

Around Cheyenne Magazine article

FULL MOON

By Jill Pope

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In the wee hours of the night a military policeman rounded a corner near the spot where the original gate to Ft D.A. Russell was located. As he turned the corner he was astonished to see a soldier standing at attention at this late hour. The security policeman left his cruiser running with the headlights spotlighting the soldier. As he approached the soldier, clouds rolled in front of the full moon. Standing in the darkness, the seconds passed, the clouds moved on, and by then the soldier had disappeared. Over a century earlier, on September 19th of 1868, the Guard House burned to the ground. This soldier remains to guard his post.

There's an ancient belief that has carried forward to today's society that the moon's lunar cycles affect the behavior of man, especially when the moon is full. Hospital staff and law enforcement often report increased activity on nights of the full moon, calling it a "prime time for crime". Some departments increase their staff on these evenings to deal with the hectic crazy events that unfold. Three police stations documented their activity. The incidence of crimes reported to these three separate police stations one being rural, one urban, and one in an industrial town were studied to see how it compared to the lunar cycle. The study was done from 1978-82. The number of crimes committed on full moon days was considerably higher than on all other days. It is said that the increase in crimes on full moon days may be related to "human tidal waves" caused by the gravitational pull of the moon.

The full moon has been associated to unusual happenings such as paranormal activity, fertility, crime, suicide, accidents, mental illness, fights at sporting events, dog bites, and disasters among other things. Some people have such a strong belief in the effect of the moon's cycles that they buy and sell stocks according to the moon's phases. Blade Computer Analysis in Toledo, Ohio studied data of police reports over a three years period. They report that the crime rate rose 5 percent on the nights with full moons; assaults increased a whopping 35%. Inspector Parr conducted a three-month psychological study of 1,200 inmates at Armley jail in Leeds. This showed a rise in violent incidents in the days either side of a full moon. Psychiatrist & author Arnold Leiber writes that the moon's gravitational force could send those inclined to commit a crime over the line. He writes that the "moon influences social tension, disharmony and lamentable, often bizarre results". Researchers have many different opinions on this subject.

Native American tribes track the full moon cycles. They've given names to each moon. The 2009 moons are:

Jan 11 called the Full Wolf Moon or the Old Moon.

Feb 9 is the Full Snow Moon or Full Hunger moon, as the heavy winter sets in it becomes hard to hunt.

Mar 11 is the Full Worm Moon or Full Crow Moon. The ground softens and earthworms come out, attracting the birds.



Apr 9- Full Pink Moon or the Full Sprouting Grass Moon when wildflowers begin to spring up.

May 9 is the Full Flower Moon or Full Corn Planting Moon

June 7 is the Full Strawberry Moon

July 7 is the Full Buck Moon, as the new antlers are beginning to crest on the buck deer, or the Full Thunder Moon when the thunderstorms are most frequent.

Aug 6 is the Full Sturgeon Moon. The best time to catch this species of fish.

Sept 4 is the Full Harvest Moon happening close to the fall equinox. At the peak of harvest farmers are able to work later into the night by the light of the moon.

Oct 4- Full Hunters Moon

Nov 2 Full Beavers Moon time to set their beaver traps before the harsh winter sets in.

Dec 2 and Dec 31 is the Full Cold Moon or Full Long Nights Moon because nights are the longest and darkest now.

By the light of the full moon a Cheyenne Street Railway tour guide embarked on a trolley charter with a group of teenagers from the Carey Jr. High Paranormal Club. As the trolley rolled up to Lakeview Cemetery the psychokinetic energy was high. They parked outside the cemetery perimeter, the young investigators making their way to the main gate. As Val, the trolley guide went to join the enthusiastic group she placed new batteries in her digital camera. Approaching the cemetery gate, she turned her camera on. There was no power. Over the years Val had discovered that often times when she went to capture ghostly images the batteries would drain, the camera would not work. Looking back, she had taken her first digital camera to the cemetery on F.E. Warren Base, during the 2001 annual open house, to record some headstones for historic tours. Walking out of the cemetery, she pushed review to see the images she had taken. There were no pictures in the camera. The camera would not work. A few minutes later, after leaving the cemetery area the camera began working again.

A year later Val's family was attending a funeral, using a different digital camera Val had taken some shots of family members headstones. As the family gathered after the services she was trying to view the pictures, they simply weren't there. That camera never worked again. A few months later Val was participating in a photography ghost finding class. The theory was that one could capture orbs in photos. Each orb is the combination of all the energy of a ghost, trying to communicate. The very last thing she did before returning to the class room, was to take a picture of the 17th Street home that Allen Ross's body had been unearthed. It was the only orb she captured the entire night. Looking at the camera screen there were lines running across it. After that the camera would usually work, but that night at the cemetery with the Carey Junior High students it just wouldn't work. Knowing that spirits are said to drain the energy of batteries she replaced the batteries again. Now the camera turned on just fine.

Send your ghost stories to Jill Pope jill@cheyenne.org