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THE RED-EYED RAVEN GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of Author Tim Ritter

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WELCOME!

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Welcome to the January 2026 issue of the Red-Eyed Raven Gazette!

Well I start the new year being a little behind on the newsletter. Things got pretty crazy around here in the last quarter of 2025, and unfortunately I wasn't able to stay on track with a November issue... nor a December issue, for that matter. But hey, I appreciate you sticking around for a new issue in January!

There's never a shortage of things to talk about. In this issue, you get to catch up on what happened during the release of my latest book, ***The Screamer Down the Hall and Other Tales***, along with some photos from the release party and live reading. Also, you get first look at the subject matter for my next book! Lastly, The Presentation Update page has all the latest info on when I will be giving talks which are open to the public.

As always, thanks for your encouraging messages sent when these newsletters are released. Your support is very much appreciated.

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A RECAP OF THE RELEASE OF *THE SCREAMER DOWN THE HALL AND OTHER TALES*

Well, that was an interesting experience...

My newest book, ***The Screamer Down the Hall and Other Tales,*** was released on October 7, 2025, and I couldn't have been more excited. I've written fiction on and off for decades, but this was the first time I had published horror or suspense. So it was a big deal. By the way, side note: October 7th is Edgar Allan Poe's birthday. The date selected for release was completely intentional.

I already had a presentation scheduled in Fair Grove for the night of October 7th, originally planning to give my Little Bighorn talk. But when it became clear that ***Screamer*** would be released the same day, I changed the format and decided to do a live reading of selected stories from the book. And of course it would be a great opportunity to sell and sign books.

I'll stop right here and say that I've only done a handful of live readings, mostly from Soul Sketches, and readings poems is very different from reading horror stories. So frankly I was nervous as an old cat. But I timed certain tales from the book, rehearsed reading them, set up some special lighting, and prepared in every way possible for the evening.

Mind you, I said it would be a great opportunity to sell and sign books...

I placed an order for books well in advance of October 7th - or so I thought. Something happened on the printer's end, and despite the fact that all the way through the process it appeared I would receive the books in plenty of time for the live reading, once I hit the "Order" button, the delivery date changed - - to October 9th.

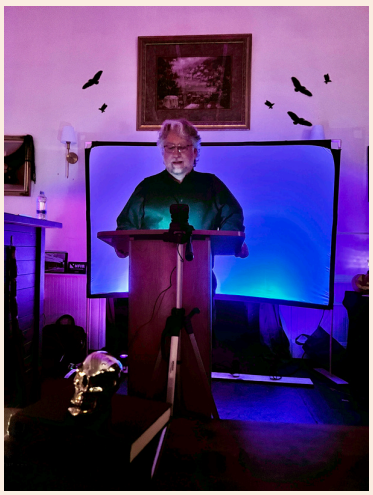
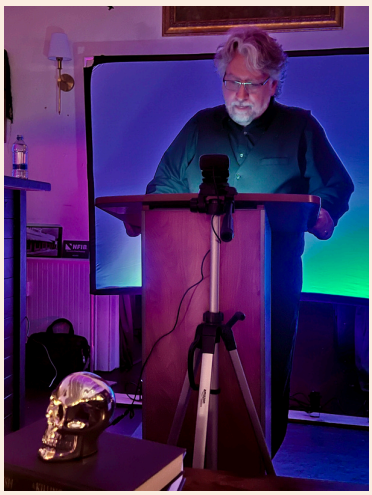
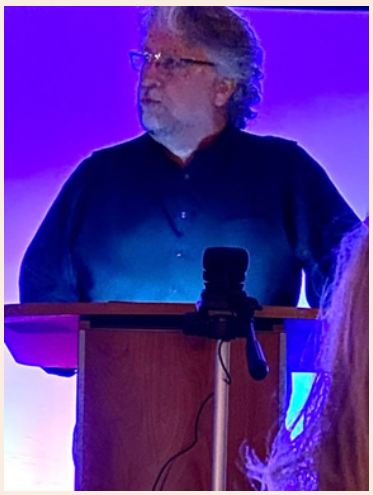
Thinking maybe I made a mistake, or perhaps the date would improve if I ordered fewer first run books, I canceled the order and went back in to reorder. There are no options for shipping speed, either. So I ordered fewer copies. The date looked good. Then I hit the "Order" button again - - yes, you see this coming - - the delivery date changed again to October 9th .

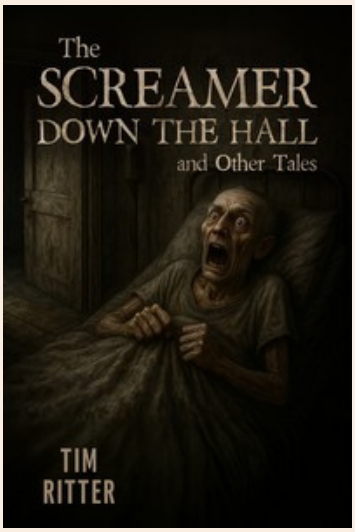
I'd like to point out that for a book release party, it's always a good idea to actually have the new books *there*.

Undaunted, I continued as planned. The live reading was well attended, the audience enjoyed it, and we even did a live broadcast of the event on Youtube. Another first for me. You can watch the reading by going to my Youtube channel by selecting the link on the first page of this newsletter. And of course you can order a sign copy by emailing me at tritterman@gmail.com!

A RECAP OF THE RELEASE OF *THE SCREAMER DOWN THE HALL AND OTHER TALES* - PHOTOS!

Here are some photos from the live reading -



Many thanks to everyone who came out that night!

SO WHAT'S NEXT, RITTER?

Here's a question: How do you connect ***Sarah Burning*** to the Second World War?

Here's the answer:

In Chapter 12 of ***Sarah Burning***, you were introduced to Orville's brother-in-law, Glen "Pete" Franklin. He was married to Orville's only sister, Dora. Well it just so happens that Glen was a veteran of the Second World War, serving stateside as a guard of German prisoners of war at Camp Phillips in Kansas near Salina.

Even more exciting is the fact that I have all the letters he wrote to Dora while he was away serving his country - fifty-eight of them. Oddly enough, I do not have any of the letters that she wrote back to him during this time. But I will explore the possible reason why they do not exist. I have another sixty letters to other people, a few written by Dora, some of which fill in a few gaps in the correspondence from Glen. There are also other mementos from Glen's personal life and military service that will be included and discussed in the book.

The letters and mementos will be the catalyst to take a bigger look at Camp Phillips and the German POWs within its fences. I'm in the early stages of arranging research time at the National Archives in Washington, DC, to explore the official records of the camp to see what I can learn from the surviving records.

There's no official release date yet for this project, but I'm hoping to have it available by this coming Fall. So stay tuned! The working title is ***Letters from Glen*** and for all practical purposes it can be considered the third book in the ***Sarah Burning*** saga.

PRESENTATION UPDATE

This year will be a busy one!

February:

5th: *Polk County Genealogical Society, Bolivar, MO - 7:00p.m.* - These folks are always a great audience, and it is a pleasure to be asked back. I will be giving my new presentation on Bonnie and Clyde, and will have my books for sale as well.

21st: *Daughters of Union Veterans Meeting, Springfield, MO 10:00a.m.* - I always let their board select the presentation they wish to hear, and this time they have selected my talk on the story of Route 66. I will have my books available for sale there as well.

March

10th: *Ozark Cosmopolitan Club, Ozark, MO, 6:30p.m.* - This will be my first time presenting to this group of ladies. I'll be giving my talk "Chasing the Chadwick Line", and will have my books available for sale as well.

24th (tentative)*: Bella Nina Candle Company, Fair Grove, MO, 7:00p.m.* - This event marks the return of my series of local talks in our town of Fair Grove. I'll be giving my talk on "What Really Happened at the Battle of Little Bighorn". My books will be available for sale as well. Stay tuned for an update on this event when confirmed.

26th: *Dallas County Retired Teachers, Buffalo, MO - 10:00a.m.* - This will be my first time presenting to this group. They will select a topic in the near future. My books will be available for sale at this meeting.

April

21st (tentative): *Bella Nina Candle Company, Fair Grove, MO, 7:00p.m.* - I plan to give my talk "The Real Ride of Paul Revere" that night, and will have my books available for sale.

September

22nd (tentative): *Bella Nina Candle Company, Fair Grove, MO, 7:00p.m.* - I plan to give my talk "The Great Chicago Fire" that night, and will have my books available for sale.

Stay tuned for updates! There's more coming!

My regular speaking engagements, twice each month, continue at the four Elfindale senior living facilities in Springfield. Also, I present monthly at these other senior facilities: The Preston, Mission Ridge, Turner's Rock, and Springhouse Village.