

Experience the haunted history of Gilpin County, Cripple Creek

With 150 years of history in the books, Gilpin County boasts a surplus of supernatural tales and spirit sightings. Thanks to the Gilpin County Historical Society, during this spookiest of seasons, you can take free lantern tours of some of the area's haunted hot spots both Saturday, Oct. 17 as well as Saturday, Oct. 24.

Each tour is an hour long and begins at the corner of Lawrence and Main Street (in front of Century Casino - who are providing free parking in their garage). From 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., there will be five groups of 30 ghost hunters leaving every five to seven minutes to not only grasp the history of the area's paranormal activities, but also (hopefully) to catch a glimpse of the beyond!

According to David Forsythe, executive director of the Gilpin County Historical Society, the tour hits the haunts along Central City's Main Street as well as up Eureka Canyon, stopping at sites like the Teller House and Opera House along the way.

"At the Teller House, we're hoping to be visited by the spirit of Billy Hamilton," says Forsythe. "He was the caretaker there from the early 1920s through the mid-1950s and he still hangs around the place!"

Whether you're a believer or a skeptic, it's recommended that you make reservations in advance by visiting the website: www.centralcityparkway.com/creepycrawl. The tour involves a good amount of walking outdoors, including steep hills and stairways, so wear comfy shoes and dress accordingly. For more information, call 303-345-6315.

And on Friday, Oct. 30 if you're looking for good local ghost stories to chill you to the bone you can join the fun at the "2nd Annual Ghouls of Gilpin County."

Starting at 7 p.m. the Historical Society will be spinning six terrific tales of the ghouls and ghosts of Gilpin including such ghastly topics as hauntings, murders and more. It's all taking place at the Gilpin History Museum, 228 High Street in Central City, and perhaps while you're there you can even make some new fiends...er...friends.

The event is \$8 per person. For more information visit www.gilpinhistory.org or call 303-582-5283.

Lastly, you can visit creepy Cripple Creek and The Old Homestead House Museum, a former Parlor House (a nice word for a brothel!) where it's believed that the ghost of revered Madame Pearl De Vere still lingers. De Vere, who died under mysterious circumstances, was known for easily getting upscale clients to pay top dollar for her

high-priced gals. In recent years, the house has become known for its odd paranormal phenomena including employees and patrons who have claimed to have had the sensation of being touched by an unseen presence as well as the mysterious relocation of objects and unexplainable blurs and figures appearing in photographs. In addition to its spooky reputation, the museum at The Old Homestead House gives visitors a good idea of what life was like in Colorado's mining towns during the 1890s. See for yourself, and if you get touched by something otherworldly that scares you out of your wits, at least be consoled you won't have to pay top dollar. For more information visit www.visitcripplecreek.com.