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FATE
TRUE STORIES OF THE STRANGE AND THE UNKNOWN
VOL. 11 - NO. 5
ISSUE 9



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FIRE, FIRE, EVERYWHERE

TO MRS. CHARLES KING of Glendive, Mont., everything seemed normal as she walked about her home one day last January. It was around 8 a.m. on Friday, January 10, when it began. . . .

As Mrs. King walked into her living room, a window curtain burst into flame. She jerked the curtain off the window and extinguished the flames. She disconnected all the electrical outlets in the room because she concluded that an electrical spark must have caused the fire.

Thirty minutes later another blaze broke out in the living room. This time Mrs. King called the Glendive fire department which put out the flames.

At 4:30 p.m., Jack Shearer of Glendive was putting storm windows on the home when he looked in a window and saw a wastepaper basket on fire. He rushed into the house and put out the fire.

At 6:15 p.m. the same day, two teen-age girls were in the house watching TV when they smelled smoke and saw a curtain ablaze in the bedroom.

Fire Chief George Smith checked the house thoroughly. He could

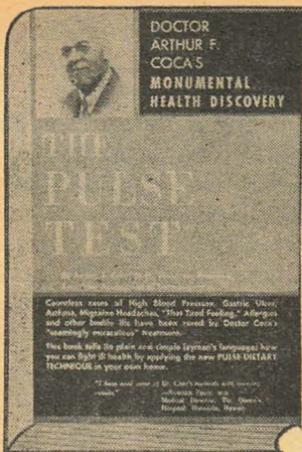


find nothing that might cause fires to start.

Meanwhile, the Kings, as seems natural, began to worry. They turned off all the electricity. They scoured the house for combustible materials. They took turns sitting up all night for possible fires.

In the next seven days, five other fires broke out in the King home. One was in the bedroom of a granddaughter, Wendy; another was in a portable wardrobe in the same bedroom, and burned up all the clothes in it; another was in a temporary clothes storage closet; another burned a tablecloth and still another was in a dresser.

A representative of the state fire marshal's office was unable to



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Conventional allergy tests often take weeks or months and may cost a small fortune. In addition, because of the body's changing sensitivities, what you may be allergic to one day may not harm you a year from now. And what is harmless today may affect you seriously later.

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explain the fires after he examined the house. "I don't know what we're going to do," said Fire Chief George Smith. "We have to continue our investigation, though."

In the rather detailed reports of the fire that come to us, there is precious little about the King household itself. We do know that the Kings, a married daughter and her husband, and at least one granddaughter live in the house. In one fire, the married daughter was severely burned about the hands and in another her husband was overcome by smoke.

Our verdict: a cut and dried poltergeist case—and interesting.



THE MEN OF SANTA ROSA

WHILE ARCHEOLOGISTS' eyes have tended to turn toward Europe, Asia and Africa as the cradle of mankind, one of the oldest cultures ever discovered has come to light in the United States.

Of all places, it has been uncovered in caves on a tiny island called Santa Rosa, about 45 miles southwest of Santa Barbara, Calif.

Sensational discoveries on Santa Rosa include:

- Bones of a dwarf mammoth only six feet high, which served as food for the island's early inhabitants.
- Evidence that man lived on Santa Rosa more than 37,000 years ago.

- Probability that the island was at one time connected with the mainland.

The dating of the finds on Santa Rosa has been accomplished by refinements in the radioactive carbon 14 system. Because of the island's isolation, many sites have never been touched by modern man.



RELICS OF LAKE LAHONTAN

BEFORE THE great glaciers receded into the north and climatic changes made a desert out of much of Nevada, part of the state was covered by a huge lake, some 8,900 square miles in area—larger than Lake Ontario is today.

And around the shores of Lake Lahontan 11,000 years ago lived a people far advanced in culture.

The mummy of a woman wrapped in a fur coat of rabbit skins has been uncovered. Beside her was a buckskin vanity case containing a reddish substance she may have used as rouge.

Scientists have recovered a 212-foot coil of rope—as strong and well-made as many modern ropes, and a basket woven more than 2,000 years ago which is still in such good condition that, according to the National Geographic Society, a modern housewife might use it on a shopping trip today.

Dart points and fish nets

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have been found—and a stopper: a small bone awl carved from the splint of a native American horse. This is our first proof that man occupied the area before the native horse became extinct.



BACK, BACK, BACK

SCIENCE keeps pushing modern man and his culture further backward into antiquity, as this column so frequently points out.

Besides the two examples reported above, there is a new find in an ancient cemetery on Mt. Carmel in Palestine. Here Prof. M. Stekelis of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has discovered a skeleton and four skulls that date from the Natufian period—14,000 years ago.

Excavations have turned up tools of flint and basalt, fish hooks made from flint and bone, and a rich variety of ornaments, including buck horns, small painted stones, and other stones with holes in them. There is also a stone carved to represent the head of an animal.

Who were these ancient people? Apparently they were just like you and I. Professor Stekelis says: "It is clear that there was little or no difference between man who lived 140 centuries ago and man today."

Natufian man also obviously had some sort of a burial cult.

MORE ON THE ETRUSCANS

RECENTLY we have been publishing a number of short items on the Etruscans, the people who preceded the Romans in Italy and who, recent excavations reveal, may have had one of the most fabulous civilizations of ancient times.

No one knows whence the Etruscans came; no one can read their language despite thousands of inscriptions which they have left. They were so wealthy they used gold safety pins and once were more powerful than Rome. Their fleets ruled the Mediterranean from Italy to Spain.

The Etruscans were fond of fanciful jewelry, carved furniture, embroidered blankets. It is said that they scandalized the ancient world by allowing women to participate in banquets with men.

They built elaborate tombs, some of them filled with gold and jewels. Today these tombs are spotted from the air beneath vineyards and olive trees. Sometimes grave robbers find them by stamping on the ground and listening for a hollow sound.

The Italian Government controls the digging; unauthorized excavation is illegal. Yet there are so many tombs that some archeologists drill into them and lower a flash camera to photograph the contents before deciding to dig.

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FATE is researching a major article on the Etruscans and hopes to provide material on these fascinating people soon.



OUR HERITAGE — AKKADIA?

PROF. CYRUS H. GORDON, Head of the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Brandeis University, who decoded Cretan Linear A Script by testing it against the Akkadian language, has tossed another bombshell into current theories of history.

It is that Greek culture and Hebrew culture both developed from a common source—the Akkadian civilization.

Our Western culture is deeply indebted to both the Greeks and Hebrews. Henceforth, says Professor Gordon, the two must be studied as "parallel structures built on the same East Mediterranean Foundation."

He declared that the parallels between early Greek and Hebrew classics are "too many to be accidental."

The Akkadians were a Semitic people who flourished in Northern Babylonia, center of the ancient Mesopotamian Empire, from 4,000 B.C. Long before the Hebrews had a written language of their own, Akkadian was entrenched in Canaan as the language of diplomacy, law, administration, business

and also of literature.

The deciphering of Cretan Linear A showed that Akkadian played a similar role in Crete, Greece and the region of the Aegean Sea.



IS OUR BRIDGE RED!

THE BRITISH TRAWLER *Ella Hewett* was proceeding on a routine trip to the Icelandic fishing grounds one day late last year when men aboard saw a flash in the sky over the vessel. Then the ship's bridge turned red.

Next day the red had faded out and the bridge was white again, the skipper radioed the ship's owners, Heward Trawler's Company. The *Ella Hewett* continued on its way to Icelandic waters.

The skipper of the vessel is 57-year-old Fred Sutton, a 20-year veteran of the line. The company said: "a most dependable man on whose word we have implicit trust."



THAT BLASTED BOMB AGAIN!

SUPPOSE THAT man in his arrogance decided to show he could really hit the Moon and fired a 20-megaton hydrogen bomb into it—as has already been suggested by the American Rocket Society.

Leaving out altogether the possibility that the Moon might indeed contain some kind of sentient



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life, however different from our own, such an action might have disastrous effects upon earth.

This, at least, is the theory of Robert Engstroem, a Swedish engineer, who warns that the explosion of such a bomb—equivalent to 20,000,000 tons of T.N.T.—might create disastrous tides on earth. Engstroem fears that such an explosion might so disturb the balance between the earth and the moon that a devastating tidal deluge would take place on Earth.

He believes that any such tests should be preceded by a study of the laws of celestial mechanics to explore the effects upon the earth's tides. Before the present balance between Earth and Moon was established, it is known that tides were several hundred feet in height.



AIR FORCE VS. KEYHOE (NO. 1)

MUCH CONTROVERSY has been created by the Circle Theater TV program of January 22, 1958, in which Maj. Donald Keyhoe and several Air Force spokesmen discussed UFO's. For one view, see Frank Edwards' letter in this issue's *Report from the Readers*.

The controversy involves at least three major points:

1. That Keyhoe was "outnumbered" both in number of opponents and in time allotted.

2. That Keyhoe was cut off the air unjustifiedly.

3. That the Air Force view was hopelessly prejudiced.

Frank Edwards' letter, in this issue's *Report from the Readers*, discusses the first point in detail.

As to Keyhoe being cut off the air, a CBS network employee said the sound was cut because Keyhoe started to digress from the teleprompter and "nobody knew what he was going to say."

We think it is a pitiful thing that CBS is so frightened that it allowed itself to be coerced into such an action. Nevertheless, the network appears to be technically correct according to a statement CBS issued which was signed by Keyhoe and which stated that the incident was due "to a misunderstanding on my part about the rules for approval of script changes. I wish to make it plain that this was not an attempt at censorship on the part of Armstrong Circle Theater or CBS."

When the sound faded, Keyhoe had said these words: "We are meeting in secret with a congressional committee. If these meetings were public it would be proved. . . ."



AIR FORCE VS. KEYHOE (NO. 2)

THE THIRD POINT relating to the Air Force's alleged pre-

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judice against UFO reporting of any kind is by far the most serious.

For this information we are deeply indebted to Frank Whitcomb, an Idaho Ground Observer Corps member of many years' standing.

Whitcomb first comments on the views of Spencer Wheaton, an officer connected with one of the official investigation centers. Wheaton reported on Circle Theater that only 1.9% of all sightings were listed as unknown. Upon being asked what was meant by "unknown" he replied that this 1.9% "can't be identified with the particular normal phenomenon it undoubtedly is."

GOC member Whitcomb comments as follows: "This is a complex statement for we find something which can't be identified being identified in the very same breath as normal phenomena."

Keyhoe himself pointed out that the figure of 1.9% was based on sightings for a two-month period only. He said that over a period of several years 12% of reported sightings have not been explained by the Air Force.

Dr. Donald Menzel, the astronomer, then declared in effect that no one but astronomers have any right to attempt to analyze or explain unusual activity observed in the sky. He said that UFOs came into being "only because of mis-

taken identity." He did not say what was mistaken for what!

Richard Horner summed up the Air Force view with the statement that UFO's "do not constitute a direct physical threat to the U.S."—an unnecessary statement certainly from that viewpoint for how can "mistaken identity" constitute a threat?

Whitcomb then goes on to comment as follows:

"This Air Force attitude is in contrast to orders given to members of the Ground Observer Corps in printed copies of the Ground Observer Post Standard Operations Instruction distributed in February, 1955. In the booklet, UFO's are described as '*Distinguished from other airborne objects by their performance, flying characteristics, or any unusual features which do not conform to any known aircraft or missile type including balloons.*'

"When reporting UFO's, observers were ordered to '*Include brief description of object; shape, size, color, number, formation if more than one, flying features, speed, sound, maneuvers, manner of disappearance, length of time observed, etc.*' They are also ordered to report '*The known existence of physical evidence such as fragments or photographs!*'

"Quite an impressive list of things to look for in something that doesn't exist."

This photo of an aerial object resembling a flying saucer was sent to us by Thomas S. O'Bannon who reports that he took it just before sunset on June 28, 1957, at Odd Acres, one and a half miles east of Winona, Mo. O'Bannon says that when he first glimpsed the object it was hovering above the house across the road. He snapped the object, and the house, with a Polaroid camera. He describes the object as wheel-shaped, with a flat dome on top. It was visible for slightly over a minute and then took off "like a streak." It made no sound and left no exhaust trail, he says.



GRAVITY MACHINE?

The following summary was sent from a Ship's Paper of October 30, 1957, after being copied from a CW News broadcast while at sea. It is unusual because no other report of this announcement reached us. It certainly is sensational—if true.

Baltimore, Md., October 29—A group of inventors claimed Monday they have been able to utilize gravity in circular motion machines capable of powering everything from hearing aids to space cruisers.

Otis T. Carr, president of OTC Enterprises, Inc., detailed his claims in an interview and demonstration of a crude model of a cir-

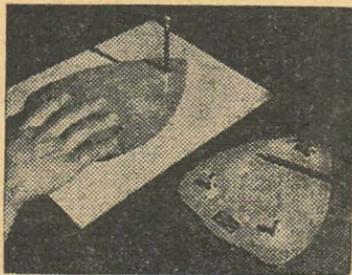
cular motion machine which he said is the principle of a "free energy circular foil" space craft he can build, if someone puts up the money.

He said the machine can be adapted to devices of any size to produce continuous power absolutely free of dissipation.

Its immediate application, Carr said, would be in a space craft—either manned or remote controlled—which would be able to fly among the planets in controlled flight. It could land or take off as desired on the earth, the moon or any planets in the earth's solar system, he said.

Carr and his associates said their

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claims are based on the most simple practical applications of natural laws and discoveries in science and mathematics. They have no formal education in science or engineering.

He said the same "free energy" which causes the earth to rotate on its axis and orbit around the sun will turn a machine he described as two cones joined at their circular bases. When the rotation of such a machine reaches a certain velocity relative to the earth's orbital velocity, Carr said, it will take off.

Carr said the core of his space ship would be a huge battery which would spin at the velocity of the external craft and which would be recharged, he said, by its motion. Carr declared such a battery, built to any size, could be designed to power the largest electric generating plant, operate an automobile, heat a house or power any conceivable machine or device.

The principle on which Carr said such circular motion machines would operate is that "any vehicle" accelerated to an axis rotation relative to its attractive inertial mass (the earth) immediately becomes activated by free space energy and acts as an independent force.



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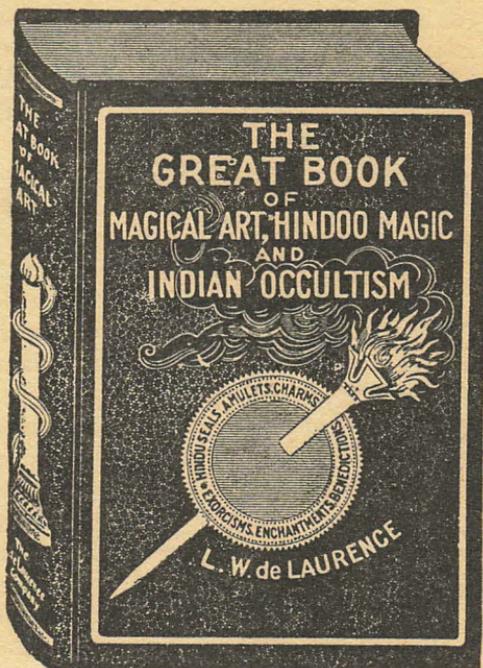
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Snowman." A Soviet scientist named A. C. Pronin, who led a Russian hydrological team in the Pamir Mountains of the Tadzhik Republic in Central Asia, claims he saw a Yeti twice last August.

He described the creature as stocky, having long arms and a body covered with grayish brown hair. He declared it was on a rocky summit 1,600 feet high and that he watched it for five minutes. Three days later he saw it briefly on the same spot.

Meanwhile, Texas Oilman Tom Slick is hunting for Snowmen in the Himalayas as this is being written. Slick is using hounds flown in from the United States after local dogs were used unsuccessfully last year. Special equipment such as wire nets, rope, traps and camouflaged tents are part of Slick's equipment.

"Our task this time has assumed all the more significance now that the Russians are already in the field on the Pamir plateau," said Gerald Russell, a member of Slick's advance party. "It is now an international race for the Yeti."



WELL, YES AND NO

TAKE IT FROM US, the chunks of ice that fell from the sky near Philadelphia last year came from airplanes and they didn't; they're man-made and

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they're not; and we know where they came from but we don't.

We begin with the fact that two ice falls occurred in Pennsylvania up to January 19, 1958, and a Lehigh University Professor announced that at least one of the chunks he examined could not have been man-made and could not have come from the wing of an aircraft. The professor was Dr. George Jenkins, professor of geology at Lehigh and assistant director of the university's Institute of Research.

Two days later the Civil Aeronautics Administration announced that the ice chunks which had fallen in Pennsylvania last year were formed from "domestic land water." CAA said that scientists at the U.S. Public Health Service Laboratory had made detailed chemical tests of ice samples and even found some lint from towels.

So, the CAA concluded that the ice does come from airplanes, probably from waste water from washbasins. On some planes, CAA said, the ice apparently stays in exhaust pipes long enough to freeze, then is discharged as chunks of ice when the plane descends to a warmer altitude.

All this is difficult for us to believe in view of the fact that some chunks were larger than grapefruit and others were reported to be smooth and flat. Such falls were

reported before airplanes existed. A two-foot square slab that dropped through a roof in San Rafael, Calif., at 3 a.m. on January 25, 1958, would have had a hard time fitting into an airplane's exhaust pipe.



PLUG FOR NICAP

Serious UFO investigators who are not interested in "little men" theories would do well to help support NICAP, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, of which Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe is director. Membership in NICAP costs \$7.50; administrative offices are at 1536 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.

NICAP keeps close to the Washington scene and is especially cognizant of what's going on in the Pentagon. NICAP has been attacked by defense officials but it has some mighty strong points on its side.

It recently reported that Capt. E. J. Ruppelt, former UFO Project Head, had issued a public demand that the Air Force publish all the facts. Ruppelt blasted Donald Menzel's "mirage" answer on the grounds that top Air Force officials have absolutely rejected it.



BRIEF NOTES FROM ALL OVER

- CHINESE AMBASSADOR Hol-

lington K. Tong from Washington declares, possibly in jest, that the Chinese "shot a man into outer space" several thousands of years ago with firecrackers—but thought so little of the achievement "it was only casually mentioned in our classics."

• The U.S. Coast Guard is puzzled and upset over the disappearance of the Tugboat *Jim Steers* under mysterious circumstances. The boat, with a crew of three, disappeared in January on a clear night, within less than a mile of land, and with its radio in good working order. Capt. Ernest Gildersleeve of the companion boat *George Steers* was about a mile out in Long Island Sound when he saw the *Jim Steers* coming along astern of him. A few minutes later when he looked again the tug was not in sight. The *Jim Steers* was steel-hulled, diesel-powered, had water-tight compartments and was only two years old. The water where she was cruising was 50 to 70 feet deep and free of reefs or rocks. The skipper had 20 years of experience in the New York area. Captain Gildersleeve had heard the boat talking by ra-

dio with other tugs only a few minutes before. Visibility was good. No oil slick, no splinter of wood nor anything else pertaining to the tug had been found as this was being written.

• Electronic computers, in an experiment conducted by a young Harvard Medical student, have shown the ability to learn from past mistakes and to eliminate these mistakes in future computations.

• Dogs, cats and pigeons are not the only animals with homing instincts. Recently a pet duck named Sophia, which was taken to Echo Park Lake and released about a year ago, walked nine miles through heavy Los Angeles traffic back to the home of her former owners, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Meehan, of 5101 Seventh Avenue, Los Angeles, Calif.

• Bronze figures which may be linked with an ancient but unknown African civilization have been uncovered by a workman in western Nigeria. One figure shows a complete standing model of a chief in the full regalia still used at coronation ceremonies in Nigeria.

—Curtis Fuller





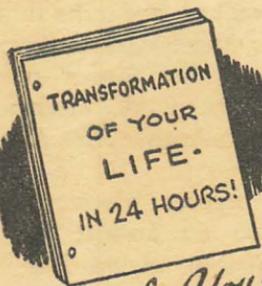
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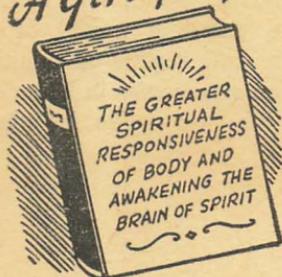
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THE DAY IT RAINED FROGS



By the Editors of Fate

From all over the world come reports of living creatures falling from the sky. What is the explanation?

ONE DAY IN OCTOBER, 1912, William W. Bathlot, who now lives in Albuquerque, N.M., was driving a mail wagon in Beaver County, Okla. He was about a mile from the Floris Post Office on his return trip when a streak of lightning shot across the sky.

Bathlot peered out of the open window of his mail wagon and saw a heavy black cloud in the sky with the darkest portion directly overhead.

In a few minutes small objects began thudding down upon the roof of the mail wagon. Bathlot assumed they were hail stones, but as he looked he saw thousands of small objects spraying outward

from the roof of the wagon and from the backs of his horses.

They were tiny toads, and they bounced up from the sandy soil like little rubber balls, lay stunned upon the ground for a few seconds, and then flopped over on their stomachs apparently unhurt.

"Among this myriad of small creatures I failed to see one killed or crippled from the fall," Bathlot declares. "For some unknown reason they all landed upon their backs, thus protecting their little, soft, white bellies. I could peer outward for perhaps 100 feet through the falling rain and as far as I could see the top of the earth was alive with the little creatures.

"I held my hand out of the wagon window and caught four, fat, brown little toads all about the size of my thumb nail. Each was perfect, with legs and no tail. I had heard of fish and frogs falling from the clouds but I never had heard of a fall of toads.

"The toads continued to fall for something like three minutes, and then no more fell but the rain continued in torrents. When I reached the postoffice, which was located in a general store, I found that the shower of baby toads had reached as far as the store and a little beyond it.

"As near as folks who had seen or been caught in this shower of toads could figure, it had covered a space of about a mile long and a quarter of a mile wide. There was no exact way of measuring for the little creatures had disappeared completely within a short time after their fall. They must have worked down into the soft, wet, sandy soil."

Mr. Bathlot's account, which appeared in the June, 1953, issue of FATE, is one of hundreds which describe strange falls from the sky—everything from "thunderstones" to huge chunks of ice.

It was only natural that Bathlot's story attract letters from FATE readers who reported similar experiences.

J. S. Randall of Orlando, Fla.,

sat down and wrote us a letter on September 26, 1953.

"About 3:15 yesterday afternoon we had a shower, no heavier than others during the month, but this one contained millions of small frogs. They came down on the house and on the car parked in the yard. My three small daughters caught about 400 of them.

"This is the first time I have seen this happen in Florida. I have on several occasions seen frogs rain in Tennessee. It is 11 o'clock at night as I write this and I can still see hundreds of frogs all over the yard. The strange thing is that they are only in this locality.

"The frogs are small enough to sit down on a dime and not extend over the edge. They are unlike any frogs I've ever seen around here. I and several friends have looked closely but we can find no holes the frogs might have made in coming out of the ground.

"I know for certain they came in the rain clouds because they fell on top of the car while I was in it. They crawled down the windshield onto the hood in the presence of two other persons besides my family.

"I called the newspaper office here and reports are coming in from all around Orlando that frogs are crawling into houses under the doors and are in general making

things hum for everybody. Last night the rain came in torrents and was loaded with more frogs. The reporter from the paper thinks they are hatching out but I know they came in the rain. They are found on roof tops as well as on car tops and they can't jump that high . . ."

Marie Nyeholt of Pico, Calif., wrote:

"Many years ago, when a child, I lived with my parents in Livingston, a peninsula on the Caribbean coast of Guatemala. After a sudden tropical storm, thousands of tiny frogs would appear as if from nowhere.

"They were about the size of a large thumbnail, and the paths and gullies teemed with them. I would gather the little creatures in an empty coffee can and much to my mother's horror turn them loose in the house.

"With the ending of the storm the little frogs would disappear as mysteriously as they came and to this day I have found no satisfactory explanation for them."

Grace Weir of Watsonville, Calif., wrote that she had good reason to believe Mr. Bathlot's story because when she was 13 years old she too was caught in a "toadstorm."

"My sister and brothers and I went to our beautiful lake to bathe. It was not too far from

home in a small cove with soft golden sand and a background of spruce timberland near a primitive little hamlet called Chezzetcook, Nova Scotia.

"We noticed it was going to rain but we were used to showers and liked them as the water always seemed warmer afterwards.

"This particular shower was different. The heavens opened up and down poured little toads no larger than a blow fly and as golden as the sands they bounced upon. They fell like hailstones and the bouncing didn't seem to hurt them.

"They bounced on the water all around us, on our heads and shoulders. We even held out our hands and caught some. So these toads came direct from the skies and not from under our feet.

"We kids had never seen anything like that in our young lives and naturally we were excited. We ran for the shore to gather some up; I recall I counted 18 baby toads that I could hold without crowding them or injuring them . . ."

Nada Domay of Winslow, Wash., also described personal experiences in the "flat woods" of Florida near Largo.

"The rain storms came up very quickly. Almost on a minute's notice the sky would turn black and down it came.

"My brother and I were playing

in the yard and as we ran for the house we were surprised to see it raining tiny brownish-red toads—perfect little things with dainty little bodies, feet and even tiny warts. The ground was covered with a hopping, squirming mass of them. They hit the ground very hard but it did not seem to hurt them as the ground was marshy with much rain. They soon hopped away—all but a few dozen that the hens ate.

“Many times it rained tiny fish from one-half inch to an inch long, transparent little fish with large heads and big eyes. You could see through their glassy little bodies, see the backbone and a little blood vein from the head to the tail. Those that lit on the bare ground died or were eaten by the chickens and other birds but the ones that fell into the drainage ditches and water puddles swam or were washed along to the bay.”

On September 7, 1954, it rained frogs in Leicester, Mass. When the rain was over residents found frogs of all descriptions scattered for a mile on Paxton Avenue from Leicester Center to the Paxton line.

There were 10's of thousands of frogs. Some parents waked their children (it was shortly after midnight) and they ran out and scoop up bags and baskets full of frogs.

Weather officials scoffed at the idea they could have been carried

aloft by an offshore hurricane. They theorized instead that the ponds might have overflowed and washed the frogs onto the road.

Similarly, the July 26, 1952, issue of the Los Angeles *Times* reported a .18-inch rain at Big Bear, Calif. Immediately after the rain the pavements suddenly were covered by frogs estimated by residents to number millions. Those not crushed in the jam hopped away.

Many other creatures apparently fall from the skies. It is always easy to explain away a rain of frogs by saying that “they just came out of the ground,” but it is a little difficult to give the same explanation for rains of fish, crabs and snails.

One of the most famous falls on record took place in May, 1881, in Worcester, England. A spring thunderstorm had sent the residents scurrying for shelter. Immediately after the storm, people traveling along busy Cromer Gardens Road were astonished to find the roadway covered with hermit crabs, periwinkles and small crabs of an unknown variety.

Hundreds of people rushed out and gathered these creatures up in buckets, baskets, sacks—even in hats. The current price of snails on the market had been quoted at around \$4 per bushel—not very cheap—and here was a welcome

gift from the skies—manna.

The total area covered by the fall was more than a square mile and contemporary accounts agree that the amount gathered actually totalled many tons. Worcester is about 50 miles from the ocean. There was no sand, seaweed, clam shells or pebbles associated with this fall.

The strange thing is that this sort of thing keeps happening all the time. It isn't necessary to go back to 1881.

In Yoro, Honduras, according to recent newspaper accounts, you can get a fresh fish dinner delivered to you at supper time right out of the sky.

Every year at the beginning of the rainy season there is a fall of fish. Natives of Yoro prepare for the harvest as soon as a little black cloud forms over Cerro el Mal Nombre northeast of town. They gather up their baskets, pails and washtubs and head for the grassy plains outside the town. And as the cloud passes overhead it rains thousands of sardine-like fish, three or four inches long, in the granddaddy of all storms.

Yoro is 50 miles inland and separated from the coast by a mountain range. Difficult for fish to swim out there.

John Murphy was hurrying along a street in downtown Toronto during a rainstorm in March, 1954,

when he was struck in the face by a fish. He insists that it fell out of the sky and swam away in the gutter before he could grab it.

We could go on indefinitely. It seems to us that the question no longer is "do fish and frogs (and any number of other things) fall from the sky?" but "where do they come from? How do they get up there? Why do they fall where they do fall?"

Consider Mr. Bathlot's toads, for example. In our North Temperate Zone, the toad is hatched from an egg usually during the month of April. By the first of June it has grown four legs and has absorbed its tail. It is then ready to live out its life on land. It hunts bugs through the cool of the evening and through the night. If it's a warm day the toad spends it under logs, leaves or grass in a damp cool place. Or he corkscrews himself into the ground if it's damp and soft, and may go down four or five inches.

Some explanations for mysterious falls are that the creatures are scooped up by tornadoes or water-spouts and carried inland. It would seem difficult, however, for tornadoes to selectively choose myriads of tiny frogs or toads, say, and leave everything else in the particular water hole alone. And how explain the vast quantities of these things that apparently rain down?

Scientists also explain the falls by saying the rain has just brought the creatures out of the ground. But how explain that they are found also on roofs, are seen falling, and are even caught in the hand?

No, each type of fall would have to have a different explanation if we are to believe the men who have an answer for everything. If we never had seen a frog fall, seen one on the roof, or caught one in our hand, we might accept the theory that they come out of the ground.

A particularly strange story with startling possibilities came to us a couple of years ago from the Oregon Commission, and was also published in the *Oregon Journal*.

Fred Kuehn of Portland, Ore., was walking through the woods of Larch Mountain with his family, checking the huckleberry crop. As they proceeded down an abandoned plank road just beyond Brower Road on the Larch Mountain Highway, Kuehn found a pile of trout beside the road.

It wasn't a little pile of trout. It was a great big pile of trout. It was eight feet long, five feet wide and over a foot deep. The fish were all five to eight inches long, every one of them.

Fred Locke of the Oregon Game Commission went up there to investigate and he reported there

were more trout in that pile than the state's largest fish liberation truck could transport in one load.

As far as we know, this mystery has never been solved. Perhaps it has a simple explanation. But if it doesn't have a simple explanation then it could have a very complicated one.

Such as some creature of another world, or another time dimension or another space dimension capriciously gathering up a huge batch of trout preparatory to raining them down somewhere . . . and somehow being thwarted from this particular prank.

Consider the fact that virtually every fall of fish or frogs or toads of which we have record consists of very small creatures. Maybe there's a type of toad which is able to create a mass of webby-type material about its eggs so they can be wind-borne. And maybe these eggs hatch in the sky and feed on tiny insects up there, and come down because they get caught in a rain storm. This isn't a very likely theory, but it seems as likely as any other.

Or suppose these creatures exist in another time dimension, or another space dimension and somehow pass from that dimension into our own. Such a concept has never been proved either. We can't even prove that there are other time or space dimensions.

The only thing we must admit is that even the scientists' explanations of these mysterious falls are mighty hard to swallow. If they are due to whirlwinds, how do they happen to be so selective—why not a lot of other debris accompanying them?

One of the best ideas we have heard is that they are somehow caused by a force akin to that manifesting itself in poltergeist phenomena. But actually, neither has ever been proved.

Possibly the falls, whatever their cause, have been used by nature since time immemorial to spread living creatures about the earth—and certainly besides small fish, frogs and the like they could include seeds, spores, eggs, and the young of many kinds of animals. Here's an example of how this probably happens:

There are only four known kinds of fresh water jellyfish, although there are thousands of species of ocean jellyfish. Of the four known kinds of fresh water jellyfish, two species live only in Africa. Any freshwater jellyfish is extremely rare in this country.

Yet a couple of years ago, scientists found freshwater jellyfish

in Crystal Lake, which supplies the water to Ravenna, Ohio. They were about the size of silver dollars and looked like little transparent umbrellas, trailing a dozen or so tentacles around their rims. They also had poisonous stinging cells. They were so unusual that the Cleveland Aquarium in Gordon Park put a tank full of the Crystal Lake jellyfish on display.

The point is, no one knows where they came from. No other freshwater jellyfish had ever been found there. Maybe these jellyfish came in a fall from the skies. Certainly this wouldn't be stretching possibilities at all.

In October, 1954, Mrs. W. M. Reynolds of Austin, Tex., went out to her front yard after a hard rain. There in the yard were two ocean jellyfish, big as baseballs. And Austin is several hundred miles from the Gulf of Mexico.

The only thing we can finally agree on is that there are a lot of mighty strange things going on all over the world all the time and instead of denying them because they don't happen to fit our preconceived notions of reality, we ought to get on with investigating them.



Interview with Therese Neumann



Miracle or Myth? One of wounds that has made her world-famous is visible on hand of Therese Neumann, the Bavarian stigmatist.

By Charles B. Harnett

This second and last installment of an exclusive report probes the mystery of the famed Bavarian stigmatist.

Author Harnett, while editing an Air Force newspaper in Bavaria, went to Konnersreuth to interview famed stigmatist, Therese Neumann. His article in the April issue stated that her wounds, which simulate those of Christ, have bled every Friday since 1926, and that she has taken no nourishment since then. Mr. Harnett also interviewed Therese's confessor, Father Josef Naber, and as their conversation continues they are discussing other strange abilities which Therese Neumann possesses and which she has demonstrated many times through the years.

Q. IS IT TRUE—a story we heard today—that Therese knows where souls go, after death?

A. There is one case I can tell you about. Resl's brother returned from the war in 1945 and took a position as a civil servant. He died soon afterward. Resl was at his side. She experienced an ecstasy immediately following his death during which she told us she saw his soul leave the body and receive judgment. Then it went to heaven.

Q. We have heard of a prophecy made by Fraulein Neumann that she would die at the same age as Christ when He was crucified.

A. So far as I know, that rumor is entirely false. I asked Resl about that and she told me "no."

Q. We have two more questions, Father Naber. I hope you do not feel that we are being presumptuous.

A. Not at all. I have been interviewed by many, many writers—mostly Germans—and I think they have asked me just about every question possible.

Q. First, do you believe that the stigma and Therese's other unnatural phenomena are miracles?

A. Certainly, they are the work of God.

Q. And do you consider her a saint?

A. I cannot give an opinion since that is a matter of decision by persons much higher than myself. We must wait. Then we will know.

Father Naber, learning that we

were interested in seeing some of the clothing worn by Fraulein Neumann during a Good Friday ecstasy, carefully took from a bureau drawer a number of once-white cotton garments. One, a headpiece, was ringed with several large, red splotches where her head wounds unmistakably had bled. The priest explained that the wounds resembled in location those caused by Christ's crown of thorns.

Next, he displayed a cotton or linen bed jacket, almost completely caked with blood.

Finally, he took from the assortment of garments, a large piece of gauze-wrapped cotton. It had been part of a bandage covering her side wound, he explained. Turning it over carefully, we could see the crust of blood protruding a full inch from the material. "That will give you an indication of how deep the side wound actually was," he told us.

Father Naber kindly consented to pose for a number of photographs. As Fischer took pictures, Father Naber asked if I had obtained permission from the Archbishop of Regensburg to visit Fraulein Neumann. "You know," he said, "Bishop Buchberger refuses to authorize visits to Konnersreuth officially, unless for a good reason."

We assured Father Naber our visit was legitimate and promised

to stop in Regensburg and talk with the archbishop—just for the books.



Dr. Otto Seidl, Jr. is a young, energetic, physician practising in the small town of Waldsassen, a short distance from Konnersreuth. His father, Otto, Sr., was the family doctor of the Neumanns and the only physician to observe Therese's condition over an extended period. He also was the first doctor to observe her stigma and to make a complete physical examination. His son continued his practise in 1945 following his death.

Young Dr. Seidl was pleased to be interviewed but guardedly discussed his father's experiences. We asked him how the medical profession felt about the Neumann stigmata.

"Dr. Poray-Madeyski, who has written at length about Resl and who is considered an expert, has claimed that her sudden blindness was hysterical. He said that, organically, there was nothing the matter with her eyes. The pupils reacted to normal light, but the conjunctiva and cornea could be touched without there being the slightest reaction.

"He also believed her visions were the result of hallucination in a catalytic state and that hysteria,

the great imitator of diseases, accounted for her many pains and internal distresses. He believed she was a neuropathic hysterical person."

"And what do *you* think about it?" we asked.

Dr. Seidl frowned and rubbed his chin.

"What I believe is of no importance to your story," he said finally. "First of all, I am a general practitioner and have little knowledge of psychology or other such branches of medicine. Secondly, being a Catholic and a good friend of the Neumann's, I could hardly be expected to commit myself."

"Can you tell us, then, some of the explanations that other medical experts have offered?"

"Some have said that somnambulism and auto-suggestion could be responsible for her exceptional state. Some have suggested clairvoyance and mental telepathy as answers to the psychic phenomena associated with her. Some have bluntly expressed their belief that she is a fraud."

"How about her going without food and drink since 1926?"

"Well, it is known that Indian fakirs have gone without nourishment for days and sometimes weeks and longer through control of their involuntary muscles and organs. But I do not believe the Neumann

case can be so compared. Probably the nearest anyone has come to total abstinence was Molly Fancher, a 19th Century American, who for six months supposedly ate only a few ounces of food."

"Then there is no medical explanation for this ability of Fraulein Neumann's to abstain entirely over an elongated period?"

"None that I know of."

"I understand your father conducted an investigation of Therese back in 1920. Can you tell us?"

Dr. Seidl picked up a pencil and began doodling on a white pad on his desk.

"No. That was in 1927. You mean when father signed Resl's application for pension in 1920. That was when he listed "hysteria with blindness and paralysis" as the cause of her disability."

"Then your father believed she was hysterical and not under any supernatural influence?"

"Apparently," the doctor answered with a frown. "But you must remember, this was before the stigma appeared; so supernatural influences were probably far from his mind."

"Well, how about the investigation your father conducted in 1927?"

"Look," said the young doctor, abruptly. "You can get that from any of a number of books written on the subject."

"We know that," I replied. "But I want to hear it from you. I feel you can tell us what the books can't."

"I doubt that very much," he said, frowning again. Then, with a shrug and a sigh, he continued, "But if you insist: Father supervised a 15 day examination of Resl while she was at home. Four nursing Sisters were present the entire time. During this period, it was found that she had taken neither solid nor liquid nourishment, except for Holy Communion."

"What did the investigation show, if anything?"

"Father took urine specimens during and following the examination. The specimens taken *during* the examination were what is called "hunger urine," that is, they showed chemical signs that the patient was suffering from hunger. Some days *afterward*, when the investigation had been concluded, a urine sample was quite normal. Although her weight dropped three pounds after an ecstasy experienced during the period, it was quickly regained in two or three days. Father later testified, though, in a Munich court that there was little reason to doubt that Resl had indeed taken no food or drink during the period of observation."

"Did your father ever confide his feelings about that case to you?"

"His notes show much skepti-

cism," he evaded. "He seldom gave me his opinions."

"Have there been any further investigations?"

"Yes," Dr. Seidl answered, "If you can call it that. In 1928 a group of well known German medical experts from the University Hospital at Bonn, together with a few clergymen of the Church, observed Resl during a Friday ecstasy. Of course, it was not a controlled examination as her parents—especially her father—would not hear of it. In fact, they made the investigators leave Resl's room several times during the ecstasy while she, supposedly, used the bed pan. But she did bleed from her hands, feet and eyes in their presence."

"What was the reaction of these men?"

"They were quite skeptical. You see, each time they left the room, Resl's wounds had just stopped bleeding, and when they returned, the wounds would start up again."

"Have any further attempts been made to have her examined, doctor?" I asked.

"Oh yes. My father carried on a literal crusade for another more extensive investigation. But both Resl's father and Father Naber refused. I, personally, have tried to convince her father that an examination is a necessity, but the old man is too thick-headed."

"Dr. Seidl, a number of Ger-

man publications have stated that your father made the following threat: 'If we get that Neumann woman in a hospital, we will make a *real* Catholic out of her!' Do you know of any such threat?"

"I hardly believe my father ever said such a thing. Of course, he was a Catholic himself. Certainly I could not imagine him making such a statement."

"Have you heard anything about Fraulein Neumann sleeping only a few hours a week?"

"I know of nothing in my father's records to suggest that she sleeps less than normal."

Dr. Seidl refused to be photographed following the interview, but our Minox camera faithfully recorded several clear studies of this man whose religious faith and medical learning were so obviously at odds with each other over the strange case of Therese Neumann.



Dr. Seidl told us of a movie film, owned by Therese's brother, showing her in ecstasy. I had gathered her ecstasies consisted of the opening and bleeding of the stigmatic wounds, together with a state of ecstatic vision in which she saw a scene from the agony of Christ. The young physician cautioned us, however, that no one outside the Neumann family had ever been allow-

ed to see the film. Because we had not been able to see the actual ecstasy, the prospect of seeing it on "forbidden film" led us to drive immediately to the small village not far from Waldsassen where Ferdinand Neumann and his wife lived.

Their apartment, four rooms over a merchant's shop, was small but comfortable. Ferdinand Neumann was a small man, about 44 years old and, unlike the others we had interviewed, spoke freely of his sister's condition and his feelings concerning it.

A movie enthusiast who takes his own motion pictures with a moderately priced 16 millimeter camera, he enthusiastically told us how a large motion picture studio in Hollywood had sent a representative to Konnersreuth to offer thousands of dollars to film one of Therese's ecstasies.

"I would have accepted it," he laughed, "but Resl would have nothing to do with it."

When we asked to see the movies he had taken of his sister during an ecstasy, he seemed surprised and perturbed that we had learned of them.

"I have the only movie films in existence which show her in ecstasy," he said finally. "But Resl has asked me not to show them publicly until after her death."

I asked him to understand that

our seeing them would amount only to viewing the actual ecstasy itself, which many persons had done before. Finally, he consented.

Setting up his projection equipment, Ferdinand Neumann told us that the large newsreel companies appeared year after year at Konnersreuth, hoping to be allowed to film an ecstasy. Twentieth Century Fox, Warner Pathe, Paramount—they all had been refused.

Finally, the pictures were flashing on the screen. They were in full color, three reels in all. Fischer took over the Minox and began snapping pictures of the movie screen as each important scene appeared. Herr Neumann gave a running commentary.

The first reel showed Therese moving about in her flower garden, gathering roses and tulips. In the next scene, she is taking part in a baptism in the village church. As she fondles the infant the large brownish-red scabs are plainly visible on the backs of her hands. She smiles angelically and appears very maternal in these poses. The remainder of the reel involves a family reunion where each member self-consciously poses for the camera. Therese, surprisingly, has the most composure of the entire group.

The room lights flicked on and Herr Neumann busied himself changing reels and rethreading the machine.

"What can you tell us," I asked him, "of Therese's ability to see into the future?"

"I really know very little about it at all," he answered without looking up. "The only case that comes to mind was when she received a letter from a woman who, to her, was a complete stranger. Upon touching the envelope, Therese immediately knew the letter's contents."

The lights again went out and the second reel began to click. Therese sits in a chair in her garden behind the Neumann home. Guests are assembled about her; a small boy sits on her lap. Suddenly, Herr Neumann explains, she has a vision. She rises abruptly, her arms outstretched; the boy falls from her lap to the ground. A smile plays across her face. She takes a step closer to the camera. Her lips move as if she is conversing with someone unseen. The camera moves in for an even closer view showing a variety of expressions crossing her face; a smile, a questioning look, a look of affirmation, a look of intent listening, again a smile.

In the next scene, Therese is receiving Holy Communion in her bed at home. Father Naber raises the Host, slowly making the sign of the cross with it, and holds it teasingly before her as her head tilts slightly back. She moves her

body forward toward the Host and Father Naber appears to take it slightly away. She seems to beg for it, hands now fully outstretched, a look of extreme tension on her face. Finally, the priest places the white Disc on her tongue. Almost immediately she collapses, sinking back into the large white pillow, a look of utmost contentment passing over her face.

At this point Herr Neumann told us Therese always has a vision of Christ coming to her when she receives Holy Communion.

The remainder of this reel deals with Therese and her friends and neighbors in her garden.

The third reel was, Herr Neumann told us, taken on Good Friday, 1949. The scene is Therese's bedroom. Father Naber stands beside the bed. The camera closes for a picture of the stigmatist. She is sitting upright in bed, covered with the thick, feather-stuffed quilts common in most parts of southern Germany. On her head, she wears a white cloth, blood splotches forming a semi-circle from one side to the other.

From her eyes pour thin streams of blood, visibly running down her face and soaking the white bed clothes a dark crimson. Her hands rest in her lap. A wound on the back of each hand pours blood over her bedskirt which is almost completely reddened. Her fingers en-

twine in a praying position and the hands now move, first high—almost even with her head—then to her bosom, pressing heavily, then again to her lap. Excruciating pain is evident in her face as the bed clothes become more and more soaked with scarlet.

The picture jerks. It is apparently a scene taken a few moments later from the same camera position. The woman is now resting, lying back on the large, reddened pillow. Her expressions change as if she is conversing with some unseen entity.

Her face twists into an agonizing grimace. Herr Neumann tells us she is seeing Christ die on the cross. Then she sinks deeply into the pillow, eyes closed. She appears lifeless.

Again the picture jerks. Therese is now talking to Father Naber who apparently has been at the bedside all along. She seems excited as she moves her arms about in descriptive gestures. Herr Neumann says she is telling Father Naber, step by step, of what she envisioned.

The film is ended.

After the lights were on again and Fischer and I had regained our composure, we asked Herr Neumann a few more questions.

"Didn't the camera disturb her?"

"No," he answered, taking down the screen, "When she is in ecs-

tacy, she is entirely oblivious of what is going on about her. She sees and hears nothing except what is in her vision."

I had noticed that she did not once look directly at the camera. It was my feeling that, if this woman had been performing a deliberate hoax, she was indeed a better actress than Hollywood had seen in many a day. Then I thought of how, in the second reel, she had suddenly had a vision *after* the camera began grinding.

"Is it not peculiar," I asked, "that Therese *happened* to have a vision just when you were taking movies of her?"

"Perhaps you could call it coincidence. On the other hand, you must also realize that Resl has such visions quite often. I personally do not think it extraordinary that the Lord sent her a vision at that specific time. Perhaps it was meant to be."

"Then you believe her stigmata are miraculous?"

His answer was simple. "What else could they be?"

★ ★ ★

The Roman Catholic Church has made no pronouncement on Therese Neumann's stigmata and other phenomena, unexplainable in the light of present day scientific knowledge. The Archbishop of Regensburg told us in a special interview that the Church seldom makes a decision during the lifetime of a person such as Therese. He, like Father Naber, said, "We must wait."

It is interesting to note the opinion of another clergyman who, considering the Neumann case from the viewpoint of a possible hoax, said, "If Therese Neumann and her family falsely declare that she neither eats nor drinks, then for years in Konnersreuth a tremendous world fraud has been going on, at the cost of truth, religion and the Church."

What is Therese Neumann?

Psycho-neurotic or Saint? Hysterical or Hoax? Miracle or Freak? "We must wait."

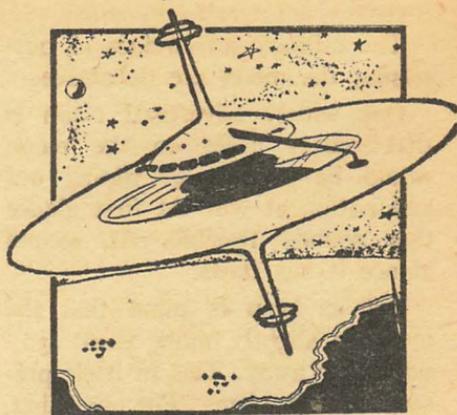
People ask me what I think of the enigma of this poor Bavarian peasant woman. I never quite know what to answer.

POLITICAL INFLUENCE

ADDRESSING a Republican meeting in Burbank, Calif., May- or Edward Olson affably told the assemblage that he probably was the only Democrat present. A fuse blew, the public address system went dead and the hall was enveloped in darkness.

FRANK EDWARDS' REPORT

Military powers currently are making serious efforts to reach the moon. But what is the real reason for their interest? Is the activity of UFO's involved?



Why Shoot the Moon?

FIRST TO REACH the moon will rule the world! That's what the headlines have been saying. It's a fascinating idea. It sells newspapers to gaping customers. There is just one thing wrong with it. "It ain't necessarily so!"

After 10 years of systematic deception on the ubiquitous flying saucers the American public perhaps is willing to accept anything, however ridiculous. Such a mass state of mind may account for the present acceptance of the widely advertised contention that the first nation to reach the moon will rule the world.

In the first place, only two nations really are involved in this race to rule—Russia and the United States. The other nations stand on the sidelines, waiting. Would they sit idly by if world supremacy were really at stake? Could they afford not to participate if their futures hung in the balance? The answer, of course, is that they would participate and that the two major powers would accept their assistance if national survival were really at stake.

Yet the frenzied race goes on, Soviet Russia versus the United States, with no visible indication

that the rest of the world is expecting to accept orders from the winner.

The military advantages of possessing the moon are debatable.

One widely advertised claim is that rocket bases on the moon would be capable of wiping out any nation at will. At first glance this sounds feasible. At second glance it has flaws.

Let us keep in mind that the moon is slightly more than 230,000 miles away. This in itself presents two problems: For one thing, weapons would have to be hauled from the earth to the moon, a formidable task. For another thing, there must be a weapon capable of launching a missile which can cross 230,000 miles of space toward earth and reach its intended target without being intercepted. It is roughly the same problem that confronts a baseball outfielder—the ball he throws has to travel so far that there is little doubt about its direction or its destination. A rocket fired from the moon toward the earth would be virtually impossible to conceal in flight. *And existing interception devices are capable of seeking it out and destroying it.* The moon as a rocket base is, therefore, of debatable value already, in fact, of less value than short-range bases on earth, which are so close to the target that detection and interception are dif-

ficult. This, plus the fact, that rockets suited to such short flights are easier to build and easier to control.

Both militarists and diplomats know that the principal deterrent to World War III is the realization that there can be no winner. The awesome destructive power of the hell bombs is so great that every nation on earth would be adversely affected by any conflict in which they were used. It is comparable to a fight between two men locked in a phone booth—each armed with a hand grenade. Even the winner would never recover.

Remember this: A weapon fired from the moon would have to be a hydrogen bomb for maximum effectiveness, and it would kill friend and foe alike, just as though it were earth-based.

Some scientists have been contending that a manned satellite, circling the earth endlessly at 1,000 miles altitude, would present a base from which the possessors could dominate any nation by threats. A few years ago this might have been true but it is not true today. Such an artificial space base would contain few weapons with which to enforce its orders or threats. The base itself would be a sitting duck for the weapons already in existence. It would be a distant row-boat threatening a battleship.

If the military value of the moon

is nil, why then this frenzied and costly race to reach it? What is the attraction that seems to justify such a ruinous project? Is there a necessity, unrevealed, but of such urgency that it must be dealt with regardless of cost?

The mere scientific distinction of being first to reach the moon would hardly justify such expenditures, even for propaganda purposes. So there is a distinct probability that the reason for the race is real and very important. But what is it, if it isn't military or scientific?

Moonwatchers and students of the mysterious unidentified flying objects can find common ground here. The moonwatchers for decades have been reporting strange changes on the moon. The UFO researchers long have suspected that the moon is the base for these seemingly intelligently controlled space craft from an unknown source. Our own plans for going out into space include the use of the moon as a way-station; therefore, it is logical to assume that the moon would be used for this same purpose by anyone whose attention was directed to our nearby earth.

Last month in this column we discussed the moon "domes" which some of the world's best known selenologists have reported. Other phenomena includes the recently discovered black line in the crater Piccolomini, the "moon-bridge" of

John O'Neill and Wilkins and the hundreds of lights, geometrical patterns and other oddities seen by observers, both amateur and professional. It is possible that some of these observers have been mistaken in their interpretation of what they saw or thought they saw, but it is highly improbable that *all* of them were in error *all* of the time. Which is to say, some of them surely witnessed some remarkable phenomena, changes and conditions which lend credence to the idea of intelligently directed activities on our moon.

The possibility of visitors on the moon, working under conditions which we might find difficult, has long been a matter of scientific conjecture. It also may have been uppermost in the thoughts of General Douglas McArthur, quoted in the *New York Times* in late 1955 as saying that the nations of the world had better unite, for the next war, he said, would be an interplanetary war. He declined to amplify this remarkable remark.

The evidence, accumulated through the decades, indicates that some very strange things have happened and are happening on the moon. Many moon changes seem explainable only as the result of actions of intelligent creatures of unknown type. Other evidence accumulated to a large extent in the past 10 years—the decade of

deception—indicates that intelligently controlled devices of unknown origin have been visiting the earth. Too elusive for our fastest jets, these devices have grown increasingly bold and increasingly numerous. Both sides of the Iron Curtain have been repeatedly visited by UFO's. Logically, perhaps, both sides of the Iron Curtain are now engaged in a race to the moon. Since the military value of the moon is apparently nil I think that we safely may deduce that the efforts to scrutinize the moon at close range are devoted to learning more about the changes that have taken place there and whether those changes are in any way related to the unexplained visits of the UFO's to earth. For after 10 years of research and study, no nation has been able to prevent the frequent intrusions of the UFO's and no nation has been able to duplicate their performance. Reduced to its simplest terms, this means that if the UFO's were hostile (which, thank God! they have not been) the earth would be at their mercy. Since they are here and since they are here *without permission*, whatever their intentions, it has become increasingly important that we know more about them—just in case we suddenly should find ourselves confronted with the realities of General MacArthur's grim prediction.

Now the current race to the moon comes into focus!

As a base for military operations by one earth nation against another it is, at present, virtually worthless. But as the basis for operations by UFO's which have no bases on earth, it would present a menace of disturbing proportions. Insofar as we know, they have no fuel problem in shuttling from their base to the earth and back. Operating from the moon, then, would be much simpler for the UFO's than it would for us. The repeated assertions by various sources that the moon is important from a military standpoint may well be a play on words . . . for by "military" they may mean the operations of Unknowns, rather than the potential action of one nation against another in the accepted use of the term "military."

Other than the known presence of the UFO's, is there any other evidence to indicate that our monumental efforts to reach the moon are related to the presence of these objects?

Let's turn back the calendar to inspect the record. In so doing we might remember that *after* the atomic bomb became a known reality, all the apparently unrelated phases of its past suddenly became clear and meaningful. This may well be the case with the ultimate official admission of the existence

of UFO's. We can carefully scrutinize every bit of evidence as we go along, fitting together the pieces or what seem to be the pieces. Occasionally we may include links which do not properly belong to our chain.

The chronology of the flying saucers includes some known facts which may point the way to the answer we seek. You probably recall that the first rash of saucer sightings hit the newspaper front pages in mid-1947. Many of those first sightings were in the northwestern part of the United States and Alaska—*near the arctic regions*.

Subsequent sightings, particularly those over South America and Mexico, indicated that the UFO's were following a north-south line of flight, with deviations, for short jaunts, off that line. Were they moving from pole to pole? Commander Auguste V. Orrego of the Chilean Navy reported that while his fleet was in the Antarctic (Jan.-Feb. 1950), at the Chilean Antarctic base of Arthur Prat, their ships were repeatedly circled by UFO's which the official photographer filmed with a 35 mm. movie camera. The pictures were turned over to the Chilean government on February 23, 1950, the day Commander Orrego made his startling announcement. They never have been released for publication.

An examination of the record discloses that Admiral Byrd's expedition to the Antarctic (reported in National Geographic Magazine) found two warm water lakes in the midst of the vast frozen waste—lakes of fresh water for which there was no explanation. Beside these lakes, said the Admiral, were "long, straight, black lines which resembled blast marks."

Looking back at this evidence of almost 10 years ago we notice unusual UFO activity near both polar regions, with numerous reports of UFO's moving north and south at considerable altitude, presumably in transit from one pole to the other.

Are we jumping to unwarranted conclusions?

If so, we have some distinguished company. *Since the reports of UFO activity in both polar regions, every major nation has taken part in 'scientific research projects' at the poles!*

Interesting?

The polar regions were as forbidding as ever, clad in the same age-old layers of ice and snow. Yet, suddenly, they are of worldwide interest. Millions of dollars worth of equipment was rushed into those areas to establish permanent bases. Thousands of trained technicians have gone to spend long, tedious months, years, of study and watchful waiting. For what? Why?

For "scientific purposes"—of course!

These same scientists have been telling us for years that Martian temperatures are very low—frigid—compared to our earthly temperatures. But on earth there are two vast zones where the temperatures are consistently low—the North Pole and the South Pole.

If the UFO's brought living creatures from the chilly Martian landscape to our own, where would they logically base them? Where would the climate most closely correspond to the one they had left? The long-deserted polar regions on earth would have been well suited to their purpose *until scientists hurriedly established bases in both those zones after the UFO's presence became known!*

Notice here again, the now familiar pattern of deception. It has long been a principle with propagandists to avert questions by appearing to answer them in advance. By giving an apparent reason they make it unnecessary to answer the question. In this case the establishment of bases in the Arctic was blanketed by "magnetic research" and "for military and civilian aviation purposes." And in the earthbound blizzard known as the Antarctic the bases were for "scientific research." We suggest that they enlighten the world—separate snow from whitewash.

If all this polar activity is predicated on the reported presence of the UFO's, as we have some reason to believe, then it is perfectly natural to deduce that the UFO's were forced to move their bases elsewhere when the polar regions became too thickly populated. The moon would be their logical backward step.

Is it, then, so surprising that after crowding them out of the polar regions our next move is to inspect their activities on the moon? Is it unthinkable that we should be so anxious to know who they are, where they came from and what they want?

Through the veil of official secrecy we can vaguely discern some of the developments which establish the reality of the UFO's. By painstakingly assembling the bits and pieces of evidence we can glimpse the direction and purpose of the terrestrial counter-measures.

Here is a summary of what has happened:

In 1947 the UFO's first appeared in numbers.

In '47, '48, and '49, they were noted around both polar regions and apparently in transit from one pole to the other.

Intensive polar research was promptly instituted and has been consistently expanded by many nations, for reasons not fully explained.

In the fall of 1957 exceptional high-altitude rocket experiments reached a new peak and the world's first man-made satellite was put into an orbit. A few weeks later huge UFO's made bold appearances at many points on earth and gave numerous examples of their ability to interfere with ignition and broadcast equipment.

Concurrent with the excitement resulting from the satellite launching come the disclosure that both the United States and Soviet Russia were engaged in developing devices with which to reach the moon at the earliest possible moment "for military reasons."

The only valid military reason would be to determine the extent of the menace which may exist if the moon is serving as a base for some alien race.

Among our steps toward the moon are the experiments at Boulder, Colo., (FATE, Jan. '58) which consisted of bouncing radio signals off of the moon. This is important because it demonstrates that space

craft from here to the moon could be controlled by radio.

It is possible that in evaluating these events as part of the growing chronology of the UFO's we are interpreting them improperly. But since they are only a small part of the whole story and have a remarkable similarity to the unquestionably valid portions, I think we may safely assume we are pretty close to the truth. Of one thing we may be certain: The "military" label applied to the race for the moon is largely, if not entirely, fictitious. And there must be a very compelling reason, of worldwide implications, to justify the costly ventures being made here and in Russia.

The possibility that Unknowns have established a base on our moon would be such a reason—cause enough for deep concern among the nations of the earth.

Let us hope that the real reason for this race to the moon also may bring about the unity of which General MacArthur spoke.



THE END OF THE PARTY

PREPARING for a small party in his home in Liberty, N. C., Ralph C. Johnson, Jr., left his two guests to set the table while he drove to a grocery store. When he seemed to be delayed, Robert Patrum, 19, and Alton Smith, 20, decided to drive after their host. All three were killed when their two cars met head-on at a curve about a half-mile from the Johnson house.

Fourth Dimensional HOMICIDE

A clear case of murder, the police said—but the victim lay
in a room impossible to enter by normal means.

By Vincent H. Gaddis

SHOT AT CLOSE range in a locked room—a policeman on the scene within seconds—the gun that vanished!

These are the circumstances in the slaying of a New York laundry operator that has baffled the most brilliant detectives in the world's largest city for almost three decades.

Had Isadore Fink, the victim, been a prominent man of affairs, we might suspect that some scientific master mind was behind his death. But he was only an obscure, poor and uneducated figure lost in the metropolis of millions of souls.

Two years after the crime former Police Commissioner Edward P. Mulrooney, nationally known for his ability to solve puzzling homicides, admitted defeat.

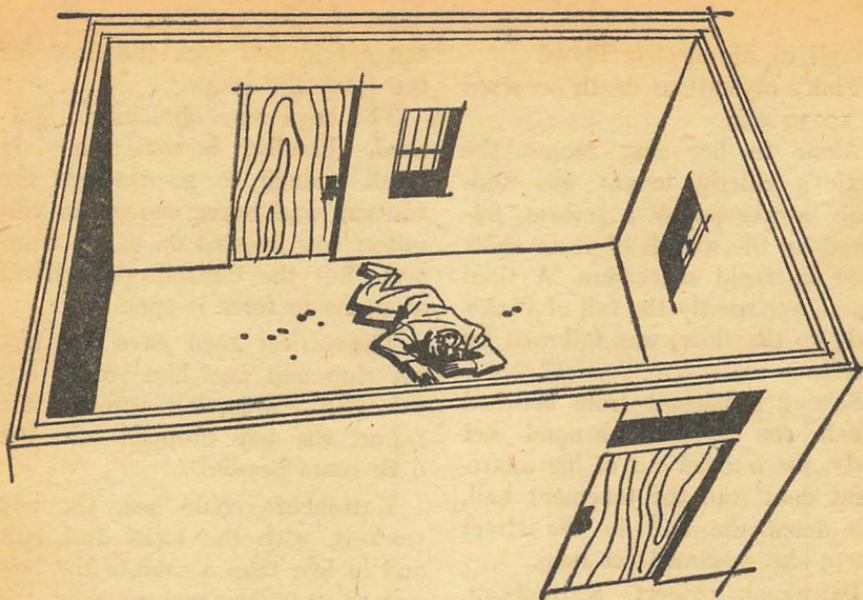
"The murder of Fink," he said in a public statement, "is a riddle

that seems to transcend all known natural laws. I can only call it an insoluble mystery."

FINK HAD OPENED his laundry at 52 East 132nd Street in Harlem about a year before his death. The laundry as well as his living quarters consisted of one large front room on the ground floor of a tenement building. Two additional rooms in the rear that were rented with the store room Fink had sub-rented to an aged, feeble woman who lived alone.

There was one door between Fink's room and the two rear rooms, and it was secured with a large iron bolt on the laundry side as well as with the usual door lock.

Although he had few friends and no known enemies, Fink was a man haunted by fear. Holdups were frequent at the time and



Fink, according to his customers, lived in constant terror of being robbed. As a result, his combined shop and home was literally a strong room.

The room had one small window overlooking an alley. It was kept locked and a series of stout metal bars had been screwed a few inches apart across the frame on the inside.

With the exception of the door to the rear rooms, the only other entrance into the store was the street door which had a small transom above it. Fink had secured the transom by nailing the frame into the casing. The door itself had

two strong locks and an inside bolt similar to the one on the rear door.

On the evening of March 9, 1929, Fink delivered several bundles of finished laundry to neighborhood apartments, then stopped in a cigar store across the street from his shop to purchase some cigarettes.

Fink appeared to be in good spirits. After a short chat, the cigar store clerk watched Fink leave, cross the street and enter his shop.

Ten minutes later, about 10:15 p.m., the clerk noticed that Fink had pulled down the door and front window shades and turned

out all of his electric lights.

Fink's mysterious death occurred at 10:30 p.m.

Alone in her rear rooms, the victim's elderly tenant was suddenly awakened by a scream, followed by the sounds of three shots fired in rapid succession. A final sound, apparently the fall of Fink's body to the floor, was followed by silence.

Seizing a blanket from her bed which she wrapped around her body, she hurried out of her apartment door into the tenement hall, ran down the hall to the street where she screamed for help.

Patrolman Albert Kattenborn, only half a block away on his beat, was questioning the excited woman about 30 seconds later. The tenement entrance adjoined Fink's laundry.

The officer tried to open the front door of the laundry. It was locked. He was told about the only other door, and he quickly ran down the hall to the woman's room and tried to open it. It was bolted from the inside. He hurried back to the street.

By this time a small crowd of spectators, including several young boys, was gathered on the sidewalk. Kattenborn decided he needed some assistance.

"Will one of you boys help me?" he asked. "I'll give you a lift up to the transom. Then see if you

can get in and open the door for me from the inside."

The boys were obviously frightened. Finally, however, a boy small enough to go through the transom and brave enough to volunteer was boosted up to the transom. But the transom resisted all attempts to force it open.

The officer then gave the boy his club and had him smash out the glass. Squeezing through the frame, the boy dropped into the dark room beyond.

Kattenborn could hear the boy working with the locks and bolt and in less than a minute the boy opened the door and rejoined the bystanders. The officer entered, found the switch with the aid of his flashlight, and turned on the lights.

Isadore Fink's body lay on the floor near the back of his shop. He was dead, but his body was still warm. Blood still flowed from two bullet wounds in his chest and one in his left wrist.

The policeman looked up at the spectators in the doorway. "It's suicide," he said.

No telephone was to be found and the officer told one of the men to call the East 126th Street Station. Then he glanced around for the gun. He couldn't find it.

He looked under the body, around the furniture, behind the curtain that separated Fink's bed

from the shop. He went to the doorway and called the young boy who had helped him gain entry to the laundry. He searched the boy, although he knew the boy had never left the door after he had entered the room through the transom.

Several squads of officers arrived. They joined in the futile search, spending half an hour covering every inch of the victim's one room home.

Then the medical examiner arrived.

"Probably a .38," he said. "Where's the gun?"

The baffled officers sheepishly admitted that no weapon could be found. The examiner frowned, continuing his study of the body.

After a few minutes he arose. "This man was murdered," he said. "He could not have held the gun that killed him. I estimate that the gun was about two feet from the victim's chest on a level with the wounds when it was fired.

"The weapon was closer," he continued, "when the bullet entered the wrist. That wound has powder burns. I'd say the victim died instantly."

The homicide investigation began. Robbery apparently was not the motive. There was money in Fink's pockets as well as in the shop's cash drawer.

Again and again the officers hopelessly searched the shop. They

eliminated the aged tenant as a suspect. The bolt on the door to the woman's rooms was rusted in its slot and had not been moved for months. Moreover, a spider web covered the crack between the top of the door and the casing.

The transom sash was nailed in place. The outside door had been locked when Kattenborn arrived. The window opening onto the alley was locked on the inside, its bars were intact, and dust was caked around the edges of the window frame.

There were no holes in either the front or side window panes. A hole could have existed in the transom pane before it was shattered, but the slayer could not have fired through this pane and left powder burns on the victim's body. Moreover, pedestrian traffic in front of the laundry was relatively heavy.

A search for trap doors in the floor was made; a search for concealed openings in the walls was made. None were found. The only other opening into the room was a rat hole in one corner. Expert fingerprint men worked over the room, but the only prints they found were those of Fink and the mystified officers.

Not only the circumstances of the murder, but the absence of a motive, puzzled the detectives. They made inquiries into Fink's past.

Fink had been born 30 years before his death in Poland, of poor Jewish parents. Left an orphan at 10, he had lived with a number of families doing housework for his board and room. By the time he was 19 he had saved enough money to pay his steerage passage to New York.

He got a job in a laundry on the lower east side and worked an average of 16 hours a day. After 10 years he had enough capital to open his own laundry in Harlem.

He had never been in trouble with the police. He had never married. Apparently all he had known during his life was the drudgery of laundry work.

For months crack detectives worked on the case. Perhaps the

solution to the mystery was so simple that they were overlooking it. But what was it? Finally, irritated and bewildered, they turned to other problems more explainable in understandable terms.

Intrigued by this mystery, Ben Hecht wrote his short story, *Mystery of the Fabulous Laundryman*. Other writers wrote "locked door" detective stories. But these fictional explanations, clever as they are, offer no practical suggestions for solving the Fink case.

Perhaps the puzzle is best summed up in the remark of one of the sleuths: "That two-bit murder in Harlem gives me the creeps—why, the killer must have hopped in from the fourth dimension or something!"



IS ANTARCTICA A CONTINENT?

AS A RESULT of investigations being conducted by American, British and Russian expeditions at the South Pole, a new theory has been advanced that Antarctica may not be a continent but only isolated rocky peaks surrounded by ice.

Soundings taken almost everywhere up to September, 1957, indicate that the ice goes much deeper than sea level. An American team working in Marie Byrd Land, a plateau 4,500 feet above sea level, re-

ported that the ice there was at least 10,000 feet deep.

Whether the Antarctica continent does exist is expected to be known after an 1,800-mile sled trip across the Polar Cap by a team of 11 Britons in November, 1957. The main object of the trip, which is said to be the first attempt to cross the vast area of snow and ice, is to take ice soundings. This investigation is expected to give the world its first profile of the polar area.

True MYSTIC EXPERIENCES

FATE will pay \$5 for each True Experience published. Stories should be less than 300 words and typed (double-spaced) on one side of the paper. They should be sent to the TME Editor, FATE Magazine 806 Dempster Street, Evanston, Ill. They must be signed by author and the author's address must be given. Manuscripts will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed return envelope

A VOICE WHISPERED

By Elsie Jumper

IN MAY, 1893, all trains arriving or leaving Chicago, Ill., were crowded due to the vast number of people attending the great World's Fair.

Less than two months before, my father, a geologist and diamond drill expert, had been killed in an explosion at a coal mine in Pictou, Colo., and Mother and I were on our way back East to visit a sister of my father in Danville, Ill.

We arrived in Chicago during a torrential rain and as soon as Mother had looked after the baggage, we went to the ticket window to buy a ticket for Danville.

I heard my mother say to the agent behind the iron grating, "Don't bother, please, finishing with that ticket. What time does section two leave for Danville?"

I saw that her naturally pink cheeks appeared bloodless and the pupils of her large gray eyes were so dilated that her eyes appeared



ELSIE JUMPER

black. I became frightened that she was sick as she was the night she was informed that my father had been killed.

The agent said, "Lady, your ticket is finished and you better go on section one, because sections

two and three will be overcrowded."

Mother replied, "But I am not going on section one." She took my hand and I followed her across the depot to a bench. When we sat down, mother pulled me to her side, kissed me on the cheek and said, "Perhaps I'm wrong. But we're not going on section one."

I snuggled down on the bench and soon was fast asleep. I was waked by mother shaking me and I heard the train caller announcing the track number of section two.

The rain continued the entire trip and when we neared Danville the conductor came through the train telling the passengers, "When we reach the river, don't get excited. There's been a wreck on the bridge across the Wabash."

I heard mother say to herself, "I knew it!"

The train stopped at a distance of about four city blocks from the Wabash River bridge. A high wind was blowing and the rain was coming down in great sheets. Men were moving rapidly about with lighted lanterns and we heard the screams of men, women and children and the bellowing of cattle.

The sky was lead-colored. Thunder rumbled and lightning forked through the sky. Vision was poor, but people were climbing down from the train and pushing through ankle-deep mud toward the scene of the accident. In the center of the

bridge over the Wabash river section number one, loaded with happy visitors from the World's Fair in Chicago, had collided head-on with a train of cattle on their way to the stock yards in Chicago.

Horse-drawn vehicles began arriving at the train we were on, to transport passengers to the depot in Danville. When we arrived, we found my father's sister in a hysterical condition as Mother had wired her that we would leave Chicago at 10 o'clock that night on section number one, and it was now in the river, with most of the passengers either drowned or dying.

I never knew until I was a young woman what kept my mother from boarding the ill-fated train. She told me that when the agent punched the last hole in the ticket she heard a voice whisper in her ear, "Don't go on that train! You'll be killed!"—*San Diego, Calif.*

DEATH AND MY MOTHER

By Carole McKinney

DEATH HAD a strange way of announcing his intentions to my mother. My first awareness of anything out of the ordinary about her occurred when I was a child in Cleveland, Ohio.

At the breakfast table one morning Mother related a dream she had had the night before concerning her father, who lived in New York. Mother said she and Dad

were playing Bridge with another couple in the living room when Grandfather walked out of the bedroom.

Mother exclaimed, "Why, what are you doing up at this hour of the night?"

Grandfather replied, "Hilda, I'm tired of that old bed and I'm not going to stay there another minute!"

Less than an hour after Mother told her story a telegram came from New York saying that Grandfather had died during the night.

On another occasion Mother woke Dad out of a sound sleep, crying, "Poor Harold! His head was hurting him so much. He had both his hands pressed against his temples and told me he had to leave the pain behind."

Dad tried to reassure her that it was just a dream and that her brother, Harold Orcutt, never had a severe headache in his life. But the next day a telegram notified us that Uncle Harold had died of a brain concussion resulting from an automobile accident the night before.

In April, 1943, Mother went to the hospital for a minor operation and died on the operating table. The sad duty of informing friends and relatives of our loss rested upon my sister and me, both of us in our teens.

We dug out the box of stationary

at home, prepared to tackle the unwelcome task to the best of our ability. We were amazed to find inside the box envelopes pre-addressed by Mother and ready for mailing. A note in Mother's handwriting expressed her regret at having to leave us and gave instructions as to where we would find our Christmas presents for the following December.

I often have wondered in what guise Death made his final appearance to Mother.—*Indianapolis, Ind.*

THE WOMAN ON THE TRAIN

By Mildred Meadows

MY MOTHER always has been what I call a "psychic person." When I was a child she dreamed I was going to catch measles before there was a case in town. One morning she hurriedly gathered all our bonds and important papers, which we kept in chest drawers, and rushed off to a safety deposit box with them because of a dream she had had the previous night. She said that in this dream she saw a man entering our house, rifling through our possessions and putting things into his pockets. Two days later, while we were away, someone did enter our house, emptied all the drawers and took numerous valuables.

In 1915, when Mother was 22 years old, her mother developed cancer. As they lived in a small

town where medical facilities were limited, Mother took grandmother to Kansas City, Mo., by train. Doctors were to operate to remove the cancer, which was on Grandmother's face, as soon as they arrived.

Mother was deeply worried about Grandmother. To make matters worse, she was uncomfortable on the train and unable to sleep, although she was exhausted. She got up to sit a few seats away from Grandmother in order to stretch out. She was staring at the door at the end of the coach when a woman, dressed all in black, appeared.

The woman walked up to Mother and said quietly, "I have come with a message for you." Mother said she never had seen the woman before and wondered what she possibly could have to say.

The woman bent slightly toward Mother and said, "I have come for your mother."

Mother said she started crying and shaking her head. The woman said again, "I have come for your mother. I will come for you later." Then she turned, walked to the end of the coach and out the door.

Mother turned to a woman in the seat behind her and asked, "Did you see the woman who was just talking to me?" The woman replied that she had not seen anyone talking to Mother.

Another woman, sitting in front of Mother, also said she had seen no one.

Grandmother never recovered. The operation was unsuccessful and she passed away a short time later.—*Denton, Texas.*

MY PSYCHIC WARNINGS

By Mabel Bell Kelley

IN JANUARY, 1942, a widow I had hired to care for my father in Hartford, N.Y., suddenly left him. He was alone, sick and a blizzard was raging.

I knew nothing of this until that night when I had a vision of him while asleep and heard him say, "Oh, Mabel, I am so sick and lonely. I need you. Please come."

I woke sobbing. My husband asked what was the trouble. When I told him he was skeptical and went back to sleep.

Early in the morning a next-door neighbor of Father's phoned me and verified the details of my dream. My husband and I went to Hartford and brought Father home with us, to Schenectady, N.Y., where he remained until his death five years later.

One night I attended a seance at which the medium told me that my mother was standing near me, holding a lighted candle and saying, "Tell John I have come to help him across."

The next morning my father

came downstairs and gave me the same message. I was stunned, realizing his days were numbered, but tried to cheer him.

A few days later he was stricken without warning and died in Ellis Hospital soon afterward. A short time later my husband died and I was alone.

One morning I hurriedly was preparing to leave the house and go to work. As I was about to step outside and close the door, I suddenly was attracted by the sound of beautiful music in the room. I glanced at the radio but saw it was turned off. Still I heard the music. It seemed to draw me to the other side of the room. I followed and it led me directly to the furnace controls on the wall. There, to my horror, I saw that I had left the drafts wide open. I quickly closed them and whispered, "Thank you, dear spirit friends, for saving my home."—*Orlando, Fla.*

THE MISSING BROTHER

By Lonnie E. Legge

IN MARCH, 1948, R. G. Tinnel, who was 48 years of age, lost his balance while crossing a footlog over the turbulent Birch River in West Virginia and drowned. For two weeks search parties unsuccessfully sought the missing man.

A woman who lived nearby claimed she could tell where to

find the body. Going into a supposed, self-induced trance, she said, "I see a man that looks as if he was dead lying on the river bank, but am unable to tell just where it is."

After searching up and down the river for a few days, the three Tinnel brothers decided they had a false lead and asked the woman for more detailed directions. She tried again but claimed "the picture was not coming in clear." She finally gave up trying to locate the drowned man.

A relative of the Tinnel brothers, Clarence Hoard, wrote them to consult Mrs. Faith Brinson of Charleston, W. Va., a non-professional medium. As a last resort, the brothers drove to Charleston. Mrs. Brinson, who was about 45 years of age, went into a self-induced trance and almost immediately began mumbling indistinctly. Finally she was heard to say, "I see a man with real short hair. He is wearing a red mackinaw and an undershirt, but nothing more."

Again her voice trailed off into a mumble, but the Tinnels knew she had described their missing brother because they had found his trousers near the footlog on the first day of the search. Evidently he had cast off his clothing so as to swim more freely.

Mrs. Brinson continued in a

clearer tone, "I can see him plainly, now. He seems to be under some logs at the mouth of a small stream that empties into the river. You all have been looking in the wrong place. Look closely and you will find him deep in the water."

She firmly refused all offers of money saying, "I work at manual labor for my living, but do not think it right to accept money for helping those in distress. God can take away as well as give this wonderful power if we abuse it. Go with my best wishes."

Back at Birch River another search party quickly was organized. The men followed Mrs. Brinson's directions but did not find the body the first day or the second. She was consulted again, this time by telephone. She stood firm on the directions she had given while in trance. "You will find the body at the very spot you have been searching if you dive deep enough. Remember I said it is deep in the water."

The brothers returned to the log-jam. The best diver in the search party went down to the very bottom of a deep hole in the water and finally found a body jammed under a log. It was brought to the surface and identified by the brothers as R. G. Tinnel. He was dressed just as Mrs. Brinson had described. The body was well-

preserved by the icy mountain water.—*Lewisburg, W. Va.*

CALL ON A BATTLESHIP

By Mildred Meadows

IN 1941 I was 17 years old and very much in love with a boy stationed on the battleship U.S.S. *Oklahoma*. We wrote each other regularly and lived only for the day when he would be home.

On December 5, 1941, I received a letter from him dated November 28, 1941, in which he related a strange experience he had had the night before. He wrote that as he lay wide awake in his bunk he suddenly heard my voice calling his name. He tried to answer me but could not. He seemed to be bound with ropes so that he was unable to move.

He asked me if I were in trouble and needed him. He said nothing like this ever had happened to him before and he was certain it meant something.

He wrote that on coming out of whatever had taken control of him he was drenched with perspiration and so weak he hardly could rise from his bunk.

I wrote him immediately, but he never received my letter. He was lost when the *Oklahoma* was bombed at Pearl Harbor. I was crying and calling his name.—*Denton, Texas.*



Field Theory and Gravity Drive

Here is a report on current research and theory in the quest for a better space ship drive—spurred by UFO's.



By Max B. Miller

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Electro-magnetic or electro-gravitational force-fields, according to most scientists and researchers in this field, have the greatest potential for future space travel, and seem to indicate that this area of propulsion is now directly related to the various characteristics of unidentified aerial objects.

This *field theory*, as it is commonly designated, is known by several names—all of which tend to add to the confusion. Electro-gravitic, G-field, and electro-static are several of the names by which this area of propulsive mechanics are known.

The UFO reports that purport

color changes, tremendous velocities, the general shape of a circular airfoil, lack of visible means of propulsion, rapid accelerations, and right-angle changes in direction all but prove the G-field hypothesis.

Hermann Oberth declared his belief in the extra-terrestrial saucer before the International Astronautical Congress at Innsbruck, Germany, in 1954. The behavior of the UFO, he explained, discounts any means of propulsion—including the reaction rocket—known to us. The savant told the gathering that the principle of an "anti-gravity device" might be expected.

The Canadian Government in 1953 established Project Magnet. Headed by Wilbert B. Smith, this project was initiated for the development of a disc-shape aircraft to be powered by electro-magnetic energy. Smith professes his acceptance of UFO's, stating there is a 91 percent probability that they do, indeed, exist as material objects, and only about a 10 percent possibility that they are of earthly origin.

The advantages of the field-theory vs. the reaction, bi-fuel concept are manifold. A few are as follows:

1. Low cost of energy. Not the billions of dollars for fuel as required by the rocket system. Theoretically, the outer-spatial vehicle need only be started and then will continue in its acceleration until the desired velocity is reached.

2. There is but one form of acceleration known to us which will not result in the uncomfortable G-load. This is the force ("push" or "pull"—varying upon the theorist) of gravity the earth exerts upon every particle and atom in its mass, and on into outer space, *ad infinitum*.

Falling towards earth, a body accelerates at the speed of 32.2 feet per second, per second. And yet there is a feeling of "weightlessness." Therefore, we may be able to look for no danger nor ap-

parent discomfort from the electro-magnetic or electro-gravitic principle.

3. The airfoil should be capable of enormous velocities within the earth's atmosphere. (Neither the rocket nor any other type of known projectile can now withstand the tremendous atmospheric friction. At a critical speed—designated by some as the Thermal Barrier—the aircraft melts.)

There are several rather involved hypotheses relating to frictionless characteristics apparently exhibited by the UFO during high speed flight.

The general concept is that the energy field—be it magnetic or gravitational—influences and "captures" the air within its immediate vicinity and its effect diminishes by the square of the distance. The only result, in this case, would possibly be an aureole-effect surrounding the UFO. Such a resultant "glow"—if that it be—has oft-times been included in such reports, particularly those made at night. In fact, the color of the "glow" has been reported to change in direct relationship to the acceleration and/or velocity of the object.

This same energy field may also prohibit—possibly by a new concept of a frequency "block" or refraction—ultra-violet and cosmic radiations from penetrating the craft.

4. Again theoretically, velocities near to and of the speed of light should be achieved easily, as it may conceivably be possible to travel along magnetic lines of force or kindred radiation. Possibly a better analogy would be to picture a radio tuning to a certain frequency. Let us assume that the UFO can "tune-in" on the radiation: to a slight degree at first, thereby gradually increasing ascension and/or acceleration. As the "tuning" nears its peak or the frequency emanation is amplified, the acceleration would become more pronounced, and almost limitless. In this respect the term "absorption" can possibly be used to describe the principle.

Of course the process would be reversed for deceleration and landing. To hover it should be simple to "tune" or to inversely amplify the radiation with a neutral result.

Still, it may be argued that even by traveling at the speed of light it would take us some four-years-plus to reach our nearest interstellar neighbor, Proxima Centauri. This field of cosmology is pure conjecture and, in the author's opinion, cannot be treated objectively. Some cosmologists feel that space is curved—or "warped." Therefore, conceivably—by this unique method—it may be possible not to "warp" space but to

directly approach our destination. But this is delving into inter-dimensional concepts—something far too complex and too limited in present-day knowledge to dwell upon here.

A VASTLY INCREASING interest in the anti-gravity thesis has been indicated over the past several years. The research manufacturing concerns of Glenn L. Martin, General Electric, Hughes Aircraft, Lear, Inc., Gluhareff Helicopter Airplane Corp., Clarke Electronics, and Sperry-Rand are a *few of those* now actively engaged in gravity research projects.

The Gravity Research Foundation is a non-profit organization founded for the study and dissemination of data and new concepts as related to anti-gravitational theory.

In a bulletin titled "Gravity and Metallurgy," the Foundation's President, George M. Rideout states:

"For six years this Foundation has been busy interesting scientists to seek means of 'harnessing' gravity. From the first, it was believed that a *differential* must be discovered in order to make a gravity motor. Furthermore—with the possible exception of the automobile—we insisted that no outside power be used. In other words,

any acceptable motor must operate as 'perpetual motion' using only gravity or some supernatural force as power.

"So far as we now know, the above requires and awaits the discovery of an insulator, deflector or absorber of gravity in order to bring about such a differential. This thought has been the basis of 485 essays which have been submitted to the Foundation during the past six years. For the most original of these it has given awards amounting to \$10,800."

At the Gravity Day Meeting, New Boston, N.H., on August 18, 1956, President Rideout told the gathering "how the attitude toward the Foundation had changed over the years from open scoffing to serious interest, the most marked change having taken place in the past year and a half."

He related the Foundation's "three purposes which still govern its activities:

"1. To stimulate interest in the field of gravity through awards for essays.

"2. To serve as a free clearing house for everyone seriously interested in the application of gravity to practical uses.

"3. To have the best library and files on gravity in the country, open freely to anyone."

In a paper titled "Why I Think the Force of Gravity Is Con-

trollable," Charles Tilger, Jr., of the Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation, told the Gravity Day Meeting that he felt "when we finally discover the means for control, it will very likely . . . be something which we have encountered frequently and failed to recognize."

Additional support for the anti-gravitic theory, and the extra-terrestrial saucer, comes from William P. Lear, renowned for his development of the F-5 electronic automatic pilot, now in strategic use by the U.S. Air Force and winner of the Collier's Annual Aviation Award. On February 2, 1955, Lear elaborated upon his beliefs in an Associated Press story on why he accepted the reality of the UFO:

1. "*Numerous manifestations have been made over long periods of time.*

2. "*Many observations have been made simultaneously by reliable observers.*

3. "*There are great possibilities of scientific reality if the latest theory of electro-gravitation field is proved.*

4. "*Actual serious efforts are now in progress to prove the existence of anti-gravitational forces . . .*"

One research project to attempt to propel a discoid airfoil by an electro-static forcefield is headed

by T. Townsend Brown, an American with 30 years experience in the field.

According to recent information, "security" supposedly prevents the researcher from divulging any specifics on the performance of their *latest* experimentation. But it has been reported that, utilizing a "localized gravity field," circular airfoils two feet in diameter have flown around an area 20 feet, across, with a speed of 17 feet per second (about 12 m.p.h.). Induced with 50 kilovolts and 50 watts of "continuous energy," an electrical condenser coordinates the power and mechanical function.

According to one report in *Interavia* (May 1956), the Swiss Review of World Aviation, a three-foot airfoil using 150 kilovolts of power on a 50 foot aircourse, indicated "results so impressive as to be highly classified." Work is reported to be presently under way to develop a power supply of up to fifteen million volts.

Brown seems to feel, contrary to Dr. Einstein, that this area of electro-static field propulsion may not be limited to the boundaries of the velocity of light. He adds, however, that this is yet to be proved.

"Gravity isotopes," Brown relates, "may ultimately create contra-gravity fields for varied uses—both on earth and for outer-spatial travel." Also, says *Interavia*, some

materials have been reduced in weight by *energizing* them. This was not—for "security" reasons—defined, and can mean almost anything.

ANOTHER AMERICAN project on theoretical energy fields is being conducted at the University of North Carolina, and apparently in association with the Institute of Field Physics, Winston-Salem. Dr. Bryce S. DeWitt directs this program, which is known as the North Carolina Project.

And in England, the Aviation Studies (International), Ltd., has established a Gravity Research Group. Their *Aviation Report* of 12 October 1954 stated that a "combat type disc" was under development to achieve a speed of three times the speed of sound (Mach 3).

"Tentative targets now being set," the report stated, "anticipate that the first disc should be completed before 1960 . . ."

A confidential summary of this and other projects is contained in the report on *Electrogravitics Systems*, published by Aviation Studies.

Many of these projects were actually brought into existence through Einstein's noted Unified Field Theory. As early as 1919, this great scientist concluded a paper before the Prussian Academy

of Sciences by saying, "The preceding reflections indicate the possibility of theoretical construction of matter from gravitational field and electro-magnetic field . . ."

The Unified Field Theory proposes to resolve one of science's great anomalies—the basic differences of electro-gravity and electromagnetism, the two fundamental forces of nature. This hypothesis as set forth by Dr. Einstein is the cosmological attempt to bridge the microcosm with the macrocosm—from the smallest atomic particle to the largest interstellar supergalaxy. In this respect, the gravitational effect of a star or planet, the macrocosm, may be paralleled to the magnetic attraction of an invisible electron, the microcosm.

Einstein, who spent a quarter-century in culminating this hypothesis, once said that it "is intolerable to the theoretical spirit" to believe "there are two structures of space independent of each other . . ."

To demonstrate the import of such a postulation, the noted Briton, Bertrand Russell, once observed: "When we have told how things behave when they are electrified, and under what circumstances they are electrified, we have told all there is to know."

The reported flight characteristics of the UFO have presented some unique problems for the re-

searcher. One such researcher is Leonard G. Cramp, M.S.I.A., and Member of the British Interplanetary Society. He has attempted to apply a practical solution to the enigma in his book, *Space, Gravity and the Flying Saucer*. (The British Book Centre, New York, 1955). He theorizes, like so many before him, that the craft utilize a gravity-field principle.

"The theory," says Cramp in his foreword, ". . . was originally conceived prior to the second world war, and certainly long before the term 'Flying Saucer' came into general use. Can it be wondered therefore that the author took more than a casual interest in the significance of the many sightings? Indeed, the more he sifted the available information, the greater became his conviction that such a craft actually existed, and that there was more than a little justification for his theory. The reports coming in from ordinary people all over the world provided evidence of a phenomenon that he had hitherto only dreamt of.

"Rocket enthusiasts may naturally be reluctant to admit an entirely different conception of space travel, and may therefore adopt a skeptical attitude towards the interplanetary flying saucer hypothesis. However, it is hoped that . . . the flying saucer reports do suggest an alternative and more

attractive method of space travel. Neither need we await further developments in physical science; the pioneer never has waited, and never will, upon others when he has become inspired by a new idea.

" . . . It may well be, even in our own time," he continues, "that men will discover the key with which to unlock a force that is all about us and so enable us to use it for all our industries, transport, and finally, space travel."

The author goes on to say:

"Left to its natural conclusions, the development of the rocket as a space vehicle will obviously go through several stages. First, there is the bi-fuel step rocket principle that is being explored today. Secondly, the more advanced nuclear reaction rocket at present only dreamed of. Finally, as a result of findings brought out by atomic research, an entirely different and far more efficient means of anti-gravity will be discovered.

"Left to itself, the evolution of the rocket to this stage will take a long time, perhaps as long as did the evolution of the internal combustion engine . . .

"Must we persevere with the rocket as a means of interplanetary flight? Is there not another way to hasten the process? Yes, I am convinced that there is a better way to the stars . . . In some respects it may be a disquieting

thought to us who are rocket technicians and enthusiasts that the rocket may never be employed as an interplanetary machine. It is perhaps a discouraging thought and will not be well received by many, but if we are truly determined in our efforts to get to the stars we should welcome the possibility of a better means of doing so and be glad to examine any theory without prejudice."

Concluding, Author Cramp cautions, ". . . To cling to the rocket as a means of interplanetary transport and to deny the possibility of a better means is to exhibit a bias not worthy of scientific thought."

ANOTHER WHO DISPAR-
ages the rocket concept is former astronomer, M. K. Jessup. In 1926-27 Jessup served as a temporary instructor in astronomy at the University of Michigan, and later assisted Professor R. A. Rossiter in completing the erection of the University's 27-inch refracting telescope at Bloemfontein, South Africa. As observing assistant to Professor Rossiter, Jessup discovered 803 physical double stars during his stay of three to four years.

In presenting *The Case For the UFO* (The Citadel Press, New York, 1955), Jessup writes: "*It should be obvious to all engineers and scientists that rocket propul-*

sion will never solve the problems of space travel, not only because of the unavoidable problems of acceleration, but because of the impossibility of transporting the necessary fuel and carrying the heavy reactance motors."

He adds, rather strongly:

"If the money, thought, time, and energy now being poured uselessly into the development of rocket propulsion were invested in a basic study of gravity, it is altogether likely that we could have effective and economical space travel, at a small fraction of the ultimate cost which we are now incurring, within one decade."

One of the characteristics displayed by the UFO which has often been mentioned by the skeptic as unlikely to impossible are abrupt stops and sudden right-angle turns so many times included in sighting reports. Jessup sums up the general precept of the gravitic engineer and UFO researcher as relevant to the mystery—

"Any force which would simultaneously accelerate every molecule of either the living body or the mechanical structure would avoid all such stresses, and both the living and the mechanical could undergo any amount of acceleration without the slightest damage or discomfort!"

Possibly the most recent contribution to the G-field principle

has come from the noted French pilot, Lt. Jean Plantier.

The concept does not basically differ from the many others as herein expounded. But instead of traveling along magnetic or kindred radiation, or using an electro-static condenser, Plantier proposes the force-field theory should be applied to cosmic energy (or radiation).

In his excellent book, *The Truth about Flying Saucers* (Criterion Books, New York, 1956), Author and science writer Aime Michel explains: "A way exists to liberate this energy, by transforming it into energy of a more degraded kind, in the same way, for example, as the stroke of a hammer against an anvil transforms kinetic into thermal energy."

The "liberation of this cosmic energy," Michel continues, "makes it possible to create, at the point where it operates, a local field of force that can be varied and directed at will. This local field may be likened to the magnetic field existing in a solenoid, or between the poles of a magnet or of the earth itself."

And that just about brings us up to date on the experimentation, research and theory which has so far evolved on the force-field concepts of electro-magnetic or gravitic propulsion. As can be seen, the theory is not new, nor is it limited to any one precept or mode of op-

eration. This field of endeavor, as was strongly intimated, is rapidly gaining momentum. With governmental support and foundation

and private research, the simple, long-awaited answer is eventually forthcoming. When that will be—no one knows.



FATE CHOOSES A DOORSTEP

By Alfred I. Tooke

TWO HUNDRED years ago eight sailors on leave in London headed for the nearest grog shop.

"There's a hanging at Tyburn today," someone there told them. "They're stringing up 10 of them. Go around by Newgate Prison and you can follow them in the cart all the way to Tyburn."

But the sailors' throats were dry and not until the hangman's job was over did they join the crowd around the gallows, greatly disappointed to have missed half the "fun."

Among the men hanged was a John Lancaster who, according to the sources *The Old Bailey and its Trails* and *Wesley and His Preachers*, had been converted while in Newgate by a Methodist minister named Silas Told.

When the hangman cut down Lancaster's body, he asked the crowd, "Who claims this corpse?" Since bodies sometimes went unclaimed it was the custom for medical students to claim them for use in dissection classes. When nobody claimed Lancaster's body, some students promptly did so. But one of the

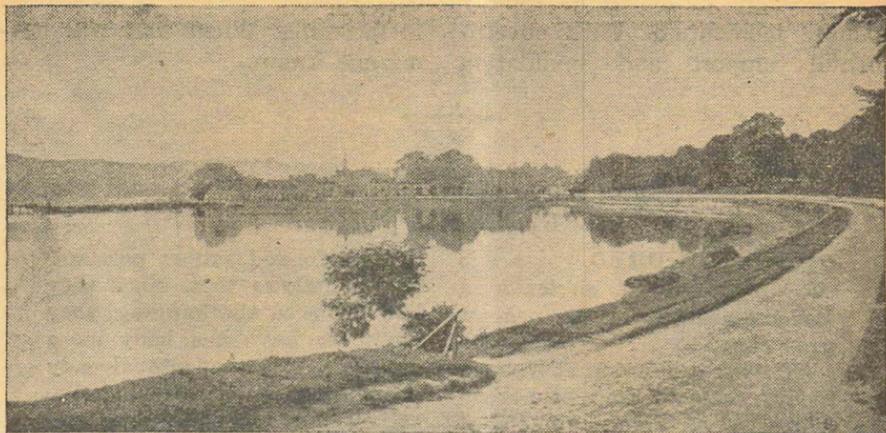
drink-befogged sailors persuaded his fellows that, since they had not seen the hanging, they ought to have the body as a souvenir. The students already were carrying it off, but the sailors pursued them and won the ensuing battle. Two of them hoisted the corpse on their shoulders and walked off with it.

They took turns carrying the corpse, but at last, miles away from Tyburn, they were exhausted and sober. Deciding to abandon their burden, they left it on the nearest doorstep.

A crowd quickly collected and a woman in the house, hearing the noise, opened the door. She stared at the corpse, then, according to records left by Silas Told, exclaimed, "This is my son, John Lancaster!"

Fate had used the eight sailors to claim John Lancaster's body, not knowing his identity or where he had lived, and to carry it past many hundreds of doorsteps, to leave it on the one doorstep out of the tens of thousands in the great city where his mother would open the door and say, "This is my son, John Lancaster!"

WHERE IS YESTERDAY?



Along this road two men saw a huge army march toward them.
Then it vanished! Was it a scene from the past?

By Harvey Day

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MOST of us are concerned with what happens in the future; the events of today are almost instantly relegated into the past. But sometimes past incidents are flashed back upon the screen of the mind so vividly that the eye can see them.

If the eye can see them, then there is some justification for assuming that the past is not obliterated.

Men and women have dreamt of

crimes already committed; dreams that showed in detail the locality of the crimes, the faces and forms of the victims and those who killed them.

These were all conveyed to the dreamers' minds as if actually taking place, and with such accuracy that police have been led to the various spots by people who gave descriptions of such crimes.

What power or force is it that can snatch a picture out of the

past and transplant it in a dreaming man's mind as if the incident were just taking place? If, as we think, the past no longer exists, then this should be impossible, for according to the school of Sartre the mere existence of something is proof that it is.

It follows, therefore, that if we can see an event out of the past, such as in the case of the remarkable Versailles story, then it must have an existence.

ONE of the most extraordinary of such cases occurred in the summer between the years 1746 - 1753, the nearest that Archibald Bell, a farmer of Inverary, could place the event when he recorded it many years later.

Bell wrote it down exactly as told him by his father and grandfather, a farmer of Glenary.

One morning Bell senior, wishing to transact business in Glenshiray, set out with his son. They crossed the hill into the town, finished their business and were on the return journey by midday.

No sooner did they approach Garron Bridge and turn towards Inverary upon the high road than they beheld a vast concourse of men marching towards them.

The foremost ranks had then advanced only as far as Kilmalieu in regular order, packed close, and according to the writer, "they

stretched from the point of the New Town near the Quay where Captain Gillies' house now stands, along the shore and the high road and across the River Arry near the Town, about the spot where the new bridge has since been built."

The army stretched so far into the distance that the rearguard could not be seen.

As it advanced, they walked slowly towards it, the old man noting that it had 15 or 16 pairs of colors and that the men marching nearest to them were walking six or seven abreast.

With them marched, as was the custom at the time, women and children, both above and below the road, carrying cans and other cooking utensils.

The men were clad in scarlet and the sun glinted on their muskets and bayonets, dazzling the two who watched this colorful array.

And somewhere in the middle distance was a large animal amid the ranks, the soldiers prodding it on with knives and bayonets.

YOUNG Bell had never seen an army before, for large bodies of armed men did not often venture into the remote Highlands; but his father, who had served in the Rebellion of 1745, assumed that they had come from Ireland, landed at Cantyre, and were making their way south to England.

One peculiarity struck young Bell. "Why," he asked the old man, "are the rear ranks constantly running to catch up with those in front?"

His father explained that when on the march there was always some confusion in the middle of an army—for armies in those days proceeded like mobs—the rear ranks were constantly being delayed and consequently forced to hurry to keep their positions.

"If ever you get forced into the Army," he advised, "always try to join the front ranks, which march at a leisurely pace and are never held up."

The army was now some 150 yards from them, and they observed a body of some 40-50 men led by an officer on foot, some little way in front.

A few paces behind rode an officer of Dragoons—or so they concluded from the trappings of his horse. He wore a gold laced hat and a blue Hussar cloak with wide open sleeves lined with red; boots and spurs.

Bell senior observed him so intently as to swear later that he would know him again instantly if they met.

AT that period all able-bodied men went in fear of press gangs, for men were forced not only into the Navy, but into the

Army as well, so young Bell felt it inadvisable to linger on the road, as he had little wish to spend years in some foreign land.

So both scaled a stone dyke behind some thorn bushes, and only when they felt safely hidden did young Bell look at the road to see the army march by.

The road, which a few moments ago had been thronged with humanity, was deserted!

He rubbed his eyes and asked his father to look, but never a sign of a uniform could they see!

Then it occurred to the old man that there had been no cloud of rising dust, which on those broken roads was always created by men, horses and vehicles.

They clambered over the dyke again and onto the road as an old resident from Glenshiray, named Stewart, came towards them driving a horse. "What has become of all the soldiers?" they asked.

"I've seen none," said Stewart. All the information he volunteered was that as the heat had made his horse sag from fatigue, he had dismounted and was driving it.

TO his dying day Farmer Bell believed that their vision was a peep into the future, but his son said that the uniforms and arms of the soldiers belonged to a past period.

It may be added that both were

abstemious men and on this occasion had taken nothing stronger than milk ere they set out for home.

They made guarded inquiries from people who must have seen an army if in reality an army had marched, but no one had. Nor, when they examined the road for footprints, could they find any.

Archibald Bell made careful notes of the story, which was re-

counted many times by both his father and grandfather, dour men not given to exaggeration. He could find no satisfactory explanation.

Was this a chapter of the past unfolding itself, and if so, to what purpose, and why to only two men? Or was it merely a mirage? There seems to be too much detail for this to be the answer. Perhaps some reader can throw light on the matter.



THE EQUALITY OF MAN

THE RACES of man, by and large, are equal in mental ability, according to anthropologist Ashley Montagu in his new book, *Man: His First Million Years*. "Human beings anywhere can learn to do the things that men have anywhere done," Montagu says. He believes that the intensity rather than the quantity of brains in any human skull is what matters.

The reason some groups of humanity are culturally more advanced in some respects than others, Montagu says, is because their opportunities have been greater and not because of some supposed innate superiority. He states, "No group of human beings is of less value in the scale of humanity than any other, for all groups of human beings possess the potentialities for development

which, under the proper environmental stimulation, would enable them to contribute maximally to the achievement of humanity."

Montagu feels that every culture can be considered "the historic result of a people's attempt to adjust itself to its environment." Up to the 20th century that environment usually was enclosed within narrow boundaries. Today the boundaries separating races are crumbling, with the result that Mankind is moving toward unity and uniformity. Montagu looks forward to the day when "the differences that today separate men will be regarded, not as causes for suspicion, fear and discrimination, but as no more important than the differences which separate the members of the same family."

It was the most unique test in television history. Viewers participated in demonstrating the power of mind over matter.

ESP

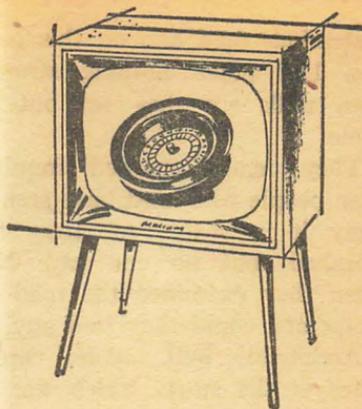
works in TV experiment

By Jack Bell

In 1955 Motivational Research was perhaps the most talked about new gimmick in television advertising. Quiz shows were at the peak of their popularity and top television personalities were getting the rating jitters.

Universal Telefilm Productions in New York was seeking a new kind of audience participation—especially for integrated commercials. They wanted a commercial

in which the unseen mass audience could participate from their living rooms. This was to be tied in with sale displays all over the country. They hoped to hit the advertising jackpot. They were considering Extra Sensory Perception but it had to appeal to serious-minded business men who are constantly seeking new, effective methods of transmitting their advertising message. The problem, of



course, was that such men often are afraid that telepathy or ESP border on lunacy.

I am an associate producer at Universal and I recall vividly the production meeting at which Extra Sensory Perception commercials were born.

We were contemplating a startling new entertainment series. Jerry Siegel, the creator of Superman, had submitted a script called *Sam Sage*. The hero was a television news commentator who fought evil by using various kinds of ESP, with the idea written in that the viewer also could hope to use ESP. Its main idea was to encourage the use of the mind and thoughts for good. Each episode was to end with a five minute period of ESP experiments for the home audience. The cost of producing this series of 26 half hours finally was considered prohibitive and the whole project was shelved as too much of a gamble.

The next suggestion was to have Romir supervise the filming of 26 off-beat documentaries, consisting of factual reports on ESP phenomena, interviews with mediums and spiritualists, and ending each film with the home audience participating in an ESP experiment. The audience was to draw its own conclusions, after witnessing Romir's presentation.

Romir, in 1955, was executive

producer with Universal and has one of the most unusual backgrounds in film history. Before World War II he was known as Romir the Mystic. He did mind-reading and had helped solve the myriad problems of Hollywood. He also had a reputation as an expert in occultism. I first met him in Hawaii where he served in my outfit as a private early in 1941.

I was present in September, 1941, when he actually pictured the bombing of Pearl Harbor during an "entertaining" mock seance.

Edgar Rice Burroughs, as a war correspondent in 1942, wrote many items about Romir, the United States Army's most unusual private. After the war Romir took part in tests with Dr. J. B. Rhine which proved that thoughts have measurable energy and that 18 minds, concentrating together on a roulette wheel, can make it stop at a chosen number much oftener than the laws of chance allow. In 1950, on my recommendation, Romir had come to work for Universal.

At this meeting Romir recommended that, for the time being, we drop plans for producing shows with new and startling themes. He said the public might be ready but the television industry and the sponsors definitely were not. Concentrate on making ESP commercials only, he argued, since the

average sponsor cares more about his commercial message than he does the quality of the show anyway. Romir believed these commercials would have more real entertainment value than most shows and would offer, not only perfect rapport between the large unseen audience and the studio and, more important, the sponsor's message, but would be the beginning of the most exciting armchair adventure in broadcasting history. Could the viewers make their thoughts felt in the studio and actually witness the results on their home screens? was the theme to build on, he said.

If it is true that 18 minds are able to control a roulette wheel, Romir said, what would happen if hundreds of thousands of minds all over the country concentrated on a roulette wheel in the television studio? Even if this experiment fails, and Romir admitted this was possible, the audience would have been held at such rapt attention that a commercial message could be gotten over more effectively than ever before.

For this first attempt at an Extra Sensory Perception commercial Romir made an appointment for me to see Lincoln Allan, an advertising executive with the Jacob Ruppert Brewery here in New York.

Mr. Allan heard us out when we called on him a week later.

Then he said that, although the idea fascinated him, he could not suggest it as an advertising plan to his agency. They would think he had flipped! But, he said, if we could make the attempt secretly and it succeeded then we could continue. However, if it failed he would deny giving us permission to go ahead.

So in August, 1956, Romir announced that he had found the perfect show for our "secret" ESP experiment—a Spanish language television show called *Skill Vs The Calendar*, Saturday nights from 9:00 to 9:30 p.m. It featured, believe it or not, a huge wheel of fortune with 25 numbers and birthdays. It was conducted by a Spanish Master of Ceremonies called Don Mendez. The station was WATV, channel 13, in Newark, N.J. The program was received throughout the New York Metropolitan area. The show was sponsored by Coco-Rico and El Duque beverages. We obtained permission to include a commercial for Knickerbocker Beer and were placed on the last telecast of the series, Saturday night, September 22, 1956.

With no advance publicity we arrived at the studio at 8:30 p.m., explained to the director of the WATV show, Peter Brysac, what we were going to do. The prop, the roulette wheel, was already on the set and we needed nothing else.

Unexpectedly Romir appeared in the middle of the show. He made his announcement in English. I was sitting with the studio audience of about 20 people, keeping my fingers crossed.

"Tonight," boomed Romir, "you members of the home viewing audience are going to participate in the most exciting living room adventure in entertainment history. Truly a television first! You are going to be pioneer experimenters and observers in Extra Sensory Perception. We are going to hit back at the theory of motivational research which claims that a few advertising minds can control the purchasing habits of the thousands of you out there. What will happen if all of you out there in our unseen audience concentrate together? Can you make your influence and power felt and seen by the few of us here in the studio? In the near future it may be possible for a contestant in an isolation booth on a quiz show to receive the answer to a question by telepathy, an answer sent from the minds of thousands of home viewers. Now, to get on with our experiment!"

Romir walked to the Wheel of Chance.

"For the last 13 weeks you have watched studio contestants spin this wheel. The results are always different, subject to chance, but

up to now you people at home have not really participated."

Romir gave the wheel a turn.

"The wheel has stopped at— number 17. This was just chance. You were all thinking of a different number. Perhaps you do not believe that faith or mind power can control this wheel. Now, let's try again."

At this point I became worried. If the experiment should fail our commercial would be a sad anticlimax. I signalled frantically for Romir to give our beer commercial. There was no script; everything was ad lib. Romir strode back to the table and started to pour a glass of beer from a bottle.

"But folks, before we go on; no powers of Extra Sensory Perception are necessary for you to know that Knickerbocker Beer satisfies your beer thirst better. Your own taste will tell you. So have a Knickerbocker."

Many persons in the studio audience told me afterwards they remembered practically every word of this commercial message.

Romir walked back to the wheel and spun it. It stopped at number four, a birthdate in April.

"Now we want the cooperation of every member of the home viewing audience. If you are joining in this first television experiment just mail your name and address to Operation ESP, care of this station.

We have no flip card ready. You will just have to remember it. You deserve an engraved certificate for being pioneers, but I can promise you no reward.

"Everyone concentrate! Let us attempt together to make this wheel stop at number four again. That is: number four! Picture it in your mind's eye. We regret that this cannot be a series of experiments but we can make only this one attempt tonight. Ready: Director Peter Brysac, cameramen, studio audience, and you people at home! Hold the thought of four! Here we go!"

The wheel was spun. In the small studio audience I have never seen such rapt attention. They really felt that they were part of what was happening. This must have been true for the thousands of persons sitting in front of television screens in their homes also. It was a new experience for them all.

The wheel stopped at four!

After a second of shocked silence the audience in the studio and the cameramen shouted in unison, "It works! It works!"

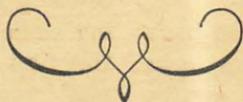
We received over 300 letters and cards from viewers who had joined this first mass ESP experiment.

And this from a Spanish language show with a small audience, with nothing offered and no advance notice. The letters and cards read enthusiastically—"It's wonderful, but what is it?" "It was the most thrilling experience of my life, to think that our thoughts controlled that wheel." "Let us know when there will be more experiments we can join." "At last, something really new on television; gives us doctors something to think about."

On November 1, 1957, Romir telephoned me. He has been commissioned to produce a documentary film on ESP, to educate the public to the powers of the mind. Also, he has an order for more integrated commercials for a show to be produced in 1958 using a panel of sensitives from every walk of life.

While we were talking Romir said to me, "Jack, I have thought of a weird scheme. When the first man goes up into space in a satellite with a television camera perhaps the whole world can send him thought power."

If Romir sees this, then it may be possible—but I wonder if Romir the Mystic will be willing to man the satellite.



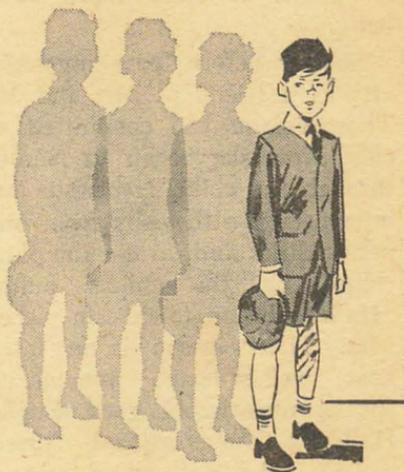
Six-year-old Halldor was a changed person, speaking and acting strangely. It seemed to be a—

REMARKABLE CASE OF SPIRIT OBSESSION

By Horace Leaf

DURING MY RECENT visit to Iceland I met a pretty six-year-old boy who was believed to be obsessed. His parents were greatly worried. They had done all in their power to help the child, but had been only partially successful. Whereas at first there had been, it was said, no fewer than 40 obsessing personalities, they were now reduced to five. These, however, seemed to have become more or less permanent.

The original cause of the boy's affliction appears to have been an accident which befell him a few months before the onset of his extraordinary malady. He fell and struck his head, causing a slight concussion from which he seemed to make a complete recovery. However, the blow apparently split his personality, making him prey to what his parents and others, including one of the leading psychiatrists of Iceland, believe to be an invasion of spirits. In addition to this misfortune, Halldor developed



clairvoyance and clairaudience. He actually saw events which were happening in distant places.

Shortly after the accident, his mother and father had occasion to go to Denmark for a few weeks, leaving Halldor with a friend. On their return this lady advised the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thorsteinson, to take the child to a doctor as she feared he was suffering from a nervous and mental disorder which made him at times confused and incorrigible. To their consternation his parents found

Halldor had undergone a complete change of personality. He did not recognise them. From being extremely quiet and shy he had become boisterous and naughty, acting and speaking sometimes like an adult, at other times like a baby.

Shortly before these mysterious attacks a friend of Mr. and Mrs. Thorsteinsson had committed suicide. Now she began to manifest through the child. Her visits were interspersed with visits from other personalities and, to use the phrase coined by the child's mother, "Halldor began to talk in pieces." Mrs. Thorsteinsson is an intelligent, well-educated woman who speaks remarkably good English. Halldor's conversational "pieces" revealed the natures of some of the obsessing personalities.

Halldor was taken to a leading brain and nerve specialist, who, after carefully examining the child, surprised the parents by informing them that he could do nothing and advising them to take the child to "spiritualists and mediums, because this child is obsessed by spirits." Perhaps in no other country in the world would a qualified psychiatrist give such unorthodox advice. This shows the open-mindedness of Icelanders, and their familiarity with supernormal phenomena. It is well-known that the background of Iceland's religi-

ous beliefs is largely Spiritualistic.

Although Mr. and Mrs. Thorsteinsson had no experience with mediumship, they did as he advised. The child soon showed some improvement. The number of obsessing personalities gradually decreased.

Everybody associated with the case accepted the spirit obsession hypothesis because of the convincing nature of the evidence. Following are a few examples of the kind of what was occurring. Whereas, before the attacks, Halldor had been fond of automobiles, he now feared and avoided them. The reason for this appeared to be that several of the obsessing personalities had met untimely deaths due to motor-vehicles. Occasionally the nature of these accidents was graphically and correctly described. The obsessed child, of course, normally knew nothing about them.

When visiting the country one day, Halldor began talking about an automobile accident, in which he declared he had been flung over a cliff into water and drowned. During this obsession he examined his clothes carefully and expressed astonishment because they were dry. All that he said coincided exactly with an accident that had happened to a member of the family living next door to the house in which Halldor was at the time of the attack. These peo-

ple were total strangers to Mr. and Mrs. Thorsteinsson and, of course to Halldor. It was the first they had heard of the accident.

On another occasion, after Halldor had undergone another change of personality, he began to talk about "the dead" house. He said his body had lain there after his death. He explained to his listeners that the doctors had endeavored in vain to bring life back to his body. It was evident that during this attack that the obsessing intelligence was very uncomfortable. The spirit complained that Halldor's feet were too small, that he felt congested in his body. This was ascribed to the victim of the accident being larger than Halldor. The control lasted for a considerable time, during which the boy ran about the house examining the furniture, which obviously was strange to him.

One of the most interesting of these personality changes occurred when Mrs. Thorsteinsson took the boy to the barber to have his hair cut. As soon as he was in the barber's chair Halldor became obsessed, to the chagrin of his mother and the amazement of the barber, whom Halldor called familiarly by name. He ran about the shop familiarly handling objects, and paid special attention to the cash-register. The barber's name was not known to Mrs. Thorsteinsson

and certainly not to Halldor in his natural state of mind. Now he declared that he was the deceased business associate of the barber—a man who had been dead a considerable time.

During some of his attacks the child experienced clairvoyance with extraordinary accuracy. One day, while at home, he began to run about shouting and screaming that he could see a boat containing three people overturn in the sea. "Throw them a line," he cried. In terror he rushed from the house urging all and sundry to save the drowning people. The next morning the newspapers reported such an accident. It had occurred in a remote part of Iceland.

In another house Halldor saw, clairvoyantly, a man with a rope in his hand. He complained that the man was molesting him. Filled with horror the little boy tried to escape from this influence which, however, persisted. It was discovered that a man answering the description had committed suicide there. During the same attack Halldor repeatedly talked about a congenial old gentleman, dressed as a farmer and evidently afflicted with rheumatism. This described perfectly an old farmer who had lived and died on an adjoining farm.

Here are some of Mrs. Thorsteinsson's own statements regarding the obsession of her son.

"One afternoon, during one of Halldor's attacks, he talked a great deal about London. When in bed on another occasion he said, 'The oxygen tanks are almost empty.' The following morning the first words he spoke on waking were, 'There is so much ising about my head.' Ising is a very uncommon Icelandic word for ice.

"The same morning about 11:00 o'clock, he was standing at the window of the childrens' playroom, when he started shouting that the house was being bombed. He grew exceedingly excited and cried in alarm, 'Now they are throwing bombs at the maternity ward and I must save them'; whereupon he rushed to the door and tried to jump downstairs. This in itself was unusual because at the time he was extremely nervous and would not leave any room unattended. He even had to be accompanied to the bathroom. I ran after him and stopped him, trying, without success to soothe him.

"Next an air-raid seemed to be on. He himself was being attacked because he said, 'They are aiming at my plane; now they have shot through one of the wings. Oh, the blood is streaming down my body.' He became very pale, beads of perspiration ran down his poor little face and he started rubbing the back of his head, as he always did when 'they were around.'

"One day he suddenly cried in deep distress, 'Oh, it is terrible to be dead and yet alive. I would prefer to be completely dead.' Another time when in bed he exclaimed miserably, 'I am tired of being always on the run and throwing bombs. I would like to live my life as other people do.'

Apart from such experiences and language being beyond the scope of an inexperienced, six-year-old child, there is great tragedy in some of the remarks. They express the alarm and fear that so often afflicts service men when in action. It should be remembered that Halldor had lived the secluded life of a well-brought-up Icelandic child, in a city which had never been bombed.

"Often," writes Mrs. Thorsteinson, "the voices speaking through Halldor, talked about him personally. One of them said, 'Halldor is getting stronger. He has a crowd around him. He is a handsome boy and has a light on him.'

"I had heard this entity speak before and, on hearing these words, I said, 'You should run after that light. It might take you to Eyjolfstadis, the place you are always talking about.'

"'Oh yes,' replied the voice 'there the grass is green and the cattle beautiful.'

"During this obsession Halldor spoke in a dialect used only by

people living in certain places on the east coast of Iceland; about 300 miles from Reykjavik. Halldor had never been to that part of the country, nor to the farm mentioned, Eyjolfstadis. Neither I nor my husband knew it existed but later we found that it is situated on the east coast."

Mr. Thorsteinsson accompanied his wife to both of the interviews Halldor held with me. He spoke English quite as well as his wife and nothing was said with which the other did not fully agree. There was, of course, much more of a similar nature, while a good deal had been forgotten. The obsessing influences did not confine their manifestations to the presence of Halldor's father and mother but, I understand, often conversed with the different mediums who had tried to cure the child.

The mediums' methods were prayer for the obsessing personalities, persuasive talks with them, during which they exhorted them not to molest the boy, and attempts to help the spirits settle peacefully in their own world. It appeared that some of the spirits did not realise they were dead. They seemed puzzled and unhappy and, therefore, were amenable to this treatment and gradually ceased to obsess the boy. They even expressed remorse for the trouble they had caused. All of this is obviously beyond the

mentality of one so young as Halldor.

Most of the personalities claimed to have been American and British service men. They spoke as such. Halldor, his mother assured me, has not been taught English, yet occasionally he spoke it perfectly. Some of the entities talked vindictively about killing, both as if actually doing so and as if wishing to.

Halldor I found to be a high-strung, good-looking child of average height. He is blond as are many Icelanders. Mentally he is above average, tests showing a high intelligence quotient. He is full of vitality, but nervous, and it was clear during both interviews with me that he was ill at ease.

He has strong likes and dislikes for people. Evidence indicated that from some persons he received power which made his obsessions more pronounced.

At our first meeting Halldor appeared to dislike me. I received a strong impression that he regarded me as an enemy, not a friend. He wandered about the long room in which we sat, pretended to be interested in the pictures, books and ornaments, while all the time keeping a watchful eye on me. However, during his second visit he condescended to sit on my knee, but I still got the impression that he felt nothing should be done

to interfere with the state of affairs that we were so anxious to remedy.

It was impossible to treat him by psycho-therapy. He was too suspicious and restless. I therefore, decided to adopt the method already tried by the Icelandic mediums and found it worked. There was a decided improvement during the time I saw Halldor and, I understand, this has continued, promising a complete emancipation.

The boy has a strong psychic background on both sides of his family. This is by no means unusual in Iceland. Halldor's mother and father assured me that he saw clairvoyantly when he was only two and half years old. His visions were too veridical to be ascribed to imagination. Two of his aunts and one of his grandmothers were similarly gifted.

There is one peculiarity about Halldor's malady. From the beginning he has failed to recognise his sister, and did not even in his

periods of lucidity, up to the last time I saw him. His sister is devoted to him and, although, he does not reject her, he is not as interested or affectionate with her as when he recognised her.

I interviewed several of the mediums who had treated Halldor, including Mr. Andres Andresson, an outstandingly successful business man and spiritual healer. His healing is done entirely for love. He confirmed all that Mr. and Mrs. Thorsteinsson told me. Mr. J. G. Moller, a high Government official and ex-member of the Althing (Parliament) and an outstanding Icelandic scholar, was thoroughly acquainted with the case and along with Mr. Andresson, does not doubt the accuracy of the obsession theory.

I have dealt with a large number of hysterical and obsessed personalities, using the term obsession in its medical sense, and never have found another case so indicative of spirit obsession.



FAMILY LUCK

WHEN CAUGHT in a downdraft, the light plane in which M. C. McGuire, 45, of Mena, Ark., executive of a construction firm, commuted home, plunged into some woods. The plane was demolished, but McGuire was uninjured. A few hours later McGuire's 17-year-old son, Mickey, was driving along a highway when his car hit a hole in the road and went out of control. The car turned over and was badly damaged, but young McGuire was unscratched.

finale for **FANNY**



Fanny gave an amazing performance—but the way she rang down the curtain was even more spectacular.

By J. P. J. Chapman

In 1924 my wife and I had not been married long. Late that year we were asked to stay with my father and his second wife who were living in Vienna. Also staying with them was my father's mother-in-law; a lady advanced in years. We were glad to accept the invitation as, in those days, owing to the rate of exchange we could afford a very good time in Austria. And we certainly took advantage of it.

All seemed well on the surface, although it seemed to me I felt an undercurrent of unhappiness. Then only a few days after our arrival the old lady, Fanny, took to her bed and after a few days

unexpectedly died.

Her funeral, being a Continental one, was quite elaborate. After it was over my wife and I felt tired and when we returned home decided to rest for an hour in our room. I lay down on the bed and immediately felt very uneasy. Opening my eyes I saw, standing at the foot of the bed on which I lay, the old lady who we had buried but two hours since. I swear I heard her say, in German, "Your father will follow me in 14 days time."

My wife was shocked to hear me suddenly exclaim, "My God!"

She asked what the trouble was

and I told her of my vision. My good lady thought it was a figment of my imagination. Whatever it was, the prediction came true—my father died from heart failure exactly 14 days later.

After Father's cremation we returned to England and lived in his house while I straightened out his affairs.

It was necessary for me to go to London about some matters and on my return I found my wife very much upset. She swore that either burglars or ghosts were entering the house. I told her ghosts were impossible as the house was only 20 years old. I thought burglars unlikely also and did not give it another thought. On going to bed that night I was soon healthily asleep. Sometime later my wife woke me up saying, "Listen, I am *sure* there is somebody in the house."

I listened and certainly there was *something* going on downstairs. I slipped on a dressing gown, put my feet into slippers and padded to the door. It was 11:30 by the luminous clock. I did not put on the light and didn't need it, as it was brilliant moonlight.

Quietly I opened the door and went onto the landing.

There was something coming up the stairs. One—two—thump! One—two—thump! My heart beat faster. Then the thought struck

me: *the old lady*; she used to sound like that with her stick. I was sure it was her. I waited as the steps approached, rounded the bend at the top of the stairs and came along the landing. When the sound was within six feet I snapped on the light—there was *nothing!* No further sound, nobody there!

My wife and I talked about it for a while and then decided to go back to bed. Later the same sounds retreated back down the stairs. Again I went out and could see nothing.

My father's old cook was in the house and I did not want her to hear of this. It was a huge rambling house in Bournemouth and it was possible someone could have given me the slip. I took one of Father's men into my confidence and he came to stay in the house. The old cook, being no fool, somehow got wind of the story, so we had to tell her about the footsteps.

Then for a while nothing further happened. However, one night Fanny came again. We searched the house from top to bottom this time and could find nothing. It was about one in the morning. My wife decided that a "refresher" would be welcome. The women stuck to tea but Father's man and I unearthed a bottle of Scotch, which was more to our liking.

We had not been sitting long when there was a terrific crash on the back stairs. We all rushed out there to find the cupboard that had stood at the top of the stairs lying on its face half-way down, on the landing. On top of this cupboard two wash basins and two jugs, a couple of bed chambers and a bed pan had been stacked. The floor on which they had fallen was stone flags, but not one single dish was chipped or cracked. We two men heaved the cupboard back and replaced the china. We wondered what would come next,

but there never was a sequel. The curtain apparently had rung down; this had been the final scene.

My wife and I have remained convinced it was my step-mother's mother, Fanny, we heard because of the peculiarity of her walk and the thump of her cane. We do not know why she came back, as she had little interest in us; and she had died peacefully. Neither do we understand why the grande finale of the upset cupboard satisfied her, so that she did not return. But there are many, many things we do not understand.



REACHING TOWARD INFINITY

WHETHER THE universe is finite or infinite is a question that long has intrigued scientists. Recently a 20-year project to answer this question was begun by a team of top-ranking authorities in astronomy, physics and mathematics from many of the leading colleges and universities in the United States. They are using in their investigations such instruments as the 200-inch telescope at Mt. Palomar, Calif., the spectroscope and a new, highly sensitive radio telescope device.

The team of scientists al-

ready has reported the existence of a star billions of light-years from Earth. A light-year is the distance light travels in one year. As the speed of light is slightly over 86,000 miles a second, in one year it travels some 2,712,096,000 miles. If one considers multiplying this figure by billions, a rough idea of the distance of the newly discovered star is obtained.

The discovery is significant in that science, although it has penetrated five times farther into the universe than before, cannot begin to find the limits of the finite.

MYSTIC
RELIGION
OF

Zoroaster

This ancient Persian mystic introduced the idea of good versus evil—and giving of the dead to vultures.

By Harry E. Wedeck

EVERY AGE has its dominant religious movement. Every region produces its own prophetic visionary.

In ancient Iran the vibrant, forceful character, whose teachings sank deep into the ethnic consciousness and persisted for centuries, was the mysterious Zoroaster. His life and achievements, his wanderings and the conflicts that assailed him, have become legendary sagas. But there is no doubt whatsoever of Zoroaster's existence. His historical status is unquestioned. He lived and taught among the roving, crushed peoples of Iran some six centuries before Christ. The exact dates of his life are lost in confused obscurity, and some authorities place him as early as 1000 years before the Christian era. We can be sure, however, that from early in the third century B.C.



Zoroastrianism was the supreme religion of the Iranians. There were intervals when it seemed enfeebled and failing, but always it returned with a resurgent vitality.

Zoroastrianism grew and expanded its influence in the course of the centuries. In time it embraced not only the Iranian territory, both East and West, but all the Middle East as well. It was, temporarily, crushed by the triumphant march eastward of Alexander the Great. Yet it did not succumb entirely, or immediately. It went underground, as so many religious cults have done and so displayed amazing vigor into the seventh century A.D.

Even now it has not died, although its influence has diminished. It has thinned out, like a receding tide, while reaching into newer, more distant lands.

What do we know of Zoroaster?

Some knowledge of him is handed down to us in the sacred *Zend-Avesta*, the scriptures of Zoroastrianism, and in the *Pahlavi* books. There are scattered references to him in ancient Oriental scrolls, written in Syrian, Iranian, and Arabic. Detailed material on Zoroaster's personal life appears in the *Gathas*. These are preachings, in versified form, that are traditionally believed to have been written by Zoroaster himself. In addition there is extant a legendary account

of Zoroaster's life in the *Zartusht Namah*—King Zoroaster—dating back to the 13th Century. From an examination of these various sources, conflicting as they often are, we can build a coherent picture of the man and his mission.

To the speculative Greeks, to the scholars and historians of ancient Rome, Zoroaster was already a long established name. The philosopher Aristotle was familiar with Zoroastrian tenets. Later the Roman encyclopedist, Pliny the Elder, and the novelist, Apuleius, as well as the church fathers, Lactantius and Clement, mention him repeatedly.

Zoroaster was called Zoroastres by the Greeks. In the *Avesta* he is called Zarathrushtra. Modern Persia knows him as Zardusht.

He was reputed to be a Magus, a thaumaturgist—miracle worker—and a mystic. These Magi, especially among the Chaldeans and in general throughout Asia Minor, were considered masters of arcane knowledge, custodians of esoteric mysteries, wizards, astrologers, and physicians all in one.

Zoroaster is credited, also, with writing a large body of treatises on theology and nature, on magic and astrology.

Some oriental memoirs and records state that Zoroaster was born in Atropatene, in Media, Western Iran, and was the son of Pourus-

hasha. Other records give his birthplace as the city of Urumiah. At birth, it is written, he broke into laughter, instead of crying as do normal children. Early in his life he had visions. He beheld heavenly abodes. He held conversations with celestial beings.

It was rumored Ahura Mazda had revealed a new religion to him. It was said he had inherited the glory of Yima, the ancient law-giver.

During his lifetime he spent long years in silent meditation in the desert, where he ate only cheese.

Another account makes his home a mountain. When this mountain was destroyed by fire Zoroaster miraculously escaped destruction.

And so the number of fantastic episodes of his life multiplied and merged into legend. The most unique, of course, of all his experiences was his struggle with the demons of the universe whom he finally subdued and dispersed through the world.

One story declares that Zoroaster's death was caused by a lightning flash, as if Heaven had summoned him. Another asserts that he was murdered near an altar at the age of 77, by Turanians, his religious enemies.

Zoroaster was a man alone, sacrosanct, dedicated. In his youth he had observed the difficult lives of his fellows, their nomadic wan-

derings with their sparse flocks, their subservience to the whims of local princes and their temporary dominance, their prospects and unfortunate futures. Zoroaster felt great pity. He wished to right their economic wrongs. He wished to give them stability here on earth and hope for a future life.

He saw the problem of existence as one of dual forces, the material wrestling with the spiritual.

He determined to weld them together. At the age of 30, he began to preach the blessings of agriculture, of home-building which could give life a meaningful direction. For 10 years he preached, largely in the wilderness. In all that period he gained only one disciple—his cousin Maidhyoimaonha. By the time he reached his 42nd year he also had converted a certain Persian King Vishtaspa. Now he became a power in the land, under royal patronage. His name became known from Iran to Bactria (Afghanistan).

He felt himself to be divinely inspired and gathered converts and followers around him, first his own family, including his wife Hvovi and his close relatives. Then came numberless devotees, hordes of men seeking enlightenment, searching for a new way of life, a fresh hope, happiness on this earth, assurance of a future life. There was, of course, constant dissension. A new

force always involves conflict and Zoroaster's crusade was marked by a perpetual polemic against unbelievers, by bloody clashes with religious enemies.

The essence of Zoroaster's teaching is that of dual principles which govern the entire cosmos. Good represented by Ahura Mazda, or Ormuzd, the Wise Lord, guardian of truth and law, is in perpetual conflict with evil, represented by Mainyush, or Ahriman, the protector of falsehood. The warfare between these two principles is ceaseless but, of course, when the world draws to an end good will triumph and the dead spirits will be resurrected. Ormuzd will reign resplendent in his heavenly Kingdom which is free from evil, equipped with an everlasting sun and filled with lavish gifts. It is, in essence, remarkably similar to Platonic belief, and also to the Christian doctrine.

At the same time there are elements of Manicheanism in Zoroaster's prophetic, ambivalent visions. Here was a lonely, roaming preacher who, in that long ago century, defined the war between right and wrong, the eternal struggle of life and death.

Rejecting the deities that crowded Iranian religious beliefs, Zoroaster made a synthesis of ethical, religious, philosophical concepts and dogmas, welding these disparate

elements into a coherent whole. Both Ormuzd and Ahriman, Zoroaster taught, are creators. But Ormuzd creates in a positive, beneficent direction, while Ahriman creates for destruction. Ormuzd is life, symbol of orderly sequences in the cosmos, stamped by purity. Ormuzd created Man, and endowed him with free will. He equipped Man to battle against Ahriman's malefic hosts. And, although, Ormuzd is, in himself, supreme, he enlists the aid of genii, who represent ethical concepts, to work with him. These genii form a vast army, constituted of rightness and courage, justice and goodness, forever in battle formation, forever alerted. Ahriman, on the other hand, produces only death and decay. Together with his evil hosts, he is dedicated to chaos and darkness, to the negation of life, the rejection of salvation.

Fighting for goodness has its own rewards. Alignment with Ahriman will bring its final punishments. Zoroaster taught there are rewards for those who live a virtuous life; the pure in heart proceed to Paradise, while the evil-doers are abandoned to demoniac agencies. Those whose lives may be redeemed dwell in an intermediary stage, to be purified, but in a state of uncertainty. This blue-print of after-life is similar to Plato's ideas, to the Vision of Er, and to Christian

teachings. Yet it preceded these philosophies by many centuries.

Zoroaster outlined in detail the pilgrimage of the soul after death. For three days, he said, the soul haunts its home. Then it proceeds to judgment before Mithra, Sraosha and Rashnu. At this time the soul is sent either to eternal light or banished to darkness, where it undergoes torments such as are described by the Roman poet, Virgil, in the *Aeneid* and by Dante in the *Inferno*.

But he taught also that there is hope even for the damned. For a resurrection eventually will bring all the dead to life, and molten metal will purify all things, animate and material, in the cosmos.

Zoroaster taught also that those animals which are useful, such as dogs and cattle, must be cared for. This prescription was taken to heart and in India the cow still is held sacred among the Hindus. Harmful animals, on the contrary, must be destroyed, he taught, just as evil must be destroyed. The giving of alms is praised, and benevolent works among one's fellow men certainly will receive heavenly recognition. A Zoroastrian must be kindly and humane; he must maintain purity. In each aspect of his daily life a Zoroastrian must reflect the beneficence of Ormuzd himself. Such injunctions harmonize with the ideals of the Greek

mystic cults, with the major dogmas of Christianity and Judaism, with the Jain precepts of India.

But there are strange variations, inexplicable contradictions, in Zoroastrian attitudes. Burial by cremation, for instance, is taboo. Such a practice excludes the guilty everlastingly from atonement. Perversions of human relationships are eternally punishable. But what we call incestuous marriages, involving next-of-kin, are acceptable.

All the elements of the universe—earth, fire, water—are to be kept free from defilement, which means contact with dead matter. Therefore, it was the practice to expose all corpses on Towers of Silence, to be rapidly, cleanly devoured by vultures. The bones then fell into the sea, returning to their primal element. This is still customary among the Parsis of Bombay, where Towers of Silence on Malabar Hill still look seaward.

Zoroastrianism also had its rituals, codes and sacerdotal sequences. All life, from birth to death, was governed by ceremonials, domestic and communal, priestly and secular. At birth, the child's lips were soaked with Haoma, a plant whose stems produced an intoxicating drink. Between the ages of 12 and 15, boys formally became Zoroastrians during a nine day Confirmation Ceremony. At this time he received the kushti or girdle

that he was to wear for life. Marriage was a religious duty, obligatory to a Zoroastrian.

In the temples, there were urns in which holy fire, the primal element of Mithra, the Sun God, burned incessantly. Incense was sprinkled on these flames at fixed intervals. Five times a day the priest entered the holy chamber; his lower face was veiled to prevent pollution of the sacred fire by his human breath; his hands were gloved to preserve the purity of the chamber. Three times he recited poetic formulas, to dispel evil spirits. During these recitals he held bundles of twigs, symbolically to drive off malefic forces.

In each home, too, the sacred fire glowed and daily, verses of the *Avesta* were chanted, each verse appropriate for a specific date. Rites and invocations revolved with the revolving season.

Certain months were associated with divine patronage. The New Year was a time of religious manifestation. The equinoxes were sacred to Mithra, the Sun God. The days of the change of seasons, days at year's end dedicated to the dead, the time of full moon and new moon—all were marked by temple observances. Sacrifices were mild, humane—bread and milk and haoma to wet the lips. A libation was presented to the sacred fire: then drunk by the officiating priest.

At the center of Zoroastrian ritual was the worship of the sacred fire, as it was among the ancient Romans. Even to this day, it is the visible manifestation of Zoroastrianism.

The cult of Zoroaster has not vanished completely. There are still traces, still adherents to the ancient rites, the hieratic ceremonials. When the rise of Islam, in the seventh century A.D., overpowered the forces of Zoroastrianism, the persecuted followers of the founder fled eastward toward the protecting Sun. Ultimately they settled in India.

There, as the Parsis of Bombay they still retain, although in an ever lessening degree, their Zoroastrian rites and usages. There they still preserve the sacred literature of their creed as an historical, rather than a dynamically motivating religious heritage. These Parsis are, ethnically, descendants of the Iranian Zoroastrians. The boys of the Parsi schools in Bombay still begin their morning with a prayer to the Sun God, around a burning brazier. The Parsis still execute the last rites of the dead in accordance with Zoroastrian beliefs that stem from remote magic beliefs. Vultures still swoop over the Towers of Silence and the bones of the dead slide down through the gratings to merge with the infinite ocean.

In remote villages in Persia, in secluded valleys and in hill regions, the old rites still are practiced—especially among the Gabars who live near Yazd. Marriage ceremonies, however, have acquired a Hindu flavor. Next-of-kin mar-

riages, a Zoroastrian practice, are in disrepute. The *Avesta*, still the sacred book of Zoroastrianism, is not much read nowadays.

Zoroastrianism has left its mark upon the world, even though now it fades into history.



GHOST ARMY OF JOHNSON'S ISLAND

A STRANGE story is told in connection with an old Confederate cemetery on Johnson's Island, a speck of land in Sandusky Bay, three miles from Sandusky, Ohio. During the Civil War Johnson's Island was used as a prison for some 12,000 Confederate soldiers.

At the turn of the century the major industry on Johnson's Island was stone quarrying. Most of the workers were Sicilians who lived in shacks near the cemetery. One March day a severe storm lashed the island and threatened to topple the stoneworkers' shacks. They fled outside where, whipped by freezing wind and spray, they sought shelter at the base of a bronze statue of a Confederate soldier, which had

been erected as a memorial.

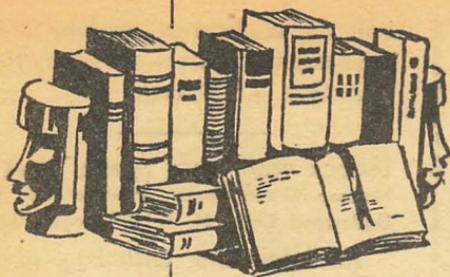
Suddenly, according to Grace Goulder, who related the incident in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer Pictorial Magazine*, the shivering Sicilians heard a bugle call. Their eyes widened in terror as they saw gray-clad soldiers, each shouldering a musket, rise from the nearby graves. In complete silence the soldiers marched off into the storm and disappeared from view.

A short time later the storm ended and the Sicilians returned to their shacks. The next day they rowed ashore and told of what they had seen. They were so convinced that their experience had been supernatural, that they refused to return to Johnson's Island.



RISK OF THE RAILS

IN MADISON, W.Va., Lawrence Ball, 40, was sitting on railroad tracks when a train came along, knocked him between the rails and screeched to a stop after two cars had passed over him. Ball suffered only a scratch under one eye.



NEW BOOKS

A HYPNOTIST'S CASE BOX, by Alex Erskine. Wilshire Book Company, 8721 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood 46, Calif. 124 pages, \$1.00.

The author presents his theory that the subconscious mind is the real man, the "soul", to which impressions are sent by the conscious mind. Hypnosis is essentially a summons to what Herbert Spencer called "the force that is in the Universe around us . . . which wells up in ourselves as consciousness." It enables us to receive messages from the Universal Mind, which we can learn to do ourselves. Hypnosis thus restores the subconsciousness to its proper function of ruling our bodies. Actually, this often can be done without the patient "going to sleep." It is not the hypnotist who effects a cure, but the patient himself.

Among Erskine's many dramatic cures by hypnotism are the following: in the presence of a number of doctors, a sailor, completely

paralyzed, in a wheel-chair, regained full use of arms and legs, the cure being permanent, as reported by a doctor two or three years later. In another case, poison, which had produced pain and inflammation in an eye, was brought out through a large blister on the neck, which rapidly disappeared. Under hypnosis, a boy became clairvoyant and was able to read the contents of a will. Another patient was enabled to travel astrally and report what he saw, which proved correct. A man, "incurably" blind for eight months, recovered his sight. A woman, paralyzed for nine years, was cured. Mention is made also of a man being hypnotised by a snake, reminding one of a similar case reported by Dr. Alexander Cannon.

The book is lucid, straightforward and factual, illustrating the rapidly increasing interest being taken, both by the general public

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UNLOCK YOUR FAITH POWER, edited by Norman Vincent Peale. Prentice Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N. J. 307 pages, \$3.95.

An interesting anthology of articles which appeared recently in *Guideposts Magazine*, this book presents detailed personal accounts of 75 persons, some famous, who have been able to put faith to work. They have created out of frustration real happiness and successful living. This reorientation of their lives has come about through an influx of faith.

The book is divided into 10 sections, each of which deals with a particular phase in increasing personal faith power. Dr. Peale has written a foreword to each section, but has allowed the various authors to tell their own stories, showing how one can get the greatest value from each type of experience. Dr. Peale stresses how personal application can be made in each phase.

Among the famous persons who have contributed a personal experience to this book are Lowell Thomas, Jr., Mary Martin, David Griffith, Anita Colby, Loretta Young, Robert Montgomery, Jimmy Durante and Ed Sullivan. If this sounds like a Hollywood roll call, there are contributors prominent



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The book gives many insights into the way that fear and anxiety can be routed by creative faith and love.—*Edmond P. Gibson.*

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE ATLANTIAN CIVILIZATION, by Zelda. Vantage Press, New York. 72 pages, \$2.50.

This brief sketch of Atlantis claims to have been communicated by Zelda, an ex-Atlantean, through a medium and a transcriber, G.C.B. and B.R.B., and tape-recorded. The Atlantean civilization is said to have lasted for 5000 years. Some of the buildings are said to remain on the ocean floor. One landmark survives—Gibraltar.

According to Zelda, poverty and sickness had been eradicated, everything needed being delivered to each person, and all property, etc., being held in common ownership. The chief Atlantean city, Muer, had about a million inhabitants. All factories were underground, for the sake of cleanliness, as were railways, at first powered by steam, then by atomic Jets,

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The time came, Zelda relates, when some Councilors began to use mind-power for self-aggrandizement, and usurped control, using the "bread-and-circuses" technique. Sensing the danger, a Junior Council was set up to oppose the Elder Council. There was a series of titanic struggles, leading to the use of atomic weapons. The whole continent became radioactive. The earth caught fire, and became a seething volcano. Rocks were rent asunder and water engulfed the whole continent, leaving no trace of beautiful Atlantis.

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The story is well written and graphic. The only fault I can find with the book is its brevity, which makes one look forward to a promised expanded history of the "cradle of our civilization."—*Arthur E. Powell.*

MYSTERIES OF SCIENCE, by John Rowland. The Philosophical Library, New York. 214 pages, \$6.00.

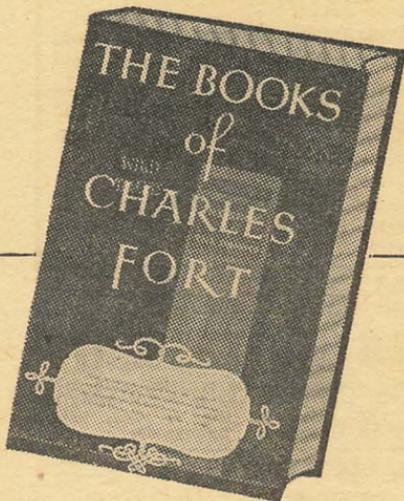
Mr. Rowland is quite familiar with the various scientific fields and is the author of many books on scientific subjects. In this book, which is critical of many scientific claims, and particularly of claims that "Science" is an all-wise guide for the human race, he examines the claims put forth in the 19th century in the light of the claims of the "new science" of the 20th century. He finds many of them to be subconsciously conceited and egotistical, but while the "Science" of the 19th century was highly materialistic in all of its hypotheses, it now has substituted for these hypotheses others which are mechanistic and mathematical. This about-face has been achieved without asking anyone's leave. The new "Science" contains all the truth, even as did the old.

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these areas are elusive and cannot be weighed or measured in the usual sense.

Mr. Rowland points out that most scientific writers and many scientists confuse facts, hypotheses, and inferences from these sources. The whole rapidly becomes a body of dogmatic doctrine which tends to stray farther and farther away from what was basically the truth. Chapters of this book deal with the current ideas of the physicists, biologists, psychologists, and sociologists. While most physicists are in general agreement in areas that are clear-cut, he finds that in biological fields disagreement enters and the unexplored areas increase in scope. The field of psychology seems to be in perpetual disagreement as to its facts and their interpretation.

Mr. Rowland admits that "Science" can continue to furnish us with an unending stream of good and bad gadgets. He doubts however, that it will provide the human race with well-directed guidance so long as it refuses to examine certain parapsychological phenomena which challenge some of its basic hypotheses, but which might help to determine the nature of man and his place in the world.

This book is well written and worthy of study. Unfortunately the publisher has released it at a price which may restrict its sale.—*Edmond P. Gibson.*

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I RETURNED FROM DEATH

By Frances C. Hicks

IN A RURAL district of Bristol, Va., I, wife of Dr. Harry Hicks, Sr., on Sunday, February 19, 1928, gave birth to a son. He weighed 12 pounds, was 26 inches in length and had a head circumference of 13 inches.

I had been in labor since Friday morning. As the baby was my second, we were not expecting complications, although I thought I might have twins. At that time, in that section of the country, diagnosis was not as complete as it is today and home deliveries were common. When it became apparent that I was to experience difficulty it was too late to make other arrangements.

Luckily, our family doctor, Dr. Will Wiley, Jr., was a war surgeon and familiar with my history, having delivered my first child, a 10-pound girl, five years before. He had called in two other doctors, Dr. Miller and Dr. Stout, to assist

him, as I had been in heavy labor for two days without giving birth and an instrumental delivery seemed necessary.

On Sunday I was given injections to assist a natural delivery, but later the pains ceased. My husband and Dr. Miller were the only ones with me at the time. They sent a messenger for Dr. Wiley, as there was no telephone. Then they made preparations for an instrumental delivery.

When Dr. Wiley arrived, accompanied by Dr. Stout, my husband was administering ether and Dr. Miller was preparing to make delivery. I still was conscious and thought, "This is it!" Then came excruciating pain. For a while I was conscious of screaming and of waves of vibrating forces merging and then there was no more pain.

I seemed to be no longer in the realm of the living. I was in a land similar to the one I had left, but I saw around me people of all ages, some crippled and ill and in

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need of help. I asked, speaking to no one in particular, "Where am I? This is not what I thought Heaven or Hell to be!"

Then a voice said, "Go back! Go back! Your work is not done!"

Again I felt that terrific vibration and merging of the forces, pulling me back to the pains of this life.

My son was born at 8:30 P.M., and, according to the doctors, I was dead for more than five minutes. It was 3:00 A.M. when I regained enough consciousness to speak. My husband was holding my hand and tears were streaming down his face.

I said, "Don't cry. I will be all right. They sent me back. If only you could have seen and heard what I did!"

My son was normal in every respect and today is an electrical engineer.—*Schenectady, N.Y.*

DEATH IS NO BARRIER

By Geneva Smaltz

FROM CHILDHOOD, I was devoted to my brother, Paul, who always was kind and gentle with me. This, I noticed, was hardly the attitude of most older brothers toward their kid sisters, and it endeared him to me all the more.

Probably because of this bond between us, I very nearly suffered a nervous break-down when Paul was killed in 1940, in a highway accident. I had a feeling of carry-

ing a burden too heavy to be borne. I went about my household duties mechanically, hardly conscious of what I did, seldom hearing when I was spoken to. My nights were sleepless. This continued for several weeks.

One night in December I went to bed overwhelmed with grief and the age-old question of "Why?" I lay on my bed wide-eyed. Presently I felt a presence and was compelled to turn my head. I saw, standing near the head of my bed, my brother, as real as he ever had been in this life.

"Don't worry so, Sis. I'm all right," he said gently, but with a kind of urgency in his voice. Then,

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as suddenly as he had appeared, he was gone.

Strangely, I felt no fear or even wonder. I sighed deeply, turned over and went to sleep. My burden had lifted and in its place was a deep, abiding peace.—*Cushing, Okla.*

THE FAMILIAR FOOTSTEPS

By Agnes Blackwood

EARLY IN 1951, while living on a ranch near Grand Coulee, Wash., my husband suffered a slight stroke and the cells of his brain were damaged. When he regained physical health his mind was so warped that he was a completely different person from the kind, lovable man he always had been. He turned against all of his best friends and especially against me, accusing me of all the crimes in the book.

I naturally was heartbroken, but nothing I said or did changed him and the doctors told me that he might become violent and do me bodily harm; so I reluctantly left him and went to Los Angeles to live.

On August 23, 1951, in my new home, I distinctly heard my husband's footsteps on the sidewalk in front of the house. He had a peculiar step, due to a hip injury several years before. I looked out of the window but saw no one.

The approaching footsteps still

were audible, however. They came up the walk to the house and up the steps to the front porch. I waited for the doorbell to ring, but the telephone rang instead. When I answered it my daughter-in-law in Spokane told me that my husband just had died.—*Los Angeles, Calif.*

THE MESSAGE

By Aileen G. Melchior

IN OCTOBER, 1955, my husband, Richard, was killed in an automobile crash. Despite my grief I was somewhat heartened by the feeling that he met death fearlessly and, indeed, even with some

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anticipation for our son had preceded him.

From the first I knew he would communicate with me as soon as possible and this he did, although a skeptic might challenge my claim. It was merely an occasional, small gesture such as a light tap on the shoulder when loneliness struck me.

I never had driven a car and was afraid to do so, but my husband steadied my hands. I sat behind the wheel and drove the car efficiently with no instruction other than his. Consequently I knew he was content in his new world—but we also had two daughters, Julia, 10, and Jeanne, nearly 12. I felt unable to explain the situation to them so I waited silently for Richard to console the girls.

Jeanne especially had been close to her father. Never robust, she seemed to waste away after his passing. My heart bled for her but I was powerless. She never wept and seldom spoke of her daddy but it was obvious that her grief was overwhelming.

After three months Jeanne was hardly more than a shadow. Then, one day shortly before her twelfth birthday, she changed. She awoke from sleep, came to the breakfast table and voluntarily ate. Her appetite returned. After just a week she was very nearly her old self.

Of course, I was curious, but I waited until one evening when she

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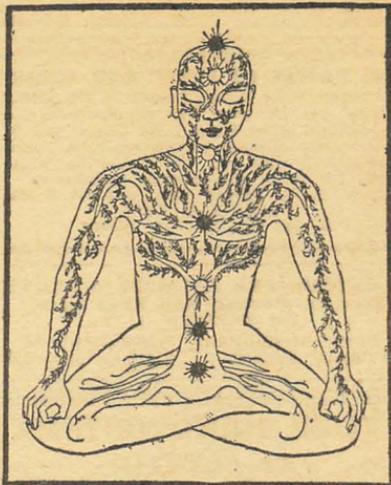
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came to me of her own volition.

"Mother," she said, "I want to tell you something. I'm sure Daddy was here last Thursday night." Apparently she thought I might laugh at her or reprove her.

"He was?" I asked quietly, "How do you know?"

"I saw him—plain as anything. Oh, I guess it was a dream, but it sure seemed real. He pulled the sheet over my shoulders just like he always used to and kissed me good night. He told me he was fine and very happy except for the fact that we were so miserable. He told me lots of things, but mostly he said we were living in two separate worlds; but he was close to me anyway even if it did seem far. He said he loved us just as much."

"I think that's wonderful, darling," I said. I wanted to ask her many questions but I refrained. I was happy that she'd shared this much of her experience with me.

The problem of Jeanne was solved, but as the months passed I

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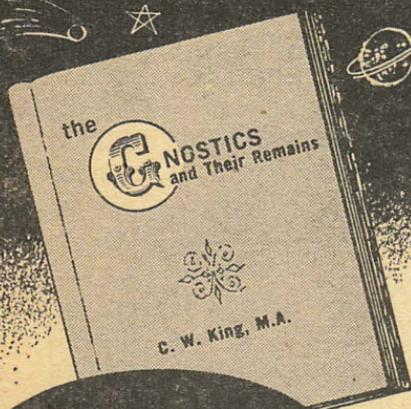


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still waited for an unmistakable message from Richard—one that would leave no doubt in any of our minds.

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One night in January, 1956, the girls and I were driving home from a neighboring town. We'd gone there to see an operetta in which a young friend of ours sang one of the leading roles. The car windows were closed and we were talking about the operetta when suddenly Julia cried, "It's Daddy—Daddy's here!"

The car was filled with the odor of boiling, bubbling coffee—not just a scent for every inch of the car was permeated with it. We knew even the brand of coffee which was boiling. This odor remained for three miles of roadway, with neither house nor car within miles of us. Suddenly as it came, it disappeared.

This was the happiest night we'd had since Richard left and certainly it was the communication I'd been waiting for. *Huntingburg, Indiana.*

REPORT FROM THE READERS

"TRICKERY ON TV"

Since the recent CBS Circle Theatre TV show on the UFO's I have been deluged with requests for an evaluation of the presentation. It must have had a whopping big audience.

I thought the research man on the show had done a good job and I wired Doug Edwards to compliment him for intelligent handling of a difficult subject.

The overall program, in my opinion, was a propaganda piece loaded with trickery if not outright deception. I do not believe this was the intent either of the network or the sponsor—I think it simply was the result of their mistakenly relying on the Air Force to do an honest job. After years of such dealings with the Air Force I am of the opinion that they could do such a job but they have no intention of doing it. I saw nothing in the Circle Theatre show to disabuse me of that opinion.

The show was loaded, three participants with about 80 percent of the time to present the Air Force point of view; Major Donald Keyhoe, with less than 15 percent of the time, to present the evidence

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that facts were being concealed and distorted by the Air Force. Accepting the statement that Keyhoe "accidentally" was cut off the air as he sought to make a pertinent point which he had previously discussed with the producers of the show, we still are faced with the one-sided nature of the show.

Worth noting is that not one of the Air Force entrants in the program showed a single one of the photographs of the UFO's nor did they mention any of the recent and well-authenticated sightings of November 4, 5 and 6. They chose tired old drawings, obviously crackpot reports and ignored the really worthwhile material.

Since the Air Force had weeks in which to prepare their material, their omission of the substantial items was perforce deliberately deceptive, along with their threadbare presentation of the percentages from that antiquated saucer report. . . . prefabricated percentages from handpicked cases.

What can the listeners do about such programs?

To those who have put that question to me I have tried to explain that the network's job is to please both sponsor and viewer, with the sponsor receiving preference for obvious reasons. Although the network is more sensitive to sponsor comment than to comment from the viewer, the sponsor in

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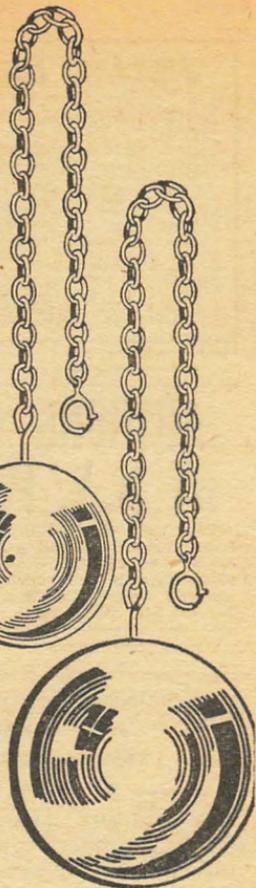
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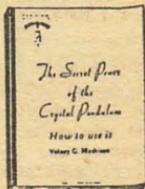
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turn is sensitive to comment from the viewers. I am of the opinion that the floor covering concern (Armstrong) which sponsored that program did not realize that there were such widely divergent schools of thought nor that the viewpoint represented by Major Keyhoe was that of such eminent men as Admiral Hillenkoetter, General Catron, Major Fourney and many others.

If interested spectators were to let the Armstrong people know that they would like to hear an open and full presentation of the viewpoint represented by Admiral Hillenkoetter and his colleagues, the other side of this very important program might at long last get a public hearing, without muzzles, loaded questions or unreliable microphones.—*Frank Edwards, Indianapolis, Ind.*

NO APPEARANCE

This is an exact duplicate of my wire sent from New York on January 22, 1958, except for the last sentence. The last sentence was inserted on copies of this wire sent to the New York Times and New York Tribune newspapers.—*Kenneth Arnold, Boise, Idaho.*

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For several years Curtis Fuller has been feeding us reports on the Abominable Snowmen of the Himalayas. But the strange thing about these Abominable reports is that no hint ever is given of what the creatures eat. Possibly a balanced diet of ice, snow and rocks. Or perhaps they just keep eating each other in a kind of natural chain reaction.

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intake there never is any outgo, since no spoor ever is found.

Or perhaps the Snowmen just feed on the imagination of unscrupulous liars itching to get their names into print.—*Eugene Grossenheider, St. Louis, Mo.*

Texas oilman, Tom Slick, gives the Abominable Snowmen enough credence to be financing a second Himalayan expedition to hunt the abominable creatures as this is written. We can't resist one counter question: How often do you find a cat's spoor?—Ed.

FURY OVER FAKERY

After reading Frank Edwards' article on how to fake saucer photos in the December issue of FATE, I was disgusted at the many accusations of fakery regarding persons who claim to have taken photos of the disks. No one could do all the things with a box camera that Frank Edwards says unless the person was an expert.

In the latter part of 1945 I saw a large carrier ship while making a rest-stop in a remote section of Arkansas. I was riding a bus from Jackson, Miss., to St. Louis, Mo.

From where we were the ship appeared to be at least a block long, about 5000 feet in the air and perhaps a mile away. It wasn't a captive balloon, a blimp or spots before my eyes. An Army pilot going home on furlough also was on

the bus. He had a pair of Army binoculars and we all took a look at the object. It had no wings, no tail-appendages and its front and rear were exactly alike.

The pilot said he never had seen anything like it and would report his sighting to the Air Force. Later he sent me a card with the word "Taboo" on it. I suppose Frank Edwards will say that the Arkansas hillbillies put up a cardboard imitation of a saucer to fool 35 passengers on a bus.—*Waldo B. Richards, Omaha, Neb.*

That did it! So that's what all the hullabaloo has been about—

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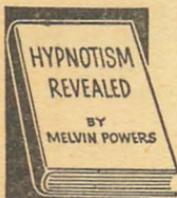
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"How to Fake a Flying Saucer!" The market already is glutted with quacks and fakers dumping their wares on the public's hapless shoulders without Frank Edwards making a mockery and a shambles for those who had faith in the existence of UFO's.

Apparently Edwards is all too familiar with fake reports, build-ups and fake saucers. Why read any more drivel? He has exposed the whole thing as a sorry mess and is encouraging others to participate in fraudulent practices. I'm through with FATE and Mr. Edwards.—*Anthony J. Kries, Cleveland, Ohio.*

In order to recognize the valid, it first is necessary to recognize the in-valid; to separate the copper pyrites from the nuggets. Piecing together the facts about UFO's is difficult at best, without having to waste time on counterfeit reports and pictures.

My article on phoney saucer pictures and stories provided a yardstick by which sincere saucer students may evaluate the material that comes to them. The gullible, of course, will continue to be hoodwinked. This is their privilege and I wish them happiness in their chosen field.

I congratulate Mr. Richards on the personal sighting he describes. Although I never have had the good



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fortune to witness such an object, 10 years of research have convinced me that such things are realities, despite oftentimes stupid official denials.

My article on fraudulent saucer photos showed how easy it is for anyone to produce them. Although I never identified the output of any particular person in the article, it is noteworthy that most irate letter writers devoted their time and talents to defending three of the alleged "contact" cases.

For more than 30 years I have owned, operated or managed various motion picture, still and aerial photographic concerns. Those who doubt my remarks about simple photographic procedures should see a copy of "How to Use The Box Camera." They will have a picnic. —Frank Edwards, Indianapolis, Ind.

INQUIRY ON THE AURA

I am making a study of the Human Aura and wish to contact persons who are able to see the aura. I would appreciate it immensely if those able to see the aura would send me the following information:

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3. Do you see colors in the aura?

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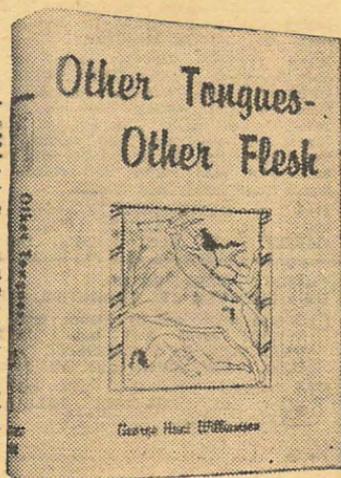
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If so, what interpretations do you ascribe to the various colors?

4. Under what conditions do you see the aura? What conditions do you consider best?

5. Do you see other things beside the aura that normally are not visible to others? If so, please describe.—*Louis C. Vacca, Rt. 1, Box 114, Ketchikan, Alaska.*

STRANGE STAR

At about 8:30 P.M. on September 23, 1957, I looked up at the sky before going to bed and saw what looked like a star or a round ball of fire. There were other stars around it, but this star, or ball of fire, was moving forward.

I stood and watched it and saw it travel in a straight line until it disappeared. As it moved, it turned over or revolved a time or two, and as it did so it shone as if it had an extremely bright surface that glowed or glittered like diamonds. I never had seen a star act like that, and the object certainly was not a falling star. It moved straight ahead at an even speed and left no trail as does a jet plane.—*Edgar Ray, Indianapolis, Ind.*

GLITTERING UFO

I have lived in San Francisco for five years. One sunny Sunday in March, 1957, I went to the ocean near the Golden Gate Bridge to see the sun set. As I watched the

sun, looking at it almost horizontally as it was late in the afternoon, I saw what appeared to be the reflection from an oval object about the size of a small thumb tack. It was visible for at least a minute and seemed to be stationary. I looked around for someone I could show it to, but nobody was nearby. Then the object vanished. It had made no noise I could detect.

Recalling that the object had been between myself and the sun, I wondered how it was possible for the sun to reflect off my side of it. Apparently the object had been producing its own light rather than just reflecting it.—*Ardell Langford, San Francisco, Calif.*

CHAT WITH "MR. MARS"

While at Lowell Observatory early in July, 1957, I had two nice chats with Dr. Slipher—Mr. Mars, to me—regarding Mars. We discussed many interesting points, which, unfortunately, I am not at liberty to detail.

One thing I can say is that Dr. Slipher told me the majority of people—including most astronomers—are more or less color blind! Not so color blind they cannot tell the green from the red on the traffic signal, but in subtleties. This color blindness in astronomers keeps them from "seeing" as much as they otherwise would see.

Percival Lowell, who saw "ca-

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nals" on Mars, was not color blind! Many of those who criticize Lowell's work are!

I asked Dr. Slipper, "What about you, Doctor?"

He told me about a test that a German doctor had made on a large number of astronomers at a private meeting not long before. I won't mention any names, but many of the "big boys" were there. When the scores were in, they were amazed at what they showed.

"What was your score?" I asked Dr. Slipper. A twinkle in his eyes, he answered, "Oh, I was all right—even at 74." He paused a moment, a grin at the corners of his lips. Then he said, "I was with the first three!"

I can say this about Mars—don't bet too much on the lichen theory. It's bigger stuff than that!
—*Gaston Burridge, Downey, Calif.*

COINCIDENCE ON KEELY

I know your magazine is interested in coincidences. The following happened to me on the night of October 27, 1957.

During the week a friend in Owen Sound sent me a dozen copies of FATE. I left the package unopened until after a TV program on the night mentioned, then took a few copies upstairs to read in bed.

The first article I opened to and read was in the July, 1957, issue and was titled, "The Baffling Keely

'Free Energy' Machines."

I never had heard of Keely before, yet during the evening's TV program there had been a play built around the Keely Free Energy Machines, in which the machines on page 45 of the FATE article were shown.

Thus two sources of information on the same evening from two very different media.—*Harold T. West, Belmore, Ont., Can.*

POWER OF SUGGESTION

My wife and I, proprietors of one of the largest and oldest Judo and Ju Jitsu schools in the United States, located on Grand Avenue in Oakland, Calif., left on June 15, 1957, for a three-week vacation.

The last thing we did upon leaving was to place (in order to discourage loiterers) a large sign in the window stating: "Closed For Repairs. Open July 9."

Upon our return to the school on the above date, we were amazed to find that we had acquired an entirely new store front. We were most grateful, but puzzled, until we found that while we were away a woman had crashed her auto through the front of the building, demolishing the sign and incurring a repair bill of \$980.70. The driver's insurance company had completely repaired and renovated the front of the building and paid the bill.—*Ray L. Law, Oakland, Calif.*

FLYING SAUCER MAN

Kenneth Arnold

says:

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