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# THE ARCHIVES AT BETHANY

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## All Hallows Eve is Nearly Upon Us...

Let's tell some Bethany Ghost Stories...enter October's Newsletter at your own risk.

### John "The Baker" Engelhart -

Does anyone remember John "The Baker" Englehart? He still remembers Bethany...his home from 1956 until he passed in 1978 suddenly from a heart attack.

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1978 John "the baker" would have a heart attack while making some of his amazing confections for the Bethany boys and girls, when he had his episode, he also hit his head on the work station and although Rev. Henning would do CPR in an attempt to revive John the Baker, he would pass in the ambulance on the way to the hospital.



John's Cookie-Candy Houses Decorate Cottages  
A special "eatable" part of the Christmas decorations for the Bethany cottages this past Christmas were the "cookie and candy houses" created by John "the baker" Englehart. Each cottage received a large tray of John's special cookies along with their "cookie and candy house." Here John explains the houses to (left to right) Tracy Petrovto, Chuckle Anderson, and Sharon Welbel.

"John was loved by thousands of boys and girls who lived at Bethany since 1956. Not only did he bake some of the most delicious pies, cakes, cookies, and bread in those years, he found

a home for himself here and gave himself to Bethany and its children. He will be missed!" (Bethany Echo, Spring Issue, 1978)

So now we fast forward to 2000's according to Eric Hatt, Dining Services, "We think his spirit still roams the kitchen. Linda would tell me when she would work by herself that when she would be bagging rolls or bread and put it on the table, that it would just fly off the table, and she would say "John knock it off". That has happened to me a couple of times."

### Knorr's Cottage Spector -

I walked into Knorr on a Sunday morning around 10 am in the spring of this year and all the boys were sitting around the living room watching a movie. As I was putting my things in the staff office (important to note because I had the keys to open the office) I heard the dryer door in the laundry room being repeatedly opened and closed in a semi-violent manner. I asked, "Who is in the laundry room?" and then headed back to the room to tell whoever was doing laundry to be a bit gentler on the machines. Sure enough, the door was locked and when I opened the door the room was empty. Looking at the headcount, literally every boy in the cottage was in the living room. I asked them about it, and they told me that was 'normal' for the cottage.

Kelly Reppert Bethany's Recruiting Specialist told us this story about her experience related to Knorr Cottage...we wonder who has been left behind to visit the boys living in the cottage now.

### Bethany Girls Ghost Cries...

I was about 11 or 12 years old when I lived at Bethany. I can't remember the name of our cottage; there was a wooded area right behind our cottage, and it was very dark back there. My roommate and I would hear babies crying throughout the night. The rumor the older kids told us was that there was a prison not far away (still don't know to this day if it is true) and the escaped prisoners would lurk in the woods and if you ran away, they would be waiting for you. The cries we heard were those of children who had been captured.



Now, whenever I hear a mountain cat, I can't help but think of the woods behind our cottage.

Memory provided by, Dolores Bell Bethany girl 1980

## Eck Cottage and Ghostly Conversations and Movement...

This time last year I was Eck's supervisor. After the kids would leave for school, I would check in at the cottage to ensure it was inspection ready. For three days straight, I would hear a little girl talking, but it was muffled, and I could not make out what she was saying. The first day it sounded like it was coming from upstairs, at first, I thought a youth was still in the cottage but after searching all rooms/bathrooms it was confirmed I was alone. The second day I was in the office and thought I heard a little girl talking out in the dining room, again when I checked I was the only person in the cottage. On day three, I went to adjust the temperature and as I went to do this, I heard the same voice talking behind me... although it was very quiet, I again could not make out what was being said.

During these three days, the TV would turn on and off, I would hear loud footsteps/ banging upstairs. The last thing that happened was when I was sitting at the desk in the office, that had a clip board sitting on it; as I was logging onto the computer, I was nearly a foot away from the clip board, the clip board moved on its own and slid halfway off the desk!! I logged off and have not returned to that cottage by myself since!

Provided by Haley Reed – Brobst/Reed Supervisor

## Leinbach's Temporal Vortex

It was a chilly afternoon in February when maintenance received a call that the heat wasn't working in some of the rooms in Leinbach Cottage. The maintenance man took his tool bag and ventured into the ancient labyrinth that is the basement under Leinbach. As he had suspected, one of the circulator pumps for the boiler system had failed and would need to be replaced. Since it was the end of the day and knowing he would have to run to the supply house for a pump, he left his tool bag in the boiler room, locking the solid steel door behind him. The next morning, at about 8:15AM, the maintenance man returned to the boiler room in the basement of Leinbach, with a brand-new pump, ready to tackle what would be at least an hour-long job, even if everything went smoothly. As he was approaching the boiler room, he noticed that his tool bag was sitting outside of the room, against the wall across from the door, appearing to have been dragged across the dusty floor. Strange he thought, considering he'd locked them in the room the day before and only he and his helper

had keys to that door. Not thinking much more of it, he began his work. As is typically the case in old buildings such as this, the job did not go smoothly at all. The pump was overhead along the ceiling and the mounting bolts were very rusty and seized up. After struggling with the removal of the old pump, and finally getting the new pump mounted and running, for what felt like at least 2 hours, the maintenance man packed up his tools and left Leinbach



Cottage. As he was walking to his truck, he saw his helper coming down from Hess Cottage. As he got closer, his helper said that he was just coming down to see if he needed a hand, to which the maintenance man said he could've used some help an hour ago and laughed. The helper laughed also and asked what he meant, somewhat confused. The maintenance man then said that it was a rusty mess, but thankfully he was all done installing the new circulator pump. The helper again looked confused and said that was impossible... you've only been down there for ten minutes. He then showed him his watch, which read 8:25AM. The maintenance man agreed that it was impossible because he'd been down there for over two hours and the job was indeed complete. The helper then confirmed that he had just seen him ten minutes ago at the shop and that he'd just gone up to Hess Cottage to turn off some lights and came right down to Leinbach. They both scratched their heads and agreed that sometimes strange things happen here. Over two hours lost in Leinbach's temporal vortex.



## HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Picture Sent in By Bethany Alumni This Month...



Rev. Adams and Rev. LeRoy Brumbaugh with Resident Boys and Girls of Bethany. Circa 1980.

