



## INVESTIGATION REPORT

### Cozmic Café (Placerville Soda Works)

LOCATION: Cozmic Cafe	Page 1
DATE OF INVESTIGATION: <u>9/22/2007</u>	ADDRESS: <u>594 Main Street</u> <u>Placerville, CA 95667</u>
NAME OF LOCATION: <u>Cozmic Cafe</u>	
CONTACT: <u>None</u>	PHONE #: <u>N/A</u>
CONTACT EMAIL: <u>N/A</u>	
CONTACT ADDRESS: <u>N/A</u>	
REFERENCE MATERIAL USED:	<u>Internet-Cozmic Café Web Site:</u> <u><a href="http://www.thecozmiccafe.com/history.htm">http://www.thecozmiccafe.com/history.htm</a></u>
DATE OF INITIAL CONTACT: <u>9/22/2007</u>	WHO?: <u>Lee Ann</u>
INVESTIGATOR(S): <u>Christine B., Vickie C., Lee Anne and Colin M., Carol A. and Penny, Jessica, and Jennifer H.</u>	

#### CONTACT SUMMARY OF EVENTS:

The GIS-Haunted EDC group was speaking with Jim Hill of Inter county Title regarding researching title/ownership records. Lee Ann, one of the 4-H Adult Volunteers went next door to the Cozmic Café to get a cup of coffee and mentioned to the café owner that we would like to investigate his building. He agreed, and we met at the building after our meeting with Jim Hill for the investigation.

#### HISTORY OF LOCATION:

*From Cozmic Café's Web site:*

#### **Pearson's Soda Works Building Has Rich History**

Since 1848, Placerville has been known as gold rush country. On January 24, 1848, in nearby Coloma along the South Fork of the American River, James Marshall first discovered gold at Sutter's Mill, touching off the California gold rush. Placerville, then called Dry Diggings (also known as "Hangtown"), was the great rendezvous point for all the Argonauts. By autumn of 1848, it was a thriving camp, composed of tents and log cabins, board and shingle stores, and muddy streets. In 1850 the name was changed to Placerville and as local mines prospered, the town became more metropolitan, with several hotels offering such luxuries as tablecloths and silver service. By 1851 regular stages arrived from Sacramento and San Francisco. In 1854, Placerville was incorporated and three years later became the seat of El Dorado County.

**History, Continued:**

During the 1800's, Placerville was home or host to the likes of Mark Hopkins, John M. Studebaker, Phillip D. Armour, Horace Greeley, Mark Twain and many more.

One of the landmarks of the time was the John Pearson Soda Works building, which is considered the oldest restored building in Placerville. Built by John McFarland Pearson in 1859, the Soda Works building is located near the corner of Main Street and Cedar Ravine Road in the heart of Placerville. Today it is the home of the Cozmic Cafe.

Back in 1859 after three devastating fires consumed most of the downtown buildings, Pearson, a Scottish ice merchant, purchased a piece of land that had a mineshaft extending into the mountain behind it. Originally dug as part of the mining effort, this abandoned mine tunnel 150 feet in length never varied in temperature more than 10 degrees all year round - the perfect natural ice box. The first thing Pearson did after he bought the land was to enlarge the mine. He shored up the ceiling of the mine with old wagon parts and iron shutters. Using the excess rock and slate from the mine, as well as brick, John Pearson constructed the 22-inch thick walls of the building that came to be known as the John Pearson Soda Works.

Pearson's Soda Works thrived on Main Street. One could purchase eggs, butter, a variety of beer and ale, and the luxury item, ice. The ice was brought to the soda works from Ice House east of Pollock Pines where it was cut and hauled to town and stored, along with other perishables, in the caves located in the mine behind the building. Pearson also manufactured soda pop and syrups on the premises. Pearson was one of the first agents for Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer (then known as Pabst Milwaukee) and Weiland's Lager. By 1890 Pearson began purchasing ice from the Union Ice Company, shipped via rail from Sacramento.

The building's second story was added in 1897 by Pearson's sons, William and John, to facilitate bottling and was used as a bottling room. It is reported that the upper level was constructed of 150,000 bricks from George Morton's Kiln in Placerville. A water-powered elevator was installed to move bottles and supplies between the two floors.

The Pearsons' business was sold in 1904 to the Scherrer Bros. In 1934, the business was again sold, this time to Robert Hook, who turned it into the first Coca-Cola Bottling franchise. Though various businesses occupied the building, the building itself remained in the Pearson family until 1972, when Roger John Douvres, a lover and collector of antiques, purchased the soda works building. Douvres restored the lower portion of the building for use as an old-fashioned ice cream soda fountain and the upper portion as an elegant dining hall displaying turn of the century atmosphere. The restoration took nearly four years. Along with many other antiques, he brought in an old safe from down the street weighing about 2 tons, which is still in the mine today. Douvres' daughter, Suzan Bickel, preserved the integrity of the historic building by having it placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

The Pearson Soda Works building has been home to many businesses over its one-and-a-half century existence. Among various other businesses, it has been the site of the Main Street Theater, an antique store, a bookstore, a music store, Placerville Coffee House, and today, the Cozmic Cafe. Kim Cooper, owner of the Cozmic Cafe, completed the most recent renovation April 2003 "with a little help from her friends."

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*A special Thank You goes to Jim Hill from Inter County Title. He gave us interesting title history. This documentation is on file.*

**INVESTIGATOR'S SUMMARY OF EVENTS:**

We entered the building at approximately 11:30 am. Christine spoke to the owner and employees and obtained permission to do an investigation. (Lee Ann had gotten coffee earlier and told the owner that we would like to investigate, and he told us it would be okay.) Christine also asked if one of the employees could briefly write down experiences he has had in the building. The owner agreed, and Christine gave the young male employee a sheet of paper to jot down his experiences.

We began the investigation in the area between the main entrance area and the former mine tunnel of the building. Christine asked Colin to take a photograph while on the stair landing of the area. He did and then handed the camera back to Christine. Christine passed out the investigative equipment and we ventured down the tunnel. Penny held the tape recorder, Jessica held the laser temperature gage and Colin held the Gauss meter. Christine and Vickie took digital photos of the building as we investigated.

We went into the old mine tunnel that is in the back of the building first. Temperature and EM readings were all normal throughout the investigation. Christine attempted to use her video camera, but it was not functioning properly. In the tunnel Christine felt an area where the atmosphere seemed "heavy" and not like the atmosphere of the surrounding areas. She asked that others step into the area to see if they felt anything unusual. Penny and Carol both mentioned that they felt a cold spot in the area when they first walked by it, but our temperature readings were in the mid 60s, which was not unusual for the other areas of the tunnel. Penny, Jessica, Colin and Carol stepping into the area and all mentioned a "heaviness" to the area. (Colin didn't feel it as much as the others.) We took a Gauss reading, and nothing spiked the gage. Christine took several pictures of the area and we moved on.

Vickie and Christine took more photographs of the different alcove areas of the tunnel. There were tables and chairs sent up in these alcoves on a gravel floor. The metal in the ceiling of the caved alcoves was heavily rusted, although it did not seem to be damp in the area. There was also no outside ventilation pumped into the area.

The group went upstairs to investigate the second floor. There was a group of people in the bar area that were leaving, and two students with computers in the area next to the door to the "ballroom" area of the café. The ballroom area door was closed, as we were told there was a class going on in there. We were unable to investigate that area.

Christine and Vickie took more digital photographs of the second floor area. All temperature and Gauss readings were normal. No one felt anything unusual in that area of the building. We went back down stairs to the first floor and packed up our equipment. Before we left the young man who had written down his experiences handed the paper back to Christine. Christine asked the young man if he would mind if she used his information on her web site, and he agreed. No release was signed. We thanked the owner and left the building at approximately 12:15 p.m.

After reviewing tape recording of investigation, no EVP was indicated.

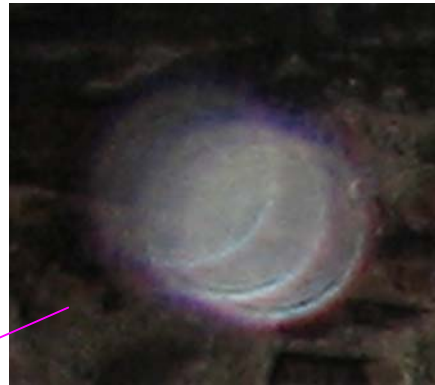
**Employee Testimony:**

"Late night playing music, our band was practicing upstairs after hours. Just four of us in the building and we were all on the stage playing music when I saw lights in the bar area go on and off several times. I also frequently see figures in the corner of my eye. I've seen a grizzled man in the bar area wearing flannel. For the most part with my experiences, I've noticed that the spirits kinda just keep to themselves and I don't feel harmed... there's mutual respect."

PHOTOGRAPHS OF LOCATION

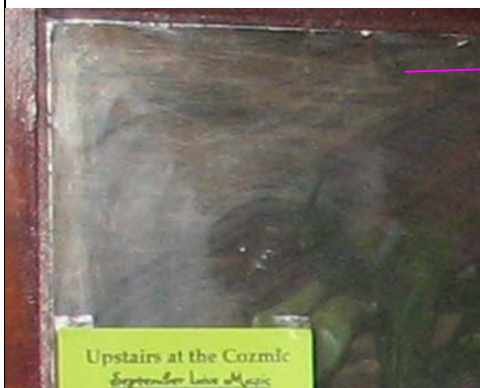


Extreme Close up of moving orb in photograph taken in the mine tunnel of the Cozmic Café.



This is a section of the tunnel in the building that a few of the investigators thought had a strange atmosphere and/or felt colder than the other areas of the tunnel. The orb was not visible when the photograph was taken.

Photo below is probably a flash reflection, although the camera was not pointed directly at the mirror.





Second orb shot in upstairs of Cozmic Café.



Third orb captured in photograph in the front section of the Café.



Vickie C. took these photos. There are five that show orbs.

