

Two-Step Dancing with Ghosts at Arizona Club

The students have returned to classes at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. But they cannot spend all their time just studying. On Wednesday nights, many of the students like to head out for a little dancing at a famous local “honky-tonk” called the Museum Club.

Honky-tonks are dance and drinking places with reputations for getting wild and sometimes even a little dangerous. Country-western music is played and the crowds do the two-step dance. The energetic and tricky dance is also sometimes called the Texas two-step or the country-western two-step.

The Museum Club is an iconic business along the historic U.S. Route 66. Two-stepping and drinking were not the club’s first attraction. The building went up in the early 1930s. The owner, Dean Eldredge, built it to be the biggest log cabin in the world.

The Museum Club became a night club after Dean Eldredge died. It was a popular spot among the many thousands of people who traveled Route 66 each year. The club’s atmosphere got rougher as the years passed.

And the club is said to have ghosts. In 1973, Don and Thorna Scott owned the business. The couple lived on the second floor. One night, Thorna Scott fell down the stairs and broke her neck. She died a few weeks later. Her husband never recovered and his business suffered as well. Don Scott shot and killed himself inside the Museum Club in 1975.

Manager Rhylee Helsper says there are reports of sightings of the ghosts of Don and Thorna.

The Museum Club has live music at least three nights a week. Friday and Saturday is for country music. On Sunday night, the club features Latin music. The Museum Club also offers two-step lessons on weekdays. And Wednesdays are reserved for local college students to relax and have a little fun.