

UW-Marathon County Library Restroom Reader

Below are bizarre and mysterious tales from Wausau!

Grand Theater

Reports of the ghost of a former stage manager have circulated at the Grand Theater for years. Larry, as he's called, has been seen in various areas of the theater. Not surprisingly, he is most fond of the stage, where he often observes rehearsals from the wings or the lighting rack. The Wausau Paranormal Research Society has documented a number of other phenomena at the Grand, including a ghostly voice saying, "Don't come back over here;" a video of a ball of light moving across a room; and a photograph of a mysterious luminous blob wrapped around a balcony railing.



UWMC Dormitory

The Blue Cowboy haunts Marathon Hall. He has been described as a hazy blue manlike form wearing a cowboy hat. He appears in the closet of a third-floor room, then moves down the hall. Sounds of furniture being moved in the room have been reported on weekends when the residents are not there.



UW-Marathon County

Annie worked as a janitor at UWMC for a number of years in the 1970s. Since her death, staff members have reported hearing her distinctive chicken-cackle laughter coming from various parts of the building. Phantom footsteps have also been heard in the halls, as has the sound of moving furniture in empty classrooms. In a recent incident Annie opened all the cupboard doors in the library workroom.

Marathon County Historical Society Library

The old Woodson Mansion is now the home of the Marathon County Historical Society library and museum. Staff members have reported the sound of a telephone ringing in a room that has no phone. Phantom footsteps have been heard marching along the upstairs hallway, then descending the main staircase. Strange odors have been reported in an upstairs room, and the door alarm often sounds when it hasn't been activated.



Wausau Municipal Airport

The story goes that one of the airport's hangars is haunted by a former manager, one Archie Towle, who died in a plane crash there in 1945. Towle's ghost now roams the hangar he had frequented in life. Witnesses have heard ghostly footsteps that sound like "wing tips walking across a hardwood floor." The airport has recently undergone renovations, and the current manager claims that Archie has been more active since then. In one instance, an employee, working late in a second-floor office, heard a pounding coming from inside a closet. He knocked back on the wall and told Archie to keep it down. The pounding then moved from the closet to the outer wall and made its way around the entire building.



Shepherd & Schaller Sporting Goods

Eddie is the name given by employees to the spirit that haunts this building. Staff members have reported that the door alarm will sound by itself. Personal belongings, like keys and pens, often disappear, only to be found again in parts of the building where the employee hasn't been. One employee was on the third floor when a small piece of plaster flew across the room, striking his shoulder. A dog brought to the building reacted to an unseen presence. In another incident, an employee in the basement put his can of soda on the floor while doing inventory. He left the room for a minute, then came back to find the can had a perfect circle of soda surrounding it. No leak in the can could be found.



These tales are from the book
Weird Wisconsin by Linda S. Godfrey and Richard D. Hendricks ©2005