

The Ghost of the Lighthouse

Collector: **Gertie Fowler**

Contributor: **Ricky Hancock**

Gertie Fowler:

Yes, I am at Point Amour today and I am with Rick Hancock and Rick is going to tell me a little story today about the ghost in the lighthouse. Okay Rick.

Rick Hancock:

When I was a little boy, ah.. maybe 8 or 9 years old, there was several kids here with me. Myself, Rick Hancock, Maxy Sheppard, Morgan and two of Wally Campbell's daughters that was here for the summer. Wally Campbell was an engineering professor that stayed at the lighthouse most summers and did different research and had different people here with them; mostly engineering students, teaching them about the coast and different projects that they had on the go. And normally they had quite the parties at night.

Gertie Fowler:

I bet.

Rick Hancock:

Yes, (laughs), they had lots of fun. I use to come with my dad and mom and different people from L'Anse au Loup, L'Anse Amour and they had parties at night and ah... engineering students, I can remember they had quite the time here and they loved it. And ah... dad use to enjoy seeing them coming and spent a lot of time with these people. So Wally Campbell ah.. a couple more came up.

There's a story about the Captain Johnson, he was a ghost that lives in the lighthouse and stayed there, the ship went aground and decided to take up refugee in the lighthouse and he always told his stories to the engineering students and told them they better watch what they're doing you know, he didn't like new people coming into the lighthouse. So they were very attentive and laughed at it at times. They enjoyed the story.

So one night we decided, we had a couple of students that ah... kind of had a bit of a joke about it and they kind of put it off and said "oh, yes, yup that's quite a story, but we don't believe none of this". So ah.. as kids, I guess Maxy Maxy was the one that came up with the idea, and we went along with it certainly, to have a little fun. And ah... we decided and we waited and we made a little tape recording of ghosts and we got some chain and made a little ghost out of ... I think it was a ball and maybe a white sheet and a....

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Rick Hancock:

Got some twine out, the line... from our fishing line.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah. (laughs)

Rick Hancock:

And ah... went to the back of the lighthouse where the junior engineering students, that's where they stayed. Usually it was four or five, stayed in the bunk beds but the senior staff stayed in the front area, that was more developed, with the kitchen and bedrooms and that. So we goes to the back gets up in the attic and sits down and kind of waits for a while and ah... it was quite a, quite a long time and ah... a couple of the university students, I guess had enough and they decided they was going to bed.

And so they goes to bed, comes in, gets ready, and while they were getting ready we hear them talking about Wally telling the story about he Captain.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh. Yup.

Rick Hancock:

So that was very good. So we sat back and waited for a few minutes and lights went off, got a little quiet, so we started tape recording. The lights went on, and we stopped again, the lights went off, so we were having a chain and this guy got up and we heard him get up but the lights were still off and when he came to the doorway. This guy and another guy, we dropped the ghost in front of them with the chain and ah... making a noise. Well he had quite a surprise.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah, I bet.

Rick Hancock:

And he ran, he ran down the stairs. At the bottom of the stairs, there was a door. It didn't have no glass in it, well he didn't open the door, he went on through the opening.

Gertie Fowler:

(laughs) Is that true?

Rick Hancock:

Yes. (laughs) And the people ... Wally and like dad and Max and some of the senior staff that was there, they were waiting because they knew what was going to happen.

Gertie Fowler:

(laughs)

Rick Hancock:

(laughs) And when he came to the door, they all They all had a big old laugh at him and they come down with their shorts on and ready for bed and everyone was sitting around just waiting.

Gertie Fowler:

Yup.

Rick Hancock:

Yup. And they were taken in quite a bit.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes, sir.

Rick Hancock:

So they.... they had quite the laugh and every since, even Wally, I'm sure today or every time he had a chance, he would always tell about the ghost of Captain Johnson. Yup.

Gertie Fowler:

Well, you had quite the time.

Rick Hancock:

Quite the time, with the engineering student and the staff and all the people, so.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Rick Hancock:

And different different activities that we with the cordite, they always took to us, I guess, we showed them around and anything they needed we'd go for it and ah.... they really enjoyed, I guess the kids around.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes

Rick Hancock:

And the things we use to do. Setting off cordite.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes

Rick Hancock:

And the cans. And we use to do the fireworks at night.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh, Okay. That was the big thing.

Rick Hancock:

That was the big thing.

Gertie Fowler:

That was when you use to go so where did you get that, that was when you ...

Rick Hancock:

We use to get that at the up to the Raleigh.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Rick Hancock:

Everyday, every evening we get a chance, we'd be gone to the Raleigh, we use to collect it and just the childhood memories of ah outdoors.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay. So ah... what brings you back here this week now?

Rick Hancock:

This week, every chance ... I live away and every time I come to the I come home, well this is my home. And this is where my kids come.

Gertie Fowler:

So this week, you'd

Rick Hancock:

Yup... Yup. They come here. I have a 10 year old and a 8 year old right now, and they come to the Labrador and this is the place where they want to go. Go to the beach and see the lighthouse and go to the top of the lighthouse and just be around here in general. And enjoy the beaches mostly.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes

Rick Hancock:

And the lighthouse, right.

Gertie Fowler:

Well, you can tell in the background that we are having a great time, here today.

Rick Hancock:

Yes

Gertie Fowler:

So, I'd like to thank you for taking your time ...

Rick Hancock:

Oh you're welcome.

Gertie Fowler:

... for sharing your memories with me.

Rick Hancock:

You're welcome.

Gertie Fowler:

Thank you very much.