

Ghost Box Communications and Shadow People at Mansfield Reformatory

Blog report by Rosemary Ellen Guiley on a private investigation
C. Visionary Living, Inc., 2008



I made my first visit to the Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield on June 14, 2008 for a private investigation night organized by Gene Lafferty and the Buckeye State Paranormal & Haunting Investigators. What a place! At more than 250,000 square feet, it is bigger than Waverly Hills Sanatorium, and loaded with paranormal activity. Mansfield is at the top of my Must Return list. We got at least one interesting photo, possibly of a Shadow Person, and some communications over the Mini-Box, a version of Frank's Box. Links to the audio files are near the end of this blog.



Accompanying me on the trip were several investigators from Maryland, Kathy, Katherine, Regina and Miss Eileen. My thanks to all the guides, especially Scott Sukel, who provided a superb tour and helped us out throughout the night. There were only 38 of us, so we all had plenty of room to spread out throughout the facility.

The Reformatory

Work on the reformatory began in 1886 as an intermediate prison between the Boys Industrial School in Lancaster and the Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus. It is constructed of granite, probably a major factor in the structure's ability to retain phenomena. I believe that certain geophysical factors, such as electromagnetic energy in rocks, are “batteries” that enable phenomena to manifest and linger.



Mansfield has the world's largest free-standing cellblock, with six tiers, 12 ranges and 600 cells. The reformatory has been used for films such as *The Shawshank Redemption* and is a favorite with paranormal investigators.



Looking down cell block



Cell where Jason & Grant spent time for *Ghost Hunters*

Shadow People

I had clairvoyant experiences of full and partial apparitions, including a woman in the administrative area, and shadow figures, possibly Shadow People, also in the administrative area. Some shadow figures are low-energy ghosts, and I distinguish them from Shadow People, who seem to be intelligent entities. I think they are “ultraterrestrials,” beings from another dimension, who show up in our world as dark silhouetted figures. Shadow People are found in some haunted places; the Waverly Hills Sanatorium in Louisville, Kentucky is famous for them.

Regina takes a lot of photos on investigations, often in response to an intuitive prompt even if nothing is obvious or visible. Below is a photo she took in the cell block while walking, which accounts for the blurriness. A small figure at the far end looked intriguing, and I had the photo examined by Karl Petry, a professional photographer/videographer and psychic who has excellent skill in psychometrizing photographs. He gets impressions as to whether or not unexplained images may be of a paranormal nature. He cannot control these impressions; he has them or he doesn't. His opinion does not prove or disprove photos, but I take it into account. I have found his overall psychic accuracy to be quite high. Very few photographs that he examines wind up in the “possible category. Karl feels one of the few.



Is a Shadow Person at the end of the hall?

that this photograph is

Ghost Box

My preferred tool on investigations is a “ghost box,” also called “Frank’s Box,” after the leading inventor of the most recent devices, Frank Sumption of Colorado. People have been experimenting with technology to communicate with the spirit worlds for over a century, and the ghost boxes are the latest wave. They are radio scan devices that may enable real-time, two-way communication. The devices scan low-band frequencies, such as AM radio. Communication can come from the bits of radio broadcast – but the best are voices superimposed on the scan. It’s as though spirits manipulate the scan and the subtle energy field created by the box to form words that penetrate into our dimension.



The Mini-Box as shown on www.paranormalsystems.com

Ghost Box technology is controversial and unpredictable. Because it is real-time and two-way, I believe it is one of the most exciting and promising frontiers in research. Most communications are short, like EVP (electronic voice phenomena). However, the more I use these devices, the better the communications – I believe that a “conditioning” takes place that has a cumulative effect.

I have two boxes built by Frank Sumption, and a Mini-Box, built by Ron Ricketts. I have articles posted on my website, www.visionaryliving.com, under EVP-ITC, that explain more on this technology.

I was delighted to hook up with the crew from Ghostly Talk radio, and co-host Doug and I recorded three sessions with the Mini-Box. For a speaker, I used Gene's Radio Shack iSymphony T-Speaker, which gave the box a squeak, but nonetheless proved to be effective. Doug recorded the box sessions with a condenser mike.

Our best box session was in solitary confinement, where Katherine, who is a medium, communicated with at least one spirit present, including a man who may have died from a severe wound to the throat, such as might have occurred in a prison fight.



Sony IR Night Shot of Katherine in solitary confinement cell

I got two clear recordings, voices that floated on top of the radio scan. One said "It's dark" and the other said "The box is talking." I have posted the wav files on Frank Sumption's EVP-ITC Forum, and you can listen to them at this URL:

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/EVP-ITC/files/Rosemary%27s%20Files/>

The other two sessions, in the chapel and the west administrative area, did not yield anything over the box.

For more information about the history of this amazing place, and how to book a ghost tour there, go to the Mansfield site at <http://www.mrps.org>

Here is one of the scariest sights there -- Scott L from Ghostly Talk!



Rosemary Ellen Guiley is a leading expert on the paranormal, the author of 35 books, including 8 single-volume encyclopedias, and hundreds of articles. She makes frequent public and media appearances. Her website is www.visionaryliving.com.