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NOVEMBER 1971 50¢

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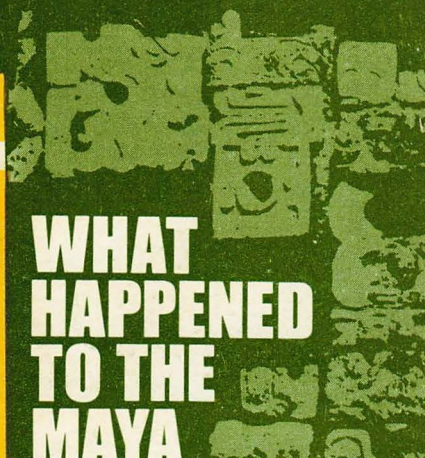
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WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MAYA CIVILIZATION?

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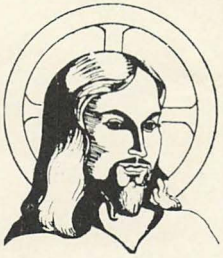
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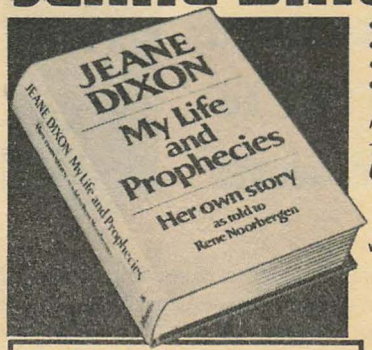
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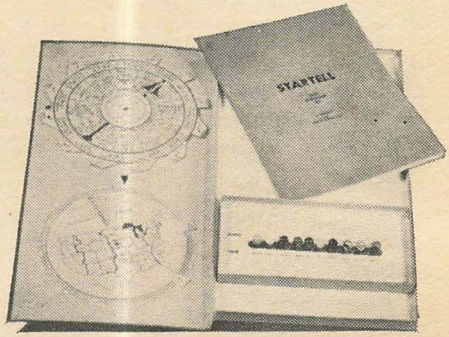
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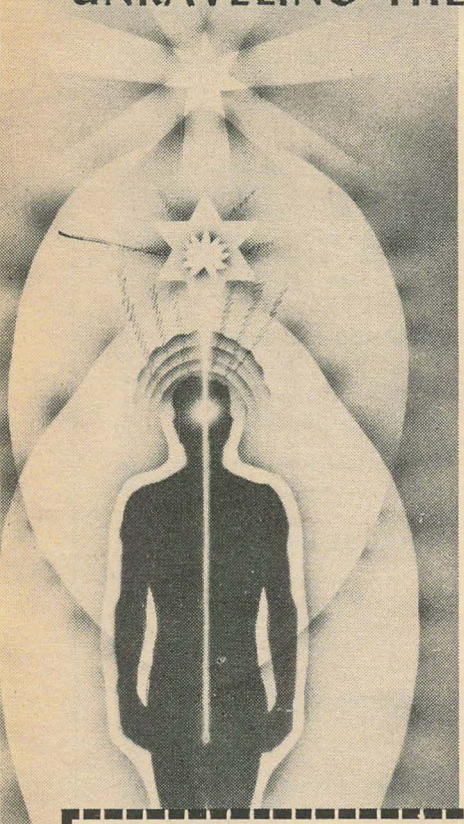
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I See by the Papers



Curtis Fuller

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire.

The voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness; the Lord shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord maketh the hinds to calve and discovereth the forests . . .

—Psalms 29:7-9

IS THE BIBLE speaking symbolically here or is it describing in primitive terms the landing of an alien spaceship?

Ever since UFOs became a popular subject there has been an increasing growth of cults taking the viewpoint that Earth has been visited for thousands of years and that the Bible and other sacred histories have described these visits.

The persistent references in the Bible to chariots of fire in such typical passages as that from *Psalms 104: 3-4* are seized upon as evidence of alien visitations. That passage states: ". . . *who maketh the clouds his chariot; who walketh upon the wings of the wind; who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire . . .*"

Starting with this simple idea that spaceships landed in ancient times, which at best must be considered a tenuous theory, many proponents now have constructed whole theological systems. These systems which seem to have attracted more interest in Europe than in the United States contradict each other. Nevertheless it is time we scrutinized their claims and tried to understand what is going on.

The general theme is that "God" was a team of astronauts, or the leader of a team of astronauts, which in some way colonized Earth with humans, or by other means created humans in their present (and "His") image. One important claim is that the biblical book of *Genesis* theoretically describes what happened.

Among the men who have been most articulate on the subject are the Frenchman Jean Sendy and the German Erich von Däniken. Sendy has written six books

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developing his theories and von Däniken has written at least two — *Chariots of the Gods* and the more recent *Gods From Outer Space*.

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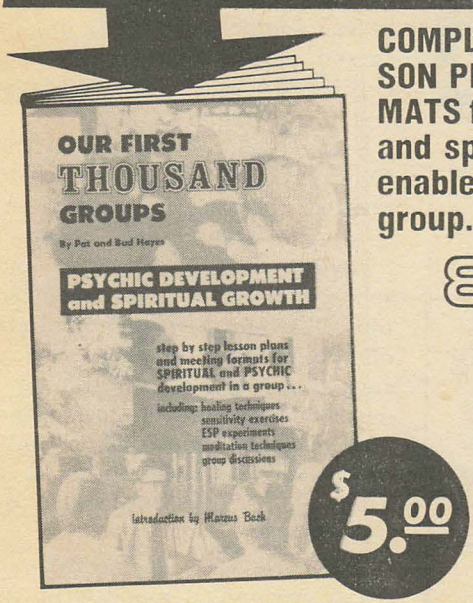
SENDY STATES that the truth will be revealed in a few years by an Apollo moon mission which, if it follows his instructions, will recover a cache of messages left by the God-astronauts in a hollow on the moon located at 56° N 75° W — which covers a pretty substantial area.

He interprets the book of *Genesis* as describing a series of events lasting 10,000 years and ending 12,000 years ago. He admits that his whole idea will be exploded if the moon hollow is explored and found empty. The greater problem, of course, will be to find the hollow. It would be difficult if it was within an area 1000 yards square, let alone an area defined in terms of degrees only.

Sendy was born in Russia 60 years ago and brought up among emigrés in Paris. He studied science at the *Ecole Polytechnic*, reading and studying everything, specializing in nothing. He was not graduated.

Sendy accepts the Old Testament literally — provided it is translated correctly — which

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Pat and Bud have led youth groups, held group workshops and training seminars, supervised group leadership training programs and have been totally involved in the spiritual and psychic field for many years.

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means according to Sendy! He says it contains an ancient and literal tradition and was preserved intact because of its sacred nature. The history, according to Sendy, begins at the end of the glacial period.

Sendy's Idea No. 1 is that the Hebraic word for "God" who created heaven and earth according to *Genesis* is "Elohim." "Elohim" is a plural word and scholars say that it is "honorific plural" to express the magnitude of the concept of God. Sendy says this is nonsense, "Elohim" describes the plural nature of the god-spacemen, and when only one god-spaceman is meant he is referred to as "Adonai" or "Yahweh."

The "gods" according to Sendy arrived in a spaceship as large as 18 miles square which traveled about 1,000 years. Perhaps it carried 15 couples to begin with who were replaced over the years by their descendants.

Upon landing these astronaut-gods isolated themselves in the habitable area which the Bible calls the Garden of Eden. Here they created a technological society, including irrigated agriculture and domesticated animals.

They brought in selected earthmen as assistants and apprentices and these earthmen

treated them as the gods they were. Adam learned too much from a renegade spaceman (Lucifer) and had to be expelled from the Garden — although not before he had been taught about agriculture.

After several thousand years the gods left — having sowed the seeds which have matured into our present civilizations and cultures. Before they left the god-cosmonauts destroyed their base — a catastrophe remembered as the Flood, with Noah left to pass along the traditions.

Sendy points out that after the Flood the first thing Noah did was to build an altar — actually a receiving set for maintaining contact with the receding spaceship.

Noah's final message, as recorded in *Genesis*, was that the "sign of the covenant" shall be deposited "in the clouds."

"With space age logic," according to Walter Schwarz of the Guardian News Service who interviewed Sendy in Israel, "there is only one place where departing cosmonauts could leave a message that would be found when man was ready to make use of it: the moon.

"During a visit to NASA Sendy collected computer charts of a 'negative mass concentration' found by Orbiter V — a giant hollow which seems the only possi-

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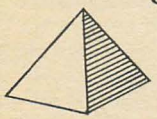
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ble site for the original lunar base."

On this evidence Sendy is convinced that scientists will be so intrigued they will have to explore the hollow and find what is inside.

And if they do not, then who ever will refute the theories of Jean Sendy?

∞

A CONTRARY VIEW

ERICH VON DANIKEN's theory also incorporates *Genesis* but in quite a different way. He is convinced that "our longing for the stars is kept alive by a legacy bequeathed by the 'gods.' Memories of our terrestrial ancestors and memories of our cosmic teachers are both at work in us."

"I think that our ancestors received their intelligence from the 'gods' who must have possessed knowledge that made the whole process a rapid one," he writes in *Gods From Outer Space.**

Behind von Däniken's ideas are persistent theories that have been expressed in Russian literature and science fiction. He seems to have been much influenced by such articles as "Spaceship in the Himalayas" and "Angels in Spaceships" which appeared in the Soviet

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journal *Sputnik*. In 1968 he went to Moscow and interviewed Prof. Joseph S. Shlovsky, director of the Radio Astronomic Department of the Soviet Academy of Science's Sternberg Institute. FATE has reported on some of these Russian ideas in the past, including the proposal that the great platforms in certain Lebanese ruins may have been rocket landing platforms.

Von Däniken's central idea is that "God" created man "in his own image" by means of an artificial mutation. The raw material which von Däniken's god used was "the ape tribe."

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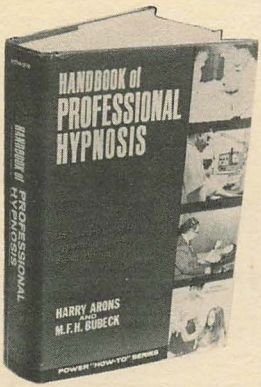
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∞

EVOLUTION ACCORDING TO VON DANIKEN

SO THE GODS came down in their chariots of fire, according to von Däniken and by using their superior genetic knowledge, tinkered with the genetic codes of apes to produce man. This is von Däniken's explanation for the evolutionary link that Eiseley seeks.

His authorities are ancient religious texts, including the Hebrew Bible, the Cabbalah, old Indian and Tibetan texts, translations from Sumerian tablets and other pre-Christian literature. It's a mixed bag.

The theme runs through many old traditions. The gods descended from heaven, interbred with the humans they found here

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and started a new race of men. The Sumerians, for example, tell us how the gods came from the stars in their fire ships, fertilized their ancestors and returned to the stars.

The people saw these "gods" with their own eyes, the texts say. But before the "gods" returned to the stars they taught the Sumerians writing, agriculture and how to smelt metal.

And according to von Däniken the Old Testament repeats the same general story. "God (or the 'gods')," he says, "had landed on earth in a cosmic vehicle. They began their most important task of fertilizing the inhabitants of earth with their seed. They separated all the persons chosen for this experiment from the hybrid bestial world and destined them for the 'journey into the wilderness.' There they had their guinea pigs in quarantine, so to speak . . . They had to stay 'in the wilderness' for a whole generation. *Exodus 19:4* says:

" 'Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings (!) and brought you unto myself.' "

His theory, von Däniken says, throws light on many biblical texts such as the passage from *Genesis 1:26-27:*

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness . . . So God created man in



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his own image, in the image of God created he him . . ."

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"IN THE WILDERNESS"

VON DANIKEN obviously is hung up on sexual bestiality. The reason the chosen people were kept "in the wilderness'" for 40 years, he explains, was so they could not mix with their animal-like ancestors while they were being separated by the supposedly godly genetic tinkering. This new generation of "higher men" would, of course, become too disgusted with the half-men, half-animals from which they sprang to consider interbreeding with them. Those who backslid were destroyed.

Von Däniken admits that his reconstruction doesn't exactly follow the chronology of the Bible but he excuses this on the ground that the Old Testament does not accurately reflect the unfolding of time.

Clearly he picks and chooses from the various religious traditions for material to fit his theories. There seems no evidence whatsoever to support his central theme that the gods were space entities who created man from apes by genetic tinkering.

Yet through the Bible, the Indian Mahabharata, the Book of Dyzan, the Gilgamesh epic, there runs the persistent theme

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of fire ships visiting earth from the sky, of men (or gods?) emerging from them and dealing with the lowly humans they met and of their returning to the skies.

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Are these psychical experiences? Are they human fantasies responding to some universal yearning? Or, in truth, do the fiery-tailed spaceships carry human-like passengers on a visit to our spinning blue ocean-girdled world?

∞

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

THE BIG California earthquake will come about 9:00 A.M. on January 4, 1973, according to Dr. Reuben Greenspan, a physical scientist and graduate of Illinois Institute of Technology who once taught at New York City University.

Greenspan was interviewed by John Blackburn of the *Santa Ana* (Calif.) *Register*. Greenspan is a semiretired physicist-mathematician, according to Blackburn, who has been successfully forecasting earthquakes for years. The trouble is, he complains, no one pays any attention to him.

Greenspan claims he's been predicting quakes accurately for more than 35 years and can give you a list of his successes including the 1964 Alaska quake.



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Eight years ago Dr. Greenspan retired from the physical sciences to spend more time on his lifelong hobby of photography. He received a national photojournalism award for his news coverage of "Resurrection City" — the tent city put up in Washington, D.C., a couple of years ago.

Here's Dr. Greenspan's theory:

He believes that over millions of years the earth has adjusted pretty well to the pulls of the sun and moon. But during certain periods their pull is augmented by that of Jupiter, the largest planet. "When the moon and Jupiter are in conjunction — both pulling in the same direction — the combined attraction is somewhat stronger," he says. "Whether this will set off a quake depends on whether an earthquake-prone fault is directly in line with the moon and Jupiter."

Dr. Greenspan makes calculations to determine where and approximately when the quake is most likely to occur. This is how he predicts the 1973 quake and estimates it will measure around 7.4 on the Richter scale. The place is San Francisco.

* * *

Before we leave the subject of Jupiter, which is 320 times bigger than the earth, we wish to apprise you of a controversy now



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This page contains a shameless bribe.

You see, we are now accepting a specific number of Charter Members into the MONEYTREE program. Membership in the MONEY-

that says you're doomed to "just get by" the rest of your life. If you can't be a millionaire . . . here's how to live like one. Everything you need to know is contained in our monthly newsletter called MONEYTREE. With a minimum of fan-fare and hocus-pocus, I'd like to tell you exactly what MONEYTREE does for it's members:

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Help you get simple, yet sophisticated, health secrets from such famed underground medical authorities as Hauser, Drake, Rodale, Kordel, Eichenlaub, and Fredricks. Here is practical, useable help to add interesting years to your life, health, and youthful appearance . . . rushed to you almost the moment these health break-throughs are discovered!

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Don't misunderstand me. MONEYTREE is not a society of philanthropists. We believe that any person worth his salt will realize that you must pay *something* to get something of real value. But you take no risk when you become a member. Membership in the MONEYTREE Club costs a few pennies a month . . . and you can try it at our risk. See for yourself.

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going on concerning it. Robert Wildey of the Center of Astrogeology at Flagstaff, Ariz., says that Jupiter seems to be radiating into space about twice as much energy as it receives from the sun. If this is so, he says, then Jupiter is really a star and not a planet "in the generally accepted sense." But Wildey wants to make clear he is not claiming Jupiter is self-luminous, as any self-respecting star ought to be: "But if we're right and Jupiter is producing energy, then it would not be wrong to call it a star as well as a planet."

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SINCE WAGONER'S theory of continental drift was propounded a great deal of the time has been spent figuring how the continents split off, how they moved apart and what the world looked like millions of years ago.

Now a group of scientists has drawn a map projecting what the earth may look like 50 million years in the future. They visualize the continents as still moving on thick underlying plates, perhaps 60 miles thick and being carried on these plates like passengers on a raft.

The projected movements of the continents take South America westward and apart from North America which is moving

westward and north. The Mediterranean will be squeezed down into a narrow sea as North Africa moves toward Europe, which in turn is moving eastward, along with most of the Eurasian continent. A new body of water will appear in eastern Africa.

California "will break away from North America as the plate on which it rides slides down into the Aleutian trench," according to the Associated Press report on the theories of Robert A. Dietz and John C. Holden of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

There's not much need for those of us alive today to worry about this except for the possible damage caused by earthquakes during the process. The continents seem to move only at the rate of an inch or so each year.

A plan is now proposed for measuring exactly how fast we are moving. It bounces laser beams off a series of mirrors left on the lunar surface by the Apollo 11 astronauts and at present Dr. P. L. Bender can compute the distance between these reflectors and earth-based instruments to within 10 inches. He may be able to cut this variance.

∞

MEANWHILE FROM VENUS

THE RUSSIANS, late in January, announced their un-

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manned Venera 7 spacecraft not only had made a soft landing on Venus but had sent back data for more than 20 minutes. Apparently no surprises were reported. Temperatures were 847° to 923° F.; atmospheric pressures were about 90 times those of Earth.

In 1967, according to Walter Sullivan in the *New York Times*, the Russians reported that their Verero 4, which landed on Venus on October 18 that year, had sent data from the surface. American measurements later showed this had to be wrong.

"The Russians tacitly acknowledge that their craft had gone off the air well above the surface," Sullivan commented drily. "They are unlikely to risk a repetition of this episode."

Ergo, Venera 7 probably did land on Venus.

∞

SEARCH FOR THE "QUARK"

SOME PHYSICISTS believe the most fundamental particle of the atomic nucleus is a "something" they have dubbed the "quark."

No one is sure it exists. An Australian physicist named Charles McCusker said, in 1969, he had found five "quark" candidates in cloud chamber photographs but his claim is still disputed.

Recently physicists at the Uni-

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versity of California made a year-long search for "quarks" in 100,000 photographs of nuclear interactions.

So far, no "quarks."

∞

THE QUESTION OF POLYWATER

IN FEBRUARY 1970 we reported studies indicating that science had discovered a new form of water called "polywater" which was about 40 percent denser than ordinary water and instead of freezing at 32° F. freezes at 40° below zero. Instead of boiling at 212° at sea level pressure it boils at 1,060°. The most important characteristic of polywater seemed to be that its chemical bonds were exceptionally strong and it even was theorized that polywater might be what glued together so many things in nature, perhaps including even you and me.

Now a detailed report in the January 15, 1971, issue of *Science* by R. E. Davis of Purdue University, D. L. Rousseau of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, and R. D. Board of Hewlett-Packard Company, seriously questions the existence of polywater and says that all their studies indicate that the polywater samples they have analyzed are merely gels of impurities with very little water present. In fact, they say the unusual performance of "poly-

water" is possible only because of the contaminants it contains.

Rousseau says that the infrared spectrum of "polywater" is remarkably similar to that of sodium lactate, the primary constituent of sweat.

Some scientific faces are going to be very red before this controversy is concluded.

∞

WITCHES BESET BORODENKI

THE VILLAGE OF Borodenki near Moscow is suffering a scourge of witches. First Alexandra Turnikova became ill — inexplicably — as did another woman when a hunchbacked old crone threw a handful of dog or cat hair at her. Then Anyuka's husband turned against her and "doesn't even want to look at her." Next a cow died.

These are some of the terrible goings-on attributed to witches and sorcerers. No one really knows who the witches are so everybody is accusing everybody else of working black magic in the village.

The trouble came to light recently when Mikhail Demianov complained to the regional committee of the Communist Party that his wife Tatiana is being accused of witchcraft and he has learned that the villagers believe he too is a sorcerer who assists his wife in her black magic. The

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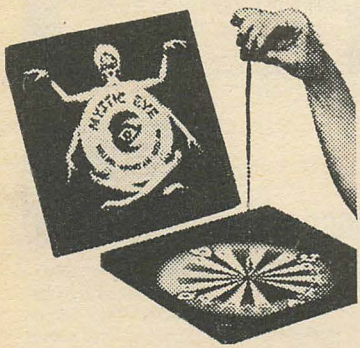
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committee quoted Demianov as saying that Tatiana "is considered the main witch in the village." She of course denies it.

The committee sent a witch-hunter to the village to try to settle things. He first noted that most of the victims and those accused as witches are employees of a local state hospital. Next he unearthed the facts that Alexandra Turnikova, a nurse at the hospital, has been "experiencing some pain for 10 years" but suddenly took a turn for the worse.

Alexandra's mother declared the girl had been "spoilt by a witch." Attempting to learn the identity of whoever had "spoilt" Alexandra the villagers decided it had to be Mikhail's wife Tatiana because hadn't she been a friend of Pinaeva? Although Pinaeva has since died, everybody knew she was a witch!

Then began the series of misfortunes which always were blamed on Tatiana's "evil eye." When too many misfortunes turned up for one witch to handle the villagers started uncovering other witches — such as Ovsyannikova, a worker on a cattle farm whose sorcery killed a cow.

The baffled witch-hunter said the villagers "always have believed in sorcerers and witches and even the head physician at the hospital decided no one could do anything about it."

One reason, the investigator reported, is that the hospital's club, where discussions of the problem are held, "is always locked and its manager often is drunk."

One can imagine the witch-hunter's discouragement as he admitted his failure — but he came away from Borodenki with one bright memory. Some of the villagers are enjoying the whole business. These are the youngsters who roam the streets playing pranks on their superstitious elders.

∞

MESSAGE FROM SPACE?

THE NEWSPAPERS and *Life* Magazine have revealed the name of the psychic with whom Astronaut Edgar D. Mitchell conducted telepathic card-guessing experiments on the recent lunar flight of Apollo 14. It was Olof Jonsson of Chicago who has been mentioned in these pages before.

There can be no doubt that Olof is extremely good at card-guessing but whether he achieved positive results during his space experiment is not known at this writing. Mitchell is reported to be much annoyed that Jonsson's identity has been made public.

—*Curtis Fuller*

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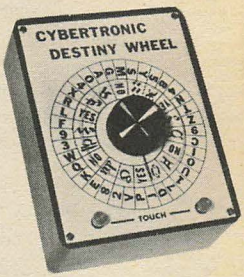
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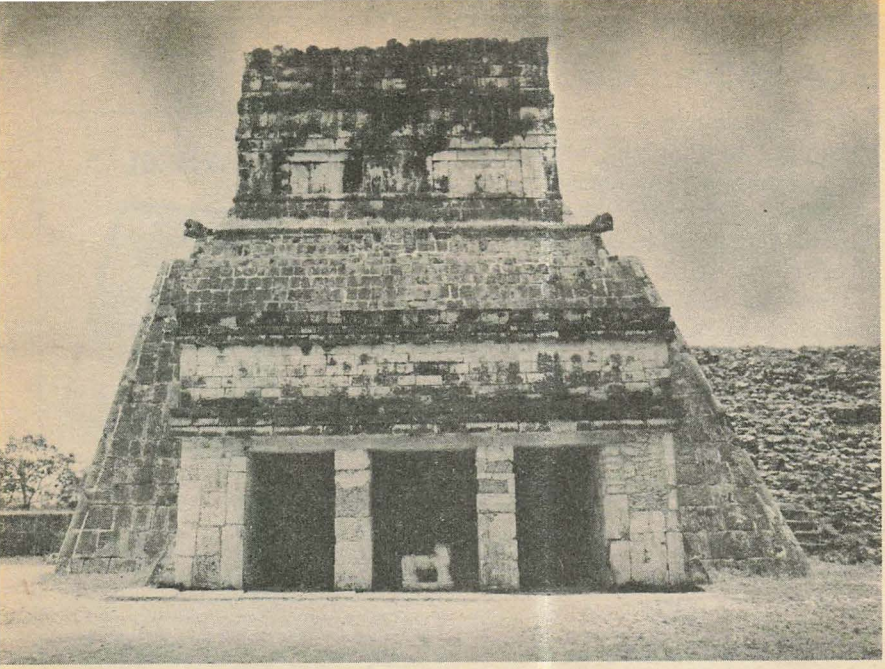
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Among architectural wonders at Chichen Itza are the Temple of the Jaguar . . .

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE Maya CIVILIZATION?

By Carolyn Hatt
Mexican National Tourist Council Photos

Why this flourishing empire was deserted at the height of its splendor remains one of archaeology's most intriguing mysteries.

IN THE YEAR 1840 two intrepid travelers, writer John Lloyd Stephens and artist Frederick Catherwood, struggled through the steaming tropical forests of Guatemala and the Yucatan Peninsula. When they returned they brought with them the startling news of a great civilization that had flourished and vanished at our own back door. Publication of their book, *Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas and Yucatan,* which described the Mayan ruins in words and pictures, set scholars on their learned ears!

Until then it had been assumed only barbarians inhabited the



. . . and Tzompantli or "Platform of the Skulls."

Americas. But here was a people who built great temples, erected impressive pyramids and embellished their monuments with such sumptuous detail that even Egypt and Greece never outdid them in artistic achievement.

It had been assumed that civilizations rose, built, borrowed and fell only within the confines of the Old World. But here was a culture that blossomed without a known link or tie to any Western civilization, whose very existence had not even been suspected until the Spanish conquerors landed in Yucatan in the 16th Century.

Today the traveler viewing these same ruins that so excited John Lloyd Stephens also must marvel at the eloquence of that ancient people. Four generations of archaeologists have managed to piece together a fascinating picture of their culture and their achievements; yet much concerning the Mayans remains as mysterious as the day Stephens came upon the first ruin.

Perhaps the most baffling question is how the Mayan civilization emerged almost fully developed from the outset. Or are we, somewhere, overlooking some missing links? For while an older temple under an existing one may show an evolution

in artistry, no excavation yet has revealed an early drawing or simple pictograph that led to their highly complex system of hieroglyphic writing. Indeed, so complicated are their hieroglyphs that more than half of them have not been deciphered.

Nor have remains of early systems of numeration, astronomy and calendrics been found. These arts too appear full-blown in the earliest evidence. Some writers suggest the earlier formative stages were recorded on perishable materials. Others contend the civilization evolved elsewhere and was brought by the Maya to Middle America from — where?

The most respectable theory regarding the origins of the Maya holds that long, long ago they came across the Bering Strait and wandered down through North America to settle in Guatemala and Yucatan. But this theory, like so many others concerning the Maya, raises as many questions as it answers. For instance, why would these people fight their way into dense tropical jungles?

As long ago as the 16th Century the Spanish histories of the New World suggest the Maya arrived on the shores of Yucatan from differing points of origin, that they represent remnants of the 10 lost tribes of Israel or the survivors of the Deluge. They have been variously identified as Etruscans, Egyptians, Tartars, Chinese Buddhists and Basques, to name but a few. One early explorer stated the ruined city of Palenque was Phoenician or Roman and doctored his drawings to support his view.

Another belief, voiced soon after the Spanish conquest, and probably the most persistent theory outside of conventional archaeology, is that the Maya were survivors of the lost continent of Atlantis.

Hundreds of books and articles have been written supporting the existence of such a continent. Even a Russian Doctor of Chemical Sciences, N. F. Zhirov, has presented geological-geographical evidence in a book written to confirm Atlantis as a geographic reality.

Perhaps the most fascinating support for the Atlantis theory lies in the readings of Edgar Cayce. Several dozen of these refer to Atlantis and describe it as an advanced civilization. The Atlanteans traveled in airships, in craft that moved on and under the water. They utilized atomic power and several kinds of light rays, including a death ray. They had advanced systems of astronomy and astrology, understood the law of gravity and could countermand its pull. They

harnessed the sun's energy. And, according to Cayce, the Atlanteans understood the higher nature and capabilities of man and with their clairvoyant faculties some of them foresaw the final watery destruction of their continent and sought suitable lands to colonize — chiefly Egypt, the Pyrenees and Yucatan. The Yucatan colonists became known as Maya.

In this regard it is interesting to note references to a deluge in some of the Mayan chronicles. The book of *Chilam Balam of Chumayal* mentions "the destruction of the world" and that ". . . when the law of the *Katun* (a time period) shall have run its course, then God will bring about a great deluge again . . ."

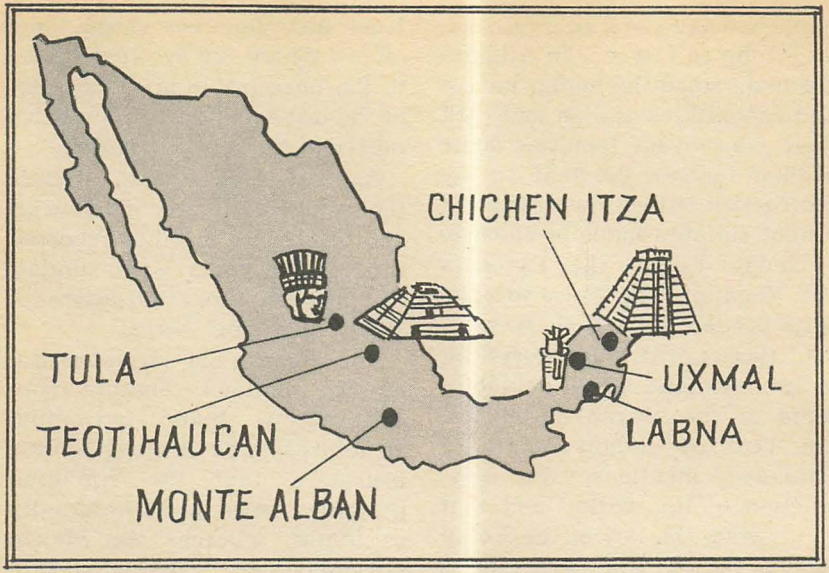
The most poetic reference is in the *Popol Vuh*, sacred book of the Quiche Maya which chronicles their history, religion and mythology. "Then the waters were agitated by the will of the Heart of Heaven and a great inundation came upon the heads of these creatures . . . a heavy darkening rain commenced . . . rain by day and rain by night . . . There was heard a great noise above their heads, as if produced by fire. Then were men seen running, pushing each other, filled with despair; they wished to climb upon their houses and the houses . . . fell to the ground; they wished to climb upon the trees and the trees shook them off . . . Water and fire contributed to the universal ruin at the time of the last great cataclysm which preceded the fourth creation."

And of course the Atlantis theory dovetails very nicely with another theme that has recurred through the years — the similarity between the civilizations of Egypt and the Maya.

For years the architectural kinship claimed, because both civilizations built pyramidal structures, was refuted by the insistence that the Egyptian pyramids were built essentially as tombs, whereas the Mayan pyramids were constructed with flat platforms on their tops upon which temples were raised. But a startling discovery made in 1952 put a kink in this argument.

Albert Ruz Lhuillier was investigating the Temple of the Inscriptions at Palenque, one of the most beautiful of all the ruined cities, when he noted that the temple floor was made of carefully fitted flagstones, a highly unusual feature. He became particularly intrigued by one very large stone near the center of the room. Six holes had been drilled into each end of the big slab and these holes then skillfully fitted with stone plugs to conceal their presence.

Lifting the slab Ruz discovered a vaulted stairway leading down

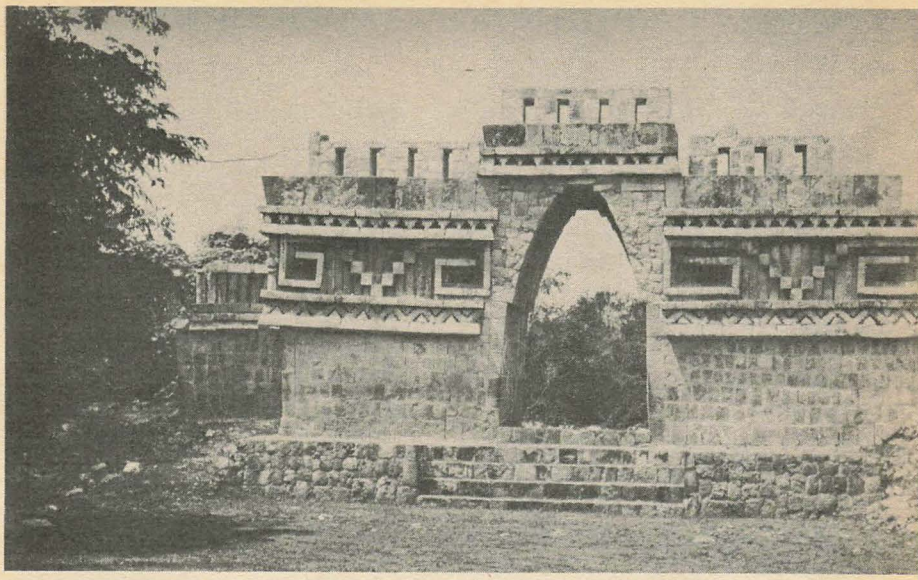


Archaeologists believe Maya civilization flourished around these major cities.



into the heart of the pyramid. The passageway had been filled to the very top with heavy stones and rubble. It took four years of arduous labor to clear away this debris but at the end of that time, at the bottom of the stairs, Ruz discovered a burial vault containing the first sarcophagus ever found in a Mayan pyramid. Describing his first look into the sarcophagus, Ruz says, "I was gazing at the death face of him for whom all this stupendous work — the crypt, the sculpture,

"El Castillo" reveals Maya ingenuity in linking astronomical dating with art and architecture. Note steeply-pitched steps. Warriors' temple shows at left.



Intricately decorated Arch of Labna is remarkable for its excellent preservation.

the stairway, the great pyramid with its crowning temple — had been built. . . ."

The burial of such a revered personage — a king or high priest — must have been a ceremony of stunning magnificence. Crowds of peasants would have gathered outside the pyramid-temple. The body would be borne with great ceremony and dignity up the steps of the pyramid.* The stone sarcophagus, weighing about five tons, contained the body of the dead man who was carefully and ornately attired in hair ornaments, earplugs, bracelets and rings of jade. A face mask made of jade mosaic and a beaded breastplate covered the body. After the chanting and the wailing and the directions to the gods the carved stone lid was lifted into place and the procession of priests, richly and colorfully dressed in quetzal feather headdresses and feather capes carried the body down the inner stairway to the tomb. When the door had been swung shut and sealed six picked youths were sacrificed outside the chamber

* No easy task, as the steps are pitched so steeply and the treads so narrow that I could make the climb only by planting my feet sideways and using my hands to grasp the steps above me. I came down holding onto the chain which a thoughtful tourist bureau had strung top to bottom to aid queasy visitors.

so that their courageous spirits might guard for eternity the entrance to the sealed crypt. In the days that followed this state funeral the large stones, earth and rubble must have been carried up the narrow outside pyramid steps and down the inside stairway to fill and to hide the tomb. Eventually the great flagstone was lowered into place and thus the secret of the crypt was hidden from man's sight for 1,000 years.

Despite the obvious similarity to Egyptian pharaonic burials, most archaeologists believe the Maya had no connection with Egypt. Yet Thor Heyerdahl, the Norwegian explorer, sailed a papyrus boat designed after those depicted on the walls of ancient Egyptian tombs to prove the Egyptians *could* have crossed the Atlantic to Yucatan. He began his first transatlantic voyage in May 1969 but had to abandon the boat when waves damaged it beyond repair in shark-infested waters. A second papyrus ship successfully completed a 3,200-mile crossing of the Atlantic in the summer of 1970 thus, says Heyerdahl, providing evidence that the Egyptians could have contacted and influenced cultural development in the New World.

The Mayan book, *Popol Vuh,* records their own belief that they came from the East, from over the sea:

"This sign of the dawn they carried in their hearts when they came from the East, and with the same hope they left there from that great distance, according to what their songs now say. . . . It is not quite clear, however, how they crossed the sea; they crossed to this side as if there were no sea; they crossed on stones placed in a row over the sand. For this reason they were called Stones in a Row, Sand Under the Sea, names given to them when they crossed the sea, the waters having parted when they passed."

* * *

IT IS generally agreed the great buildings all were devoted to the religious aspects of Mayan life. The priesthood stood at the head of the society. The high priests were so revered that they were not allowed to walk, but were carried everywhere in litters. The hieroglyphs thus far translated mostly concern matters of religious expressions, astronomy, astrology, divination, gods, ritualism.

Certainly religion colored every aspect of the Maya day-to-day life. Even his dependence on corn carried religious implications, for the Maya regarded corn as a god and even today the remnants of this mighty race re-

fer to it as "Your Grace."

The day of the ordinary family probably began with corn. Overnight the wife soaked corn in lime and water to soften it. Before daybreak, she got up and drained the liquid off in a colander made by punching holes in a gourd. She ground the wet corn with rocks, patted the damp dough into thin flat cakes — ancient tortillas — and baked them on a pottery griddle over a fire. The cooked tortillas were used to scoop up cooked black beans for the family breakfast.

There were prayers and ceremonies before every activity in the cornfield. The night before the planting friends of the field-owner gathered at his hut. Having brought their hammocks with them they spent the night chatting, eating and praying. This all-night vigil was to insure the celibacy of the men, for incontinency by one of them could endanger the crop which would be planted next day. All during the night the bags of seed lay before a cross inside the dwelling. Lighted candles and incense perfumed the air.

At dawn the owner went to his field and burned incense there, then symbolically sowed seven sprinkles of seed in the shape of a cross and prayed. After this the men began their work in earnest.

Even their ball game was a religious ceremony — but also pretty exciting. The object was to pass a solid rubber ball through one of two stone rings set high in the long facing walls of an enclosed court. This was incredibly difficult as players were not permitted to use their hands or feet but must hit the ball with elbow, wrist or hip. When a player scored — which rarely happened — all was pandemonium. The spectators immediately fled, for the winner was entitled to all their clothing and jewelry, while the player and his friends chased them down to collect.

Every day was thought to be ruled by one or another of the gods who, according to their natures, brought either good or bad influences. The Maya arranged his life accordingly, to such an extent that Uayeb days — the last five days of the year — were considered so unlucky that everyone stayed home to escape misfortune.

The march of time underlay all Mayan thinking and was of such importance that they erected great carved shafts of stone to celebrate the conclusion of certain time periods. They grasped the concept of eternity and nearly 1000 years before a European scholar, the Archbishop of Ussher, set the creation of the

world at 4004 B.C. the Maya more accurately computed the date at some 400 million years.

"There are other aspects of the Mayan philosophy of time, such as a strange failure to distinguish between past and future in the prophetic chants," writes J. E. S. Thompson in his book, *Rise and Fall of Maya Civilization.* "What had gone on before and what lay ahead were blended . . . Mysticism is not now fashionable, so writers tend to stress the material side of Maya civilization . . . ."

And this is unfortunate because, although their material accomplishments are impressive, the impetus which gave rise to their great culture was not the material thrust that has marked the rise of other great civilizations. Clearly the path to greatness followed by the Maya differed from that of the Old World cultures. The wheel, which revolutionized motion and bore war chariots to conquer new empires, never was used by the Maya. They quarried enormous stone slabs and transported them, raised stelae weighing 65 tons without the use of any wheeled vehicle. Curiously enough, toy carts with clay wheels have been found farther north in Mexico but these toys seem to be the only wheels in pre-Columbian America.

Nor did the Maya have beasts of burden. When the Spaniards appeared on horseback the Indians fled in disarray, believing horse and rider to be one creature, an unknown monster!

The Maya used metal chiefly for ornamentation, not as in the Old World to forge weapons for war and conquest. Metal tools never carved a Maya stela nor engraved a hieroglyph panel; the Maya carved out their greatness with flint, obsidian and stone. In the parlance of the Western world, the Maya never advanced beyond the Stone Age. (Perhaps this should cause us to take another look at our present system of describing the ages of man by the metals he learned to work, i.e., the Iron Age, the Bronze Age, etc.)

The Maya were, by contrast with their Old World counterparts, a peaceable people. During their great Classic Stage, 300 to 900 A.D., the figures they carved on stelae hold symbolic objects; arms and weapons are rarely pictured. The Maya were not aggressive and they did not build fortified cities. When they hunted wild game they killed only what they needed for food. Even today when a Maya kills a deer in the hunt he apologizes to it, saying, "I have need."

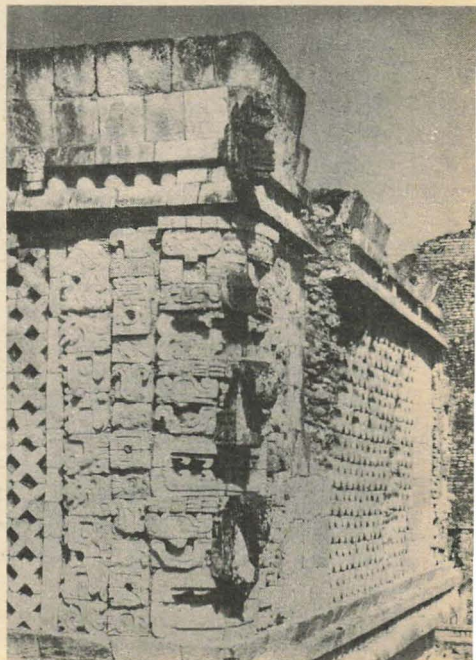
In fact, the hunters atoned for

"The Nunnery" is an artistic and architectural achievement unsurpassed by Egypt, Greece or any other civilization. Detail of one wall and corner appears below.

their trade in a yearly festival. By divination the priest chose a favorable day and all the hunters gathered in a home. The priest exorcised the evil spirits with prayers and threw incense into a new fire. Then "all came in their turn . . . to receive incense from the hands of the priest, which he gave them with as much gravity and devotion," says a Spanish priest, "as if he were giving them relics."

Then by piercing their ears and tongues they drew blood as a ceremonial offering. Finally, as during most festivals, they drank until they were overcome.

The human sacrifices which



the Spanish conquerors found being made in the 16th Century were a feature of a civilization past its prime and one no longer pure Mayan. Northern Yucatan was conquered in the 10th Century by the Toltecs from central Mexico who of course introduced many elements of their own culture into the existing Mayan traditions.

Chichen Itza had its sacrificial well into which living virgins were thrown to appease the gods. In times of urgent need such as drought or pestilence the people threw in offerings of jade, gold and copper. Then the priests would swing the human offering off the edge to drop 70 feet to the water. If this victim were a man and still alive at noon he was hauled out as it then was believed he had spoken with the gods. After this he was much honored by the people.

The representations of human sacrifice by the knife, the jaguars and vultures shown holding human hearts in their mouths and beaks are more accurately described as Toltec-Maya rather than Maya. The gods of the ancient Maya were never so bloodthirsty as those of their Toltec conquerors.

Idolatry, too, probably arrived with the Toltec conquest. The Spanish bishop, Diego de Landa, in the 16th Century recorded Mayan affairs as he found them, "It is said that the first founders of Chichen Itza were not idolaters until Kulkulcan, a Mexican captain, entered these provinces. He it was who showed them idolatry . . . ."

And how did the Maya support a civilization when their agricultural foundation never progressed beyond a primitive stage?

Egypt rose beside the Nile; Mesopotamia spanned the Tigris and Euphrates but in Yucatan not a single river flows across the peninsula. The topsoil is shallow and rivers do not form because rainwater runs away through the porous limestone to collect in an underground water table. And yet the Maya did not practice irrigation and never used the plow. They hardly could have chosen more difficult environmental conditions.

Against the backdrop of an enervating climate and surprising lack of material assets it seems remarkable that the Maya civilization ever achieved the grandeur known to have existed.

* * *

THE MAYAN accomplishments are greatest in the fields of calendrics and mathematics. Their calendar was the most accurate in the ancient world.

Modern astronomy has determined the exact length of a solar year at 365.2422 days but

since a day can't contain an extra .2422 parts to make a year come out exactly even, it is necessary to make some sort of correction.

Our present-day Gregorian calendar allows for this by adding one day every fourth — leap — year. In decimal language our year comes out to 365.2425 days. A thousand years before the Gregorian calendar was adopted the Maya were using a slightly more accurate calendar correction, so that their year came out to 365.2420 days.

It even has been suggested that we owe the greater accuracy of our Gregorian (over the old Julian) calendar to the ancient Maya, for Bishop Landa had studied Mayan affairs, including calendrics, and returned to Europe some 20 years before today's calendar was adopted in 1582.

The Maya also accurately computed tables of lunar calendars. They could predict solar and lunar eclipses and did specialized studies on the synodical revolution of the planet Venus. Their astronomical skills are all the more remarkable if the archaeologists are correct in crediting them with little more than a pair of crossed sticks for equipment.

Several ceremonial centers contain buildings which were used as astronomical observatories. Perhaps the best known of these observatories is the Caracol at Chichen Itza in Yucatan. Here the energtic visitor still can climb up the spiral passageway to the observation chamber where openings were carefully arranged to set up lines of sight indicating due south, due west, sunset on the vernal quinox and other astronomical points.

Another observatory complex in Guatemala used stelae and buildings to set up lines of sight marking the solstices and equinoxes.

The Maya also worked out a remarkably flexible system of numbers. While Europe struggled with the awkward Roman numerals (it is not immediately apparent how to add CCCCXLV to MCMLXIV), the Maya mastered a positional concept of mathematics which the ancient Greeks and Romans never achieved. Today we use the decimal system and values change by multiples of 10. The Maya system was based on multiples of 20 and the value of the numbers changed with their vertical position. Thus numbers in the thousands easily could be added together.

Their other great mathematical discovery was the concept of zero. Neither ancient Greece nor Rome made this important dis-

covery. The only other minds to independently evolve this concept were the ancient Hindus. However, chronologically, the Maya were using the zero long before the Hindus did. Europe did not use the zero until the latter part of the Middle Ages.

Without a zero it is not feasible to calculate very large numbers. As already mentioned, one Mayan stela accurately computes day and month positions going back 400 million years. Thompson equates this with calculating on our calendar the "month positions on which Easter would have fallen at equivalent distances in the past . . . ."

By means of the Long Count the Maya could pinpoint any date in their chronology so precisely that it could not recur for another 374,440 years.

* * *

IF OUR civilization were to collapse tomorrow we should not be at a loss to explain why. Our troubles are documented and preserved in official studies, commission reports, print and film.

Perhaps it is fitting that the collapse of Maya civilization remains one of the great mysteries of archaeology, as intangible as the religious striving that characterized their existence.

Toward the end of the Eighth Century the Maya in central Guatemala were living at the apogee of their intellectual and artistic achievements. Their great ceremonial centers were flourishing. Each new monument and stela was faithfully dated with hieroglyphs as they had been from the beginning of the Classic Stage.

And then the great centers in Guatemala ceased to function. One by one the cities stopped raising stelae to commemorate the all-important passage of time. Construction halted. In some cases labor stopped so suddenly that platforms raised to support buildings were left empty. At one site the walls of a new building under way remain unfinished.

By early in the 10th Century the Maya were quiet and the dense tropical forest which had waited patiently just a short distance away silently reclaimed all that had been built. Although the process of abandonment must have spanned a century the effect is as of a single act.

There is no historical equal to this event — the desertion of a flourishing empire at the height of its splendor, the complete renunciation of ancient temples, plazas and pyramids.

Today this area, once one of the most densely populated parts of Middle America, is virtually uninhabited. Except for a few

chicle gatherers collecting sap for the making of chewing gum the birds sing undisturbed.

To the north, in Yucatan, Mayan activity continued for a time, reordered by the Toltec infusion. But the pinnacle was past and the cultural decline persisted until dealt the final blow by the Spaniards.

Many theories have been advanced to explain the collapse of Mayan civilization: epidemic, soil exhaustion, climatic change, earthquake, war, peasant revolt. But scholarly reasoning can refute each of these hypotheses and in the end we are left where we began. We do not know why the Maya left their temples and shrines, why they abandoned the fruits of centuries of labor to the ravages of the jungle and of time which they had so revered.



ELIXIR OF LIFE REDISCOVERED

GOTA KOLA, an ancient Oriental herb, now is being rescued from the nebulous realms of legend and superstition. For centuries natives of India, the islands of the Indian Ocean, Ceylon and parts of Southern Africa have believed this flower-like plant contains properties which will rejuvenate and prolong life.

It is claimed that this small herb, which has fan-shaped pale green leaves and a slightly pungent taste, can give a 70- or 80-year-old the vitality of a person of 40. The leaves have a marked energizing effect on the brain cells and are said to be not a stimulant but a "brain food." Gota Kola is said to be curative in cases of mental troubles, high blood pressure, abscesses and rheumatism.

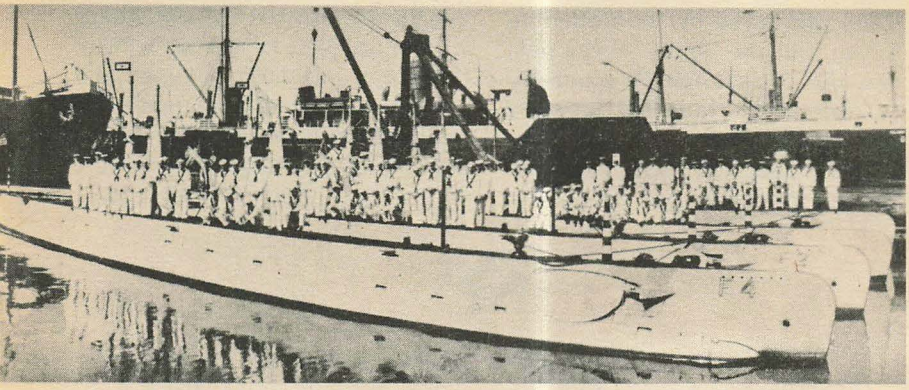
The Singhalese and the Indians believe that only one or two leaves of this herb are required daily to bring about a gradual return to youthful health and strength, provided the body is exposed to the sun.

The renowned Chinese herbalist, Lin Chung Yun, who lived to the age of 256 years, regularly used Gota Kola which he found in his early years and continued to use throughout his extraordinarily long and active existence. Professor Yun was born in 1677 and in 1933 when his death was announced by *The New York Times*, it aroused interest in longevity plants throughout the world.

Aside from the herb's reputation as an "elixir of life" it is a beautiful long-lived perennial. The plant propagates by forming new plants from runners and it is practically insect and disease free. By the way, Gota Kola is said to be the favorite food of the elephant, which has the longest life span of any animal.



OF PSYCHICS AND SUNKEN SUBS



San Diego Union photo shows four F-type submarines intact in Honolulu in 1915.

Part of the mystery remains unsolved: by what strange power did Dr. Johnson unravel the long-held secret?

By J. H. Shaw

TODAY A skyscraper stands at the site of the old First Spiritualist Church in San Diego where the pastor, one Dr. Johnson, achieved considerable local renown for his uncanny answers to questions presented during his evening meetings. These meetings were open to the public and one of them launched my 20-year submarine chase — only this time, unlike during my service in World War I, I was searching for a sunken sub.

In December 1918 I had just been discharged from the navy, having served on a submarine chaser. Some of my cronies and I, bored and restless after long months of duty, happened to pass the Spiritualist Church on Seventh Avenue between A and B Streets. We saw a good number of persons entering the church and mostly out of curiosity we decided to go in.

When we made our small donations at the door, we learned that any member of the audience could submit a question to Dr. Johnson. These were enclosed in sealed envelopes and when the

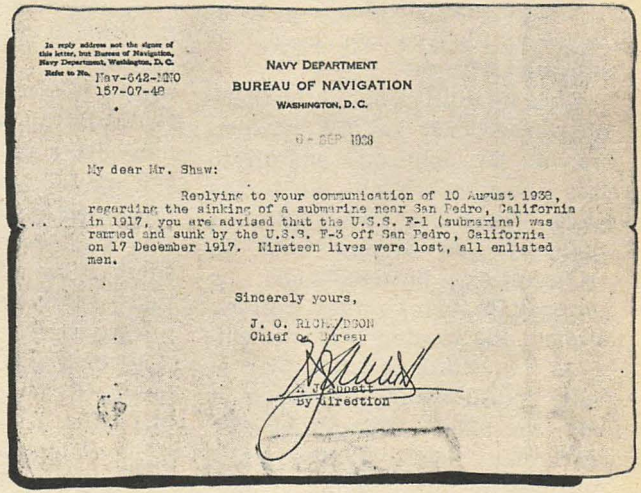
meeting began a large basket containing the envelopes was placed on the dais.

Dr. Johnson would reach into the basket, hold aloft an envelope and without opening it, read aloud the question it contained. He then asked the questioner to rise and say whether his question had been read correctly. Then Dr. Johnson would give his answer. Subjects such as romance, health, finances and the whereabouts of missing relatives were among those discussed. Each individual whose question was read seemed satisfied.

Being young and skeptical I had asked, "From what trip have I just returned?" My question never was read but at one point Dr. Johnson, holding aloft an envelope, said sternly, "Will the young man with doubt in his heart please leave the hall?" I felt guilty but nevertheless kept my seat.

Shortly this question was read: "Will I recover certain valuable papers my son mailed to me?" A refined-looking middle-aged woman rose and acknowledged the question.

"I can see you in your home preparing to write your question," Dr. Johnson said. "You were unable to find a pencil and eventually wrote the question with a yellow stub on paper ly-



In reply address not the signer of this letter, but Bureau of Navigation, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.
Refer to No. Nav-642-MPO
157-07-48

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

6 SEP 1938

My dear Mr. Shaw:

Replying to your communication of 10 August 1938, regarding the sinking of a submarine near San Pedro, California in 1917, you are advised that the U.S.S. F-1 (submarine) was rammed and sunk by the U.S.S. F-3 off San Pedro, California on 17 December 1917. Nineteen lives were lost, all enlisted men.

Sincerely yours,

J. O. RICHARDSON
Chief of Bureau

By direction

Author received this letter 12 years before general public learned fate of navy's training submarine F-1.

ing on your bedroom bureau."

The woman agreed.

"I'm sorry to say you will not recover the papers," Dr. Johnson continued. "They were in your son's possession when he was drowned in the sinking of a submarine off the coast of La Jolla during the war. His body never will be recovered."

The woman nodded her head in assent, wiped her eyes and resumed her seat.

Until now I had found the demonstration only mildly interesting but Dr. Johnson's answer to this question brought me to the edge of my seat. The situation suddenly had become both intriguing and bizarre — for this reason: In 1917 a naval training station was located near the outer end of the long mole pier at San Pedro, Calif. Adjoining it was the navy submarine base operating four F-type submarines for the training of submarine crews. I was attached to this base. In December 1917 a rumor spread through our camp that one of the subs had been lost during a training cruise to San Diego about 90 miles south of our location. The submarine had surfaced after a dive and in the fog it had been rammed by a sister ship, according to the rumor. The sub supposedly had sunk in 600 fathoms of water off Point Loma.

Well, rumors in training camps are as thick as at a political convention. Most of them are without foundation and in this case no report of such a sinking was published and the rumor never was confirmed.

I left the base shortly afterwards and in the excitement of new duty I quickly forgot the story. Now, a year later, from a Spiritualist who could not have known of the rumor, I was listening to the same story that a San Pedro-based submarine actually had been sunk.

I didn't believe Dr. Johnson possessed psychic powers but I was confounded by his knowledge of the vague rumor or actual sinking — whichever it proved to be.

Several years passed and although I almost abandoned my quest for an answer to the riddle it never entirely left my mind. One night I told the story to a group of persons, one of whom was a naval lieutenant. He listened attentively, then asked. "Was that story supposed to be true?"

I replied that my story of Dr. Johnson's answer was entirely true but I couldn't vouch for the accuracy of the rumor that had circulated through our camp.

"Well," he said. "I was in the submarine service during the war and in a position to know

that the United States lost no submarines whatever. The reported sinking was pure scuttlebutt."

A week later I saw the lieutenant again and he said, "As I told you last week the story of the submarine sinking was only a yarn. I searched the naval records at my station and found that no United States submarine was sunk during the war. I can say with absolute certainty that our side lost no submarines."

Well, what the devil! Now that the sinking had been established as nothing but rumor, more puzzling questions arose. How did Dr. Johnson know of the rumor? Anyway, would a man of his prominence and reputation use an unfounded rumor as part of a psychic demonstration? If he had, the woman who asked the question must have been an accomplice. Could this have been the case? I was thoroughly nonplused.

Over the years the conundrum returned to my mind again and again. I told the story to a naval commander who had served as a submarine base supply officer during World War I. He concurred with the lieutenant that we had lost no submarines during the war.

"However," he said, "there's still another check we can make. The *World Almanac* contains a record of all maritime disasters and will prove or disprove your confounded rumor!"

He took a copy of the *Almanac* from his bookshelf. Sure enough, starting with the *U.S.S. Cumberland* sunk by the *Merrimac* in 1862, page after page listed the ships which had been sunk. Included were the *Titanic*, the *Lusitania*, the submarine F-4 sunk at Pearl Harbor in 1915, a number of ships during 1917 and 1918, the submarine S-4 in 1927 and scores of other vessels — but no record of a United States submarine lost during World War I.

"There's your answer," said the commander. "I can't explain the use of the rumor by your Spiritualist friend but the sinking was pure fabrication."

I should have been satisfied but strangely I wasn't. I couldn't believe that both the questioner and the Spiritualist pastor were humbugs. Like the facts which often have puzzled famed fictional detective Hercule Poirot, these did not fall "into sensible and orderly pattern."

Belatedly — on August 10, 1938 — I thought of writing to the Navy Department to ask whether a submarine had been sunk off the coast of San Diego during World War I. A few weeks later I had my answer:

NAVY DEPARTMENT

BUREAU OF NAVIGATION
Washington, D.C.
8 Sep. 1938

Dear Mr. Shaw:

Replying to your communication of 10 August 1938 regarding the sinking of a submarine near San Pedro, Calif., in 1917, you are advised that the U.S.S. F-1 *submarine was rammed and sunk by the* U.S.S. F-3 *off San Pedro, Calif., on 17 December 1917. Nineteen lives were lost, all enlisted men.*

Sincerely yours,

J. O. RICHARDSON
Chief of Bureau
(s) H. J. Abbett
By direction

For whatever reason, the Navy Department did not disclose this information to the general public until 12 years after my curiosity had been satisfied. The *San Diego Union* for August 30, 1970, headlined its story of the mystery, "Navy Lifts 50-Year Silence on Point Loma Sub Sinking."

Dr. Johnson had been right.

DANCING CHANDELIERS

By Dora M. Pettinella

ENTERING the home of the Parodi family in Milan, Italy, you see first two heavy chandeliers suspended from the foyer ceiling. According to a report published in the *Progresso Italo-Americano,* an Italian language daily newspaper published in New York, the chandeliers hung sedately for many years until the spring of 1971. Now they hang motionless only when teen-aged Isa, the Parodis' only daughter, is in bed asleep.

When Isa is up and around the house the chandeliers move in a weird dance to the echoing sound of crystal bells. They start "dancing" slowly in the morning but as the day wears on they become wild and move faster. They swing around and rise upward, sometimes almost touching the ceiling.

Isa seems to be the first to have noticed the chandeliers' dance. Isa's father and mother are bewildered and Isa herself is frightened. Neighbors who come to visit are overwhelmed.

At 11:00 P.M. when Isa goes to bed the chandeliers stop suddenly and rest for the night. However, one night when Isa got up to get a drink of water and walked beneath them the wild dance began again. Her father climbed a ladder and held the fixtures firmly with both hands and they stopped. When he let go they resumed the mad dance.

Many persons, including scientists, visit the Parodi family every day, all eager to determine the reason for the dancing chandeliers. But none of them nor the Parodi family nor Isa herself can explain the mystery.

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.

A SENSE OF TRAGEDY

By Helen E. DeJack

I SEEMED to be riding in a car. I couldn't see who was driving but I knew him well and was fond of him. A slight drizzle fell steadily and monotonously. I heard the occasional swish of passing cars as I watched the roadside blur past — and suddenly the headlights picked up a curve ahead. On the bend of the curve I woke up screaming.

I was in my own bed and only had had a bad dream but a sense of tragedy hung over me. Something terrible had happened to someone I loved. But who?

It was July 1956 and I lived in Lenoir, N.C. I knew only that the dream was true. Something had happened back home in Michigan and it involved a man — a friend or relative. Only three were dear to me: my father, my brother Stan and my cousin Frank "Butch" Papp. Butch was in the Air Force and stationed in Pensacola, Fla., so that left Dad and Stan.

Frantic, I wanted to phone home immediately but my clock read 4:10 A.M. Too early. With an effort at self-control I decided I'd have to wait until morning.

In broad daylight it seemed foolish to call home because of a dream. But the desperate urgency gnawed at me until about noon I dialed my mother and asked about Dad and Stan. As if bewildered at my anxiety she assured me they were fine.

I had begun to feel relief when Mother added, "Strange you should call, though, Helen. Butch



Helen E. DeJack

is in the hospital in Monroe, Mich. He had an accident."

"But he's in Florida," I insisted.

"No, dear. He was discharged yesterday and was driving home. He got as far as Monroe and about four o'clock this morning his car hit a tree. There was a drizzling rain and the police figure Butch dozed at the wheel and missed a curve." — *Riverview, Mich.*

THE GIRL IN GREEN

By N. V. Eswar

I WAS distraught. There was little hope for my nephew Dasan. His was a worsening case of schizophrenia and Dr. Vasudeva Rao, a leading psychologist in Mysore State, had told me confidentially that any cure would be only temporary.

He was right of course. Dasan was admitted to the All-India Institute of Mental Health in Bangalore in April 1959 where he underwent treatment for a year. He returned home to Cheruthuruthy (370 miles west of Madras) in April 1960 and only two months later his behavior became erratic, then violent.

Dasan was the son of my only sister Parvathy whose husband had deserted her. In Hindu life a mother's brothers have status and respect — and responsibility — next to one's own father. Thus I naturally had to take Parvathy and her children under my protection. I was as concerned for Dasan's welfare as for that of my own wife and children.

I couldn't think of anything except this dilemma. My nights were sleepless while I pulled strings to get my nephew admitted to an institution in or near Madras where I thought he might get better care.

About 4:00 A.M. on one of those sleepless nights a girl dressed in green appeared beside my bed. She spoke a language different from my mother tongue but one that I know — the Malayalam language of Kerala. She assured me that all my troubles would end if I took my nephew to a certain temple on the west coast of India and offered worship there. The name of the temple, she said, was Uthrali Kavu near Vadakkanchery in Kerala State, some 20 miles south of Cheruthuruthy.

Although I come from that region I never had heard of the temple nor even the village. So I asked a number of my friends for information. They all laughed at me for taking a "dream" so seriously.

But it was no dream. I had not slept and the girl in green was too real to be dismissed as a figment of my feverish imagination. I persisted in my queries and fi-

nally was rewarded. On my street I met Chitoor Subramania Shastri, a Sanskrit translater employed in the Oriental Manuscript Library in Madras. When I told him my purpose he explained that the temple was some 400 miles southwest of us. He conjectured that the "girl in green" might be the temple goddess herself, Bhagawathi, intervening on behalf of my nephew. I decided to ask my cousins, Kaveri and her husband Narayana Sarma, to take Dasan to the temple on the west coast and they agreed.

Worship as ordained by the priest in the temple was made and the presiding deity manifested through the temple medium. Cleaving the air with his naked sword and moving forward and backward in trance, the temple medium told Kaveri that the goddess of the temple had taken my nephew as her own ward and would cure him on the 40th day.

I remained skeptical in view of what Dr. Rao had told me and continued to try to get Dasan admitted to the Mental Hospital in Madras. Finally, through the efforts of a highly-placed government official, it was accomplished in late July 1960. And due to this fine friend's position Dasan had maximum care and attention.

Then, when I least expected it, the hospital notified me that Dasan was completely cured and had left the hospital! I remembered my dream and what the temple medium had told my cousin. I counted the days since Dasan's admission into the institution. He had left it on the 40th day. — *Madras, India.*

ADVANCE NOTICE

By Thelma Hall Quast

IN OCTOBER when I was a fifth grade teacher in Lilbourn, Mo., one morning during that month I awakened about two o'clock from a terrifying dream that my father had died. I dreamed I had gone home to Blytheville, Ark., for Christmas, that Father had arisen the day after Christmas, dressed, eaten breakfast and started through the house to pick up his hat when he suffered a sudden heart attack and died.

The dream must have lasted a



Thelma Hall Quast

long time because my pillow was soaked with my tears. In the weeks that followed depression hung over me like a cloud despite my determination to ignore the dream lest I give it substance.

At Christmastime I went home to find my beloved father well and happy. He owned and edited the *Blytheville Courier* and loved his work. He was respected by everyone in the county for his intellect and fair-mindedness.

The day after Christmas, Papa arose and dressed, ate a small breakfast and started to go through the house to pick up his hat and leave for the office. Suddenly he was stricken with a sharp pain in the region of his heart. With help from my mother he slowly groped his way to the living room couch where he sat down. I ran to a neighbor's house to telephone for a doctor. It was eight o'clock when Father was stricken; he was gone by a few minutes after 11:00. Dr. Smith said he had had a heart attack.

The circumstances of his death were exactly as I had dreamed them two and a half months before. — *Chico, Calif.*

THE UNKNOWN FACTOR

By Herb Barlow

HAVING SPENT my early years as a truly deprived child in the slums of Chicago, by the age of seven I suffered from malnutrition and rickets. The court had taken me away from my mother who could not raise me after my father deserted us and I was in and out of so many orphanages and foster homes that it's no wonder I can't remember the name of the orphanage in Evanston, Ill., where I was living in 1934 or the name of the school I was supposed to be attending.

I was trying to get started in first grade but my attendance was poor; I was usually too ill to go to school. When I did manage to get there, recess always scared me to death. The kids would be running around playing games and someone always managed to knock me down — whereupon I immediately started bawling whether or not I was hurt and one of the teachers had to come to my rescue.

One day I managed to get through the whole recess standing up. However, a few older boys in the schoolyard must have decided I wasn't going to establish a record for that day. They circled around me and one of them threatened to knock me down unless I could give him the correct answers to his questions. Scared witless, I stood rigid facing these fifth- and sixth-grade bullies. I never had completed one semester of first grade.

Somehow I was aware of another boy about 15 or 20 feet away who took no part in the bullying. I couldn't see his face but I felt that he was friendly toward me and would help me if I needed him.

Then a husky lad shouted, "If four times two equals eight, then four times what equals 12? Find the unknown factor." As the other boys joined in to shout, "Find the unknown factor!" the figure "three" popped into my mind and I repeated it. A look of amazement passed across the boys' faces and they began firing more questions at me.

I became aware that my mind was wide open and acting as a relay station. I was sending the questions by telepathy to the dark curly-haired youth nearby and he was transmitting the answers back to me — and the answers were correct, to the consternation of the bullies. At this point in my life I couldn't even read, let alone figure out math problems or name cities and states.

Soon the boys were asking me questions they couldn't answer themselves and therefore they were unable to challenge my replies. Quietly, one by one, they drifted away.

When I realized my torment was over I turned to see my benefactor — but he was gone. I never did find out his name nor what he really looked like. — *Signal Hill, Calif.*

A STRANGE HOMECOMING

By Catherine Hoffman

IN 1937 I just had begun to recover from the ravages of a disastrous marriage. I was working as a live-in maid for a Dr. Milburn's family in Santa Monica, Calif., and the future seemed bright with promise until another kind of trouble, physical trouble, struck. One warm May afternoon I suffered a violent nauseating headache which would not respond to the usual medication. I consulted Dr. Bertella K. Skinner who diagnosed a severe pelvic infection which resulted in anemia, low blood pressure, exhaustion and depression.

I had diathermy treatments for several months but my condition did not improve. Then one September morning I felt too exhausted to face another day. I started to drop into a chair but before I was seated I found myself back in my hometown, Heiskell, a tiny village about 12 miles north of Knoxville, Tenn. I was walking slowly up the front walk toward the porch of our house. I saw and heard nothing as I crossed the porch and opened the door. Only deadly silence greeted me.

"They're gone, they're gone,"

I thought. I was sure my mother and younger sister were still living there but now I had the feeling that the house, completely furnished, had been abandoned — not just vacated for a few hours. Hesitantly I crossed the living room to the door into a back hall. As I reached for the door frame it was all over! I was back in California, slumped in a chair.

What had happened? Where were my mother and sister? I could no longer work so I left my job on September 30 and left California on October 13 by train. When I arrived in Baltimore on October 25 my mail caught up with me and I learned that my mother and sister were in Baltimore, too. I questioned Mother and found they had locked up our Tennessee home and left it furnished just as I had seen it. Mother had suddenly decided to move and had written me, but her letter arrived at Dr. Milburn's home after I left. — *Ocean City, Md.*

WHAT HAVE I SEEN?

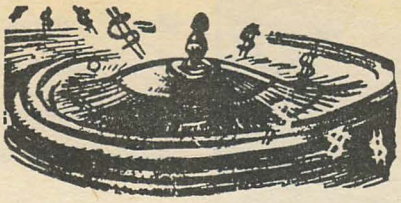
By Daphne Payne

WHEN MY OLDEST child Charles was small he was sickly and I was a young and frightened mother. It didn't help that my husband Julius was away from home a lot. My parents Charlie and Sina Lands had rented a farm eight miles north of Sikeston, Mo., and we lived there in a small three-room house. My father and Julius farmed from dawn to dark.

One day in late July 1935 the baby and I were on the porch when something in the corner of the yard caught my eye. At first it looked like a chicken or a bird wallowing in the dust but when I turned to look more closely I saw a small white box floating just off the ground. It came toward the porch, then darted under the house. I told everyone about it but no one took me seriously.

One night not long after that, dinner was over and I had gone into the living room to read. I heard the back door open and someone's footsteps in the kitchen. I picked up the coal oil lamp and went out to investigate. The room was empty and the door was still latched. I opened it to find a large white thing just outside and looking up at me. It seemed a little like a dog but with the curly wool of a sheep — and it had big black eyes. The animal looked at me as if it almost could speak. Again I wasn't frightened and I thought I was seeing something real until I turned to set the lamp down. When I looked back the white thing was gone.

What have I seen? — *Cahakia, Ill.*



Wheel of Fortune

By Paul Steiner

In London, England, a Chamber of Commerce committee studying the problem of retaining qualified secretarial help wished to learn more about how the problem was affecting other parts of the country.

The committee asked a clipping service to save copies of newspaper and magazine articles for their use. The clipping service replied, "Because of our problems with the recruitment and retention of staff, we are unable to accept your order."

•

Bourbon County originally encompassed a larger portion of Kentucky than it does today. Ironically, of all the distillers located in Kentucky, not one is in the county that gave its name to bourbon whiskey.

•

Colorite Plastics Co., a garden hose maker, named an Indian chief as "environmental control consultant." His job: to use his influence to bring sunshine to overly wet areas.

•

In a New York Chinese restaurant, Denise Bell, a young artist and actress, found two fortunes in one fortune cookie. They contradicted each other.

•

In Detroit, Mich., WWJ, one of the first radio stations in the United States, celebrated its 50th anniversary with a half hour of silence — because its transmitter blew a fuse.

•

Police in Chelmsford, England, arrested one James Norton, an escaped convict, while he was part of the construction crew working on a new police station.

•

In Keelby, England, housewife Maureen Fuller found a shiny 1968 shilling piece inside when she cracked her breakfast egg.



Magic and mediumship seem akin in the seance room but as magicians themselves have shown, in reality they are worlds apart.

ARTHUR FORD
GOES A ROUND WITH THE MAGICIANS

By Arthur Ford and Margueritte Harmon Bro

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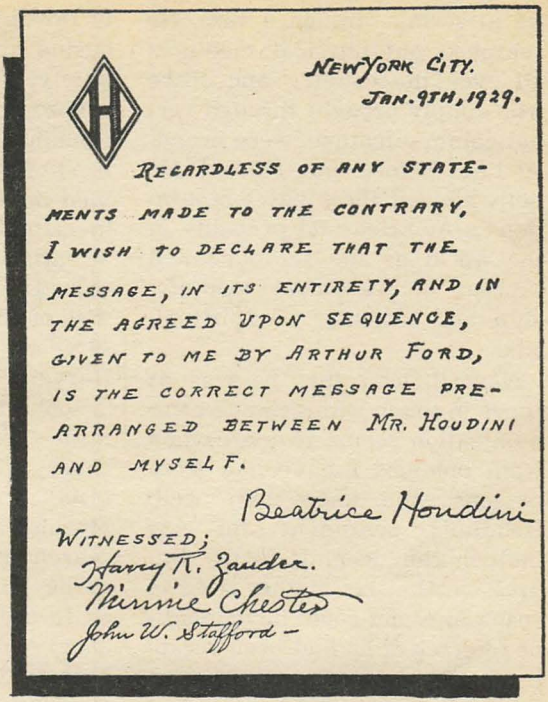
ONE OF THE most passionate exposers of mediums was Houdini, the magician. In the early 1920's he threw the entire weight of his reputation as a magician behind his declaration that all mediums were fakes and that he could duplicate any trick a medium could do.

Although he later played a significant part in providing me with status as a medium, I never met Houdini. He died in 1926 and at that time I was too inconspicuous to attract his attention. The influence of Houdini upon the whole Spiritualist movement cannot be understood without some comprehension of the distinction which was his.

Here was a man who could break out of handcuffs of every invention and contrivance. He staged underwater stunts that astounded the medical profession by the length of time he could hold his breath. He broke out of packing cases built onstage by local carpenters. Before astonished audiences he caused an elephant (not a rabbit) to disappear and he walked through a brick wall. He was exactly what he called himself, the master magician of his day.

When Houdini turned his fabulous tenacity to exposing the

whole Spiritualist movement there were probably about a million people in the country who called themselves Spiritualists. In these days when university research in the field of parapsychology has made psychic interests respectable it is difficult to recover the violent reaction of the orthodox against Spiritualism in Houdini's day. In the orthodox mind all Spiritualists were equated with the lunatic fringe and all mediums were tools of the devil, even if there were no devil. Houdini took his stand with the orthodox way of thinking.



NEW YORK CITY.
JAN. 9TH, 1929.

REGARDLESS OF ANY STATEMENTS MADE TO THE CONTRARY, I WISH TO DECLARE THAT THE MESSAGE, IN ITS ENTIRETY, AND IN THE AGREED UPON SEQUENCE, GIVEN TO ME BY ARTHUR FORD, IS THE CORRECT MESSAGE PREARRANGED BETWEEN MR. HOUDINI AND MYSELF.

Beatrice Houdini

WITNESSED;
Harry R. Zauder.
Minnie Chester
John W. Stafford

Controversial statement unleashed vicious attacks on Arthur Ford and Beatrice Houdini despite such an impeccable witness as John Stafford, associate editor of prestigious "Scientific American."

I always have felt that Houdini was initially honest, even if publicity-minded, in insisting that mediumship, particularly physical mediumship, could be faked. He himself had hoaxed audiences with fake mediumship and in his mind to be able to trick an audience was to do so.

Years later, he acknowledged his former fraudulence and developed an act in which he demonstrated the many devices and tricks which he said he had found mediums using. It was after his mother died, however, that he turned to exposing mediums in the big-time manner.

There is no doubt that Houdini informed himself in the field of psychic phenomena but always from the point of view of looking for the catch. When he read a report based on the testimony of top scientists he merely averred that they were not as clever as

he in seeing through a ruse. He searched out physical mediums all over the country and those who simply brought through verbal communications were branded liars before they started. He built himself the biggest reputation in America and probably in the world as the self-appointed exposer of fraudulent mediumship and ridiculer of Spiritualists.

Nevertheless, that he was at times in touch with genuine communication seems to me certain from opinions I have had from persons who knew him well. Houdini's sentiment for his mother ran deep. It is my impression that his mother tried to reach him and could have identified herself if he had been receptive. For instance, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle reported that when he and his wife were traveling in America, Houdini and his wife Beatrice visited them for several days at their hotel in Atlantic City. By that time Lady Doyle herself had developed mediumship and did automatic writing in a semitrance state. Doyle said that on this occasion Houdini received a general message from his mother which moved him greatly, although despite his emotion he would not authenticate the message. No doubt it lacked essential words he was waiting for her to say. Eventually Doyle broke with Houdini, accusing him of prejudice and duplicity.

The occasion which brought Houdini into final disrepute with most of the professional research men in the psychic field was an investigation conducted by the *Scientific American* of the famous physical medium Margery, wife of Dr. L. R. G. Crandon, for 16 years professor of surgery at Harvard University Medical School. The investigating committee was composed of impeccable scientists and psychologists, including Gardner Murphy, now director of research at the Menninger Foundation. Houdini asked to be added to the committee. As the seances continued the committee became increasingly doubtful of Houdini's scrupulosity, not to say impartiality, and made public statement of the fact.

By that time Houdini's reputation was at stake. If distinguished men could prove him wrong in his accusations, the whole country would have a chuckle at his expense, and to be laughed at was one thing he could never accept. Moreover, his enemies, the Spiritualists (as he considered them), also would have a field day. Actually, many Spiritualists had defended Houdini, being more eager than anyone else to have their ranks

cleared of fraudulence.

This was the state of ferment in 1926 when Houdini died, leaving a widely publicized message that if there were anything to the claim for survival he would get through to his wife Bessie with a code message which only she could decipher.

* * *

THE HOUDINI virus was contagious and other magicians also erupted against Spiritualism and mediumship. Among the best known was Howard Thurston, a tall, suave, handsome man whom I always had considered a thorough gentleman. Therefore I was surprised when in 1927 the old *New York World* ran a story to the effect that Thurston claimed he had exposed over 300 mediums and that he had a gadget in which was concealed a rubber spook that could be blown up and operated in such fashion that it could duplicate all the phenomena of the seance room. The *World* refused my request to answer the story but the United Press Association indicated they would carry my reply if I made it a good story.

Now how could I make a good story of fraudulent accusation of fraud? The magicians kept on issuing open challenges to mediums, offering $10,000 for the production of any stunt they could not reproduce by trickery. Someone should make some kind of public refutation which would carry weight. Therefore when a friend of mine, with United Press, suggested that I turn the tables and offer $10,000 to Thurston if he could prove his charges, I was held back only by 10,000 good reasons. Another friend, John Bowman, president of the Bowman Biltmore Hotel Corporation, overheard the suggestion and handed me a certified check and I challenged Thurston.

Now the press had a story they relished. Thurston began to explain to his friends that his press agent had overplayed his hand but the press demanded a showdown. A night was set when we were to meet in Carnegie Hall. Despite the publicity I was surprised to find the hall packed.

I spoke first and challenged Thurston. "I will not ask for the names of the 300 mediums you have exposed but ask only that you give me the name and address, time and place of exposure of 25, along with proof that you did expose them." Thurston named only three, none of them living. I could have done better than that.

He grew more nervous as we approached the matter of his rubber spook. I asked that in good light before the audience Thurston produce this rubber spook and let it walk over to me

and tell me my father's real name — a kindergarten test for a medium. But Thurston had forgotten to bring the spook along. By that time I felt sorry for him.

The next day the newspapers carried a complete account of the encounter, one paper headlining the story: "Ford and Thurston put on show at Carnegie Hall . . . It flopped in the second act." Reasonably, Thurston's ire was high against me, which I regretted for I admired his magicianship. I supposed our encounter was over.

About four years later in Detroit I attended Thurston's show at a leading theater. At one point in his routine Thurston did what he called his Spirit Cabinet Trick. When he finished this he called for the house lights and had them focused on me. What next, I thought, deducing that needing revenge he would embarrass me if he could. Instead, he said to the audience, "What I have just done is a trick but in the audience is a man who I firmly believe can help you to communicate with your beloved dead." Then he asked me to come to his dressing room after the show where he told me he had begun sitting with reputable mediums wherever he could, with the intention of getting back at me.

"Now as a magician I know the limits of a trick," he said. "Under my own conditions and in my own hotel room I have proofs of survival which satisfy me. I am now a member of the American Society for Psychical Research." We became good friends and I later attended several seances in his house.

I had no more contact with magicians until the evening of February 8, 1928, when a group of friends which included Francis Fast, my financial adviser as well as one of my good friends, were having a sitting with me. During the trance Fletcher, my control, announced that a woman he had not seen before was eager to say a word. "She tells me that she is the mother of Harry Weiss, known as Houdini." Fletcher began to quote her and Fast took down her message.

"For many years," said Houdini's mother, "my son waited for one word which I was to send back. He always said that if he could get it he would believe. Conditions have now developed in the family which make it necessary for me to get my code word through before he can give his wife the code he arranged with her. If the family acts upon my code word he will be free and able to speak for himself. Mine is the word 'FORGIVE!' I tried innumerable times to say it to him.

Now that he is here with me I am able to get it through. Tonight I give it to you and Beatrice Houdini will declare it to be true."

When I wakened and learned about this message I was not much interested. Houdini's supposed exposés of mediums always had annoyed me and I did not care to have anything to do with him. However, the men at the sitting wanted to give Mrs. Houdini the message. I particularly valued the judgment of Francis Fast and agreed.

On the following day a copy of the message was taken to Mrs. Houdini. She was completely amazed and as newspaper files attest, made a public statement over her signature that this was "the sole communication received among thousands up to this time that contained the one secret keyword known only to Houdini, his mother and myself."

* * *

IN THE FIRST seance the last thing Fletcher had reported about Houdini's mother was simply, "She is going now and she says that since this message has come through it will open the channel for the other." The "other" was the pact Houdini had made with his wife. The message was to be based on a 10-word code they had used in one of their early shows and which no one but he and his wife ever had known. The press had given considerable coverage to their agreement. In the months following his death interested persons in various parts of the world constantly purported to have received the message from Houdini. And just as regularly Mrs. Houdini disclaimed the messages. It was a poor month when there was no newspaper mention of Houdini and his code.

After the message from Houdini's mother no further word came for several months. Then in November 1928 the first word of Houdini's own message came through in a sitting for a group of friends, none of whom had known Houdini. The spelling out of the entire message took a portion of eight separate sittings and over two and one-half months.

Fletcher's method was to announce a word as he got it, no matter what else he happened to be talking about. One night he announced, "The first word is ROSABELLE and it is going to unlock the rest." A fortnight later a second word was added — NOW. At a third sitting Fletcher said, "Here is a lady I've been working with for a long time but the only word I get from her tonight is LOOK. This is the sixth word in the code." Still later Fletcher asked that four new

words be added: ROSABELLE, ANSWER, PRAY and TELL.

At the final sitting Fletcher said, "This man who is communicating tells me it has taken him three months working out of the confusion to get these words through . . . TELL — that is the last word! You now have 10 words . . . 'I tell you,' this man says, fairly shouting, 'they are right!' Now he wants to dictate the exact message you are now to take to his wife . . ."

Fletcher then asked the time, which was 9:23 P.M. He said this was to be noted; also that the medium was in deep trance, that the medium's pulse was at that moment 63, which he asked to have verified; also he wanted the names of those present set down. Fletcher then continued with great exactness, "A man who says he is Harry Houdini, but whose real name was Ehrich Weiss, is here and wishes to send to his wife, Beatrice Houdini, the 10-word code which he agreed to do if it were possible for him to communicate. He says you are to take this message to her and upon acceptance of it, he wishes to follow out the plan they agreed upon before his passing. This is the code:

"ROSABELLE . . . ANSWER . . . TELL . . . PRAY . . . ANSWER . . . LOOK . . . TELL . . . ANSWER . . . ANSWER . . . TELL.

"He wants this message signed in ink by each one present. He says the code is known only to him and to his wife and that no one on earth but those two know it. He says there is no danger on that score and that she must make it public. Announcement must come from her. You are nothing more than agents. He says that when this comes through there will be a veritable storm, that many will seek to destroy her and she will be accused of everything that is not good, but she is honest enough to keep the pact which they repeated over and over before his death. He says, 'I know that she will be happy because neither of us believed it would be possible.' "

Fletcher then added, "Her husband says that on receipt of this message she must set a time, as soon as possible, when she will sit with this instrument while I, Fletcher, speak to her, and after he has repeated this message to her, she is to return a code to him which will be understood by her and by him alone. The code that will be returned by her will be a supplement to this code and the two together will spell a word which sums it all up and that word will be the message which he wants to send back. He refuses to give that word until he gives it to her."

The following day two members of the group, Mr. Fast and John W. Stafford, associate editor of *Scientific American,* both strangers to Mrs. Houdini (as were all the members of the group), delivered the message to her. She was lying on a couch, having suffered a fall the previous week. She read the report, then said, "It is right!" After a moment she asked in wonderment, "Did he say 'Rosabelle'?" When assured that he had, she exclaimed, "My God! What else did he say?" They repeated all they had recorded.

Following her husband's suggestions, she arranged to have me come to her house the next day accompanied by three members of the group and a representative of the press. Two of her friends joined us.

As soon as I was well into trance Fletcher came through announcing, "This man is coming now, the same one who came the other night. He tells me to say, 'Hello, Bess, sweetheart,' and he wants to repeat the message and finish it for you. He says the code is one that you used to use in one of your secret mind-reading acts." Then Fletcher repeated the 10 words as he said Houdini was giving them to him. "He wants you to tell him whether they are right or not."

Mrs. Houdini replied, "Yes, they are."

"He smiles and says to take off your wedding ring and tell them what ROSABELLE means."

She took off the ring and holding it sang in a small voice:

Rosabelle, sweet Rosabelle,
I love you more than I can tell;
O'er me you cast a spell,
I love you, my Rosabelle!

Fletcher continued, "He says, 'The first time I heard you sing that song was in our first show together years ago.' "

Mrs. Houdini nodded her head.

"Then there is something he wants me to tell you that no one but his wife knows," Fletcher went on. "He shows me a picture and draws the curtains so, or in this manner."

Evidently that was the clue for the unfoldment of the next part of the code, for Mrs. Houdini responded in French, *"Je tire le rideau comme ca."*

Through Fletcher, Houdini went on, "And now the nine words besides ROSABELLE spell a word in our code." Very exactly he then explained the code. "The second word in our code was ANSWER. B is the second letter in the alphabet so ANSWER stands for B. The fifth word in the code is TELL and the fifth letter of the alphabet is E. The 12th letter in the alphabet is L and to make up 12 we have to use the first and

second words of the code."

Continuing in this intricate way to the end he said, "The message I want to send back to my wife is: 'Rosabelle, believe!' "

With great feeling Mrs. Houdini answered, "Yes."

* * *

IN CONCLUSION Fletcher repeated Houdini's final words. "He says, 'Tell the whole world that Harry Houdini still lives . . . I was perfectly honest and sincere in trying to disprove survival . . . but I did no more than seemed justifiable. I am now sincere in sending this through in my desire to undo. Tell all those who lost faith because of my mistake to lay hold again of hope and to live with the knowledge that life is continuous. That is my message to the world, through my wife and through this instrument.' "

The code was:

(1) Pray, A	(6) Please, F
(2) Answer, B	(7) Speak, G
(3) Say, C	(8) Quickly, H
(4) Now, D	(9) Look, I
(5) Tell, E	(10) Be quick, J

The message itself was:

Answer	B
Tell	E
Pray, answer, 1 and 2 (12)	L
Look	I
Tell	E
Answer, answer, 2 and 2 (22)	V
Tell	E

The code had been a handy device employed in Houdini's instructions to his wife during their act. Mrs. Houdini commented that the code was such a secret that "even though the stage hands knew the words, no one except Houdini and myself knew the cipher, or the key, and its application."

From the moment that Mrs. Houdini pronounced the message genuine there began a flood of attacks ranging from the ludicrous to the vicious. Mrs. Houdini's veracity was questioned and she also was scored for selling out her own husband who had so widely publicized his conviction that all mediums were fakes. Consistently she avowed the genuineness of the messages and defended having made them public.

I was likewise accused of fraud, of course, and was once also approached by an ingenious blackmailer. Three individuals brought charges to the United Spiritualist League of New York City that I had been in cahoots with Mrs. Houdini and the press. The president of the board of trustees of the First Spiritualist Church redeemed my character, Mrs. Houdini stood her ground and the respectable press was meticulously fair. I never attempted to collect any of the fabulous sums offered for breaking

the Houdini code but I did receive an enormous amount of publicity. Maybe Houdini had a hand in that! He may have been paying his respects, for my act had been performed not while handcuffed but while sound asleep.



A PLEA FOR UNITY?

By B. J. Dahl

ON THE NIGHT of March 10, 1971, I was having what might be termed a "routine" dream when it was abruptly terminated by a "message." The words made such a strong impression that I awakened suddenly, fully alert and feeling that I had been commanded to record the message immediately.

When I turned on the light and looked at the clock it was 12:40 A.M. I found paper and pencil and wrote down these words:

"And Peter said: It is not correct to say that it took six days to make the world because although God rested on the seventh, it was part of creation."

The next morning, thoroughly mystified, I began to wonder what significance these words might have. First, why Peter? Because Saint Peter was the chief of the 12 Apostles sent by Jesus to preach the Christian faith? Like Jesus, he was crucified while in Rome during the reign of Nero.

Then I speculated that the message might be a paragraph from the Scriptures that had been omitted. But after a search of the Bible where such a statement could have been made, I found no place it would fit.

About the only conclusion I could reach was that despite the heated controversy among the faiths as to which is the proper Sabbath — or day of rest — that in itself is not of consequence. Granting that a "day" in terms of creation is not our 24-hour measurement, perhaps we should accept the story of creation as involving all mankind — instead of fragmenting the great story with petty differences.

Could the "message" be a plea for Christian unity?

B. J. Dahl has been for many years an active church worker. He has done lay preaching, served as Moderator of the Congregational Christian Church Conference for the states of Washington and northern Idaho (now United Church of Christ) and served 16 years as State Senator for Washington. He published a weekly newspaper in Chewelah, Wash., for 35 years and now serves as city councilman and secretary of the Chewelah Chamber of Commerce.



Did Houdini escape the grave to give the agreed-on message to Ford — or was the medium's display planned skulduggery?

Joseph Dunninger, shown with Beatrice Houdini, was a lifelong friend and close associate of the world-renowned magician.

Joseph Dunninger
Discusses the
HOUDINI - FORD Controversy

"HOUDINI CODE MESSAGE FROM THE GRAVE A HOAX" was the sensational banner headline which appeared in the *New York Evening Graphic* newspaper on Thursday, January 10, 1929.

Many years before this my esteemed friend, the late Harry Houdini, had made two pacts, one with me and one with his wife Bessie.

At the time I was chairman of three societies interested in testing psychic abilities and the possibility of communicating with those who have departed. These were the Universal Council for Psychic Research, the Gernsback Science & Invention Committee for Psychic Research and the Investigating Society of Psychic Phenomena for the *Scientific American*.

The sum of $31,000 was offered to any person who could present spiritualistic phenomena in phys-

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1929 — EVENING GRAPHIC — 3

HOUDINI MESSAGE BIG HOAX!

Ford Admits He Got Secret Code From Magician's Widow

By EDWARD CHURCHILL

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The GRAPHIC today is in a position to expose one of the most monumental "pyschic" hoaxes ever perpetrated on the American public—the purported communication from the spirit world of Harry Houdini to his widow, Beatrice. Evidence gathered by this newspaper shows that the sensational message was carefully rehearsed prior to its "premiere."

The GRAPHIC further reveals that Mrs. Houdini, who professed only a slight acquaintance with Arthur Ford, the "medium" through which the "message" passed, has been a close friend for a year or more.

Witch K[illed] ... of Murder



In 1894 Harry borrowed $2 from Bessie for marriage license. Years later, his almost supernatural powers brought wealth overnight.

ical form or any psychic demonstration of the supernatural which I could not duplicate by natural or scientific means. This challenge had been widely circulated and hundreds of mediums and operators in the occult attempted to win this prize, but under fair investigations by our committees they were unable to demonstrate such abilities.

Bessie Houdini was offering $10,000 of this money to anyone able to contact her late husband and relay to her the secret message left by Harry Houdini before his death. This message was known only to Bessie and Houdini himself.

My own interest also centered on receiving the secret code which existed in my personal possession only. Houdini and I had drawn up a pact that the first one of us to depart this life would communicate the secret message in code to the survivor.

THEN ON January 9, 1929, the *Evening Graphic* ran huge headlines on the front page stat-

ing HOUDINI MESSAGE HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY TRANSMITTED FROM THE SPIRIT WORLD TO HIS WIDOW BESSIE THROUGH THE MEDIUMSHIP OF ARTHUR FORD. The world at large was surprised and the members of my various committees were stunned by this sensational announcement. Then a headlined denial ran the next day, January 10, by-lined by staff writer Edward Churchill. The story said:

"The *Graphic* today is in a position to expose one of the most monumental 'psychic' hoaxes ever perpetrated on the American public — the purported communication from the spirit world of Harry Houdini to his widow Beatrice. Evidence gathered by this newspaper shows that the sensational message was carefully rehearsed prior to its 'premiere'.

"The *Graphic* further reveals that Mrs. Houdini, who professed only a slight acquaintance with Arthur Ford, the 'medium' through which the 'message' passed, has been a close friend of his for a year or more.

"The truth of the affair is that Rea Jaure, a *Graphic* reporter, prepared her story 24 hours before the seance was held.

"Miss Jaure held up her information pending an opportunity to get all the facts in connection with the hoax rather than publish a premature and inconclusive story.

"The motive behind the remarkable but factually insecure publicity stunt is, according to Ford, that he and Mrs. Houdini intend making a 'free-lance' lecture tour through the United States during the next few months.

"Ford rejoiced last night that 'wonderful stories' had been sent into the 'sticks,' the territory they will invade, by duped press correspondents.

"Miss Jaure played hostess to Ford in her apartment for an hour last night while the 'medium' ran through the gamut of emotion, ranging from triumph to apprehension.

"Listening in on the conversation were William E. Plummer, managing editor of the *Graphic* and the writer (Edward Churchhill). Concealed in the breakfast room, it was very easy to record the conversation in detail.

"The medium, in spite of his purported psychic powers, failed to 'register' the presence of alien souls.

"Outstanding in the conversation were the following points:

"(1) Ford offered Miss Jaure financial compensation if she would, as he termed it, 'play ball.'

"(2) When this move failed he offered tips on 'big stories' and

finally 'undying friendship.'

"(3) He admitted that Mrs. Houdini had supplied the code which was supposed to have been secret and which was used to decipher the alleged message from Houdini and declared he, in turn, would finance the lecture tour.

"(4) He, when asked if he had been in psychic communication with Houdini, replied: 'You know, Rea, I couldn't have done it.'

"(5) He admitted knowing Mrs. Houdini for a year or more, recalled entertainments they had attended and constantly referred to her as Bess, a nickname.

"(6) When Miss Jaure declared that she had printed the story in good faith but had 'deepest suspicions' about its authenticity he asked in a frightened voice: 'You wouldn't reverse the story — would you?' "



Bessie Houdini, Joseph Dunninger and Dr. Ernst (Nino Pecoraro in chair) duplicate elaborate bonds from which Houdini always effortlessly escaped.

IN THE SAME edition of the *New York Graphic* another story appeared under this headline: HOUDINI'S MAGICIAN FRIEND DISPELS SPIRIT MESSAGE.

"Harry Houdini has not communicated with his wife through Arthur Ford. He told me a few days before he died — as he was crossing the threshold into his home for the last time — that if he 'got in touch' from the spirit world he would do so directly with Mrs. Houdini and not through a medium.

"This and other reasons were given by Joseph Dunninger, author, editor and vaudeville magician, an intimate of Houdini, for believing that the so-called 'messages' came to Mrs. Houdini through very material channels.

"Dunninger, questioned con-

cerning the weird case because of his connection with a scientific magazine which offered $31,000 in prizes guaranteed by clients for spiritual manifestations, was positive in his belief that the messages from the master magician were 'put-up jobs.'

"Mrs. Houdini was among those offering rewards. She placed $10,000 on the line for payment to anyone who would communicate with Houdini. It was learned yesterday that this award had been withdrawn several weeks ago. The $21,000 in other rewards is offered for psychic feats of different types than that performed by Ford, so he has no chance at this money."

I CREDIT Arthur Ford with high intelligence but his keenness should have informed him that the message, which has been accurately reported in his own book *Nothing So Strange* and in numerous other publications, was not the sort that would have come from Houdini.

Word by word, Ford claimed, the Houdini code was given by Houdini's spirit through Fletcher. This is an oddity in itself for if Fletcher was communicating with Houdini on the spirit plane, surely he would have received the words all at once — or not at all.

I never knew Fletcher but I did know Houdini and I speak from personal experience and recollection of Houdini's personality and ways.

The news of the midday seance was exclusively a *Graphic* story. It was written by Rea Jaure and it appeared promptly that same afternoon. In all fairness to the Reverend Ford and to Beatrice Houdini I must state that many of the other newspaper men and women who covered the story were not too impressed with the *Graphic*'s version of things. One lady reporter even remarked that the *Evening Graphic* lamentably was a tabloid and noted for manufacturing news and piecing together photographs.

This outstanding Houdini story, of course, was soon carried by all leading newspapers throughout the nation and most of the stories were more lenient in their descriptions of the affair. Their reporters wondered why these seances were exclusive with the *Graphic* and could not understand why Bessie, my friend of long standing and a member of my investigating committee, did not feel it proper to invite me to be present also.

On a night before the seance I met Miss Daisy White, formerly a magician's assistant, who not only knew Mr. and Mrs. Houdini but also claimed acquaintance with Arthur Ford. Miss White

informed me that a "big story" was due to break. Hence I was not surprised when the account appeared in the *Graphic*.

It is important to remember also, in relation to all that has been said and written about this encounter, that inasmuch as Bessie Houdini knew the code words which Ford uttered they *were* known to a living person. Therefore, since telepathy cannot be ruled out, Ford's demonstration gave no certain proof that the words came from Houdini's spirit.

I CONCENTRATED my investigations upon the code and the ways in which it could have been obtained. I am quite willing to believe that Arthur Ford delivered the correct code and message to Bessie Houdini. Her signed statement attesting to this is plain enough.

The code was one which they had used in a pretended telepathic act. There were 10 words in all:

Pray	1	Please	6
Answer ...	2	Speak	7
Say	3	Quickly	8
Now	4	Look	9
Tell	5	Be Quick ...	10

Through these words, separately or in combination, it is possible to signal any number. The words also stood for letters of the alphabet in rotation. Through these combinations and the positions in which they were used Arthur Ford produced the word BELIEVE.

But this code was not especially prepared by Houdini two years before his death as stated by Ford. The code was over a century old and had been used by the Houdinis in an act of their own for over 30 years. This antiquated code probably still is being used verbatim by sideshow performers today.

Furthermore, it was not necessary for any spirit control, such as Fletcher, to tell the code to Arthur Ford. It already was in print and appeared on page 105 of Houdini's biography published soon after the magician died. It was public knowledge that any message that might come through for Bessie was to come in some form of code and anyone hoping to bring a message from Houdini certainly would have read his biography.

Speaking psychologically we can consider the possibility that Arthur Ford, conversant with facts about Houdini, subconsciously came to certain conclusions regarding the scene he had pictured — namely, a spirit conversation between Houdini and Fletcher. While such a hypothesis exists, supported by such tangible facts as the existence of the code in print, the expectation of

a code message and the withdrawal of the prize offer, no sane investigator would be justified in thrusting this case from the solid province of the psychological into the doubtful realm of the psychic.

Other important facts come into the case. I know that Bessie had been ill and worried and that it is possible that she accidentally and thoughtlessly repeated bits of information and that this information could have come to Ford's ears. I am not stating that she did or that it did but the possibility exists and must be reckoned with.

Another person to be considered is Daisy White. It has been said that she admitted to several persons that she long had been familiar with the message. I have not forgotten my encounter with her on the night before the seance when she told me that a sensational story was soon to break. A few days later I was approached by a man named Joseph Bantino who lived in the same apartment house where Daisy White lived. He requested a press conference and I arranged one for him at the home of Mrs. Houdini.

The story of this conference also got into print and I quote from the *New York Telegram:* "Bantino opined that Ford received the message from Daisy White, who in turn had the code from Houdini long before he became a spirit."

From another source came the suggestion that a nurse present at Houdini's death heard Houdini murmur his wife's pet name, Rosabelle.

Of course, the nurse's story is hearsay and the opinion expressed by Bantino was his own, not mine. But the fact remains that all the details necessary for the production of a code message from Houdini were available to almost anyone in a position to use them.

Another fact worthy of consideration is Mrs. Houdini's withdrawal of her cash award. We on the committees were impressed with Bessie's sincerity and believed quite firmly that she would gladly pay the money for a genuine message. Her withdrawal seems to indicate an anticipated doubt.

I stated earlier that the remaining $21,000 award originally was to be paid only for a psychic phenomenon which could not be duplicated by natural means. Later, in the press, I offered to pay the Reverend Ford the entire amount if he could get correctly the secret code agreed upon between Houdini and myself. It seems that with the help of his spirit guide Fletcher Mr. Ford should not have found this

any more difficult than obtaining the code agreed upon between Bessie and Houdini. The Reverend Ford was not interested in my offer and made the statement that he had no desire to claim or collect the $21,000.

The original message between Houdini and myself is now safely stored in The Houdini Magical Hall of Fame in Niagara Falls, Canada. This interesting museum has an array of effects used by Houdini throughout the world during the long years of his sensational career. Hundreds of his handcuffs and leg-irons along with his huge collection of locks, magical effects and other paraphernalia are displayed there. Many of the displays are animated by mechanical means and you actually can see Houdini performing some of his escapes.

The original Houdini-Dunninger message, as it is called, is displayed in a burglar-proof vault and can be seen, through the unbreakable glass front, being passed through the lifelike hands of Houdini and myself.

THE HOUDINI-FORD story will be remembered by those interested in the mystic for many years to come. The reader may wonder why, at this time, the facts are being brought to light again. It is not generally known that over the years I have received thousands of letters, telegrams and telephone calls from interested persons anxious to learn more about the highlights of this Ford-Houdini controversy. There is also the new, young, curious generation who would like to become more familiar with the salient facts pertaining to the fabulous character, Houdini.

The *New York Times* wrote after Houdini's death in 1926: "Houdini brought to his act the great know-how of challenge and suspense and when he died he was mourned as the most mysterious man of his time."

Every Hallowe'en Eve since his passing I have sat with mediums in an attempt to receive a genuine communication. Every week my mail contains writers' attempts to give me the contents of our secret code message. There still are many persons trying for the $10,000 award which is my own independent award and which still stands today.

Getting back to the final stage of the story and to be fair to both sides of the controversy, I repeat that the final word in Arthur Ford's favor is a letter written by Bessie Houdini which reads:

Regardless of any statement made to the contrary, I wish to declare that the message, in its entirety and in the agreed upon

sequence, given to me by Arthur Ford is the correct message prearranged between Mr. Houdini and myself.

Beatrice Houdini

Witnessed:
Harry R. Zander
Minnie Chester
John W. Stafford"

It is interesting to note that this statement merely specifies that the message was correct. It does not state that Mrs. Houdini believed it was obtained by psychic means.

Bessie Houdini's note was dated January 9, 1929. Six years later, on July 22, 1935, the following article appeared in the *Los Angeles Examiner:*

"Nine years ago Harry Houdini, master magician, died. Before he died he made a strange compact with his wife. It was this . . . that he would seek to communicate with her from beyond and he gave her certain code signals whereby she might know when he spoke.

"But to date, though her vigil has never relaxed, there has come no word across that dread border. Mrs. Houdini had been married 33 years to her famous husband when he died.

" 'I received many messages that are supposed to come from Houdini through mediums and strange seances,' she explained, 'but they never mean anything to me. Very often I go to seances, hoping and praying that the signals Houdini gave me will be heard. No message comes to me while I am waiting to hear.' "

This seems conclusive.

Whatever the mediums claim, whatever the delusions of those who have been present at their seances, one fact alone can be accepted by thinking persons who do not mix absurdities with logic. Harry Houdini never has spoken from beyond the grave!



A NOTE ON TIMES A-CHANGIN'

By Loren E. Coleman

IN 1964 William Eggleton, 44, of London told police that a "werewolf" chased him into a hedge. Mr. Eggleton was fined $5.60 for drunkenness.

In September 1970 police arrested Allan Farrant, 24, when they found him searching furtively through London's Highgate Cemetery with a torch, a crucifix and a sharp wooden stake. When told by Farrant that **he** merely had been hunting vampires and intended to liquidate them in the customary fashion by driving a stake through their hearts, the judge found hunting vampires within the law and immediately dismissed the case.

YOUR PATH around the ZODIAC

By WINIFRED TENNES



A NATIVE of Illinois, Winifred Tennes studied astrology for some years with Katherine de Jersey, assisting her in preparing personalized horoscopes. In recent years Mrs. Tennes has been teaching, writing, lecturing and giving personal consultations. Since 1969, at the invitation of Maine Township High School which maintains an extensive adult education program, she has been teaching astrology in its East and South branches in Park Ridge, Ill.

Recognized as a foremost authority in the field today Mrs. Tennes is a member of Friends of Astrology in Chicago and the American Federation of Astrologers.

ARIES

Or Aries Ascendant — March 21-April 19 — Cardinal Fire Sign — Ruler: MARS

LISTEN CAREFULLY on the days of November 1 to 7 instead of talking and you may get through this period without a lovers' quarrel. A friend may not be helpful so you are better off not to involve a third person. If partnership expenditures are the subject of contention you may be so emotionally stimulated you cannot reason.

But this should be a fine creative period for Aries participating in the arts. Jupiter, the planet of good luck, is at an advantageous angle, supporting your creative endeavors. You should gain through travel whether you go for business or pleasure but your trip also may be chaotic. Guard your possessions for something you value may be lost, mislaid or stolen.

From November 8 to 13 communication breaks down between an older brother, sister and/or neighbor and yourself. You must be patient or suffer the consequences of an argument caused through misunderstanding. There may be great opposition to your travel plans now. November 14 to 30 is a more favorable period for asserting your independent views and carrying out your schemes.

1st week



2nd week



3rd week



4th week



TAURUS

Or Taurus Ascendant — April 20-May 20 — Fixed Earth Sign — Ruler: VENUS

MARRIAGE and/or business partnership relationships are under strain from November 1 to 7. You could become



1st week

2nd week

3rd week

4th week

emotionally upset and explode over a situation relating to your profession or reputation. By talking things over you can avoid argument and release some of the pressures building up inside you.

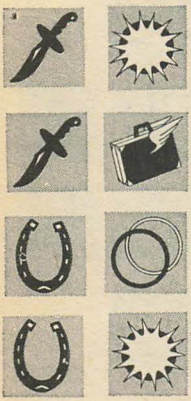
There may be a need to make a decision about an inheritance or expenditure of partnership funds. You view the situation as ideal but all facets should be investigated to avoid chaos or deception. You are being protected in this area of your life by Jupiter, planet of luck, who tenants your eighth solar house. You may benefit by the death of someone close.

From November 8 to 13 concentrate on financial affairs and/or insurance matters. This is not a favorable period for business or trading on the stock market. Losses could occur because of your poor judgment or a misrepresentation by someone with whom you deal. Guard also against possible theft.

An excellent period for accomplishing something creative and constructive comes on November 14 to 30. Your health should be good. Look for the unexpected from co-workers or servants on November 15 to 18. Their cooperation may surprise you.

GEMINI

Or Gemini Ascendant May 21-June 21 Mutable Air Sign Ruler: MERCURY



1st week

2nd week

3rd week

4th week

YOUR LUCK continues good in partnership ventures. Your mate may give you the incentive to drive ahead and accomplish great things. Or inspiration and help may come from a business associate. In any event, when you are feeling depressed or held back by circumstances, remember, it is through a partnership relationship that you can succeed.

Some problems with co-workers could arise on November 1 to 7. You may be tempted to speak harshly but this would backfire and you could be the loser.

Travel plans may have to be changed but this would be for the best. On November 8 to 13 be particularly careful while traveling anyplace. Carelessness could cause an accident, a fall or burn.

The rest of November, from the 14th to the 30th, is excellent for partnership endeavors. You could receive a gift, either money or something of value you will cherish. Romance may be of secondary importance this month but some of you could form an exciting, unconventional alliance — it may be temporary so be aware that it does not change your whole life although you may feel like giving up all you have.

You should bridge the generation gap and enjoy the young people during this period if you yourself are no longer young.

CANCER

Or Cancer Ascendant June 22-July 23 Cardinal Water Sign Ruler: MOON

ON NOVEMBER 1 to 7 someone near and dear to you, a loved one or a child, may cause you an emotional upset. You will have to be diplomatic to keep this situation under control.

1st week 

At the same time, some of you may meet someone new to whom you are sexually attracted. This may be someone you work with.

2nd week 

Your working conditions and health should be excellent this month as Jupiter, planet of luck, tenants your sixth solar house with its protective influence. On the surface the situation appears almost too good to be true so you must seek out the flaws or discrepancies that do exist.

3rd week 

November 8 to 13 is a difficult period for business, particularly if you are handling other people's money. You may be disappointed or suffer a loss in a financial deal. Insurance and tax matters may need special attention. Also, be careful of accidents; be particularly cautious if you handle firearms.

4th week 

You should find November 14 to 30 a satisfying period for almost anything you want to do. A pleasant surprise should occur in your home or related to your domestic affairs. The event may bring about some exciting changes.

LEO

Or Leo Ascendant July 24-August 22 Fixed Fire Sign Ruler: SUN

IMPORTANT FOR November 1 to 7 are your home, your domestic affairs, your property and/or partnerships. This also is a rather emotional period and you may have to tread lightly. An unpleasant situation could arise but may be easily solved once all the facts are known. Watch yourself, do not say the wrong thing at the wrong time. A marriage or business partner may put on the pressure and when you resist an argument will result.

1st week 

On the plus side, Jupiter, planet of good luck, influences your fifth solar house which is excellent for your love life, child relationships and speculation. Leos who are teaching, in the performing arts, sports or advertising should find this a creative, lucrative period.

2nd week 

3rd week 

KEYS TO THE SYMBOLS:

SUN: personal affairs. DOLLAR SIGN: finances. LETTERS: communications of all kinds, documents. HOUSE: domestic affairs. HEARTS: love affairs. CHILDREN (self-explanatory). CADUCEUS (medical insignia): health. DOUBLE RINGS: marriage and business partnerships. SKULL AND CROSSBONES: death. SUITCASE: travel. SUNDIAL: age and responsibilities. HORSESHOE: general good luck. HANDCLASP: friends. DAGGER: arguments.



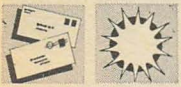
4th week

From November 8 to 13 you may be attracted to someone considerably older or younger than you are. This could develop into a fine lasting friendship if you disregard the age difference. Actually, it is unimportant; but be wary of the motives of some friends during this period. Nor is this the time for you to be financially generous unless you are sure your loan will be repaid. Keep friends out of your business schemes.

November 14 to 30 is a good time for enjoying romance. But travel plans, while exciting, will be subject to change.

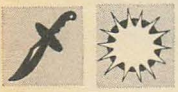
VIRGO

Or Virgo Ascendant August 23-September 22 Mutable Earth Sign Ruler: MERCURY



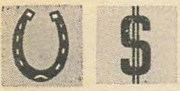
1st week

KEEP COMMUNICATION lines open, they can be vital in solving your personal problems. From November 1 to 7 you should be aware of what others are thinking and doing so you can act accordingly. A phone call or letter received now could upset you emotionally. Someone with whom you work may cause trouble. Keep your own counsel and avoid arguments.



2nd week

Your desire to buy property or make home improvements may be strong. You could go ahead with your plans while Jupiter, planet of good luck, is in your fourth solar house with its protective influence. But before making impulsive decisions consult your mate if you have one. If you do not, get more than one opinion so you are assured of doing the right thing.



3rd week

November 8 to 13 is a period when you can expect some opposition to whatever plans you make relative to your profession. It is a difficult time to make the right decisions in business because of hindrances and obstacles beyond your control.



4th week

November 14 to 30 is a much more beneficial period. Financial matters, especially from the 14th to the 18th, should go favorably although you can expect changes. Be alert for the unexpected as the planet Uranus continues to occupy your second solar house. This will keep your financial affairs in a state of flux.

LIBRA

Or Libra Ascendant September 23-October 23 Cardinal Air Sign Ruler: VENUS



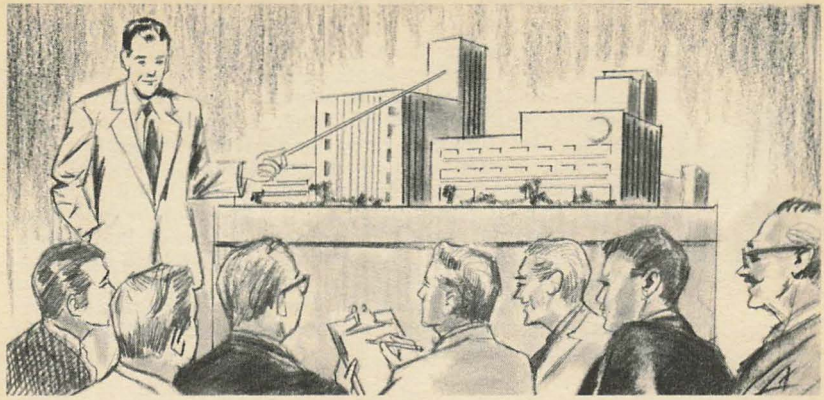
1st week

THE SOCIALLY minded Libran often mixes business with pleasure but from November 1 to 7 this should be avoided. Decisions may be necessary relative to your financial affairs and you should keep your mind clear. You may feel emotionally frustrated during this period and find it difficult to make the right decision.



2nd week

A child or sweetheart could cause you heartache by being rebellious and obstinate. Use your fine intuition to handle this situation.



KNOW YOUR ASPECTS: Persons born when the moon is in favorable aspect (sextile or trine) to the planet Mercury are usually shrewd, careful, intelligent and perceptive. These persons have good sense, kindly dispositions and compassion. They frequently become writers, lecturers, architects, builders or carpenters.

A phone call or letter received from a relative or neighbor may leave you momentarily confused. The meaning or purpose of the communication should become clear a few days later. Sometime between November 8 and 14 get in touch with an older person, your boss or some VIP in your life who can give you sensible advice. Be careful while traveling during this period as carelessness could cause an accident, a fall and/or a burn. Try to relax and guard your health for the remainder of this month.

3rd week



4th week



November 14 to 30 will be a much freer and happier period. Your personal life should be more interesting, especially from the 14th to 18th, if you are lucky enough to associate with someone you find romantic. The relationship may be unconventional but you will gain tremendously. Your one problem may involve a co-worker or close business associate who becomes antagonistic. Be diplomatic and all will go well.

SCORPIO

Or Scorpio Ascendant October 24-November 22 Fixed Water Sign Ruler: PLUTO

A DISPLAY of emotion November 1 to 7 may result in a break with someone in your home whom you dearly love — a mate or parent. It would be wise to find some constructive release for your frustrations. By talking too much you may say something you later will regret and which will not easily be forgotten or forgiven. There is no

1st week





2nd week




3rd week




4th week

point in arguing or hurting the persons closest to you.

From November 8 to 14 financial matters could be more active than usual. Some Scorpios will find their affairs chaotic and difficult to straighten out. You have been and still are under opposing influences — one restricting and hindering your progress, the other bringing you fortunate opportunities. How you have handled these opposites is an individual matter. Where it has been a personal and partnership problem, it now becomes one of finances. If you have your own money under control you may have difficulties with partnership funds, insurance, taxes or inheritance. Monies due you from other persons could be hard to collect.

November 14 to 30 is a more favorable period for settling financial or business matters. The most interesting experiences in November could be the plans you make and carry out behind the scenes.

SAGITTARIUS

Or Sagittarius Ascendant November 23-December 21 Mutable Fire Sign Ruler: JUPITER




1st week



2nd week




3rd week




4th week

CLANDESTINE love affairs can run into trouble from November 1 to 7 especially if you allow communication to break down. Lack of facts or misrepresentation can cause misunderstandings. Keep your secrets very quiet.

Perhaps all travel plans should be postponed until later in the month. If you are accident-prone be particularly careful up until November 13. Carelessness could cause an accident while you are motoring or traveling on public transportation.

Some Sagittarians are looking for personal acclaim and satisfaction and should be rewarded as Jupiter, your ruling planet and one of good luck, now tenants your first solar house. You can enjoy this personal gain if you don't let a mate or business partner dampen your spirits. You may have to assume some of your partner's responsibilities but you can, by keeping your chin up. The hardest thing to cope with is illusion and it will be easy for you to fool yourself. Keep your goals clearly in mind.

November 8 to 13 may bring a few domestic problems into the open. You and/or your mate may be in a reckless mood. This is a poor business period so guard against spending foolishly.

November 14 to 30 is a favorable period. Some unusual social event should please you and there is the possibility of making new friendships.

CAPRICORN

Or Capricorn Ascendant December 22-January 19 Cardinal Earth Sign Ruler: SATURN

FRIENDSHIPS and financial problems may be interrelated

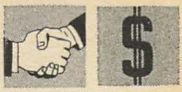
early this month. This period, from the 1st to the 7th, is a somewhat unfavorable period for making serious decisions. You are apt to be feeling irritable and if you act hastily you could make a wrong move. If possible avoid arguments with loved ones over money and possessions. Your financial affairs have been in turmoil for some time but things should start to straighten out as the planet Mars moves from your second to your third solar house. From November 7 to 30 you can expect to travel locally or to increase the volume of your correspondence.

November 8 to 13 is a difficult period only if you give in to others. A co-worker may cause you grief or you could be disappointed in a love affair. Health problems may concern you. If you are accident-prone be particularly careful during these six days.

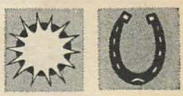
You should make financial gains from November 14 to 30. If there is doubt in your mind about the type of investment you want to make investigate the deal thoroughly. There is a chance that the proposition is not all you have been led to believe.

Plans made in secret may never materialize.

You are, or should be, considering changes in your profession. A favorable period for you to do this is November 14 to 18. For one who is usually cautious and conservative the ideas you now entertain are most progressive.

1st week 

2nd week 

3rd week 

4th week 

AQUARIUS

Or Aquarius Ascendant January 20-February 18 Fixed Air Sign Ruler: URANUS

PROFESSIONAL and personal plans are many from November 1 to 7. But this is an emotional period and not the best time to make decisions concerning your job. You are apt to feel argumentative and be unwilling to see another's viewpoint. By being too aggressive you could lose more than you gain. Think twice before stating your opinion.

The planet Mars has been influencing you. On November 7 it enters your second solar house and will activate your financial affairs for the rest of the month.

You could be disappointed during November 8 to 13 because your sweetheart rejects your plans. Cool it until later in the month when he or she will be more appreciative of your advances.

A child may prove difficult during this period but if you are diplomatic you can control the situation.

For those who are speculating this is not a favorable cycle for business deals.

From November 14 to 30 get out, socialize! Liking people as much as you do, it should be easy for you to get together with your friends, to have a good time. Some social event may be more important than you imagine. A new acquaint-

1st week 

2nd week 

3rd week 

4th week 

ance will bring you luck and opportunity. Look for happy ambitious people and stay away from the dreamers and alcoholics who want to frequent your doorstep.

An opportunity to take a long trip should develop between November 14 and 18. Go! This is a favorable period.

PISCES

Or Pisces Ascendant February 19-March 20 Mutable Water Sign Ruler: NEPTUNE




1st week



2nd week




3rd week



4th week

YOUR PERSONAL life should become more lively after November 7 when the planet Mars moves into your first solar house. You may have more energy or at least will tend to push yourself more. This could cause strain and be injurious to your health; budget your time and strength.

November 1 to 7 is unfavorable for long-distance travel, legal matters, religion and education. Publishers also may find this a difficult period. The sensitive, emotional people around you are easily upset, wrong words and deeds can cause problems and you may be caught in the middle.

November 8 to 13 you may have to cope with a different unpleasantness. Problems in your home, perhaps involving a parent, should be settled without a break or hard feelings. You need to concentrate on your business as this is a poor cycle for consummating deals. Watch out for those who would cheat you.

An excellent period comes between November 14 and 30 when you can advance professionally and socially. You can win approbation from your superiors or gain recognition for work you are doing well. You could be rewarded if you are in the public eye.

Partnership funds, those of marriage or business, will require changed handling. You could get cooperation and maneuver things to your advantage during November 14 to 18.









FOR A GOOD CAUSE

THE REV. MAX Williams of Kirtling, England, estimated he needed about $25,000 if he was to do an adequate job for his parishioners. On September 2, 1969, cleaning up his church, he found an old ironbound chest behind the organ and inside it were three ancient silver coins. Believing they might have some value Reverend Williams had them appraised. Their worth — $25,000 — nicely satisfied his parish needs. — *Raymond C. Otto.*

My *Senseless Urge* "Disturbed Death"

Against all reason, even etiquette and although I hardly could talk, I called my friend.

By Ruth K. Weinstein

ONE DAY JUST before Christmas 1961 was one of those days I should have stayed in bed. Nothing had gone right. When the day finally ended I felt exhausted and depressed — physically, mentally and emotionally drained. To top it off I had been fighting a cold — unsuccessfully — and my throat had become so sore I could hardly talk. It made me feel worse that I couldn't even complain to my husband Herman and my 17-year-old son Jack while we had dinner in our Brooklyn, N.Y., apartment.

About nine o'clock that evening I choked down some aspirin, wishing it would induce a state of suspended animation, and then I tried to sleep. It was impossible.

Along with my physical discomfort I kept having an inexplicable urge to telephone my friend Esther Davis. But Esther had imposed on all her friends a flat rule: no telephone calls after 9:00 P.M. She liked to have her evenings free with her husband Henry and she figured her women-friends could telephone her during the day. Now the deadline was past. It was half-past nine.

Such a senseless urge, I thought. Yet the harder I struggled to stifle it the more clamorous it became. Just before 10 o'clock I remember thinking that at last I knew the full meaning of the word "compulsion."

I debated. Should I call or should I not? I couldn't talk clearly and knew I shouldn't try to but the crazy compulsion demanded, "Go to the telephone and call!"

I surrendered. I had to. After I dialed I counted 11 rings. Finally Esther answered. Her voice was strange, somehow different, but

all I could do was whisper hoarsely, "Are you all right?"

Showing polite displeasure she answered that she thought so. Her voice sounded thick and seemed to be coming from a great distance. I stammered something about having been anxious about her, so anxious that I had to break her rule and call.

After a barely noticeable pause Esther answered, still in the unfamiliar voice, "I've been tired. I went to lie down. I must have fallen asleep."

Feeling like an utter idiot I apologized. "Please do go back to bed and try to forgive me for disturbing you."

As she said a muffled "goodnight" I suddenly yelled, "Wait! Don't hang up! Please, just answer one question for me."

In desperation I was using my knowledge of Esther's intellectual curiosity to keep her on the telephone. She loves to do research and has a fantastic library. Instinct, intuition or compulsion — I don't know what to call it — took charge and led me to ask a question, some query that had to do with anthropology, although I hadn't the slightest need for the answer just then — if ever.

Esther hesitated, then ever so slowly she said, "I know the answer but I can't think. I'll go to the den for a reference book."

I waited and waited. She was gone quite a while but when she returned her voice was much clearer and stronger. "My God, Ruthie," she said, sounding overcome with emotion, "your call saved my life! I haven't spent all this time looking for the book. I've been opening windows."

Later I learned the whole story. She had felt chilled that night and had turned on the gas oven to warm the apartment. Her husband Henry wasn't due home until midnight and she had gone to lie down without remembering to turn off the oven. She didn't know the burners were faulty and that deadly fumes were escaping as the oxygen in the apartment was used up.

The insistent ringing of the phone had awakened her. At the time she didn't understand her own confusion and malaise. She was also astonished when I told her the telephone had rung for a long time. She thought she had answered its first ring. Then, after I had yelled "Wait!" and she had gone to get the reference book she had had to pass the kitchen to get to the den. Through the kitchen door she noticed the open gas oven door — and the rest is happy history.

If I hadn't decided to call her — against all reason, to say

nothing of etiquette — and if I hadn't gone on to ask the unnecessary question she might not have noticed the forgotten oven. She might have gone back to bed to sleep forever.



THE FISH RETALIATE

By Paul Braczyk

FOR COUNTLESS centuries anglers have plundered the submarine world, dropping nets, hooks, lures and all manner of foreign devices for the express purpose of fishnaping. Now the fishes of the earth apparently have organized a mass retaliation.

The bluefish were biting in the Atlantic on Tuesday, July 12, 1970. Red Palumbo of Levittown, N.Y., can vouch for it. One bit him! A Coast Guard helicopter was summoned to the fishing boat *Angler II* to fly Palumbo to a hospital. Seven stitches were needed to close the wound. "I didn't know I was going to be the bait!" Palumbo said. The fish got away.

While Ronald Haller was floating down the Missouri River in the summer of 1970 between Fort Benton and Lewistown in central Montana, a black fish about six or eight feet long rammed his boat, denting the fiberglass hull. The creature had no visible appendages and no one has been able to identify it.

On April 14, 1971, a large king mackerel leaped from the Gulf of Mexico and bit Chuck Gogreve of New Orleans on the arm. The wound required nine stitches but the New Orleans fisherman landed the mackerel. He said it was his best catch of the day.

But man himself is not the only target for the cold-blooded vertebrates. His "best friend" is too. Eugene Hutchings and his dog Rex were walking along the shoreline near Portsmouth, N.H., on April 8, 1971. On one of Rex's forays into the water the dog began thrashing and when Hutchings pulled him ashore he found a 14-pound sturgeon clinging to the dog's stomach!



THE GREEKS HAD A FIGURE FOR IT

COLUMBUS' BELIEF that the world was round was not original. The idea of a spherical earth had been generally accepted since the time of the ancient Greeks but the ignorance prevalent in the Dark Ages obscured it.

The Greek geographer Eratosthenes measured the circumference of the earth in the Third Century B.C. and calculated its meridional circumference as 24,662 miles — a figure only 200 miles short! — *Louis Trifon.*

My MUSICAL Ghost



The lights were out and no one was home — so where was the organ music coming from?

By Alden Campbell

LOUISE HUDSON and her friend Jack Lawrence sat entranced on the couch in her Glendale, Calif., home while all around them sounded the strains of beautiful music. They might have imagined they were in a great hall listening to a fine symphony orchestra, for in the background were the muffled stirrings always audible during a concert. But Jack, his mother Vera and Mrs. Hudson were alone in her living room.

Jack, a purchasing agent for an aircraft company, was getting nervous — so nervous he was white-faced and trembling.

"Louise," he sputtered, "you've left your TV on."

Mrs. Hudson opened the doors of the television cabinet to show him the set was off. No record player, loudspeaker or radio was to be seen and Mrs. Hudson swore she had no equipment hidden that would produce the magnificent orchestral harmonies they were hearing. The music seemed to fill the room. It came from "all over"— a mysterious stereophony — for a period of about 10 or 15 minutes.

Jack looked everywhere for its source — even in the fireplace. Then, thoroughly perplexed, he finally admitted he had experienced a manifestation of the strange phenomenon they had discussed earlier in the evening.

They had had dinner together in Los Angeles' Chinatown to celebrate Vera Lawrence's birthday. During the evening Mrs. Hudson had described some of her unusual experiences in the Glendale house — and Jack had laughed at her.

"I've known you for 15 years and I've always thought you

were a little nuts," he said. "Now I know you are!"

All three laughed together but Louise warned, "You'll find out!"

Returning to Glendale after dinner they did not have long to wait. At 11:00 P.M. sharp the ghostly symphony had started and now, a few minutes later, Jack wasn't laughing. When the music stopped and he had finished his nervous search, he shook his head and sighed, "To think that a little while ago I said you were nuts. . ."

Mrs. Hudson, a department store buyer for many years, describes herself as "a practical, factual businesswoman." But during the two and a half years she stayed in the house — from spring of 1959 until the fall of 1961 — some of her experiences made her wonder if somehow she had been overtaken by flights of fancy.

"The first thing happened soon after I moved in," she relates. "A girl friend and I drove up in front and as we got out of the car we both heard the sound of a door slamming inside the house. The outside doors were locked and when we went in we found all the inside doors open. And I checked to see if anything had fallen to the floor. I found nothing to account for the noise.

"My birds — I had set aside a room for my parrots and parakeets — were absolutely going crazy. They were scared to death but there didn't seem to be any reason for it."

The same friend was with her when the incident of the glowing light occurred.

"I finished work about 5:30 in the afternoon," Mrs. Hudson says. "It was six when I reached home and still broad daylight. As we walked to the porch we saw a brilliant pure white light shining on the wall of the porch.

"We stood transfixed as the light began to move. Slowly it moved toward me and then toward my friend, then back to me, then to the center of the porch where it abruptly disappeared. We both saw this clearly and the whole incident took about four or five minutes."

With the same friend present, she had another peculiar experience.

"About seven o'clock in the evening we were sitting in the living room," she relates. "I had two little parrots loose in what I called the 'bird room.' The parakeets were caged but the parrots were trained not to leave the room.

"All of a sudden I heard these birds squawking like mad. I jumped up and ran to the room to find the birds — those trained to stay in the room — beating

against the closed door trying to get out and screeching in terror.

"Inside the room everything seemed to be all right but about the time I succeeded in caging the birds I heard a noise coming from the direction of the usually noiseless grandmother clock. It didn't tick because it was electric. The sound seemed to come from behind the face of the clock and it made me think of a wooden ball batted back and forth — a wood-on-wood noise repeated in rhythm.

"I turned the clock around and opened the case at the back. There was nothing within to account for the sound — which now had stopped. I closed the clock and turned it back into position but in about a minute's time the same bouncing-wood noise started again. It continued for about three minutes, then stopped."

Mrs. Hudson describes still another encounter between her birds and an invisible — or at least unidentifiable — intruder. After placing plenty of seed and water in the cages and vacuuming the floor she had locked up the bird room for the night. Later she heard a "terrible racket" and rushed to the room. She found the birds extremely agitated and one, a parakeet, lay dead on the floor, apparently the victim of a fright-induced heart attack. The door to the parakeet's cage was open — it had been closed — and a handful of birdseed lay scattered on the floor.

"The birdseed was right in front of the open door," Mrs. Hudson reports. "It looked as if someone had put a hand inside the cage but when the birds made such a racket, withdrew in a hurry brushing out some of the seed."

* * *

THE ONLY TIME anyone possibly saw a ghost in the apparently haunted house was when a retired schoolteacher came to visit late one afternoon.

"She sat down while I went momentarily into the bird room," says Mrs. Hudson. "When I returned she apologized saying she did not know I had company. She offered to come back later.

"I said, 'I don't have any company.'

"Then I saw she was frightened. She repeated emphatically, 'You do too have company. There was a man walking in that hallway.' Again I insisted I was completely alone.

"Then she showed me goose pimples standing out like marbles on her arms. She was scared to death and wouldn't stay in the house."

All these incidents led up to the

music haunting. And if there could be any suspicion that Mrs. Hudson was somehow directly responsible, that suspicion was dispelled not long after Jack Lawrence heard the ghostly symphony concert.

New neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bell, had moved into a small house behind Mrs. Hudson's home. Except for a brief encounter when she had directed them to Mrs. Betty McDonald, the owner of the property, when they originally inquired about the house the McDonalds and Mrs. Hudson were complete strangers.

They had been living in the house only three weeks when Mrs. Hudson, leaving for work one morning, met Mrs. Bell out in front.

"Would you answer a question for me?" Mrs. Bell asked. "Do you have an organ in your home?"

Mrs. Hudson froze, afraid of what Mrs. Bell might be going to say. Cautiously she replied, "Why do you ask?"

"Well, my husband and I were sitting out on the steps last night and we heard magnificent organ music coming from your house. We stepped down and went to your back porch to hear it better. We listened for about half an hour and I've never heard anything more beautiful."

Mrs. Hudson told her that not only was there no organ in her house but as far as she knew no one had been in the house at the time the Bells heard the music.

Mrs. Bell looked puzzled. "I simply don't understand," she said.

"Come to think of it, your house was completely dark."

The organ music, she said, seemed to pour from the house in waves. The Bells listened first at the back of the house, then at the side and finally in front.

"It was definitely coming from inside your house," Mrs. Bell insisted. She said the "concert" took place about eight o'clock the previous evening but Mrs. Hudson had not arrived home until about 8:45. She lived alone and the place had been completely locked up. No one could have entered the house without breaking in and leaving some evidence. And she had not left a television or radio on.

Mrs. Bell looked at her blankly. "What is the answer?" Her tone suggested that she really didn't expect an answer.

There was an answer — of sorts — but that was to come later.

Mrs. Hudson went on to the department store where she worked and there Mrs. Bell sought her out about 3:00 P.M. the same day.

"She came running in," according to Mrs. Hudson, "saying, 'I had to prove something to myself. That music is going on in your house again. I had to make sure you were at work and not playing a joke on me.'

"This sort of thing happened several times. I couldn't understand it. Besides I'm told that nothing like this has occurred since I moved away."

* * *

WHEN I TALKED with her in 1962 I suggested that a musician may have lived there previously. The ethereal symphony, the rhythmic sound in the clock and organ music all seemed to indicate this. Mrs. Hudson then made an important revelation.

"I discussed the phenomena with a friend who had lived in the neighborhood for several years — Alice Whittier," she said. "I asked if she knew anything about the previous occupants of the house. She told me an elderly couple had owned the house — Mr. and Mrs. James Olds, both of whom had died.

"The woman, I learned, died in her sleep in what was now my bedroom. Her husband sold the property and went to live with his daughter in another part of California where he died later.

"I asked whether either of them had any hobbies. Alice said she didn't know much about the husband but I got goose pimples myself when she remarked that the lady of the house was 'quite a musician.'

"Next of course I had to ask what instrument she played. Alice answered, 'Well, she played the organ beautifully. In fact she had one in the living room.' "

Subsequently other long-time residents substantiated Alice Whittier's statements. There had been an organ in the house and the woman who owned it did "play beautifully."

One of those who lived nearby was Joe Dillinger, at the time a member of the Glendale Police Department. He knew of the music "haunting" and volunteered to conduct a thorough investigation to determine whether the apparently ghostly manifestations were the work of a jokester or someone with a sinister motive.

"I think someone is channeling that music in electronically to frighten you," he told Mrs. Hudson.

"Why would anybody try to frighten me?"

"I don't know," he admitted, "but I am just curious enough that I would like to find out. I would like to go through the house."

Mrs. Hudson welcomed the search reasoning that as an ex-

perienced investigator Joe Dillinger might be able to come up with an answer.

"He spent eight hours going through every part of that house," she said. "He did such things as crawl through a crawl hole down into the basement. He covered every square inch, outside and inside, even the roof.

"I got home from work that night and asked him if he had found anything. He said, 'No, I am completely stymied.' "

There were no hidden wires, no loudspeakers, no signs of prowlers — nothing out of the ordinary. To his trained eye the house was just another house with nothing suspicious about it.

But the weird events continued. One of them took place one night when Mrs. Hudson entered the bird room to make a last check on her pets.

"Just as I got to the far corner of the room," she said, "a very cultured woman's voice said 'good night,' calmly and softly. I had just said 'good night' to my birds! It was as if she were answering."

Another incident was even more startling. Mrs. Hudson stepped out of her bathtub one evening and felt a hand on her shoulder, perhaps to steady her.

Then there was the night when a violent shaking of her bed awakened her and she discovered that a prowler had been trying to make an entrance through her bedroom window. He had cut the screen and put a hand through to unlatch it. Surprised when she awoke, he had quickly withdrawn his hand, leaving clear evidence of his hurried departure: blood on the windowsill.

Mrs. Hudson thinks it was a beneficial haunting. The ghost, if that is what it was, never tried to harm her in any way and certainly creating the sound of music is not typical of an evildoer.

"I loved that house," she said. "There was a good feeling about it. Others might have been uncomfortable sometimes and I was occasionally taken by surprise but I was never really frightened or harmed."

When she moved, it was not because of the phenomena. Mrs. McDonald, the owner, asked for the return of the premises so that her daughter and her family could move in.

Why did the manifestations cease after she moved? She does not know, especially since the music sounded while she was absent from the home and therefore could not be attributed directly to her presence.

Perhaps, as in the case of all good ghost stories, it was just one more puzzling detail to add to the mystery.



Tiny (one and one-half inch) burned clay figure came from a depth of 300 feet during water-well drilling on land of M. A. Kurtz in Nampa Valley.

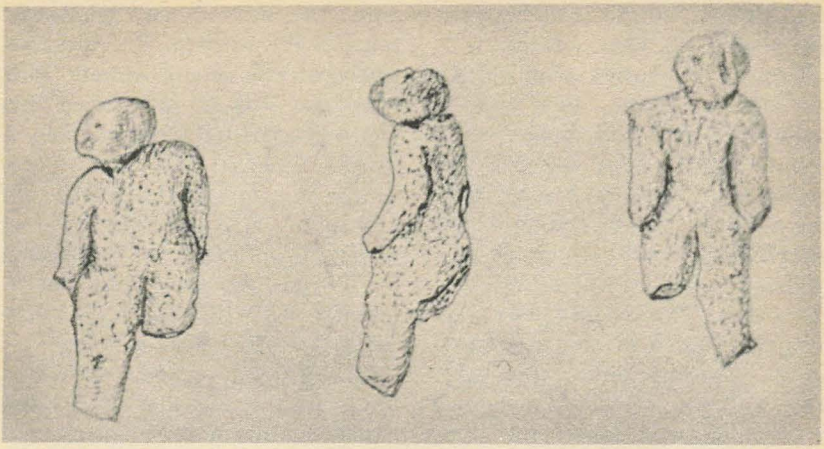
The NAMPA IMAGE... *Artifact or Artifice?*

If 80-year-old Idaho find is genuine, it blows sky-high our ideas of man's evolution in North America.

By Gaston Burridge
Photos courtesy Idaho Historical Society

IN THE IDAHO Historical Society Museum in Boise, reposing quietly in a case, is the one and one-half inch burned clay Nampa Image. This archaeological curiosity — hoax or genuine — sparked considerable controversy in 1889 when it first was discovered in the drill-water of a well being dug in Nampa Valley, Idaho. Since then interest in the relic, if such it is, has died down. Frank Edwards thought it important enough to include in his book *Strangest Of All,* published in 1962. But for the most part the Nampa Image has remained cloistered in obscurity.

However, two things make the Nampa Image important today. First, if it is genuine it would seem to set man's presence in that territory a lot farther back in time than previously thought. Or this part of the earth has been subjected to much more



Could natural forces have sculptured an object so closely resembling human form?

radical changes in topography, taking place within a shorter time, than the science of geology presently admits. For the Nampa Image is said to have been brought to the surface from a depth of 300 feet as a result of the digging for a new water-well on the property of Mr. M. A. Kurtz, Nampa, Idaho.*

Second, modern science now has developed a reliable method by which such objects as the Nampa Image can be dated to within 10 percent accuracy. Drs. Farrington Daniels, Von F. G. Houtermans and George B. Kennedy have perfected a process called the thermoluminescence method by which the age of baked earth, such as pottery (which the Nampa Image is) can be determined. Nor is the object itself destroyed or harmed by this process. Only a tiny bit of the material from the object in question is needed for the test, which does not take long — less than eight minutes.

This small portion of the object is heated to 500 degrees centigrade and the apparatus measures the radioactivity of certain elements in the clay of the object and from this reading a mathematical determination of its age can be made. The method is not as accurate as carbon-14 dating but still it would give us a better idea of the image's age than we presently have. More than that,

*For those who are interested in the cataclysmic approach to geology rather than the more standard one, I suggest the book, *Cataclysms of the Earth*, by Hugh Auchincloss Brown.

it would tell us immediately if the Nampa Image is a hoax or an object of real antiquity.

From the Nampa well's drilling log it appears a very remote possibility that the image could have come from a lesser depth because the well was sunk with the aid of a six-inch casing which effectively cut off all contact with higher strata as it was driven into the earth. This casing was necessary because of the quicksand strata present under the site. The well log states that before the image was found the drill had cut through 60 feet of soil to lava rock, 12 to 15 feet of lava rock, 100 feet of quicksand, six inches of clay, 40 feet of quicksand, six feet of clay, 30 feet of quicksand, 12 to 15 feet of clay, then through clay balls mixed with sand, and after that through coarse sand in which the image was found.

A drill bit was used only where it was necessary to penetrate the lava rock. Casing was not needed through the rock, of course, but was vital for the quicksand which lay below and so was used for the entire depth. While they were working through the sand and clay strata a "sand pump" and water were used to facilitate the drilling.

It probably is possible that an object the size of the Nampa Image could have been introduced into the well from the top and thus have been "pumped" back to the surface. But the likelihood of this seems remote. It is also true that in 1889 when this well was drilled Nampa was a "wide place in the road" — actually a wide place along the railroad — and that any sort of publicity might have increased the value of the land thereabouts. But this seems a far-fetched reason for a hoax.

Mr. Kurtz owned extensive lands in the vicinity of Nampa and of course a good water supply was a necessity. He had purchased a well-drilling rig in the east, employed an expert well-driller to come to Nampa to supervise the drilling operations and he hoped for an artesian well.

As the well casing was driven deeper and deeper into the bowels of the earth, water was forced down to the drilling area from the top. This water then returned to the surface through the casing and brought with it the refuse from the drilling. This material together with the water was ejected into a "sump." Mr. Kurtz often stood by the outlet pipe, his hand in the outflow stream, feeling the materials as they came up with the drill-water. On this particular day many clay balls were passing through his fingers and then he felt some-

thing larger come into his hand. He instinctively grasped it and brought it out of the flow-stream for inspection. Kurtz took his find to an open water barrel where he washed it off. What he held in his hand has since become known as the Nampa Image.

One of the most important contributors to the early development of our west was the railroad and the Union Pacific probably was Nampa's biggest asset in 1889. And the Nampa Image actually owes whatever fame it may have to the Union Pacific Railroad — because a division superintendent of the Union Pacific named Cumming visited the site on the day after the find. Cumming was a Harvard graduate and apparently, after hearing the details of the find, was convinced of its genuineness. And so, about a month later, when Charles Francis Adams, President of the Union Pacific, was visiting the Nampa area, Cumming told him the interesting story of the image. Adams was immediately impressed. He wrote Prof. G. Frederick Wright at Oberlin College in Ohio and forthwith the scientific world learned of the Nampa Image — and the controversy began.

The Boston Society of Natural History published two papers about the image, one in 1889 and a second in 1890. *Scribner's* Magazine published an article written by Mr. Wright in 1890. *Popular Science Monthly* carried an article in 1893. After that interest waned and only sporadic notice was accorded the subject.

In the fall of 1967 *INFO Journal,* edited by Ronald J. Willis, published an eight-page resumé of the matter, with pictures. And in September 1970 *Science Digest,* on its inside back cover, ran a photograph of the image with a brief message stating that *if* the image were genuine then science would be forced to revise all its ideas concerning the evolution of man in North America. And also stating that if it turns out to be a hoax then Mr. Kurtz was a man who knew how to keep a good joke to himself!

And after all, our real fascination is not with the little Nampa Image itself but rather with what the image can tell us about the age of man on this planet.

There are several instances of discovered artifacts which indicate man has been on this earth much longer than is ordinarily supposed. The discovery of an iron "instrument" in a lump of coal taken from a mine in Scotland, a copper "seal" or coin-like item taken from an eight-foot depth in chalk in England, another piece of metal encased in coal in Austria and a nail found in a lump of quartz in

California all indicate this.

Classical anthropology once suggested man did not reach the American continent until 3,000 years ago. However, new evidence suggests man may have crossed the Bering Strait "land bridge" 15,000 to 20,000 years ago and still more recently some scientists have begun to wonder if that date should not be pushed back to between 40,000 and 80,000 years.

How long would it require for the Nampa Image to be covered 300 feet deep by natural means?

Not long in the geological time context. It does not require too many hours to lay down 15 feet of lava. But looking at the Nampa Valley one is bound to wonder how long ago it was that *any* lava flowed in that vicinity. And one must immediately be skeptical of so short a time as 3,000 years!

On the slopes of Wheeler Peak in Humboldt National Forest, White Pine County, Nevada, stands a bristlecone pine tree which is some 5,000 years old and still living! Study of tree-ring borings made of this tree by Dr. C. W. Ferguson, of the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, University of Arizona in Tucson, indicate that no radical changes in climate have taken place in this area during this time span. Nampa Valley, Idaho, and Wheeler Peak, Nevada, are only about 350 miles apart. Therefore, it would seem that if there have been no radical climate changes at Wheeler Peak, probably there have been none at Nampa either.

The last question we must ask is: Could the Nampa Image be a natural formation? Nature is very clever. Still, as crude as the image appears to be it seems unlikely that anything so closely resembling a human form was naturally carved. It is my opinion that the Nampa Image is man-made.

And so the Nampa Image continues to be one small puzzle in a world of puzzles — one small piece of the great jigsaw puzzle of the world's history.



SMARTER THAN WE ARE, ANYWAY

SINCE REACHING the moon our country plans many future space trips to other planets, it seems. The Kentucky Highway Contractors Association magazine *Scraper* demonstrated typical southern wit in speaking of the cost of appropriations for space travel:

"You don't see them spending billions to land on us. There must be some sort of intelligent life in outer space." — *Helen D. Kennedy.*

While Tom's doctors and even his family had abandoned their last hope, a miracle was in the making thousands of miles away.

Healing A SICK MIND

By Lucile M. McCurtain

I FIRST HEARD of Tom Watson from his sister Marilyn, who called me one day in February 1958 in great distress. She asked if I knew anyone who could heal mental illness, for Tom, a high school teacher and father of three sons, lay in a veteran's hospital so far regressed that he could not even feed himself. The doctors, Marilyn told me, had suggested the family pay Tom one last visit before he was moved to a hospital for the hopelessly insane.

At that time I was in touch with Newton Dillaway, of Wakefield, Mass., the dedicated philosopher-healer. I thought he might be able to help and I told Marilyn I would call him.

When I placed the call to Wakefield, Mr. Dillaway answered immediately.

"Ho! It's your call I must have been waiting for," he said. "I was about to go for a walk in the woods when something told me to wait here by the phone. What can I do for you?"

When I had told him about Tom Watson's piteous condition Mr. Dillaway said, "All I need is his first name and where he is right now. I can calculate the difference in time between here and there and I shall talk to him tonight in his sleep. Tell his sister to have no anxiety."

The next morning Tom's family gathered at the hospital. Only Marilyn knew of my call to Mr. Dillaway. Tom seemed surprised to see them and asked, "What's the occasion?"

"I know you have agreed that you should go to the state hospital where you can have permanent care," Marilyn replied cautiously, "but we believe you can

get well and that you will. Help has come to you from clear across the country."

"I think you may be right," the young man said. "Last night I had a strange experience. Everything was pitch-black. Someone took me by the shoulders and I seemed to be sitting facing the corner of a room — not really, for I was in bed. The hands were very strong and they turned me around so that I faced a bright light. Everything was light!"

Just then a hospital orderly came up, smiling broadly. He said, "Tom was sitting up this morning when I came in. He asked for some breakfast and he ate all of it."

No one spoke of a miracle but everyone felt something unexplainable had happened. As soon as she could, Marilyn phoned me to tell me what had happened. She said that the doctors, once they had gotten over their initial shock, had given orders that Tom was not to be moved but to be given all the convalescent care he needed until he was back on his feet.

His progress after that was steady and rapid. In May 1958 Tom was released, whole in body, mind and spirit. And he has remained so.



NAILING EVIL SPIRITS

LEE JIN TIONG, aged 16, of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, used to be bothered by ghosts. They made him howl at night and sometimes he became violent. His parents decided to seek help for the boy through the temple mediums.

The mediums went into trance and concluded that Lee was the victim of a mysterious evil goddess. The only way to get rid of the spirit, they said, was for Lee to walk on nails. In preparation for his ordeal, Lee was locked in the temple for a week with two mediums during which time he neither ate nor drank. On the day of the walk Lee emerged from the temple and walked into the courtyard in a trance.

The clang of the cymbals and drums signaled the start of the ceremony. First the two mediums walked on the long row of six-inch nails mounted on blocks of wood. They showed no signs of pain.

Then the possessed boy began his nail walk, coming out of trance when it was completed. The mediums proclaimed Lee was free from the evil spirit. And he no longer howls at night.

Fingers of Fate

By Harold Helfer

In 1798, two years before his death, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (who for all his greatness as a composer barely eked out a living) wrote a letter to a Vienna official asking for a $75 loan. The letter was sold recently to an autograph collector for $5,737.00.

●

When a typhoon threatened the Pacific island of Saipan, its parliament, at a loss to know what to do, voted a resolution for the typhoon to cease and desist. The storm stopped abruptly 240 miles from Saipan.

●

The valedictorian for the class of 1970 at the Newport Beach, Calif., high school was telling his audience out on the grounds that "despite the insanity of day-to-day living. . . . " when the automatic lawn sprinkler system turned on and soon had watered everyone there.

●

The left fender of his auto had been struck by a hit-and-run driver and John Davis of Salem, Ore., was filling out insurance forms when his phone rang. A woman was calling to report she had backed into his parked car, hitting the left fender. At midnight the same day a neighbor came to Davis's door.

"Sorry about it," he said, "but I'm afraid I ran into your car."

Yes, the left fender had been hit again.

●

During a flu epidemic in Augusta, Ga., every faculty member except Mrs. R. H. Barefield took flu vaccine. Mrs. Barefield was the only teacher who didn't get the flu.

●

In Kilbirnie, Scotland, four-year-old Steve Bain was found alive after spending 19 hours in an abandoned refrigerator. A small splinter jammed in the door gasket let in sufficient air to sustain life.

●

In Reading, Pa., a father and son walking one block apart were struck by cars when they stepped into the street at the same time. Carl Waldman and his 11-year-old son Michael were taken to Reading General Hospital where each learned of the other's accident.

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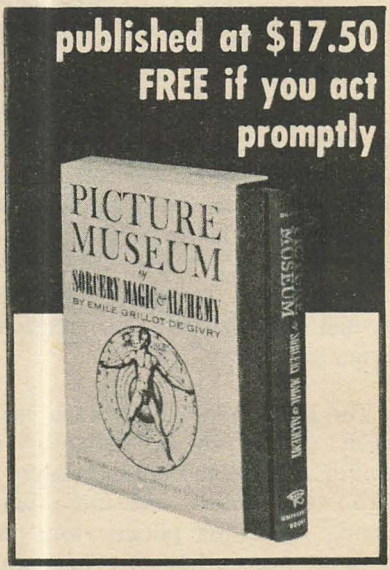
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My Maralyn Muirhead

"MARALYN!" I distinctly heard Mother calling my name. Even though she had died in Seattle in 1969 I was not surprised to hear her voice. I knew it must have something to do with the child I was carrying. For years Mother had hoped for grandchildren but until now I had disappointed her. Now that I was about to give birth to my first child in the spring of 1970 it was too late for her to share in the wonderful experience. Or was it?

Lately I had felt her presence almost daily — or perhaps I longed for her as my husband Dick and I tried to cope with our financial problems. We just didn't know how we were going to pay the medical bills, let alone purchase the many things a new baby needs. Among other things we discussed the need for some sort of dressing table or bathinette where I could change and store the baby's diapers. We combed the "For Sale" ads in the newspaper but even secondhand dressing tables cost too much for our slim budget.

Then one Saturday morning as I lay quietly in bed, waiting for my husband to wake up, I heard Mother's voice calling my name. Silently I asked, "What is it?"

Her answer came in the form of impressions. First I saw baby furniture, then the words "Thrift Shop." I was told, "Hurry!"

I awakened my husband and urged him to dress quickly and drive immediately to the local Salvation Army Thrift Shop. The first thing we saw as we crossed the threshold was a beautiful blue and white bathinette with a sturdy dressing table and ample storage room for diapers underneath!

But I was almost afraid to inquire about the price. We had only $2.00 with us and no spare money in the bank. Its price was *exactly* $2.00. A small miracle!

Silently I thanked my mother for



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helping us out. She had been able to give her grandchild a gift after all. — *Wahiawa, Hawaii.*

A HELPING HAND

By Helen Bock
as told to Alice Huhtala

WHEN MY oldest daughter Sharon was very ill in August 1949, I was at my wits' end to know what to do for her. I fell into an exhausted sleep one night only to be awakened by the noise of the platform rocker. It had an awful squeak. Sitting in it and rocking was my father James Wilson — but he had died in 1940! I was terrified, even when he called me by my pet name "Yiya." He said, "Go to sleep, Yiya. I'll watch Sharon tonight. And don't worry. She'll be well in the morning."

I think I must have fainted then. When I awoke in the morning, Sharon was sitting on the edge of her bed laughing and playing with the dog. As I was double-checking her temperature she said, "I'm O. K., Mommy. The man made me feel better."

So she had seen him too!

In later years whenever my children became ill I'd find myself calling on Father to lend a hand. And I believe on more than one other occasion he did. — *Exeland, Wis.*

THE MANTEL CLOCK

By Ethel N. Evans

OUR FAMILY always has a dog. At the time my husband Roy was forced to take a medical retirement — in the early 1960's — we had an old female who was becoming quite disabled and Spot, one of her male offspring. My husband had been ordered to take routine exercise so he fell into the habit of taking Spot for a long walk each morning. After three and a half years had passed Spot developed a kidney ailment and died.

My daughter knew Roy had to keep exercising and almost forced us to

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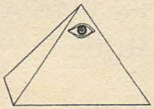
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take a five-week-old puppy she had located. He was half Irish setter and half boxer, with all the rebel both breeds could possibly have. We named him Shane and soon he became a one-man dog — Roy's. He tolerated my services only for food and health care.

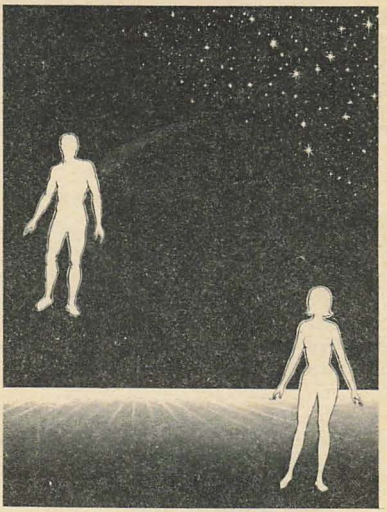
Our old dog made a good beginning on training him but she lived only a few months after Shane came.

Then, when Shane was three years old, my husband succumbed on December 3, 1967, to a heart attack. We had to bar Shane from the scene so that ambulance attendants could take my husband to the hospital. Perhaps not unnaturally the dog blamed me when Roy did not return. Shane compounded my shock and grief by his adamant refusal to eat or to allow anyone to do anything for him. Only after three full days of mourning could he be tempted to eat. From then on it was a long and tedious process to win him over to anything like acceptance of me.

Often in the evenings I talked to him and sometimes he seemed to listen. He came nearest to understanding when I cried, although he would walk away if I cried very long. At these times, it seemed my eyes would be drawn to the mantel clock that had been our first purchase after our marriage. The clock hadn't run or chimed for six years but I still hoped it could be repaired. Often I would see Shane looking at it too, although he never had heard it chime.

One afternoon, after three months of discouraging effort, Shane finally must have decided to accept me. He came to the chair where I sat sewing, looked at me for a long minute, then gently licked my fingers. At that moment, for no accountable reason, the long-silent clock chimed for the only time until I had it repaired in December 1970, three years after the death of my husband.

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During these three years I think I have come to understand the feeling of relief that washed over me at the sound of that chime. It was as if my husband transferred Shane to me. Now he has become *my* dog, my dear companion and champion. — *Tulsa, Okla.*

SAMBO'S RETURN

By Barbara E. Hosier

IN 1948 when I was 16 years old my little black mongrel dog Sambo died suddenly from heart trouble. As an only child and something of an introvert I had treasured Sambo's company and I knew I would miss him terribly. He had been my constant companion for seven years.



Barbara E. Hosier

We never knew his origin because he came to us as a stray. My father Halford Hosier thought Sambo must have been thrown from a car because he limped badly and definitely was afraid of cars. When we drove from Norfolk, Va., to our new home in Alameda, Calif., he was the last one in and the last one out of the car at each stop. He seemed to be afraid we would abandon him as his previous owners had.

I was heartbroken when he died and I cried for hours after Dad came back from the veterinarian's with the sad news. Finally, emotionally drained and unable to cry any longer, I lay down on my bed. Then I heard a familiar sound: the tap-tap of Sambo's toenails on the bare floor coming toward the bedroom. The bed dipped as he jumped up and I could feel his body pressed against my side as he curled up in his usual spot. I reached to pet him but my hand touched only the blanket.

The same thing happened every night for over a week until I no longer so desperately needed the comfort of his presence. For I *was* comforted. I knew Sambo was letting me know he hadn't left me at all but still loved me and would stay with me as long as I needed him.

There never will be another dog like Sambo, loving even beyond death. — *San Jose, Calif.*

A THREE-WAY COMMUNICATION

By Lettice Edwards

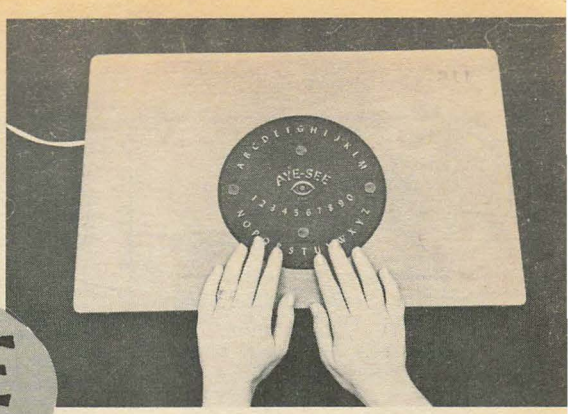
MY BROTHER Cedric Edwards and Hilton Harlow were great friends. Together they enjoyed many moose hunts and fishing trips in Shelburne County, Nova Scotia.

Cedric was inconsolable when Hilton was fatally injured on December 8, 1948. The truck in which he was a passenger collided with a train at a level crossing and he died four days later without regaining consciousness.

Five years later on the anniversary of his death — December 12 — my brother retired earlier than usual. His mind was occupied with the mechanical details of a car he was repairing and certainly Hilton was not in his thoughts when he went to bed.

He fell asleep promptly and then dreamed there was a knock on the back door. In walked Hilton as real as life. Cedric rushed forward saying, "Hiltie, how lovely it is to see you again."

They stood talking for a few minutes and Hilton laid his cap on the



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top of the cookstove as he always had in life. They heard footsteps approaching and Mother entered the room staring. Cedric turned to her and said eagerly, "Hiltie has come to visit us again."

My mother said, "Impossible! Hilton's dead." And Hilton turned to her and said in sad tones, "That's right, Mrs. Edwards. I'm dead."

Cedric awakened then but the dream had been so vivid that he felt badly shaken. At breakfast Mother noticed there was something wrong and asked him what was troubling him. He related his dream.

To his surprise she turned white as a sheet and started to tremble. She said in frightened tones, "I dreamed the same thing myself last night. I dreamed I heard voices in the kitchen and walked along the passage and opened the door. There stood Hilton talking to you. He had laid his cap on top of the warming oven and was standing beside it. You turned to me and said, 'Isn't it lovely! Hiltie has come to visit us again.' And I said, 'Impossible. Hilton's dead.' And Hilton said, 'That's right, Mrs. Edwards. I'm dead."

Isn't it strange that two people had an identical dream on the anniversary of Hilton's death? Is it possible the dead can return and communicate in this way? — *Sable River, N. S., Canada.*

MY NEW HOME

By Elizabeth J. Stundon

MY OLDER brother Harvey Jennings and I were very close while we were growing up in Americus, Ga. When he died in 1943 after a five-year bout with polio I lost my staunchest protector and friend, as well as a brother.

Two years later, on January 6, 1945, I met a soldier at the American Legion Hall, James Stundon, who was then stationed at Fort Benning. We immediately fell in love and by

the end of February we were planning to be married. As I had never left the state of Georgia for any extended period I anticipated the long trip to Jim's home in Wyoming as an exciting honeymoon.

One night just before we were married my brother Harvey appeared in my dreams. He seemed to come down into a corner of my room and then beckon me to join him. He took my hand and led me through a long dark tunnel which smelled of roses. We came out into the bright sunshine on a rim of small hills surrounding a city. We sat down on a rock and Harvey started pointing out things to me which I seemed to see as through a telescope. Then he drew my attention to a two-story brick house. To the left of the driveway was a large deep hole and behind this a row of some kind of sheds. Parked in the drive was a green coupe.

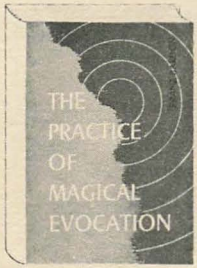
As we started to leave a short dark-haired man came out on the porch of the house and Harvey said, "This will be your home."

The dream was startlingly clear and I recounted it to my mother and some friends, then forgot about it.

On March 2, 1945, Jim and I were married in my home. In April he got a 30-day leave and we traveled cross-country to his home in Cheyenne. As we got out of the taxi on 20th Street the hair on the back of my neck seemed to rise. The house was just as I had seen it in my dream. The hole was an excavation for the basement of a new home; the sheds were a row of garages and my father-in-law's car was a green Dodge coupe. The man who came to the door to let us in was a short dark-haired man, my husband's brother Charles. — *Cheyenne, Wyo.*



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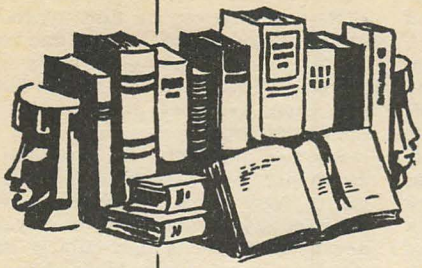
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By David Techter

ESP COMES TO NEW JERSEY

LAST YEAR in November I reported on an ambitious conference that took place in the state of Maine. Probably inspired by the success of that ESP meeting in Maine, the New Jersey Society of Parapsychology (P.O. Box 2071, Morristown, N.J. 07960) hosted a similar gathering this June 11-13 at Drew University in Madison, N.J. The tree-shaded campus was an inviting setting; the dormitories were comfortable as well as inexpensive; and the meals were excellent. And, as if this were not enough, the weather was ideal throughout. Nearly 500 enthusiastic conferees assembled.

The planned program was highly ambitious but unfortunately not all the name speakers attended. I particularly looked forward to meeting English medium Douglas Johnson who canceled at the last moment. Dr. Bernard Grad and Montague Ullman likewise were unable to appear. But the schedule was ample without them. Such well-known researchers as Douglas Dean (president of the organization), Karlis Osis, Stanley Krippner, Charles Honorton and Gertrude Schmeidler participated, along with Sister Justa Smith (of Buffalo's Human Dimensions Institute), sensitives Malcolm Bessent and Marie DeLoach, dowser John Shelley and authors Lynn Schroeder and Sheila Ostrander *(Psychic Discoveries Behind the Iron Curtain)*. First and not least was Dr. J. B. Rhine, the banquet speaker for Friday evening.

It had been about six years since I last saw Dr. Rhine, now in his 70's. Time is taking its toll as far as his sight and hearing are concerned and his voice was often difficult to catch even though amplified. But he still stands tall and proud and he speaks with zest and enthusiasm that would do credit to a man half his age. His chosen title was "Talking Sense About Parapsychology" and it illustrated beautifully the combination of confidence and caution one associates with Rhine's name. Rhine is keenly aware of the problems of contemporary parapsychology; the lack of money, the lack of trained investigators, the lack of any school where such investigators can be trained and above all the rivalry and lack of cooperation endemic in the field.

However, I take issue with J. B.'s remarks about "putting our limited

resources to work where we can best expect results." He ticked off about a dozen areas of investigation in which he feels research is "premature," including astral projection and reincarnation. Such areas, he feels, can yield no "final conclusions" at this time. I think the good doctor is bringing in the concept of "proof" (which he equates roughly with statistical probabilities of significant level) whereas I am inclined to think that throughout the vast majority of psychic phenomena the only operative word is "evidence" and that it is just as important to gather "evidence" as it is to acquire "proof." It was evident from the tone of remarks heard throughout the rest of the conference that many of the other attendants likewise disagreed with Rhine.

Differences of opinion aside, one still must give enormous credit to this man who struggled for so many years, a good portion of them virtually alone, to bring us to where we stand today.

AMATEURS SHINE

THE SUBJECT matter of most of the addresses at the conference were not especially novel to most FATE readers since the speakers stuck pretty much to already-familiar material. As Mrs. Armani of Parastudy remarked, "Anyone who is current on the literature of the psychic field knows most of this already. What is added here in the conference is a feel for the personality of the investigators themselves." And I do believe a goodly share of those in attendance probably had not heard most of the speakers in person before. Perhaps because I have heard most of them repeatedly, I was impressed most by those I hadn't heard previously. Lynn Schroeder and Sheila Ostrander, particularly, struck me as exceedingly able gals. Both are young and attractive (it always helps) and Lynn is an excellent speaker as well. Their presentation, followed by films of Nelya Mikhailova and slides of Kirlian photography, was enthusiastically received. (I was intrigued, too, to learn that Stan Krippner plans a visit to the Soviet Union.)

Another highlight for me was a group led by David McKnight, a young New York sensitive. It was intended as a workshop in psychic development and a particularly harmonious group assembled. After a few warm-up exercises, Dave did some serious work on healing. In the final "experiment" members of the circle gave their impressions on a name that Dave gave them. Nearly everyone in the room came forth with seemingly evidential material about Dave's young friend who had died earlier that same week. Of course it would have been even more impressive if each had recorded their impressions before hearing the others but it still was remarkable for an impromptu experiment with novices. I suggested to the planners of next year's program that they include more small group sessions.

And there *will* be a repeat conference next year. The N.J.S.P. already is negotiating with Drew University for a date in June of 1972. Interested readers may wish to write the Society for the details. Membership, I believe, is open to all persons interested at $15.00 a year. The meetings and study groups meet in the Morristown area only but the N.J.S.P. issues an informative newsletter describing their meetings which may interest those who live elsewhere.

The Society is unique in one respect. The president, Douglas Dean, is an eminent parapsychologist. The executive secretary, Ethel DeLoach, and the editor of the newsletter, Sidney Porcelain, both are gifted sensitives. It is rare in the psychic field to find such close cooperation

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between the researcher and the psychic. This Society is certainly to be commended for its progress to date and especially for the excellent conference it presented.

A RECENT COMPLAINT

IT IS NOT often that I receive a complaint concerning the highly favorable mention of a book, a journal or an organization. When I reported in June on my visit to Toronto, with news of what seemed exciting developments there, I certainly did not expect to be censured for my audacity in publishing my account "without . . . knowledge or permission."

Numerous organizations contact me practically begging me to mention them in FATE, but to our neighbors to the north "a vast number of letters of enquiry" represent simply a confounded nuisance.

In the true spirit of international goodwill, the letter continues: "It is particularly irritating in that FATE is a U.S. magazine. We are a Canadian organization; our support is local; we have no desire for widespread contacts in the U.S."

With regret, I retract my favorable remarks and suggest that our non-Canadian readers divert their interest and resources elsewhere. I never as yet have asked permission or cleared a text prior to publication (as numerous parties can testify) and I have no intention of starting that policy now.

WITCHCRAFT REEXAMINED

ONE NEVER can be sure how seriously to take the "blurb" on a dust jacket. The volume often turns out to be quite different from the description of it. This certainly is the case with *Death by Enchantment* by Julian Franklyn (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, N.Y. 1971, 244 pages, $6.95).

The blurb contains the statement:

"We read of witches all over the world, white and otherwise, of their imps and familiars, necromancy, demonic possession and love philters." Alas, the reader will search in vain for material on necromancy, demonic possession and love philters. And except for an extended discussion of the Salem witch trials and occasional references to the Continent, the book deals entirely with the British Isles.

Still less is it true that "Mr. Franklyn traces the course of witchcraft from pre-Christian practices to modern covens of middle-aged housewives casting spells in suburbia." He specifically ridicules Margaret Murray's thesis that the witch religion is a remnant of the ancient pre-Christian nature religion. He ventures no opinion as to its origin or even as to its existence prior to the contemporary cults. The vast bulk of his material concerns the witchcraft trials prior to 1700. And if there is a valid case of "death by enchantment" in the book I failed to find it. The book is further marred by numerous instances of repetitive information, including long direct quotes within a few pages of each other. Franklyn died upon completion of the volume so perhaps he had planned to go through the manuscript again. But certainly whoever edited the manuscript for publication could have deleted the redundant passages.

However, let me hasten to add, the book is not without interest. Witchcraft is a fascinating subject and Franklyn has assembled a lot of material relating to witchcraft trials. His footnotes refer readers to more detailed sources and there is an excellent summary of the major literature contemporary with the trials, both pro and con.

What never is spelled out adequately is Franklyn's own opinion as to the reality of witchcraft. Most of his discussions suggest that the al-

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leged witches were elderly victims of malicious neighbors and that their confessions were extracted by torture. Yet, a few chapters later, he will cite details of these confessions to prove that witches possess paranormal abilities. He frequently quotes the arguments of the witch persecutors and at times I am unclear as to whether he is ridiculing these or agreeing with them.

When he discusses modern witch cults his attitude is strongly negative and he expresses dismay that the anti-witchcraft laws were repealed. Apparently he bases his conviction that witchcraft is real on a couple of exceedingly destructive females he has known. These are case studies in psychopathology but even granting that these women used psychic attack, I fail to see how they therefore are "witches" in league with the Devil. Readers will undoubtedly be reminded of acquaintances of their own who possess these destructive qualities to a lesser degree. I personally should like much more solid evidence before believing anything other than emotional illness is involved.

Readers who are well read in the field of witchcraft likely will wish to peruse this book also but it can be recommended only with reservations and for those who desire basic information.

OTHER REVIEWS

THE WORLD OF SERENDIPITY by Marcus Bach, Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1970, 167 pages, $4.95.

Most literary people know that the word "serendipity," much used nowadays, originated two centuries ago as a happy invention of the prolific letter-writer Horace Walpole from Serendip, the ancient name for Ceylon. (Mountains of correspondence from Strawberry Hill have kept a "Walpole Factory" at Yale Universi-

ty busy for several decades editing and publishing his letters.)

In a letter of January 28, 1754, to Sir Horace Mann, Walpole (1717-1797) calls the word "serendipity" "a very expressive word" and explains how he coined it: "I once read a silly fairy tale, called 'The Three Princes of Serendip'; as their Highnesses traveled, they were always making discoveries, by accident and sagacity, of things which they were not in quest of. . ." Dictionaries now define the word as "the gift of finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for."

Marcus Bach has read some version of the old Persian story and has used it as a point of departure for his book. (He does not tell us which version he refers to even when he quotes large parts of the story at the end of his book. There is in fact no documentation here at all. Walpole's copy was a French publication, *Voyage . . . des Trois Princes de Serendip*, printed in 1721). Bach has taken various episodes from the story and attempted to relate them to "positive thinking" in modern life.

In short chapters based largely on personal experience and anecdote he discusses haphazardly and quite informally the idea of chance, the unexpected, probabilities, cycles, "your GSF" (Great Stone Face: "the thing you set your mind on is the thing you become") and the like. Wholesome shibboleths taken from the story are underlined and emphasized: *Surprise yourself!* "What happened, happened either for your growth or for your guidance." And along with the Persian princess one encounters all types of characters mixed in the author's personal experience — from Bach's Aunt Selma (a "fate maker") to Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer (whose ultimate fate represents, for Bach, serendipity.)

A major gaffe appears on page two

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where Horace Walpole is identified as the Earl of Oxford. (Has Prentice-Hall no literate editorial assistants?) Walpole became the fourth Earl of *Orford* late in life (1791) after having succeeded to the Orford title and lands upon the death of his nephew.

If you find uplift of spirit in a booming optimism, in hearty cheerfulness, in a constant bombardment of "positive-thinking" clichés ("Think!" "Open your mind!" "Be insightful!"), this book will be just your cup of tea. Most FATE readers, however, probably will prefer an approach that offers more spiritual depth and meaning. Some even may hunt up a copy of the old Persian fairy tale (Atheneum Press brought out a modernized version by Elizabeth Jamison Hodges in 1964) to see just what appealed to 18th-Century intellectuals — with their great interest in Orientalia, in travel and in the philosophical story emphasizing character development (the forerunner of the so-called *Bildungsroman* or "educational novel"). All these traits are beautifully illustrated in "The Three Princes of Serendip" — and discovering them may be a most serendipitous experience for modern readers. — *Nan Cooke Carpenter.*

INVISIBLE RESIDENTS by Ivan T. Sanderson, World Publishing Co., New York, N. Y., 1970, 248 pages, $7.50.

Ivan Sanderson is one of the venerables of Forteana, a biologist by training and a good-humored iconoclast by temperament. He writes prolifically and his books never are bad — only, as the saying goes, some are better than others. *Invisible Residents* is one that is better. In fact, it probably is some kind of classic.

Here as always Sanderson has his chatty writing style going for him. Even if the reader chooses to reject out of hand the possibilities inherent

in "a disquisition upon certain matters maritime, and the possibility of intelligent life under the waters of this earth" (as *Invisible Residents* is subtitled) he cannot help being entertained by the author's cheery brashness and sometimes breathtaking speculations. The trouble with most Fortean writers is that they do not write well — in contrast with Charles Fort himself who was a master stylist — but Sanderson has no trouble evoking the mood as well as the substance of the Fortean world view.

Invisible Residents presents a minimum of rehash and a considerable amount of fresh material dealing with mysteries of the oceans. Basically it is a UFO book. It opens with an astonishing report from the Antarctic: " . . . 'Something' . . . suddenly came roaring up out of the sea through no less than 37 feet of ice and went on up into the sky like a vast silvery bullet." The witness was a Brazilian scientist. Inevitably the book touches on the Bermuda Triangle about which Sanderson reports some startling discoveries and draws some striking conclusions. One chapter deals with "Supramarine Time Anomalies" and another, "Submarine 'Lightwheel'" which harks back to a July 1964 FATE article by Wallace L. Minto.

Chapter II which deals with unidentified submarine objects is especially fascinating. It opens up whole new vistas for those for whom unidentified flying objects have begun to pall.

Sanderson's guesses about the Causes of It All are meant to be taken only slightly more seriously than some of Fort's more outrageous tongue-in-cheek dicta, I'm sure, but they're highly interesting and it is certainly no virtue to keep too strict a rein on the imagination when engaged in the study of phenomena whose implications boggle the mind. Sanderson suggests that a super-

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intelligent race, possibly but not necessarily extraterrestrial, has set up bases of operation on the ocean floor. After all, as he points out, "That some (UFOs) live in the sea is no more balmy a notion than that some of them live in the sky, in inner space or on other solid bodies in outer space."

I guess not. Read this one and wonder. — *Jerome Clark.*

VARNEY THE VAMPIRE by Thomas Preskett Prest, Foreword by Robert Block and Introduction by Devendra Varma and Margaret Carter, Arno Press, New York, N.Y., 1970, 868 pages (3 vols.), $35.00.

Apart from *Dracula* I can think of no more famous vampire story than the 1847 penny dreadful, *Varney the Vampire.* Until now *Varney* has been almost as rare as it was famous. Few original copies are in existence. Montague Summers, the famous authority on vampirism and gothic literature, in his attempt to secure a copy of *Varney* offered huge sums of money — in vain.

It would be difficult to summarize the plot of this huge work which now has been reprinted by Arno Press. The various plots center around Flora Bannerworth, the first to be attacked by the vampire, and her suspected attacker, Sir Francis Varney. Obviously to fill 868 pages there must be subplot after subplot, victim after victim, fair women sprawled over beds, gushing blood *ad infinitum.*

Varney the Vampire is an historical — not a literary — masterpiece. By modern standards the writing is melodramatic, even corny. But the engravings alone make the three volumes worthwhile.

My own interest in *Varney* stems from the odd coincidence of plot and description between Varney and the famous Croglin Grange Vampire. The June 1968 issue of FATE carries my article "exposing" the Croglin

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Grange Vampire as a plagiarism from *Varney* and thus a hoax. At that time I had read only the first chapter of *Varney* and it seemed the model for Croglin Grange as recounted in Augustus Hare's autobiography. However, I was not aware that in Great Britain, Clive-Ross had published an article in *Tomorrow* entitled "The Croglin Vampire." Clive-Ross had gone to the scene where he was able to discover that the story of the Croglin Vampire actually was recorded in the 1720's — before *Varney* was published. The date generally accepted for the Croglin incident was 1875. Apparently this throws my criticism into question since it turns out that *Varney* may have been based on the Croglin Grange Vampire!

This new edition of *Varney* indicates the correctness of Clive-Ross' opinion that the authenticity of the Croglin Grange Vampire is still an open issue. Many chapters of *Varney* resemble the account of the Grange Vampire and some of the illustrations for *Varney* seem to be based on the Grange account. Thus the problem arises: although it seems that *Varney* was based on the Grange Vampire, was the latter remodeled to conform to *Varney* after its publication?

The enigma is answered in the original 1847 preface which is reprinted here for the first time. It reads in part, "A belief in the existence of Vampyres first took rise in Norway and Sweden, from whence it rapidly spread to more southern regions . . . the following romance is collected from seemingly the most authentic sources and the Author must leave the question of credibility entirely to his readers. . . ." This makes it certain that *Varney* was based on the Croglin Grange Vampire and not vice versa as I had charged.

These new volumes contain an es-

say by Devendra Varma claiming an Asiatic origin for the vampire legend. However, since the vampire legend is so universal one must read Varma with reserve. He seems unaware of European vampire lore. His scholarship on Asiatic traditions is excellent but I question his qualifications for commenting on the psychoanalytic implications of vampire legends. For comments on this aspect of vampire belief, readers should consult Ornella Volta's recently-translated book, *The Vampire*. Margaret Carter's introduction on the vampire in literature is much more complete than Dudley Wright's chapter on this topic in his now out-of-print *Vampires and Vampirism*. — *D. Scott Rogo.*

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE SOUL by Benito F. Reyes, The Theosophical Publishing House, Wheaton, Ill., 1970, 259 pages, $6.95.

Dr. Benito Reyes points out in the introduction to this book that the word "psychology" literally means the science of the soul although psychology today is wholly body-oriented, avoids the word soul and in general fosters materialistic philosophy. His own thesis is that the phenomena of existence are explained best in terms of the reality of a nonphysical soul which instead of being a part of the body actually uses the body as its instrument.

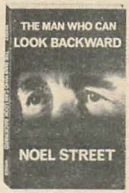
Dr. Reyes, the first president of the University of the City of Manila, has had a long career as professor in the Philippines and as a teacher and lecturer at universities in the United States.

Dr. Reyes says the book, a revision of one published in the Philippines in 1949, brings to Western psychology the soul-oriented Eastern viewpoint. In introductory chapters he stresses convincingly the necessity of recognizing the soul if civili-

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zation is to survive morally and spiritually.

Reyes' case for the soul centers on the significance of consciousness, especially self-consciousness, in its various manifestations, for consciousness is the great enigma that physical science and materialism cannot solve. And obviously only through consciousness does *anything* acquire meaning or significance.

Turning to the phenomena of parapsychology Reyes stresses the great importance of the out-of-the-body experience (though labeling it "traveling clairvoyance" which strictly speaking denotes a more limited phenomenon) and even claims that he has experienced it on a number of occasions. He lists some striking examples of normal mental functioning after massive brain damage, most of them taken from an article by Vincent H. Gaddis in an early issue of FATE (Vol I, No. 2, 1948).

Whatever the shortcomings of some of the author's arguments he still has succeeded in making materialism seem absurdly shortsighted. He has done a fine job of backing his claim that when all facts are considered the best explanation is the one that concedes the existence of a nonphysical entity corresponding to the soul, that ancient but persistent concept that meaningful religion never has doubted. — *Harold Steinour.*

RITUAL MAGIC IN ENGLAND (1887 to the Present Day) by Francis King, Neville Spearman, Ltd., London, England, 1970.

Ritual Magic in England, soon to be available in an American edition, is the most informative book on ceremonial magic to appear in 20 years. It is at once scholarly and entertainingly written, a far cry from some of the recent books on magic produced mainly to cash in on the revival of interest in the occult.



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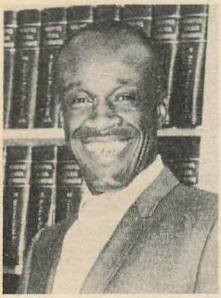
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Mr. King focuses most of his attention on the Golden Dawn and Crowleyan systems of magic and it becomes clear that the greater part of ritual methodology in Western occultism today stems from these two sources.

Fascinating bits of heretofore unpublished information will hold special interest for those who have read Israel Regardie's *The Golden Dawn* or any of the recently republished works of Aleister Crowley. The various intrigues and scandals which constantly cropped up in the Magical Orders are fully detailed.

The deterioration of the original Order of the Golden Dawn into splinter groups is traced and a particularly interesting chapter titled "Dr. Felkin's Astral Junkies" shows that lacking strong leadership these groups became enmeshed in a wave of pseudospiritualism. They lost all integrity as magic orders and membership in any of these groups was downright hazardous to one's mental health.

The book contains brief accounts of some lesser personalities in magic such as Frater Achad (Charles Stansfield Jones), Gerald Gardiner, Paul Foster Case, Dion Fortune, A. O. Spare — all of whom sprang from the original Golden Dawn or Crowleyan magical systems.

Many readers of Mr. King's book may be surprised to learn that two figures whose teachings are respected today once were closely related to the "O.T.O.," a Crowleyan order which has received some rather sinister publicity. Rudolph Steiner, who later founded the Anthroposophical Society, was an early member of the Continental branch of the O.T.O. and no doubt derived some inspiration from this order. And L. Ron Hubbard, who later founded Scientology, was closely associated in the 1940's with an O.T.O. branch in California headed by a brilliant rocket-fuel

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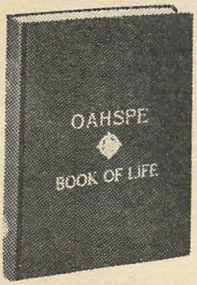
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chemist, Jack Parsons. Mr. King's documentation shows Hubbard in a somewhat dubious light.

Francis King has given us a sorely-needed presentation of many of the obscure aspects of the Western Magical Tradition and its recent development. In placing this tradition in its proper perspective, *Ritual Magic in England* is invaluable both to exponents of "the Art" and to those who recently have acquired an interest in the subject. — *Donald B. Hanlon.*

ALSO NOTABLE

THE VOICE OF THE SILENCE, A Quest Miniature, Theosophical Publishing House, Wheaton, Ill., 1970, 94 pages, $1.00.

These chosen fragments from *The Book of the Golden Precepts*, translated and annotated by HPB, is called a classic of Eastern wisdom. First published in 1889 its timeless message is expressed in poetic beauty of language and imagery.

LIGHT ON THE PATH, A Quest Miniature, Theosophical Publishing House, Wheaton, Ill., 1970, 39 pages, $1.00.

Recorded by "M.C." these brief aphorisms are intended as guidance and instruction for those who aspire to tread the path of spiritual unfoldment. First published in 1885, its sources are said to be ancient.

AT THE FEET OF THE MASTER by Alcyone, A Quest Miniature Theosophical Publishing House, Wheaton, Ill. 1970, 71 pages, $1.00.

When he was only a boy Alcyone (J. Krishnamurti) wrote down the precepts for right living, the words of the Master who taught him.

THE DARK WORLD OF WITCHES by Eric Maple, Pegasus, New York, N.Y., 1970, 209 pages, $1.95 (paperback).

Eric Maple sees witchcraft as one of the greatest tragedies of the human race, consuming thousands in a holocaust of blood and sorrow. Telling the story of witchcraft from the beginnings of magic until the present day, this book reveals the secret lore handed down through time in the form of macabre legends, some of which never before have appeared in print.

THE EMERGING SELF by Ernest C. Wilson, Unity Books, Lee's Summit, Mo., 1970, 191 pages, $3.95.

In a series of essays a cut above the run-of-the-mill "inspirational" writing, Ernest Wilson brings original thinking to the human predicament and expresses comforting interpretations of religious ideas.

Report FROM THE Readers

THE GREAT UFO JOYRIDE

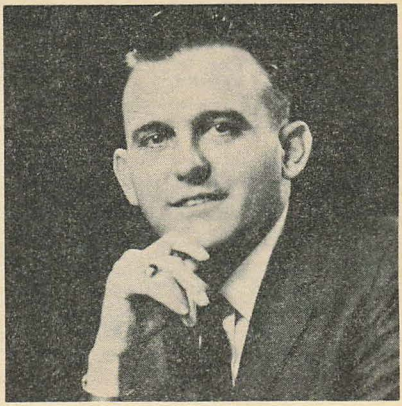
It is reassuring to realize that long after the glow of Mr. Kron's embittered memory grows dim, the fruits of good action will continue to uplift mankind. Even if only one human being was or is helped by the sincere efforts of Wesley and JoNell Bateman, then their efforts, regardless of ridicule or misunderstanding, are worthwhile and acceptable in the Master Plan of the Infinite Creator of All.

To Wes and JoNell I sincerely offer my thanks for the two years you shared with me while working to impart information for the betterment of Earth. You certainly helped me to overcome completely the handicap of taking drugs, helped me to more fully understand Creative Energy (the Charge Force), the Two Sides of the Wheel, Earth's Frequency Barrier, the Reality of Jesus Christ and Earth's role in the unfolding Age. For this more thorough understanding I thank you. I am with you 100 percent. You are my Brother and Sister in our Universal Family. . . . And even if I am only a "hippie along for the ride," I consider it a privilege to have spent two years on the finest education this earth has to offer.

It would be interesting to see how many others have had enriching en-

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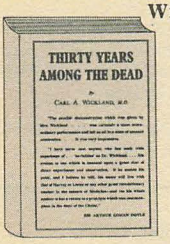
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counters with Wes and JoNell Bateman. Who is willing to speak and be heard? — *Cyndia Valree Hanna, Los Angeles, Calif.*

A MISGUIDED AUTHOR

A book recently published and authored by "Dick" Webb titled *Great Ghosts of the West* contains a number of statements purportedly made by me. The author did not consult me and all the statements as detailed below are totally and completely false!

"They reported this incident to Mr. Bayless of Duke University Psychology team. . . ." (page 61).

I am not and never have been connected with Duke University and to the best of my knowledge there is no "Duke University Psychology team."

"On that same occasion, Mr. Bayless was sitting in the hallway. There were 13 people present in the house at the time. . . . All of a sudden, a window in the bathroom went up about a foot. The door was open, so Mr. Bayless could see either down the hall, or into the bathroom, and he watched it closely." (page 61).

I was on the premises referred to, investigating an alleged haunting but I was not sitting in a hallway. In truth I was sitting in a living room and could not see into a hallway. I did not see a window either open or close.

"Mr. Bayless from Duke University said that he was a ghost writer, probably meaning he could do automatic writing. He positioned himself in the hallway with a pad of legal paper and allowed Noel to enter his body, as he put it, take over his hand and do some writing. Bayless said he doesn't know Spanish at all and became very excited at what was coming through. . . ." (page 64).

Again, I am not "from Duke University," did not say that I was a ghost writer (whatever that means),

do not do automatic writing, was not in a hallway, did not have a pad of legal paper, did not allow a supposed spirit to enter my body and I did not "do some writing." These statements are false.

"It was now explained by Bayless that ghosts, like us, have to take a vacation once in a while, rejuvenate themselves, get a change of locale. After all, they are much like us." (page 65).

These remarks were not made by me. I do not know any of these things and I never would make such statements! — *Raymond Bayless, Los Angeles, Calif.*

ERRATA

Thanks for publishing my letter "Jesus in Japan" in the September 1971 FATE. However I made a mistake in the matter of the time of the Tokugawa Shoguns' rule. I should have said the Christians "were persecuted by the Tokugawa Shoguns in the 17th Century," not the 16th.

Actually the Tokugawa Shoguns ruled Japan from 1603 to 1867. Prior to that, the Ashikaga Shoguns ruled Japan from 1338 to 1597 and before that the Minamoto Clan Shoguns held the Shogunate from 1192 to 1333. — *K. M. Nikaido, San Francisco, Calif.*

A SMALL QUIBBLE

I have but one small quibble with your very fair-minded review (July 1971) of my book, *A Modern Look at Monsters* — in fact, more of a question than a quibble.

Your reviewer, Lucius Farish, objects to my calling an 1886 California report of a Bigfoot-type creature "the oldest known published account" in the United States. He says, "Actually, such reports go back at least to the 1850's, perhaps further."

I'm aware that stories about Bigfoot-type creatures date from earlier times but if there are indeed earlier *published* accounts I certainly would



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like to know about them. — *Daniel Cohen, Monticello, N.Y.*

LUCIUS FARISH REPLIES:

As to published sightings of Bigfoot-like creatures which predate the 1886 California report cited by Mr. Cohen, in *Year of the Sasquatch* (reviewed in May 1961 FATE), author John Green presents a report from the journal of one David Thompson telling of a Bigfoot sighting circa 1811. I do not have the Green book at hand so I can't say whether other such pre-1886 accounts are in that book. My memory leaves something to be desired!

Other reports of hairy man-like creatures may be found in J. Frank Dobie's book, *Tales of Old-Time Texas;* in the New Orleans, La., *Times-Picayune* of May 16, 1851; in *Le Voleur* of Paris, France, for August 15, 1862; and the Butte, Calif., *Record* of November 5, 1870. In addition to these references, the story of a "wild man" roaming the Arkansas-Louisiana border was published in a Louisiana paper, the *Caddo Gazette,* in 1858, probably in an April issue. This same story later was reprinted by the *New York Tribune,* also presumably in April of that year.

Doubtless many other such "creature" reports are reposing in newspaper files throughout the country. So far as I know, no extensive research into the historical aspects of this subject is being done. — *Lucius Farish, Plumerville, Ark.*

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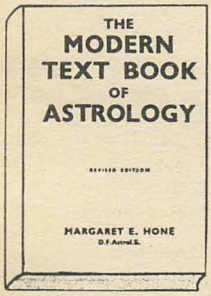
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I wish to thank everyone who wrote to me. I am sorry I couldn't accommodate you all. — *Mrs. Dorothy Carlock, Clinton, Iowa.*

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Years later my father attended a spiritualist seance and the medium said, "I see a man coming toward you carrying a violin. It is the size of a bass viol but I can see that it is a violin. He wants to tell you something." — *Josephine Browne, Thomas, Okla.*

THE ARK OF THE CONTROVERSY

The article by Howard Rand on "The Long Wrong Search for Noah's Ark" (March 1971 FATE) was interesting — but modern scholarship is agreed that the ancient name of Armenia is the Urartu of the ancient cuneiform inscriptions, the Ararat of

the Bible, the landing place of Noah's ark in the mountainous region of that ancient country.

Flavius Josephus, the Jewish historian, in his *Jewish Antiquities* written about 94 A.D., says Noah's ark settled on a mountaintop in Armenia and that the Armenians in his day called that spot "Apobaterion" or "The Landing Place." For "it was there that the ark came safe to land and they show the relics of it to this day."

Josephus also says, "This flood and the ark are mentioned by all who have written histories of the barbarians. Among these is Berosus the Chaldean, who writes somewhat as follows: 'It is said, moreover, that a portion of the vessel still survives in Armenia on the mountain of the Kordyaeans (modern Kurdistan?), and that persons carry off pieces of the bitumen, which they use as talismans.' These matters are also mentioned by Hieronymus the Egyptian, author of the ancient history of Phoenicia, by Mnaseas and by many others. Nikolaos of Damascus in his 96th book relates the story: 'There is above the country of Minyada in Armenia a great mountain called Baris where, as the story goes, many refugees found safety at the time of the flood, and one man, transported upon an ark, grounded upon the summit, and relics of the timber were for long preserved; this might well be the same man of whom Moses, the Jewish legislator, wrote.' Noah, fearing that God, having sentenced mankind to annihilation, might annually inundate the earth, offered burnt-sacrifices and besought Him to maintain for the future the primitive order and inflict no more such calamity."

Modern scholars tell us, "In its biblical sense Ararat means in general the Armenian highlands, the lofty plateaus which overlook the plain of the Araxes River on the

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north and that of Mesopotamia on the south. In this neighborhood, native Armenians now assign all the associations connected with Noah's flood, while Europeans have given the name Ararat exclusively to the mountain which the Armenians call Massis." The Turks call it Agri-Dagh or "Step Mountain" while the Persians call it "Kuh-i-Nuh" or "Noah's Mountain." It rises immediately out of the plain of the Araxes River and terminates in two conical peaks, called Great Ararat and Less Ararat, about seven miles apart.

Since Noah's ark was not over 632 feet long, it could not possibly have "rested" on these two mountain peaks. To be logical we must think of the ark as "resting" or "landing" upon some other point in the "mountains of Ararat."

From a statement in *Genesis 11:1-9* it seems that Noah and all his family moved down the Tigris River to a warm place in the east, where they settled. Later, some of their descendants moved west to a plain in the land of Shinar.

We must keep in mind that for hundreds of years after the great flood of Noah's time the entire earth to about the 40th degree of latitude north of the equator was covered with ice and snow. This forced all men who then lived to settle in those regions where the climate allowed them to make their living. This is the reason they spread from east to west and from Noah's original home near the Persian Gulf toward the east — but always south of that 40th degree of latitude. If this always had been kept in mind by the writers of world history, there would have been no confusion about where the decendants of Noah settled after the great flood had ended. — *Delmar H. Bryant, Wooster, Ohio.*

* * *

Howard B. Rand declares "Persons who are familiar with the Bible

account of the flood are astounded at the manifest ignorance concerning the actual geographical location where the Ark came to rest." He is more ignorant than those he falsely accuses, basing his lies on his assumption that if the waters covered the highest mountains by 30 feet the Ark could not have lodged on Mt. Ararat in Armenia.

Genesis 8:3 loudly reflects Mr. Rand's woeful or wilful ignorance of the Scriptures. This verse declares the waters left the earth *before* the ark came to rest. Thus it could have rested on the lowest of mountains on this earth. — *Merritt Neulin, Hellertown, Pa.*

* * *

It is my theory there never was a Noah's ark. Moses wrote the book of *Genesis* with no material knowledge of the flood. Therefore he hypothesized about a flood that covered the earth and destroyed every living thing except Noah, his family and two of each kind of creature who survived in an ark.

The creation itself and everything that happened before his time were Moses' hypotheses. Actual biblical history and actual history started only with the prophets after Moses and Moses drew his hypotheses from legends. — *Otto Davidson, Los Angeles, Calif.*

A CHANGE OF PLANS

I seldom dream but a few minutes before 3:00 A.M. Monday, September 21, 1970, I dreamed that my good friend, the admired psychic Dr. Anthony Camardo, was one of the passengers on a steamship en route to Puerto Rico when suddenly a wave came from nowhere and washed him overboard. The deck was not wet and no one else on the ship was disturbed. Another friend, Dr. Herman Brostoff, figured in the dream and he smiled and tried to assure me that all was well. In an atmosphere of bright

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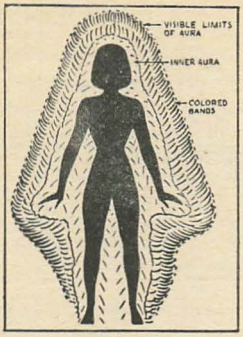


Diagram of normal aura based on W. J. Kilner, M.D.

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sunlight throughout the dream, the boat stopped — but I couldn't find Tony either on the ship or in the water around it. My consternation awakened me.

About 10:15 that morning a phone call came from Dr. Camardo — who was in Chicago! We have known him for years and have spoken and taught at various times in his First Liberal Psychic Science Church there. He has spoken and demonstrated his outstanding psychism for our 1967 and 1969 Midwest Regional Religious Research Seminars. However, we knew he had sold the church and had planned to retire to Puerto Rico.

But his plans had changed, he told us on the phone, and instead of going to Puerto Rico he had taken an apartment in Chicago and will continue to have private appointments and teach classes there.

Then I remembered the dream. Was it to tell me of his change of plans? Or was it simply a premonition of his phone call? Whatever the explanation the dream was true. All was well but he didn't go to Puerto Rico. — *The Rev. C. Franklin Loehr, Princeton, N.J.*

DRIBBLE ON SILVER PLATTER

Recently I was unfortunate enough to read one of your back issues (December 1969) and may I say it's the worst bunch of dribble ever dished out to the American public on a silver platter? — *Susan M. Wylie, Raynham, Mass.*

HOUSE OF UNQUESTIONED FAME

In the April 1961 FATE you published my article, "Haunted House in South Carolina." It might interest your readers to know that the house since has acquired three distinctions unusual for haunted houses. It has been restored to its original appearance as built in 1789. It has been

(Continued on page 159)

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REPORT FROM THE READERS
(Continued from page 148)

moved about a mile from its original site to serve as the headquarters offices of the Historic Camden Restoration. And it retains at its new site the ghostly phenomena which so disturbed the family who last occupied it as a residence.

When it was acquired for the Restoration, architects made an intensive study of the building, then removed the unsightly additions which had been made to the stately single room. It now has been meticulously restored and decorated in authentic style. Called the Craven House for its builder, it now stands near two restored log houses of the post-Revolutionary period, just outside the rebuilt palisade with which the British surrounded the town of Camden when Lord Cornwallis established his headquarters there and built fortifications.

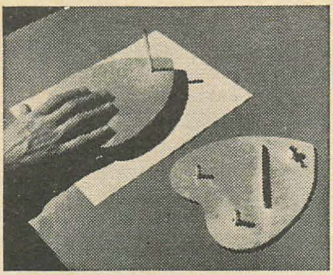
When I asked the custodian if the house retained its "haunt" after it was moved he admitted that it had. He said he had heard the strange buzzing which sometimes was heard before the house was moved and that sometimes visitors were shocked to walk into a spot of icy cold in the big room.

The custodian, however, said that it did not disturb him and added, almost apologetically, that he had grown up in a haunted house in another part of town. When it became too much for his mother's nerves they moved and the "ghost" apparently followed them. Once in their new house he had seen a tall Lincolnesque man sitting on their sofa who quickly disappeared when he entered the living room. So mere noises and unexpected cold spots in the Craven House hardly seemed upsetting to him.

However, he pointed out that the building was seldom open at night and he seemed to think not many

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persons would care to see what occurs in the house after dark, considering the reputation the place has, for everyone connected with the Restoration has heard of the article in FATE. — *Lee R. Gandee, Lexington, S.C.*

INVISIBLE WORLD ON TAPE

In "Spirit Voices Tape-Recorded" by Rolf Schaffranke (July 1970 FATE) I read about the magnetic tapes recording unusual sounds. A similar phenomenon occurred in our very quiet home when my music teacher recorded songs he wanted me to learn on the guitar.

If I remember correctly Mr. Schaffranke theorized that voices from an invisible world are recording on the tape. I heard organ music and voices in the background between the songs my teacher had recorded. When I called my husband's attention to the phenomena he was amazed. He is a Presbyterian minister and his answer, when I discussed the FATE article with him, was, "Why not? It could be so."

My teacher recorded the songs near a beautiful 250-year-old Louis XIV music cabinet which stands in our living room. Could the sounds have emanated from the cabinet? — *Mrs. Robert L. Stone, Nevada, Mo.*

HELP WANTED

I am trying to locate a woman who goes by the name of "Sister Ann." She is a Cherokee Indian who removes curses by using an egg. Her last known address was 221 Vine St., Evansville, Ind. If any reader knows her whereabouts please write c/o FATE — *B. J. P., Owensboro, Ky.*

* * *

I am assembling any and all kinds of biographical material pertaining to Eugene Fersen, the founder of the Light Bearers and the author of *Is There a God?* and *Science of Being.*

I knew this strange man personally

but much mystery still surrounds his background in Europe as well as his activities here in America and Hawaii. He was a nephew of Count Leo Tolstoy and his followers always called him Baron Fersen.

Any information FATE readers can give me will be appreciated. — *Stephen R. Lyter, 3129 W. Logan Blvd., Chicago, Ill. 60647.*

* * *

Can any FATE reader help me find Madam Pearl? I would like to know where she lives for what newspaper she now writes. In her column she gives advice on horse-racing, including names and numbers of the horses. — *Loudel Acevedo, 92 - 7th Ave., Apt. 12B, Newark, N. J. 07104.*

* * *

I would like to hear from anyone who has had any type of out-of-the-body experience. Please write me giving as much detail as possible. — *Weeks Parker, P.O. Box 572, Fayetteville, N.C. 28302.*

GUSTAF STROMBERG'S WRITINGS

Since the publication of my two-part article, "Dr. Gustaf Stromberg's Nonphysical World" (May and June 1971 FATE), I have received so many requests for information about where his writings may be obtained that I have compiled the following:

Dr. Stromberg's *Soul of the Universe, The Searchers* and *Man, Mind and the Universe* are now published in paperback by the Educational Research Institute, P.O. Box 4203, North Hollywood, Calif. 91607. The Institute also publishes Paul E. Sabine's *Atoms, Men and God.*

Dr. Stromberg's treatises on "Psychic Phenomena and Modern Science," "God's Place in Modern Science" and "Space, Time and Eternity" may be obtained from the Astara Foundation, 261 South Mariposa Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90004. — *James Crenshaw, Los Angeles, Calif.*

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∞ We tend to think the werewolf is a creature of European folklore. But would you believe a wolf cult flourished in North America about 1,000 years ago?

∞ Margueritte Harmon Bro speculates on the things Peter Hurkos can and can't do and recalls for us some of the healings she has seen him perform, the psychic knowledge she has heard him relay.



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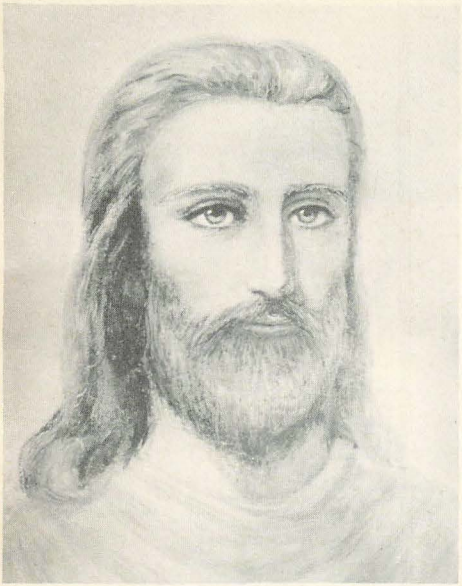
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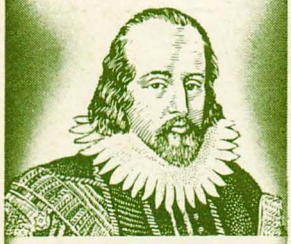
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