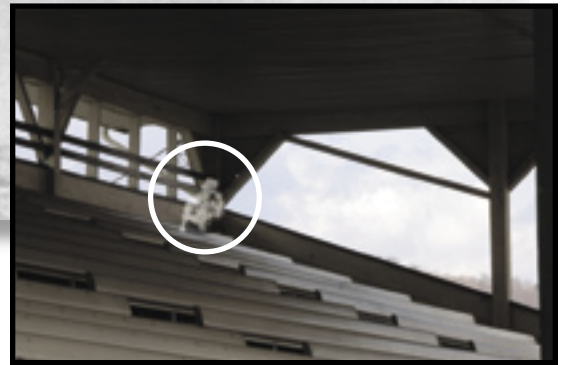


Ghost Rider — A True Story

Written by: Dan Whetzel



Clifton White was photographed in the late 1940's enjoying a sulky ride. It is Mr. White's ghost that appears in the grandstand and other parts of the fairgrounds. Visitors who encounter Mr. White's ghost consistently report on his quaint style of dress that is evident in the black and white photograph.



If one visits the Allegany County Fairgrounds on a quiet evening, they may encounter a gentleman attired in a 1950's style white shirt and white hat. Typically, the gentleman will be sitting alone in the upper corner of the grandstand, yet he has been known to wander the fairgrounds at will. And while the visitor is often seen, he has never been known to speak. Kevin Kammauff, Manager/Events Coordinator of the Allegany County Fairgrounds, first saw the gentleman sitting in the upper corner of the grandstand on a summer evening. According to Mr. Kammauff, this person is not a typical fairgoer because one can see through his image; the quiet gentleman is a spirit.

Glenn Stahlman, Allegany Fairgrounds Sales Director, has also encountered the fairground's ghost. "We were here late at night, getting ready to go. When I went to close the door, it seemed to stick and I couldn't move it. The next thing I knew, the door shut, so I locked it. I then went outside and tried to open my truck door, but it wouldn't open either. Eventually the resistance stopped, and I was able to get into my truck. It was a strange feeling."

The mystery man in the white attire has never acted maliciously, yet his presence causes a chilling sensation to those who see him. And there have been many witnesses to his presence over the decades, including a Maryland State Trooper. While visitors have witnessed the gentleman's image, his identity remained unknown until September, 2006, when Mr. Kammauff was approached by a resident who desired to look at old photographs of the fairgrounds. The resident stated that she was the great granddaughter of a Cumberland Fair Association member, and she hoped to locate a photograph of him. After searching through stacks of photographs, the researcher excitedly exclaimed that she found one of her great grandfather. When Kevin Kammauff examined the photograph, he "got cold chills because that was the man I saw in the grandstand, the one with the white shirt and white hat. I told her, 'Your great grandfather is still here.'"

The photograph that Kevin Kammauff viewed was of Clifton W. White, a Director of the Cumberland Fair Association, who died in 1957, while seated at his desk in the Grandstand office.

