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In Memoriam

the apro bulletin

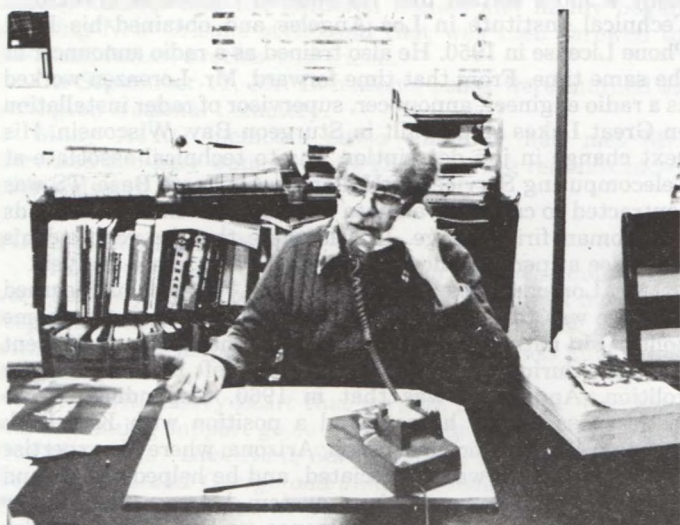
"Towards Truth"

VOL. 33

TUCSON, ARIZONA

NO. 4

LORENZEN DEAD AT 64



Mr. Lorenzen at his desk in the Electronics Division of the Chemistry Department of the University of Arizona - 1982.

It is our sad duty to inform the membership that L. J. (Jim) Lorenzen, APRO's Director, passed away on August 28, after a two year battle with cancer. Although he did not garner a great deal of notoriety, Jim was one of the few real pioneers of UFO research and rather than a "media" personality, he was a soldier in the trenches.

Jim was born on a farm near Grand Meadow, Minnesota in January, 1922, 1 or 8 children of William and Adella Lorenzen. He is survived by his wife, Coral, who is APRO's Secretary-Treasurer, a son, Larry, a daughter, Lesli Stryker, four grandchildren, three brothers and four sisters.

Mr. Lorenzen attended schools in Mower County, Minnesota and graduated high school in Grand Meadow in 1938 at the age of 16.

When APRO was founded in January, 1952, Mr. Lorenzen served as Public Relations Director. In the ensuing years he had an innovative influence on APRO's policies, methods of investigation and research. In 1964 a back injury severely limited his wife's participation for some time and Mr. Lorenzen took over as Director and remained in that post until his death. 1967 saw APRO's incorporation, which was one of Mr. Lorenzen's accomplishments, and which paved the way for other groups to incorporate in later years.

PLEASE NOTE:

At this writing, a new computer is being put into use and learned. There are difficulties, and we hope to have another issue in print to mail along with this memorial issue, but no guarantees so far.

We have an unprecedented amount of reports and feature articles dealing with new information, so bear with us and be surprised and pleased as well!

Also, please note new rates:

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THE EARLY YEARS

Mr. Lorenzen was a multi-talented individual. Upon graduation from high school he set out upon a career as a musician. He was a self-taught guitarist and when he and Mrs. Lorenzen met in 1943, he had mastered the string bass. Upon induction into the Army in 1942, he was trained as a radio operator and served 15 months with the Air Transport Command, completing 115 missions over the "Hump" (the India-China air route over the Himalayan mountains). During that time he was awarded the Air Force medal twice, the Distinguished Flying Cross twice, and the Presidential Unit Citation twice. He and Mrs. Lorenzen were married in 1943.

When World War II came to a close in 1945, Mr. Lorenzen returned to his chosen field. One of the highlights of his career was when he "sat in" on bass with the King Cole Trio at the Pico Club in Los Angeles. Another bright spot was his friendship with a young singer-musician who asked him to give him some "pointers" on guitar. Jim told him he thought he had a great gift in his baritone voice and should go far. Years later Martin Robinson changed his name to Marty Robbins and the rest is history.

RADICAL CHANGES

In 1949 the Lorenzens were expecting their second child and Jim decided to change professions so the family could
(See "Lorenzen" - page 2)

THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN
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Published April, 1987

Lorenzen

(continued from page one)

enjoy a more settled life. He entered classes at Electronic Technical Institute in Los Angeles and obtained his First Phone License in 1950. He also trained as a radio announcer at the same time. From that time forward, Mr. Lorenzen worked as a radio engineer, announcer, supervisor of radar installation on Great Lakes ships built in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. His next change in job description was to technical associate at Telecomputing Services at Holloman Air Force Base. TS was contracted to carry out all data reduction for the White Sands - Holloman firing range. It was there that he acquired his expertise at performance measurement and photo-analysis.

Mr. Lorenzen was a restless person. When he had learned all there was to know about a job and/or it began to become political in nature, he left. Although he had several different positions during his lifetime, he always left them of his own volition. And so it was that in 1960, responding to the restlessness inside, he accepted a position with Kitt Peak National Observatory in Tucson, Arizona, where his expertise in data reduction was appreciated, and he helped design and fabricate the communications system between the Cherry Street laboratory and the telescopes on the Peak, 40 miles southwest of the city. In the interim, he learned a lot about astronomy.

NEW HORIZONS

Jim Lorenzen resigned his position with Kitt Peak in 1967 to spend more time on APRO and to work on some musical inventions. A UFO "flap" was in progress, and he spent most of his time on APRO problems, but managed to start in business for himself. "Lorenzen Music Enterprises" specialized in custom sound systems and electronic instrument service and repair. Many of the churches in the Tucson area owe the quality of the musical portions of their services to his expertise.

In 1982 Mr. Lorenzen sold the business which had grown to the point of expanding or quitting. He did not want to be hampered by a lot of paperwork, so he sold and took a position in the electronics division of the Chemistry Department of the University of Arizona. His job was to invent and construct any equipment needed by the professors which could not be found commercially. It was the kind of challenge he enjoyed, and he was able to make use of his knowledge of electronics, physics, chemistry as well as carpentry, mechanics and metal working when needed. In his spare time Jim made preparations for retirement and began to acquire the necessary equipment and set up for violin making. He was in the last stages of perfecting his invention which is the first improvement on the violin since Stradivarius when, in the fall of 1984, he learned he had cancer.

THE LAST CHALLENGE

Like any other innovation in his life, Jim regarded the disease as a challenge and made a study of it, the known preventive and curative measures and entered into his last adventure with determination and courage.

Unfortunately, his fight with cancer was his last confrontation with the unknown, and he lost the fight. His family, determined that his wishes be carried out, recalled his dislike of funerals and on September 2nd, 1986, they and a multitude of friends gathered at the Unitarian Church in Tucson for a Celebration of his Life.

Mrs. Maxine Sullivan, a musical colleague and friend, drove 85 miles to attend the celebration and brought her special effects electric organ to play Dixieland music. The Lorenzens' son Larry performed on guitar. The musical selections were some of Jim's favorites: "Just a Closer Walk With Thee", "Amazing Grace", "St. James' Infirmary", and "When the Saints Go Marching In". The latter was the closing number and the gathered friends and family began clapping New Orleans style, and that was their farewell to husband, father, brother and friend.

On September 11, Mr. Lorenzen's ashes were inurned at Arlington National Cemetery.

Many APRO members either knew or had met Mr. Lorenzen and may want to share the following reminiscences of friends and family:

FOND REMEMBRANCES

"I am very sorry to hear about Jim. (He) was one of the very few people in or out of the UFO business that I liked and respected without reservation. He was always honest and fair with me, and he helped me many times. I will miss him." *Bob Pratt*.

"It is with heavy heart that we sign this letter. Our love and continuing support go out to you, your family and APRO. God bless you." *Dick Ruhl, Sal Giamusso, Richard Petracca, Gerry Arena, and George and Jane Blydenburgh, New York Field Investigators.*

"I'll miss him too, and certainly UFO Research has lost a pioneer. I hope you keep on with the work the two of you did so much to promote when few wished to take it seriously." *John Musgrave, Canada.*

"So very sorry to learn of your loss. Wishing you the best. Jim's selfless contributions, over these many years, (are) recognized." *Tom Deuley, Texas.*

"I am sorry about Jim, so very sorry. I know you and he loved each other very much - your fruitful marriage of nearly 43 years testifies to that fact as do your two wonderful children. Jim was like a father to me . . . it's hard to believe I've known you both for 16 years; it seems so long." *Brad Sparks, California.*

"I guess there is nothing anyone can say to make things 'right'. I'll only tell you that the strongest memories I have of Jim are his sense of humor and his intelligence. I especially remember when I helped out in the office in the summer of 1979 and Jim startled visitors to the office by wearing that big 'alien' mask. I'll never forget that." *Sally Sheridan, Arizona.*

"So sorry to hear of Jim's passing. We all thought so highly of him and his dedication to truth will be missed . . . you will be in my prayers." *Max Calderwood, New York.*

"Sorry to hear your sad news. Jim will be sorely missed among the 'old' and thorough UFO researchers." *Judith Magee, International Committee for UFO Research, Australia.*

"Bob (Achzenner) told me the sad news of Jim's passing. I want to let you know how sad I am to lose Jim as a friend and colleague in UFO Research, and I extend my deep sympathy on your heavy loss . . . Bob told me that you plan to hold a



Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzen in the APRO office in 1957— 30 years ago.

celebration of Jim's life and to have Dixieland music just as Jim would have wished. That is a wonderful idea. Jim had so many interests in life that a celebration is called for." *Peter Sturrock.*

"Lee clipped the story from this morning's paper for me - I am sorry. I enjoyed having you both on various programs through the years. We have a tough time dealing with loss; many do at least, but I hope that Jim's life was as full of interesting things as it appeared to be to an outsider - and you will have the consolation of many people who you've never even MET, I imagine, through your APRO connections and associations.

"And if my belief in God is eventually found by me to be true - then I will be happy to see so many people with whom I will enjoy spending eternity! Jim will be one. My warm wishes, Coral - I empathise with your loss." *Larry Schnebley, Channel 9 (KGUN-TV) ABC.*

"Though I never had the opportunity of meeting you both, you have a large place in my heart since the beginning of our UFO adventure. Jim now knows what we were together, for so long a time, looking for. He precedes us in the knowledge of everything— that is my faith. Love to you, my dear Coral. Have courage." *Aime Michel, France.*

"I want to express to you my sympathy on the recent death of your husband, Leslie. Leslie was a fine individual who contributed a great deal of his time and talents to the enhancement of our community. He was highly respected by all who knew him. His loss will be felt by many. Please accept my sympathy and blessings at this time." *Dennis DeConcini, U.S. Senator.*

A PURELY PERSONAL NOTE

I would like to thank the membership for their remarkable patience and understanding during the past difficult year. In Volume 33, #2, page 5, I mentioned the health problems which had preoccupied APRO's Director, Mr. Lorenzen, and me, in the preceding year.

In the intervening time, he and I firmly decided to concentrate on fighting this illness to the exclusion of all else. Everything connected with APRO was tabled. Unfortunately we were not successful in our battle with his cancer.

Many of you learned of Jim's passing and have relayed your thoughts and concern, some of the messages of which have been reproduced in this issue. There are many others, however, who will learn of it with this writing. Those who wish

to do something meaningful in his memory may want to contribute to the L.J. Lorenzen Investigation Fund, which will be utilized to finance the costs of case investigations (such as lab fees which we are often unable to cover with limited funds).

SOME SHARED REMEMBRANCES

Because APRO has been such a large part of our lives, the children and I would like to share some remembrances of Jim with you:

Daughter Lesli was named for her father. She is a writer and holds a degree in creative writing from the University of Arizona. She states: "My father was a gentle soul, a spiritual man, a philosopher and a dreamer. He faithfully embraced life through all of its adversities and basked modestly in the light of its occasional brief triumphs. He was a free thinker whose mind was filled with unconventional ideas and unfettered by the simplistic dogmas of convention. At the end of his life he searched for the unattainable answers as any person does when confronted with his own morality... My life has been immeasurably expanded and enriched by having had Jim Lorenzen as my father. From him I learned to dream and I learned that dreams can come true if you believe strongly enough and work hard enough."

Our son Larry holds a B.S. in Electronics Engineering and a B.A. in Music and like his father plays more than one instrument. He recalls:

"I remember my father
catching my little league pitches
'til it was too dark to see

"I remember the rainy mornings
that he would drive me
on my paper route - missing his sleep

"I remember the things he taught me
without saying a word

"Losing my father was like
listening to a beautiful song
fade out on the phonograph."



Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzen during a photo session in 1972.

Mrs. Lorenzen shares the following: "Jim wasn't a voluble man. I don't recall him saying anything not worth hearing. I think I learned something from him each day, which made him all the more dear to me.

"Jim was not a quitter which, along with his multiplicity of talents, was the reason he excelled in so many diverse fields (music, electronics, research). He took his work, his tasks and challenges seriously, but not himself. His dry wit was often directed at what he fancied were his own shortcomings.

"In 1943, when Jim was trying to convince me that I should marry him, he frequently brought his guitar with him on Saturday night and while I got ready, he sat on the lawn and serenaded me. His favorite was the old New Orleans Blues song, 'St. James Infirmary'. When he got to the last line he gave it extra emphasis: 'She can search this wide world over, and never find another dear, sweet man like me.'

"I feel fortunate that he chose me to be his life's companion and it is memories such as these which will sustain me."

Coral E. Lorenzen - January, 1987



The last photo of the Lorenzens' taken together - fall of 1985.

CLARIFICATION

Since the above was written, my attention was drawn to Mr. Lorenzen's obituary printed in the MUFON Journal which mentioned that Walt and Mr. Lorenzen "renewed their friendship", etc. It is sad that Andrus would go so far as to take advantage of a man's death to infer something which never existed, for whatever reason he had in mind.

As his wife, I know that Jim did not consider Walt Andrus to be a friend or that there had ever been friendship between them.

At best, Walt was a casual acquaintance occasioned by Jim's association with the UFO field. Jim was a quiet, unassuming man, and his friends were relatively few and well known to his family.

Coral E. Lorenzen

Salute To
a Comrade
at Arlington

LESLE J.
LORENZEN
SGT USA
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EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: If university degrees were obtained, please specify in what fields: _____

Does applicant have a proficiency in any language other than English? If so, please specify. _____

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- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

FIELDS OF INTEREST: Please state: 1) personal fields of interest in relation to UFOs; 2) Would applicant be willing to participate in special projects in these fields?

- 1) _____
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Has applicant ever seen a UFO? _____ How many times? _____

To which other UFO organizations does applicant belong, if any? _____

Which are the 3 UFO books considered best by applicant? _____

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Applicant's Signature

Date