



GRAMPA'S GHOST?

SPECIFICATIONS:

Date: August 17, 1997

Location: Unknown

Photographer: Name withheld

Type Camera: Unknown

Other Information: Photo taken at an assisted living residence.

This curious photo, along with the story that goes with it, was sent to the good folks at www.paranormal.about.com a few years ago. It was supposedly taken in August, 1997 by the daughter of the elderly woman in the photo. Only later—and by later I mean several years later—while she and her sister while going through a stack of old photos, did they notice the image of a man standing behind their mother who appeared to resemble their late father, who had passed away 13 years earlier. Did the old woman's late husband decide to put in an appearance at his wife's picnic or could there be another explanation?

Fortunately the woman had the foresight to include a black & white photo

of her deceased grandfather for a comparison (see inset photo) which is a rarity. Most people simply make the statement "that's my dad" without attaching a photo as evidence. While there is an obvious resemblance, it does not appear to me to be an exact match. The figure in the photo appears more gaunt than the gentleman in the photo at right (though he could have become that way as he got older. We also don't know when the black and white photo was taken.)

The problem is that there's no way of telling whether the man in the background is the woman's late husband checking up on her or just some fellow who happened to bear an uncanny resemblance to him who inadvertently wandered into the background unno-

ticed. Logic would seem to dictate the latter, as the photo was taken at an assisted living facility during a party in which it is presumed many of the building's tenants were present. The fact that nobody remembers seeing the man at the time isn't unusual, especially in light of the fact that nobody noticed him in the picture until six years later, by which time specific memories of that day would have long since faded. It could be a ghost, of course, but my bet is that it's just some guy in the wrong place at the wrong time which, when combined with fond memories of departed loved ones, makes him Grandpa's ghost.