

# Denver Press Club



## **History:**

The Denver Press Club was founded in 1884 when 40 newspapermen met at the St. James Hotel on Curtis St. In 1905, they moved the meetings to the Albany Hotel.

The current location at 1330 Glenarm was built in 1925 by the architects Merrill & Burnham Hoyt (who also designed the Denver Public Library & Red Rocks) The total cost of the building

was \$50,000. The Denver Landmark Preservation Commission honored the location by giving it the designation of a Historic Location.



**The Women's Press Club**

The Press Club has had many famous members such as Carl Akers, Bob Palmer, Eugen Field, Harry Rhoades, Eugene Field, Frederick Bonfils, and Damon Runyon.



**Interior views of the Press Club when it first opened**

There is a story about a game of Poker that started at the Albany Hotel Press Club meetings. The story is that when the Press Club was being moved from the Hotel to the new permanent location, the Poker players refused to stop. After negotiations, the players agreed to continue their game in the back of the moving truck and continue at the new location.



**The Pool hall just after the Press Club opened**



**The bar in the early 2000's**

The new Game room at the Glenarm location was given a custom mural featuring famous newspapermen of the time. The painting was done by Herndon Davis who is famous for the painting on the bar room floor of the Teller house in Central City.



**The Bar before renovations in the 2000's**

**Reported Activity:**

The Poker game that was moved to the location when it was opened is said to be continuing as a “phantom Poker game.” Different players have been seen at the card table when nobody was in the building.

On September 23, 1996, Cleo Briggs (a psychic) and her assistant “Eshaya” were brought in by the Press Club to examine the location. Cleo reported that she sensed the Card Players in the Game room including a Phantom “Guard” at the door of the room. She also reported that there was the spirit of a woman who was murdered 25 years earlier. She performed a “cleansing” of the Press Club and claimed that all of the spirits had moved on except the newspapermen who refused to leave.



**The main stairs in the 2000's**

There has been reported activity in the Office on the upper floor (now the women's room) when a homeless person was killed and set on fire in the dumpster in the alley behind the Club.



**Woodrow Wilson at the Press Club**

Several members have reported seeing a "shadow person" at the top of the stairs.

Employees who have been closing at the end of the night have complained that they will have to keep checking the building as they are getting ready to lock up, because they hear people in the building. However, when they look there is nobody there.



**The piano that was reported to have played by itself**

Guests have reported seeing the reflections of people that were not in the room.

In July 2004, a Press Club member and high-ranking official with General Motors were at the upstairs bar after hours drinking and talking. They both claim that they witnessed a Champagne glass floated from the back of the bar to the middle of the room and fell. When it hit the floor, the glass did not break, only the stem broke.



**The Women's room**

The Center for Scientific Investigations Into the Paranormal published an article in September 1997 stating that “With the spirits still floating around, and the Press club “Documenting” the ghost with fuzzy infrared photographs, perhaps one of the clubs members will recognize the importance of this discovery (The Psychic Investigation), call in a team of real scientists with infrared detectors, find proof of the hereafter, and get the Pulitzer for Investigative reporting after all” = Gene Emery  
Urban Myths (Article by Nancy Clark)



**The “ghost” photo that is shown by the press club that appears to be an accidental double exposure**

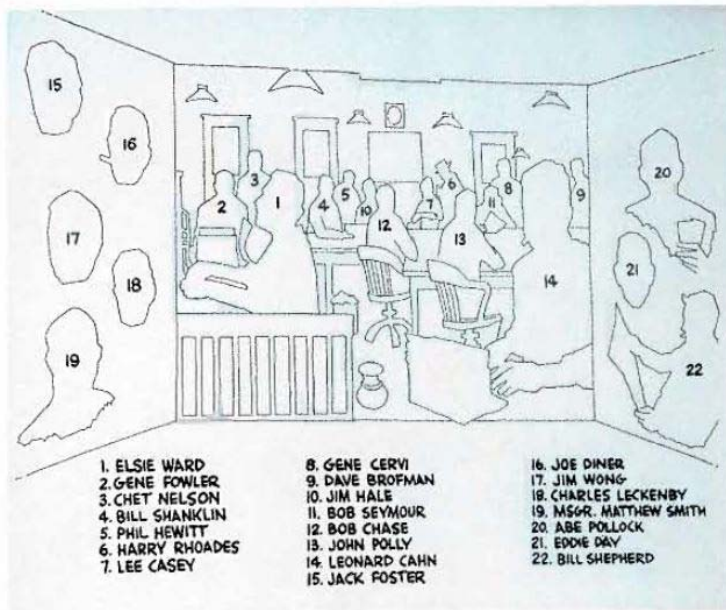
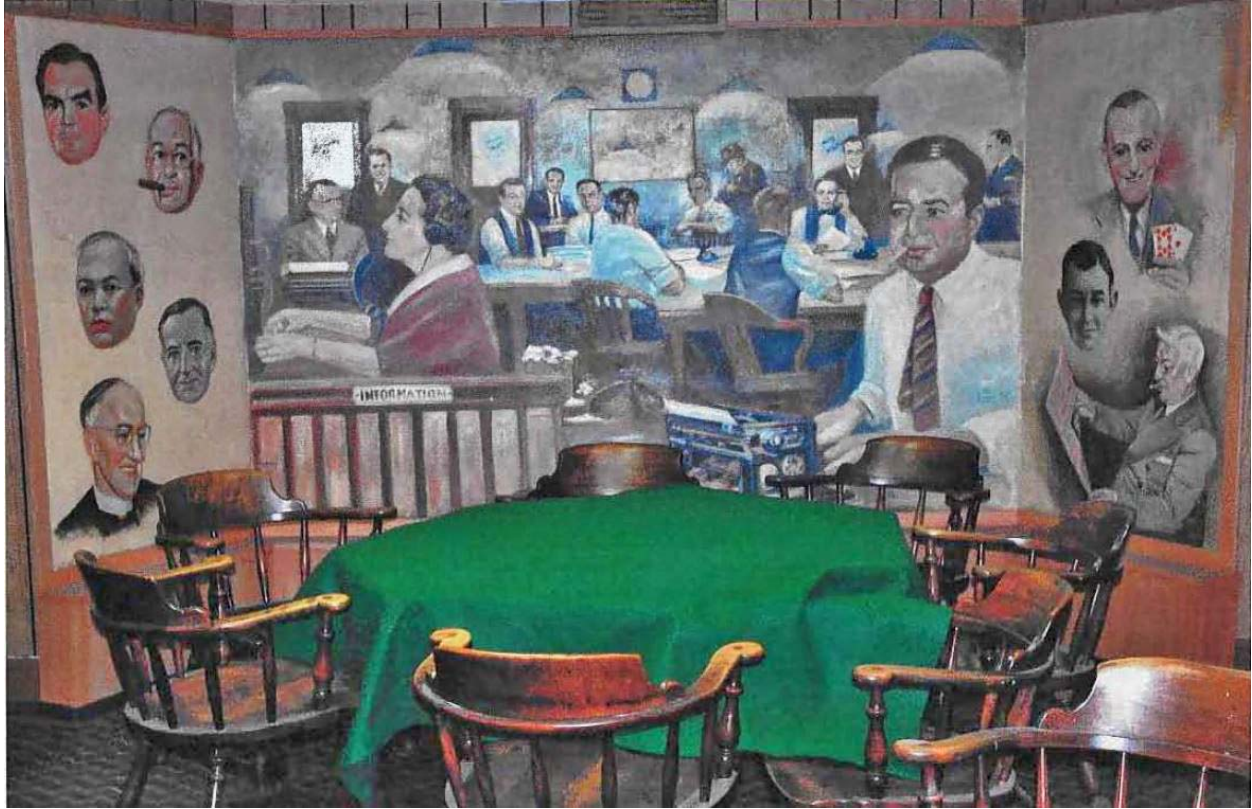


**The stairs where a “ghost” has been seen**

As dusk was settling over Denver on a Saturday night, Bryan Bonner was also settling in to do what he generally does on a Saturday night. Ghost busting.

This is not a profitable business, but rather one borne out of the fascination that Bonner has always held for the occult and the inexplicable. He doesn't work alone; in fact, he has a crew of fellow ghost-busters who work alongside him including techno geeks who operate loads of highly specialized equipment that Bonner uses to detect the existence of ghosts – technology enough to fill a 12x16 ft. space when compacted together.





*This is the famous painting on the wall of the poker room wall. this painting was done by Herndon Davis in 1945*

Bonner is a calm sort, he holds a job by day with a Fortune 500 company, builds websites on the side, and regularly comes to the rescue. Often his work is for historical purposes, verifying the unusual in building known for their infamous histories – like Mattie Silks’ former bordello-turned-restaurant in Lodo. And then there’s the unusual case (recall Amityville Horror) in which the ghost possess the human trying occupy a home. Bonner actually has an email on record from a mother who called upon his services to rid her home of ghosts tormenting her four-year-old son. She wrote: It is good to have my son back.



**The wall of Presidents that have visited the Press Club**

Later that night, a DPC member dropped by to check on the ghost-buster’s findings and found that the pilot light in the boiler room had gone out. Xcel responded to cut the gas to the boiler which was last replaced in 1995, after the old one broke in a weeklong occurrence of subzero weather. Then, the club’s bartender Justin had to spend the night in the place monitoring propane heaters to keep the pipes from freezing. And fortunately for the historically cash poor club, the membership had raised just enough from its 95’ Damon Runyon dinner featuring Jimmy Breslin to fund the new boiler.

At 3 a.m., the ghost-buster-turned-gas-buster vacated the club having witnessed nothing particularly haunting – except if you count the fact that the pilot light had never before extinguished on its own. Call it coincidence, call it rage, Call the club president.

Which I did, “I’m afraid I may have to resign a Treasurer. The ghost-busters discovered the Rage surrounding the club safe.”



**The furnace**

He burst out laughing, “Think about it, For the entire existence of the club, the rage has revolved around the safe.”

It’s enough to spook your inner spirit; isn’t coincidence sometimes unsettling? And do the ghosts we battle come in other forms than what darkness causes us to expect?

**Conclusions:**

We have had the opportunity to spend a considerable amount of time at the Press Club and never been able to document/experience anything we would consider unusual. However, the rich history of the location and the many personal accounts of “ghostly” activity are a large part of Denver history.