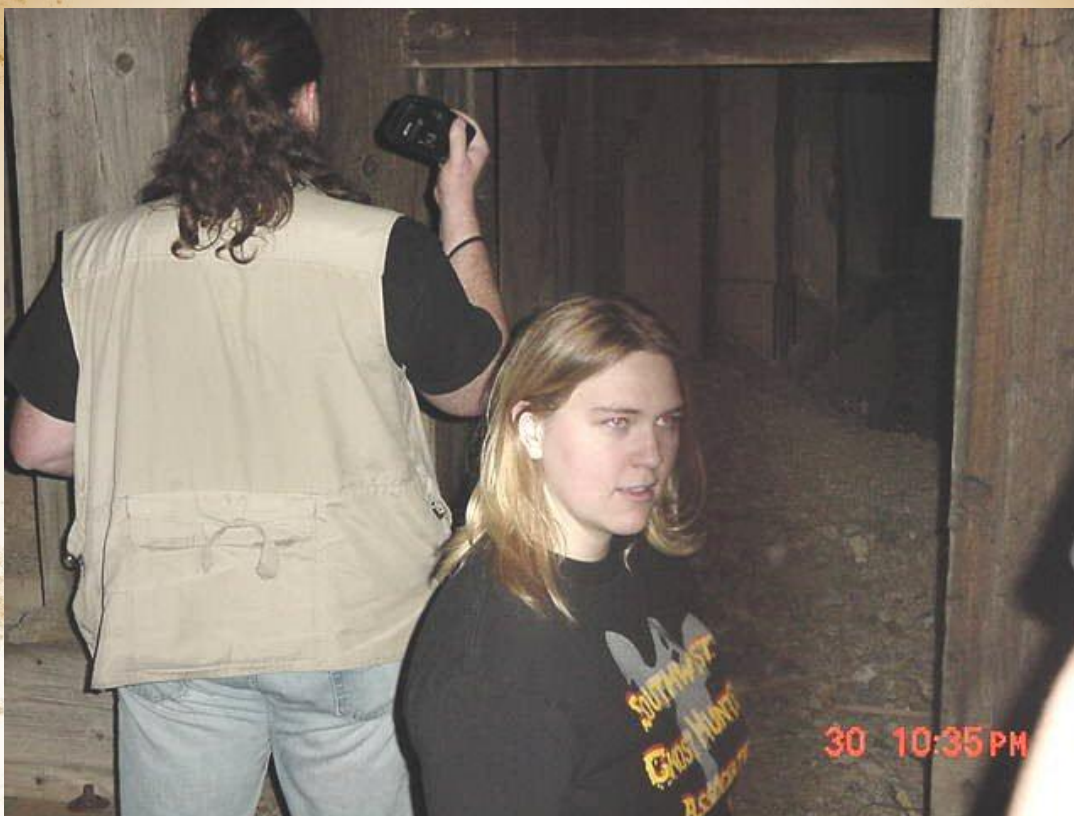
Article from the Chieftain, Aug 13th, 1908. The closest thing we found to a death or tragedy at the site.





Investigation at the cemetery





Replicating the moving shadows at the head works.

