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A Collection Of Bizarre Solved & Unsolved Mysteries  
Associated With The University Of Arizona - UArizona- UofA  
Located In Tucson, Arizona U.S.A.  
From 1885 To The Present Day  
(Not a website of the University of Arizona)

**Haunting Of Maricopa Hall**



There are various, numerous, and continued reported sightings of ghosts, apparitions, encounters, and other unexplainable things that go 'Bump in the Night' occurring even during the day over the years around almost all of the University of Arizona campus that is located in Tucson, Arizona U.S.A.

The University of Arizona campus contains many classic old brick buildings built in the late 1800s and the early 1900s time periods.

On the University of Arizona campus and the ground under which it was built over the top of, many experiences with the supernatural have been reported since long before the original college and later university had first opened to mostly high school students first named the Arizona College of Mines in 1885.



One of the more enduring and documented of the University of Arizona's continuing campus mystery's is centered at, in, and around the Maricopa Residence Hall building involving much more than just one ghostly misunderstood spirit from the sites past. One of the original reports has it that a very despondent female student sadly had killed herself there inside Maricopa Hall very late one stormy dark and windy October 30th night.

Those mysterious circumstances surrounding her death involve the Maricopa Hall's original purpose for being built which was as the designed private mansion by the then (6th) sixth University of Arizona President Arthur Herbert Wilde in 1914 for use only by himself acting as the President of the University.

Sandy Mercer, a history major and former [Maricopa Hall](#) resident from Wisconsin, related what she had found out about the hauntings accounts were also based on the Maricopa dormitory hall being built on top of the site of a unusually bloody fight even for its time between two very highly spirited, well-armed, and bitter rival local downtown Tucson Dance Hall Girls in the 1860s.



Diamond Lil

Diamond Lil had worked more than her share of mining camps that dotted the landscape of Southern Arizona while Two Tooth Gertie had both been working in rival saloons located downtown on Congress Street where both of the 'ladies' when awake were always engaged in the very highly profitable and highly competitive business of the time in Tucson, "*That of Mining the Miners.*"

Diamond Lil always carried a small Pearl Handled Smith & Wesson .32 caliber silver plated Derringer pistol down in her garter belt, while Two Tooth Gertie had learned to throw a knife lightning fast as a tough young kid working in the traveling circus.

Two Tooth always kept one or two highly sharpened small throwing knives in a handmade hidden leather sheath that had been sewed into a special pocket very neatly concealed under each of her long flowing dresses.

It was said that even when drunk that Two Tooth Gertie could accurately hit and slice a man's nose or his ear completely off from twenty (20) feet away and had done so in various Congress Street Saloons on more than a few occasions.



Two Tooth Gertie

One night as both 'ladies' were trying to separate a prospector-miner from his newly found silver and gold in a leather pouch he had tied to his Buffalo hide belt while they were all at a meeting of the Tucson Vigilante Committee downtown...

It was just a matter of time before the sparks would inevitably fly between the two working ladies competing for what little could be plucked from the drunk and the careless.



'Upstanding Members' of the Tucson Vigilante Committee

Each one unsuccessful at removing the miners 'poke bag', both dance hall girls soon stormed out of the meeting, taking to their small two seat horse drawn buggy's heading at a fast trot out east of town into what was then the open desert and formerly part of a Spanish Cattle Rancho. That same area now is located underneath the land that the University of Arizona currently sits on.

A very heated bantering back and forth exchange ensued with words usually only spoken by frustrated uneducated drunken working men when Two Tooth Gertie suddenly reached under her dress and in an instant her

knife found its mark in Diamond Lil's left upper shoulder.

Diamond Lil, a crack shot and just as quick with her reflexes, then fired once, the bullet first striking Two Tooth Gertie in the upper right eye. As the bullet smashed its way forward finally stopped lodging itself deep into Two Tooth's brain.

As Two Tooth Gertie fell down onto the desert soil she began bleeding profusely, and in her final death rattle raspy voice Two Tooth Gertie murmured out with a Curse placed on both Diamond Lil as well as the desert area she lay dying on. "*My ghost will be haunting you and this place forever!*" As Two Tooth ended her placing the curse with her last breaths she died right there on the sandy desert soil spot in which she had fatally fallen.

It would be later in the late 1870s when Tucson had been stripped of its role as Arizona's Capital, that the Thieving 13th Arizona Territorial Legislature allotted only enough money to build a single college structure as a substitute for Tucson no longer being Arizona's Capital location and all the business that designation brought in with it.

Without any land to build on or any money allotted to buy it, even a single college building being built stood even less chance than a July snow blizzard or an honest politician in Tucson.

That until four professional gamblers, a few saloon owners, and some con artists along with every one of the dance hall and working girls in Tucson all worked

together to donate a large parcel of open desert scrub land to build the college building on.

In the case of the ladies, some of their take from the miners, cowboys, and area businessmen they had 'entertained' was pitched in to make the land donation of a college finally happen in Tucson.

Among those working ladies was none other than Diamond Lil.

The Maricopa Hall mystery emerges later in 1919 with the arrival of the daughter of a wealthy Eastern Railroad Robber Baron attending the University of Arizona getting engaged to be married by a wealthy local member of the prestigious Owl's Club.

One night as the young heiress was visiting some of her friends in Tucson the beautiful young lady discovered her dashing prospective husband had been in bed with another man from town in what was a very scandalous embarrassing moment during the time period of the 1910's.

The despondent girl emotions continuously rose and fell as she quickly walked back through the pitch dark night of the desert all alone back to the campus that evening uncontrollably crying and sobbing all along the way.

The distraught young lady was found hanging from one of the bathroom ceilings gas light fixtures metal supply pipes on what was then the dark and drafty 2nd floor of a then unfinished University of Arizona Presidents Mansion, that is now called Maricopa Hall, early on the next morning when the workmen began showing up.



The building that is now known as Maricopa Hall was originally proposed, designed, and authorized to be built for the then University of Arizona President, (1911-1914) Arthur Herbert Wilde in 1914.

Health matters however after Wilde stumbled over a ground animals hole and fell hard on the ground at the proposed building site brought him an early retirement wheel chair bound before the massive mansion could be started.

That proposed designed two (2) story building was then constructed a few years later between June 1918 and October 1920 for a total amount of exactly \$174,666.00



dollars during the time period World War 1 was raging over in Europe and the Deadly Spanish Flu Epidemic swept through Tucson, the United States, and around the world.

**With 27 Cases of Spanish Influenza in Tucson, All Public Places Are Closed**

Churches, Motion Picture Houses, Public and Private Schools, And Pool Rooms Are Included In Order By Acting Mayor

Owing to the fact that there is present in Tucson what appears to be the beginning of an epidemic of Spanish influenza, as a protection to the public health, we hereby order you to close your place of business.

By order of  
**MEADE CLYNE,**  
City Health Officer.

In compliance with above order, as acting mayor, I hereby declare for the public health and safety until further notice is given that the following places of business will be closed to

**EVERY PART OF U.S. NOW SWEEP BY INFLUENZA**

Thousands of Cases Also Break Out in Mexico, Australia and Africa; Motion Picture Film Release Stopt in All Nation

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By 1921 an additional 3rd floor was added to the structure for the additional cost of \$45,000 dollars.

However, for reasons known only to the next University President 1914-1921 Rufus Bernard von Kleinsmid he adamantly and completely refused to ever set foot inside the mansion again after an experience he would never talk about that happened when he was walking by the building very late one night after a meeting. He would never again walk on the same side as the building again, and never at night.

The building then sat empty gathering dust for a number of years until later when it was decided to slowly turn only one (1) room at a time into rooms for college classes required the spaces being re-adapted for use as small classrooms from the original mansion living spaces design and purpose of the mansions construction.

To this very day many of the students, visitors, and employees at the university have reported seeing and or hearing the sobbing and crying ghostly apparition of a young girl when they either lived in or worked in the old building hall or simply had just visited others in the structure there at night.

Maricopa Hall's basement is still very often no joke for the faint of heart either, and it is known as a really, really, really scary place at many various times.

Countless students, staff, maintenance workers, visitors, along with others have often reported hearing very strange and even bordering on bizarre kinds of eerie sounds coming from Maricopa Hall ever since the sad death of the heart broken young girl back in the year 1919 on that dark and stormy October 30th night.

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