

# When spirits of the departed walk among thee

BY TIM HILL  
for The Portland Observer

For those of you ghost hounds who don't know the lore, here's the skinny on the reported haunts within the McMenamins Kingdom. So if you're in the mood for the paranormal or want to contact someone from The Other Side, here's where to check.

Meandering garbage cans, the sensation of being watched, and that pesky noose are all reminders of the looming presence of the Phantom of the Baghdad. His true identity may be tied in with the old tale of the theater's janitor who hanged himself backstage.

**Cornelius Pass Roadhouse**

This farmstead was established back in Oregon's infancy and was home to six generations of the same family. Over the years, numerous family members were born and died here. Perhaps it's their spirits that are heard rumbling around the attic

on occasion. Only the resident owls hold the answer to that question.

**Crystal Ballroom**

The classic dance hall is just too cool to leave! On several occasions, spirits have been heard here after hours waltzing across the floating floor. Maybe it's Rudolph Valentino, himself, back for a return engagement!

**Edgefield**

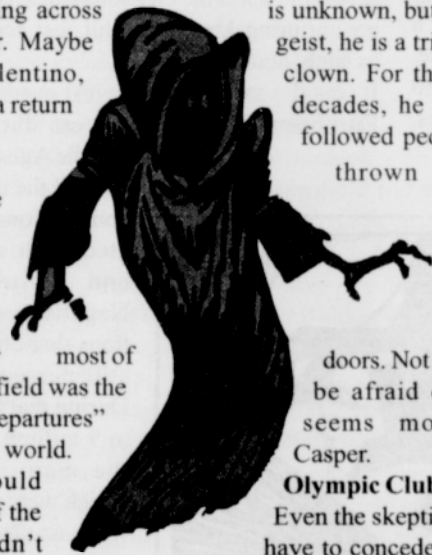
Edgefield is the mother of all haunts. Having been a county poor farm and nursing home for most of its 88 years, Edgefield was the scene of many "departures" from this earthly world.

However, it would seem that some of the old residents didn't venture too far. There are ghost stories galore and weird encounters

continue - especially in the main lodge's old infirmary wing.

**Hotel Oregon**

John the Ghost is the longest standing guest of this historic property. Exactly who he was in mortal form is unknown, but as a poltergeist, he is a trickster and a clown. For the past three decades, he has closely followed people around,



thrown things across rooms and swung on the doors. Not a spirit to be afraid of, John seems more like Casper.

**Olympic Club**

Even the skeptics would have to concede that this grand, old relic is saturated with ghosts. It only takes a look

around and a peek into the building's past to know that many dark secrets still echo throughout its cavernous basements. Staff and customers alike have experienced enough unexplainable movements, reflections, and voices to make believers out of them.

**Thompsons Brewery & Public House**

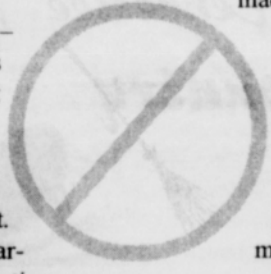
Whether it's Thompson, the first

resident of the house, or Ludwig, Crown Prince of Bavaria, the Thompson staff is not sure. They are certain, however, that this spirit has been enjoying his ghostly stay - making odd sounds and moving things around - at the brewpub for years. Mostly, the specter is encountered in the front left room on the top floor, where the bust of Prince Ludwig hangs.

# Real witches don't fly on broomsticks

BY LEE PERLMAN  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

There are a lot of things the witches - or wiccans of Portland, whom Phillips think number several hundred, don't agree upon, starting with their name. Some put on public rituals while others view ceremonies as intensely private. Some believe in an afterlife, others do not. They perform ceremonies in special garments, the clothes they wear at any other time, or nothing at all.



What they do share is belief in an ancient, pagan religion based upon nature, as well as ancient gods and goddesses and other spirits. They believe, as Phillips says, that "not everything can be seen with the bare eye."

Phillips says witches practice magic at these sessions but, as she says, "It's intensely practical, not spookey-wokey." They ask for help and advice from deities and spirits. As a climax, they build a Cone of Power: "People start singing or chanting. The room fills with sound. Someone acting as a priest or priestess will shape the energy with body or voice, and send it off to achieve a collective intent. It's fairly dramatic."

Even so, it's "not meant to solve problems better solved through hard work. It's a way of getting your body and soul in motion. You can't just sit back on a sofa and expect it to work." If for instance, you're seeking a job, you should also do "all the practical things - look at job an-

nouncements, update your resume, network like mad."

It would not be okay to use magic to influence a particular personnel officer because that would violate a basic ethical rule: you must not interfere with anyone's free will. For the same reason, she says, "Love spells that mention someone's name are not okay." Using magic for revenge is "a very poor idea,"

(Please see "Flying" page 6)

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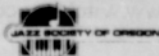
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