

# Bumps in the Night!!!!

October 2015 – Issue No. 61

## Paranormal “U”

### Feedback from a Newbie

by Joan Camper, TPN-Illinois Chapter

My name is Joan Camper, and my journey in the world of the paranormal began while my youngest son was little. He has autism and was three years old and non-verbal when my grandfather passed away. He told me several years after his passing that he saw Poppy Paul (a nickname my sons had given him) last night. He told me that papa came out of the closet, in his bedroom, and talked to him. He told us the same story on several other occasions. This began my search for the truth.

#### How Should I Start?

Here's how I started: I went to a public investigation with a friend that TnT Paranormal was holding and was able to speak with the group members and learned that they were looking for more people to join the team. This brings me to the first and most important decision you can make as a newbie. Think about what you are getting yourself into. For instance, *do you like the members of the group? Can you sit in the dark with them for hours and enjoy their company? Do you have the time it takes to be able to participate? What are the physical and emotional components of participation? Things like are you scared of the dark? Can I walk around for hours in the dark? Do I have a car and a computer? Some investigations are quite a distance from home, do you have a way to get there? It is extremely important to understand what the team expects from you. Can you make team meetings? Can you learn the technical aspects such as audio and visual review? Most importantly are you willing to put in the time?*

#### What should I look for in a group?

The United States is home to a myriad of paranormal investigation groups. Therefore it is essential that you know what you want in a group. Do you want a measured, logical approach, or do you want to dive into the mystical side of things? Research the teams in your area and when you interview **don't be afraid to ask questions!** Not all groups work the same way. TnT Paranormal is very organized and careful. We have safety protocols when meeting with new clients, questionnaires to fill out, as well as phone interviews. No one does anything alone. TnT Paranormal takes the time to know the client and the home or office we are investigating so any activity can be documented correctly. We are not a team that if you call on Thursday we will show up on Saturday. Some teams will. That is why you have to research each team and their methods. Find a team that has procedures you are comfortable with. TnT Paranormal is a research oriented team. We don't clear houses or do exorcisms. If a client needs help we will direct them to the appropriate resources. TnT Paranormal does not charge any client ever, some teams do. Consider carefully what you want to get out of your membership and what you can offer the team! TnT Paranormal does not typically use psychics, nor do we usually consult with the occult or demonologists. While we can direct clients to these resources, our method is research-oriented. If other methods are more appealing, there are many other options.

#### What should I expect?

So now you found your team, what should you expect? A good team will have good training. I have learned how to use our team equipment, the computer software necessary for data review. I have watched video for hours to train my eyes. Needless to say, my eyes can spot dust a mile off! I have also listened to hours of audio so I can recognize sounds. I have watched videos of dust, hair, reflections in windows, weird lights outside, and of course shadows. I have also participated in investigations, public and private. Believe it or not I am still in training. Not



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because I am slow but because the team founders believe it is important to take the time to do it right. No one wants to mislead a client and leave them afraid of their home because of dust! You need to put in the time if you want to get the job done right.

### **Final Thoughts**

You also have to realize this is not TV. I have yet to run into demons or be scratched. We don't scream and run around, never a good idea in the dark, and it takes up to four weeks to go through the data. No instant answers, sometimes just more unanswered questions. As a newbie I would also tell you to have fun. Laugh, tell stories in the dark, and get to know your team. When you listen to your audio afterwards you can enjoy yourself and sometimes get an EVP of something joining in to your conversation. Use your senses during an investigation, skin and eyes and ears can be more effective than expensive equipment. Don't rush your training; enjoy it! If you are not having fun and learning from every opportunity then maybe you have joined the wrong team. Try to find a new way to approach investigating. Remember to talk your team about your concerns. They are there to train you and back you up.

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