

rooms are very small and the hallways are narrow.
About 10:15 p.m., fire officials or-

trucks to battle a fire at the awaiting demolition since 125 tenants were evacuated when a wall shifted and cracked Sept. 26. The fire apparently was caused by vagrants.

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U.S. House Races

Analysis

Election Day breaks. Democratic Chairman Dan Rostenkowski feels there is a "chance" of an upset victory. If Democrats turn the Dodd organization district for phone-out-the-vote operation on Tuesday. Dodd's organiza-

tion also has been assigned the 5th District — Waterbury to Danbury — for support purposes. O'Neill's troops are working the 1st and 6th districts, with the forces of U.S. Reps. Sam Gejdenson and Bruce A. Morrison responsible for their respective 2nd and 3rd districts.

Despite special Democratic efforts, Republicans are willing to bet the store on their incumbent dean of

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Tales of Voices, Ghosts Haunt Pomfret Village

By ROGER CATLIN
Courant Staff Writer

POMFRET — The path darkened ahead. As dusk quickly approached, white mist rose from beneath the pines.

Was this the spirit that had been foretold? Or was it merely a forest fog? Possibly a glint on the eyeglasses, a fogging from the rising temperature of the skin? Or only a transmogrifying puff of breath, increasing in depth with each hurried, desperate step into the chilly woods?

More likely it was a figment of imagination, fueled by the power of suggestion — and the fact that standard time was crashing unexpected darkness onto the ghost-hunting visitor from the city, absurdly clad in sport coat and tie, his legs cut by twisted dead branches, lost a mile deep in the woods in a town that doesn't want to hear anything more about ghosts.

Then came the sounds: Children laughing. Dogs barking. Cows mooing. A gunshot in the distance.

In this strange place in the

Pomfret woods, known to locals as the Lost Village, these sounds are not supposed to be there — unless, of course, they are the sounds of ghosts.

In a new book called "The Ghostly Register," to be released today, Halloween, the Lost Village commands its own chapter and is listed among 64 hauntings in the United States.

"Almost since its founding," writes the author, Arthur Myers of Weston, Mass., the village, which he calls Bara-Hack — a name few town residents seem to recognize — "has had the reputation of being haunted."

He isn't the first to note the strange sounds heard there.

Slaves on the property, from about 1780 to the mid-1800s when it thrived as a settlement, spoke of hearing spooky things or seeing ghosts lying about in the trees.

Susan Jewett Briggs mentioned the stories surrounding the old Higginbotham and Randall homesteads in her 1949 book, "Folklore and Firesides of Pomfret and Vicinity."

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70% Choose Eddy

Majority of Connecticut's Poll of Inquiry conducted between Oct. 26 and Oct. 27.

Edward J. Eddy Jr., the poll director, says the poll results show that at the beginning — a challenger, popularly endorsed by someone not who needed to concede could do better than Eddy did not deserve

to appear that Eddy has a lead," he said.

Those polled were asked to rate a favorable or unfavorable impression of Dodd, 74 percent had a favorable

impression, and 17 percent said they had an unfavorable impression.

In terms of job rating, 56 percent said Dodd was doing an excellent or good job, 35 percent said he was doing a fair to poor job.

Fourteen percent of those polled registered a favorable rating of Eddy, 11 percent unfavorable, leaving 75 percent saying they did not know enough about him to express an opinion.

Unaffiliated Party candidate Edward J. McCallum Jr. was recognized, either favorably or unfavorably, by 11 percent of those polled.

When reminded that McCallum was on the ballot, the same 11 percent said they would "consider" voting for him.

Warmly as He Boosts GOP Candidates

to help them in their bid for the Senate.

Reagan's pitch is the centerpiece of his "last six-day swing schedule" with a pre-election tour of Southern California.

Reagan is using his over-the-top popularity to help GOP candidates in GOP hands. Reagan has a 53-47 edge, but 12 Democratic candidates contested Tuesday. The outcome is too close to call.

What is at stake for the presidential campaign

"Tip" O'Neill counterpunches against Reagan attacks. Page A7.

appearances have a striking uniformity. At each stop, at least 5,000 people gather in a local civic center. High school bands warm up the crowd. Reagan's speech — it is almost always the same text — is funny, tough, partisan and patriotic.

There are lots of jokes. "There was a kid outside with a bunch of puppies," Reagan says, "and he was holding them up and saying, 'Buy a puppy, a Democratic puppy.'"

But two weeks later, the same

child was selling puppies and calling them Republican. The difference? "The kid says, 'Now they've got their eyes open,'" Reagan explains.

There is tough talk.

"You know," the president says, "America used to wear a 'Kick me' sign around its neck. We threw that sign away and now it reads, 'Don't tread on me.'"

There is partisan rhetoric.

Democrats, the president charges, "never met a tax they didn't like."

There is, finally, a patriotic appeal.

"My friends," he says, "in casting your vote for Mack Mattingly, you'll

be winning one for yourselves, for Georgia and for America."

Despite the crowds' enthusiasm for these lines, most observers have serious questions about whether the Reagan tour will help sweep shaky Republicans into office.

History is not on Reagan's side. Through most of the 20th century, the party occupying the White House has lost heavily in congressional races during its sixth year of power.

White House officials nevertheless believe a Reagan visit can add 5 to 10 percentage points to a candidate's support.

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ption didates

hurston Aviation Hangar at the lotte (N.C.) Airport.

"We can either bet on American technology to keep us safe, or on et promises," he said. "Each has wn track record. And I'll bet on e Charlotte stop was a last-min-

ddition to the trip, because a Charlotte Observer poll showed James T. Broyhill, R-N.C., had enly slipped behind former ocratic Gov. Terry Sanford by percentage points.

ter Reagan's speech, not all the le in the crowd seemed motivat-

vote for Broyhill. me liked the Reagan pitch. "A g defense is important against ountry with nuclear missile ca-ity," said Bob Dill of Charlotte. hers, though, wanted more time ink about the issue. "I hear so and read so much it all runs her," said Beulah Smith of lotte.

agan also routinely reminds aues that a Democratic Senate as "liberals" will gain control of ommittee chairmanships.

favorite example is the Judi-Committee, which votes on al judicial appointments. Now ed by Sen. Strom Thurmond, R- it would be led by Sen. Edward ennedy, D-Mass., or Joseph R. Jr., D-Del., if control changed

Alabama, a state more con- d than most with federal s because of their role in civil and school issues, the message over well.

makes a difference which s get approved," said Wayne s, a law student from Thomas-

ve Allen, a Birmingham school candidate, agreed. "It's a cut- sue with people I call the mid- en, the pharmacists and the rs," he said. They talk about it r stores, and it can influence , he added.

outcome in many states could n whether Reagan energizes ctorate, whether the kind of he created in places like Co- s, Ga., will filter through the unity.

Strange Tales Haunt 'Lost Village'

Continued from Page 1

The area was settled about 1780 by Obadiah Higginbotham and Jonathan Randall, both of Welsh descent, who had moved to the area from Cranston, R.I. Agriculture was a main industry there, but they built a small factory called the Higginbotham Linen Wheels mill, which made spinning wheels and looms and operated on the brook there.

In 1927, former Trinity College professor Odell Shapard described the place in his book, "The Harvest of a Quiet Eye."

"Here had been their houses, represented today by a few gaping cellar holes out of which tall trees were growing; but here is the Village of Voices," he wrote. "Although there is no human habitation for a long distance around and no one goes there except the few who go to listen, yet there is always a hum and stir of human life. . . . They hear the laughter of children at play . . . voices of mothers who have long been dust calling their children into homes that are now mere holes in the earth. They hear vague snatches of song . . . and the rumble of heavy wagons along an obliterated road.

"It is as though sounds were able in this place to get round that incomprehensible corner, to pierce that mysterious soundproof wall that we call Time."

And more than 60 years later, there they were — the unmistakable sounds of children playing, a mother calling, dogs barking and cows mooing. The roar of a riding lawn mower.

Wait a minute. The mower — and most of the other sounds — were coming from a relatively new saltbox home nearby.

"People say they hear these things and they do hear them," said Linda LaVoie, who lives in the home and is clearly not made of dust. "We have children. We have dogs. We have cows, too."

She said she and her husband have lived there for four years and have not seen any otherworldly events.

"I don't believe in ghosts," she said.

The view is shared by others in

the area. Kate Kelly, 17, who will direct strangers to the site near her family's home from the general store where she works, said she has never heard of any ghosts in the area.

But she said her parents never told her what was going on when she was little and college people came over to the house to talk about research on the old Higginbotham and Randall cemetery.

That investigation was a result of a photograph taken at the site by an old-time resident, Harry Chase. Although it had been taken in broad daylight, there were unexplained white streaks zipping through it.

"Now I don't believe in ghosts," Chase told The Courant when it published his picture 30 years ago this month. "But how came those three white streaks in the negative?"

A story on the picture in 1970 caught the eye of an East Hartford seminary student.

Paul F. Eno and six other students at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield sought to find a logical explanation for the ghost stories. They had Chase direct them to the site deep in the woods.

"We went in there and we could hear a normal day in the village. Cows, dogs, human voices — like it was a normal day," Eno recalled in a telephone conversation from Cumberland, R.I. But then they found the nearest cows were several miles away. There was a YMCA camp two miles away but there were no children there that day.

"We were thrown for a loop," he said. "I cannot emphasize the pains we took to be objective."

But as he wrote in an article appearing last year in Fate magazine, "For more than seven minutes we watched a bearded face suspended in the air over the cemetery's western wall, while in an elm tree over the northern wall we clearly saw a babylike figure reclining on a branch."

"In desperation, we held a prayer service," Eno said Thursday. "It sounds hokey but I'll remember it as long as I live. It was a dark and cloudy place every time we came there. And we never heard a bird

there. Not one. But as soon as we prayed, the sun came out, the birds started singing and there was an impression of real peace."

Eno said he since has been out there two or three times, but the atmosphere was quite different. The ghosts, if that's what they were, seemed freed.

"Whether they were ghosts, or if ghosts exist, I can't explain."

Eno, a freelance writer, said he prefers the new theories of quantum physics and the ability of matter to move through time.

"Our brains are like radios," he said. "They pick up all sorts of stimuli."

Not everyone's radio agrees, however.

"I never felt any vibes there," said Mary Jean Page of the Pomfret Historical Society. "I don't believe in ghosts. I guess you can tell."

Page said the society has led a tour through the area to the cemetery in years past, but it is always done with the permission of the landowner, Henry H. Townshend, Jr. of New Haven.

All agree the Townshends, who have restored one or two of the handful of old gravestones, are generous in allowing people to hike through the land. But Page said, "You don't see a beaten path there. It's a nice little cemetery. It's a family cemetery."

Most unhappy about occasional publicity for the hidden graveyard are descendants of the Higginbothams and Randalls.

"Every time there is an article about ghosts there, there is vandalism," said Martha Gurling of Pomfret. "Three gravestones were stolen last time. Two more were destroyed. This is private property."

"It always comes up at Halloween and they always bring up these unfounded rumors about ghosts and we are the ones who have to go up there and clean up the coffee cups and the film wrappers. We're tired of the desecration."

"I've never got ghosted there," said John E. Serrine, 63, who owns part of the property where one of the old Higginbotham cellars still lies. "But you will get goosey and ghosty up there."