

MYSTERY MANOR

Story

The old Bruffey Manor sits on a hill outside of town. For years, the local people have been divided in their opinion as to whether or not it is haunted. On windy, stormy nights, lights are sometimes seen flashing in the windows and strange sounds come from the building.

The building is not really abandoned, just deserted, so the police have hesitated to enter and try and prove anything. Besides, it's technically out of the city limits.

There is a large iron gate and fence that surrounds the property. The gate is locked, so visitors must park their car and walk up the hill about 300 yards to the manor.

The Bruffeys were a well-to-do manufacturing family in the late 1890's and were said to have made several million dollars selling canned stew to the Army during the 1898 Spanish - American War. Local jokers claim that since Luke Bruffey was the town dog catcher, much of the meat in the stew was dog meat (with a little cat meat thrown in occasionally).

They claim that the spirits of the troops that were killed after eating the stew, came back and drove the Bruffeys insane. The last of the Bruffeys died in 1974 and was found huddled in the basement of the Manor, choked to death on a piece of meat. In the kitchen a dead dog was found in the oven. Another was found in the bath tub. Both dogs are claimed to bark when strangers are in the house.

The local Rotary club has offered a ski trip to North Dakota to anyone who can prove that the house either is or is not haunted. Ed Parker has volunteered to do this for them, taking his sister, Connie, along.

County Sheriff deputies have received several reports of strange cars and flashing lights at the Manor. Deputy "Irish" Swenson is convinced that something is going on at the Manor and next week will get a warrant to investigate, so time is short for amateur investigators.

Not everyone here is what they claim to be! One of the challenges is to discover who has a sinister reason for being here.