

The Haunting of LEHI HOSPITAL

by April Page Greenawalt



The Lehi Hospital Building.

located in Lehi, Utah, sat empty and neglected since its official closing in 1967. That is, until Todd Vinzeze purchased the building in hopes of restoring it. For the past three years, he has opened it to the public as a Halloween Haunted House attraction. Having always been fascinated with the building, I approached it and was allowed brief access by the haunted house crew, after I introduced myself as a local Paranormal Investigator with the Utah Ghost Hunters Society.

Armed with my handheld recorder, I entered, and within the first five minutes I recorded a disembodied voice saying, "Get out quick... haaaa." Not two seconds later, the owner asked me to leave the building. After learning a bit more about how I operated, he allowed me to return. For almost two years now, this location has been my main focus of investigation.

Prior to becoming a hospital, the building housed the Lehi Commercial & Savings Bank. At one point it also housed a mechanic's shop in combination with a working crematorium (yes, really). During its years of operation as the Lehi Hospital (1926-1967), it is estimated that nearly 4,000 deaths occurred within its walls, and not all of them exactly 'legitimate'.

The building often produces a feeling of heaviness or pressure from above. Many people who enter are overwhelmed by its atmosphere and do not continue on. Though I personally do not implement the use of a Ouija board, it is rumored that on several occasions one has been used inside a specific room in the building. It was not until after my first walk-through that I learned where this room

was. I approached the room and was literally, physically, stopped from entering. My heart rate jumped, I started to sweat, and I immediately felt a huge sense of dread. After taking a few moments to collect myself, I entered anyway. This room has been coined the "Bloody Mary" room. In it hangs a mirror original to the



hospital. It is completely shut off from light with black plastic sheeting, and doors have been randomly hung and placed throughout the room to create a rather dark and creepy feel. This is where I have collected most of my evidence.

Though the rest of the hospital has its share of scary corners and interesting stories, the "Bloody Mary" room is definitely the most paranormally active. One evening, I was accompanied into the hospital with local reporters, UGHS founders Chris and Nancy Peterson, Investigator Brian Whitesides, and the owner of the building for an investigation. When we entered this particular

room, the owner fell instantly ill and could not continue with us. We stood and talked in the room, tape recorders and camcorders rolling. Brian motioned to us to come take a look at what was appearing through his camcorder screen. With the camera set to nightshot, he had it pointed directly at the old hospital mirror on the wall. I stood in amazement as I watched a face materialize and fade, just to do it again and again. The reporters didn't quite know what to make of the incident. They scanned the room for possible explanations, but found none.

I met my investigative partner, James Boley, early this year and he has since joined me on several investigations into the hospital. Together, we seem to have a team dynamic that draws out more paranormal activity. He is the photographer, and I take temperature and EMF readings, and run the audio for EVP. On our very first trip into the hospital together, James took some amazing photographs. Not huge fans or believers in orbs, we were surprised but pretty unaffected by the amount of them he was capturing. Neither he nor I see this phenomena as proof of an actual haunting, though we both believe it could be caused by a number of things both energetic and not. Odd shaped and colored mists started showing up in the pictures; often times after one of us had seen something and quickly taken a picture to see if we could capture it. There were moments of unrest or uneasiness that prompted James to take photographs, and weird anomalies would then be visible on the screen of his camera. If I sensed something was occurring in a certain area, I would direct him to take a photograph and again, something would almost always show up.



I have countless tapes in my collection from the hospital, and on them I have found some pretty significant EVP. Not all of them are discernable, but I have many that are pretty impressive indeed; for example, voices that say, "Michael, Michael, Momma. Michael's Dead!", "Where's the way out?", and "I wanna hold your hand." I have been told to "get out" on more than one occasion, and there have been times when profanity was recorded on tape. I have taken several different groups of investigators and curious spectators through the building, and nine out of ten times they experienced something they couldn't seem to explain. In the "Bloody Mary" room, people have often reported to me that they have witnessed a black mass or shadow crawling towards them on the

floor, or from the ceiling down along the wall in their direction. I have been a witness to this myself, and I always approach it like I approach anything I can't explain; I confront it or chase after it. I do not allow myself to be fearful; for I firmly believe that fear itself is a form of energy that spirits or entities can draw off of. Whereas I first felt apprehensive and a bit scared to enter this building, I now enter with no reserve whatsoever. In doing this, I have found I am less energetically drained and I am met with less hostility while in the building.

The Lehi Hospital holds a different experience for anyone who enters it. It will forever be a place that I hold close to my heart, both as a person and as a Paranormal Investigator.



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