

SILENT HILL – NOT SO SILENT ANYMORE



From L to R: Sharon, Chris and Rose Da Silva; Mother and Daughter lost in Silent Hill.

Mother and Daughter Lost in Silent Hill; Father's Desperate Pursuit Stalled by Police Barricades

BRAHAMS HERALD
STAFF REPORTER

ROSE DA SILVA BROKE THROUGH A CLOSED EXIT on old Route 13 while being pursued by Officer Cybil Bennet last night. Accompanying her, investigators believe, was her young daughter, Sharon. All three individuals are now missing, presumably in Silent Hill.

Just what the mother and daughter were running from has police puzzled. Husband Chris Da Silva was detained by police for questioning shortly after showing up at the scene of the accidents,

where he found two abandoned vehicles just inside the entrance to Route 13.

Mr. Da Silva seemed confused and alarmed that his daughter and wife were nowhere to be found...

"Mr. Da Silva seemed confused and alarmed that his daughter and wife were nowhere to be found," says one Brahams police investigator. "He received a voicemail from Rose explaining she was in Silent Hill, but couldn't understand anything else as the reception was so poor."

Police are taking every precaution with entering Silent Hill and have not allowed Mr. Da Silva beyond the barricades at this time. "I want as few people to enter that town as possible," states officer Gucci. "People need to be aware of its dangers and remember the lessons of the past." ■

Decorated Officer Cybil Bennet Disappears

BRAHAMS HERALD
STAFF REPORTER

ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN OF THE BRAHAMS POLICE DEPARTMENT, Brahams police officer Cybil Bennet entered the Silent Hill city limits during a high-speed pursuit last night on Route 13 and is now missing.

Bennet is a decorated officer and local hero for rescuing a kidnapped child lost in Silent Hill three years ago. According to investigators, the other vehicle involved in the chase was said to be carrying two individuals – a young woman, Rose Da Silva, and her daughter, Sharon – last seen at the Brahams Diner.

According to an inside source, Officer Bennet's motorcycle was found after it had crashed, not far from Da Silva's abandoned SUV on the closed Silent Hill highway.

"We believe that Officer Cybil Bennet pursued the woman and child into Silent Hill on foot. We are attempting to make contact. Officer Bennet is an excellent cop, and we expect to find her very soon," says Officer Gucci of the Brahams Police Department.

The once peaceful town of Silent Hill was struck by tragedy 30 years ago when a fire ignited inside the town's underground coal deposits. The evacuation left what most locals consider a ghost town that only few have ever dared enter since, and even fewer have returned from. State health officials claim the fumes from the mines remain extremely toxic today, thus making a search and rescue mission very dangerous. Even though the buildings and homes of Silent Hill remain undamaged by the underground fire, the concentration

of fumes inside could be lethal.

Police claim to have no evidence as to the whereabouts of the three individuals in Silent Hill, but Officer Gucci has gone on record as saying, "We are currently using all the available resources to find Officer Bennet and the Da Silvas, despite the extremely high risk of danger in Silent Hill."

Officer Cybil Bennet received some local fame a few years ago after she heroically rescued a young boy in Silent Hill. A man had kidnapped the young boy and thrown him into an open mine vent. Officer Bennet was presumed missing as well for several days in Silent Hill. She and the boy reappeared at the city limits. For her courageous efforts Officer Bennet received a medal of honor from the Governor.

According to Officer Gucci, the police set-up guard posts at all



entrances into Silent Hill in case anyone "re-appears" at one of those locations. Search and rescue teams from Brahams began making short trips into the deserted town last night and reported, "The town hasn't changed in 30 years. It's as if life came to a screeching halt."

Witnesses from the Brahams Diner claim Da Silva and her child were clearly outsiders. "She asked where Silent Hill was, and I asked her why she wanted to go there. She obviously didn't know what it was all about," says the diner's cashier.

"We will find Officer Bennet and the two missing city folk. Until then, Silent Hill will remain a strictly controlled area," remarks Officer Gucci. ■

BREAK-IN AT THE BRAHAMS HALL OF RECORDS

Last night the Brahams Hall of Records was broken into sometime between ten and midnight, according to police. Investigators described the crime scene as clear breaking and entering with no clear motive. Police seek the public's help and ask anyone with any information to come forward, assuring them they can remain anonymous. ■



30 Years of Silence Says it All

BRAHAMS HERALD
STAFF REPORTER

IT WAS 30 YEARS AGO TODAY that a devastating coal fire literally rained hell fire and brimstone on the once prosperous and pious town of Silent Hill. What was the cause of the fire? And how has the region been affected by the presence and legacy of this modern day “ghost town?” These questions are still being asked today.

The residents of Silent Hill began that day 30 years ago like any other. They sat down for breakfast with their families, took out the trash and many went to church. All were unaware that by day’s end their lives would be no more. For three decades the surviving residents have attempted to find those responsible for igniting the underground blaze to no avail.

Scientists theorize that the coal deposits under the city were always at risk due to their close proximity to developing neighborhoods and businesses. “Coal is obviously flammable, and as this region in particular is remarkably shallow in

top soil, any number of scenarios could have started the entire deposit to burn,” says a local mining engineer. “Despite the beauty of the West Virginia mountainside, its rich natural resources do come with an element of risk.”

Most locals will not discuss the

...a cloud of gas hovers over the area night and day, preventing anyone from investigating the strange happenings.

dark history, but rather leave it up to the imagination of misguided youth, daring each other to go where no one has supposedly come back from.

Silent Hill is now a place of legends and myths. In the last decade alone there have been twelve missing person reports involving the abandoned city. Most of them were kids daring each other to beat the curse, sadly unaware of the true

hazards of the cloudy environment, the toxic gases from the still smoldering underground coal.

Only one person has been rescued to date, by local hero officer Cybil Bennet, when she pursued a kidnapper into Silent Hill, only to find the child in a mineshaft. The kidnapper was never found.

Many would say to have a “ghost town” nearby could be prosperous for tourism, but the effect has been just the opposite for this region. No one has been able to enter the vicinity of Silent Hill for 30 years because of the deadly emissions. That hasn’t stopped the murmur of those who say they see the souls of the dead just over the horizon and hear shrill voices at night in the empty town.

It doesn’t help that a cloud of gas hovers over the area night and day, preventing anyone from investigating the strange happenings. For everyone outside the region it makes for a good story. But for those who survived or were born into the nearby town of Brahams, it makes for an uneasy legacy and many sleepless nights. ■

Portal to Nowhere



LOCAL BERMUDA TRIANGLE ?

BRAHAMS HERALD
STAFF REPORTER

WITH THE COAL FIRE STILL BURNING, the town of Silent Hill has been abandoned by its surrounding communities. The sense of fear instilled since the disaster has made the people of neighboring towns such as Brahams try their best to forget. Despite the warnings and ghost stories told by adults, the local children still use the town to test their courage and to play pranks on each other. Now a mysterious car accident has left three missing in Silent Hill. How real is the danger still?

PAST DISAPPEARANCES

During the evacuation of Silent Hill almost 30 years ago, there were dozens of reported disappearances of townsfolk. Few search and rescue attempts have been conducted in the abandoned city despite missing reports posted in all the neighboring communities. Very few of the

missing individuals have ever been located.

Over the decades, teens and young adults have used the town as a testing ground for dares and other hi-jinx. On a few isolated occasions teenagers have disappeared while in the midst of a dare involving Silent Hill. Each disappearance has added to the mystery and fear of the town of Silent Hill.

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Reportedly in January 1980, the daughter of the current mayor disappeared when a group of friends decided to drive through and stop in the town on a dare. Since her disappearance the paved roads into Silent Hill have been barricaded to discourage tourists and explorers. ■



SISTER MARGARET OF THE BRAHAMS ORPHANAGE TO BE HONORED

THE MAYOR IS SLATED TO HOST A SPECIAL EVENT in the community center this Saturday at noon in honor of Sister Margaret’s 30th anniversary at the Braham’s Orphanage.

Sister Margaret started the orphanage shortly after the Silent Hill fire caused the evacuation of hundreds of children who were left parentless after the horrific blaze. Over her three decades of service the orphanage has housed over four hundred children, from infants left on the orphanage porch to teenagers coping with the loss of their parents.

“Sister Margaret has always provided a warm heart and home to the unfortunate youth of this county and we owe her our gratitude for her steadfast commitment,” exclaims the Mayor.

Members of the community are welcome to attend the event this Saturday and enjoy a barbecue courtesy of the city. Entertainment will be provided by the Brahams middle school orchestra and band. ■

Haunted Tales from the Grand Hotel

BRAHAMS HERALD
STAFF REPORTER

THE HISTORICAL GRAND HOTEL is perhaps the most noted landmark in the Silent Hill fires. Originally a favorite meeting place and lodge for visitors, the hotel is now in ruins — along with its luxurious amenities and valuable lobby décor. But those who have had troubling

was yesterday. “I spent the most horrifying night of my life in that hotel,” Vitale says. “Even 30 years later I still have nightmares.” Vitale had stopped in Silent Hill on a road trip home from college. She knew that she was the only resident in the hotel that night. But just as she was falling asleep, she began to feel as though she was

they were rolling toys across the floor above me. But after awhile, those noises stopped ... and all I could hear was one girl, softly weeping by herself. I was scared out of my mind. There’s no doubt that the place is haunted.”

Stories like Vitale’s are not uncommon about the Grand Hotel. Guests often spoke of hearing children’s voices and the sounds of running footsteps on the hotel’s old wooden floors. Others reported occasional distant chanting reverberating through the walls. Despite the hotel’s attempts to keep the stories under wraps, the word got around.

Even the workers there agree that the hotel is haunted. Patrick McCabe, now a 50-year-old family man in nearby Brahams, spent his college years working as a bellhop at the Grand Hotel. He explains that the rumors are not just remnants of superstitions about the town.

“I experienced many of the things people still whisper about,” McCabe says. “Sometimes people would come through Silent Hill and stay there in hopes of hearing ghosts or witnessing something ... I really thought that was silly considering the history of the place. It wasn’t something to be taken lightly.”

When asked what that history was, McCabe declines to discuss the subject further.

Today, the Grand Hotel is in



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At first, it sounded as though there were many of them, laughing and playing... But after awhile, those noises stopped... and all I could hear was one girl, softly weeping by herself. I was scared out of my mind. There’s no doubt that the place is haunted.

experiences at the hotel are relieved to know that it lies in ashes. Brahams resident Lauren Vitale is one of those people. Although it’s been over 30 years since she stayed at the Grand Hotel, she remembers it like it

not alone. “I was just closing my eyes,” Vitale says, “and out of the darkness, I heard the sound of children’s voices. At first, it sounded as though there were many of them, laughing and playing, like

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ruins and only the brave dare to venture up to where it sits in Silent Hill.

“It’s a little sad to see such a

beautiful hotel allowed to rot like that,” McCabe says. “But it’s good that people just stay the heck away from that place.” ■



Miners’ suits recovered from Silent Hill fire.

PROPOSED ‘MINING MUSEUM’ STIRS CONTROVERSY

BRAHAMS HERALD
STAFF REPORTER

STATE ASSEMBLYWOMAN NANCY KOPPLE has called on taxpayers to support the controversial construction of a Toluca County Mining Museum. Despite resistance from Brahams residents who remember the disaster of Silent Hill, this museum would commemorate the local history and lore of the undoubtedly tainted coal industry in the area.

The \$3.2 million project would bring both jobs and tourism to the Brahams area, which has been under significant economic pressure since closure hit local coal mines. Unemployment figures reached a record high this past month.

But even with the promise of economic relief, several Brahams residents are fighting the proposal.

“A mining museum would just remind us of all that’s happened in Silent Hill,” said Cortney Feldmann, who is leading a campaign against the museum’s construction. “It’s a nice way of commemorating those we lost, but there are too many unanswered questions about the fire. Even the explanations some do believe aren’t something I think this

area should publicize.”

Those who believe in the sinister myths surrounding the mine fire of Silent Hill even think that the building of a museum would stir another potential disaster. Paul Rutledge, a local resident of Brahams, is frightened by the proposal.

I don’t really know who’s responsible or what it’s all about... Whatever happened in Silent Hill needs to stay there.

“I’ve heard enough stories about what happened up on Silent Hill. I don’t really know who’s responsible or what it’s all about, but I don’t want to build anything in Brahams to exploit it. Whatever happened in Silent Hill needs to stay there.” ■



SILENT HILL

IN THEATERS THIS SPRING



KONAMI

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