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from Smith Park to the rest of Ogden Avenue being developed commercially. We want to thank Material Service for their generosity as they leave the village."

The quarry is a hole that is over 300 feet deep and occupies 50 acres. It will be reclaimed by a company that will take in truck loads of construction debris. The debris contains dirt, asphalt, concrete and bricks. According to Visk, "THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO GARBAGE OR ORGANIC WASTE ACCEPTED."

The bricks, concrete and asphalt will be sorted, crushed and sold as construction fill and for additives to new concrete and asphalt. The dirt from loads will be separated and used to fill the hole. It will take 15 to 20 years to fill the quarry which will then be deed to the village for development. The village will receive royalties on loads received and on the material being sold. The village will also receive sales tax on the material sold since the business will be based

They are reclaiming a 1,000 acre site in Bartlett, Illinois. Much of this area has been already been brought to grade with schools, playgrounds and homes already constructed on the filled-in areas," explained Visk.

The village has hired consultants from Shaw Environmental, Land Vision Planning, Acoustic Associates for sound analysis and Intersect Co. for traffic to evaluate the reclamation process. There will be a number of hearings on the reclamation with presentations at the Village Board Meetings of Oct. 18, Environmental Commission on Oct. 25, The Zoning Board of Appeals on Nov. 8 and The Village Board Meeting of Nov. 15.

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Paranormal Experts Investigate the Haunting of Cigars and Stripes – Part 1

By Debra L. Solomon

"It was more than weird. It was very weird," said Simone Tervydis of Cicero as she and her friend, Bernice Jan tried to describe their astonishment when they saw the top of a martini shaker flip upside down and then roll across the bar at Cigars and Stripes, 6715 W. Ogden, Berwyn. "The top just lifted up on its own. We were shocked and jolted. We all looked at one another. It was very weird."

Chicago-based, Supernatural Occurrence Studies (SOS), Inc. investigators have been recording the testimonials and first-hand accounts of unexplainable occurrences and sightings that patrons of the hip eclectic lounge and comedy club have been experiencing. The experienced SOS group has been collecting evidence and will present their preliminary research at a Haunted Slideshow presentation which will be held at Cigars and Stripes at 8 pm, October 20.

SOS Inc. Theorist Dave Black said he "sensed thing" as he took a walk around the basement and first floor of the lounge. "There's definitely something going on in this building," he said.

"From what I hear of the all the testimonials, it has been manifesting itself in various ways. People have been hearing things, seeing things and things have been moving."

Black said there are multiple testimonials of glasses falling off shelves, the phone lifting up by itself, bottles falling and martini shakers just flipping in the air. "All the people are watching this happen," said Black. Though he's somewhat skeptical about the paranormal "happenings", Cigars and Stripes' owner, Ron Vrhel explained that when they were first renovating the 80 year old building five years ago, his wife heard sounds like there were parties going on downstairs. When he would go downstairs to check, there was nothing there.

Vrhel said that not long ago, he lost his large bundle of keys and searched high and low for them. A short time later, he heard a loud sound and "the keys dropped out of nowhere" in plain view of all the customers who were seated at the bar. "The keys slammed off one of the corners and just flew down the bar. I grabbed them and people were saying, "What was that all about? Where did those keys come from?" Black said that while doing some of the research, he witnessed

some unique experiences as well as "very intense" sensations in the basement. His own accounts include hearing someone walking down the stairs – when no one was there, and hearing noises and activity in the empty basement.

SOS Inc. has been researching the paranormal since 1998. They've explored some well-known haunts such as Bachelor's Grove, The House of Blues and the sites of some well-known murders. Their investigation will continue as they bring their technical equipment along for an overnight stay at Berwyn's Cigars and Stripes within the next few days. "The ultimate goal is to collectively put together a story of what's taking place. We also want to make sure that every piece of information is backed by fact.

"There are a lot of testimonials from bartenders and customers. At least 2 out of every 15 regulars have experienced something," said Vrhel who is also researching the building's history.

At least five customers have seen a shadowy figure walking down the hallway at the rear of the bar. One customer described seeing the shadowy figure "scoot down the hall and around the corner".

Vrhel invited Spiritual Advisor Lee Murphy to walk through the building to see if her insight validated the ongoing investigations of supernatural activity. After touring the main floor and the basement of Cigars and Stripes, Murphy confirmed the findings of the SOS Inc. group - several spots were charged with energy. Her insight brought to life many stories of the past as well as many possible explanations of the haunting activity.

Murphy's insight points to several sources of supernatural activity, including a former customer who fell dead in the business entryway nearly 30 years ago, and who may still be walking in to enjoy the social atmosphere. A presence at the rear of the building is sensed to be an elderly woman who prayed and worried considerably about the well-being of family and friends.

The large hand-crafted bar, which was brought over from the former Stardust Lounge several blocks down from Cigars and Stripes, may be the source of a true love story playing out in some of the current "playful" events.

Murphy said that the energies of the bar are especially intense in one

location, which Vrhel shared was the place where Rose, the late former owner of the bar, was best remembered to sit. Rose and her husband Joe owned the Stardust Lounge, and he built and hand-crafted the bar especially for her. Murphy said that Rose's presence is an exceptionally loving one.

Part Two of this story will delve further into the theories of the supernatural activity taking place at Cigars and Stripes as well as some of Vrhel's historical research. The Haunted Slideshow, October 20, will present results of many SOS Inc. investigations as well as the taped eye-witness accounts of the Cigars and Stripes hauntings.



William Wolfe, Supernatural Occurrence Studies' vice president, set up various "ghost hunting" equipment in hopes of capturing "something" at Cigars & Stripes. Devices like this help SOS capture some truly amazing evidence. Photo courtesy of SOS Inc.

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