

Ghost Busters...Geraldine DeMers...Winner

My school experiences deal with something a little different than classroom incidences.

Early in my teaching career, I was assigned a school about fifteen miles north of Winner called Ideal. Foremost among my experiences was a story I heard from several of the patrons, one of whom was the school cook, and this is what I was told.

Some years back when all the students were out playing during recess, they noticed an old man in ragged clothing walking towards the school house, he entered the door, walked up the stairs and disappeared. The man had a very foul odor. The teachers and student ts were very frightened. They called the parents to come over to see what was going on. The men came with guns, searched the school high and low, no old man was found. The cook told me that her children were so frightened they became ill and did not attend school for several days.

Many of the residents of Ideal always thought the school was haunted as music, laughter and strange lights were send and heard at night.

Another school I taught at was on the Rosebud reservation, it was called He Dog which means male wolf in Lakota. This incident occurred during noon hour. There was a plum thicket about a block away. Apparently some of the teachers and students saw a young girl dressed in white playing in the plum thicket, the students were not to leave the school grounds. The bell rang to come in for class. The girl would not come in. The students reported this to me. I looked but did not see or find her. We reported this to the principal. The principal did not see or find her. The principal checked all the classrooms and no girl was found.

The girl was often seen down by the bathrooms. I never did see “the girl in white.”

Another school I taught at was a small town in the mountains called Cuba, which means valley in Spanish. The parents told me they were descended from the Conquistadors who were searching for the cities of gold. Sometimes the hidden gold would shine during the Lenten season. This town was not too far from the White Sands testing ground. Strange lights in the sky and appearances of Sasquatch were seen. Some of the sotries were told to me by the teachers, as usual, I was not fortunate enough to witness any nocturnal appearances.

Two of the teachers were graduates from Texas A&M University and told me about “the Black Owl Woman”. The “Black Owl Woman” dispensed medical advise to patients. The patients were not supposed to consult American doctors.

The grandmother of these teachers became ill and died. The two visited their grandmother’s grave at noon. While they were praying an owl hooted in the tree nearby and then flew away.

I taught at a school in Texas near the border. This teacher was from Chicago, spoke several languages and had been a CPA. He had been a missionary in Africa, South America, and Mexico. He told me these beliefs are called Gr-Gri and the president down to the lowest citizen believe in them.

Another incident from this town concerned the president of the school board. A lady of the community could place a hex on a person and bring bad luck. This school board member was also the democratic state senator from south Texas. The lady and the board members had a difference, the board member carefully avoided her during election time.

I had her grandson in class, the child was dyslexic and I made allowances for this. On the last day the lady visited me and told me I was very kind.

I also heard stories about the “chupa-cabra” which is an animal about five foot tall, looks like a monkey with red eyes that sucks blod from cattle, sheep, and goats. Chup-cabra means goat sucker in Spanish. I never saw this apparition either.

These are beliefs from other cultures which are entirely foreign to our way of thinking. I respected their beliefs as I thought it showed consideration and respect. After all, many millions of people do believe this in the age of computers and space exploration.