



EVPs at the MP: VIPs?

By Kathy Samprón & Kevin Samprón

As you sit down for your next romantic dining experience at the Melting Pot in Littleton, Colorado, pay attention to the light chatter in the booth next to you. It just might be a VIP from the past.

Located at 2707 Main Street, the Melting Pot fondue restaurant is housed in a unique and historic building. Construction was completed in 1917 following a contentious inception. Littleton was in need of a public library. The Carnegie Foundation was the generous benefactor who granted the funds for the project. Jacques Jules Benois Benedict was honored as its architect. Benedict was educated at the Beaux-Arts School of Architecture in Paris and had an artist's flare. Carnegie's people were all business. Ages before computer-aided design, plans for the library were exchanged between the Carnegie Foundation and Benedict over and over again for a year before funds were released and groundbreaking could take place.

The Carnegie Library enjoyed the quiet life expected of it for 48 years. It hosted thousands of hours of peaceful book exchange and decades of community-oriented projects and events.

When the library was expanded and moved to a new location in 1965, Littleton Police Department took up residence in Benedict's beautiful Renaissance Revival building, complete with a jail cell in the basement and shooting range on the top floor. The not-so-quiet buzz of police business was conducted in this headquarters for the next 12 years.

Over the following two decades, the building was abandoned and inhabited time and again, enduring such incarnations as Pistachio's Disco, Café Kandahar, The Old Library Beer Garden and Scribbles Restaurant, owned by two Denver Broncos teammates. Finally in 1997, the Melting Pot entered the picture to the continued excitement of the community, and possibly the building's former residents.

While researching paranormal activity at the Melting Pot, SpiritPI members have heard many stories from MP employees, including those about an irritating spirit who likes to pick up and drop salt shakers during overnight clean-up, bartenders who had their feet grabbed by unseen hands behind the bar, and the story about a brand new espresso machine sailing across the bar on the night it was installed. Another employee refuses to tell his spooky stories, because, when he does, the scary activity ratchets up a notch.

During the filming of a PBS special about SpiritPI, a female investigator was shoved while seated on the middle stall in the paranormally active ladies room. SpiritPI President Kevin felt a strong tap on his right shoulder by unseen hands; a disembodied voice shouted out from a darkened room; and the sound of an unseen

hand slamming down on a table startled the team during the same investigation. During SpiritPI's annual "Tour of Terror" Halloween dinner events at the Melting Pot, investigators were unnerved, and guests literally left the building in fear, after hearing spooky disembodied voices whispering in their ears and seeing silverware fly across a table. To make your own reservations at this year's events, return to our homepage at SpiritPI.com, if you dare, and click on the Events tab.

However, the predominant evidence SpiritPI has captured at the Melting Pot is the Electronic Voice Phenomena, or EVP. In paranormal investigations, a spirit voice heard by the human ear during an investigation is not considered an EVP but rather a disembodied voice which can be captured on several recording devices. An EVP is a spirit voice imprinted onto a single recording device by means we don't yet understand and is not heard or detected until our evidence review. The various classes of EVP include Class C: barely audible, difficult or impossible to understand, needs to be electronically enhanced; Class B: faint, more easily deciphered, may require enhancement; and Class A: loud, clear, understandable. At the Melting Pot, SpiritPI's experienced investigators have heard 'em all.

Among our favorite Melting Pot EVPs are Class A's like a woman in the ladies room calling to her boyfriend "Janet to Keith," "Janet" can even be heard in a different recording from two years later answering "Yes" when asked whether she was still present. We have also captured the disembodied voice of a mischievous boy taunting "It's gonna get her!" This amazingly clear voice was actually heard by one of our female investigators in the open basement area at the wee hours of 3:31am. Some Class B's are loosely interpreted as "Baines is colder" (we bet he is now), "Where did you put the thungus?" (whatever that word means!), and a creepy, long, drawn out "narezowhere" (sounding right out of a classic horror flick!). Finally, we recently captured a chilling Class C. It's best heard with earbud headphones and says a long, low, slow "Let Me Be!"

Sorry my ghost friends, but SpiritPI will be back to bother you again at the famously haunted Melting Pot real soon.