

# Tour takes guests back to 1800

By Kayla Berge  
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Two noble lights flickered and danced within lanterns on a cool crisp, October afternoon, despite the fact that the 5 o'clock sun still sat lazily in the sky. The man, William Becker, outstretched his long-nailed hand to usher his tour group into the tunnel of the Oregon City elevator. The second lantern was held by a man named Rocky Smith Jr. These two guides were ready to usher the city's intrigued visitors through the streets haunted with history.

This was my first introduction to the Northwest Ghost Tours which are walking tours featured in the town where our college is located.

Smith walked behind us smiling kindly as he listened to his friend Becker retell stories of Oregon City's past. We started at the elevator where Becker painted vividly a picture of the past where women in hoop skirts once struggled with their packages before the elevator had been built. It was then he brought up the first two ghosts out of a long list we would be hearing: Sarah Chase and a little redhead boy who we later learned to be Carl Green. We strolled our way down to Main Street while Becker repainted the landscape before our eyes of the late 19th century to the early 20th century. A time when the roads were dirt and traveled on by the use of horsepower (pardon my pun). The first building we looked at was an old pharmacy ... or at least it used to be. Now we would know it by the name of Mi Famiglia, a restaurant located on the corner of Main and 7th Street. There the ghost "Jimmy" remains fairly active.

Down Main Street, we passed several places as Becker retold the stories he



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William Becker, the tour guide, tells how there was a graveyard and a Catholic church where the guests stand in a vacant parking lot. When the church was moved, it's possible few graves were left behind.

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*We traveled on as a few street lamps flickered before our very eyes.*

knew with the help of Smith. Becker talked about George the projectionist who used to work at the old Star Theater ... and still comes back. Becker also talked about a more malevolent ghost named Dougie who has been recently cleansed from the Living Room Pub.

Further on we walked, past rebuilt buildings, car lots, across a cemetery that's now covered with cement, down to where the Liberty Theater once stood which we now know as the Liberty Plaza. Once we sat down and settled in on the cold cement Becker revealed the story of Charity Lamb, the first female murderer in Oregon. She was sent to Dr. Hawthorne's asylum until the end of her life. Eventually, we found our way down to where the pier used to be on 5th and McLoughlin Boulevard. There, a lot of

mystery was still about. Becker talked about a female ghost who dwelt here, along with a shadow that looked to be male, that had been spotted by previous groups from above. Becker admitted that this was one of the places he made sure to bring a lit candle every time he visited along. He also admitted that he talked with the spirits as he would descend the stairs to the river telling them why he was there and that he was coming. As he talked, the sun lowered itself past the horizon and the town clock struck its 30 minute toll. We traveled on as a few street lamps flickered before our very eyes.

The second place Becker was sure to bring a candle with him was next to the tunnel that drivers use to enter downtown Oregon City. This was a place possibly

haunted by five men who had been hanged for a crime they had not committed. Smith retold his stories of his experiences, I felt my own heart beat faster. There was a chilly realization that the stories that Becker and Smith were telling were not made up. They were a real deal.

I learned a lot on my tour of downtown Oregon City along with three important rules: 1) Always carry a lit candle with you; it protects you from evil spirits. 2) Be aware of the history in the town you live in. 3) The most important rule of them all, be respectful of the dead.

For tour times and other information please visit [www.nwghosttours.com](http://www.nwghosttours.com). Tours require reservations (503) 679-4464, call or e-mail [reservations2009@nwghosttours.com](mailto:reservations2009@nwghosttours.com).

## SCREAM: Haunted house holds reputation



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A cast member wears a scary mask to make the guests jump as they enter the Gothenberg Estate.

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Another change this year, other than the building, is the way the entire event is set up. In previous seasons, each haunt was separate, creating long lines. Guests were waiting for upwards of three hours.

This year, the only line you wait in is the one to get into the building.

Once inside, you're given a group number. Then each group goes in at different intervals.

While you're waiting for your number to be called, there is a whole Halloween Town of activities, including: Halloween Portraits, Bizzaro's Hat shop, Captain Henry's Pirate Store, Miss Morbid's Playhouse of Horrors, and much more.

Outside the building there are carnival rides and games, which are a bit out of place in the month of autumn, but nevertheless a great way to enjoy the season.

Scream at the Beach runs from Oct. 1 through Oct. 31. For times, ticket information, as well as other events and casting opportunities visit [screamatthebeach.com](http://screamatthebeach.com).



Outside the Circuit City building, Scream at the Beach features carnival rides and games for the whole family to enjoy.