

# The News Record

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## Haunted nightclub delightfully scary

**Bobby Mackey's Music World is known for being one of the most haunted nightclubs in the country.**

By [Jason Hoffman](#) [Kelly Tucker](#) | Published: 11/04/11 2:33pm | Updated: 11/04/11 2:34pm | [No comments](#)

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2012



by [Jason Hoffman](#) |

A sign at the nightclub's entrance warns guests to use caution due to supernatural occurrences.

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Situated on the banks of what the Shawnee and Cherokee Indian tribes called “the river of blood,” Bobby Mackey’s Music World is known for being one of the most haunted nightclubs in the country.

At this venue, employees and guests alike witness the mechanical bull moving on its own. They say coin machines start spilling their contents unprovoked. Images of smoke and eerie faces appear in countless photographs. A sign at the front door warns patrons to enter at their own risk; Bobby Mackey’s employees are not responsible for any ghostly activity that might occur.

It’s all because of its location and geological disposition, says Wanda Kay, Bobby Mackey tour guide and author of “I Believe in Paranormal Things.” She says the night club is a hotbed for paranormal activity because of its location next to the Licking River, proximity to railroad tracks, a fault line running underneath it and nearly 200 years of salacious activity that help create an opportune environment for the dozens of spirits that occupy the Wilder, Ky. establishment.

“It’s been called the perfect storm here,” Wanda Kay said. “Everything that draws spirits just happens to be here.” An omega grid that’s existed at the location since the 1800s also adds to the disturbed energy. To prevent electricity from shooting through the sockets, workers have had to strategically place all of the outlets and wires in order to accommodate the grid and maintain balance, Wanda Kay said.

The nightclub’s varied and shady history is reason enough to convince some people of the possibility of supernatural activity. Buck Brady, who bought the building and transformed it from The Bluegrass Inn to Primrose Country Club, scuffled with mobsters to maintain ownership of his club. After a failed murder attempt, Brady was forced out by the mob, which took over and deemed the venue the Latin Quarter.

The first recorded murder took place at the site in 1930, when 21-year-old Paul Goodman was beaten to death in the building by a gambler, Wanda Kay said. “We pick up EVPs of a Paul, but can’t confirm that it’s him,” she said.

And that’s what’s so convincing about Wanda Kay’s haunting descriptions: If she can’t confirm the identity of an entity and that they were, in fact, a part of the club’s history, she refuses to make assumptions. She knows her history and researches facts thoroughly before making any bold statements.

You might have heard of the four most famous spirits at Bobby Mackey’s — Pearl Bryan, Johanna the dancer, Scott Jackson and Alonzo Walling — but Wanda Kay

estimates that there are approximately forty ghosts that haunt the building. “They give their names, they show up in pictures and all sorts of stuff,” she said.

The personalities of the ghosts Wanda Kay described are all unique; some stories are funny, like Johanna’s telltale comments from the club’s rafters, asking men if they’re married. Some are heartbreaking, like the little boy whom Wanda Kay believes was thrown down the stairs and killed by his overseer while working at the slaughterhouse that existed in the basement long ago. Some are downright horrifying, like the beheading of Pearl Bryan and her killers who supposedly fume about the grounds.

“There’s also two playful ones ... One’ll say to the other one, ‘Drain it,’” Wanda Kay said. Often, she said this causes bystanders’ electronics to lose battery life, even with fully charged equipment and freshly opened batteries. While The News Record’s equipment (luckily) didn’t suffer too much trouble, reporter Jason Hoffman’s camera did freeze after he snapped a shot of the sealed-off basement well, also known as Hell’s Gate.

Wanda Kay’s keychain also sporadically went into frenzies of beeps throughout the tour. She finally explained the noise, saying, “That’s my key finder. That thing doesn’t work.” We confirmed this fact by yelling and clapping in front of it, trying to activate the audio sensor to set off the beeps. Nothing happened.

“When they want it to [go off], it does,” Wanda Kay said. “It took a couple of months to figure out that right before the EVP devices started going off, this was going with it. As soon as I put my key in the door to come into this building, it starts.”

Wanda Kay recalls seeing guests fall over in unexplainable pain and has often been told that people feel that they have been touched or scratched while in the building. Bobby Mackey’s is a captivating story that draws crowds year after year, but visitors should enter with caution.

As TNR prepared to depart, Wanda Kay asked that we tell the spirits not to follow us home, either in our heads or out loud. “Just humor me,” she said, a tinge of concern in her voice. “People have been followed home before.”

Whether you believe in the supernatural or just want to experience a rich piece of the area’s history, this Kentucky club is a must-see. For more information on Bobby Mackey’s Music World and the available tours, visit [bobbymackey.com](http://bobbymackey.com).