



History Comes A Haunting!

by: Emily Bieger

with goosepimply tales of ghosts and hauntings, and the Singin' Bean Coffeehouse is not without a few good tales of its own. Bar stools that

rearrange themselves overnight, an image of a man that appears in a mirror, chairs moving on their own—the sounds of books dropping and glass breaking.

Singin' Bean owner Cindy Gilbert says the stories aren't just hearsay, she's witnessed some things herself. Just six months ago, Gilbert says she and an employee were alone on a Saturday morning. "I had plugged in my laptop and left it sitting on one of the tables in the back. We were up front talking when we heard a sound like the entire kitchen falling in!" Gilbert's first thought was that her laptop had fallen, but upon inspection found the laptop right where she'd left it. "Nothing had fallen, nothing was broken, and this sound was way too big to be something insignificant," she recalls.

The vision in the mirror has been identified as looking like a confederate soldier who seems to appear just prior to some sort of major event. Gilbert says the previous owners told her they saw the apparition just one day prior to 9/11. As with the Southeastern Railway Museum, the Singin' Bean was investigated by psychics who believe there are actually three entities visiting the coffeehouse. One is a small girl, and two are male. One of those males could be the confederate soldier who has been spotted in the mirror, which currently hangs in the 50's room. Jokingly, employees call the ghost "General" and Gilbert says she'll actually talk to him out loud saying things like, "Hey General, quit bothering me," or as a preventative measure, "Leave me alone, I really don't need you today, so don't show me anything."

During the psychics visit, Gilbert says a machine used to detect the presence of spirits would receive beeps in response to questions. The investigator asked if the presence was the ghost of Charlie Fields, a prisoner hung on the square in the early 1900's and, "... the machine went crazy," says Gilbert.

Gilbert is quick to say she remains somewhat skeptical of the psychic's visit and equipment performance, but she and her employees know what they've witnessed, and "that can be pretty difficult to ignore."