

# Psychic tries to shed light on land

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**SAFETY HARBOR** — Carnage and healing. Love and hate. Life and death.

These diametrically opposed words rose and fell together Saturday as psychic Barbara Jett of Largo spoke of a dead child with "golden hair," buried secret messages, sacred Indian grounds, an ancient priest, holocausts, a political coup and more while holding objects local archaeologists had dug up at the Safety Harbor Museum.

Jett, 53, was invited by one of the museum members to give museum officials and archaeologists clues about what the grounds around the complex were used for before Safety Harbor existed; how long certain buildings had sat on the property; and who may have used the property, just east of Bayshore Boulevard on Old Tampa Bay.

But museum officials admitted that they won't include her "discoveries" about parts of a rusted safe, sea shells and a rusted spoon (or knife) in their report to Tallahassee, in hope of getting the museum property designated as a historical site.

"I didn't feel like there was any kind of a conflict," said Betty Kimmel, president of the museum's board of trustees, explaining that Jett's chatter doesn't cast doubt on the archaeological findings around the museum. "This is an interesting thing," she said.

But **Gary Posner, founder of the Tampa Bay Skeptics**, said Jett's practice of drawing facts from objects is nothing more than entertainment.

"I attempted to give her something covered with a See **PSYCHIC**, Page 6



Tribune photograph by BRITT LAUGHLIN

Psychic Barbara Jett does a reading from an old well at the Safety Harbor Museum.

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cloth," said Posner. "She wouldn't do it. She said she wasn't here to prove anything to me."

Jett's visit was focused on an old well on the museum property, which museum officials believe is at least 100 years old.

As museum representatives, the archaeologists and skeptics watched, Jett sat on top of the closed well while holding and feeling the vibrations of seas shells in each hand.

"The original well was not built," said Jett, eyes closed, hands firmly gripping the shells. "It was formed by God or nature.

"It burst out of somewhere. I feel like it was a geyser or something," she said. "In later years it wasn't like this. It wasn't a fountain"

After Valerie Whitford, museum director, asked Jett if she could tell how old the man-made well was, Jett answered that it could have been built in the 1500s.

While listening to what she called a voice in her head that interprets vibrations from objects, Jett described several caverns filled with "strange, sacred

things" that she said run beneath the well. "There is great knowledge in the rooms that wasn't known before," she added. "This is written somewhere."

Whitford said the well was chosen as a starting point for an investigation into the history of the grounds. The museum property was once the site of a hotel, which local historians believe was built around the turn of the century. Authorities suspect it burned down, possibly in 1917.

She said Jett may have given some clues to where archaeologists should begin digging. But she didn't sanction Jett's services.

"I did not OK this, and I did not deny this," Whitford said. Jett said the girl with the "golden hair" was buried in a small wooden box, somewhere near the museum complex. The ancient priest, she said, also once roamed the area, and had healing powers. She did not elaborate about either of the two characters.

Jett was even more vague about the political coup and holocaust that apparently took place near the site. She said coup involved the overthrow of an ancient government, headed by leaders from another land.

The holocaust involved people on a circular trek during which many people died. "Whenever they traveled, there was great violence and carnage," she said.

Still, she added, Safety Harbor was a protected place. "All this area is pledged to a higher being," she said.



Photos by TBS.  
Posner at upper-right.