

House ghost shown the door

Paranormal team helps haunted family get rid of unwanted guest

By **Shiara M. Davila**

STAFF WRITER

SOUTH EL MONTE — A hair-raising scream pierced the night air and the girl's eyes locked on the ghost standing in her doorway.

The old woman stared back defiantly.

That night, in a 42-year-old home in South El Monte, a terrified child called for her mother.

"After we moved in, (my daughter) started feeling somebody watching her all the time," said the girl's mother, Bridgette Silva, 33. "I would tell her to just ignore it. (But that night) the woman was in the doorway watching her and the lady turned around to see if we were coming and she disappeared when she saw me walking into the hallway."

Although Silva said her 11-year-old daughter, whose name she requested not be publicized, has seen ghosts and heard voices since she was a baby, she had never been frightened by them. When the girl began seeing the woman last winter, however, a month after moving into the house, it soon became clear to the youngster that the entity was menacing.

Concerned for her daughter's well-being, and frightened at the prospect of having a ghost in her home, Silva said she contacted a local Catholic church, intent on having a priest bless her home. But, the church offered no help.

"They really don't believe," Silva said. "They said, 'Oh, she's just a child. She doesn't know what she's saying. It's just her imagination.' I wasn't going to beg them to come out."

Frustrated and unsure of how to proceed, Silva got in touch with the San Gabriel Valley Paranormal Researchers.

Two weeks later, a fully

ON THE NET

For more information on the San Gabriel Valley Paranormal Researchers, visit www.sgvpr.org.

equipped crew was at her doorstep.

Armed with an infrared- and night-shot-capabilities camera, motion detectors and 400- to 800-speed 35 mm film, the paranormal researchers — about a dozen in all — take an almost scientific approach to their investigations.

This case was no different.

And although Silva admits that she and her husband were a bit skeptical, she said all doubts vanished when the group got to work.

"My husband said, 'Don't tell them anything. If they're real, they'll know where to go,'" Silva said. "What was amazing is that they went directly to the room where the sightings were at, and we didn't tell them anything."

Led by Virginia Marco, a psychic medium, the crew uncovered the root of the problem during their two-hour investigation, Silva said.

The Silvas thought the spirit must be that of a former resident who died in the house after living there 15 years. But Marco told them it was another woman who had lived and died on the property.

"This lady that died, she was old but she was mentally crazy, and that's the problem," she said.

Marco, 47, is a West Covina housewife from Brazil. She said she is a fourth-generation psychic. She said she discovered the paranormal research team on the Internet and contacted Director Diane Melvin to volunteer her services.

Marco confirmed the daughter's description of a wide-eyed old woman with disheveled hair

and a blue dress, Silva said. The psychic also told the family that the old woman was hostile, senile and confused — that she thought the house was hers and wanted them to leave.

"My daughter had drawn pictures of the woman and they completely matched the description of (the psychic)," Silva said. "It was eerie. It was scary."

"She was appearing to the girl because she was the only one who could see her," Marco said. "The ghost didn't do anything to her. She just stood there with her hair wild."

The research team told the Silvas that they also detected the presence of a "husky man," but not as a threatening spirit, Silva said.

Marco told them the man had emotional ties to the house, and, as is common in traditional hauntings, visited for that reason.

To rid the house of the unwanted presence, the group invited Silva to join in a circle while the psychic guided the spirit into the light. Silva said the temperature in the room dropped as they gathered, suddenly becoming very cold. The room temperature went back to normal following the encounter, Silva said.

Since the de-haunting session, which was free, Silva said her daughter has not seen the old woman again.

The de-haunting process helps ghosts cross over into the dimension of "God's light," Marco said.

"They're saying, 'Please help me. I'm here. Talk to me,'" she said. "And that's what scares people. (The ghosts) don't know that they are dead."

Shiara M. Davila can be reached at (626) 962-8811, Ext. 2764, or by e-mail at shiara.davila@sgvn.com.