



Episode 12: San Antonio Haunts

Let's be honest -- REALTORS face an ever-changing industry. With emerging tech, growing trends, and a booming market, it's vital to keep up. Join me, Gilbert Gonzalez, CEO for the San Antonio Board of Realtors, as I get real with experts on what REALTORS need to know about this industry. It's time to get real.

GG: So, with a 300-year history, San Antonio is rich with haunted tales from the Alamo and other missions to haunted hotels and houses, there is no shortage of spooky spots around town. We are joined today by a local expert on paranormal activity in San Antonio, Veronica Bautista. She is the founder of the Afterlife Paranormal Society and has done quite a bit of investigation into haunted locations around the city. She is here to share some of her stories. Veronica, thank you for being here with us. Let us start with, can you tell me a little bit about your organization, the Afterlife Paranormal Society.

VB (00:58):

We are a nonprofit family-based organization in San Antonio. We help people to like people with their houses and stuff. We go on location. We do not charge anybody. We do this to help the people. And on the locations that we go to it's, you know, it's fun for us to investigate different locations.

GG (01:24):

What are the people hoping that you'll do? Are they hoping you're going to say, Nope, there's nothing. Are they hoping

VB (01:29):

Nine out of 10 people are hoping we did not find anything as their houses, their houses, or, you know, like businesses and stuff like that. But there are a few businesses that have seen and caught it on their surveillance cameras and stuff like that have that has called us out to investigate. So, they know, but they just want like, I guess like a second opinion. So there, they don't say, I know everybody thinks that we're crazy, but now it's nothing crazy about it.

GG (02:04):

How often do you find positive evidence of paranormal life?

VB (02:10):

I'm going to knock on wood, but every investigation that I have gone to we've always picked up something.

GG (02:17):

Well then I'm never inviting you to my house.

VB (02:21):

No, I mean, I expanded my team up to Frankfort, Kentucky, so I got, you know, my cousins out there that do it. Sonya and Gary Blackburn, they're helping, I go up there like two or three times a year now, you know, to go investigate with them up there. And that's why I, you know, have half of it up in Frankfort, Kentucky.

GG (02:44):

How long has this been around?

VB (02:47):

I've been doing this since I was 18, but the team has been for years, but I was also on another team before.

GG (02:56):

How did you get started in this?

VB (02:57)

I was 18 years old and I was living up in Florida with my ex-husband now, but before we were just dating and stuff. We went to Florida. One night, I came home from work. I worked and got home about midnight or whatever. I had just got off the phone with my mom and I hung up the phone and I was getting ready to go to bed. And all of a sudden, I see this white light by the front door, inside the apartment. I'm like, what the heck is that? You know, it started coming towards me and it was my father and I totally freak. I started screaming. The cops were I call. It was weird. And my father had passed when I was nine years old and I was 18 at the time when he came to me. So ever since that, that's when I started looking into the paranormal and spirits and stuff.

GG (03:55):

So there's a part of me that wants to know what are your tools like? So, I know you're not going in there like Ghostbusters, right? With these packs on your back...

VB (04:05):

We go with EVPs. And EMF detectors, we go with the REM Pod we go with flash lights. We go in with SLS camera, we'll go in with handheld video, videos and stuff, night, night, vision and stuff. There's a lot of stuff that you could go and recorders any. I mean, there's a lot of things that you could go on with, but when we speak to a client, we ask, okay, well what's going on here? You know that, so we know what to take with us out there. So it's, you know, it's different things at different locations, different residents, different bars, you know, and stuff like that. It shows just totally everything. But I take everything I have just in case I need it.

GG (04:53):

So I want to talk to you a little bit about some of the places that you've explored here in town. I know everyone's heard about the many hotels and some of the missions, but you've had the opportunity to explore the Menger and the Emily Morgan. Correct.

VB (05:08):

And the Gunther. Yes.

GG (05:10):

Tell us about the Menger.

VB (05:11):

We had went out there for one of my sisters that, well, those two incidents out there one time a couple of years ago, and my sister's friends were having like a get together, their birthday or whatever, and they were staying at the Menger. So, we went over there, and they did old school, like carrying their beer box for the ice machine. Cause he couldn't find the ice bucket or whatever. And there was a lady, just popped out of the blue. Just started talking to my sister's friend, ongoing down the hallway. And he was getting, you know, they walked all the way down to the ice machine. He got the ice ice in the the beer and stuff like that. And he turned around, tell her, you know, thanks for the conversation, yada, yada yada, you know, and she's just like poof in the thin air.

VB (06:08):

And then the second time we went, we were just, you know, walking the halls, you know, took our K-II out there, you know, pictures. We were just, you know, clipping pictures here and there. And one of my niece by marriage, she was standing there, and she had her little Yorkie. She shoved hm in her shirt and his head was sticking out and I was like, Oh, I'm going to take a picture of that. So, I called her turn around, let me take a picture of gizmo. So, she turned around and I took a picture and it was like, her whole face was like deformed into a different person. And my sister-in-law was standing there. Like I caught her like walking tight and you saw her arm come up and half of her body was just like, wasn't there. You could see through it. It was on the third floor.

GG (07:00):

And this was the Menger. So were you there just as a guest or were you there to investigate?

VB (07:05):

No, we just roamed in there. We're trying to see if we could pick up anything, but the night of the party we were a guest.

GG (07:13):

Okay. So you kind of just, you, you kind of gravitate to these places that we've all heard about. So, tell us about the Emily Morgan,

VB (07:23):

The Emily Morgan. It was just recent. Couple of weeks ago we had took off, rented a room. We went to go eat on the Riverwalk and I had the camera rolling in the hotel, the hotel room and stuff. I had the, God, I can't even think. I had the flashlight, I had the motion sensor balls, the light-up balls. I had the

camera going and I had the K-II going. Once we walked into there and I turned on that K-II, it was just blowing up. I mean, it wouldn't stop. I would move it from one section to one section, put it on the floor and it wouldn't stop for nothing. So, I had everything set up and I came back to put my granddaughter to sleep. And I started looking at the video. Well, the flashlight turned off, you heard something like rattle in the, somewhere in the room.

VB (08:22):

Like if somebody was like trying to get to in from the door, I heard a couple of voices. I went like at 3:30 in the morning, I went to the other floors. Cause we're on the seventh floor. I went to number nine and number 14. Cause they don't, you know how suspicious they don't want 13 floors in a, you know, in a hotel. So we went when I went up to the 14th floor and I was sitting there and I was videotaping up there and physically, I heard like a bang and I'm like, where's that coming from? So, I got up and I started going, you know, looking and then physically the door was like shaking, totally shaking. Like if somebody was trying to get out of the door and stuff and you could hear the bangs on the wall. And I was just like, okay, I'm going to be brave.

VB (09:11):

I'm gonna open this door. And I hope to God, there ain't a dead corpse in there. So I opened the, I opened the door and I was by myself. I opened the door and I was like, praying like, Oh please, nobody jumped out. You know? So I had opened the door and it was another elevator that was there. And I'm like, where the heck does this elevator go to? And I was like, this is weird. So I started, you know, going on the other floors and see in this, you know, they had like another like board to go into, you know, with elevators. And I could not find any other elevators from any floors other than the main ones you use. So I was thinking, okay, well maybe this is an elevator for, you know, the maids or, you know, housecleaning people or what have you. But none of the other floors had it. So I do not know where that elevator went. I sure the heck didn't get on that elevator to see where it went either.

GG (10:11):

You know, I was going to ask if you got into that elevator, right. Cause that's a, that's a start of every horror movie right there. That's a start

VB (10:19):

Of every horror movie.

GG (10:21):

So what happened at the Gunther? You said the Gunther was the next one that you explored.

VB (10:28):

Yeah, we explored the, the Gunther was the second one we explored down there. It was back in the day where this one guy supposedly like brutally killed a woman there, hacked her up and shoved her down, the sink and the toilet, the bathtub, or whatever room 636. And I had brought in my cousin from Ballinger, Texas, Wilma Dickson. She, she's a medium. So, I brought her and her friend down. Didn't tell her anything. Didn't tell her nothing about the hotel. Nothing because she's from Missouri. And so, she says she doesn't know half of the stuff that we know down here or what have you. So, I brought her in, I told her, look, meet us in the lobby at the Gunther, you know, this and that. I said, I go, and then I'll tell you where we're going to go from there.

VB (11:22):

What have you. So, I mean, and it was so weird because right when I get the keys to both rooms, cause they split the room in half. They did the remodel, they split it and then they turned the numbers around and stuff like that. So it wasn't 636, it's room 620 and 621. We went in there and she was just like, somebody died here, and somebody got hacked here and they had bought this meat grinder, you know? And she goes, she was killed in the, in the bed, there's blood everywhere, you know? And then she was like, she was hacked in the tub. She goes and then the maid came in, scared him. She was just saying the whole story. And I'm just like you got to be joking. You know, we already knew it because we already read the papers and stuff like that. But she just came in and she was just like reenacting the whole thing. We have a video of it and stuff like that on, on her page.

GG (12:25):

How is she knowing the story? Are you going to say somebody was telling her the story?

VB (12:30):

No, she's a psychic medium.

GG (12:33):

So, she could just see it happening or how did she

VB (12:36):

No, she, she just saw it happening. She talks to dead people put it like that.

GG (12:42):

That's what I'm trying to wonder. Was there a dead person there telling her what was going on?

VB (12:46):

Yeah, it was the girl.

GG (12:48):

Oh. So that was, she was reliving it and telling her how it went

VB (12:54):

And how he escaped with her and threw her body in the, the San Antonio river.

GG (13:01):

So, we all know not to stay at room 620, 621, of the Gunther Hotel

VB (13:09):

Well actually we stayed in 620 and she was in 621 and we had more activity in 620 by the water turning on, the toilet flushing. You know there was different color lights, like up on the seating type thing after we reviewed the, the videos and stuff like that. And I'm just like, Oh my gosh,

GG (13:36):

Veronica, the first toilet flushing, I'm going downstairs and asking for another room, how do you do it? How do you stay in there?

VB (13:44):

There's always a time where you might hear it. Like, okay, say for instance, a toilet or the light flickering on and off, or what have you. And real time you might hear the toilet flushing and on the video it won't come up or you might not hear it, hear the toilet flushing. And it comes up on the video because that's how it was with this or the recorders and stuff like that. That's why they're call EVPs, you know, and stuff like that.

GG (14:17):

I think I'm good. Just avoiding the sixth floor. The now, you know, and we say that, right, like I'm going to avoid the hotel because I'm not going to stay at the hotel, but it's my understanding, you know, that history has to spill over. You mentioned the San Antonio river to the bars or the restaurants. Have you explored any of those downtown that you had similar experiences with?

VB (14:41):

The T well, it used to be called the ticket. I don't know what it's called now, but we've gone into the Ticket twice already on the third floor. And we got a lot of, you know, stuff happening up there. We put motion sensors up there. We've put in flashlights, the spirit box, talk through the spirit box up there. And we got a lot of stuff on that third floor in that elevator, like you were saying in the beginning about the elevator, you know, that's a quick of a horror story. Yeah. Well the elevator going up to the third floor at the Ticket, it was shaking and all this other stuff, like if it was on a fall down and I was just like, I ain't getting on the elevator, going back down. I'd rather walk through the stairs. Yeah. We've gotten a lot of stuff saying, get out, you know, them cussing at us, you know, calling us names. You get like a lot of people, a lot of spirits that just don't want you there. And they're going to do anything in their power to get you away. Like how like scare you and stuff like scratch you, you know, this and that. Or like turn on a motion sensor that is supposed to be scary enough to get you out of there, you know? But not me. I stay there to the end.

GG (16:01):

Obviouly you have a much higher threshold than me cause I'd be running screaming. Right. So, what is it that you, what do you think these spirits are like? Is it I guess I'll just leave it like that. What do you think these spirits are? These ghosts?

VB (16:17):

I have a feeling they're the soldiers from the, the war back when the Alamo had the war, because these areas are close to the Alamo and all downtown is haunted. And I just feel that their spirits never went up after they got killed after the war, we've communicated a couple of soldiers at the Ticket and at the, what was it, at the Menger? And I would ask, you know, what year is this? Or whatever. And they'll say like 1800 and something. I'm like, okay, well this has to be a soldier, you know, from the war and stuff. And then they were saying, so they, I would ask, are you a soldier? Did you get killed in the war? Yes or no. Can you, what are you, you know, are you a female, a male, you know, soldier,

GG (17:12):

I'm gonna switch subjects on us real quick because one of the things that growing up in San Antonio, there's a lot of, of spooky things that you hear about. And one of the ones that I've always heard about was the donkey lady. And I never thought that that was a true story. I thought that one was definitely made up. So, but you've, you've actually done some research into this.

VB (17:34):

We have gone probably about five or six times the last three or four times that we've gone. It was so much activity out there. You could even hear, like when you're walking over the bridge and everything, in back of you, you could hear like a horse, like hooves like, you know, like coming towards you and stuff and getting closer to you. And I was one time a car went and start out there. We were just sitting in the car cause there were people on the bridge and it was like 10:30 at night or whatever. So we were just sitting there now. They made like walking trails or whatever out there.

GG (18:16)

And where is, there?

VB (18:17)

That's off a jet road and Apple white, it's by Toyota. Okay. The last time they were out there, we had the K-II, we had the motion sensor balls the REM pod out and we're asking questions and it was like probably 9:00 - 9:15 or whatever.

VB (18:38):

And they were with the questions that we're asking, the flashlight would go off or the K-II will go off or, you know, the motion box. And then all of a sudden everything started going off. And then we started hearing, like they had put, they fixed up the side of the bridge where the metal part is and stuff. And we heard like if somebody had gotten a pipe and went over to the other side of the bridge towards the end of it, where the walking trail is and got the pipe and started hitting the metal and it did it like three times, like, boom, boom, boom. And I was just like turned around and I was like, what the hell is that? Cause we're in the middle of the bridge. And then I was like, well, nobody's here. We saw everybody come out, you know, this and that.

VB (19:25):

So we walked over there, we started shining the flashlight and stuff like that. Then you heard a growl and I'm like, Oh, that's new the growl. And then, so I was like, okay. So we went back over there. So asking more questions, you know, it was a female that was talking, told us to get the hell off the bridge. And then all of a sudden you hear that sound again, that bang, bang bang three times. And I was just like, what the hell? You know, where, who is doing this? So, and I told everybody, I was like, if it comes back and it does it three times again, that's the third signal we're leaving. So, we're there for a little bit. And all of a sudden it kept telling us, get the hell off the bridge, get the hell off the bridge. And I'm like, no, I'm not going.

VB (20:15):

I said, I'm not going. I was like, I want to know who you are. I want to know your name. And it was a female. And then all of a sudden you hear it louder. Like physically, if they got it and they were hitting it so hard to bust that pipe, I was like, that's it we're out of here. And then all of a sudden you hear hee hee hee, hee hee. And I'm like, Oh really? I was like, they're doing this on purpose to get us out of here. So we started walking back to the truck and then you heard the hooves, like horse hooves or whatever.

And then all of a sudden you hear big humongous scream. I was just like, Oh hell no. And I ran to the truck. I jumped over the barricade and I ran to the truck, got in. I threw all this stuff in the bag.

VB (21:00):

I was like, hoping to God it didn't break. And I got in there. I was like, y'all better hurry up. I'm leaving. Y'all because it's dark out there. There is no light out there. And that's what mainly freaks the people out is because it's so dark. But no, when you sat here in the ground, you start hearing, you know, pipes hitting each other and there's no pipe down there. It's just running water, you know? And then all of a sudden you hear like a growl and then like a laughing hissing sound. That's how I knew you better get the hell out of there. Back in the day when I was in high school and stuff like that, everybody used to go out there, but it was just a two, one way bridge where the cars coming off of it, you got to pull over to let them off, you know? And then you could go and, you know, cross over it and stuff like that. But I don't know that that place, that is haunted. I'm sorry. It is

GG (22:00):

Now the one that I, I, everyone else always goes to, especially in high school has always been the tracks. If you grew up in San Antonio, you went to the tracks, you put some flour on the back of your car and watched as you

VB (22:20)

Yeah, Baby powder

GG (22:21)

yeah. As you cross the bridge because the children wanted to protect you. Have you explored there?

VB (22:22):

It is true, but it's out of California. It did happen in California and all the names that are out there on this, the subdivisions and stuff that they had made out there. They got the names from the people that passed away. The kids that passed away on that bus when the train hit it. So, they put them names on the street names over here and the subdivision they had like a road crew. I don't know if it was from TxDot or whatever, but they went out there. They did, you know, their, their lines and their graphics and all this other stuff. And it's just that little Hills on an incline. So sure. If you put your car on neutral and you're right there on that incline, it's going to push you down, even if your car is off and everything. So no, that it's a myth,

GG (23:23):

Some developer way back when, who thought it'd be funny to take all those names and put them next to a neighborhood right next to a train track is what you're telling.

VB (23:31):

Yeah. Because the train tracks, they, they stopped working years ago. As many times as we've gone out there and stuff I've never ever seen that train track, have a train on it and go through it up until last year, year and a half ago when we went out there, that's when a train and I freaked out because I was like, I thought this train track was, you know, closed. I didn't think it ran through or whatever. And there was a train going by.

GG (24:01):

So are there any other scary places around town that you've investigated that we would want to know about?

VB (24:08):

I can't say that we investigated, we kind of like went out there and just to go out there, the mission church. I was told that there's a cross in the middle of the yard and surrounding by cactuses and stuff like that. And I was told if you take them bright flashlights, what are they L L D E or L E D lights or whatever. And you shine them up on the cross and everything that you see, like blood dripping from the cross to where the, yeah, the hands of Jesus was and the, the foot, the nails and stuff like that. You would see like blood drip in from it and stuff. So I was just like, I'm going to go out there. So, we went out there one night and everything, and I had parked my truck, you know, to the opening of that place and everything.

VB (25:01):

Well, I was like, okay. So, we went out there and we did it. We shine the light, yada, yada, yada, I didn't see anything. I was like, okay, well, it has to be a hoax, whatever. So, walking back to the truck, all of a sudden, I see this black apparition, like floating, like coming towards me and my friend. And I'm just like, do you see? And I stopped her. And I clawed her on her arm. I was like, do you see that? And she looked up and she was like, what is that? I was like, I don't know. So we started swaying off to the left and it started going like to the left, but it was coming like towards us and stuff. I was like, hell with this. So, I started running and I jumped over the cement barrier. Now I knew my car was okay.

VB (25:50):

I scratched up my knee, my leg, everything. I fell on my face and I was trying to get up, get my keys, to get in the truck. My truck was nowhere to be found. My truck was gone, and it was parked way at the end of the road. And I was like, what the hell has happened here? I was like, Oh my God. So, I ran to my truck and I couldn't get my truck started. I was just like, Oh my gosh. And then another truck came by a little green truck and there was nobody in the driver's seat. And I was just like, Oh my God, we gotta get outta here. So finally, my truck started and everything, everybody piled in, we took off. And that was probably about six or seven years ago when that happened. And what mission is that? Mission Concepcion.

GG (26:41):

Got it. Here's my last for you? I was always told that if you want to see ghosts, you're going to see ghosts. If you don't want to see ghosts that they don't appear to you, your final thoughts on that,

VB (26:56):

I'm sensitive. I mean, I could pull up to some places like I don't want to go in there. You know, it just depends on the person and of the situation. I cannot say for a fact that you will never ever see anything that you don't want to see because that's not going to be true. You will see something; you will see something.

GG (27:27):

And on that note Veronica I want to thank you. Thank you for taking the time to visit with us today. And tell us a little bit about San Antonio, spooky history and, and giving our podcasts a little bit of a change up from our normal topics. Any parting words for those listening.

VB (27:39):

If you have any ghosts, if you have any spirits you've seen in everything, give us a call and we'll go out and we'll try to help you out. Thank you very much. Thank you.

GG (27:53):

Thanks for listening to get real. Be sure to subscribe for future episodes and share us with your friends on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. More information on this episode can be found at saber.com/get-real until next time.