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## FATE

TRUE STORIES OF THE  
STRANGE AND UNKNOWN

DECEMBER 1967 40c

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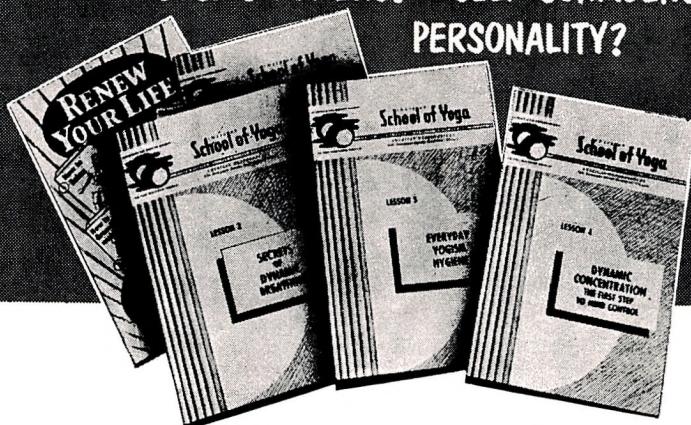
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Mystery of Alabama's "Hanging Hole" • Why He  
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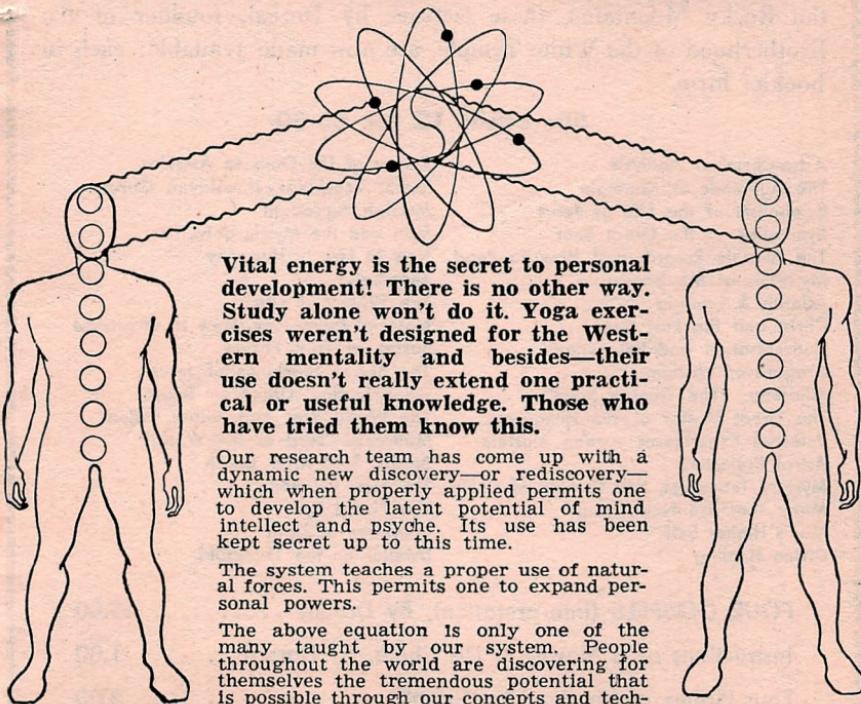
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DECEMBER  
1967

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# FATE

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# I See by the Papers

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*If you have had your attention directed to the novelties of thought in your own lifetime, you will have observed that almost all really new ideas have a certain aspect of foolishness when they are first produced.*

— Alfred North Whitehead

THE OCTOBER, 1967, issue of *Popular Photography* featured a two-part article on Ted Serios, in which Charles Reynolds and David B. Eisendrath, Jr., after one week-end of observation, conclude that Ted probably has been cheating all along.

And how have these geniuses decided this after their few hours of observation? Well, they appear to be amateur magicians and they conclude that Ted "probably" has an auxiliary lens and positive film concealed in the "gismo" which he holds in front of the Polaroid camera.

Thus they have detected after a few hours of observation, what has somehow escaped Dr. Jule Eisenbud and 50 other observers after more than four years of work. Or so they believe.

Well, no, they didn't catch Ted actually in a fraud. And, no, they don't have any evidence that he



CURTIS FULLER

committed a fraud. But they see, in his nervous fiddling with the "gismo" and his shifting it into and out of a pocket, where a skilled magician *might* be able to make a substitution. And they even have succeeded, they claim, in creating a lens that will duplicate the Ted Serios effects.

They picture the lens and they diagram how it works with a transparency in front of it. Forgive us for remaining skeptical. We would like to see that lens work and see how closely it approaches the method by which

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Ted actually does take photographs.

We regret that one skeptic on our own staff, who never has seen Ted take pictures, is reasonably convinced that Reynolds and Eisendrath now have explained the Ted Serios phenomena. It takes real gullibility to swallow the "evidence" these gentlemen present!



### SUPPOSITION AND INNUENDO

**R**EYNOLDS AND Eisendrath are quite probably skeptics to begin with. It is their right to believe that Ted Serios is a fraud. But it is one thing to offer a means by which (they claim) Ted might have been able to work a fraud and quite another to prove that he actually did so. As a matter of fact they have produced not one shred of evidence to support their beliefs. For instance:

If the pictures come so easily to Ted, as they ought to do if he uses fraud, it does seem amazing that during the three sessions Reynolds and Eisendrath had with him he was unable to produce any decent photographs at all. Does this seem like fraud?

If Reynolds and Eisendrath have succeeded in manufacturing a "gismo" with a lens and positive film that can reproduce the Ted Serios phenomena, more

power to them. But that is nothing new. The engineers of a nationally known laboratory where Ted was studied for some months accomplished the same thing. They were able to reproduce his effects — but not, so they told me, under the identical circumstances in which Ted was getting his results. And furthermore, they stated, they knew he was not using a similar lens.

Here are further arguments against the Reynolds-Eisendrath hypothesis:

Ted has obtained photographs when he was inside a Faraday cage while Jule Eisenbud was holding the camera outside the cage.

He has obtained photographs without any lens in the camera at all.

He has obtained photographs with someone else holding the gismo and with other persons holding both gismo and camera. On one occasion he obtained two photographs simultaneously on two separate cameras held by two different persons.

Quite a feat of legerdemain!

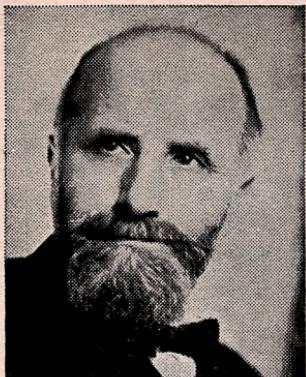
The problem is, of course, that this criticism will be remembered for generations while most of the convincing evidence will be forgotten unless somehow the claim is investigated and proved by a whole army of orthodox scientists.

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**SENSITIVE FINGERS**

**M**IKE GRIESEMER, eight years old, of Rotterdam, N.Y., a suburb of Schenectady, may have a talent as remarkable in its way as the talent of Ted Serios. According to Hayden Anderson, staff writer of the Schenectady *Union-Star*, Mike is another one of those blindfolded prodigies who can read numbers and letters and tell colors with their fingers and toes.

Mike read a magazine article about dermal-optical perception one day in August and proceeded to test his own abilities. He found he could "see" with his fingers, according to Anderson, and was able to read, while fully blindfolded, the serial number on a dollar bill and the number, suit and design of a pack of cards.

To Mike red is sticky, green is smooth, blue is "real sticky, like black," and yellow is "real, real sticky." A scar on one of his fingers seems especially sensitive to reading.

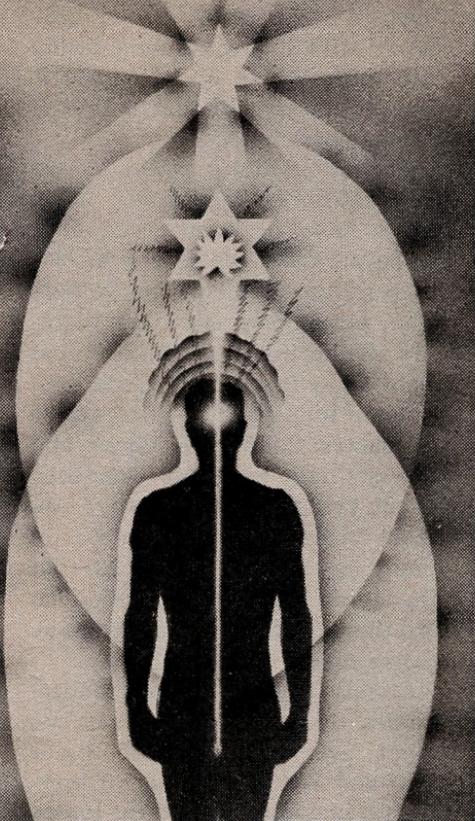
Mike gets headaches after a long session but seems to recover rapidly. Recently he found he could read the number and suit of playing cards with his right great toe.



**FLICKERING LIGHTS**

**W.** T. LITTLE, in the New York *Times* of Sunday, Au-

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gust 20, tells about the near-ghost town of Silver Cliff, Colo. In 1880 Silver Cliff had 5,087 inhabitants and today it can claim only 217. But this is not all that makes it a near-ghost town.

The other thing is the cemetery. There flickering ghost lights have been observed ever since they first were seen in 1880 by a group of celebrating miners who, passing by one dark night, saw flickering blue flames and went away from there rapidly.

Since then several generations of Custer County residents and tourists have seen and wondered about the phenomenon, says Author Little, although some of them have been convinced that the lights are only the reflection on the gravestones of ordinary house lights from the valley.

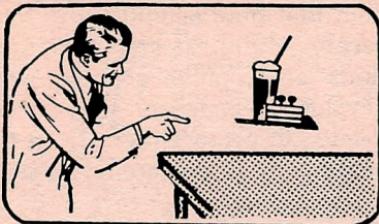
County Judge August Menzel denies this. He claims that one night every resident of Silver Cliff and Westcliffe shut off their lights, including the street lamps but the graveyard lights still danced.

Theories vary from phosphorescing ore to glowing wood but the darker the night the better the chance of seeing the lights flickering.

"I know they are not all myth," concludes Mr. Little. "For I, too, have seen them."



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### ESSAY ON RACE

IT USED TO be held, in the best white supremacy tradition, that man originated in temperate climates and the dark skins of tropical peoples were developed because they were needed to protect them from the fierce rays of the equatorial sun.

Now the shoe appears to be on the other foot. Dr. W. Farnsworth Loomis, a biochemist of Brandeis University, now has proposed another kind of explanation that seems to be gaining acceptance.

According to Loomis' theory, man originated in the tropics, probably in Africa, and early man probably was dark-skinned and covered with fur. As these early hominids migrated farther and farther away from the equator they tended to develop the bent legs and twisted spines characteristic of rickets because their dark skins, absorbing insufficient sunlight, could not synthesize enough Vitamin D.

Thus as the migrants got farther away from the equator light skins tended to have more and more survival value and over the generations light-skinned persons tended to survive because they were stronger and healthier and could run faster. Conversely, a white-skinned adult exposed to the tropical sun for six hours would synthesize up

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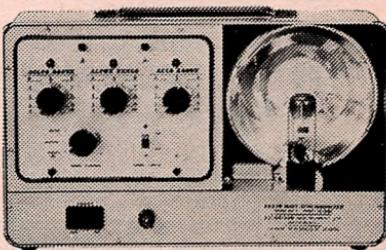
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to 800,000 International Units of Vitamin D — eight times the toxic dose for adults. A dark-skinned person would synthesize only five to 10 percent of that amount and hence could survive.

Conclusion: Over the long run dark skins have survival value in the tropics; light skins have survival value in northern climates. The only exception to this general rule is the Eskimos who have fairly dark skins and who eat a diet heavy in fish oils, the only food naturally heavy in Vitamin D.



## EXPLOSION OF ENERGY?

DO YOU WANT to put this down to coincidence?

Edward Hanshaw of Riverside, N.Y., was killed in action in Vietnam last January.

A memorial service was held for him prior to an American Legion baseball game at the VA Center field in Bath on Saturday, August 5. Hanshaw had been an all-star Legion shortstop and a memorial trophy bearing his name was presented and henceforth will be awarded to the most valuable player in Ontario County Legion baseball.

The speaker at the memorial service was Atty. David G. Retchless who in paying tribute to Hanshaw emphasized his fine character and great team play.

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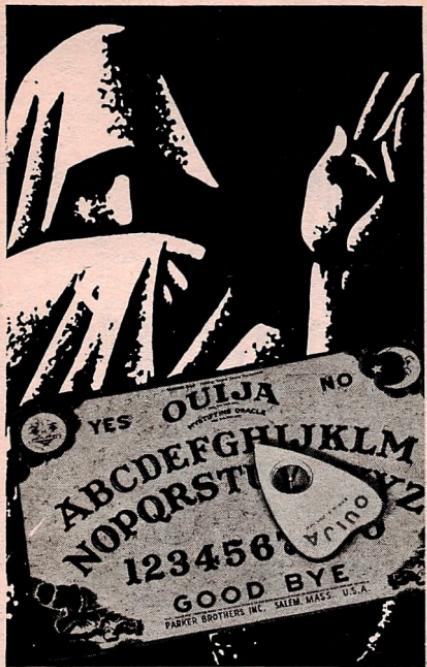
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"He is with us today in spirit," Retchless concluded.

At that moment, according to the Corning *Leader*, "A huge, healthy elm tree suddenly fell in right center field. . . . The ground about the large trunk of the tree opened as it fell, uprooted. It had withstood many storms, including three severe ones this past week. It was a quiet balmy day Saturday. . . ."



**SPECIAL NOTE ON LSD**  
FROM LONDON comes word that a 24-year-old man, who held an honor degree in law, drilled a hole in his own skull with a dental drill while under the influence of LSD "in the belief he would be able to conquer time."



**A STRING OF SEVENS**  
TWELVE YEARS ago, according to that sterling news agency the Associated Press, Jerry Cooper of Walnut Creek, Calif., obtained a souvenir money clip shaped like a mutual ticket. The date on the ticket-shaped clip was July 7, 1967.

We can imagine Cooper figuring out that the date was the seventh day of the seventh month of the seventh year of the 1960's. But as everyone knows he needed yet another seven to guarantee his luck.

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The AP story goes that for 12 years Cooper saved his small change and on that magical July 7, 1967, took himself to the Alameda (seven letters) County Fair. Here he bet \$100 on, you guessed it, the seventh race.

It might have served him right if the nag, No Passes, had come in seventh but instead the horse won the race and Cooper pocketed \$570.

According to the AP, which is capable of running things into the ground, he was in seventh heaven.



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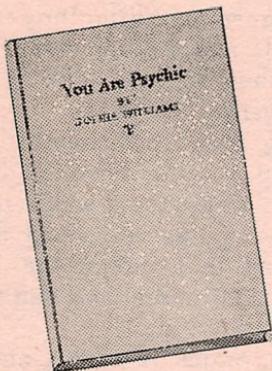
The whole house began to shake. Pictures fell from the walls. There was a rumbling that resembled an earthquake and the Chipleys fled outside with their two small sons fearing that the entire house might collapse. But the disturbance eased off and soon all was quiet. The family returned to their home and to bed.

Not until the next morning when they rose did they realize the extent of the havoc. The sidewalk in front of the house was cracked and heaved out of shape. The front lawn had several deep fissures three to four inches wide and several feet deep. Behind the house a loose 12-inch plank had splintered and snapped; the water had sloshed out of a portable swimming pool filled the previous evening; the rear sidewalk was broken; there was a large crack in the bedroom floor.

Now all this could be explained easily if an earthquake had occurred. But if an earthquake did occur it was the most localized earthquake on record. Only one person could be found who even had noticed any unusual tremors and that was a neighbor across the street. The nearest seismograph, in Tucson, showed no earthquake activity in the vicinity of Yuma.

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the list of the "unexplained."



## STP VS LSD

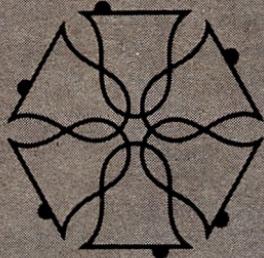
THERE'S A NEW and more dangerous hallucinogenic than LSD and its name is STP (for nothing) warns a third three-letter agent — the FDA.

Having spent two months researching banana peelings and found the whole thing was a put-on the FDA has regrouped and announced that unlike the banana bit STP is real and dangerous.

Not too much is known about STP but it has been identified as the chemical methyl dimethoxy methylphenethylamine. The initials STP, perhaps stolen from a brand of motor oil, have nothing to do with the name.

So far the use of STP has been concentrated in some hippie areas on east and west coasts. Enough is known about it by the FDA to make it appear that it is not only an hallucinogenic drug but a stimulant as well. It appears that the "panic state" accompanying use of STP is worse than that of LSD and unlike the latter there are no tranquilizers that will help ease the user out of a "bad trip." Nor is its toxicity known.

Our information comes through the Associated Press from an assistant to John H. Finlator, di-



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in about the same fashion as a man would were he deprived of navigating instruments."

Lest all be lost of this shattered dream of birds' abilities, however, Adler admits that birds can tell the time of day and that they see well enough to be guided by the sun and certain stars. On the other hand, Dr. Adler declares, neither their internal clock nor eyesight is perfect and an error of a couple of degrees over a long distance can send a bird far off course.

We feel this last needs correction. If a bird were starting off on a trajectory, like a rocket, of course an error of a couple of degrees could send it far off course. But if the bird is able to make continuous corrections, as ought to be possible if it can plot a course at all, then the error will tend to grow smaller rather than larger as it nears its destination.



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IN THESE DAYS of machinery's mastery over our destiny it gives us pleasure to report that there is one area where man still retains his supremacy — it is in addition, multiplication and division.

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the Asiatic abacus but in all contests between them so far the abacus has won out. For those who never have seen an abacus, it is a simple frame with beads that are moved with lightning speed by the fingers of the operator. In a contest held after the war abacus operators beat trained operators of American adding and calculating machines.

The Japanese version of the abacus is called the *soroban* and recently a four-year-old boy named Hidehisa Takahashi, son of a *soroban* teacher, beat a mechanical adding machine in a contest.

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## BACKWARD, BACKWARD

**A**BOUT 70 miles southeast of Mexico City is an old river bed near the present town of Puebla where in ancient times human beings lived and hunted. Here they camped and surrounding the camp they left the bones of their victims — animals now extinct. These include the mighty dire wolf, mammoths,

mastodons, antelopes, horses, camels and sloths. Also scattered among the bones are scraping blades and projectile points which generally are unlike other known New World artifacts.

Near this area is the famous volcano of Iztaccihuatl which erupted and covered the area with volcanic ash.

Archaeologists have been working in the area for 25 years but only recently has a pattern taken shape. Now American and Mexican archaeologists believe the diggings prove that man lived in the Americas 40,000 years ago—more than twice as long ago as any previous evidence has indicated. Carbon 14 tests of charcoal and snail and clam shells preserved by the volcanic eruption still are undergoing study to resolve various discrepancies in the readings of the scientists.

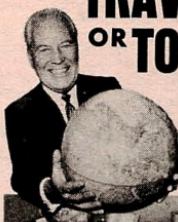


### A NEW KIND OF LIFE?

SOME YEARS AGO we ran a brief mention of a strange disease afflicting some New Guinea natives. The victims suffer a deterioration of the nervous system with trembling and gradual paralysis.

The disease is called *kuru* in New Guinea and research by British and American scientists indicates that it is found only among members and relatives of

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certain tribes. Its transmission is attributed, at least in part, to cannibalism — to eating those who have died of the ailment.

*Kuru* appears to be related to a disease of sheep known as scrapie, which also destroys the nervous system. Investigation of both diseases is continuing in the hope it will offer additional understanding of muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis.

Now here's one of the strange discoveries about both *kuru* and scrapie. The disease-causing agent has been found and it has been isolated. It is less than half the size of the smallest known virus and it is so resistant to sterilization by heat, chemicals or radiation that some biologists consider it to be "nonliving." Nevertheless, it grows within its victims just as do bacteria and viruses.

Even stranger is the recent claim of British researchers that the substance or thing causing scrapie in sheep does not contain nucleic acid, which is the essential component of all life that we know so far. This claim is indeed so far out that other researchers in the field don't believe it. They say simply: "not proven."



## THE TRUE ATLANTIS?

**I**F THE TRUE Atlantis was the Island of Thera in the

Aegean Sea, which was decimated by a volcanic eruption in 1500 B.C., then Atlantis was a Minoan culture probably related to if not allied with Crete which lies only 70 miles to the south.

This seems indicated by the most recent excavations, conducted there earlier in the year and made public the past summer.

James W. Mavor, Jr., of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, "is satisfied" that Thera was part of Atlantis. It is known that the central part of the island sank in a volcanic eruption.

Now excavations beneath the volcanic debris which covers the parts of the city that did not sink have dredged up 35 donkey-loads of artifacts. Jars of wine and oil 3,500 years old have been uncovered and the contents are being tested.

Digging through ash and pumice the excavators have found remains of two- and three-story houses, some decorated with painted frescoes; they have found pottery decorated with floral and spiral designs and the skeletons of domestic animals—but no human skeletons. Remains of a wooden loom have been uncovered.

The discoveries on Thera will provide new insights into Minoan life and may explain the sudden destruction of the Minoans as an Aegean power.—Curtis Fuller.

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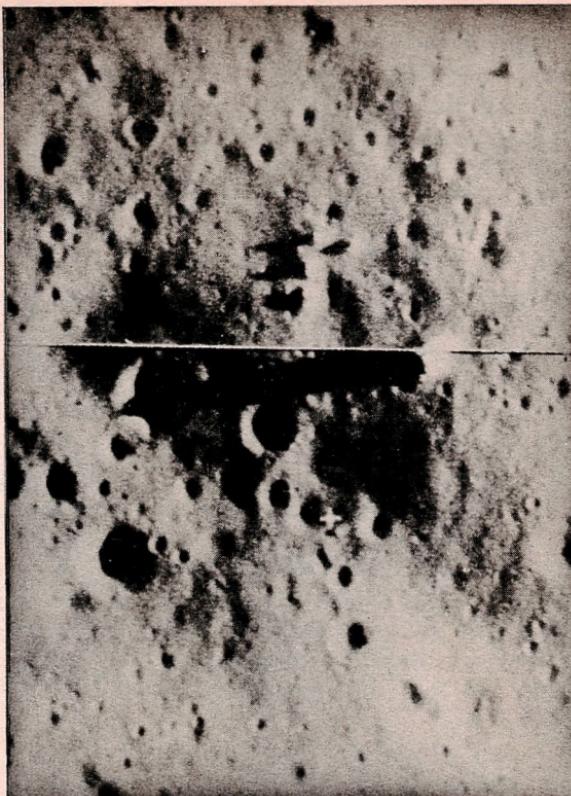
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# TOWERS ON THE MOON?

According to NASA sun is rising from direction of bottom or blunt ends of shadows of "spires" so that they fall to the left. (North is up and east to right on photo.) One scientist dubs area of spire shadows moon's "valley of monuments." Photo courtesy NASA.



By Judi Anne Hatcher

ON NOVEMBER 23, 1966, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) released a photograph taken by Lunar Orbiter II during the time it was photographing proposed landing sites for Apollo missions and thereby set off a game of *What's It?* that still is going on.

The "six mysterious and

statuesque shadows" evident in the photograph were "hailed by scientists as one of the most unusual features of the moon ever photographed" according to Thomas O'Toole, *Washington Post* staff writer, in an article published November 23, 1966. This article further described the shadows as a "fairy castle

effect" and quoted one scientist as saying he thought the area ought to be called the moon's "Valley of Monuments." It mentioned that one shadow looked as if it had been cast by the Washington monument. The shadows were supposed to be in an area just west of the moon's Sea of Tranquility. The photograph was called the "most dramatic photo taken thus far by Orbiter II."

Since this first enthusiastic article many attempts have been made to minimize the significance of the objects and their shadows. These subsequent statements have served only to heighten the mystery surrounding the nature and origin of the lunar "towers."

The next day on November 24, the *New York Times* carried an

objects, then, were generally shorter than they were wide, with bases and heights respectively of 50' by 40' to 75'; 53' by 60'; 42' by 20'; and 26' by 16'.

Even if these measurements are correct this hardly discounts the objects.

The Lunar Orbiter Mission-B Status bulletin is an information sheet published by NASA Langley Research Center for employees of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., whose facilities control and receive data from the Orbiters. The November 23, 1966, issue of this bulletin said the picture was part of two framelets taken of Site 4, the proposed landing site off the western edge of the Sea of Tranquility, just north of the moon's equator. The report also said the reference mark (small cross)

### Dramatic photo taken by Orbiter II reveals enigma which sets science sizzling while government agency contradicts itself.

article titled "NASA Discounts 'Spires' on Moon." The thesis of this article was simply that the objects had more the appearance of squat blocks than of the lofty spires they previously were held to resemble. The low elevation of the sun, 11 degrees above the lunar horizon, supposedly caused the long shadows. The ob-

represented 25 feet on the lunar surface and that the objects were natural features.

*Sky and Telescope* for January, 1967, stated the picture was a "high resolution *far side* frame" and implied it lacked significance. Site 4, where the objects previously were said to have been, is on the *near* side of

the moon, as are all the prime landing sites for Apollo.

On January 26, 1967, the *Los Angeles Times* published some amazing suggestions by William Blair, an anthropologist for the Boeing Company, Seattle, Wash., the prime contractor for the Orbiter craft. He indicated the objects form a pattern similar to that of buried man-made ruins on earth. He used his technique successfully on aerial photographs of the southwest United States, searching for possible excavation sites under the thesis that "except for primitive, nomadic peoples, man tends to construct single and multiple structures in geometric forms." The majority of scientists at Boeing discount his views, according to *Boeing Magazine* for January, 1967, from which the *Times* article was taken. They feel that randomly distributed rocks can be found to have similar relationships but Blair replies, "If this same 'axiom' were applied to the origin of such surface features on earth more than half of the present known Aztec and Mayan architecture would still be under tree- and bush-studded depressions — the result of natural geophysical processes."

The question then becomes: Are the objects that cast the exciting shadows unusual?

This question is complicated

by discrepancies between official statements. One of the first assertions attributed to NASA is that there are six shadows. But inspection of the photo makes it obvious that there are seven, a fact that has been confirmed by NASA in Washington, D.C., in a letter to me but not, to my knowledge, in public.

Since only the shadows are visible in the released picture is it possible to determine the sizes of the objects producing them?

Yes. The shadow length and base can be measured using the reference cross and assuming that the ground was level. The object height can be found by simple trigonometry.

Because I have studied astronomy for 10 years it became increasingly apparent to me that the mysterious shadows present a unique challenge. Using trigonometry and assuming that the ground was flat I found the tentative heights and bases of the objects and was surprised to learn that my measurements correspond to NASA's *only* in base width, not in object height and therefore not in shadow length.

However, this height variation could come about because of sloping ground. I decided to pair my figures with NASA's on bases only. Assuming that the NASA figures are correct how would

the ground have to slant to produce a shadow of the observed length? In each case, except for the objects farthest right and farthest left, the surface slope would have to be upward. If the slope inclined downward, or even if the ground was level, the shadows would have been longer than they appear to be. The reverse holds true for the two exceptions — they must stand on a downgrade or their shadows would be shorter than they appear to be.

If the ground slants upward it will be illuminated. If it slants downward it will not be illuminated. An inspection of the areas around the shadows serves as a check on NASA data and shows that the objects on the far right and far left and the one in the lower right corner are standing on the generally correct slope. Therefore only NASA figures for these objects can be correct.

Another factor to consider is that when pairing the figures I used one NASA measurement twice, as it seemed it could apply to either of two observed shadows. However, NASA did not indicate that this figure referred to more than one object. Thus, we can assume that it should apply to only one. For the measurements to be valid the downgrades must be three degrees and the upgrade approximately

18 degrees. NASA headquarters stated in a letter to me that the slope for the long shadow is indeed three degrees. The photo appears to have the same density around the left-hand object as around the right-hand one so that the slope may be about the same. However, the slope around the last object does not appear to be illuminated as much as if it had an 18 degree slope. This, coupled with the fact that the dual pairing did not correlate for this object, seems to indicate the NASA figure is invalid when applied to this object. Considering general ground slope from left to right, with base and height listed, the possible sizes of these objects respectively are: 50' by 40'; 35' by 9' (or slightly shorter); 45' by 14.5' (or shorter); 50' by 14.5' (or shorter); 35' by 6.4' (or shorter); 25' by 5.5' (or slightly taller); and 25' by 16'.

As for their being the "squat blocks" NASA termed them — well, they may be squat but the only object that will cast a triangular shadow is a pyramid with any number of sides or a cone.

Are pyramid- or cone-shaped objects unusual on the moon?

Actually a relatively flat object casting a regular shadow is quite unusual. Mentally squash a tall pyramid! Although it retains its pyramidal shape it gets flatter and flatter until it cannot be fur-

ther compressed and has become a plane. A plane by definition must have no height irregularities because it has no height. Thus, a squat pyramid must have fewer irregularities than a taller one.

Also, photographic resolution must be considered with regard to irregularity. There may be irregularities in the shadow that cannot be seen. However, the resolution of the camera in this photo is slightly more than one meter (about three feet) and thus there can be no shadow irregularities greater than about three feet or they would be visible.

Because of the sun's angle the object's height and the heights of any irregularities on its surface are elongated by a factor of about five in the shadow. Thus, a seven inch irregularity on the object would be about 35 inches on the shadow, just under the detection limit and invisible on Orbiter photographs.

Do large squat cones or pyramids with irregularities no greater than about seven inches, which appear to be geometrical-ly interrelated with respect to position, seem unusual?

Yes! But this is not to say that they must be unnatural. Some of the most unusual formations on earth are natural — natural and so unusual that people come

from all over the world to see them.

But what about the diverse re-ports and conflicting data? Are there six or are there seven ob-jects? Are they "next to the Sea of Tranquility" or are they on the "far side"? Were the errors in measurements merely the re-sult of carelessly worded press releases? This puzzling situation certainly illustrates the much publicized governmental "credi-bility gap"!

Could there be a reason for NASA's contradictory state-ments? Is it possible that NASA's initial figures for the sizes of the objects were mis-takenly publicized and actually were applicable to objects ap-pearing on other photographic frames of prime Site 4? Where, exactly, were these shadows photographed? Were the six to which NASA first referred lo-cated on the moon's far side, as reported in *Sky and Telescope*?

Today, when astronomers are studying the moon in order to be of help to the technologists who plan to send a man there, any attempt to minimize the signifi-cance of *any* lunar phenomenon is disturbing. The apparent dis-missal of these startling shadows should be reevaluated. Why spend millions of dollars of tax-payers' money to take photo-graphs of the moon's surface

only to ignore or minimize what appears on such lunar photographs? Particularly when the moon "pyramids" photographed by Lunar Orbiter II may hold important scientific surprises!

As astronomer Franklyn B. Bradley recently wrote in his

book *Exploration of the Moon*, "... we can no longer assume that the moon is the dead, totally inert world that it has for so long appeared to be. Rather, it is a world where activity, however slight it may be, probably continues to occur."



#### WHY HE BELIEVES

**N**ORMAN VINCENT PEALE, well-known clergyman and author of numerous books, has become convinced there is life after death not only because of the remarkable experiences reported to him throughout the years of his ministry but because of his own dramatic meeting with his dead father.

*Family Weekly*, March 26, 1967, published this account: The Reverend Peale one day went to preach at a Methodist gathering in Georgia. It was the kind of meeting his father, an old-time Methodist preacher, had loved to attend but at this time Dr. Peale's father had been dead for several years.

As the congregation was singing "At the Cross, At the Cross, Where I First Saw the Light" and Dr. Peale was seated on the platform enjoying the fine old hymn, he suddenly saw his father among the persons walking down the center aisle.

Before he died his father had suffered several strokes and had been unable to speak above a whisper. Now Norman Vincent Peale saw him striding purposefully down the aisle, singing in his old booming voice. He was smiling directly at his son and without thinking Dr. Peale started forward to meet him. His father, seeming about 40 years old, trim, vital and handsome raised his hand in a familiar gesture of greeting — then he vanished. But even after he had disappeared Dr. Peale continued to feel his presence deeply and he says this was one of the most vibrant experiences of his life.

Dr. Peale also says he believes his father was there in the spirit because it was a natural place for him to be. And he is certain such experiences as these are not fantasies and hallucinations because they are too consistent, too close to the teachings of the Scriptures.



#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

LEO HEIMAN, 41, married and the father of two children, was born in Poland. In World War II he fought with Soviet guerrillas against the Nazis but in 1945 he deserted the Red Army to find freedom in the American Zone of West Germany. At the University of Munich he studied journalism and international law until 1948, then emigrated to Israel as a volunteer during the War of Independence. After seven years as an officer in the Israeli Army he resigned to become a foreign correspondent. The author of five books, he is now the editor of a weekly Israeli news service, syndicated to 192 papers throughout the world.



## SAVED by a SILVER BULLET

Hardheaded journalist bucked the old wives' tales when he rented ill-omened house — and lived to tell about it.

By Leo Heiman

WEREWOLVES and vampires went out of fashion in the Balkans during the Second World War. Four years of German occupation followed by two decades of communist rule were not conducive to superstitious and supernatural horror tales, for compared to sojourns in Gestapo interrogation rooms and arrest by Communist secret police a visit from Count Dracula

and his cohorts was a mild nuisance indeed.

Therefore I was surprised to learn that the inhabitants of Budva, a small village on Yugoslavia's Adriatic coast a few miles north of the Albanian border, once again were being terrorized by tales of a werewolf who was said to control a few square miles of territory between the mountains and the

sea. My first reaction on hearing this 1966 version of the old legend was that it must be a publicity gimmick designed to attract sensation-hungry tourists, or life under Yugoslavia's relaxed brand of "national Communism" had become so good and carefree the people once again had time to worry about Dracula and Company.

I first heard of Budva's were-wolf when I rented a house on a narrow promontory leading from the village to the crumbling ruins of an old castle built by the Turks in the 17th Century and designed to control the pirate-infested waters between Albania and the offshore Adriatic islands. Yugoslavia's official policy of encouraging tourists to stay for longer periods and spend more money made it cheaper for me to rent a house with a cook and gardener-servant for two weeks than to stay one week in a first-rate seaside hotel. I had a lot of writing to do. Hotel guests usually protested the clatter of my typewriter late at night and after inspecting the house and its spacious verandah overlooking the placid sea I immediately moved in.

The narrow dusty track leading from the village to the old Turkish castle was hemmed in by the sea on one side and sheer cliffs on the other. Apart

from a few clapboard shacks used by local fishermen in the daytime there were few other buildings on the promontory. Directly opposite my house was the entrance to a cave, partially covered by dense vegetation and foliage. To the right of the house a curious structure loomed over the deserted beach. A huge stone wheel with a circular aperture in its center was cemented sidewise onto a broad base of stone blocks similar to those used in the walls of the Turkish fortress.

When I asked old Katisa, the cook who came with the house, the purpose of the stone wheel she mumbled something, crossed herself and knelt to pray, ignoring the odor of burning onions from the frying pan on the kitchen range.

Simeon the gardener was more cooperative. After looking furtively around he too crossed himself, then led me to the wheel and pointing to some reddish stains on some of the stones said, "When the Turks executed prisoners or tortured local inhabitants who resisted their oppressive rule they led their victims to this stone, inserted their hands and feet through the hole, one by one, chopped them off with an axe and left them to bleed to death. The whole beach here is soaked with the blood of Christian martyrs and this naturally

has attracted all kinds of unsavory elements. The cave you see across the road was the home of a werewolf. As long as he could lap up Christian blood freely he did not attack people. But when the Turks were driven out and the executions stopped the werewolf began snatching children and dragging them to his lair to drink their blood. And now they say he is back again . . ." He paused and crossed himself twice.

"Who says?" I persisted.

"The people who saw him."

After a few shots of pungent Slivovits plum brandy, reinforced by a pack of American cigarettes, Simeon told me the rest of the werewolf story.

The man who allegedly sold his soul to the devil and signed a pact with the forces of hell was Count Erasmus Von Windyschatz, an Austrian nobleman who fought the Turks in the 17th Century. After quarreling with his commanding general during the Battle of Turnovo in 1678 he defected to the Turks, embraced the Moslem faith and ultimately was appointed commandant of the Budva fortress and chief executioner of Christian prisoners. Like all renegades Count Erasmus exceeded his masters in cruelty and zeal. Whenever any of his old comrades from the Agram Regiment were captured

and brought to be tortured on the stone wheel he personally chopped off their limbs and then drank victory toasts from cups made of human skulls and filled with their blood mixed with wine. A sadist to begin with he ultimately went insane and began attacking local people without provocation. Fearing major disorders the Turkish governor deposed him from the fortress commandant's post. So Count Erasmus went underground, hiding in the cave from which he emerged at night to raid farm houses and fishing huts. Like most legends in this part of the world the Count Erasmus story probably was built on solid historical facts and subsequently embellished with grisly details added by each successive generation.

But why bring the unsavory Count Erasmus back to life in 1966? Simeon the gardener had no logical explanation. But he pointed out that what had looked to me like a bargain — a five-room house with all modern comforts, two servants and free food for \$8.00 a day — was in fact no bargain at all. The house was offered cheap by the local tourist office because no one could live in it for more than one or two nights. The werewolf always scared them away.

When I laughed aloud Simeon

again made the sign of the cross, drained the bottle of Slivovits in one gulp and told me the house had been empty for several years. The previous inhabitant had been a Chief Pilot of JAT, the Yugoslav Air Lines, who had rented it as a summer retreat for his honeymoon. He had stayed with his young wife in the house for one week in June, 1963 — until the werewolf came.

The pilot had been out in the bay fishing from a rowboat by the light of kerosene lanterns at dusk and his wife had been preparing dinner on the open verandah. He suddenly had heard her screaming in anguish and horror. Looking across the 300 yards of water he had seen a dark shape, its head surrounded by a phosphorescent green aura, looming behind her. She had struggled feebly and then gone limp in the apparition's arms. Her husband saw her dragged backwards to a dark corner of the verandah. He had shouted for help as he rowed at top speed towards the beach. An oar broke and he had jumped into the water to swim ashore. When he stormed up the stairs brandishing a sharp stone his wife had showed no signs of life. She was bleeding profusely from two jagged wounds in her throat and her face was scratched as if by an animal's claws.

An ambulance had rushed the unconscious woman and her frantic husband to a nearby Yugoslav naval base where surgeons at a military hospital had saved her life with blood transfusions and immediate surgery on her injured neck. But her mind became permanently unhinged. She could give no coherent account of who or what attacked her on the verandah.

Police investigation produced no results. There were no fingerprints or clues except for a few spots of caked mud which smelled of sulphur. Bloodhounds led the officers across the road to the cave entrance where they halted, whined fearfully and refused to enter.

A police search party, led by veteran cave explorers, was organized to probe the dark recesses of the cave, hunting for man or animal. The men proceeded for about 30 yards along a narrow tunnel which also smelled of sulphur until they found further progress barred by huge slabs of granite which could not be budged. Assuming that a rogue bear used the cave as his hideout and had emerged from it to attack the woman, police sent engineers to block the cave's entrance with sandbags and concrete and likewise closed their file.

The case of the pilot's wife was

hushed up by the authorities who feared that publicity would ruin the tourist trade along this part of the Adriatic coast. But the people of Budva knew better than to accept the official explanation. As far as they were concerned Count Erasmus Von Windyschatz had come back from hell to gorge on Christian blood. And when they found the official sandbags and concrete removed and the cave entrance again open they began to give the place a wide berth and to lock themselves in their houses at night.

There were further unexplained assaults on young women including the most recent one in May, 1966. Seventeen-year-old Jelka Dubasevic had returned home from the Communist Youth Club and suddenly remembered having left her rubber boots in her father's fishing shack on the promontory where she had been helping him sort out the catch earlier in the day. Turning back she was passing between the stone wheel and the cave entrance when a dark shape leaped at her out of the shadows and sank its teeth in the nape of her neck. Jelka screamed and fainted. Local fishermen, alerted by her scream, had arrived to rescue her just in time. Surgeons at the hospital, examining the wounds, said the incisions were

made by the teeth of a mad dog or wolf. They cured her completely in 10 days.

The villagers now took things into their own hands. They contacted friends in a marble quarry near Titograd and obtained dynamite sticks and blasting caps. They put them into the cave, lit the fuse and retreated to a safe distance. Reportedly the blast was terrific; clouds of dust and smoke belched out of the cave's mouth and a landslide partially covered the opening.

But apparently nothing could hurt the werewolf. Numerous persons swore they had seen the ghostly apparition on several occasions after the blast.

"Who owns this house?" I asked Simeon.

"The community of Budva."

"I know; I rented it from them. But it must have been built before the war. Who was the original owner?"

It transpired that the house was much older than I had thought. It was built before the First World War by an officer of the Imperial Austrian-Hungarian navy. At that time Austria controlled the entire Adriatic coast and operated a major naval base on nearby Kotor (Cataro) Bay. Between the two world wars the house was leased to a Yugoslav engineer from Zagreb who used it as a summer retreat for his

family. When the Germans occupied Yugoslavia he became a turncoat and joined the pro-Nazi Ustasha Corps which perpetrated war crimes and brutalities on a par with Nazi storm troops and Gestapo goon squads. He returned to Budva to punish the local people, most of whom supported Marshal Tito's Communist Partisans. In retaliation the guerrillas tossed a homemade bomb into his bedroom killing his wife and daughter. But the traitor had been shielded from the blast by his wife's body and had escaped with minor injuries. He was sentenced to death in absentia by a Partisan Tribunal but the sentence never was carried out because he could not be found after the war.

Following the liberation of Budva by Tito's Partisans in September, 1944, the house was seized by the People's Council and is now joint community property. No one wanted to live in it and the councilors had handed it over to the tourist office to be rented for a nominal fee. I was the first tenant to move in — in 1966.

Katisa prepared dinner, served it and after she had washed the dishes lit out for home, crossing herself as she passed between the stone wheel and the mouth of the cave. Simeon made sure all the lights

worked and the locks closed properly and then asked permission to go home too. But after 20 minutes he came back riding a bicycle and carrying an old single-barreled, muzzle-loading shotgun.

"I have loaded it with a silver bullet, sir," he said placing the weapon near my typewriter on the table.

"What for?" I asked.

"In case the werewolf attacks you — the only thing that can hurt him is a silver bullet. He fears neither steel nor fire and ordinary bullets do not hurt him either."

I did not wish to appear ungrateful. After all Simeon had showed devotion and courage by returning after dusk. I stood on the front porch until he disappeared around the bend, pedaling furiously as if participating in the Tour De France. Then I went in and locked the doors.

I placed my typewriter on the verandah's heavy wooden table facing the sea and with two fingers typed out the rough draft of an article analyzing the recent political upheavals in Yugoslavia. The transistor radio at my elbow played full blast the latest pop tunes on Belgrade's Hit Parade and I took an occasional swig from the brandy bottle as I worked till well past midnight. Simeon's shotgun with the silver

bullet leaned against the wall behind my back where I had placed it. This probably saved my life.

The kerosene lanterns of sardine fishermen flickered off the coast and the soft breeze wafted smells of charcoal-grilled steaks from the barbecue pits of Jadranski Hotel on the other side of the village. I don't know just when I became aware of another smell. But suddenly it penetrated my senses that the pungent smell of sulphur was getting stronger every second. I pinched myself to make sure I was not dreaming and gulped a swallow of the fiery liquor to kill the stench. I told myself my mind must be reacting to the horror tales I had heard and now was fabricating the illusory smell of sulphur.

Suddenly a lopsided shadow flickered against the brighter background of the moonlit sea, moving across the verandah with incredible speed. Even now I cannot say whether it was man or animal. But the smell of sulphur was overwhelming and the wooden table was bathed in a greenish glow.

An involuntary cry escaped from my throat as I kicked at the table and rolled backwards with my chair, reaching for Simeon's shotgun. I am a veteran of two wars and I probably was saved

by my trained instantaneous reaction. The heavy gun fell on top of me as I rolled to the left to escape the bear-like shape which leaped at my throat. My fingers groped for the trigger. There was no time to take aim. I just swiveled the heavy barrel in the crook of my elbow and fired.

My eardrums were almost split by the blast. The gun's recoil brought the solid metal-encased butt hammering against my ribs with the force of a baseball bat. I was pinned to the floor and could not move as a bright tongue of flame belched out of the muzzle. I do not know whether the silver bullet hit my attacker at all. But the smell of sulphur receded and all that remained in the way of direct evidence of the encounter was a gaping hole in a sturdy plank which supported the verandah railings.

No one in the village heard the shot. No one came and I spent a sleepless night waiting for Simeon's return in the morning.

He took one look at my face and crossed himself. Together we searched for further evidence. The garden was walled and the attacker must have entered the sea and waded across 20 yards of shallow water to approach the house from the rear. We found no footprints on the rocky ground between the waterline and the verandah. But two

railings were splintered where the "apparition" had hurled itself at them in a rush to escape. We discovered no blood spots or shreds of fabric but the railings still smelled faintly of sulphur.

With the sharp point of a hunting knife Simeon dug out the silver bullet from the plank. He handed it to me. "Wear it on your neck from a silver chain as a good luck charm," he suggested.

I gave it back to him. "I am moving out today, Simeon, and you can use it again. This old cannon of yours really works fine."

He grinned under his bushy mustache, "So, you believe me now, don't you, sir?"

I shrugged. "There is nothing supernatural about it but it's a mystery all right. I never heard of bears or wolves entering houses to attack human beings but animals too suffer from deranged minds. It could be a rogue bear with a grudge against mankind who lives in the cave and regards anyone in the house across the road as his personal enemy — or a mad wolf, or a lunatic. Perhaps the Yugoslav traitor who was blasted out of this house by the Partisans went mad, hides in the cave and emerges to attack anyone who occupies his property. There must be mineral springs deep in

the cave, hence the smell of sulphur. And there is no lack of food either. The villagers lock themselves in their houses at night and anyone can approach their fields, orchards, gardens and chicken coops. Everything can be rationalized but I am moving out . . . ."

Simeon advised against informing the police. "Cops are the same all over, sir. First, they will assume you were drunk. Then they will think you are crazy. Even if they believe you they will try to hush it up for fear of ruining the tourist trade. They know from experience that such investigations do not pay off and they can expect only reprimands, no promotions, from their superiors. If you persist they will ask you to stay in Budva until the investigation is completed. This may take weeks or even months. I am sure you do not want that, do you?"

I was in complete agreement with the gardener. I told him to divide the two weeks' supply of food with Katisa and gave them \$50 each before driving north to Titograd and Belgrade.

\* \* \*

**T**HREE IS a sequel to this werewolf story — two postscripts, in fact.

In Belgrade I went to see Commissioner Zvonko Petrovac, the official in charge of war crimes

files at the Ministry of State Security. He listened to my request for information about the trial of Petar Bkarski, the traitor from Budva, and pushed a button on his desk. A secretary brought in the dusty folders a few minutes later.

"Bkarski? He was apprehended by People's Militia in 1948 and imprisoned in Zagreb Penitentiary. His death sentence was reviewed by a special court and commuted to life imprisonment. But in 1963 he benefited from the sweeping amnesty promulgated by the government on occasion of President Tito's 70th birthday. He was released and his present whereabouts are unknown although he was supposed to report to the police in his new place of residence . . . ."

The werewolf of Budva made his reappearance in the summer

of 1963 — after the amnesty!

Dr. Ivan Macric, of the Mineral Prospecting Department at the Ministry of Mines, informed me that plans are underway to tap mineral springs along the Adriatic shore for health resorts and chemical exploitation.

"What about the cave at Budva?" I wanted to know. "It contains sulphur springs and phosphorous deposits."

He looked at me curiously, "How do you know?"

"From personal experience," I said. And I described my meeting with the werewolf.

He unfolded a large map of the coastal sector on his desk and drew a fat red circle around the Budva promontory. "This means 'For Immediate Prospecting.' Whoever hides inside, we'll smoke him out!" he promised.

But will they? Can they?



#### SCENE OF THE CRIME

**A**CAR parked in the lot of the Atlanta, Ga., department store warehouse where he was employed seemed familiar to Joseph W. Storey. Examination of the car showed it was the one stolen from him in the same parking lot 13 months before. A police investigation revealed that the new owner of the car, who recently had started to work at the warehouse, had purchased the car from a dealer in another state and was unaware that it had been stolen.



# Tragic ABERFAN ...a Test of Prophecy?

After the fact, we learn of widespread premonitions of impending disaster. How can such psychic **prevision be put to constructive use?**

By Elizabeth Read

ON FRIDAY morning, October 21, 1966, a huge coal slag heap slid down upon a school and part of the Welsh town of Aberfan. A total of 144 men, women and children died under the rubble. It was one of Britain's worst disasters.

On the record this was an accident — a fortuitous happening, a chance occurrence. There may have been physical forewarnings which should have alerted authorities. These became matters for official investigation and testimony in court.

We are concerned here with the paranormal forewarnings of the impending tragedy. For it appears, and also is part of the record, that people "saw" — or felt — the Aberfan disaster in advance, psychically. That such

accidents indeed do cast their shadows before becomes evident once again in studying the survey made by a team of investigators from the *News of the World*, big-circulation (eight million) London weekly.

This newspaper checked out more than 200 cases of apparent foreknowledge involving the accident at Aberfan. Fifty persons responded to a request for pre-disaster psychic experiences from the Psycho-physical Unit at Oxford University. Another 72 cases were collected by a London psychiatrist (who would not permit his name to be used), while the rest represent reports from the newspaper's own readers. From this total the *News of the World* selected seven outstanding examples that seem to

indicate definite precognition of the disaster.

The London paper, in presenting the results, said that two major questions were posed:

"1. Could this appalling tragedy, in which 116 children were among those crushed or buried alive, have been accurately foreseen in sleeping or waking dreams?

"2. If such premonitions do occur, could they be harnessed in some way to avert future tragedies?"

As investigators analyzed the cases and became aware that scores of persons claimed they had foreseen the disaster at Aberfan and also other great tragedies one question became paramount: Was there evidence to show that the dream or premonition occurred before the Aberfan accident and had not been "embroidered" afterward?

Some of the reported precognitive warnings came in dreams, some in waking visions and others during seances in which mediums "saw" or were otherwise psychically impressed with clues later associated with Aberfan.

A large number of cases were considered "borderline" or so inconclusive as not to be of significant value. These, said the newspaper, were "ruthlessly discarded."

Here are the seven significant examples, as reported by the *News of the World*:

MRS. SYBIL Brown, of Powis Grove, Brighton, England, is a telephone operator, 46 years old, who has been married for a quarter of a century and is a grandmother. About four o'clock in the morning on Friday, October 21, 1966, approximately five hours before the slag heap at Aberfan started to slide down onto a schoolful of children and other victims, she had a dream that horrified her. She establishes the time because she remembers waking up and looking at the alarm clock and then falling asleep again but only for a few minutes. During these few minutes she had the dream.

The second time she awoke she roused her husband Bill, 50, and said, "I've had a terrible nightmare."

She told representatives of *News of the World* it was the first nightmare she ever remembers having.

"There was no other person in my dream," she said. "I was all alone. I was at a switchboard, although I can't recall actually seeing it. I could hear a child wailing. It was a dreadful noise. The child was in a call box. I kept telling her to press button 'A' but she didn't seem to under-

stand. I know I kept appealing to other operators, 'Do help me!' But there was no one else there.

"All the time there was this awful wailing and I had a terrible sense of frustration because I couldn't do anything. Then I saw a child — a girl aged between six and eight coming towards me. I know I was in a street but I can't explain why. To her right was a black, billowing mass. It was moving like a cloud or smoke.

"A voice said to me, 'The whole family is in the house.' I didn't seem to be able to do anything. I can't explain why. I was horrified. There was no other person I could turn to."

Her husband tried to persuade her to go back to sleep, but she could not. He told her: "There is nothing you can do." That did not help.

"I couldn't get rid of that child's wailing. I can still hear it now. I got up, made some tea, did some packing and nearly drove my husband mad by talking to him about it."

Later in the morning, while on a weekend trip to Southampton, they heard the news of Aberfan.

"We were both flabbergasted but we talked it over and realized that there was nothing we could have done."

Mrs. Brown, who thinks that the excitement over the forthcoming trip to Southampton may

have energized her psychic faculties for this once-in-a-lifetime premonition, said, "I have searched my memory to try to see if there was anything in the past that might have inspired my dream but I can't think of anything."

MRS. CONSTANCE Milden, who lives in Trevone-Gardens, Manadon, Plymouth, is the 47-year-old wife of a dockyard worker. Unlike Mrs. Brown, she says she has been psychic most of her life.

"As a little girl I used to see things," she said. "As I grew older they became more realistic. I might be reading a book and suddenly my eyes would stray and I would see a picture. I don't consider that I forecast events. I simply foresee them."

About 12 hours before the slag heap began to move at Aberfan she was sitting in a circle of seven, holding a private meeting in the Weston Park Spiritualist church.

According to *News of the World* she suddenly "saw" a clairvoyant picture of "coal heaps" and at the same time experienced a sense of impending doom that was "overwhelming."

The newspaper report continues, "Then she 'saw' a miner . . . then a small boy with a look of

terror on his face. She and her companions came to the conclusion that a coal mining tragedy was about to happen."

Mrs. Milden said, "A fortnight earlier I had had a vision of a valley with coal mines in the background. A week after that I saw the same valley, this time with a schoolhouse in it. Somehow or other I connected it with a Welsh valley and a coal mine. I saw those great heaps of slag.

"When the boy appeared the night before the disaster I wondered what he could be doing in a coal mine. I heard him say something to the effect that he had been left behind.

"I had a clear picture of the boy who had a fringe of hair on his forehead. On the Sunday after Aberfan I was looking at a TV report of the disaster and there I saw the boy and the miner quite clearly."

Mrs. Milden said she does not tell her husband what she foresees because he "just doesn't believe in this sort of thing"—despite the fact that she accurately foretold his father's death. Of this she said, "Six years ago I woke him up to tell him his father was dead and a few minutes later a car arrived with the news."

It is unfortunate that her husband's scepticism eliminated him as a corroborating witness.

However, besides the others who were in the circle, another witness to Mrs. Milden's psychic prophecy was located. This is a next door neighbor.

The morning after the seance, before news of the disaster, Mrs. Milden told the neighbor, Mrs. Violet Mitchell, about her seance experience and the related visions.

**J**OHN ARTHUR TAYLOR, of Cutler Lane, in the village of Stacksteads, near Britannia, is described as "a gently spoken man" of 63, whose working life ended three years previously because of a heart condition.

He was born and raised in Britannia less than two miles from his present home and has been known all his life as a religious man. For a time he and his wife were caretakers of a church chapel. He once was a Sunday School superintendent and has traveled extensively as a lay preacher.

*News of the World* concludes, in evaluating his character, "A more ordinary, levelheaded person would be difficult to find."

This may be why the paper included his case even though there was no actual corroboration.

What Taylor said was impressive. The night before Aberfan he saw the exact letters of that

name spelled out in brilliant lights in a dream — A-B-E-R-F-A-N.

He never before had had a psychic experience so this meant nothing to him and he told no one of the dream. However, the dream was vivid enough to awaken him at the time and thereby the name was engraved on his memory.

During the midday news broadcast following the night of his vision he heard the name again, along with the terrible details of the tragedy. He told *News of the World*, "The shock was like having cold water running where my blood should be."

For a few summer vacations Taylor and his wife Louisa, along with their son, had toured the mountains and valleys of Wales in their car and he declared, "A couple of years ago I remember we were on our way from Cardiff on a road overlooking Merthyr Vale and across the valley we could see the slag heaps. Even then they seemed sinister and menacing. But all the times we went to Wales I never saw the name Aberfan. When it appeared in my dream it meant nothing — absolutely nothing."

Trying to understand his unusual experience he reasoned, "Perhaps inside me, without my knowing, lay some feeling for the

country and its people. Perhaps it was through being fascinated all my life by the music of Wales — they have some wonderful tunes and hymns, you know."

*News of the World* wrote: "Mr. and Mrs. Taylor . . . talk with the quiet conviction of people who do not consider even the possibility of not being believed. Their sincerity is deep and unshakable.

"As Mr. Taylor put it, 'I am not telling my dream because I want people to believe me. All I know is that it happened and I shall never forget it!'"

**A**LEXANDER VENN, of Combe Martin, North Devon, put his premonition of Aberfan down on canvas before the disaster. He is now retired but formerly was a confectioner on the liner *Queen Elizabeth*.

A week before the catastrophe at Aberfan he said, "I felt something terrible was going to happen and that it would be somewhere near at hand. I said to my wife, 'I have a feeling that something terrible is going to happen and it won't be far from here.'

"The premonition was so strong that I thought I might be able to interpret what it meant. I do a little painting as a hobby so I went to my room and painted what I felt. I kept thinking about something black, like soot or coal dust. All I could get down on

paper was a head surrounded by a black background.

"It was only after the dreadful disaster at Aberfan that I realized the terrible significance of the picture."

*News of the World* reporters who saw the picture said it is as he described.

**M**RS. PAMELA Healy, of Haverstock Hill, Hampstead, London, has what *News of the World* called a responsible job with a London bank. She was described as being very "down to earth," although for many years, she reported, she has had premonitions of impending disaster. For instance, she felt foreshadows of doom before President Kennedy's assassination and before a major Japanese earthquake.

"It would be so easy to say," she explains, "that I have had vivid dreams in advance of each terrible incident. But that is not so in my case. What I experience is a period of absolute black depression for several days beforehand. Later this disappears and is followed by a peculiar feeling of relief as the awareness of disaster lifts from me. Once that has happened I always know that within a day or two the world will be shattered by news of some tremendous tragedy or disaster."

She said she felt "deeply depressed" for a week prior to the Aberfan disaster.

"It was as if I were completely enveloped in gloom. Then two days before Aberfan it lifted completely. The following day I scanned the morning and evening newspapers but it was not until Friday that the papers and television gave out details of the disaster. I first saw it on my TV set."

**M**RS. MONICA McBean, a 33-year-old secretary at the British Aircraft Corporation's factory at Weybridge, who was living at Woking, Surrey, at the time of the Aberfan slide said her premonitions usually come in dreams but not always. She once "saw" an important air crash before it happened, she told the newspaper, and also foresaw a train wreck in which 89 persons were killed. She only started having these premonitions after she began working, 18 years before the tragedy at Aberfan. She knows no reason for the onset of her precognitive experiences.

"At first I didn't take much notice of them. It wasn't until much later that I began to realize what they meant," she said.

"My workmates seem to think it's witchcraft — but I certainly don't practice any witchcraft."

"As soon as I hear the news of a tragedy I have foreseen I get a feeling of relief as though I've just got over being ill."

Her prevision of Aberfan came closest of all her premonitions to the actual time of the tragedy. Within seconds of the slag-slide, as it turned out, she had one of her "queer feelings" that something horrible was going to happen. She left her office and went to the ladies' room in her building.

"In my mind I could see this black mountain moving and children being buried. It was very frightening and I felt I had to be alone."

At lunchtime she saw her husband and told him of her vision. This was before either of them learned about Aberfan.

"I mentioned it to him but he's used to me. He said, 'We'll hear soon enough' — and then we didn't think any more about it until we heard the news."

MRS. MEGAN Jones lives on Aberfan Road in Aberfan. Her six-year-old daughter Eryl Mai apparently had the clearest premonition of all before she herself was killed in the disaster. She even said to her mother at one point, "But I am not afraid to die, Mummy. I shall be with Peter and June" (two neighbor children who also were killed).

Eryl Mai was described as "a highly perceptive child who never had been known to tell a lie." She had recurring dreams about which she tried to tell her mother on several occasions. Her mother recalls that she dismissed these with the explanation that Eryl Mai was merely having nightmares.

Mrs. Jones told the investigators, "Then two days before the disaster Eryl took hold of my apron strings and told me I must listen. She said, 'Mummy, I dreamed I went to school and there was no school there. Something black came down all over it!'"

THESE SEVEN cases, only a sampling of the psychic premonitions occurring in connection with the Aberfan tragedy, raise some interesting questions.

If there had been some way — some central agency — to record and analyze the many claimed premonitions, sifting out significant data, compiling it according to patterns, searching for clues to forthcoming happenings, could Aberfan have been avoided?

Could steps be taken to prevent or reduce the impact of future tragedies?

Could we establish an "early warning system" based on the extrasensory faculties of sensitive

persons who would be encouraged to report their forebodings?

Serious consideration of these questions one day could give an

answer to the oldest query of all: Is destiny fixed and unchangeable? Or can it be changed by man's free will?



### IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE?

*By Hugh Auchincloss Brown*

IT IS PERFECTLY conceivable that some intelligent race meddled once too often with nuclear laws and blew itself to bits." (Otto Struve quoted in *Our Earth* by Arthur Beiser, E. P. Dutton & Co., 1959.)

Struve and Harvard astronomer Harlow Shapley estimate that over a million inhabited planets exist in our galaxy alone and that some of the inhabitants probably are superior to us. This brings up the question, "How high can a civilization get without destroying itself?"

Our earth has existed for about four and one-half billion years, growing steadily in volume from core to top stratum, through about one million successive epochs of time each lasting 4,000 to 7,000 years. Have we reached the degree of superintelligence necessary to enable us to blow our earth to bits? We know an atom bomb detonated by fis-

sionable atoms will prove that all of the other atoms of the earth are fissionable. We know we have the power to destroy ourselves.

A favorite daydream (in which each of us believes he will be among the survivors) is that only a partial destruction of the human race will occur. This would allow us to go through another Stone Age and the slow development of civilization which many scholars tend to believe has happened repeatedly in the past.

Other predictions of partial destruction are based on the conjecture that the great South Pole ice cap, which rotates eccentrically because of the earth's wobble, some day will force a roll-around of the globe and a cataclysmic World Flood which will render the human race extinct — that is, except for you and me.



### "MIRACLE TREE" IN MEXICO

AFTER ABOUT 1,000 enraged farmers of Acayucan, Mexico, ran their parish priest out of town police made an investigation. They reported that the incident resulted after an ancient tree which had been on the ground for five years was found standing upright after a recent thunderstorm. Convinced that a miracle had occurred, the farmers asked the priest to build a chapel beneath the tree and celebrate mass. They became angered when he refused.

# True Mystic Experiences

**FATE will pay \$5.00 for each true experience published. Stories should be less than 300 words and typed double-spaced on one side of the paper. They may be sent to the TME Editor, FATE Magazine, 500 Hyacinth Pl., Highland Park, Ill. 60035. They must be signed by the author and address must be shown. Manuscripts will not be returned unless accompanied by stamped self-addressed envelope.**

## THE FACE IN MY DREAM

By Jeannette M. Warren

SIX YEARS AGO an unforgettable experience occurred following a dream so vivid it waked me. My two-year-old son Lendon seemed to be sitting on the floor crying because I had been angry and had slapped him in the face — something I never have done in real circumstances. He fell on his side and didn't move. I picked him up, looked into his little face (which had somehow changed into a wizened death mask) and screamed over and over, "He's dead!" I awakened then and rushed to his crib to find him sleeping peacefully.

Two days later, May 24, 1961, Lendon awakened with a slight fever and upset stomach. We lived in Pandora, Ohio, but our family doctor, Dr. F. D. Rodabaugh, had offices in Bluffton, 10 miles away. We took Lendon to him and Dr. Rodabaugh diagnosed his condition as flu and gave us a prescription.

But Lendy did not improve. In fact his symptoms increased and I was up all night with him. The next morning was Thursday and the doctor didn't have office hours. I debated: should I continue the medicine another day to see if it would take effect or try to reach the doctor right away?

Because my dream still was so vivid I telephoned him and by chance he was in. When I described Lendy's condition, he advised me to rush him to Drs. Horack and Pinkerton, associates in pediatrics in Lima, Ohio. From their office he was admitted to the Lima Memorial Hospi-



Lendon James Warren

tal where they diagnosed his condition as acute toxic gastro-enteritis with severe dehydration and acidosis. The doctors remarked his "typical dehydration mask, sunken eyes, blue lips, skeletal outline . . ." but to me it was the little face I had seen in my dream.

Lendy was on the critical list for two days and in the hospital for a week. He was released on May 31 but it was many months before he regained his strength.

Many times the doctors said, "Thank goodness you got him to us that morning, for had you waited until the afternoon it surely would have been too late."

Today Lendon is a healthy happy seven-year-old who might not be with us if I had not heeded that dreadful warning dream. —  
*Bluffton, Ohio.*

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#### A DUAL REVELATION

By Grace Shults Davis

**S**HORTLY BEFORE we left California to live in the east, my older daughter Valerie, a senior in high school, with other members of a select singing group went on Sunday afternoon, March 2, 1928, to present a concert at Hollywood High School. Hollywood is only 50 miles away from our Redlands home and she expected to be back not later than eight o'clock in the evening.

At 7:30 P.M., my other daughter Kathleen and I bowed our heads in silent prayer at the supper table. As I closed my eyes I saw in vivid detail the crowded Los Angeles Freeway over which Valerie would be traveling. Speeding cars roared two and three abreast along the four-lane stretches on either side of the concrete divider. In my mind's eye I saw a white car leap the divider and land sideways across the stream of onrushing traffic. Now I saw a snarl of automobiles. A violent fear gripped me — a sensation of the terror of a collision on the freeway. I fought the fear, trying to reason that it was only my overwrought imagination, a mother's worry over a child away from home and in a potentially dangerous situation. I raised my head and smiled, not wanting to alarm Kathleen.

When eight o'clock did not bring the singers home, nor 8:15 nor 8:25, I was beginning to be alarmed. However, at 8:30 I heard a car stop in front of the house and my daughter's familiar lively footsteps running across the porch. Kathleen ran to open the door and threw her arms around her sister. I wondered if she had detected some of my anxiety.

We sat down to hear about the concert and whether Valerie got along all right with a difficult

obbligato she was to sing that night.

"Nothing to it," she said. "I wasn't even nervous." Then abruptly she added, "We had a sort of a close one on the freeway on the way home. I think we were close to Fontana when a car in the oncoming lanes jumped the divider, but it didn't hit anything. The driver was scared out of his wits and he just sat there a minute, his car cross-wise in the lane. It might have been really bad if our choir director had not pulled over and stopped in order that he could direct traffic around the stalled car. The driver soon got safely into a traffic lane. That's why we were a little late. It happened an hour ago. It was right about 7:30."

Kathleen looked startled. "Sis!" she said, "By any chance . . . that car that jumped the divider . . . was it a *white* car?"

Valerie replied, "Yes, it was! That is, almost white, a light cream color. Did I say so? How did you know?"

"Because," Kathleen said, looking from one to the other of us, "when our eyes were closed for blessing at supper, I saw that white car leap the concrete divider — as plainly as if I had been there myself." — *Middlebury, Vt.*

### A SPIRIT'S JOURNEY

By Helen Louise Utter

WHEN I WAS growing up in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., a financial tragedy resulting from a bad investment in a mine affected many of the city's residents. My sister Ann was married to J. Stewart Allen who was in business there and when the tragedy struck he and his father decided to go west and start a hotel. Ann's husband moved his family to Sandpoint, Idaho.



Helen Louise Utter

My family sold our lovely big home and moved to Sayre, Pa., where I met and married Leon Utter.

My sister was 14 years my senior but we were very close and her seven children were like brothers and sisters to me. Having her so far away was hard for me to bear especially as my father had died and Mother had gone to France. Often I cried myself to sleep.

In Ann's letters it now seems

strange that she did not tell me anything about her house but the doings of her large family filled the pages, along with news of her husband's progress in business.

One night in September, 1913, I felt particularly lonely and lay sleepless for a long time. Then I seemed to be in a city of broad streets near a large body of water. I seemed to walk up an alley, off a main street. I saw a large barn and through its open doors an old car up on blocks. I turned into this place, a large piece of land — two lots, at least. A beautiful pine tree stood half-way down the path to the house. On one side were beautiful gardens, a formal rose garden, and facing the front street a bed of small flowers quite English in style. The shade trees were mountain ash. On the right was a vegetable garden and after looking it over I entered the house through a large enclosed porch.

The kitchen and breakfast room ran from the back to the front of the house, and wide glass panels walled the front. The table was set . . . and then I noticed the dishes — Crown Vista china from England. These were Ann's dishes! I continued my tour of the house, finding everything new and delightfully furnished. Then I saw the two corner cupboards filled with dishes and glassware I remembered so

well — and the silver tea set on the tea wagon. Over the buffet was a painting my grandmother had done.

I continued into the living room and found everything new here too, except the piano. They had moved Ann's piano. On the wall hung their Chinese sword and two hammered brass plates. These had been given to Ann by the Chinese she had been teaching in New York. On another wall was the painting of the ocean my Aunt Mary had made and given to Ann as a wedding gift.

I walked down a wide hall toward the front of the house and looked up the staircase. I knew they were all there — asleep.

When I awakened I remembered my strange dream in detail and wondered if it really were a dream. My husband assured me it could be nothing more.

A few years passed and I had my first baby. When she was three months old my husband became seriously ill and in March, 1916, the doctors told him he would have to live in a different climate. When I wrote this news to my sister, Ann and her husband insisted that we visit them. May 30, 1916, found me on the way to Idaho with a sick husband and a nine-months-old baby.

At the station in Sandpoint

Ann's large happy family awaited us. We laughed and talked as we started out in their new Buick — but when we turned off into an alley I said to my husband, "Look! Remember my dream?" There was the large barn. We turned in and there sat the old Buick on its blocks, the pine tree, the gardens . . .

I turned to Ann and said, "I didn't tell you but I have been here before. I can tell you before we go in just how your house is planned and furnished, where the pictures hang. Is the table in the breakfast room set with the pink dishes from England?"

It was. — *Athens, Pa.*

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### THE EXPLOSIVE GHOST

By H. Charles Robertson

MY FATHER was an inventor and a practical man who certainly did not believe in ghosts. His work often required that he travel to other cities and whenever he did he always came home with some trinket for Mother and a new toy for me. While I was still quite young we moved from Cumberland in the mountainous region of Maryland to a roomy old house on Ramsey Street in Baltimore.

One day in August, 1912, Father returned from an extended trip bringing me a book of color pictures of animals. As an extra treat I was allowed to stay up a

little past my bedtime. After dinner that evening and well into darkness we remained in the dining room. The only light burning in the house was an ornate old-fashioned oil lamp shedding a soft yellow glow from the center of the table. While Mother and Father discussed the events of his recent trip I was engrossed in the exciting pages of my new book.

From the dining room an open doorway led to the darkened kitchen. Like many youngsters I had certain misgivings about darkness and frequently cast a glance in that direction. Suddenly a draft of chilly air blew over me and again I peered into the black doorway . . . to see the bluish-white luminous form of a man standing just inside the kitchen door. The figure appeared fully clothed and seemed to be composed of small shimmering particles. It was impossible to see through the thing and its facial features, if any, were indistinct.

For a few moments I watched the motionless apparition, dumbfounded. Finally, fear overcame my curiosity and I called Father's attention to the glowing intruder. For a few seconds my parents were shocked into speechlessness. Then Mother screamed. At that instant the ghostly creature jerked its arms upwards and

exploded without a sound into thousands of flickering, spark-like fragments. Before Father could rise from his chair, the phantom's glittering bits faded away.

The following morning Father used a magnifying glass to examine the spot where our mysterious visitor had stood. No clue was found. To this day the mystery of the exploding ghost remains unsolved — *Baltimore, Md.*

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#### HIS FACE ON THE SCREEN

By Jean Smith

**M**Y STRANGEST experience occurred when we were living in Lindenwold, N.J., and my husband Dave was working part-time for the Yellow Cab Company. One night in June, 1964, after he left for work, I gave my five children their baths and settled them in bed. When they were asleep I went to a neighbor's to chat over a cup of coffee.

Suddenly a weird feeling came over me. I felt that I must run home, for something was wrong. I found the children asleep and everything in the house seemed all right but the weird feeling persisted. I turned on the television, hoping to ease my tension,

then happened to look at the open front door. There on the screen I saw Dave's face. He was looking at me with a very sad expression. I jumped up to let him in . . . but he wasn't there! I called his name but got no answer.

I decided he was playing a joke on me and went back to the sofa. I looked at the screen door again and saw his face still there! Now a cold shiver went through my body — a feeling that death had walked by. I looked at my watch; it was 11 o'clock. I don't know how long his face stayed on the screen but it seemed an eternity. Then in a twinkling the vision disappeared and so did my strange fear.

When Dave came home a few hours later he had an alarming story to tell. The cab he was driving had caught fire but he was able to jump out before it exploded. He went on to say that in the split second he realized his danger his thoughts were on me. He looked at me in amazement when I told of seeing his face on the screen and remarking the time as 11 o'clock — for that was the time the cab caught fire. — *Stratford, N. J.*





From childhood two sisters (now Mrs. Isabel Dominguez, Chagrin Falls, Ohio, left, and Mrs. Victoria Sanz, Alicante, Spain) made "game" of telepathy. Does this account for their amazing experience as adults?

## The Case of the **LIVING· Ghost**

Do you believe ghostly materializations come only from beyond? Or do they illustrate the reaches of the mind?

By Mercedes Colon

IT HAS BEEN pretty well established that one person, through projection of thought can make mental contact with another. However, it is not so well established that one person, through thought, can transpose him or herself to a place miles away so that the physical presence actually is seen by another. Nevertheless, such an experi-

ence, where the telepathic impression took physical form, was shared by two sisters, cousins of mine.

Victoria Consuelo Carenas Sanz and her sister, Isabel Carenas Dominguez who is one year older, always have been very close. When they were children the family lovingly referred to them as the Bobbsey Twins. While

they were growing up they used to play what they called "the game" whereby at any time they were apart if either wanted to communicate with the other she could do so through concentrated thought. That is, one could attract the other's attention by repeatedly and intently calling her mentally. They claimed great success in their efforts and from occasions to which various members of the family were witness we were inclined to give credence to their claims for their method of communication.

When Isabel and her husband Carlos, a young engineer, went to live in Cleveland, Ohio, where he had been transferred by his company, she and Victoria were permanently separated for the first time. The three had been sharing the two-bedroom apartment in New York City where the girls had lived before Isabel's wedding. At the time Isabel and Carlos moved Isabel was expecting her first child and Victoria had made plans to go to Cleveland at the time of the baby's birth.

On the night of May 27, 1962, a few weeks before Victoria expected to leave, as she entered the apartment which she now shared only with a little Yorkshire terrier called Sherry, Vicky was seized by a feeling of depression that descended upon

her like a net. As the evening progressed this feeling grew stronger and was coupled with a heaviness that settled in her limbs. She had intended to spend part of the evening writing to her sister who had been on her mind all day but thinking that perhaps she had been working too hard at the office and that what she needed was a good night's rest she postponed her letter writing until the next day and decided to retire early instead.

After smoking a cigarette in an effort to relax her nerves which now were playing hopscotch all over her body, Vicky sat down at her dressing table to put up her hair before retiring. She was convinced that nerves and fatigue must be responsible for the way she felt and therefore meant to force herself to do what she had to do quickly so she could crawl into bed as soon as possible.

Victoria picked up a comb and started to walk the length of the room towards the bathroom across the narrow hallway. The feeling of heaviness persisted so, pausing, she leaned against the wall to relax her body. As she let her head drop onto her chest she noticed that Sherry who usually followed her everywhere was not with her.

She looked out into the hallway and was startled to see the little

dog crouching outside the bathroom door, staring intently into the darkness of the hall, tense and alert, her ears standing straight up. Victoria suddenly was overwhelmed by a feeling of apprehension as she stared at the little animal.

"Sherry," she called.

The dog, disregarding her, continued to stare intently into the darkness.

"Sherry, what is it?" she called again.

This time the dog glanced quickly at her and then back into the darkness. Victoria remembers that her pet's actions so affected her that a cold shiver spread throughout her body. Suddenly the animal emitted a muffled growl; its head shot upward as if someone were approaching. Although she heard no sound in the hall in that moment Victoria knew they were not alone. Mesmerized she watched as the little terrier made a movement to rise onto her hind legs as she always did when she was about to greet someone, changed her mind, whimpered and then scurried into the bedroom and under the bed.

Victoria now was so completely terrified that when she tried to move she found she could not. Her whole body had gone dead except for the wild beating of the

pulses in her throat and temples. But no matter how frightened she was she had to know what was there in the darkened hall. To her surprise she found she was moving forward slowly like a somnambulist. She stepped out into the hall and made herself turn to face the darkness.

"Oh, my God," she gasped.

A vaporous human figure in a white garment, framed by an aura of pallid light, appeared suspended in the air. As she watched, terror locking her gaze, it started to move forward like a feather propelled by a gentle breeze. Although the features of the face were nebulous there was something intensely familiar about the apparition. Victoria felt her throat constrict. She gasped for breath as her legs buckled under her.

Vicky recalls that when she opened her eyes her impression was one of complete relaxation. Her breathing was quiet and her body felt light and free. The little dog was lying beside her, its head on her breast.

Recollection brought her quickly to a sitting position and she stared into the hall which was still in darkness. There was nothing to be seen. For a moment she thought it must have been a nightmare—but what was she doing on the floor? The overhead light in the bedroom

was still on and the turned-down bed beckoned to her invitingly.

She still was sitting on the floor when the telephone on the night table started to ring. The unexpected sound startled her but its insistent ringing awakened her to activity and she jumped up to answer it. Immediately she recognized her brother-in-law's voice and with recognition came a stab of panic.

"My God, where have you been? I've been trying to reach you for hours," he said in obvious relief.

"What's wrong, Carlos? Has something happened to my sister?" she demanded.

In a voice heavy with fatigue he told her Isabel had given birth a few hours before, three weeks before the baby was expected. They didn't know what had happened but she suddenly had been seized with sharp pains and he had rushed her to the hospital. She had had a bad time, partially due to the baby's premature arrival, and he had been very worried that she wouldn't make it but at last she had given birth to a baby boy who was at the moment in an incubator. Now mother and child were going to be all right.

"She has been calling for you, Vicky," he said. "You don't know how she worries about you."

Then Vicky knew why the figure she had seen had looked so familiar. It had been Isabel, come to her in her distress and in a way she had shared it with her.

When the two later discussed the occurrence Isabel said she had been thinking about Vicky all day and when she thought she was going to die she had had a great desire to see her once again. Remembering the game they used to play as children she kept calling to her mentally, visualizing her image in her mind with all the intensity she could muster. As she was lapsing into unconsciousness, as a result of the ether that was being administered to her, she suddenly had found herself in the apartment in New York. She remembers seeing the little dog in the hall and then seeing her sister before everything went black.

I was so intrigued with this experience, which was twofold, that I discussed it with a friend who has spent many years studying psychical matters. Although he never had such an experience himself he said he knew of others who had. He explained it as a form of telepathy and said such phenomena, in which the telepathic impression takes the form of an apparition, are called "telepathic phantasms." Each sister had been thinking of the

other and Isabel's thought, being the stronger of the two because she was the one who most wished to make contact and possibly because of the circumstances in which she found herself, had made it possible for her to pro-

ject her image to the apartment in New York City.

These thoughts on the matter seem quite plausible but in psychical matters does one ever really know the correct explanation?



### MYSTERY OF ALABAMA'S "HANGING HOLE"

**A** SHALLOW hole that mysteriously refuses to remain filled reportedly may be seen on the west bank of the Choctawatchee River in Newton, Dale County, Ala. Old residents of Newton explain the persisting hole as due to the ghost of Bill Sketo, who was hung over the spot during the Civil War and who keeps the hole clean as a reminder of the injustice done him.

The story of Bill Sketo and the strange "hanging hole" was told by John A. Burgess of Opp News in a recent release by the American Oil Company. An immigrant from Spain who became a Methodist minister, Sketo did considerable preaching in Newton and neighboring towns. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in the Confederate Army. After he had served two years he heard his wife was

gravely ill. He arranged for another man to take his place in the Army and returned to Newton to be at his wife's side.

Convinced that Sketo was a deserter, six members of the Newton home guard hanged him from the limb of a post oak at the edge of the Choctawatchee. According to the story Sketo's feet touched the ground, enabling him to struggle for life. A member of the hanging party named George Echols used his crutch to dig a hole beneath Sketo's feet.

Since then, it is related, all attempts to fill the hole have failed. A determined effort was made by a group of construction men who camped out at the hole and repeatedly filled it with rocks. Each morning, it is said, they awoke to find that the hole inexplicably had reappeared.



### DEATH IN THE POOL

**R**ECENTLY the body of John Rungier, 63, was found in the swimming pool of the Scottsdale, Ariz., apartment house where he had been living. He apparently had fallen into the pool accidentally and drowned. His wife Viola, 59, had drowned in the swimming pool of another apartment house two and a half months before under much the same circumstances.

*that forgotten monster-*

# OLD THREE- TOES

By Ivan T. Sanderson

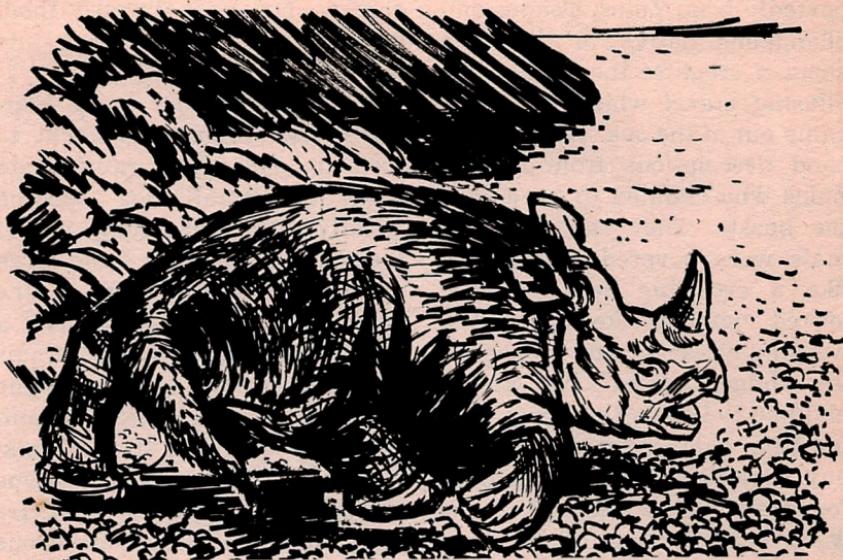
PART ONE

THE TWO DECADES since the end of World War II well may go down in history as the Age of the Monsters. I don't mean only large monsters, for some of the most monstrous have been quite small, but nonetheless shocking to zoologists. All the old standbys like lake monsters, sea monsters, Abominable Snowmen and Sasquatches (and of course animated entities from outer space) have kept up their charivari with ever-increasing tempo and at least one of them — good old *an Nisaeg* of Loch Ness, Scotland — finally has fallen from fable into reality. But one absolutely A-1-A Class monster seems to have been lost in the general hullabaloo. This is Three-Toes.

Apart from some odd wooden statuettes from the Indonesian islands of Bali, Lombok, Flores and Timor the civilized world does not appear to have been aware of Three-Toes until about

100 years ago. This may be because they appear to be southern hemisphere creatures, if not subantarctic, which wander north of the equator only on rare occasions and under exceptional circumstances. On the other hand, they may be a "class" of creatures erroneously grouped together because of a certain basic similarity in their feet since this particular feature of their structure is the only one we know much about. In fact, there may be at least three quite distinct kinds of animals of large size, living in salt water and having two three-toed feet.

Prior to 1937 Three-Toes allegedly had left tracks on several widely separated beaches of the world — southern New Zealand, Tasmania, Queensland, Patagonia and, of all places, Nantucket Island. In none of these places were there more than three-toed imprints forming bipedal tracks in sand or mud.



These tracks came out of the sea, wandered around the beach and then went back into the sea. They were remarkable because of their enormous size. When measurements were taken they were always in the nature of 18 inches long, with a stride of about six feet. Their local novelty together with the vague feeling that there are no known animals of this size with such feet led to some uneasiness. These early reports however are all delightfully vague and handled in a facetious manner.

The general public and the savants still were skeptical in 1937 when a Mr. Aleko Lilius applied to the Department of Zoology of

the University of Witwatersrand at Johannesburg, South Africa, for help in identifying the maker of a series of three-toed tracks and a large pile of droppings containing fish remains. He had found these on a beach in Natal near the Mozambique border. The famous coelacanth *Latimeria* had not yet turned up off that same coast so poor Mr. Lilius received short shrift. When I inquired into the matter 10 years later the droppings had been "forgotten" and the scientist who had been contacted by Mr. Lilius refused to comment on the photographs although he admitted having seen them.

Aleko Lilius had heard re-

peatedly from Zulus, Tongas and Shangaans native to the area about a creature they called the *Silwane manzi* which they said came out of the sea. He got first-hand descriptions from several Zulus who claimed to have seen the beasts. They said the animals were covered with scales like a crocodile but otherwise looked nothing like crocodiles, were much larger and had heads like huge turtles. No native claimed to know of one ever having been captured or killed or of any skeletons ever having been found but their three-toed tracks were common and their droppings were considered extremely powerful *muti* (medicine). Indeed, their droppings were so valuable that one witch doctor who had tried to manufacture an imitation had been caught and killed for his pains.

Lilius camped where the 'Mkuzi and *Umfolozi* Rivers debouch into the Indian Ocean in an area of sand dunes covered with thick scrub, endless white sand beaches and large shallow brackish lagoons to landward. There he was visited by a game warden who told him that a retired banker named G. F. Timbrell, who had a summer camp up the estuary, had reported seeing a pair of large dragon-like animals walk up the beach on their hind legs. He had stalked them with a

camera but had alarmed them and they had dashed back into the sea.

Shortly after the game warden's visit Lilius was about to turn in one night rather late when his small dog became greatly disturbed. Going out of the tent Lilius heard some large animal moving around in the thick bush. He stalked it with a flashlight and encountered a pair of small green eyes at some height from the ground. The animal took off toward the sea making a great rumpus and Lilius followed as fast as he could. He soon came upon the monstrous three-toed tracks which had been described by the natives and which now led down to the surf. He heard the creature rush into the sea "making a splash that sounded like a ton of bricks."

Having no flashbulbs Lilius could not photograph the tracks in the dark and during the night a strong wind blew up and obliterated them.

Some days later he went up the beach to fish. Noticing two vultures squabbling over something in the sand dunes he went to investigate and stumbled on more of the three-toed footprints. After dashing back to camp for his camera he was able to take a remarkable series of photographs.

These tracks, Aleko Lilius told

me, seemed to indicate that the creature had hopped up the bank on its two hind legs but that in other places there were much smaller tracks between, as if forefeet had touched ground. Also, long slash-like marks showed intermittently between these tracks along the central line of travel. He presumed these marks were made by a tail which had touched ground only now and then. Down toward the beach he came upon a pile of large feces containing fish bones.

All three toes were clawed. Careful measurement showed the right foot, a trifle smaller than the left, measured on an average 16 inches from the middle claw-tip to the back of the heel and 13 inches wide where the toes joined the foot. The left foot averaged  $16\frac{1}{4}$  by  $13\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The stride — the distance between the toe-tip and the back of the heel of the next imprint on the same side — was 49 inches. When the toes dug into upgrades no heel impressions appeared.

Despite a very dramatic and possibly exaggerated story which appeared in a national magazine in 1944 concerning this monster, which at first quite put me off, I have concluded that there is some form of large three-toed bipedal scaly sea monster inhabiting the Indian Ocean along that coast. And I became

personally involved in the next great Three-Toes case.

After the Lilius affair I know of no records of old Three-Toes turning up for 10 years. Then in Florida in February, 1948, overnight a set of tracks appeared on the beach at Clearwater. They came out of the sea, approached a four-foot sand bank which they failed to negotiate, then wandered around the beach a bit and finally went back into the water. A young couple smooching in a car parked on the beach road at about 3:30 A.M. ran to the police saying they had seen a huge monster stomp out of the sea. What they wanted apparently was a rifle to shoot it. The young man was in such a state he greatly impressed the Chief of Police who was called and when the authorities and the local populace saw the tracks in the morning they all became well-nigh hysterical.

The beach was swept clean that day and the next night almost identical tracks turned up again.

On March 6, 100 yards of similar tracks appeared a mile and a half north of the site. On March 20 some tracks were found at the north end of Dan's Island south of Clearwater Beach; on April 3 about 350 yards of tracks appeared at Indian Rocks some 10 miles south of the first discovery.

Five days later, on April 8, a mile of three-toed tracks were found on an uninhabited coast three miles south of Indian Rocks and "sometime later" still more tracks were seen on Philip's Hammock in Tampa Bay.

There was no further sign of old Three-Toes then until October of that same year, 1948, when his tracks were found 40 miles up the Suwannee River at a place called Suwannee Gables. This set of tracks was approximately 200 yards long and consisted of about 240 paces. On this occasion the right foot of the animal appears to be slightly larger than the tracks of Lilius' first report.

These records constitute one of the most convincing monster reports I know of.

It should be noted that the gulf coast of Florida had suffered during the latter part of 1947 and early 1948 from one of those infamous "red tides" caused by the sudden increase or "flushing" of certain small unicellular planktonic animals which become so numerous they turn the sea red. These flushes are highly toxic to much other marine life and lethal to fish which die and wash ashore to bloat, rot and upset everybody. The poisonous flushes, which may cover thousands of square miles, spread out and affect deep-water fish and

larger animals which prey upon these latter. It seems significant that Three-Toes first turned up toward the end of this natural marine disaster, just north of its periphery and inside the more or less landlocked gulf.

Open ocean dwellers having wandered into the gulf would have been cut off from the Atlantic by the red tide. After milling around on the periphery of it in March and April the animal or animals moved north, up the west coast of Florida to the mouth of the Suwannee River, then apparently went up that river.

There are strong indications that the animal — and I feel in this case there was only one — was lost and confused. It seems to have thrown caution to the winds, for it was seen by all manner of people, on the land, on the water and under it. Its initial appearance was in Big Pass the day before its tracks were found and it first was seen coming out of the sea at Clearwater. Two professional fisherman spotted it bobbing and splashing shortly after dawn.

On July 25 it was seen by two fliers, George Orfanides and John Milner, from the Dunedin Flying Company Airport. They reported seeing it swimming about 200 feet off the shore of Hog Island in crystal clear water

about eight feet deep. They described it as about 15 feet long with a "very hairy body, a heavy blunt head and back legs like an alligator but much heavier; (the tail was) long and blunt." The two men returned to the airport and picked up Mario Hernandez, Director of the Flying School, and Francis Whillock, owner of the Beachcomber Restaurant in Clearwater. Flying back the four men found the beast swimming out with the tide at an estimated eight knots in about 18 feet of water. They made half a dozen passes over it and saw that it had four limbs but they appeared to be kept pressed under its body most of the time.

I obtained a startling first-hand account of the creature's next appearance later in the year from a Milwaukee, Wis., couple who had visited Florida on a fishing trip in August.

They had rented a small row-boat for a day's fishing among the innumerable small uninhabited islands and cays close in-shore north of Tarpon Springs. At one point they landed on one of the islands intending to cast from the shore. This island was covered with a dense growth of sea grape bushes and palm trees. They hauled their boat onto an oyster shoal and the lady waded ashore and walked up the

beach while her husband sorted the fishing tackle. A little way along something caught her eye in the bushes. It was large and gray and she said she thought it might be a tent. No sooner had she passed it than she heard her husband yell and turning around she got a terrible shock — a huge animal was waddling across the narrow beach toward the water. Both she and her husband described it as "having a head like a rhinoceros but no neck; it sort of flowed into its narrow shoulders. It was gray and covered with short thick fur. It had short very thick legs and huge feet and from its shoulders hung two flippers. It didn't run into the water or dive in; it sort of slid in half sideways. It walked at an angle, leaning forward like a duck and was about 12 feet tall."

Some days later a Mr. Hayes and a deacon of the Baptist church at Chefin, farther north, and some other persons were picnicking on the Suwannee riverbank when they saw a rough dome-shaped object which they at first thought was a log floating upstream. They jumped into a skiff propelled by an outboard motor but by this time the thing had disappeared around a bend up river and they failed to come up with it.

Three days later Mrs. Mary Belle Smith, a well-known local

character who spent much of her time fishing under the Route 19 bridge over the Suwannee, arrived in the village of Old Town in a very excited state, saying that a large dun-colored animal had surfaced near the bank in front of her and then had paddled upstream.

Next Martin Sharpe, a trapper who had spent his life on the river and in the Okefenokee swamp, reported that upon hearing something "slapping" in a lily pond late one night he approached the noise with a flashlight and some animal set off with "great gurgling growls, running or galloping and splashing through the water." He insisted that whatever it was it "certainly was larger than a horse." When I interviewed him he made it clear that he is not frightened of any animal in the forest but was most puzzled about this.

I saw the beast myself a few days later when *Herald-Tribune* pilot Lloyd Rondeau flew me down the river in the company plane.

We were flying at about 500 feet trying to stay directly over the twisting turning river. About halfway between Suwannee Gables and the sea, over an uninhabited stretch of river flanked by tall forests, we spotted an enormous, dirty-yellow creature

wallowing on the surface of the water surrounded by a huge patch of foam. Of course, no sooner had we spotted it than we had passed it. The pilot banked and turned but we overshot the place and then lost it. We spent a long time cruising back and forth but did not see the thing again.

I estimated that what I saw was 20 feet long and eight feet wide. It was domed above but some things were churning up the water at both ends of the creature. It was one of only two monsters I have ever seen and I won't forget it.

The same or a similar monster was reported seen at a place called Dunedin on November 14, two days before I left the area.

And then no more was heard of old Three-Toes until late in the 1950's when a set of large three-toed tracks appeared on the television screen of a research ship in the Indian Ocean. And in 1958 some small tracks — two or two-and-one-half inches long — were photographed at a depth of 7000 feet on the bottom of the Arctic Ocean by a group of Columbia University scientists.

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I HAD THE good fortune to go on a hunt for the monster Three-Toes in 1948 in Florida. I then had a radio program on WNBC, New York, on the nat-

ural sciences and the network offered to send me down to broadcast on the spot. The New York *Herald-Tribune* cooperated by sending their top-notch nature reporter, Tex O'Reilly, and loaning one of their planes. We arrived at Suwannee Gables, where the tracks had appeared, on November 4 and I returned to New York on the 16th of that month.

Suwannee Gables was and still is a fine tourist resort a half-mile from the bridge that carries Route 19 over the Suwannee River and five miles east of Old Town in Dixie County, northwest Florida. Dixie County at that time contained extensive areas of swamp in which cypress, pine barrens and mixed coniferous and deciduous trees grew. Cultivated land was sparse but extensive logging operations had been conducted throughout the territory for over a century although some areas of virgin forest still existed.

Marx Cheney, proprietor of Suwannee Gables, had preserved a 400-acre strip of virgin swamp forest along the northwest bank of the river which flowed through the center of his property and then had cut a roadway which he named "The Jungle Drive." Tourists visited this in their own cars, driving past lily ponds and natural springs to a cypress

swamp at the river's edge. It was at the end of this drive that the tracks of Three-Toes appeared on the forest floor and on the hard wet sand of the road.

The tracks came from the river up a little cleft in the bank and crossed to the lily swamp by a fairly direct route. They emerged again from the same point and recrossed the forest and the sand road to enter a slough. The track-maker then appeared to pass southward down the slough and emerge on the right side to climb a gentle slope, circumnavigate some tangled bushes and overcome a small tree trunk which was extensively scarred as if some large heavy body had been dragged over it. The tracks then were lost in a grass-filled depression but reappeared to go directly to the lily swamp once more where they led to a large fallen hollow rotten tree which was crushed flat in the middle. Also in the lily pond a large circular area was churned up and all the lily pads uprooted. In all the track-maker had taken approximately 242 steps and covered about 200 yards on land. It must have left the pond by the stream that joined the slough and the river.

The longest series of visible imprints were on the muddy floor of the forest where a more

or less continuous line of 17 tracks was found of which only three were blurred and one completely missing — coinciding, as it must have, with a tree root.

Without detailed examination of individual imprints it is impossible to state categorically whether the tracks were made by a two-legged or a four-legged creature. If we assume the maker was two-legged we may ascertain an average stride expressed in three ways — as the distance between two imprints of the same foot, as the distance between the heels of consecutive left and right feet, or as the distance between the heel prints of two consecutive feet along the base line in the direction of the track-maker's progress. By the first way the stride averages just five feet; by the second way it was 31 inches from heel-tip to heel-tip; and by the third way the measurement was 25 inches. By none of these measurements is this stride excessive for a large man.

The width of the tracks averaged only 15 inches; that is to say, the left-hand imprints lay in a line 15 inches to the left of the right-hand imprints when they ran in a straight line. This accords more nearly with the tracks of a man than with those of any known large animal. There was considerable varia-

tion in length of stride apparently in accordance with differences in the gradient of the surface. And whenever the imprints started downhill, after a rise or a level, a considerable scattering of white river or swamp mud, unlike the surrounding black loam, was noticeable.

The feet turned slightly outward from the direction of travel. There were fewer right-hand imprints than left and the variation in them was greater. Moreover, two of the right imprints appeared to be at an incongruous angle. In one case the foot turned to the right, outwards, and in the other it was turned to the left, inwards. No such discrepancies occurred with the left foot which seemed to be more sure of itself.

The most significant features of the tracks, however, were noticeable only to an experienced woodsman, hunter or animal-tracker. These were the manner in which the tracks invariably followed the gentlest gradients even at the cost of considerable meandering and the manner in which they meticulously avoided all possible obstacles, even the smallest bushes. Further the imprints were placed on the most resilient ground and appeared to avoid bare roots. These are typically animal traits, especially traits of night-roaming animals.

We were told by Mr. Cheney and by several others, including the local police who had observed the tracks when they were fresh, that the imprints were clearly defined on the hardest sand although we were unable to make any impression on this by stamping or even by throwing a 35-pound lead model of the imprints down upon it from a height of three feet.

There was ample evidence of a slight "twist" in many of the prints. Strangely the claws do not seem to have shifted; rather the heels of the feet slewed inwards. Captain Carlos Musgrove of the Highway Patrol showed us his measurements of the prints which clearly indicated the left foot exerted more forward thrust than the right. We were told also that all the imprints in sand, both soft and hard, showed small "spurts" of sand thrown back by

the claws into the middle of the imprints. The general impression of the imprints is one of remarkable "pudginess" and many persons observed that they looked quite unnatural because they lacked any indication of toe-pointing, pads, or "heel." However, close inspection showed this was not truly the case. They are somewhat formless, resembling in general outline more than anything else the impressions left by an Emperor Penguin and *altogether they are very like those of a giant bird.*

Aleko Lilius' evidence in the South African instance provides material only for pure speculation but the Florida affair provides us with thousands of witnesses and the evidence of expert investigators. Thus, next month we will speculate on just what old Three-Toes could be and what he *might* be.



#### TRACHEOTOMY TURNABOUT

IN 1962 the son of Rev. M. G. Tanner was taken to a hospital in Mobile, Ala., as a result of injuries in an automobile accident. He appeared to be dead, but Dr. J. B. Davis restored the boy's breathing by making an incision in his windpipe. Recently a youth in a wrecked car was found unable to breathe. Dr. Davis arrived and attempted to perform a tracheotomy, but his knife proved too dull. A man at the scene produced a sharp knife and the doctor made an incision that enabled the accident victim to breathe again. The owner of the knife was the Reverend Tanner.

Already feeling the grip of  
death, hunter learned that powers within and outside himself  
worked together to save his life.

By Titu-Serban Ionescu

THE DANUBE DELTA, called with good reason "the paradise of birds," was a favorite spring hunting spot for Rumanian sportsmen. On Tuesday, March 13, 1947, I was one of a group of 15 hunters from Bucharest who embarked on a small shabby fishing vessel, the first on the river after the ice broke up that year.

Before flowing into the Black Sea the mighty Danube River branches out in three main arms connected by thousands of small channels vaulted with reeds. In the first two weeks of March as soon as the ice breaks up on the river huge flocks of migratory birds, coming from the south, make a stopover in this oasis of reeds and only after a while resume their flight north, guided by their inner compass. When a man makes his appearance these huge flocks of birds rise up to blacken the sky and beat their wings with tremendous noise while the hunter, dumbfounded, stops to gape at this awesome spectacle and many times for-

# WHAT makes a MIRACLE?

gets to press the trigger of his gun.

On this cold spring day we embarked about noon and after two hours of travel entered a lateral channel on our way to a small fishing village from where we were to begin our hunting the next day. But the chain of circumstances, each link insignificant in itself, led our expedition to its end in a peculiar shipwreck and, but for a miracle, me to my doom.

Our vessel's engine driver, having been absent from home for a month because of the heavy winter, asked our permission to stop the vessel at his village for half an hour. But instead it was more than an hour and a half before he returned.



After reaching the lateral channel which we had to enter we found that our vessel was loaded too heavily with the salt it was delivering to the villages to cross the channel without danger of miring in the mud. Our only chance of getting ashore was to be ferried in groups in a small fishing boat from the vessel to the village where we were to spend the night.

Meanwhile the night did not wait for us and spread its pitch-black wings. Shifting from the vessel into the small fishing boat by night was risky. Someone called our attention to this but my hot-tempered friend George Doiciu, at that time President of Court in Bucharest, insisted that

we make an immediate shift. It was as if he were pulled by an unseen hand of fate.

Two young fishermen were to maneuver the boat. One of them tied one end of the boat to the vessel with a rope. The second, at the other end of the boat, held onto the edge of our vessel with his hands. I went with the first group of seven hunters. Once we all were in the boat the command to push off was given. Unfortunately the fisherman sitting near the rope forgot to detach it and the boat was snapped around with great force by the swollen flooding river waters. With a rending crack the bow of the decrepit boat cracked open. All of us stood up in panic and in the midst of our tossing and

stumbling the boat overturned throwing us into the icy rushing water.

In a matter of seconds I found myself floating in my thick hunting furs in pitch-darkness. I was a good swimmer and at the beginning I did not realize the danger; I was sure the vessel would soon come to my rescue. But time slipped by and I saw no trace of the vessel.

At last I made out the red and green lights of the mast far behind me. I swam slowly to spare my strength. I realized that I was helped to stay afloat by the quick current of the floods and by my fur hunting clothes so long as they remained unsaturated with water. But how long could I maintain myself swimming? Why didn't the vessel come for me?

The fact was those men left on the vessel showed themselves so frantic and bewildered by what had happened and by the cries for help that for a long time the engine driver was unable to start the engine.

I did not actually feel the cold but gradually my movements were becoming slower and my feet and hands were stiffening. I realized suddenly that I was freezing without feeling the cold! I looked back upstream and now the lights were gone! In that moment the thrill of death caught

me. I began to cry, "Help, help!" Another's cries for help from a long way off sounded faintly across the surface of the water. Fragments of my life began to run dizzily through my mind. "This is what dying is like," I thought.

All of a sudden a spot of light appeared near me framing the image of my five-year-old son, Duk. He was reaching out to me. I lunged toward him quivering in all my being. The next second the light had disappeared but I understood then that I had to survive.

Now instead of fear a feeling of calm self-confidence and lucidity welled up in me. I tried to get rid of my fur which was becoming heavier and heavier. I sank for a moment attempting to do this. I gave up the project quickly and emerged. I began to scan the surface of the water. On my right side I saw a black form floating on the waves. A sensation of relief swept over me as without trying to rush I increased my swimming speed little by little. I approached the form. It was a willow trunk. I grasped it with one hand but hardly could maintain my hold. My hands were growing stiffer and stiffer. I began to bite and blow on first one hand and then the other to warm them a bit.

In the next hour and 15 min-

utes I traveled four miles — for an eternity! But at last I heard the rattle of a motor! Turning my head I saw again the lights of the mast and heard voices from aboard. The vessel was coming! I was rescued!

Alas for such optimism! I was far from rescued!

The shabby old hulk was not provided with the most rudimentary equipment. It carried no life belts, no ropes and of course no searchlight. The only thing aboard was a long stiff metal cable which the vessel used to tie up at the landing.

I cried out, "Here I am, your friend Serban, don't let me drown!"

"We are coming! We are coming!" came the answer.

They threw the cable to me. I left the willow trunk and grasped the cable with both hands. They pulled the cable — one foot, two feet, three feet more. With all my waning energy I squeezed the cold steel but my strength failed me. My fur clothing was heavy with water now and dragged me back. The cable slipped out of my hands.

I fell five feet back into the water which seemed to embrace me! I sank. For a moment I lost my breath. I felt the water running into my mouth. But two words crossed my mind — "my boy!"

With rage I pushed myself up scratching the water above me with my hands like a wolf. I felt the air penetrate my lungs. I had emerged.

I heard voices above me, "Poor Serban, he must have drowned."

"No, no," I shouted, "not yet! Try again! Try again!"

They tried again but I fell down once more. Still my mind was calm. They would have to throw me down something to keep me afloat.

An idea crossed my mind. "The ladder, the ladder, throw it down quickly!" I cried.

"Which ladder?"

"The ladder from the cabin. Pass the cable through the steps and throw it down."

Finally they understood. In a few seconds the job was done. They passed the cable through the rungs of the ladder and threw it down. I grasped it and thrust my feet through the rungs. I pulled the cable across my back and against my neck and held it with both hands. Then, like a heavy package, they hauled up the ladder, the cable and the human wreck that was I all entwined together.

"It was my last chance," I muttered as they pulled me up. I realized my legs could be broken and my neck too but I was better crippled than dead. I held firm. I

felt the steel scoring my neck. My feet hurt. But I was being raised and that was more important.

Finally I felt a hand grasp my hair; then a second hand grasped my clothing; then many hands helped detach me from the ladder and the cable. All the men were around me with joy on their faces and tears in their eyes as I lay on the deck. I tried to stand up but I was stiff as lumber.

I realized another danger — pneumonia.

"Quick," I cried, "a bottle of brandy."

"Old chap, you don't want to drink now, do you?" joked one of them in his joy.

"Shut up and get the bottle quickly. Don't you see I am frozen?"

They got the bottle; somebody helped me lift my head and I drank half a kilo of brandy all in one breath.

I gave some more orders, "Quick, a blanket and rub my skin all over."

They took off my clothes and put me in the cabin and began to rub my skin. Fifteen minutes later I was red as a lobster and I felt as if I were in a steam bath. Miraculously the next day I had not the slightest cold.

But my joy at being alive was clouded with sorrow. For I learned that my best friends, George Doiciu and John Berceanu from Tulcea, both were drowned that terrible night.

At noon the next day a fellow hunter, Max Clompe, came up to me carrying a hunting gun case. Proudly he lifted it and showed it to me. "I am the only one who saved his hunting gun," he said.

I took a close look at the case. It seemed very familiar to me. I took out the gun and shouted, "It is my hunting gun."

He almost collapsed. By mistake, in the confusion of the boat's overturning, he grabbed my gun case which looked very much like his. I asked Max to accept it as a present. As one who fought so hard to save his hunting gun I thought he deserved it fully.

Now as I look back over the 20 years that have passed since that fearful night when I faced death for nearly two hours in the ice-cold currents of the Danube River I am surer than I was even then that I did not face it alone, that my small son — somehow, somehow — was with me for a moment and that without the inspiration of that moment I surely would have perished.



# *Fingers of Fate*

**By Harold Helper**

A blustery storm blew down the screen of the Glendale, W. Va., drive-in theater but left the marquee standing. It read: "Gone With The Wind."

James Tehansky, of Detroit, Mich., had the desire but not the strength to become a fireman. He flunked the departmental physical. But he turned out to be strong enough to race into a burning apartment building and rescue 12 persons.

Serge Vespaiziani of Perpignan, France, didn't want to be a 97-pound weakling. He spent many hours exercising to build up his physique. But when he lost his grip on a chest expander it snapped back, wound around his neck and strangled him.

The agenda for the annual town meeting at Sandgate, Vt., included discussion of an appropriation of funds to repair the Town Hall chimney. However, the hall burned to the ground an hour before the meeting was

scheduled to begin. Fire officials said the blaze apparently began in the chimney.

Brothers Ronald Yeuvanks and George Yeuvanks, who work for the same company and live on the same street in Wichita, Kans., recently became fathers the same day at almost the same hour. Two years ago their wives gave birth to babies only three days apart.

A dream saved the life of Patrick Gauthier. He was asleep and alone when he dreamed that a ham he planned to bake for dinner was burning. The odor became so real that it woke him — in time to escape from his burning apartment in Sherbrooke, Canada.

After being hit by a car at a street corner Samuel Davis spent a month in a Salem, Ore., hospital. Twelve days after he returned home from the hospital he was struck and killed by a car at the same corner.

Can we assume survival of death  
and free ourselves for communication with loved  
ones who have entered another plane?

By Harmon Hartzell Bro

## *Make Death Stand Aside*

DEAR LARRY:

I wrote you when your Phyllis died and spoke of what she had meant to us who knew her well. She was sunny, mischievous, gentle, farsighted. She handled the threat of her oncoming death in the fullness of womanhood and motherhood with unbelievable patience.

I miss her, as must her other friends who prized her open Swedish face and her quick, warm embrace. I find myself wanting to talk with her over coffee about serious things as I often did when we were together on visits and trips. I even wish I might talk with her about her illness, pain and dying to learn from her soft remarks something about human ultimates.

I miss a friend. You miss your wife.

Part of me hesitates to write you at all for a man's grief is a private thing which he must work through in his own way. I know that Phyllis' going has left

a hole in you and the children which never will be filled but only lived with. I know that by now you have learned to treat the wound of death with respect, to speak of it openly and to let it exist in its own gaping way right beside the happy memories.

What I am writing you about cannot erase the shock you have had. It cannot bring Phyllis back. It cannot restore the cast of your life-drama which has shifted to a new act and scene for you and the children. But it can add one more adventure to your companionship with Phyllis and you are entitled to have it.

I am writing to say that I think you can see Phyllis through the barrier of death if you choose to do so.

I am serious. I mean that you really can find her as a post-death person, going about her new business with her usual high spirits, in her own Phyllis-like warmth. I am not talking about memory.

Believe me, I would not think of encouraging you to look for her if I did not think you could see her. I would mock your pain past bearing if I held out a false hope for you. But I have had my own experiences of looking through death's wall in recent years. And I have talked with others who have had experiences so similar that they seem all of a piece. I am beginning to think we each may be capable of seeing the dead, once in a while, but we just fail to look because we think it impossible.

Or do we fail to look because we think we could not stand the meeting, that we would burst with too much to say? Do we lower our vision from glancing through death as lovers shyly look down in each other's presence, too anxious to speak?

Let me tell you what happened to a friend of mine, an analyst.

His son had committed suicide at 21 just when his young life was opening out to a bright future in the field of anthropology. My friend was frozen with grief. Over and over he rehearsed his memories of his boy — how he looked and spoke. Over and over he asked what he had done or failed to do to contribute to his son's unsuspected despair. He would stare long at pictures of the lad and turn in his hand the boy's books and clothes, trying

to call him totally to mind. Because he was an analyst he had the habit of facing himself — and that is important. He took up his own grief and guilt just as he would encourage a patient to do. He walked through memories and he learned from them. He found things to forgive in himself

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#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

HARMON HARTZELL BRO, Ph.D., is a psychotherapist who has had a lifelong interest in parapsychology and especially survival. He is a contributor to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and has been cited for his research accomplishments in "American Men of Science."

Born in China of parents who were educators from the United States, he was educated at Harvard and the University of Chicago (where his doctoral dissertation concerned the American clairvoyant, Edgar Cayce). He has taught at Harvard and Syracuse and Drake Universities and currently lectures for the Adult Studies Project in Kenilworth, Ill., while continuing his writing and research.

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and his son that needed forgiving. He managed at last to look into the past with plain affection and delight over his boy.

Then he looked through death.

One Sunday afternoon he saw his son sitting across the living room from him. He was alone, yet he knew he was not alone. He knew the easy chair before him was empty, yet he knew it was

not empty. He spoke no words, yet he held a conversation for some minutes. They met, father and son. They exchanged thoughts, images, feelings, grins, gestures. The son shared his private world of fears and failures that had led to the suicide. The father shared his sharp regrets and the son accepted some, tempering others. The youth came across to the father in all the rich complexity that only a living person can present; he was impulsive, winsome, shy yet bold, with a familiar toss of the head that meant pride and defensiveness and caring-too-much all mixed together. He was there as himself, not as a memory.

Then the son was gone and the father sat there. As he told me about it later he was neither sad nor elated at first; that came afterwards. Right then he was simply engrossed, absorbed in all the details of meeting a real person who has been somewhere important.

What happened to the father in the days that followed was significant. He was freed from thinking of his son in stereotypes. He did not picture him in sentimental glow nor in anxious sadness; he thought of him as a whole, real, complicated, growing person. Apparently his meeting with his son in death did for him what meeting does for us on this side

of death: it shatters the stereotypes and sets us free to love one another as we really are.

I want you to have the adventure of Phyllis again as she really is, beyond all your words and mine and beyond the fullest of memories. I want you to fill out your companionship with her — a comradeship that we all enjoyed who knew you two together, even when she bested you in roguish arguments or you glowed at her for back-seat driving!

You will not see her often if your experience is like that of the rest of us. Death is a total change, I guess, as the birth of a child to a young couple and we cannot pretend it did not occur without doing violence to present reality. But we do not need to see often the people we love in order to stay in full relation with them, do we?

Where might you look to see Phyllis, once in a while?

Why not start with your dreams? Some dreams will be memories of her, of course, brought up as your psyche tries to work through the shock of her loss. And dreams repeated in detail are likely to be related to problems you need to face, rather than to Phyllis as she is at present. But there will be some dreams where Phyllis is unexpectedly there, almost inciden-

tally to the plot, with that special immediacy that a living person brings. You will awaken from such dreams as full of her presence and all your own feelings about her as if you had just talked with her and the glow of "real Phyllis" will be with you for hours.

I would not encourage you to seek advice or aid in your vocational or family affairs from such dreams. I know that many people do this, trying to make a sort of guardian angel out of a departed companion. Surely Phyllis would want to help you where you need it. But a dependency relation in death is just as poor as one in life. Why not, instead, let your dream experience of her bring out the best in you, as she often managed to do in life, and then tackle your own problems in that good frame of mind?

I recall dreaming last year with peculiar vividness of a history professor of mine, now dead for a decade, whose encyclopaedic scholarship and devout spirit gave him an impact on my education that few other teachers had. In the dream we were working busily with others on cards of research data at tables, in a large room, and making good progress. I awakened unable to recall details of the dream project but alive to the

chortling joy that always burst out of the professor when he gained a new insight into a period of history. At that time in my life I had begun wrestling with a theoretical problem in my own studies — the problem of the psychological equivalent of the hero in myth and legend; I spent months working it out. But somewhere in my mind the joyous pouncing of the professor on new material set my mood for discovery and made the work go faster towards its outcome.

Was the professor doing the work for me, on another plane, and simply passing me the results in dreams? I doubt it. He never did my work for me in my courses with him! But he did encourage me in the adventure of scholarship. And I think he would be as happy to do that in death as in life.

Was I simply hauling him up in memory, through my dream, to accomplish a needed mindset? Perhaps. People from the past often appear in dreams for just that purpose. But when they appear as symbols they are two-dimensional, as paintings are, vivid but with their personhood subordinated to a design and a point. By contrast the professor in the dream was there in three dimensions, with all I knew about him and all I didn't know and never would. He evoked a

total response in me, not a fleeting attitude. And that total response seems to be a key. For it has been there when I have seen the professor outside of dreams as well.

Can I prove that I also have seen the professor a few times while wide-awake? Certainly not. But on those rare occasions when he has stood before me or beside me — as have a few others — I have noted two things. First, I get about him the same subjective signals of certitude that I get when correctly picking up, by ESP I suppose, the fact that someone in my family is ill or happy or in trouble — as when I knew on a plane trip that my second daughter had contracted chicken pox back home and was running a high fever. Don't ask me how I knew for I can't tell you but I certainly knew and made the necessary travel decisions to come home at once. Second, when the professor has appeared he sometimes has startled my wife into a comment about his presence at the same time I have seen him. It is possible she has picked up and echoed my thoughts at such times. But she reports a special kind of sensation that goes with the professor, more total and personal than the common experience of reading my thoughts.

So I would encourage you to

look for Phyllis in daily waking life as well as in dreams.

I do not mean for you to sit down and concentrate on her, for this evokes waves of feelings and imagery that blur the aperture of post-death perception. Try waiting, instead, until a feeling of "live-Phyllis" catches you unawares while you are partly absorbed in something which is not threatening and not too taxing: like driving a car, repairing an appliance, writing a letter, looking at the countryside, following a late movie on TV. Then attend to the impression of Phyllis and stay still. The impression may grow in vividness and totality until you can learn to spot these occasions by their unique quality and one day see Phyllis smiling or frowning at you. Yes, I think the dead frown at us when we need it and communicate that frown.

Once I went to a "development group" where I saw such a frown. The group met in the home of an engineer and his wife who had gathered a circle of friends to sit in the dark with them for several hours each week, seeking impressions of the dead and developing their own mediumship. The interest of the engineer and his wife had been born of their grief at losing an only daughter, just out of college, in an auto accident. Read-

ing about survival of death, and receiving convincing messages from their daughter through a medium, they decided to form their group and force aside the curtain of death. Resolutely they had sat together on Saturday nights for several years, telling each other of faces, colors and images they saw in the dark.

There was nothing wrong in their curiosity or their desire to grow in perception. But what hung heavily over the back sitting room where they met was narcissism; they were a little closed group of death-peerers, congratulating themselves on their dubious visions. In mood they were totally unlike the happy, teasing, thoughtful trainees of a noted Boston medium whom I had sat with some months before, visiting their development class. These trainees were struggling to help others whom they each knew in church groups; they had a purpose in prompt service for whatever they achieved. They were eager to learn and quick to laugh at their mistakes when they corrected one another's perception or were corrected by the medium.

By contrast, the group that met with the engineer and his wife pontificated to one another, week after week.

I saw the engineer's daughter that night in their home —

frowning on her parents from beyond the wall of death. I can see her in memory still. Beside me sat a visitor who saw her too that night — an able medium who later compared notes with me. Why was the daughter frowning? The impression came through clearly: her parents were living in unreality. They were honoring her by looking back at her when they should have been looking ahead with their other children. They were cultivating visions in the dark while they were failing to use their other talents in daylight. They were escaping, not growing.

But your Phyllis was not an escapist, as she showed in facing and talking about her final illness. And she wouldn't encourage you in escapism either as I remember her. You are more likely to catch Phyllis in a happy smile as a friend of mine, a business executive, glimpsed the smiling members of his family who had preceded him in death.

It happened when his elderly sister lay dying of cancer. She had remained rational to the end, despite her pain. Shortly before she stopped breathing her tired face lit up and to the astonishment of her grieving family she cried out with delight, "Oh → yes!" Then with a broad

smile and happy nods, her eyes wide, she greeted her father, mother and brother who had preceded her in death. "I'm coming," she said as she died.

Her brother was stunned. For he had seen what she saw just as she spoke. He never forgot the expressions on those hearty, well-loved faces that had caught his vision as his sister died; years later he could describe to me the look of each one.

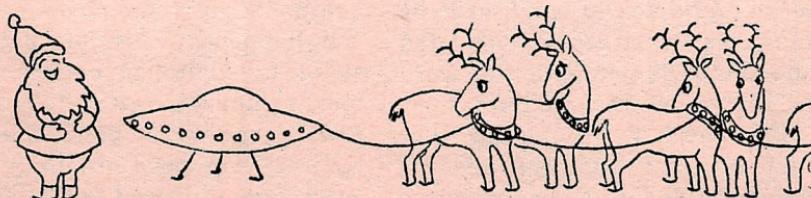
It was smiles, too, that a Presbyterian minister described to me when he told of looking up to glimpse his daughter and her husband right while he was conducting their joint funeral. The couple had died young and tragically in a sudden auto accident as they drove to their honeymoon retreat. The father chose to lead the funeral service despite his grief and shock because of his earnest conviction of the

reality of life beyond death. Then in the very church where the mourners sat he glanced up to find the couple holding hands and beaming at him. He saw them with such indelible clarity that he later wrote about it in a little book called *Lighted Passage* in which he described his wife's independent but matching impressions at the church service.

So look for Phyllis, Larry. Asleep or awake you may see her. When you do let her know and I think you will catch her delight. For you two have been stout companions and she has as much to celebrate from your journey together as you have. Death will not go away for either of you but it may sometimes stand aside, as it should.

Hug the youngsters for me. And write.

Harmon





# BLACK BEN and his DEADLY CROSS

Unkempt black-garbed figure roams tiny island village  
and where he lingers he leaves foreboding and despair.

By V. R. Fesar

THE LEEWARD AND Windward Islands and Barbados were my bailiwick for many years when I traveled as a sales representative for a British manufacturing concern. Three or four times a year I visited each of the islands to confer with local managers of my firm's branches. My work took me to all parts of each island and over the years I made many friends among the islanders.

Particularly I befriended the taxi drivers and always tried to

use the same one on each particular island, for after a few trips he would know my itinerary and this saved me time. On Grenada my man was Denzil and while with him I encountered "Black Ben."

It happened in 1949 when Denzil was driving me to a small village called Granbay. We turned north from the main road and in another 15 minutes reached the village, a cluster of small wooden houses and crude huts along each side of the road.

Only slightly more impressive were the church, school and the building housing Assam's General Store. The villagers depended on the emerging banana industry for a livelihood and most of them worked small parcels of land, growing yams, corn and other vegetables.

We were about 200 yards away from the first house when Denzil called my attention to a crowd of people on the road ahead. As we drew closer we heard shouting and then saw the crowd rapidly dispersing. The people were heading for their houses, moving very fast, and once inside quickly slammed doors and shut windows. By now we were well into the village and I told Denzil to pull over and stop.

The road ahead was clear except for a strange figure some distance away moving toward us. As it came closer we could see it was a gaunt thin-faced man, more than six feet tall, wearing a shapeless long black gown. In his right hand he carried a small wooden cross.

The village was completely silent. The man slowly continued toward us and about every 20 yards he would stop, look up to the skies and raise the cross. He passed our car, paying us no attention. I turned to watch him through the back window and saw him stop in front of a small

red house. We heard a shriek from within the house as the black-garbed figure knelt and drove the wooden cross into the ground. Mumbling, he got up, walked quickly on down the road and soon disappeared from view.

I turned to Denzil and asked him if he knew what this was all about.

"That was Black Ben," said Denzil.

"So? Why on earth did the villagers run from him?"

"Fear, I guess." Denzil seemed reluctant to talk but I pressed him.

"Well," he said, "you saw the house where Black Ben drove the cross into the ground. Within a week one of the occupants of that house will die—although in this case Black Ben is playing pretty safe. The house is occupied by a Mrs. Raveil who is over 70 and has been ill for a long time. Her niece lives there to take care of her."

"You must be joking, Denzil. How can anyone believe that in a certain house someone will die within a week just because a queer nut like Black Ben sticks a cross in the ground?"

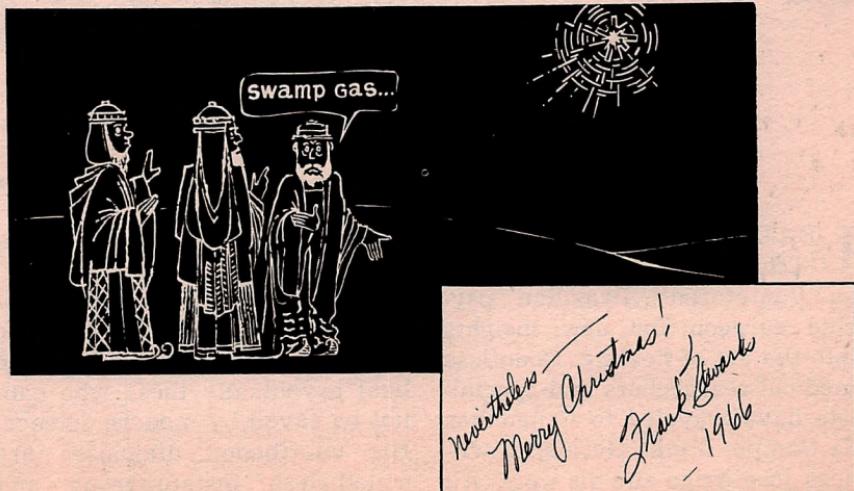
"Well, sir, no matter what you think or say, Black Ben's predictions come true. And I'll tell you something else," Denzil continued, "Only a few months ago on a Sunday Black Ben put a

cross in front of Assam's store, and Assam who lives above the shop saw him doing it. Believing that money can get everything Assam ran downstairs clutching a bundle of \$20 bills in each hand. He offered the money to Black Ben, begging him to remove the cross, but old Ben just ignored him and walked away. In a rage Assam pulled the cross from the ground and broke it up, all the while hollering curses after Black Ben. Believe it or not, before the week was up, a cousin who had come to visit Assam was cleaning his gun and acci-

dently shot himself. He died instantly."

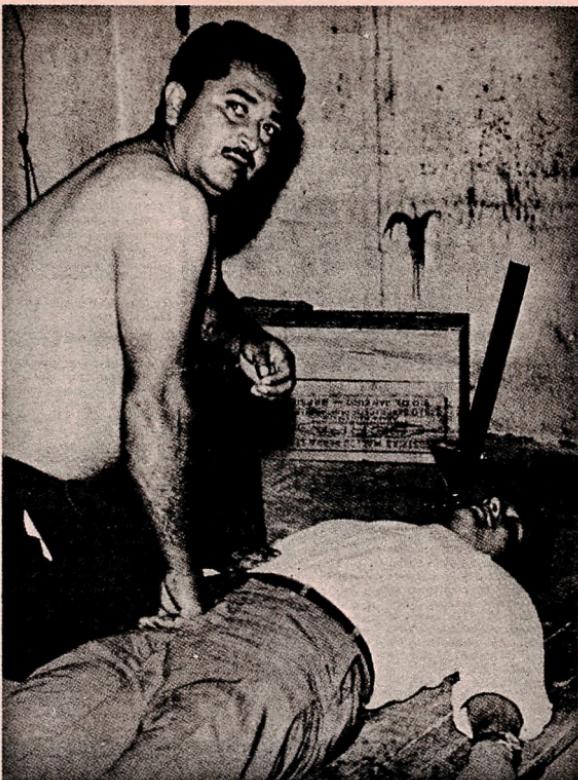
"That could be just coincidence," I scoffed. "Let's move on."

I left the island a few days later and about two weeks after my visit I received a letter from Denzil. He wrote, "Remember our trip to Granbay and seeing Black Ben? Well, I was wrong in my prediction. It wasn't old Mrs. Raveil, it was her niece who died. In fact the day after our visit she was killed by a truck on the road not far from her house."



Arigo performs "operations" in kitchen. In still from 100-minute film, "The Truth Comes from on High," Arigo kneels beside patient having inserted knife blade into his eye. Arrow indicates protruding handle.

# JOSE ARIGO or DR. FRITZ?



Among myriad mysteries of Brazilian's healings  
not least are his personality, language and appearance changes.

By Gene Klinger

LEADING MEDICAL AUTHORITIES are looking to an "untutored" Brazilian psychic surgeon for new insights into the art of healing. Countless medical researchers and specialists have traveled to Congonhas de Campo, Minas Gerais, to witness Jose Arigo and his work. All

have been astounded by what they have seen.

Arigo wields the instruments of the physician and surgeon — the prescription and the scalpel — to heal psychically those who cannot be saved by modern science. His unorthodox diagnoses are nonetheless instantaneous and

correct. Driving an unsterilized knife between a patient's eyelid and eyeball, rapidly twisting the blade, Arigo diagnoses the patient's illness. His pen moves quickly as he prescribes in German, a language he doesn't know, medicines that cure the "incurable".

Since 1954 Arigo has treated two million patients. Most have been destitute medical rejects, but lawyers, doctors, Roman Catholic priests, an ex-senator of Brazil and the daughter of Brazil's past President Kubitschek also have been treated by the healer. Last year Dr. Andrija Puharich, renowned medical researcher and parapsychologist, and William Henry Belk, president and executive director of the Belk Psychic Research Foundation, Miami, Fla., traveled to the small Brazilian town so that Puharich could have a tumor removed by Arigo's psychic methods.

A number of other doctors including Dr. Ary Lex, member and ex-president of the Academia de Medicina de Sao Paula, and Jose Hortencio de Mediros Sobrinho, X-ray specialist of the State Institute of Cardiology, have documented Arigo's unique healing processes. Their evaluations prompted Puharich and others to press for the establish-

ment of an American medical commission to "unite the medical profession with bona fide healers throughout the world". The healer they have chosen for their initial consultation is Arigo.

Like the healers of the Philippine Islands and other contemporary spiritual healers, Arigo's psychic surgery requires no darkened seance room, no special circumstances or paraphernalia and can be witnessed at close range by anyone who travels to Congonhas de Campo. Patients are treated without hypnotic or spiritual preparations and (as among the Filipino healers) surgery is conducted without sterilization or anaesthesia. Yet there never has been a case of infection.

Unlike other psychic surgeons Arigo relies heavily on "psychic" prescriptions. When surgery is imperative he operates but most of his patients are cured with prescriptions written in Arigo's hand but in the language of his spirit guide, Dr. Fritz who died in 1920.

A Roman Catholic, Arigo himself takes no credit for his miraculous powers but says that he is merely "an instrument" and that the source of the healing power is Christ and his forces in the spirit world, 12 entities banded together to cure the sick

on earth. This Arigo learned from Dr. Fritz who introduced him to his mission and always is present during the Brazilian's healings. A year after Dr. Fritz's death Arigo was born in the same town where he now practices. He became aware of his psychic powers when as a child he learned that objects moved in his presence without being touched.

Arigo who treats his patients while in a trance first learned he had the gift of healing when a senator thanked him for coming to his hotel room the night before and operating on him. The senator suffering from cancer had been waiting to fly to the United States for a scheduled operation. He arrived in the States on the scheduled day but the doctors found no need for further treatment. The operation, he was told, already had been performed.

Arigo is married and the father of five children. He works as a government clerk from noon until five, the official working hours in Brazil. Mornings and evenings he treats the sick at his Spiritual Center. The curious often outnumber the ill. Arigo, who does not smoke or drink, often admonishes the spectators that do: "Go back and fill your glasses." With his shirt sleeves rolled up he

points toward the door declaring, "Francisco Xavier is a saint; I'm not. Go to him and do what you want but not here."

Arigo spends a few moments alone in his prescription room before calling the patients forward. The room is small, containing only the table where he prescribes and nearby a small altar bearing several plaster saints. He remains in this room for less than a minute but before he steps outside he can be heard speaking loudly, his Portuguese already slurred with German. A tremendous change has come over the man who steps out of the room. His looks, his walk and gestures suggest a different person. His eyes have lost their brightness, his face is pale and his movements seem abrupt. His attitude is firm, almost arrogant.

Arigo uses a knife, usually borrowed from a patient and always unsterilized, for his examinations. Without visible concern or direction, he drives the knife between the patient's eyelid and eyeball. Sometimes he works the knife back and forth in a rapid motion. Other times he leaves the knife hanging in this position while he speaks to another patient. Patients feel no pain and make no attempt to stop Arigo's jabbing. Removing the knife Arigo examines the residue on the

blade and makes his diagnosis.

Only some of Arigo's patients are examined with the knife. Others he never touches and often he begins to write a prescription without even speaking to the patient. Seldom does he exchange more than a few words before his pen moves rapidly across the prescription pad. As he prescribes he instructs each patient in how the various medications should be taken and when, if at all, a return visit should be made.

To some he explains that they have the beginnings of an ulcer and that ". . . three months of dieting will bring the cure. No need of medication."

Some come seeking cures for relatives in distant cities. Without a word Arigo writes the prescription or tells them that it is ". . . no use. Give me his name and I will pray for him."

Arigo does not conceal the fact that some patients cannot be healed. Arigo sees a black cross when death is inevitable. At such times he calls for another member of the family and explains he has prescribed medicine only as a relief, for the case is hopeless.

At times Arigo seems to show both compassion and the ability to intervene with the "black cross". One young man was handed a prescription in silence.

Arigo asked who had accompanied the boy. The boy's father came forward. Arigo dismissed the youth and asked the father if he knew the boy had cancer. The father replied that he didn't. Arigo patted the old man on the shoulder. "Go," he said, "he will be healed." Shaking his head, Arigo attended to the next patient.

Sixty patients pass through his small prescription room in an hour. The prescriptions call for an astounding range of drugs including many generally discontinued and now considered dangerous by the medical profession, as well as others so new they have not yet been advertised. Most physicians would require deliberation and often reference to pharmaceutical catalogues before compiling such prescriptions but Arigo prescribes even the most obscure drugs as fast as his pen can write.

After Dr. Puharich and Henry Belk observed Arigo at work Puharich asked the medium to operate on him. Puharich's own doctor had found it advisable not to operate since the growth on his arm was not malignant. But Puharich knew the growth was dangerously near the nerve controlling the movement of the little finger. Further growth,

Puharich feared, would lead to muscle contraction and paralysis of that finger.

For a moment Arigo examined Puharich's arm. Turning to those still waiting in line he asked for a knife. Choosing one of several offered he opened it and passed it to the two men for examination. It was a small unsterilized pocketknife. Holding it in his right hand Arigo grasped Puharich's arm with his free hand and made an incision. The flesh separated and blood began to flow. No instruments entered the incision or unseated the tumor. Pressing two fingers around the small incision Arigo watched the tumor drop to the floor.

The incision was no more than one centimeter in length. The tumor which fell out intact was about three centimeters in diameter and one and a half in length. Arigo did not suture the incision but within 48 hours the scar was almost invisible.

A normal operation with anaesthetics and surgical instruments would have demanded at least 15 minutes of cautious manipulation. Arigo's psychic operation lasted less than 15 seconds.

When questioned about the lack of anaesthetics and absence of pain, Arigo explained that a green light descends during the

operations and anaesthetizes and sterilizes the atmosphere. Once Arigo was heard to ask for "more light" and immediately several patients fell in a cataleptic state of trance. But as Puharich noted, the mystery is not only in the absence of anaesthetics but ". . . in the whole surgical process employed by Arigo".

Dr. Hortencio first visited Congonhas de Campo with a patient whose fate had been declared "outside of the resources of medical science". Two hospitals had declared her a victim of "incurable" cancer. A colostomy had been performed and her weight had plummeted from 128 to 66 pounds. According to medical authorities she had less than two months of "extended life" when Arigo wrote her a prescription. One week later she was able to get out of bed and walk. Within two weeks she had regained 22 pounds and after a month and a half she weighed five pounds more than she did before her illness. After she had consumed the medicines prescribed Arigo reexamined her and declared, "My sister is healed. You may undo the operation."

Hortencio watched at a hospital in Sao Paulo as the colostomy was undone and the abdominal incisions closed. A total absence of tumors was confirmed and to-

day the woman leads a completely normal life.

Arigo also appears to make the blind see and the deaf hear. Hortencio recalls watching Arigo examine a youth about 20 years old who had been blind since childhood. While the patient showed no sign of discomfort or pain Arigo lowered one eyeball at a time by the scalpel's leverage and turned the sharp instrument around it. Hortencio could see that the instrument was soiled with secretion. He was sure that this would seriously harm the patient. But Arigo had not even drawn blood. Arigo examined both eyes in this manner and then declared the youth healed.

Later Hortencio examined the patient. As would be expected after lengthy total blindness, the youth did not regain full vision. But he could see.

What seems most astonishing about the Brazilian's psychic healings is the instantaneous forming of scar tissue. "I saw him extract a sinovial cyst from the forearm of a woman," Hortencio recalls. "He cut through the cyst, proceeded to the cutting of tissues deeply with a pair of scissors, cleaned the wound with great speed and concluded by joining the two edges together as if his touch were magic. All was clear and in front of my eyes. In

that place of incision there was only a little scar left."

Dr. Ary Lex is well-known for his battles against quackery and unethical medical practice. A Spiritualist, Lex had examined reports of psychic surgery for 20 years before visiting Congonhas de Campo. He had yet to uncover a genuine case of psychic surgery. "I was aware that other doctors had seen such," he explains, "but I never could find them."

Lex's doubts were too strong for him to ask anyone to accompany him and he made the journey alone. In Congonhas de Campo he met Walter Accorsi, Professor and ex-director of the Escola Superior de Agricultura of Piraccaba.

"When in a trance state Arigo invited me to see at a close distance the operations and to give him assistance. Professor Accorsi was also bidden to stand beside me. We observed an operation for a lipoma on the arm of a woman. Arigo asked me to hold her arm. This allowed me to observe the operation at a very close distance and to time it. Arigo took only 30 seconds to remove the lipoma. But I noticed a strange detail that no one else has mentioned. In fact only a doctor and surgeon could have detected it. Arigo did not cut the

skin by the ordinary means of an incision. He massaged the skin with the back edge of the scalpel until it opened. Then he pressed against the lipoma — which came out whole."

Several films have been made that document Arigo's psychic healings. Two have been made by Jorge Rizzini, a Brazilian journalist, one by the *Diarios Associados* and another two-hour film of continuous projection was taken by an official of the State of Santa Catarina. In general the numerous medical experts who have traveled to Congonhas de Campo agree on what they have seen but admit that they cannot explain what these experiences mean in the context of their own medical ideologies.

Most competent witnesses agree with Dr. Lex that they "... do not have the least doubt and confirm that the phenomena are true." Arigo they are convinced "... is an extraordinary case of paranormal phenomena." Yet most medical authorities also are greatly concerned over Arigo's prescriptions which they consider a great absurdity and particularly dangerous since they call for extremely large dosages of antibiotics and obsolete drugs. But it seems to be exactly these antibiotics and obsolete medications that have

healed countless documented cases that the medical profession deemed "incurable".

Much remains unanswered. Dr. Laderia Marques of Rio de Janeiro witnessed a healing — which was also filmed — where "... one handle of the scissors was still held by the medium while the other handle was moving, of itself, without any visible agent." Dr. Maria de Lourdes Pedroso, psychiatric physician of the Municipal Hospital of Sao Paulo, observed an eye operation where "... the blood flowed across the face of the patient and I thought it would drench his shirt. At that very moment the blood stopped, precisely at the curve of his lower jaw. It should have flowed down to his neck. Arigo cleaned the scalpel on the blouse of a young woman. The scalpel was wiped clean but the blouse did not show any stains." When not in a trance-like state Arigo himself is not able to accept completely his psychic healings. While watching the longest and most detailed of the film documentaries of his work Arigo fainted. Afterwards Dr. Fritz ordered that the film was not to be shown again until "the proper time."

Dr. Puharich and others hope to bring Arigo to the United States to observe his healings under laboratory conditions and

if possible speak directly with Dr. Fritz about the psychic healings. Perhaps if it is done at "the

proper time" we all will learn more about the secrets of Arigo's miraculous healings.



**DO DREAMS SHAPE YOUR PERSONALITY?**  
**A** NEW THEORY of sleep and dreaming in which dream content may help determine a person's personality and value structure was offered recently by Dr. Arthur Shapiro, a professor of psychiatry at the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, N.Y.

At sessions of the Association for the Psychophysiological Study of Sleep in Gainesville, Fla., Dr. Shapiro advanced the concept that during sleep the individual may conduct a form of "programed practicing" of the use of the physiological mechanisms and processes of the body. A major function of dreaming, he believes, may be to sift life experiences and to weed out those that are unimportant in waking existence.

Dr. Shapiro reported that research at medical centers has shown that during sleep infants

actually practice eye movements and other important body functions before these will be useful in the walking stage. Thus, he suggested, sleep for the adult instead of aiding physical development and practice perhaps serves to promote intellectual and emotional development, as well as the formation of values and even of simple likes and dislikes.

It also was possible, he said, that a person impressed by a book he had read might incorporate parts of it into his own personality after reexperiencing the impressive portions during sleep and dreaming. Thus, Dr. Shapiro concluded, it is likely that a large number of tastes, feelings and emotions which form the personality or "permanent repertoire" of the individual are somehow experienced and practiced during sleep, probably throughout his life.



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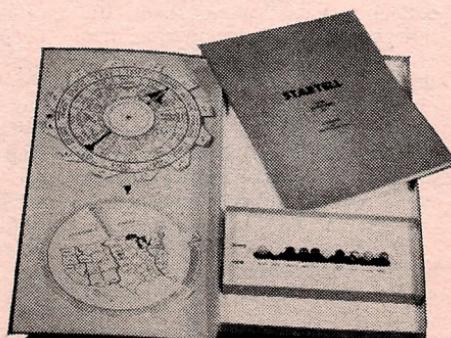
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## THE BOY WITH THE BLUE FACE

By Earl Willits

As told to Aileen Wolf

FEW SPOTS ON this earth excel the grandeur of the Cascade Mountains in the Pacific northwest. We who have been born and raised surrounded by these gigantic splendors of nature tend to take them for granted. As a boy hiking and camping with my brothers among the foothills I discovered early the wonders to be found in our backyard. We spent every spare moment with packs slung over our backs, heading for the hills. Winter and summer, there they were, beckoning us to adventure.

In the early spring of 1940, before the snows had melted sufficiently for high-country climbing to be really safe, Don and Harold and I decided to climb Three Fingers, a beautiful high peak nestled behind Mount Pilchuck. On a Friday the 13th, in the course of an ordinary outing with my brothers, I had the strangest experience of my life.

The distance to our goal was 14 miles or 28 miles round trip. This is a little long for one day so we decided to leave at 7:30 P.M. Friday, stay overnight in one of the many log lean-tos scattered over the area and get an early start on Saturday morn-

ing. We figured we knew mountain climbing about as well as we knew how to walk to school and we carried one ice axe as our total equipment.

In youth's eternal optimism and with food in our packs we left our car at the road to Boulder Creek and hiked to the lean-to. The climb was fairly level for four miles and we made good time but it was deep darkness when we came to the ford in the creek. We got across on a log and there on the other side found the lean-to we were looking for. Age and weather had taken their toll and after we inspected the bunks for soundness we decided the two bottom ones and one of the top ones might make it through the night.

It was already 10:00 P.M. and we agreed to hit the sack. We planned to rise with the first light and get on the trail. Somehow I ended up getting



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the top bunk and as we climbed into our sleeping bags I found I could see out through the weathered gaps in the roof.

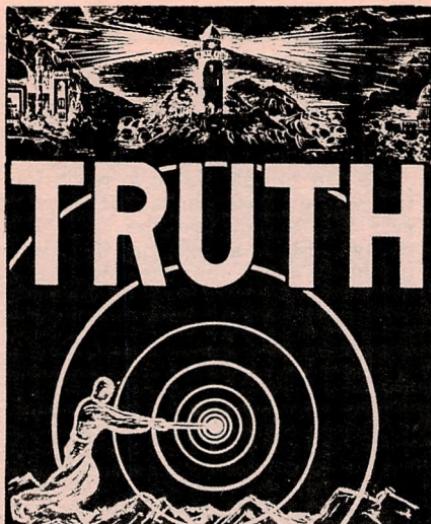
It was an odd night. Atmospheric or temperature changes were causing patches of white fog to rise in eerie swirls from the many little ponds that lay in the valley. I could see the stars overhead through my lattice-work ceiling and as the voices of the two below me gradually died away I lay with my hands behind my head and watched the white mists gently swirl across the path of the moonbeams.

How long I lay awake or how long I slept I don't know. I judge that I had been asleep about three or four hours when suddenly I came wide-awake, every sense alert. Every nerve in my body tingled as I slowly opened my eyes without moving another muscle in my body. Not two feet in front of my face was the face of a boy. Just the face, nothing else, and it was blue, the nostrils pinched, the mouth white around the edges. He had a week's growth of beard, just to the scratchy stage, and I judged him to be about 20 years old. I was frozen into immobility as I stared. I knew this was no dream.

The deep-blue eyes in the blue face seemed to plead with me for help. So real and urgent was the plea in the boyish eyes that I suddenly sat upright and said, "Can I help you?"

Just like that, he was gone! I lay drenched in sweat, afraid to move. I really had no fear of what I had seen; I merely felt that I should do something. Someone needed help. I lay awake the rest of the night, going over and over in my mind the face I had seen and trying to find some logic in the experience.

My youngest brother Harold was first up as he always is and had firewood gathered and the breakfast fire going with the first streaks of daylight. As we crouched near the



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warmth I told the others about the boy with the blue face.

Harold said, "Oh, you were dreaming."

I decided to let it go at that but in my heart I knew I had not been dreaming.

We had 10 miles to go to reach the top so we broke camp, packed our gear and set out on the trail. We really pushed along and if I was unusually silent, the others were too. What they were thinking about my experience I had no way of knowing but my mind was troubled and uneasy.

We hiked more than seven miles up to Saddle Lake into flat meadow country. The white mists floated all through the flat spots up there. As we came out on Goat Flats we saw another of the little lean-tos and sitting in front of it there was a figure. As we approached the man stood up and we recognized him as a forest service employee, one of the men who watch for fires from the lookout towers on the peaks. He waved at us and asked us where we planned to go. Harold told him we were headed for the North Peak and after looking over our meager equipment he shook his head.

"This side is too tricky this time of the year," he said. "If you're determined to climb to the peak I'll show you a route over the glacier." We fell in line behind him and followed over a trail more and more covered with patches of snow. As we walked he began to talk of the party who had attempted the peak two days before. In the group was a boy who had slipped on the uppermost ridge of the glacier and slid more than 200 yards down the ice slope to his death. I felt a strange chill and stopped in my tracks.

"Could you tell me what the boy looked like?" I asked the ranger.

"Well, I guess I could," he replied, "but he didn't look very pretty by the

time we got to him out of that crevasse. His clothes were torn off and he was pretty cut up. He was about 20 years old with real blue eyes and he had about a week's growth of beard."

Don and Harold looked at me and without saying a word we decided we were not going to climb that glacier that day. As we were saying goodbye to our ranger friend we heard a massive rumble high in the snow field we had planned to climb. We watched open-mouthed while tons of snow, ice and rock roared down the mountain. When the last crashing roar had subsided, the ranger took off his hat and wiped his forehead.

"Whew! Another five minutes and you guys would have been in the middle of that."

We silently turned and started back down the trail.

"Oh, by the way," the ranger called after us, "you seemed concerned about the boy that died up here. Friend of yours?"

I stopped on the trail and looked back.

"Well, I guess you could say that. Yes, I guess he was a friend of ours, even though I met him only once."

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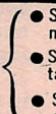
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tically and one day we did climb her. But I never raise my eyes to the splendor of the mountains without a little prayer of thanks to the boy with the blue face. — *Seattle, Wash.*

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By Cleo Mills

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"Off in the distance fields of yellow flowers swayed in a gentle breeze. Then far to my left I saw what looked like the skyline of a great city. Near where we stood was a beautiful little cottage made of glittering stone like marble. Flowers bloomed everywhere. It was incredibly beautiful and peaceful."

He stopped talking for a minute and tears filled his eyes. Then he went on.

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"The angel told me the cabin was mine. For a moment a great happiness came over me but I suddenly remembered my family left on earth — my wife, two sons and four daughters. I wanted them to be here to enjoy this beautiful place. The angel seemed to read my thoughts, for she told me that it wasn't time for my loved ones to come. 'You must forget them,' she told me. But I pleaded with her either to let them come to me or let me go back to them. She gazed at me with deep compassion. 'It is impossible for them to come here right now, John, but you can return to them. You can go back for nine months and 15 days but when you are called again, you must stay.'

My father quickly recovered from his stroke. He looked very young for his 71 years. Those who listened to his strange tale found it hard to believe he'd ever been sick, much less pronounced dead at one time.

On February 15, 1944, exactly nine months and 15 days after his strange experience he called his wife and children to his side.

"This is the appointed day when I'm to die again. I'm certain of it and I want you to promise not to grieve for me, for I'm actually looking forward to my new life. I'll wait there for you and some day we will all be together again."

He gave us instructions about how to survive without him. He had made his own funeral arrangements months before. And on February 15, 1944, as the clock struck midnight he breathed his last — on this plane. — *Connersville, Ind.*

## THE TRANSITION

By James Passmore

ONE NOVEMBER DAY in 1962 my wife was away for a few days and I was alone in our home in Kamloops, British Columbia. About 4:00 P.M. I decided to go downtown

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to buy a few supplies. I drove down, finished what I had to do and returned to my car, noting that it was six minutes before five o'clock. I expected a telephone call at five and knew it would take me three minutes to drive home.

Then I remembered I was out of cigars. I was parked near a tobacco store so I quickly got out of the car and obtained the cigars. As I came out I met John Bennett, an acquaintance I had not seen for a long time. Being so short of time I couldn't stop and talk. I said, "Hello, John, how are you?"

He replied, "I am fine now, Jim," with heavy emphasis on the word "now."

Had I not been so pressed for time I would have asked him what he meant but as it was I didn't even shake his hand.

"How is it with you?" he asked.

"Just fine, John, but I have a telephone appointment in about four minutes so I'm really in a hurry."

I got into my car and rushed home, leaving him standing in front of the tobacconist's store.

I didn't think about the meeting again until two days later when I read John Bennett's funeral notice. My, I thought, he must have died suddenly! I had seen him just 48 hours before. I couldn't get this out of my mind so I telephoned one of John's friends and asked about his sudden death.

"Oh, no, Jim, John was in the hospital for a month. I saw him every day but he was so bad he didn't know me for the last 10 days. He died night before last about five o'clock in the afternoon. It was some serious internal infection."

I will never forgive myself for not stopping to talk to John Bennett that afternoon. Who knows what he may have wanted to say? Did he know that he had made the transition? — Phoenix, Ariz.



## New Books

**FLYING SAUCERS OVER AUSTRALIA**, by James Holledge. Horwitz Publications Inc., Sydney, Australia. 1965. 130 pages, 5s (75c, not including postage).

As this UFO paperback only recently has become available in the United States the result is an apparently late review.

Mr. Holledge has done an excellent job of recounting various Australian UFO incidents, old and new. While some of his material may be familiar to American researchers who subscribe to Australian UFO periodicals, the majority of the data has not been widely disseminated here.

The book contains photographs and illustrations detailing some of the outstanding Australian UFO incidents, at the same time comparing these to similar phenomena observed in other parts of the globe. We learn, for example, that close approaches (and landings) of UFOs have occurred "Down Under" as elsewhere.

The author also gives us a brief history of UFO research in his native land, explaining that veteran researcher Edgar Jarrold formed the Australian Flying Saucer Bureau in 1951, after personally sighting a UFO. Today several research societies are in existence, more or less amalgamated under the title of Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena Investigations Organization (CAPIO). Aus-

tralia also had UFO sightings in pre- "flying saucer" days, Mr. Holledge informs us, stating the first recorded incident of unknown sky objects occurred in 1874. However, modern interest was not stimulated until 1950.

As is seemingly inevitable, Australia also had its share of "know-all" explainers who relegated the UFO mystery to the categories of "spots before the eyes," "mass hysteria," etc. The author, detailing several good sighting reports, shows how absurd such explanations are opposed to eyewitness testimony.

After reviewing numerous sightings of the early 1950's Mr. Holledge devotes several pages to the well-known "Father Gill" case which occurred in Papua in 1959. This has become a UFO classic because of the detailed descriptions of the objects involved as well as the report of "figures" seen atop a craft hovering at low altitude. Despite some comments to the contrary by American researchers, Father Gill insists that there is "no doubt that they were human." The same chapter also gives details of Rev. Lionel Brown-ing's famous sighting of a cigar-shaped ship accompanied by five or six small discs. This incident occurred in Tasmania in October, 1960.

The author devotes the three final chapters of his book to an examination of the claims of contactees

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George King, Cedric Allingham and the late George Adamski. The 1959 Australian visit by Mr. Adamski is reviewed and a synopsis of his initial 1952 contact claim is included. Considering the general reaction of American UFO groups to the Adamski claims it is rather surprising to find that the majority of Australian researchers regarded George Adamski's claims as probably true.

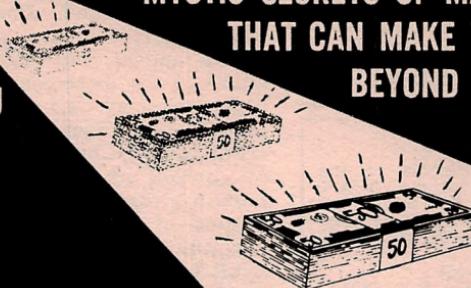
Contactee Allingham's story also is taken seriously, according to Mr. Holledge, although George King's mystical ceremonies, such as "charging" various mountains to serve as "spiritual reservoirs," seem perhaps a bit much for most Australian UFOlogists. All in all, one forms a picture of Australian researchers as somewhat more kindly disposed toward the contactees than are their American counterparts.

In summary, Mr. Holledge has done an excellent job of chronicling UFO activity in his country, as well as giving us valuable insight into the theories and opinions of his countrymen who are investigating the UFO enigma. Would that more American UFO tomes were equally objective and unbiased! — *Lucius Farish.*

AN OCCULT DICTIONARY FOR THE MILLIONS, compiled by Howard V. Chambers. Sherbourne Press, Los Angeles, Calif., 1966. 160 pages, \$1.95.

This paperback volume was produced as a companion to the series on psychic phenomena "for the millions" produced by Sherbourne Press. In all fairness, the compilation of a dictionary of this sort is at best an ambitious task, particularly when assigned to a relative novice. Chambers decided to include folklore, mythology and ethnology in addition to the more obvious areas of astrology, divination, spiritualism and psychic matters. The resultant mixture is a hodgepodge unlikely to

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satisfy either novice or veteran.

The most obvious sign of haste is the totally random selection of entries. For example, Jeane Dixon is included but neither Hurkos nor Croiset is named. Daniel Dunglas Home, Mrs. Leonard and the Fox sisters appear, but not Mrs. Piper. Many of the most common terms of parapsychology (e.g., percipient) are omitted or inaccurately defined. (Hint to Mr. Chambers: Every issue of *Journal of Parapsychology* contains a glossary of terms.) The definitions of witchcraft terms would curl the hair of a white witch like Sybil Leek; Mr. Chambers apparently has read only Montague Summers (if that much). Hasty or indifferent editing is further indicated by inconsistencies between entries and cross-references to nonexistent entries (such as: "see SOUL" when that word does not appear).

On the other hand some of Mr. Chambers' best work is likely to be overlooked. Eight consecutive entries are: Embalming, Embrace, Emerald, Emetics, Enlightenment, Entrails, Envoutement, Envy. The definitions contain much interesting folklore, but who is apt to look them up in an "occult" dictionary? There is probably two dollars' worth of such lore in this volume for those inclined to buy and browse. But those who insist on accuracy should remain with Spence, Fodor or Blunden. — David Techter.

**ESP IN LIFE AND LAB—TRACING HIDDEN CHANNELS**, by Louisa E. Rhine. The Macmillan Company, New York, N.Y., 1967. 276 pages, indexed, \$5.95.

In this book, Dr. Louisa Rhine has compared accounts of spontaneous psychic experiences and the results of experimental work in extrasensory perception. In doing so, she has avoided unnecessary technical detail in describing the laboratory work,

which is mostly the well-known work with cards. The comparisons show that each kind of evidence (life and lab) has its strong points and also its limitations.

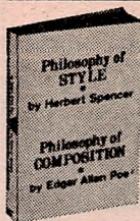
There is a fundamental difference in that the life experiences come unsought whereas lab work is an attempt to produce results. The life experiences are richer in content but the controlled experiments more clearly define some matters and are considered to be the only kind of evidence that furnishes proof. Personally, I do not agree with this viewpoint but it is the view held by the Rhines. Unfortunately, even the lab demonstrations do not convince the skeptics.

However, in this book Mrs. Rhine has not aimed at convincing scientific skeptics or she would have given more technical detail. The book obviously is intended for those who already believe that psychic phenomena occur or at least for those who have open minds. For this type of reader the volume provides excellent perspective.

What has been learned about subconscious reception of nonsensory information and the ways in which it comes to consciousness are well described. One way is psychokinesis (PK), in other words, psychic physical phenomena. Thus, the volume is not wholly devoted to ESP.

The account of what has been accomplished by the many years of card and dice work by the Rhines and others is a valuable summary of an era that may now be ending; important results — indeed quite important — have been obtained but it is hard to see that much more can be squeezed from it. Thus the summary is timely.

The life accounts come from the voluminous file of strange experiences people have reported to the Rhines. These accounts apparently have not been checked or corroborated.



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rated in any way but they obviously are considered typical of many others and are accepted by Mrs. Rhine as probably valid. This point of view is expressed in the introduction to her previous book, *Hidden Channels of the Mind*, which also presents spontaneous cases.

*ESP in Life and Lab* holds one's interest and it is more informative than most books on psychic phenomena. All who are seriously interested in the psychic field would do well to read it. —Harold Steinour.

**THE KABBALAH**, by Adolphe Franck. University Books, New Hyde Park, N.Y., 1967. 224 pages, \$5.95.

This book is pure background on the Kabbalah (also variously spelled Qabalah and Cabala, the system of Jewish mysticism which until comparatively recent times was handed down verbally through the priesthood. It still is used as a religious teaching by the small group of Hasidic Jews. But historically it forms a good part of Platonic and Christian philosophy and to this end students of comparative philosophy will find it most valuable. Mr. Franck also imparts a greater understanding than do W. E. Butler or Dion Fortune as to why the Kabbalah forms such a strong basis for ceremonial magic as it is currently practiced. —Henry Cole.

**PSYCHIC SELF-IMPROVEMENT FOR THE MILLIONS**, by William Wolff. Sherbourne Press, Los Angeles, Calif., 1966. 124 pages, \$1.95, (paperback).

Satisfaction with this book depends to a great extent on how much you expect within the limits of 124 pages. The subtitle promises "a new method of mental concentration to increase your powers and ability". The reader gets a detailed description as to the nature of this



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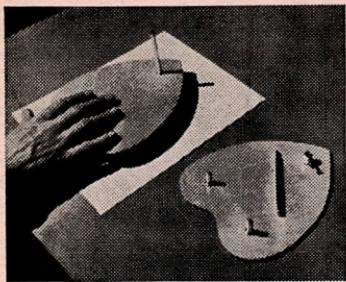
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method and pages of amazing results from the method. How to learn and use the method yourself will cost another \$150.

The author is a radio writer-producer with considerable experience in radio promotional work. It might be unkind to describe his book as a \$2.00 advertisement for a \$150 mental science course called Concept Therapy, but the reader who expects this to be a how-to-do-it book is likely to be just this critical.

One aspect of Concept Therapy is its obvious role as the chiropractors' answer to psychotherapy. Dr. Thurman Fleet was the channel for the revelations of these mental principles in a highly condensed form which eventually became a work of eight volumes. A high percentage of serious practitioners today use Concept Therapy in conjunction with regular chiropractic.

According to the brief description in this small book Concept Therapy treats all of life's conditions as resulting from and responding to mental activities. Thoughts, whether purposeful or random, congeal to form ideas; when ideas receive concentrated attention and "imaging" they become concepts that may be used as tools in rehabilitating or creating physical, mental or spiritual conditions in your life. Hypnosis is an important part of Concept Therapy training.

It is emphasized that mental treatments alone are at best haphazard, and that physical treatments — chiropractic, medical or osteopathic — all contribute useful ingredients to a patient's recovery.

Brief reference is made to a basic principle in Concept Therapy which has more in common with orthodox psychology than with the general mental science systems. This involves teaching a student

how to adapt to obstacles and problems which cannot be transmuted or eliminated. Mental science teachers prefer to declare all negative conditions as nonexistent.

Diet, exercise, relaxation and personal hygiene as basic principles of living definitely place a chiropractic trademark on Concept Therapy. To this is added training in the acquisition of the mental virtues of faith, hope, charity, patience, sympathy, aspiration, courage, forgiveness, duty and love. No one who subscribes to that kind of platform can be all bad.

Other than these brief references to general principles the book is mainly a collection of anecdotes—drawn from the experience of the author, of founder Dr. Fleet and of numerous others who learned and practiced these principles—recording the miraculous results possible. On the whole a great job is done in whetting the reader's appetite to learn more about Concept Therapy. But this is an introduction to the course and its practitioners and not a textbook.

Whether you buy the book or not you may wish to send a postcard to Concept-Therapy Institute, Box 6594, Alamo Heights Station, San Antonio, Tex., for introductory literature. You will be placed on a mailing list for further announcements and invitations to participate in the training courses when they



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The book does not provide sufficient detail to judge the value of the course but the book itself can be judged. The questions it promised to answer on the back cover, the "method" it promised to present in its subtitle, and the how-to implication of its title—none of these promises is fulfilled in the pages of the book. But the \$2.00 book is full of promises for the \$150 course in Concept Therapy. —Tom C. Lyle.

**WERE WE CONTROLLED?** by Lincoln Lawrence. University Books, Inc., New Hyde Park, N.Y., 1967. 173 pages, \$4.95.

Lincoln Lawrence (said to be a pseudonym for a man who for 25 years has written for newspapers and magazines and who has been a network TV news commentator) offers a new and startling theory concerning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. He presents evidence indicating that Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby played the roles of mere robots and were manipulated in a fantastic game of international finance through a frightening new technique of mental programming called R.H.I.C. and E.D.O.M.—Radio-Hypnotic Intracerebral Control and Electronic Dissolution of Memory. —C. G.



# Report FROM THE Readers

## THE SIDEWAYS BRONZE PLAQUE

On page 125 in the August, 1967, **FATE** Miss Anne Berklich of Canada asks for information about a bronze plaque obtained in Austria.

It is a *Lung-Ta*, a Tibetan good luck charm, and it appears to be a very desirable example. The plaque is printed on its side in your magazine and it looks strange also because it is carved in reverse for printing.

The *Lung-Ta* usually is shown with the "air horse" design accompanied by *mantra* (prayers, invocations, affirmations) in Tibetan characters which are derived from Sanskrit.

Miss Berklich has a very nice thing in this *Lung-Ta*. Because it is bronze rather than the usual wood she ought to be able to get very nice prints from it. Any printer can do this for her or if she has a flair for this sort of thing she might try making prints herself. It's easily done in the manner of linoleum block printing with ink, brayer and either a small press or simply rubbing the back of the printing paper with a spoon after inking the plaque — *Robert Bray Wingate, Rare Books Librarian, Pennsylvania State Library, Harrisburg, Pa.*

I think the bronze plaque is turned on its side in your magazine. It is also "in reverse" and since it is

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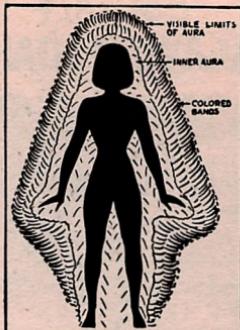


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made of metal it probably was used as a printing plate. In the center is a stylized horse with one front hoof upraised and wearing a saddle with what appears to be a lariat.

It may be my imagination but at the top center in the ridge (viewing the plaque vertically, rather than horizontally as you have mistakenly printed it) I seem to make out "REICH 1." I wonder if anyone else has noticed this? — *Ann Yarbrough, Ashville, Ala.*

The bronze plaque seems to be inscribed in an Asiatic language, possibly Sanskrit or the Nagari script of Pali. It resembles a woodcut and these often were used to print books in the East; but if it is bronze it may have been cast from the mold of a woodcut.

If I were Miss Berklich I would submit a picture of the plaque to the oriental section of some large university, where the language would be definitely identified and probably translated. I think it is probable the plaque is several hundred years old and no doubt valuable.

How it got into a German bunker one can only speculate. War booty perhaps? — *Ronald J. Willis, The International Fortean Organization, Arlington, Va.*

## THE MOON'S TEARDROPS

With further reference to the tektites ("Mystery of the Fire Pearls" by Gaston Burridge, January, 1967, *FATE*) an interesting book by Richard de Touché-Skadding titled *Fire Pearl* was published by Ballantine Books last year. I quote from it:

"I delved deep into ancient Oriental documents on the Agni Mani. In the Chinese Tang Annals, going back more than 2000 years, I found the stone mentioned as *Huoh Chuh*; in Indian records it was called *Saimantakmani*, the sacred gem of Lord Krishna; in Japanese history it was

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referred to as *Kumbalageni*; and in Tibet it was named *Shambala* and worshiped by Buddhist priests.

"These names all mean approximately the same thing — 'fire pearl' — a designation originated by Eastern astrologers who claimed the stones were 'teardrops from the moon' which had plunged through space in fiery form." — John J. Sanz, Los Angeles, Calif.

## OSTRICH UFORIA

John Weigle's statistical analysis of the UFO credibility gap (July and August, 1967, FATE) well recounts the ostrich-like approach taken by the military during its 20-year history of UFO research. I see the ostrich's head at the Pentagon consisting of those public relations specialists who have been issuing contradictory press releases and preselected explanations for all sightings. The USAF's official investigation group, Project Blue Book located at Wright Patterson AFB in Ohio, forms the body of the ostrich.

Project Blue Book has enlisted the temporary aid of a group of scientists at the University of Colorado to help the ostrich maneuver in the thickening atmosphere of UFO incidents — incidents that have included landings, car chases, electromagnetic interference with conventional machines, photographic data and the appearances of humanoid crews.

In any examination of the syndrome *ostrich uforia* such questions as these come up: (1) Why has the government tried to discredit the testimony of reliable witnesses? (2) Why has it waited so long to begin a really scientific investigation of UFO reports? (3) Why has Congress allowed the Air Force to indulge in the infamous public relations tactic, "news management"?

If it is true that the Colorado group has a free hand in their excursion

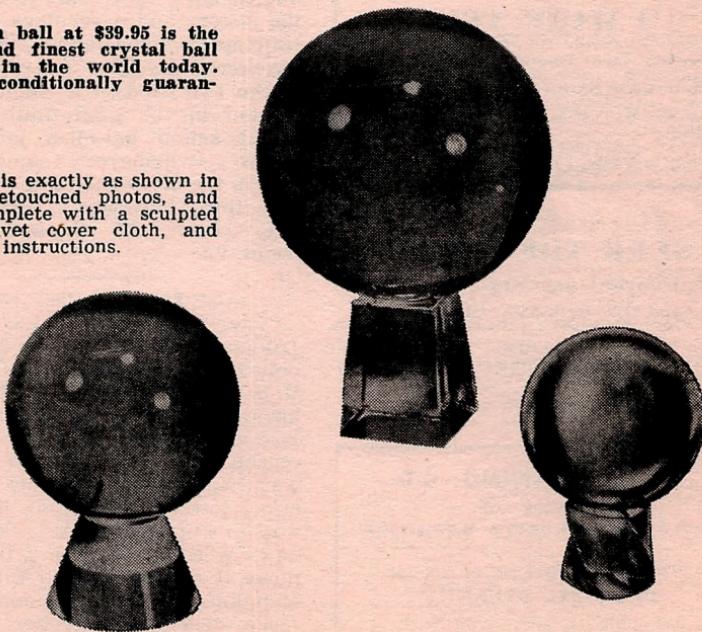
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into official "UFOlogy" then I feel they are obligated to seek and publish the answers to these questions. Among the group are sociologists, psychologists and historians who readily could pursue this angle if given the go-ahead. To complement their battery of researchers, they easily could add one or two political scientists and a professor of military science and tactics. John Weigle's exposé of the "UFO numbers game" would be an excellent jumping-off place for their documentation.

However, if the Colorado group is not bringing its resources to bear on the history and psychology of official UFO news management, then I can conclude only that the ostrich has grown two heads, both of which will remain in the sand until Congressional action or mass landings of UFOs (whichever comes first) shocks the old ostrich into reality. By that time, however, it may be too late. — *Larry W. Bryant, Newport News, Va.*

**THE ROAD'S THERE NOW**

"The Road That Wasn't There" (August, 1967, FATE) is now known I believe as the Eastern Turnpike or U. S. 169. If Mr. and Mrs. Wilson had been able to get on it at that end in 1955 and head north they could have reached Tulsa — or turned off either way in 1966 on Interstate 40 to go either toward Oklahoma City or part way to Fort Smith, Ark. By slowing down a couple of years they could make it all the way to Little Rock, Memphis and Nashville, cities it will reach when construction is completed.

What bothers me is when they got off the freeway, would they automatically have returned to 1955 or would they have been stuck in 1966 or beyond? The road they describe fits nicely the new freeway's southern end just south of McAlester, Okla. It "wasn't there" the first time I went

through Oklahoma either but it was there on my last trip — in 1966. — *John Herron, Blanding, Utah.*

**FROM THE WITCHES' BIBLE?**

In reference to the article "Witches' Sabbats and Esbats" (June, 1967, FATE), Justine Glass on page 85 quotes from "The Gospel of Saint Thomas." This must be from a witches' bible, for in the King James Version that I have I find no "Gospel of St. Thomas" at all.

I notice such things, for I have found that many so-called Christians are not above misquoting to bolster an idea.

Thomas Paine in his *Appeal to Reason* says of Paul's experience on the road to Damascus that he (Paul) was struck by lightning and that all people struck by lightning have a similar experience, which of course isn't true. Other authors have said Paul was subject to fits from childhood on, though no record exists of his ever having had "fits" before or after. The truth is fantastic enough without embroidery. — *Bertram W. Hanscom, Kennebunk, Me.*

**NOTHING IS LOST . . .**

In the June, 1967, FATE Beatrice Berlanga, Austin, Tex., asks how to find lost or misplaced articles. I have an answer that always works for me.

First, I believe that everything we do or ever have done leaves a record on our subconscious minds. If we call on that part of our minds it is prepared to help solve our problems.

When I lose something, I quit worrying about it and before I go to sleep at night I always ask my subconscious mind, "Where is it? Please lead me to it." In the morning, with no conscious effort to find the lost article, I go about my daily work and suddenly my thoughts force me to leave what I am doing. Always I am led to the location of the lost article.

I have done this for years and it



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always works if the article has not been completely destroyed. — Verna M. Gardner, Vista, Calif.

## JUD JACOBS' DEFENDER

In the July, 1967, "Report from the Readers" you published a letter from G. D., Cardiff, Calif., under the heading "That Pesky Research!"

I really must stick up for Jud Jacobs, the author of "I'll Meet You in New Delhi," for ball-point pens were used in 1944 (at least in England). I bought one of the first to come on the market. They were expensive at that time — 15 shillings or about \$2.25 at the present rate of Canadian exchange. I think the exchange was higher in those days which would make the cost a little more. When I bought this one for my husband ball-point pens had been on the market for several months so you see Mr. Jacobs could have had one. — D. Mott, Langley, B. C., Canada.

## RIDERS IN THE NIGHT

I am hoping that if FATE publishes a strange experience I had as a very young child, someone will read it who may be able to give me an explanation.

I am now 42 years old. About 35 years ago I vividly remember having witnessed a strange happening. I don't know if I was sleepwalking at the time — but I never have walked in my sleep before nor since, so it seems unlikely.

I believe I was wide-awake. Sometime between midnight and 3:00 A.M. I was impelled for some reason to leave my bed, walk to the back porch and look out into the still night. Several houses away under a large oak tree appeared five or six men on large black horses. Being so young, I couldn't be absolutely sure of their number. The men on their horses circled the oak tree at a gallop each carrying a wide black

razor strop. The riders used these to whip the horses to greater speed. Then one man dropped his strop and the others all looked down at it. No one picked it up but let it lie where it had fallen; then they all rode off.

The next morning without telling my parents about my experience I got up, dressed and walked to the tree. The razor strop was where I knew it would be. When I took it home my parents searched the neighborhood to find the owner and asked questions in an attempt to discover how it got there. Until today we don't know. The strop was in good condition, almost new. — M. P., Sacramento, Calif.

#### OUT, DAMNED SPOT!

As a young woman I married a man who had three teen-aged daughters. We moved into an old two-story house on a farm in northeastern Missouri. My husband and I took the downstairs bedroom and the girls the two rooms upstairs. All of the rooms in the house were large and the interior walls were wallpapered plaster and lath.

One night we heard movement on the stairs but I thought it was one of the girls so I did not investigate. In the morning when we asked if they had been wakeful one said she had been awakened by an old man bending over her. When he left the room, which was directly over ours, she said he walked through the wall. She didn't know whether this was a dream but she was so frightened she went to sleep in the other room with the other girls. From that night on no one would sleep in the room over ours.

In our bedroom there was a dirty-brown spot on the ceiling, a circle about three and a half feet in diameter. My husband decided we had ought to repaper the room. In removing the old paper we found the spot was wet. My husband went up-

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stairs but found the floor above dry. He pried up the floor; the joists too were dry. He replaced the floor and we spent the next two days papering the walls and ceiling.

The night we had finished a brown spot appeared on the ceiling and while it increased in size my husband climbed up to touch it and found both paper and plaster wet. The next day he tore off the plaster and lathing and replaced it all with new. The next day the spot had returned.

That night we heard someone come downstairs dragging a chain and after that the children moved downstairs to the living room. No one wanted the upstairs rooms after that.

I can't say we ever were comfortable in that house. In the time we stayed there my husband renewed the plaster and wallpaper on the ceiling of our bedroom several times but the spot always returned. I asked questions among the neighbors but no one knew any reason to consider the house "haunted." Finally we closed the house, rented the land and moved away. We never found an explanation for the phenomenon of the "damned spot." — Cora Mae Akey, Ocala, Fla.

## A GARDENIA-SCENTED MESSAGE

Your magazine has published many stories of the type I have just experienced and I want to write this while it is still fresh in my mind.

In June, 1967, my mother and I went to visit her 80-year-old aunt in the small Texas town where most of our family used to live. While there we decided to go to the cemetery to see my grandmother's grave. She died in her early 20's when my mother was not yet two years old. As we were leaving the cemetery Mother said she was sorry we had not brought flowers to place on the grave.

At the gate to the graveyard we

spied a gardenia bush in full bloom. We stopped to admire it and mother suggested we pick a bouquet for her mother's grave. (As it is almost our "family cemetery" we felt free to do so.) I walked back and laid the flowers on the grave.

Later I asked my great-aunt if Grandmother had liked gardenias but she said she couldn't remember and no more was said on the subject.

The next day other relatives came to call. While most of them chose to sit on the front porch, a cousin and I sat inside near a fan as it was a rather warm day. We had been talking for a little while when Mother came in. She said, "Who's wearing the perfume?" We were both surprised, for neither of us was wearing any. Mother looked at me oddly and said, "Aren't you wearing Jungle Gardenia?" I replied that I had forgotten to pack any perfume at all. Besides neither my cousin nor I could notice the gardenia scent.

Sometime later my cousin and I joined the rest of the family on the porch and I suddenly smelled the gardenias! It was overpowering — but no one else noticed it. The odor disappeared for a time only to return as strong as ever. Still no one but me could smell it.

During all this time I never once thought of my grandmother and the gardenias I had so lovingly placed on her grave. But that night as I lay almost asleep I remembered. I jumped up and ran to Mother.

"Grandmother got her flowers," I said. "She got the gardenias and she was trying to tell us so this afternoon." — *Grace Vaughn Anderson, Dallas, Tex.*

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with a crushed skull, dying and under police guard to protect her from the thugs who had attacked her. The doctors could not save her.

I appealed to her parents to let me save her life. They had to get permission from the hospital, the doctors and the police before they could let me into her hospital room. I drew on UFO power . . . and her life was saved. The girl is now alive and well in West Virginia.

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## WHAT MAKES US FREE?

Elizabeth S. Harpe in her letter ("Christ's Work Is Finished?") in the July, 1967 FATE insists that Harmon Bro "persecutes" the founder of Christianity ("Modern Psychology and the Easter Story," April and May, 1967, FATE). My view is that Dr. Bro does not focus on the mortally-wounded "man" on the cross but on the tomb with its stone rolled away.

He of the New Testament said, "Know the truth and the truth shall make you free." He did not say "Know faith and faith shall make you free," nor "Know knowledge and knowledge shall make you free."

It is my view that Harmon Bro meant us to note, "The stone is

rolled away from the tomb!" I found his exposure of the Living Christ a penetrating one which shows the depth from which we have come and where we are going. — *Nick E. Kalaman, Glen Arm, Md.*

#### A SAD COMMENTARY . . .

I read Carl F. Krafft's letter in August, 1967, FATE and was amused with what dispatch he killed off our souls. He speaks of the wavelike behavior of electrons being explained on the basis of the vortex *theory* of the atom. May I remind him that a theory is a speculation and speculations don't always prove out?

I don't think matter "becomes" alive by organization of the atoms. I believe primary matter always was alive and becomes a thing or person of some kind when organized. There are case histories of persons born without any brain at all, yet functioning as normal human beings. How would Mr. Krafft explain this phenomenon? If the body has no brain motor and no use of the senses or reasoning power, there can be only one explanation: spirit or the spark of God operates that body. If spirit can animate a body that should be lifeless, then spirit cannot die. When Mr. Krafft sheds this mortal coil he is going to be surprised to find that his "awareness" still is very much alive wherever he may be.

Now a word about James P. Stewart's letter in the same issue, "Vision on Wolf Mountain." In view of Edgar Cayce's prediction for California I would say Mr. Stewart may have had a peek into the future. I know that feeling of "uneasiness" and "impending disaster." Those who do not have these experiences all-too-easily pooh-pooh those who do.

It is a loss to all mankind that this extension of awareness is tossed aside by scientists as not worthy of study. They are studying diligently the things that impinge on the senses but

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the God-given part of man is almost totally ignored and neglected. This is a sad commentary on our world when you think that man could progress by leaps and bounds in all directions if more attention were paid to his spiritual side. — Vida C. Schneider, Yonkers, N. Y.

#### "IN SHORT, WE GOOFED"

May I commend you for publishing the two fine articles, "The UFO Numbers Game," in the July and August, 1967, FATE? Mr. Weigle has done an excellent job of pinpointing several fine examples of the blunders that have emanated from Project Blue Book. There can be little doubt that many of the explanations given by Project Blue Book would, in the words of astronomer Jacques Vallee, "call for a complete overthrow of current scientific concepts, if taken seriously."

Mr. Weigle also is correct when he speaks of "the lack of scientific accuracy in Air Force statements." I recently wrote to the Air Force asking about "Balmer's Planet," a term mentioned on page four of the 1967 edition of Project Blue Book. Their reply dated July 18, 1967, reads as follows:

"In reference to your question on 'Balmer's Planet' referred to in Project Blue Book, our astronomical consultant thought that he had recalled the name 'Balmer's Planet' applied to the unseen planetary companion of Barnard's Star. He has not been able to find the reference nor to confirm this impression. In short, we goofed." (signed Barnett B. Young, Lt. Col., USAF).

Perhaps FATE readers will be interested in adding this faux pas to the already extensive list of contradictions and blunders produced by officialdom. — David Schroth, St. Louis, Mo.



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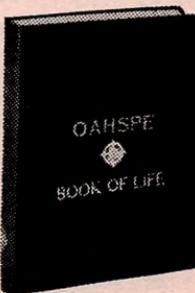
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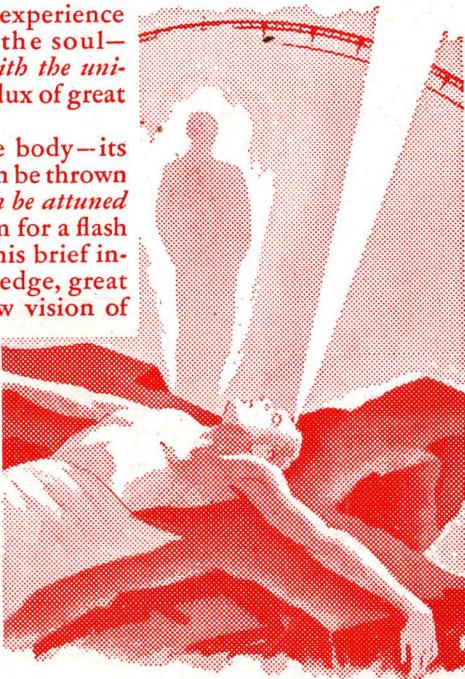
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