

No-Name City, Idaho

No-Name City, Idaho is a town many people claim to visit during near death experiences, or “NDE”s. In a recent documentary, psychologist and NDE expert Harvard Zinn interviews 10 people who believe they spent time in legendary No-Name City during an NDE. However, while it is clear that no such city exists today, what is factual is that No-Name City was once the name of two ghost towns located in central Idaho. Idaho state history reports both the town of Custer and the town of Bonanza were once known as No-Name City. Which of these towns was the original No-Name City continues to be the topic of much speculation.

A bizarre twist to the claims of supernatural visits to No-Name City is the extraordinary level of detail given by those who have walked its’ streets. People who have been to No-Name City can describe the boardwalks, the buildings, and even the inhabitants.

If the claims of those who have been to No-Name City are true, it was a town founded on the cattle industry of the mid 19th century. The town grew substantially after a stagecoach line began making a stop in No-Name City. When the railroad was built, No-Name City was bypassed, which led to the eventual abandonment of the town.

Many people who claim to have been to No-Name City cite the existence of Sheriff’s Deputy Jebediah Houghbrauer. “Deputy Jeb”, as he was commonly known, was infamous for his mistreatment of men incarcerated in the town jail. According to at least three people who were incarcerated in the No-Name City Jail during their stay, Deputy Jeb withheld food from the inmates for extended periods of time. These same three people can describe in detail the rats and vermin living in the walls of the jail. Apparently during Deputy Jeb’s periods of cruelty, the jailhouse rats provided many welcome meals for the inmates.

There is evidence of an actual man named Jebediah Houghbrauer who died in 1886 in Nevada after emigrating there from “up North”. It is unknown if this man is the same as the sadistic Deputy Jeb.

Another colorful character living in No-Name City is a woman named Elizabeth or “Lizzy”. Lizzy moved to No-Name City after the stagecoach line to the town was established, taking up residence in the rooms above one of the town’s three saloons. As was typical in many western towns of the times, the women rooming above the saloons of No-Name City were prostitutes. Lizzy stood out from the other girls due to her sweet nature and beautiful, long red hair.

Visitors to No-Name City state while Lizzy is indeed a prostitute, she maintains a certain innocence and sadness about her. Travelers who seek kindness and advice often find the beautiful red-haired Lizzy will come to their aid. Strangely enough, Lizzy’s advice seems to hold true even when town visitors return from an NDE. One man interviewed by Zinn states Lizzy advised him to forgive a large sum of money he had loaned. When the man recovered from his NDE, he followed Lizzy’s advice and forgave the amount of the loan.

Based on exhaustive research and interviews with those who claim to have visited No-Name City, Dr. Zinn has made certain conclusions about the purpose and affect of these strangely communal NDEs. According to Dr. Zinn, the only person living in No-Name City who seems to have ties to emotional or mental disturbances in the living person experiencing the NDE is the sheriff's deputy, Jebediah Houghbrauer. While visitors to No-Name City describe many varied and pleasant experiences in the town – namely with Lizzy – only those visitors who have interaction with Deputy Jeb were found to have psychological illnesses in reality. Dr. Zinn is currently working on a book directed towards those who have met and parlayed with Deputy Jeb. Among other topics, the book focuses on forgiving past wrongs, adapting a pleasant demeanor, and approaching life with a positive attitude.