



# Mississippi ghost story: A rose for Beulah

Associated Press

Stacey Humphreys and her husband laughed when they heard that an antebellum house they were buying had been haunted by a ghost named Beulah.

They aren't laughing anymore.

"I didn't believe the stories," she said, "but I know of no other way to explain what's happening."

Late last year, Humphreys and her husband, Jimmy, were looking to move from Arizona to Missouri.

"They had a great little historic area (in Hannibal)," she said. "We were looking to a buy a Victorian (home)."

Because of her online searches, Facebook posted an ad for an 1800s home in Holly Springs. Humphreys did her best to ignore the ad, her mind going back to Missouri.

When Humphreys returned to Facebook, she saw the same ad again for the 1800s home in Holly Springs.

Humphreys looked again at Linden Hill, built in Greek revival style in 1841. "It's \$65,000 and it looks like a mansion," she said. Then she found a home for her mother just down the street.

On the bottom of the ad for Linden Hill, there was a comment from a woman named Charlotte Nairmore: "Beautiful home but it does have a live-in-ghost, we all fondly call Bulah (sic)."

Beulah Cawthon and her family lived at Linden Hill in the early 1900s. By the time she was 25, she had begun to suffer mental problems.

In 1919, her family committed her to the Mississippi State Insane Asylum in Jackson (the same property where the University of Mississippi Medical Center is now located).

She was diagnosed as suffering from "circular" manic depression, now known as bipolar disorder, where people swing from the highs of euphoria to the lows of depression, sometimes leading to suicidal thoughts.

After showing improvement, she returned home several months later.

Nairmore, who grew up at Linden Hill, said she was told that Beulah's parents "woke up at midnight, and she was standing over their bed, holding a hatchet. They immediately shipped her off (to the mental institution)."

She arrived back at the asylum Aug. 29, 1920, and never saw freedom again.

Beulah was eventually transferred to the East Mississippi State Hospital, where she died in 1968 — two years before the Food and Drug Administration approved the drug lithium to

treat bipolar disorder.

Her brother had her body returned to Holly Springs, where she was buried with other family members in the cemetery known as "the Little Arlington of the South."

After seeing the online comment about Linden Hill's ghost, Humphreys reached out to Nairmore, now 67 and living in Horton, Alabama.

Nairmore told her the story of Beulah Cawthon and how the Cawthon family had sold Linden Hill to the Akins family.

"It was my grandmother's house," Nairmore said. "That's what I call home."

Nairmore talked of seeing doors open by themselves, chandeliers swaying without wind, and sounds that had no explanation.

One night, Nairmore heard what sounded like "boots with spurs on them," she said. "I always thought it was a Confederate soldier, one of (Confederate Maj. Gen. Earl) Van Dorn's men (who raided and destroyed Union supplies in the town in 1862).

When she was about 17, her uncle Billy conducted a séance. She and her two cousins sat on the floor with him.

"Afterward," she said, "we heard all kinds of noises and doors slamming."

Months later, in the summer of 1968, she was sleeping when she felt someone grab her arm, and she yelled out. When her family rushed in, they found "a handprint on my arm," she said.

One relative reported having his covers lifted up by a ghost. Another talked of being touched by a ghost. Some were so spooked that they refused to spend the night.

Nairmore told Humphreys that when her grandmother sold the house in the early 1990s and moved out, "the wallpaper literally fell off the wall."

Humphreys shared this conversation with her husband, who regarded talk of ghosts as "ridiculous."

"We laughed our asses off," she recalled.

Talk of ghosts did nothing to dissuade them. "I thought, for \$65,000," she said, "we can live with a ghost."

Humphreys and her mother arrived at Linden Hill to paint and get the house ready. They slept the first night on a huge blow-up mattress.

In the middle of the night, her mother said she heard

what sounded like "eight men banging (around) in the back of the house."

The next night, at about 2:30 a.m., Humphreys heard what sounded like a moan or cry, she said. "I thought, 'It's got to be a raccoon or something.' Now I'm scared."

Later on, she said, she heard two wrought-iron chairs dragging on the tile floor and began to smell castor oil.

"Don't ever Google that," she said. "It says it's the smell of evil."

She talked to her daughter, who recommended she use sage and bless the home. She did that.

Before leaving three hours early for the airport, she decided to write a note to Beulah to explain that she was leaving but would be back with her husband, she said. "I was worried she would wreck the house."

When Humphreys returned with her family, "all (my) wedding pictures with Jimmy were crooked," she said.

The family continued to experience strange things. The TV came on by itself.

Humphreys tried to approach each event scientifically, she said. "I know it's a remote control, and it's never happened before, but maybe it's something."

After the family witnessed the lights turning on and off by themselves, she called an electrician to search for wire

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## Halloween Gorilla

I'm not a big fan of Halloween, but as I can see, many people are crazy about Halloween. My father-in-law, Henry Forrest Flemming, was one of those people.

Halloween never rolls around that I don't think about his great Halloween Prank of 1990. It fell on a Saturday that year and it was the perfect time for his pull out all the stops Halloween prank. He built a huge cage out of bamboo stalks in the front yard. Spanish moss hung from all corners and spotlights were placed in the yard to shine on the cage. All of this was done late in the afternoon, just before dark, and before all the trick-or-treaters began to arrive.

He had rented a full body gorilla costume that was very realistic. After putting it on, he got inside the cage to wait for all the guests to arrive, both young and old — no one was spared. As people approached the house, my mother-in-law informed everyone that a runaway gorilla from the zoo had been captured in the woods just outside of Cruger and that the Jackson Zoo officials were on their way to get him. Everyone was told that they were safe because he had been sedated and was safely locked up.

As people would come up the sidewalk and driveway, they were directly beside the cage. They safely made their way to the door and got their candy goodies.

On their way back to the street, the gorilla slowly got up and began walking around the cage. Suddenly, without warning, the gorilla began beating his chest and screaming. He jerked the door off the cage and began chasing them toward the street.

I knew what was going on and it still scared me to death. The next day there was more candy on the ground than anyone had taken home.

Everyone needs a little scary adventure on Halloween. In my opinion, it sure beats eggs and toilet paper.

I hope you will give today's recipes a try. Thanks for reading.

### CHILI and CORNBREAD CASSEROLE

- 1 (8.5 oz.) corn muffin mix
- 1 (15 oz.) can creamed style corn
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup milk
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 (1.75 oz.) pkg.

- chili seasoning
- 1 (15 oz.) can diced tomatoes
- 1 (15 oz.) can chili beans, undrained
- 1 (8 oz.) tomato sauce

Preheat oven to 400 degrees; coat a 13 x 9 x 2 inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray and set aside. In a large bowl, combine muffin mix, eggs, corn, milk, and 1 cup of the cheese. Pour into prepared baking dish and bake for 20 minutes. In a large skillet, cook ground beef until no longer pink; drain fat. Add chili seasoning, tomatoes, chili beans, and tomato sauce; cook for an additional 5 minutes. Pour beef mixture over cornbread and top with remaining cheese; bake for an additional 20 minutes. Allow to cool for 5 minutes and cut into squares for serving.

### CHICKEN TORTILLA BAKE

- 3 cups shredded cooked chicken
- 2 (4 oz.) cans chopped green chilies
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1 can Cream of Mushroom soup
- 1 can Cream of Chicken soup
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 12 corn tortillas, warmed
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

In a large bowl, combine chicken, chilies, broth, soups, and onion; set aside. Layer half the tortillas in a greased baking dish. Top with half the chicken mixture and half the cheese. Repeat the layers and bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

### CHICKEN QUICHE

- 1 (9-inch) frozen deep dish pie crust
- 1 cup cooked chopped chicken
- ½ cup chopped cooked bacon
- ¾ cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup heavy cream or milk
- 3 Tbsp. bottled Ranch dressing

Preheat oven to 350 degrees; spread chicken in bottom of pie crust; top with cheese. Whisk together the eggs, milk and dressing; pour over chicken and cheese. Bake for 1 hour; allow to rest 10 – 15 minutes before serving.

*\*Lee Ann Fleming is a Holmes County native, food columnist and has garnered fame for her recipes featured in the film, The Help. Fleming can be reached at lafkitchen@hughes.net.*

## ATTENTION ABSENTEE VOTERS

November 6, 2018

General/Special Elections

The Circuit Clerk's Office will have extended office hours for qualified Absentee Voters, to-wit:

Monday thru Friday from 8 A.M. until 7 P.M. and

Saturday, October 13, 20, 27 and November 3, 2018 8 A.M. until 12 Noon

### REMEMBER:

The Deadline for all qualified electors to cast an absentee ballot will be

Saturday, November 3, 2018 @ 12 Noon

### SUBMITTED BY:

Earline Wright-Hart, Circuit Clerk