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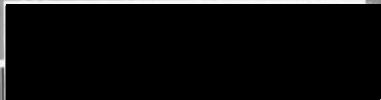
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MARSHALL N. LEVER is a numerologist, philosopher and trance medium, who has lectured and counselled worldwide, appearing on TV and radio shows both in America and Europe. He is author of a number of successful books, the latest, *The Secrets of the Ancient Sages* (New Discoveries in Numerology) is to be published this fall by Wisdom Books, Inc.

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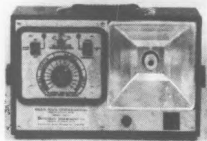
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I SEE BY THE PAPERS



by Curtis Fuller

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Scientists have now discovered that there are situations in which man has been observed to know facts and events, the appreciation of which has been bridged by means other than the five senses. Although these occasional observations have not yet met the criterion of scientific repeatability, their persistent recurrence has caused many scientists to pursue the subject more intensively. The challenge now presents itself to the scientific community to reexamine the fundamental postulates upon which all theories of information perception and processing are based.

— Andrija Puharich, M.D.

WITHIN 24 hours of the time the Teton Dam in Eastern Idaho collapsed on June 5, 1976, Dr. Lucille Wood-Trost began gathering precognitive reports of the event. The dam collapsed with enormous property damage but fairly small loss of life — only 11 persons died in the disaster — but its awesome destruction severely affected the lives of hundreds of families.

Wood-Trost, who lives not far from the flood area, has now published the results of her research in the June 1981 issue of the *Journal of the Society*

for Psychological Research. She describes 18 reports of precognition she received after appealing to radio and television audiences for help in gathering them. She concludes that she would be unlikely to hear from the persons most directly affected by the disaster because of the severe dislocation of their lives at the time.

Here are some of the most striking cases:

- A 25-year-old woman had a series of three dreams during the week before the dam collapsed; in these dreams a neighbor's goats were washed downstream and drowned. In fact the goats were moved onto an island in the Snake River the day before the dam broke and they all did drown. The woman had not known of plans to move the goats. And she had described the dream to her husband ahead of the flood.
- Another woman, 50 to 55 years old, who lives in Texas, dreamed four to six hours before the dam collapsed that she and her family were going to Idaho to visit her sister. As they crossed the Snake River bridge huge waves began to wash over it and eventually snapped it in half. She and her family made it to the other side of the river but looked back to see people,

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cars and houses falling into the raging waters. The bridge referred to in the dream was destroyed by the flood. And the dreamer had described her dream to her husband, a psychologist, before the dam break.

- A 48-year-old woman lay down to take a nap a week before the dam collapsed and had a hypnogogic vision as she was falling asleep. She saw a hillside where people in white were working over injured persons. She was so upset she jumped up immediately to think about the vision. At the time she believed it presaged a coming disaster and probably a flood because she saw the victims had been taken to high ground. The woman lives 200 miles away from the site of the disaster but her boss' niece and family were in the flood. She described her dream ahead of time to a friend and co-worker.

- A woman, age 55, dreamed she was rolling in water and became greatly frightened because she once had read that dreaming of water means a fire. She told Wood-Trost that she never before had dreamed about water and remembered her dream because of her fear. She lives in Idaho Falls, a flooded town, but her home was not flooded. She also had told her husband about the dream before the flood occurred.

- A 16-year-old girl dreamed, a week before the disaster, that there was a huge flood and "people were running every which way to escape the water." She told an adult woman friend of her dream. She was not directly involved with the disaster except that her brother had worked on the dam construction. She lives about 80 miles away and had no friends or relatives who were flooded.

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EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE

OF THE 18 reports gathered by Wood-Trost, 13 persons had described their dreams ahead of the dam break to witnesses who verified their stories. Thirteen of the percipients were women. In 11 of the cases the percipients believed their experiences prophesied a disaster. Nine of the prophetic impressions were dreams, one was a hypnogogic vision and eight were intuitive statements or impressions.

The investigator believes only six of the 18 cases analyzed (including the first two described here) show a high correspondence to *specific* later occurrences. Based upon the descriptions in the other reports, it might not be possible to determine which flood they were describing, she said. However, the

general conclusions of Wood-Trost's research match those of two similar researches on disaster — one on the Titanic sinking done by Dr. Ian Stevenson and the research of the Aberfan tragedy in which coal slag slid onto a school building in Wales done by Dr. J. C. Barker.

One of the characteristics of such experiences is that they are accompanied by high emotional impact. In at least one case the percipient experienced a sense of doom that caused acute anxiety. Most of the other experiments showed a moderate to a high degree of emotionality or certainty.

Critics who object to the possibility of precognition suggest that subliminal awareness of small clues may trigger predictions. They suggest that persons with high sensitivity may respond

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intuitively to signs unconsciously noted — of the earth settling around the dam or of tiny earth shocks. It is difficult, however, to explain how these signs could be felt 200 miles away, or in Texas.

Another criticism that Wood-Trost anticipates is that workers on the dam were said to have predicted it would fail. The most detailed studies have since revealed, however, that the dam was extremely well constructed and that it was its design, not its construction, that was at fault. Robert Robison, construction engineer for the dam, stated that he did not believe it would have been possible for anyone to have predicted its actual failure on the basis of observation.

Then there is the standard objection that people elaborate on their experiences afterward, forgetting some details and adding others. This argument is difficult to counter.

But continual addition to the literature of similar studies provides increasing evidence of their accuracy. And these cases seem to follow similar trends in the proportion of cases divided between dreams and psychic impressions. They all show high degrees of emotion surrounding the experience so that it somehow "seems different" to the percipients. Realistic dreams predominate, it seems.



COSMIC MEANDERINGS

- The planets Uranus and Neptune may be covered with an unusual form of glittering ice — diamonds — Dr. Marvin Ross of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California suggests. Ross speculates that pres-

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

CHARLES MUSE is a Famous Premise -Hall Author... A noted lecture and mind science counselor. He is a student of the Greek Muse's and has heard the Wind's of Delphi. His research at Cornith, Rhodes, Malta and Athens has today made him one of the leading authorities on mind control.

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*** Walter P., Houston, TX a factory worker had an idea for an energy saving device. All he needed was cash to get started, no one not even his banker would loan him the money — A friend explained how to use his "MAGIC MIND GENIE" a short time later a total stranger handed him \$1,000.00 saying he had heard of his plan and offered to help market his invention.

*** Miss Rita F., Miami, FL was at her wits end she had lost her job. Her savings were fast running out and her rent two months past due — She commanded her "MAGIC MIND GENIE" to find a way out of her plight — The next morning friends and people she never saw before was at her apartment with gifts of money. One stranger offered a career job she had always dreamed about.

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tures on these huge planets may be so tremendous they break methane into carbon and hydrogen and squeeze the carbon atoms together to form diamonds. If the diamonds exist, however, they would be in the form of small flakes drifting through the dense lower atmospheres of the two planets.

- Almost all meteorites which have solidified from molten rock have a crystallization age of 4500 to 4600 million years. But some, for instance a type called shergottites, are much younger. They probably were chipped off a larger astronomical body less than a billion years ago. Now meteoritic experts are concluding that these few shergottites may have come from Mars and suggest they were shot into space by a gigantic meteoritic impact about 200 million years ago.

- When Halley's comet comes around in 1986 it won't be necessary to pay for a trip to Australia to see it after all. It will be seen best from latitudes between 30° and 70° north although even then the view will be none too good. At its most brilliant the comet will be about magnitude three — almost 100 times fainter than a bright star like Sirius. For a better view we will have to wait until Halley's comet returns in 2062.

- About 1 1/2 billion years ago the earth was probably spinning 2 1/2 times faster than it is spinning today. There were then 800 to 900 nine-hour days in a year. An Australian weather analyst, B. G. Hunt, speculates that this would have created a climate profoundly different from today's, with the high latitudes buried beneath ice, limiting the areas where life could flourish. This may account for the fact



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Believe it or not, dear friend, you can now have all the money, power, good luck, health, happiness, and peace of mind that you want. Would you like to get out of debt, move to a better house, get a better job, build up a comfortable fortune, be popular, gain confidence, look great, and start enjoying life as you were meant to? Of course you would, and impossible as it may seem, here's how I and thousands of others discovered the way to do it.

Actually, I never dreamed that one day I would be able to perform some of the amazing feats of the fabled Tibetan Masters—feats that require long, hard years of study and discipline. But luckily, I learned a "short-cut" method for fulfilling my desires. It works like magic for me and others I have revealed it to. Now I am going to make it available to you.

MY INCREDIBLE STORY

When I lost my wife and my job at the same time not so long ago, and things looked very bleak, I thought, "What the heck, now is the time to see the world." I had always been fascinated by stories of the hidden wealth of Tibet, and the miraculous powers of the "Masters" who lived there. So I took my meager savings and after a long journey to northern India, I finally got in a small caravan leaving Bhutan on foot for Lhasa, the capital of Tibet.

It was a hellish trip. The nights were bone-chilling cold, my feet were sore, and, after endless days of weary plodding, I was ready to quit. Then, when I thought that things could get no worse, we were suddenly buried in an enormous avalanche. One moment there was only the sound of shuffling feet and labored breathing in the thin mountain air. The next moment the snow came rumbling down on top of us. Just as I was trying to shield a young boy from the devastating fury of the avalanche, I finally got it. A huge boulder of snow and ice slammed into my chest and I fell backwards to the ground.

THE TIBETAN MASTER

When I came to I was in a small hut and a saintly looking, bearded old man was bending over me.

"Ah, my son," he said, "it was not time for you to go. Your work is not finished."

I was too weak to question him but I knew I owed my life to that old man. And then I wondered how he had healed me. Half a dozen of my ribs had been broken and the ice had severely gashed me in several places. But there



MY DREAMS COME TRUE

To tell you the truth, I didn't know what to think, but I didn't want to hurt the old man's feelings, so I took the PRAYER WHEELS. Maybe I was imagining it, but as soon as I held them in my hands I felt a strange sort of power come over me. I suddenly felt like I could have or do anything I wanted. About the highest priority I had right then was getting back to the good old U.S.A.!

"Yes, it is time for you to go home," said the old monk. He must have been reading my mind! "Remember," he continued, "if you use the PRAYER WHEELS only for yourself, their power will soon vanish. But if you use them to help others, their power will continually increase for you."

Well, to make a long story short, I wound up going home in style, hired as an aid to a very wealthy man who was returning from a climbing expedition to Everest. A lucky coincidence? Perhaps, but I sure wasn't about to throw away those MIRACULOUS PRAYER WHEELS!

When I got back, I was feeling kind of tired, so just for the heck of it, I took out PRAYER WHEEL NUMBER

GUARANTEED TO WORK FOR YOU, TOO

Well, after these MIRACULOUS PRAYER WHEELS helped so many others, my good luck came back, better than ever. So now I'm making these MIRACULOUS PRAYER WHEELS available to everyone.

This is your big chance to finally solve all of those problems that have been nagging you for so long. Order your PRAYER WHEELS today, and whatever you want will quickly be yours. You can have unlimited income, power over other people, perfect health, a scintillating love life, a fat wallet, and a fantastic lifestyle. You have nothing to lose because if you aren't 100% happy with your PRAYER WHEELS, you can return them for a full refund, and that's not all!

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Because Inspiration House is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of spiritual knowledge, you will get a FREE BOOK along with every single order. This book explains exactly how universal mystic power works and how it should be used to gain the greatest happiness. This book alone contains priceless knowledge that can benefit you for the rest of your life, and it's yours FREE to keep, no matter what. Order today!

MORE PROOF

* R.R. of Hollywood was a second rate actor trying to get a shot at a decent part. After using PRAYER WHEEL NUMBER TWO for only three days, his agent landed him the lead in a movie that eventually broke all box office records.

* P.T. of Atlanta was struggling to keep his little gift shop out of the hands of collection agents. He used PRAYER WHEEL NUMBER ONE and now owns the whole block his store is on.

* J.M. of New York had two teenage sons, both hooked on drugs and leading a life of crime that would soon land them in jail. By using PRAYER WHEEL NUMBER THREE, he was finally able to talk them into getting professional help and today they are both in good colleges and are a blessing to their family.

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was not a handaxe or a pair of scissors in sight. I felt my chest and then looked. There was no wound, no scar, not even a scratch.

I stayed there for only a week but if I told you some of the things he did in that time you would not believe me. There was no fire in the hut yet even through the bitter cold nights it was always comfortable. We ate hearty meals yet I never saw him cook or even wash a dish. A bowl of fresh fruit was always on the table but there wasn't a tree or a patch of green as far as the eye could see.

I was darned sure that I was imagining all this—maybe I'd hit my head too hard in that avalanche—but when I asked the old man about some of these fantastic things, he gave me a pretty reasonable explanation.

THE SECRET OF THE PRAYER WHEEL

"My son," he said, "have you ever heard of the TIBETAN PRAYER WHEEL?"

"Sure," I replied, but I thought they were just for religious use, like beads."

"That's true," the old man said, "but if you know the secret, you can use these PRAYER WHEELS like a cosmic magnet to magnify your desires and pull toward you *anything* you want. You see, certain shapes generate mysterious powers. Adding the dimension of motion by spinning the wheel increases the power, and when you combine this with certain spoken sound vibrations, the combination creates an incredible invisible cosmic force that irresistibly draws toward you anything you desire."

I was skeptical, to say the least. "If you can get anything you want, why do you live here like this?" I asked. "Because," he replied, "I have been thinned since birth as a monk to seek higher rewards. I have chosen to use the MIRACULOUS PRAYER WHEELS mainly to satisfy my quest for greater spiritual understanding. Of course, I also use them for material things, and as you can see, although my material desires are simple, the PRAYER WHEELS have kept me very comfortable in this remote place."

Looking around, I had to admit he was right, and to tell you the truth, I had never felt better or more satisfied than in this cozy little hut, but it was still hard to believe this preposterous story. "Why are you telling me all this?" I challenged.

"Just before you were struck by the avalanche, you attempted to save the life of a young boy," he replied, "and your unselfish action has put me deeply in your debt. That boy is my sister's grandson, and thanks to you he is now alive and safe with his mother. As a token of my thanks, I am going to give you these three MIRACULOUS PRAYER WHEELS, along with the special codes for making them work. One PRAYER WHEEL is for Money, and the second one is for the other Good Things in Life, such as Love, Power, Career, Fame, and Respect. The third PRAYER WHEEL is for Health, Happiness, and the Peace of Mind that you need to enjoy your Money and other Good Things."

THREE, said the right words, and gave it a spin. Within fifteen minutes I was bursting with energy... and curiosity. Did these things really work?"

The next day, still bursting with energy, I gave PRAYER WHEEL NUMBER ONE the big test. After giving it a few extra spins for good luck, I headed for the business office of the wealthy man with whom I had returned from Tibet. Well, not only did I get an appointment right away, but he immediately agreed to lend me \$25,000 to start my own business. I was astounded! I had always worked for other people, helping them get rich, while all I got was deeper in debt. Now I had a chance to be my own boss, and with the help of PRAYER WHEEL NUMBER ONE, I soon opened a second store, and within a year, I was making a six figure income as head of a whole chain of stores in five states. Boy, had my luck changed!

With the help of PRAYER WHEEL NUMBER TWO, I won the hand of a beautiful and intelligent girl, a model you've probably seen on TV hundreds of times. She's crazy about me and never looks at another man. And PRAYER WHEEL NUMBER TWO makes every day and night with her just as romantic and exciting as our honeymoon.

WORKS FOR OTHERS, TOO

But just when I was completely convinced that the PRAYERS WHEELS actually worked, I began to have problems. Little things began to go wrong at home and at work. Then I remembered the old monk's warning about helping others. I hired an artist to exactly duplicate the intricate designs of the THREE MIRACULOUS PRAYER WHEELS, and I gave copies to several of my employees. What fantastic results they reported!

For example, Fred M., a horse player with a big family, was always short of money and deep in debt. Fred used the PRAYER WHEEL for Money and his six daily doubles in a row! He is now completely out of debt and has a nice bank balance to boot. His wife sent me a wonderful letter of thanks.

Miriam B. suffered all her life from debilitating migraine headaches. She used the PRAYER WHEEL for Health and she not only got rid of the migraines but also felt better than ever.

Frank G. was losing his wife who had already filed for divorce. Frank used the PRAYER WHEEL for Love. His wife changed her mind and today they are more in love than when they were first married.

Jean R. wanted a home of her own but the cost of the home and financing kept it beyond her means. She used the PRAYER WHEEL for Money, received an inheritance, and got the home of her dreams.

Mabel R. was on the verge of a nervous breakdown from hostile in-laws. She used the PRAYER WHEEL for Peace of Mind and soon found her life to be serene.

these winners right now by sending for one or more of these wonderful PRAYER WHEELS! They must work for you, or it won't cost you a cent. Remember, if you are not completely satisfied, we will promptly refund your money and you can still keep the book as our free gift to you. You won't find these MIRACULOUS PRAYER WHEELS in any store at any price, so why not write in today and start using the amazing power of these MIRACULOUS PRAYER WHEELS to fulfill all your desires, with absolutely no risk.

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that life was confined to one-cell forms for so many eons.

● Some volcanic eruptions and earthquakes may be triggered by the tides which pull at the earth just as they do at the oceans, according to Frederick J. Mauk of the University of Michigan. In a study of nine volcanic eruptions on the Caribbean island of St. Vincent, Mauk said that 80 percent of the activity began within one day of the peak tide, which occurs every 14 days.

● We already are doing extraterrestrial mining according to Prof. Brian O'Leary, a former astronaut. "In the 1960's half of the world's nickel supply came from a giant meteorite in Sudbury, Ontario, which crashed down to earth from space hundreds of millions of years ago," says O'Leary. "We were mining an asteroid and few people realized it."

● One to two months before the forecast event Brian Brady of the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Golden, Colo., formally withdrew his prediction that two mammoth earthquakes would occur off the coast of Peru on August 10 and September 15, 1981. Many Peruvian scientists had taken Brady's prediction seriously, although the U. S. National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council had rejected it.



CRYING AND HUGGING

YOU NEED four hugs a day for survival, says Virginia Satir, a California social scientist. "You need eight for maintenance and 12 for growth."

Hugs make people feel good "because the skin is the largest organ we have and it needs a lot of care. A hug

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can cover a lot of skin area and give the message that you care."

Satir says hugging is also wonderful because it can say a lot of things a person can't express in words. It is good medicine; it transfers energy and gives the person hugged an emotional lift.

"The nicest thing about a hug," she says, "is that you usually can't give one without getting one."

* * *

Crying can also be good medicine, according to Dr. Robert L. Sadoff, a psychiatrist at the University of Pennsylvania. He says that asthma attacks have been known to stop when crying starts.

Crying also may make other psychosomatic problems disappear and may help protect against stress-related ailments such as high blood pressure and ulcers. Biochemist William H. Frey of St. Paul, Minn., notes that men, who have long been taught to suppress tears, have a higher incidence of stress-related disorders than women.



THE SACRED ARK

AS IF TAKING their cue from the movie *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, archaeologists digging in Israel have uncovered the oldest sacred ark ever discovered. It is reported to date back to the Third Century A.D. — a bit later than the original Ark of the Covenant but it appears to have had the same form and function as the arks in modern synagogues, according to John Noble Wilford of the *New York Times*.

The ark is not complete but it is a large fragment, made of white limestone and featuring two rampant lions

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standing astride a gabled roof. It was associated, in a dig in Upper Galilee, with coins and ceramics which establish its antiquity at sometime between A.D. 25 and 306, which was the date of a destructive earthquake in the region.

Dr. Eric Meyers, professor of religion at Duke University, says that the portion discovered was about 4.6 feet long and weighs half a ton. The stone also has a scallop shell niche from which an ever-burning oil lamp was hung. The oldest previously known arks date back only to the Middle Ages. This is the only ark known to belong to Roman times, although their presence there has been documented in Italian frescoes and mosaics from the catacombs.



A GIFT OF BUGS

MANY OF the insect pests ravaging American agricultural crops and trees are not native to the United States and consequently have few natural enemies in this country. This is now being remedied in some cases, entomologists hope, with the gift from China of green lacewigs, predatory mites and parasitic wasps.

The lacewigs are expected to devour cotton and tobacco pests; the mites will prey on other mites that attack vegetables and citrus crops; the wasps are intended to parasitize various forest caterpillars such as the gypsy moths.

Because exotic insect importations have not always been beneficial — a dramatic example being the killer African bees that escaped in Brazil — American scientists will be extremely

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cautious about introducing them. Researchers from three universities will study them under strict laboratory and quarantine conditions for at least a year before beginning field tests.

The United States reciprocated, by the way, by giving China our own native wasps which are parasitic on aphids and caterpillars. The two countries will be doing cooperative research on various biological controls.



"POLLUTANT" FISH

ANOTHER exotic import into the United States is the tilapia, an unwelcome fish imported here some time ago and regarded as a "pollutant" fish in much the same way that imported carp are thought of as "pollutants" in many American fishing waters.

The tilapia, from Africa, is adapted to low-oxygen conditions and water high in dissolved solids. It is said to be good to eat, tasting much like perch. *Science News* reports it loves the murky coal-waste ponds which contain a high total of dissolved solids. It is proposed for stocking ponds of polluted waste water from coal-fired power plants.



LEFT-HANDED SWEET

THE AVERAGE American citizen consumes 85 pounds of sugar each year. One result of this is an estimated 50 million obese Americans. Biospherics, Inc., of Rockville, Md., has produced in the laboratory a sweetener called "L-sugar" in which the molecular arrangement is reversed. As a result, so it is claimed, "L-sugar"

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I have something to tell you—a secret. It will lift a heavy weight from your shoulders—the weight of worry. Most of us worry entirely too much about money. It is probably the single most time-consuming and energy-draining concern in our society. And it seems that the worry is always there, ever present.

Do you ever worry about money? Do you know where your money will come from next month? Next year? How about ten years from now? And will you have enough? Do you ever think about that? Well, how would you like to totally eliminate all of that type of wasted energy from your life? You will never again have to worry about money. Worry about something else if you must, but you will no longer need to concern yourself with money. Just think what that will do to your life-style! Finally you will be able to relax and take it easy. You'll be able to do what you really want. Freedom will be yours at last.

This method is not "work" at all—by any stretch of the imagination! And no initial sum of money is needed now to begin—none whatsoever! What a different story from all the money-making opportunities around these days! This is positively the most unique package of information ever compiled. You are very lucky to be aware of it!

Let me list a few things that this is, it is not a job. It is not any type of self-employment. It is not a real estate formula. It is not a mail-order plan. It involves no selling. And it has nothing to do with scientology, numerology, astrology or occult teachings.

What then is it? First let me say that it is totally legal; it is completely honest and respectable. It can best be described as a two-pronged method involving the handling and manipulating of money. And never fear; you do not need to have any money now to start—not one penny! The procedure involved is so powerful that it will astonish you. And the mass of people, except for a few, are totally oblivious to it. It is a proven method that brings massive results. And it will work for you, too. It can't fail.

Now, I'm not saying that this method will give you "something for nothing." Please don't misunderstand me! Nothing ever happens without a proper cause. You must do SOMETHING. It is not "work," but it is "something." It just so happens that this method does not function on the basis of hard work and/or investment of capital. It operates on an entirely different level—a much more basic level. Simply put, this method requires neither work nor starting funds—but you do have

to do "something."

The total time required is less than 15 minutes per day, on the average, plus about two minutes per week! You will need some blank paper and a pen. And that's it! There is no need for such things as office supplies, telephones, sales merchandise, special equipment or anything else.

Absolutely anyone can do it! The package I have for you contains all you'll ever need to know. Everything is explained in all easy-to-understand, no-nonsense form. You'll receive complete and specific details on exactly what to do and how to go about it. All you have to do is do it. And doing it is amazingly easy—in fact it's fun. You'll want to do it. You'll probably have an "I can't wait" attitude. If you want, you can begin the same day you receive the instructions.

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is John A. Lester, president of VORCO-FINANCIAL RESEARCH. Not long ago, I was flat broke. I had to borrow money just to pay the rent. My car broke down and I couldn't even afford to have it towed off the street—let alone repaired! Every day was a major struggle—just to have food on the table! And all the while, I suffered from the frustrating feeling that I could do so much... have so much fun... devote so much energy to other interests... do all the things I ever wanted to do... and be such a wonderful, cheerful and inspiring person... if only I didn't always have to worry about money! I was just about at the end of my rope when I discovered this method. I tried it and it worked! I repeat: it worked!

Today, I have no more money worries. I'm extremely well-off financially. I have large sums of money in various banks and own substantial security investments. I live in a beautiful mountain home, just outside the noise and pollution of the big city. And I enjoy a life of luxury and ease. Best of all, I have the positive assurance that money will always be there when I want it—no matter what happens to the economy! And that is true security.

You too can achieve the same state of financial security, just as I did. And you can be just as flat broke right now as I was when I started. All you need, that you don't have now, is the kit I'm just dying to send you.

Why am I willing to reveal this secret? I firmly believe that this information will be a positive benefit to our nation. Consider what would happen if a sizeable percentage of our population suddenly had no more money worries! What would that do to our crime rate? How about inflation? And our overall quality of life? Furthermore, if you use this method, it will not interfere at all with the results obtained by me or anybody else doing likewise. If it has any effect at all, the more people who know about this method, the BETTER it will work for everyone. You see, I want you to be aware of it. I know I could sell this material for much more than what I'm asking, but I want to make this as inviting to you as possible.

The cost is \$15.00—a ridiculously small price to pay for the total elimination of financial worries for the rest of your life! If you are truly serious about creating a positive flow of money into your life—this is a MUST for you. IF YOU EVER SEND FOR ONLY ONE THING IN YOUR WHOLE LIFE, THIS SHOULD BE THE ONE YOU'VE NEVER NEED ANOTHER. Forget all the others. This one's unbeatable. I realize that my statements are enormously far-reaching. But I can back them up with the goods. If you don't think so, just try me!

Perhaps you're wondering: could any of this possibly be true? Well guess what. Every bit of what I am telling you is 100% accurate. You may think: "If I don't bother with this, I'll save myself fifteen bucks, which I can use right now, and I won't have to worry about whether or not this is some sort of a rip-off." If you can convince yourself that this can't be true—fine. Maybe, however, these few words will stick with you. Many months from now you may say to yourself, "I wonder if I should have..." And it will be too late. The few others who do send for this information will be well on their way to a lifetime of financial security. You, on the other hand, will have your original \$15.00 (though you probably won't know what ever became of it), and all your current money problems will still exist as big and bold as ever. Don't let that happen to you. If there is the slightest chance that you will ever question sending this one by, then by all means check it out—immediately! After all, if you don't like it, it won't cost you anything anyway. That right? If you return it, for any reason (or no reason at all), anytime within one full year, I'll refund your money and I won't even ask you why. You risk nothing. Doesn't it make good sense to look it over first and then decide? How can you possibly NOT take me up on an offer like this?

This information will set you free—totally free from money worries forever! I'm so sure that it will work for you (it has for all) that I guarantee it. I don't even ask you to take my word for it. I am "begging" you to let me prove it to you. If it doesn't turn out to be the most valuable secret you've ever been let in on, worth at least hundreds of times the amount I'm charging for it, I will refund your money without hesitation—and you will still have your fifteen dollars! You can't lose! But just look what you stand to gain! What if I am telling the truth? What if you can indeed SOLVE ALL YOUR MONEY PROBLEMS FOREVER? I urge you to find out. You'll never regret it.

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There are still problems ahead in commercializing "L-sugar." First, can it be produced commercially? Second, is it toxic? Third, does it cause any harm passing through the digestive tract?



UFO OVER CONNECTICUT

A PRIVATE airplane carrying four persons reported a daylight UFO sighting over Madison, Conn., about June 20, according to a report from Raymond E. Fowler, director of investigations for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), published in *CUFOS' Associates Newsletter* for the Center for UFO Studies.

Fowler reports that the plane was at 5700 feet over Madison when the pilot saw an object approaching. At first he thought it was a weather balloon. As it came closer it appeared to be of stainless steel. One witness described it as a flattened oval. The one who saw it at closest range said it looked like a "stainless steel wheel with a stationary

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hub and a rim which was rotating."

As soon as he determined it was not a weather balloon the pilot turned the plane in an attempt to follow the object but it rapidly diminished in the distance. Only two witnesses aboard the plane saw it because the other two were asleep. Its appearance and its apparent speed (three times the airplane's 150 m.p.h.) were enough to persuade the observers that the object was something out of the ordinary. They radioed the FAA, which was unable to find it on radar.

On the morning of May 20, 1981, according to a further report in the *Newsletter* a 30-year-old supervisor driving to his home near Lima, Ohio, about 1:30 A. M. saw a silent hovering object about 50 to 75 yards away and only about 100 feet up in the air. He watched it for about three minutes. He described it as glowing (without individual lights) around the outer edge, with a typical inverted saucer shape. The light was lavender in color and pulsed somewhat brighter every five to seven seconds. It had an unlighted low dome and a dim white light radiating from the center two-thirds of the bottom surface.

As the object moved toward an industrial complex south of the city its pulsing lights grew somewhat brighter. The witness started to follow the object but it accelerated away from him. He turned back to his original direction and became frightened when he concluded that the object was now following him. He accelerated but could not outdistance it. Suddenly, however, "as if someone 'had kicked in the supercharger,' it accelerated very rapidly to the south, then veered to the

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southwest, disappearing into the distance in seconds."



LEGISLATING SCIENCE

TIME, Inc., has undertaken an attack on both UFOs and Dr. J. Allen Hynek.

The August issue of the company's *Discover*, its new science magazine, devotes a full page to belittling Hynek, criticizing particularly a fine article

Hynek wrote for *Technology Review*, "the respected journal edited and published in Cambridge at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology." Predictably the attack does not bother to deal with the actual evidence Hynek cites. It confines itself instead to personal criticisms.

Hynek, who (in common with many other astronomers, a troublesome fact that *Discover* conveniently fails to mention) happens to believe that

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UFOs are worth investigating, thus joins the ranks of the many worthy individuals whom this successful publishing company has branded *persona non grata*. "He seems embarrassingly out of place in the pages of *Technology Review*," writes *Discover's* writer.

It isn't enough, in other words, for Time, Inc., to set its own editorial policies; now it seeks to force other journals to hold those same policies.

At the same time, be it noted, Time, Inc., advertised its magazine *Discover* in the July 12 issue of the *New York Times* with an antisaunder theme. The gist of the ad is that if you believe in pseudoscience (as defined by *Discover*, of course) you're losing control of your life.

**WHERE LIFE BEGAN?**

ONE OF THE most controversial topics in a field involving astronomy, biology and archaeo-paleontology is the question of whether life originated here or Elsewhere. The proponents of the Elsewhere view vary from astronomers like Carl Sagan who think that given the size of the universe it is inevitable that life does exist Elsewhere, to fringe writers like Erich von Daniken who offer what they claim is evidence that Earth was at least visited if not populated by extraterrestrials.

Of course many Establishment astronomers believe that life does not exist Elsewhere, that it is unique to the earth. They sneer at the von Danikens when they pay any attention to them at all, but they are also sneering at such well-credentialed colleagues as Sir Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickrama-

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singhe who present a credible case for the hypothesis that life *originated* Elsewhere. One compelling reason for such a conclusion, the two theorists say, is that the chemistry of Earth is such that life could not have evolved here.

Sir Fred Hoyle is an internationally-known British astronomer, currently an honorary professorial fellow at University College, Cardiff, Wales. Professor Wickramasinghe is head of the Department of Applied Mathematics and Astronomy there. In a joint article in the August 13 issue of *New Scientist* they outline their theory along with the history of its development.

In 1962 they began to study the problem of interstellar dust which most astronomers at that time believed to be made up largely of water ice. Hoyle and Wickramasinghe were dissatisfied with this idea because they believed that water ice was too volatile to survive in the relatively hot regions of space close to the stars and also because it seemed impossible for ice grains to form at the low densities likely to be found in space.

They also calculated that the light absorbed by interstellar dust did not follow the calculations predicted by H. C. van de Hulst if the dust was water ice. At that time, in 1962, the two British scientists argued that interstellar dust was composed largely of graphite grains. Further study indicated to them that graphite did not meet the requirements of observations either, because of differences in the absorption of visible light from the calculations. They then theorized that the interstellar ices could have condensed around graphite grains and that this model was closer to what was

being observed than anything to date.

Even though that "core-mantle" model "passed quickly into the realm of orthodox belief" Hoyle and Wickramasinghe discovered that it was not sufficient.



LIVING DUST

THE YEARS passed and the two men decided that perhaps the answer would be found in organic polymers. They considered and discarded polyformaldehyde, a widely distributed molecule in space. They searched the literature and discovered polysaccharide, a complex sugar, which is the most common of all biological polymers on Earth. This provided the closest agreement yet to what was being observed from space. They also report that if this is true "polysac-



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charide can thus be considered to be derived from the two most common molecules in the Universe, H₂ and CO. . . . But how could biochemical substances that are so complex come to be widespread in the Universe?"

Their proposed answer is through "biological replication." In other words, they believe that the carbon, nitrogen and oxygen present in interstellar space soon developed into living microorganisms which then reproduced and eventually filled space with their dust. Hoyle and Wickramasinghe are convinced that their theory is proved by astronomical observations because it provides an exact model of how starlight is obscured by interstellar dust. This model considers such elements as size of the dust grains, composition, probable shape and so on.

"The astonishingly close agreement we obtained here, coming as it did at the end of a long history of failure," they write, "was in our view an almost complete proof of our model of interstellar grains."



BUT FIRST — HOW?

ALL THIS sounds persuasive until one remembers that it is a very large jump from carbon, nitrogen and oxygen atoms to what sounds almost like a theory of spontaneous generation of life in space. Hoyle and Wickramasinghe may feel that their model fits almost precisely, and apparently it does, but they are back to square one when it comes to the origin of life. They have passed this over lightly by stating that conditions in the regions where new stars form would permit

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liquid water and organic nutrients to be present for millions of years within objects similar to comets. "The C, N and O would then rapidly form into microorganisms, and a fraction of these would be expelled back into the interstellar medium," they say.

A good theory, but certainly lacking in proof. Also lacking is any proof that the conditions in space are such that if life were to arise spontaneously it could thrive or even exist beyond the brief moment of its spontaneous self-creation.

The two scientists do not answer that question but they do state their reasons for believing that life could not have originated on Earth. In brief, they say, it is too complicated to have done so. It had to have originated on a cosmic scale and Earth is too limited. They believe that Earth must have been seeded by cometary debris. The further evolution of life here then must have depended on a further influx of genetic information "in the form of cells, viruses, viroids, and fragments of genetic material that are pieced together and spliced into existing life forms at the surface of the earth."

They write that it couldn't have happened on Earth otherwise because the 2000 or so enzymes that span the whole of the planet couldn't have evolved here. There are too many of them. They calculate the chances of this occurring by chance are less than one followed by 40,000 zeros. That is why they believe it must have taken the whole universe to accomplish it; Earth alone is too small. Earth's role was to sort out the genetic material that could develop here. On other worlds different forms would survive.

One can conclude, therefore, that if Hoyle and Wickramasinghe's theory is true for our world it must also be true for other worlds and life must be widespread throughout space.



OLDEST VILLAGE

ARCHAEOLOGISTS keep pushing human settlements back in time. The present candidate for oldest human settlement in this hemisphere is a village on a site known as Paloma, 30 miles south of Lima, Peru. The human remains found there are said to be 7700 years old. Although human remains in the Western Hemisphere have been dated back as far as 40,000 years, the Paloma find is the oldest "village" currently known.

The site is in an extremely dry area and artifacts, foods and human remains are well preserved. The inhabitants lived in dugout houses with woven grass roofs supported by willow canes. A gourd found next to one infant skeleton contained tiny shells which suggest it was used as a rattle. Among other artifacts identified are bone fishhooks, cord fishing line, stone projectile points, fishnets and coarse textiles but no ceramics.

The villagers consumed some of the earliest domesticated maize, peanuts, squash and peppers known. Maximum population at the site may have included as many as 20 families. It is apparent also that the village was inhabited for extensive periods of time.



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The Truth About the *Mary Celeste*



In some hands, fiction becomes stranger than truth — for “when legend and truth conflict print the legend.”

By Rupert Furneaux
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Illustrated London News

“**A** HOY, ahoy.” The traditional call from one ship to another echoed across the Atlantic wastes. “Brig, ahoy,” hailed the seaman standing at the bows of the *Dei Gratia*.

No answering call came from the brig bowling past on the opposite tack. No helmsman stood at her wheel. Her decks were empty. She was sailing under short canvas and steering wild.

“Look out for her name,” Captain Morehouse ordered the mate Deveau. The brig fell off in the wind and her stern came into view. “It’s the *Mary Celeste*,” called Deveau.

Incredulously, Morehouse repeated the name. The two vessels had berthed alongside each other in New York 29 days previously. The *Mary Celeste* sailed for Genoa on November 7, followed eight days later by the *Dei Gratia*. Now, the paths of the two ships had crossed, 2185 miles from New York, due east of the Azores. It was December 5, 1872, a memorable date in marine history.

No face or voice greeted the officers



Deveau and Wright as they climbed over the rail. There was no sound, other than the creaking of rigging and the swish of waves as the vessel careered on her way. The wheel twisted and spun as the sea jerked the rudder. Two sails had been blown away. The lower fore topsail hung by its four corners. The other sails were furled. The main peak halyard hung broken over the side. The compass was broken. The cover of the fore hatch lay on the deck.

The officers searched the ship. In the forecabin they found seamen's pipes, tobacco and oilskins, hurriedly abandoned. The cabin contained a harmonium, a sewing machine and a clock that had stopped. An unmade bed showed the impression of a body—one so small that it could have been made only by a child. The imprint of a tiny head was on the pillow.

Deveau found plenty of food and water. There was little sign of damage and the ship was staunch and strong, "fit to go round the world." Since noon on November 24, when the last log entry had been made, the *Mary Celeste* had held her course for Gibraltar, her first port of call. Yet, apparently, no one had been aboard since November 25. It was all very puzzling.

The *Mary Celeste* had sailed from New York on November 5, commanded by Capt. Benjamin Briggs, who had on board his wife and child and seven seamen.

Deveau, with the aid of two seamen, sailed the brig to Gibraltar where an inquiry was held. Solly Flood, the Attorney-General and Admiralty Proctor, an excitable and imaginative Irishman, suspected foul play. On the slight evidence of a broached cask of crude alcohol, a doubtful mark on the

vessel's bulwark and a suspected bloodstain, he "guessed" that the crew of the American brig had got at the cargo, and in a fury of drunkenness had murdered the captain, his wife and child and the chief mate. They had escaped on a passing vessel to North or South America. Flood instituted a worldwide manhunt.

The Admiralty court awarded the salvors less than a seventh of the value of the ship and her cargo. This paltry award was later taken to imply that the court had suspected that the ship's abandonment had resulted from an insurance-fiddle, and that Briggs and Morehouse had been in collusion to defraud the insurers.

The Admiralty Proctor's fanciful reconstruction of what had happened on the *Mary Celeste* turned a minor sea tragedy into a dark mystery, for the derelict's crew were never heard of again. The discovery of the abandoned vessel and Flood's hue and cry for the missing mutineers caused a stir in the ports of the world, where the missing master was well known and respected. But little more. That winter had been stormy and the North Atlantic was strewn with wrecks. The story of the drifting derelict was soon forgotten.

But not by one man. Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle was struggling to establish a practice in Portsmouth, writing short stories to pay his way. He sent one to the *Cornhill Magazine*, a quarterly of impeccable authority. The editor paid him £30, a princely sum, and printed it in January 1884 anonymously as was the practice. *J. Habukuk Jephson's Statement*, as it was entitled, purported to tell the story of the only survivor of the *Marie* (as the author

misnamed the vessel) *Celeste's* ill-fated voyage. Conan Doyle supported his fictional reenactment with a wealth of circumstantial detail. He quoted the *Gibraltar Gazette*, a fictitious newspaper, to report that when she was found, the derelict's boats were intact and slung from the davits.

His *Statement* took the semblance of gospel truth when the author was disclosed to be none other than the creator of Sherlock Holmes. If the *Mary Celeste's* boats were intact, how had her people left her? Conan Doyle had turned a minor puzzle into a mystery of mammoth proportions. So great became the speculation that a Captain Coffin writing in the *New York World* in January 1886 called it a mystery "the solving of which would make anyone famous."

Captain Coffin's article had been inspired by the *Mary Celeste's* principal owner, Captain James Winchester. He had attended the Gibraltar inquiry and had formed his own theory to account for the vessel's abandonment. He stated it repeatedly before his death in 1913. His words fell upon deaf ears, as did his statement that Benjamin Briggs was a "fine man and as smart a ship's master as ever trod a deck"; the mate, Albert Richardson, was a man of "excellent character"; and the crew, all Germans, "were the nicest set of men I ever saw on board a ship."

The avalanche of wild accusations, character assassination and improbable theories was yet to come. Conan Doyle had started the ball rolling. It was given another push by the novelist Clark Russell. In *Mystery of the Ocean Star*, he told how that vessel, clearly the *Mary Celeste*, was found

abandoned in midocean. The boarding party find the galley fire burning, with a fowl boiling in a saucepan. Yet no one is aboard.

A singular chapter of accidents had occurred, a whole series of impossible misfortunes. The captain had been found dead in bed; the first mate had died of fever; the second mate fell overboard; the crew followed in the boat and became lost in fog.

Clark Russell had added a new dimension to the legend: her people had left the *Mary Celeste* only a few minutes before the salvors hove in sight. They must therefore have been spirited away — only some extraordinary event could account for the vessel's instant abandonment. A voluminous literature grew up, much of it inspired, as a contemporary author described, "by a craving for sensation rather than a regard for historical accuracy."

Weird solutions were offered. Captain and crew had deserted their vessel in fear of a gigantic iceberg, a theory made impossible by the *Mary Celeste's* course, well to the southward, of the limits of arctic ice. Or the crew had been washed overboard by the great gales which had pounded the Atlantic that month. But why had the *Mary Celeste* suffered no damage? Someone recalled that the famous Barbary pirates had scoured the Atlantic, enslaving the crews of captured ships, but forgot that they had been exterminated by the United States navy in 1816.

More popular was the theory that the crew had been stricken by plague and had fallen overboard in their agony. When she was found the plague-ship was "as silent as the

tomb" and "as deserted as the pest-house." An even more imaginative detective suggested that the ship's cook had poisoned his companions and had fallen overboard while disposing of his victims. This homicidal maniac came to be called Holy Joe. He had plunged into the sea ranting and raving.

Each theory found passionate advocates. The British author J. L. Hornibrook reduced them to mere trivia, the simpleminded vaporings of imbeciles. Recalling the *Case of the Marie Celeste* in 1904, he claimed that only "one truly startling and surprising theory would seem to cover the entire facts." The catastrophe had been caused by some terrible sea monster. He set the scene:

There is a man stationed at the wheel. He is alone on deck, all the others having gone below to their mid-day meal. Suddenly a huge octopus rises from the deep and rearing one of its terrible arms aloft encircles the helmsman. His yells bring every soul on board to the deck. One by one they are caught by the waving, wriggling arms and swept overboard. Then the monster sinks slowly into the deep, leaving no traces of its attacks.

If, said the author, this theory was unacceptable, then let the reader think of a better one. It cannot be said that anyone ever has. Hornibrook's theory ousted the others and was called "a more fantastic creation than any novelist ever wrote."

Awe-inspiring and popular as Hornibrook's theory became, it was not entirely satisfactory. Flood's mutiny and murder theory had been revived in 1902 by no less a person than Mrs. Fanny Richardson, the sorrowing wid-

ow of the missing mate. She expressed her belief, to the reporter of the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, that Captain and Mrs. Briggs and her husband had been murdered by the crew whom she called "as bad a looking lot as ever scrubbed a deck." She said also that Briggs and Morehouse, of the *Dei Gratia*, were acquainted and had dined together on the night before the *Mary Celeste* had sailed from New York.

Mrs. Richardson's statement, whether or not it was correct, gave impetus to the old theory that the two captains had conspired to do away with the *Mary Celeste* — that the whole thing had been an insurance fraud — the mare's nest inspired by the small sum awarded to the salvors by the British Admiralty Court.

Briggs, it was asserted, had plotted to wreck his vessel on the reefs of the Azores. He headed the *Mary Celeste* for the shore while he and the crew waited in the longboat. The wind changed and the *Mary Celeste* ran past the reefs and scurried away. The conspirators drowned before they could be picked up by the *Dei Gratia*. The improbability that Briggs would have risked the lives of his wife and child was cheerfully ignored by those who found this solution attractive.

The *Mary Celeste* legend was imperious to assault. It was further improved in 1913 by a contributor to the *Nautical Magazine* who signed himself J.S.C. "What is the greatest mystery of the sea?" he asked. "Every deepwater sailor would answer, 'the *Marie Celeste*.'" There was ample room for the imagination, he suggested.

J.S.C. introduced a new element into the mystery. A German tramp

steamer was circling the derelict when the *Dei Gratia* came up. Captain "Boyce" (that is, Morehouse), boards the abandoned ship with the mate. The uncanny silence makes their flesh creep. Theories of mutiny, piracy, storm, famine and sickness are discussed by the bewildered officers. The possibility that the vessel's people have been devoured by a sea monster is considered but cast aside. Whatever was the cause of the abandonment, it is evident that those on board had left in an awful hurry, without a stitch of clothing, in the middle of their breakfast and without their boats.

A sewing machine stands on the cabin table and a child's pinafore is being mended. The woman had stopped in the middle of stitching a sleeve. Four persons had hurriedly risen from the half-eaten meal. It is no longer described merely as breakfast. It is minutely itemized as consisting of oatmeal, coffee, bacon and eggs. The child had almost finished her porridge; the captain had sliced his egg in half. At the moment he had broken the shell, he had left the cabin never to return. At the woman's place stands a bottle of cough mixture; not a drop had spilled from the open bottle. The captain's watch is ticking above his bunk. The crew have left their pipes half-smoked.

"Was the thing so terrible that it had induced sailors to not stop even for their smokes?" asked the incredulous J.S.C. How could they have left except in the boats of another ship?

The author perpetuated the myth that the *Mary Celeste* had been abandoned only just before the *Dei Gratia* hove in sight, and he increased the

Mary Celeste's registered tonnage from 282 to 500 tons, her crew from nine to 20 people. But he stated truthfully that Mrs. Briggs had her sewing machine on board.

J.S.C.'s effusions stimulated the editor of the *Strand Magazine* to enter the fray. He invited four well-known novelists to solve the mystery. Alas, they were singularly maladroit. The crew had gone mad and jumped overboard or had been asphyxiated by a submarine explosion of gas; the theory of the homicidal maniac was revived.

The *Nautical Magazine* rose to the challenge. The mate had fallen in love with the captain's wife. The elopers, followed by the rest of the crew, had been taken off by another ship. What happened to this second ship then? She had foundered with all hands — not a very original solution to the mystery which all England was arguing and half the world was pondering.

The *Strand's* fictional reenactment had remarkable repercussions. They drew not one but four "survivor" stories. Abel Fosdyk's posthumous tale was told, announced the editor, in his own words derived from papers found in three boxes by his late employer, A. Howard Linford, headmaster of a preparatory school in Hampstead.

Fosdyk (or perhaps Linford on his behalf) claimed to have been a member of the *Mary Celeste's* crew. The vessel runs into rough weather and the Briggs child, who is called Baby, nearly falls overboard. Fosdyk builds a barricade on the bowsprit, where she can sit safely, calling it "Baby's quarterdeck." The plot thickens. The strain caused by the weather unbalances Briggs, who accuses the mate of

cowardice. The remark rankles, and the mate challenges Briggs to a swimming race.

Watched by Mrs. Briggs, Baby and the crew who cluster on the bowsprit, Briggs and Richardson, both fully clothed, in mid-Atlantic and in winter, swim round the becalmed vessel. Baby's quarterdeck collapses and everyone is thrown into the sea. Sharks appear. Only Fosdyk is saved. He clings to wreckage and is eventually washed ashore in North Africa. Finding his way to England, he enters Mr. Linford's service, where he had been since 1874.

Fosdyk's (or possibly Linford's) story was hailed by the *Daily Express* as "Abandoned ship. Mystery solved."

Not to be outdone, the *Nautical Magazine* printed the story told by Demetrius Specioti, yet another "survivor." The *Mary Celeste* had been taken by a slaver which was cut in two by a passing steamer. Only Specioti is saved. As a variation of an old theory his tale gained only faint applause.

Ignoring the accolade it had accorded to Fosdyk's yarn in 1913, the *Daily Express* came up with its own solution in 1924. It published under the heading "Great sea mystery cleared up" the story told by a man named Triggs who "offered the real solution to the classic sea mystery which for 50 years has baffled investigators in every part of the world."

Triggs claimed to have been the bo'sun of the *Mary Celeste*. They had sighted a derelict steamer, her name erased by the action of seawater. In the cabin the crew found a safe containing £3,500 in gold and silver. They sank her and returned to their own ship

where the loot was divided. They decided to scuttle the *Mary Celeste* and make for the shore in the boats they had taken from the derelict steamer. The appearance of another ship, however, made the sinking of the *Mary Celeste* out of the question. The crew landed in Spain, where they pretended to be survivors from the derelict steamer. They split up, swearing silence and meeting occasionally as they traversed the seven seas.

Triggs' story quickly ousted Abel Fosdyk's and Demetrius Specioti's in popular esteem. It was hailed as the true solution by an evening newspaper which deplored the end of the mystery. It did not go unchallenged. Dr. Oliver W. Cobb, Briggs' first cousin, wrote to the *New York Times*, declaring that Triggs' story reflected unjustly on Briggs' character. He belonged to a family of ship's masters who lived up to the best traditions of the sea. To represent him as a "criminal deserter" was to desecrate his memory. Triggs' story, Cobb said, was "pure fabrication without supporting evidence whatsoever."

John Pemberton was even more audacious, or perhaps he was beguiled by the man who was probably the story's true author, a Liverpool journalist who called himself either Lee Kaye or Laurence Keating. Keating, for that appears to have been his true name, encountered the garrulous old seaman in 1926. Keating spun a yarn which he appropriately entitled "The great *Mary Celeste* hoax." He claimed that his book was "a complete explanation of the mystery."

Pemberton was described as the vessel's cook. The story starts in New

York where the *Mary Celeste* has a cargo and no crew, and the *Dei Gratia* has no cargo and more seamen than she needs. The two captains make a deal. In return for part of her cargo, Briggs ships some of Morehouse's men. More sailors are taken on board, but they are desperadoes led by Mate Hullock (the "Baltimore Bully"), who is an old admirer of Mrs. Briggs. She brings aboard her cottage piano on which she pounds out hymns. The vessel is struck by a hurricane. The piano breaks loose and crushes Mrs. Briggs. Captain Briggs goes mad and locks himself in the cabin with the naked body of his wife. The crew insist that the corpse be cast overboard. That night Briggs disappears. The crew become demoralized with drink. Fearing that they will be accused of mutiny and murder, they go ashore at the Azores in a fruit peddler's boat. The *Mary Celeste* is found by Captain Morehouse who had expected Briggs to scuttle his ship at the prearranged rendezvous. The crew scatter throughout the world and Pemberton eventually settles in Liverpool.

Pemberton, by then aged 92, was interviewed in 1929 by the *London Evening Standard*, which described him as the sole survivor of the brigantine *Mary Celeste*. The greatest of all sea mysteries was a sham.

To support Pemberton's story, Keating quoted extracts from the supposed testimony given at the Gibraltar inquiry and cited a fictitious crew list which he purported to have obtained from the New York Commission of Shipping. One statement possibly reveals his story's origin. According to Keating, at the end of his momentous

voyage, Pemberton took ship to England in the Steamer *Columbian*. Shipping records show that a steamer of that name sailed from Gibraltar on December 18, five days after the arrival of the drifting derelict. Pemberton may have been a member of the crew of the *Columbian* and may have heard talk about the mysterious vessel. As time went by he earned himself many pints of beer by pretending to have been a survivor from the *Mary Celeste*.

The Briggs relatives denounced Pemberton's colossal lies, and Richardson's sister expressed her skepticism of the story in which her brother had been replaced as chief mate by a man named Hullock. But to no avail. Pemberton's story had been published in a *book* — that guaranteed its veracity! The relatives had other trials to bear.

The *Mary Celeste* became adopted into the particular fad of the moment. In the 1920's many Britons implicitly believed that they (and no one else) were descended from the "Lost Tribes of Israel" and that the Divine Plan was revealed by the internal measurements of the Great Pyramid. Somehow these beliefs became merged with the legend of the lost continent of Atlantis. The *Mary Celeste's* crew, asserted a contributor to the *British Journal of Astrology*, had been dematerialized in midocean. Their disappearance was only one of the profound mysteries of the fateful year 1872. Captain Briggs and his company presumably had been wafted into heaven or sucked into the cesspool or prediluvial Atlantis as an act of Divine Grace. At least, the Briggs family had no cause for protest.

This supernatural solution to the mystery found an echo in 1955, by when, of course, people had become more enlightened. The Great Pyramid revelation was superseded by the flying saucer craze. It was not therefore difficult to accept that the missing crew had been "snatched into space," as claimed by Prof. M. K. Jessup, instructor in astronomy at a Michigan university. What had motivated the inhabitants of outer space to kidnap the vessel's crew was, he admitted, pure speculation.

Before and after the Second World War several well-known authors, including Lt. Comdr. Rupert Gould of the British Admiralty's Hydrographic Department and Commander Campbell of the BBC's Brains Trust, did their best to contradict the worst errors that had become incontrovertible facts, and Dr. Oliver Cobb continued to challenge the libelous charges made against his cousin. No one listened when he voiced his own theory to account for the vessel's abandonment.

Legend was more exciting than truth. The story of the ship found in midocean with not a soul on board, and no clue to explain what mischance had befallen, inspired a craving for sensation. The famous credo was now fully developed.

When sighted, the "*Marie*" *Celeste* was under full sail, and a long, stern chase was required by the *Dei Gratia* to catch her up. The boarders found not a soul on board; yet a half-eaten breakfast lay on the cabin table, three cups of tea still warm to the touch, a bottle of cough mixture open on the table, a vial of oil and a thimble standing by the sewing machine on which a

child's garment was being repaired. The captain's watch, still ticking, hung from a bracket, the galley fire burned brightly, a cat slept on the locker. The sailors' pipes were half-smoked, their washing hanging up to dry. On the deck lay a bloodstained ax or cutlass. The ship's boats hung intact from their davits.

Conan Doyle had posed a conundrum which not even Sherlock Holmes could have solved. How the *Mary Celeste*'s people had managed to leave their ship remained an impenetrable mystery.

I was brought up on the *Mary Celeste*, like most people of my generation. In 1964, passing through Gibraltar, I had time to spare. I called on the Registrar of the Supreme Court. Could I obtain a copy of the 1872 salvage inquiry? Mr. John E. Alcantara went to look up the files. He returned to say: "Yes, and it will cost you £6 12s." And I was the first person to ask for it. Throughout the 90-year-old argument no one had bothered to try to learn the facts.

The transcript of evidence revealed that the officers Deveau and Wright had found no half-eaten breakfast, no cups of tea still warm to the touch, no egg sliced in two, no cat sleeping on a locker — and the ship's boat was missing. That was the stupendous fact. The legend was a lie. The *Mary Celeste*'s people had left in their own boat. They had abandoned their staunch vessel hurriedly and in sudden panic on November 25, sometime after 8:00 A.M. when the last slate entry had been made. But not long after breakfast, for the beds had not been made. In Mrs. Briggs' world beds were not

left unmade until late morning or afternoon. What had caused the sudden panic? There are clues, but first I must describe the ship and her people.

She was built in Nova Scotia in 1861 and was named the *Amazon*. In 1868 she passed to American owners, who renamed her the *Mary Sellars*. For some unaccountable reason, this became *Mary Celeste*. Briggs became her master in 1872. He was 37 years of age and an experienced seaman, the son and grandson of New England masters. The United States Consul at Gibraltar, Horatio Jones Sprague, stated in 1873 that Briggs "bore the highest character for seamanship and correctness." He knew Briggs as "an intelligent and active ship's master." Briggs acquired an 8/24th interest in the *Mary Celeste*. He married his childhood sweetheart, Sarah Cobb, who joined him on the voyage with their two-year-old daughter Sophia. Mrs. Briggs brought her harmonium and her sewing machine on board. Their seven-year-old son Arthur remained at home in Marion, Mass.

Richardson was described by a Captain Winchester, whose niece he had married, as a "man of excellent character." He had sailed previously with Briggs who had been overheard to congratulate his wife on their good fortune in having Richardson with them as first mate.

The second mate was a Dane, the cook a white American. The four crewmen were German, and were, Briggs told his wife, "a pretty peaceful set." So much for the dissolute crew of mutineers and their mentally deranged captain. It is possible that Briggs and Capt. David Reed Morehouse of the

Dei Gratia were acquainted. They may even have dined together in New York, as Mrs. Richardson said, on the night before the *Mary Celeste* sailed. The *Dei Gratia* followed 10 days later.

Following her ill-fated voyage, the *Mary Celeste* was returned to her owners. She came to an unfortunate end, fulfilling one of the theories that had been advanced to explain her crew's disappearance. She stranded on January 3, 1885, at Haiti. Her captain was charged with wrecking the ship, and although testimony was given that "it was a clear day and the sea was smooth; that the reef on which the vessel struck was plainly marked on the chart and clearly visible," the jury in Boston disagreed. Capt. Gilman Parker died before he could be tried again. We can now return to 1872.

Expecting to make a pleasant voyage, as he told his mother, Captain Briggs steered into the Atlantic, encountering foul weather and making for the Azores. The last log entry was made at noon on Sunday, November 24. The vessel is making eight knots and the islands of St. Michael and St. Mary lie 100 and 110 miles ahead. The weather is stormy. By 8:00 A.M. next day the *Mary Celeste* is past St. Mary's. It is the first fine day since the vessel left New York. The hatches have been battened down for 20 days. Below decks are 1701 casks of crude alcohol.

What happened on the *Mary Celeste* that morning can only be conjectured. Certain clues suggest a chain of events which might have led to catastrophe.

Did Briggs take the opportunity provided by the fine weather to ventilate the hold? That seems possible

for the fore hatch cover was found on the deck. Or it may have been blown off. When the cargo was unloaded at Genoa, nine casks had leaked and were empty. The alcohol may have spilled into the bottom of the hold.

Repeatedly throughout the long controversy, Captain Winchester, the vessel's principal owner, and Dr. Cobb stated their own opinion that the cause of the abandonment had been the generation of explosive gas in the hold. The fumes from the leaked alcohol had either exploded, or rumbled, when Briggs ordered the hatch cover to be taken off. He may have feared that the vessel would catch fire.

Briggs ordered the crew to take in sail and launch the longboat. They lowered the mainsail and furled the royal and the topgallant, slowing the vessel. Possibly the gas exploded or rumbled again. It was a tense situation, fraught with peril. Briggs ordered his crew to abandon ship. The sailors descended from the masts leaving several sails set, the upper and lower fore-topsails, the jib, the fore-topmast staysail and the foresail. Briggs snatched up his navigational instruments and the ship's papers. Richardson began to scribble a message to his wife. He was forced to give up. In great haste everyone clambered into the boat and put off, intent to reach safety before the explosion that they momentarily expected.

Someone secured the boat to a towline. It may be significant that the main peak halyard, the stout rope three inches in circumference and 300 feet long, was found 10 days later broken and hanging over the ship's side. Its end was secured by a belaying

pin at the foot of the mast. It was not in use for the mainsail had been stowed on the deckhouse.

The boat trailed astern, secured to the *Mary Celeste* by the improvised towline. What then happened is again conjecture. We know from the report of the Servico Meteorologico dos Azores that the weather deteriorated that morning. A storm blew up. The seas around the Azores were lashed by gale-force winds and torrential rain.

Ten people were huddled in a boat between 16 and 20 feet long, and with a freeboard of some nine to 12 inches. The disaster may have happened thus.

Under the impact of the wind, the unmanned *Mary Celeste* lunged forward, breaking the improvised towline, leaving the occupants of the boat struggling to catch up with the on-sweeping vessel. The tantalizing chase may have lasted until late afternoon, when the wind veered from southwest to northwest, propelling the boat past the precipitous cliffs of the Azores and into the broad wastes of the Atlantic.

Then came the awful realization. The poor people of the *Mary Celeste* knew that their fears had been un-

founded and that they were alone. Inevitably the small boat became swamped; its occupants drowned.

Undirected by human hand, with five sails set and holding up into the wind, the *Mary Celeste* careered on her eastward course, her decks empty, her volatile cargo unharmed.

Briggs had been frightened by a shadow. Both Winchester and Cobb, his cousin, believe that he may have panicked and ordered the abandonment of his ship. Cobb, who in his youth had sailed before the mast, heard of a ship also on a voyage to Genoa whose cargo of crude alcohol had exploded, blowing off the hatch. The captain, believing his ship to be on fire, had launched a boat and ordered his men into it. But on observing no smoke or fire he called them back.

This prosaic solution to the famous mystery is, of course, entirely unacceptable, for, as we know, "when legend and truth conflict — print the legend." The legend of the drifting derelict is imperishable. But, had not young Dr. Conan Doyle needed money, we might never have heard of the "*Marie*" *Celeste*.



THE CALLS OF FATE

By B. Frank Ball

MR. AND MRS. Roger Call of Barboursville, W.Va., were born on the same day, June 19, 1943, were graduated from elementary school, junior high school and high school on the same dates in May, and from Marshall College (now University) on May 13, 1965. They were married September 5, 1964, and both entered the teaching profession after

graduation. Mrs. Call is my niece.

Mr. Call's paternal grandmother and Mrs. Call's maternal grandmother died on the same day, August 8, 1979, and were buried two days later. Mr. Call attended his grandmother's funeral and burial 40 miles away while his wife and their two children Mark and Beth attended her grandmother's funeral at Barboursville.

The Ghost Who Hated Kids

Behind them, at the top of the stairs, the terrified children could see the old man's ghost, his face livid with hatred.

By Mary Dowd Niles

SHORTLY AFTER the turn of the century Mr. and Mrs. Richard G. Werner purchased a new home at 45 Ringle Street in Rochester, N.Y. At that time the property was just inside the city limits and the couple looked forward to enjoying suburban life with their three young sons, Francis, Richard and Charles. The house stood on a new tract which formerly had been a large farm. Their huge four-bedroom home had once been a barn. Since Ringle was the last street in the tract, beyond their property lay a vast expanse of meadows and woods in which their little sons could run and play to their hearts' content.

Mr. Werner was an iron molder at the old Galusha Factory. The work was hot and fatiguing and the iron rust colored his prematurely white hair. So he came to be called "Rusty Dick." Every evening after he had eaten his dinner and rested for an hour, he would retire to the local pub where he and his cronies played euchre for

money. Consequently it was some time before he personally experienced the strange manifestations which were afflicting the house.

His wife Jane, who was called Jenny, was a down-to-earth, reserved woman, certainly not the kind of person given to hysteria. Yet she and the children could plainly hear the heavy footsteps of a man come down from the attic, walk down the flight of stairs and continue on out the back door. After an interval of 10 or 15 minutes, they would hear the back door open and close and the footsteps would retrace the route up the stairs; then, since the attic door was right at the top of the stairs, they would hear it open and close and the footsteps would go on up the attic stairs.

An agnostic who believed vaguely in a Supreme Being, Rusty Dick Werner scoffed at the idea of life after death and had no time for talk of ghosts. When his family begged him to stay home with them so that he could

hear the ghostly footsteps for himself, he laughed and told them they were letting their imaginations run away with them.

Finally one night when he stayed at home to hear his favorite opera star, Madame Schumann-Heink, on the Atwater-Kent radio, he heard the footsteps. After determining for himself that no human agency could have been responsible for them, he had to admit his family was right.

His curiosity aroused, he asked around to see what people might know about the house's past. He discovered that the property had once been part of a farm belonging to a man who hated kids. The farmer and his wife had been married for years and appeared to be happy though childless. No one knew why he disliked children so intensely but they did know he never allowed a child on his farm.

The farmer's wife died suddenly when they were middle-aged. He took her death very hard. After the funeral he went home, climbed to the barn loft and hanged himself. Neighbors became alarmed when he was not seen for some time and called the police, who found his body. The barn loft now was the attic of the Werners' home.

When the Werners learned this, they felt sorry for the poor man and from then on they prayed for his soul every time they heard him walking. After a while they accepted their ghost as a fact of everyday life and considered him "harmless." They were wrong.

The real trouble began when Rusty Dick decided to add to the family income by renting out a bedroom. Each of the boys had his own room and because none of them wanted to dou-

ble up, their father built a fifth bedroom in the attic and moved the oldest son, Francis, into it.

At first all the kids wanted that room, way up and off by itself. It seemed fun and Frankie happily moved all his gear into his new room. His joy was short-lived. He no sooner fell asleep on the first night than his bed rocked and his covers were snatched off. In the illumination provided by the outside streetlight he could see a dark form looming over him. He bolted out of bed and shot downstairs crying out in fright.

His parents thought he'd had a nightmare but when he stubbornly refused to go up to his room again, they asked Richard, who was called R. G., to take his place. R. G. had the same experience. Attributing his panic to contagious hysteria, they persuaded their youngest boy Charles to go up there to bed.

Charles, the baby of the family, had coveted that room all along and needed no persuading. Nonetheless his father showed him every nook and cranny of the attic and assured him that nobody could possibly be hiding up there. Charles climbed into his new bed and his father returned to his own bed. Moments later Charles came screaming down the stairs.

When Rusty Dick himself tried sleeping in that bed, he too experienced the rocking and cover-snatching. That did it! He forgot all about his plans for renting out a room and forbade any of the children to go up into the attic after dark. Since all the manifestations occurred at night, he assumed that it would be safe to use the attic in the daytime.

So the Werners learned to live with the ghost and it apparently learned to live with them. For as long as nobody entered the attic at night, all was well. They could still hear him walking in the attic and once or twice a month they heard him come downstairs and go outside. He always came back in and returned to the attic after a few minutes.

The years passed, the boys grew up, and all married except R.G. Then in 1929 Jenny Werner's brother David A. Dowd was divorced and the Werners agreed to take the children, Mary, seven, and Chucky, four.

The next Thanksgiving Day there was a Dowd family reunion at the Ringle Street home. After dinner was over and the dishes were done, Jenny and her two sisters Pet Brown and Gert Moran, reminiscing at the kitchen table, decided to look at the old family albums stored in the attic.

Mary and Chucky were playing at the back door, so Jenny called Mary in and sent her into the attic to open the big steamer trunk at the top of the stairs. Under some clothes she would find the album. She was to bring it down.

I was that little girl and this is what happened: Chucky wanted to go with me, so he tagged along at my heels. We went up into the attic. With the sun shining through the windows, the room was well-lighted and as I opened the trunk I was fascinated by the ostrich plumes and Gay 90's hats on top. My brother, who was standing next to me, looked over his shoulder, then flinched and started to cry. "Hurry up, Nanny!" he said. "I'm afraid of that mean old man there."

I looked behind me to see a slightly-built old man with short gray hair; he was wearing overalls and knee-high black boots. I'll never forget his eyes, which looked like glaring black holes. His whole demeanor was so menacing that I shouted, "Run, Chucky!" and my brother ran down the stairs. I grabbed the album and followed him as fast as I could.

When we got to the bottom, the door was shut and Chucky was fumbling with the knob. I screamed, "Hurry!" Behind me, at the top of the stairs, I could see the old man, his face livid with hatred, leaning over the banister. Panic-stricken, I grabbed the knob and managed to get the door open. Chucky and I screamed all the way down the stairs to the ground floor.

Our aunts came running to meet us. When I told them about the nasty old man, Aunt Pet turned angrily to Aunt Jenny and snapped, "You should have known better than to send those kids up there with that ghost. You know he hates kids!"

"What's a ghost?" I asked.

Aunt Jenny explained that the poor farmer who used to live there had killed himself; this was a terrible sin and he would have to stay on earth without a body until his time was come and an angel came for him. She said we must pray for him because he was terribly unhappy. Then she impressed on us that we must never under any circumstances go up into that attic again.

I lived in the house on Ringle Street until I married at the age of 21. All the years of my childhood I never dared go up into that attic. Only when I was

in my early teens did my aunt say it was safe now for me to enter it in the daytime, since I was no longer a child. Even after that I wouldn't go up alone.

I vividly recall the numerous times my aunt, brother and I would be sitting in the parlor in the evening reading and listening to the radio. We would freeze when we heard those footsteps as they echoed on the squeaking stairs. All the while the ghost, unseen, tramped downstairs, went outside and returned to the attic, we would sit without uttering a sound. After he was back in the attic, we'd breathe a sigh of relief and say a quick prayer for his soul.

Once, on a Saturday night when I was 16, I found myself alone in the house. We all had gone out for the evening and I was first to return. I had just settled down in the parlor to read *Collier's* magazine when I heard the footsteps and the creaking attic door. I dashed wildly out of the house and although it was almost midnight, I pounded on the front door of our next-door neighbors, the Haucks, rousing them from bed. Kay Hauck answered the door and breathlessly I told her I did not want to be alone in our house with the ghost. The Haucks, who had been neighbors of the Werners for years, knew all about the ghost and

Kay took it in stride. She invited me in and we drank hot chocolate until we heard my cousin's car drive up.

On a Sunday shortly after that, Aunt Jenny decided to get something from the attic. Suddenly we heard her terrified scream and rushed upstairs to find her lying in a dead faint at the foot of the attic stairs. When we revived her at last, she was hysterical. Uncle Dick had to slap her face to bring her out of it.

When she regained her senses, she exclaimed, "I never thought he'd do this to me! I was almost at the top of the attic stairs when the ghost appeared right in front of me. It was a big black shape with just a face glaring at me. I guess that's when I fainted and fell down the stairs."

In a rage Uncle Dick stormed up the steps to the attic and stood there cursing and shaking his fist at the invisible ghost. "I've put up with you for years, you so-and-so!" he hollered. "Now you've gone too far! Get out and stay out! Don't you dare come back!"

Nobody thought his outburst would have any effect but strange to say, we never did hear footsteps after that. Aunt Jenny suggested that the farmer's time had come, so he went. Whether or not this was true, we never heard or saw him again.



NIXON BUSTS CARTER

ON TUESDAY, July 29, 1980, Richard Nixon arrested Jimmy Carter. Nixon was among a team of Detroit, Mich., police officers staking out a business area where a number of burglaries had been reported. The stakeout paid off with the arrest of a man caught breaking through the front door of a business establishment. The suspect, Jimmy Carter, was charged with breaking and entering.

— TRUE —

MYSTIC EXPERIENCES

FATE will pay \$10.00 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.

REENACTMENT OF A CRIME

By Lillian Parks

A STOCKY red-haired man stepped off the bus in Wysox, Pa., one hot humid day in August 1927. As it happened, Ethel Gilley, my aunt, was shopping that day and along with the other townspeople she noticed the new arrival.

Later investigation proved the man had traveled from some point south-east, possibly New York City. He checked into the small hotel and asked the hotel clerk if he knew a family named Weston. Learning that Joe Weston, his wife Sarah and five children lived three miles south of Wysox, the stranger thanked the clerk and left the hotel.

No more was seen of the man until three days later — August 29, 1927 — when 14-year-old Ben Weston discovered his savagely beaten nude body in the river below the Weston farm home. His body bore no identifying marks and his clothing was never found. In the ensuing investigation the

Weston family denied any knowledge of the red-haired man and no one was apprehended for the crime.

Two years later the Weston family moved to West Virginia and my Aunt Ethel and Uncle Charles purchased their farm. As we did every summer my widowed mother Harriet McClure and I planned to vacation with her sister Ethel and in 1929 we looked forward to spending two weeks in the newly acquired farmhouse.



Lillian Parks

We left our home in Elmira, N.Y., to travel to Wysox in July. Immediately after we arrived at the large white farmhouse Aunt Ethel began to talk of how nervous she had been for the past few weeks. She told us that on three separate occasions, while in her sewing room on the second floor, she had heard strange noises at the foot of the stairs. When she went to see what was happening, she was shocked to see the red-haired stranger struggling desperately with a large dark-skinned man wearing overalls.

The violent thuds and sounds of blows followed by groans and angry mutterings completely unnerved her. Each time this happened she ran to her sewing room and stayed there until Uncle Charles came home from the flour mill where he worked. He was always furious with her for what he called her wild imagination.

We had been there about a week when on July 28, 1929, four of us witnessed the fight at the foot of the stairs. We were in the sewing room — my 10-year-old cousin Gail and I, who was eight, were sewing doll clothes while our mothers sewed and visited.

Suddenly the fight started. We went rushing out to look down on two struggling men, grunting and cursing in muffled tones. Within a few minutes the scene faded and the sounds ceased. Aunt Ethel gave us a look that said, "I told you so," and we went back to the sewing room.

When Uncle Charles came home that night he had to admit Aunt Ethel had not been imagining the occurrence. He then told us that maybe the red-haired man had met with violence in that house. He led us in prayer that

the restless spirit would find peace now that he had enacted the drama of his death before our eyes. The prayer must have been answered, for my aunt and uncle lived for many years in that farmhouse without another disturbance. — *Wister, Okla.*

DISASTER AVERTED

By Merrilllee A. Dolan

I HAVE always heeded my dreams but I never expected a friend to have a warning dream on my behalf. Yet my friend Chris Soule's dream saved my university area rental house in Albuquerque, N. Mex.

On Friday, January 2, 1976, Chris called to tell me of her previous night's dream. She said she didn't put much stock in it but she couldn't rest until she told me. Chris and I had worked together until I made the difficult decision to leave my secure job and launch my own projects. Without a steady income, my only anchor was my duplex plus its partially finished basement apartment which I rented to a medical student. I lived in one side of the duplex and rented the other half to a university employee.

Chris had dreamed of a hallway explosion about where my floor furnace was. The mighty explosion ripped through the floor. It would destroy my house if it was not prevented.

I worried all day. It seemed silly but I decided better safe than sorry and that evening I called Trujillo Plumbing, explaining that I might have a "furnace problem."

Saturday morning, January 3, Manuel Trujillo appeared at my door with his son Mannie. "Brought my little helper along," he said. "What can I

do for you this morning?"

"I don't know how to explain this," I answered, "so I'll tell you what happened." I described the dream. Mr. Trujillo's eyes searched mine in disbelief but he said, "OK, let's go have a look."

We proceeded to the basement where the two furnaces and three hot water tanks were located. Mr. Trujillo surveyed the aluminum pipes above the rental's furnace. "Nothing wrong here," he said.

Next he checked a large recently installed hot water tank, also belonging to the rental. "This is OK," he reported. He ducked through a small opening into a tiny room where the other two water tanks and the furnace to the unit I occupied were located. Mannie and I followed.

"How about my furnace?" I asked, feeling apprehensive. "No," he said, uninterested. "This is OK, too," he offered, patting the hot water tank that supplied my unit.

"How about these pipes?" I asked, looking up at the jumble of copper and lead that crisscrossed the low ceiling.

"*Here!*" he exclaimed. "Here's your problem!"

I turned to see Mr. Trujillo standing by the smallest hot water tank, the basement apartment's tank. It stood in a cubbyhole just three feet from my furnace.

"Look here. This is your safety valve. This thing is *old*. It's stuck. It's a wonder it didn't already blow! You were lucky! I'm going to prop it open for now. I'll be back in an hour with a new one."

Wide-eyed, Mannie looked at me, then he looked at his father.

"What did I tell you?" Mr. Trujillo said. "Always listen to your intuition. I do."

As we trooped out he added, "If I have a hard job I dream about it and if I do what the dream says I always do it right."

I knew I had done it right too by heeding my friend's dream. — *Los Alamos, N. Mex.*

BABY-HAUNTED CAR

By Connie von Hundertmark

WHEN THE baby cried and screamed in terror or pain it was frightening; when he whimpered piteously it was the most chilling sound of all. The presence of the disembodied infant who haunted my brother Tom's car held my whole family in the grip of fear for one entire night.

In the summer of 1976 Tom purchased a year-old Ford Mustang in mint condition for one-third the going rate. The seller explained this giveaway price by saying he needed a quick sale to raise cash. Tom didn't suspect there might be another ominous reason.

The only discernible flaw in the car was in the hard plastic console separating the front bucket seats. It was somewhat smashed. Since the mechanics of the car were solid and the exterior in showroom shape, this minor damage seemed no reason to pass up such a bargain.

In the beginning we all were excited at having such a beautiful car in the family and everyone clamored for a ride. The shuttle service Tom provided back and forth from house to supermarket or library never gave us

any hint that something was amiss.

Our family home was set apart from the other houses on an isolated rural street. Tom drove to his job as a waiter in the city and had to make the trek home at night over a four-mile hill of winding road. The lack of streetlights and a car radio made the four miles seem long and lonely. One night about three weeks after purchasing the automobile he returned from work at 11:00 P. M. as usual. He pulled into our cinder driveway, came inside and went up to bed.

Two hours later my parents, whose bedroom faced the driveway, heard a baby screaming. The cries were loud and filled with terror. They seemed to be coming from right outside the bedroom window. My parents raced outside. There was no doubt that the baby's screams came from the car. Father jerked open the car door and the cries abruptly stopped. He searched over and under the front and backseat but found no trace of a child.

"Perhaps someone somehow abandoned a baby in Tommy's trunk," Mother suggested.

They closed the car door and hurried to Tom's bedroom for his trunk keys. As soon as the car door slammed the baby resumed his pathetic wailing, alternating it with a thin despondent whimpering cry. This continued for the five minutes it took them to return with the trunk key. As soon as my parents opened the trunk the crying ceased, just as it had before when they opened the car door. There was no baby in the trunk but the crying resumed as soon as the trunk was closed.

My puzzled parents began to feel that there was no logical explanation for this and decided to put the dogs on the job. They called Pixie and Babe and asked if they'd like to go for a ride. Car rides were the dogs' joy regardless of the hour, so the two raced out the door and headed toward the car. When they got within two feet of the car both dogs suddenly stopped and growled low in their throats while their hackles rose — they too were hearing the baby's wails and low sobs. The dogs refused to go near the car.

Since nothing else could be done my parents returned to the house and prayed for the spirit of the child who sounded so tormented and for themselves who were so frightened by this strange event.

The wailing continued for two hours during which time the sound kept my parents helplessly awake.

The next morning Mother phoned to tell me the story of the night's events. I rushed over to see if combining my limited psychic ability with my maternal instincts would enable me to contact the baby.

Sitting alone in the car I sang every lullaby I knew. I spoke soothingly and reassuringly as if the child were a living, breathing visible infant. I told him another baby, sweet Infant Jesus, was waiting for him and that sunshine, happiness and much love awaited him if he would cross over. I rocked as if I held him in my arms; I tried to be as comforting, gentle and loving as a mother could be.

We never heard the child again after that night.

I often wonder if the broken console between the front seats got that way

from impact with a baby. It is only a guess — the car continues to keep its secret.

However he died our ghost child appears to have found release from pain

and trouble. We're sure he is now the little angel in heaven he should have been long ago, before being trapped in a nightmare of time and space. — *Kew Gardens Hills, N. Y.*

MY PROOF OF SURVIVAL

FATE will pay \$10.00 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 ROSE IN WINTER

By J. E. Strimple

AT ONE o'clock in the morning on December 21, 1980, my wife of 46 years quit breathing. Dorothy died after a grim struggle that had lasted more than four years — and during those years we had made the usual pacts to try to communicate. Since her death two things have happened that make me believe she has been successful.

On New Year's Day 1981 I was in Bay City, Tex., with my son Phillip, my daughter-in-law Rosemary and my granddaughter Kimberly. We were watching the Orange Bowl football game. About 8:00 P.M. I was suddenly surrounded by the smell of cologne. It was so strong that I got up and checked my suitcase to see if anything had spilled. Nothing had. None of the

three other people in the room smelled anything. I believe this was a manifestation from my wife. She was telling me she was all right.

But the rose is even more compelling. In the backyard of my Galveston home a rambling rose on the fence makes the yard a glory for two weeks every spring. My wife always loved this rambler and it was one of her sorrows when she could no longer go out



J.E. Strimple

to see it in bloom. A few days after she died, in the dead of winter, I found one bloom on that rosebush. In the summer the blooms never last more than two weeks or so but as I write this (in February 1981) the blossom has been on the bush for more than six weeks. It has faded a little but has lost only a few petals.

I have never encountered anything like this winter-blooming rose. It has lasted more than three times as long as nature intended and survived a brutal norther and winds gusting to more than 50 miles an hour. — *Galveston, Tex.*

THE DEAD LIVE

By Betty Harbison

FROM THE early hours of July 5, 1970, when my mother and sister Barbara woke me to tell me of my husband Doyle's sudden death — he was struck by lightning — until a week after the nightmare of his funeral I felt only grief and pain. I know many other persons have experienced the same devastating bereavement but my own experience began to be different after



Betty Harbison

a visit my sister-in-law Maurice made to our local cemetery. Her story gave me the first glimmer of hope that there is life beyond the grave.

"Betty," Maurice whispered loudly in my ear, "come outside with me, I want to tell you something." She gathered up her cigarettes and lighter from the kitchen table and with her hand on my arm propelled me quickly out the door of her parents' home. We sat down on the stone steps unmindful of the hot July evening and the swarms of singing mosquitoes.

Maurice lit her cigarette, took a few drags, then said, "Betty, I saw Doyle this afternoon. Mother and I were at the cemetery taking some of the flower arrangements from his grave. I bent down to pick one up and suddenly there was Doyle's face not more than a foot from my own! It appeared to be floating behind a fog or cloud. I heard him say, 'You better not pick my flowers!' He chuckled just as he always did when he thought something was funny and then his image faded slowly away."

My heart pounded as I tried to understand what it all meant. Maurice's brother, my late husband Doyle, had returned from the grave to let her know he had survived death — that we all survive death. And he had done it in the only way he knew how, humorously. — *Leesburg, Fla.*

INVISIBLE SAMARITAN

By Stephen Van Eck

MEDICAL science recently has become aware of the phenomenon of "sleep apnea," a condition in which the sleeping person will mysteriously stop breathing for 15 seconds

or more. In rare cases they never resume breathing. This unexplained condition may affect several thousand people and I myself have had quite a few episodes in which I have been jolted awake by my own urgent gasping for air.

During one episode my system may not have resumed respiration on its own. Early in the morning on September 14, 1979, I was in the sleep-delirium typical of the lighter states of sleep. Then I "heard" a strong yet placid "voice" cut through the delirium to say, "Wake up, you're breathing wrong." And I felt a pair of cool hands gently holding mine.

I wondered who was in the room with me and why he was waking me up by grasping my hands and apparently trying to pull me up. I tried to ask what was wrong but discovered that I was completely paralyzed. I began to panic, realizing that it was taking me an unusually long time to rouse myself. It was as if my metabolism were in an unusually depressed state. As I struggled to gain wakefulness it occurred to me there might be no one there with me. I opened my eyes to find that I was correct. It was midmorning and I was the only person in the house.

The message I had received was clearer than the most lucid thought and at the time I received it, it seemed peculiarly nonauditory. Intuitively I felt it to be telepathic. Similarly, the hands holding mine, while lacking in warmth, were nonetheless as real and solid as any physical contact. I can only believe I was saved from a fluke death that morning by some benevolent spiritual entity taking an interest in my existence. This raises serious



Stephen Van Eck

questions not only about my health but regarding the extent to which human beings are permitted to live their lives without interference or manipulation.

I did not wish to die just then, however, so I could not resent the help I received from my invisible samaritan.

— *Exton, Pa.*

"TAKE CARE, LITTLE ONE"

By Ann Kirchberg

IN 1972, when I was eight years old, my grandfather Edward Kirchberg, whom I loved dearly, died. About 2:00 A.M. the next day I woke up to the sound of Grandpa's laughter. Forgetting he had died, I rolled over to see what was so funny. A yellow light shone in the room next to mine and I heard voices singing. But above the noise I distinctly heard Grandpa's laugh. It seemed loud but at the same time far away.

As I looked into the yellow glow, the figure of a young man wearing bib overalls and a T-shirt, his dark hair cut short, began to form. As the seconds passed, the image of the man aged until he was a dignified elderly man with a hearing aid, gray hair and wire-rimmed glasses: Grandpa.



Ann Kirchberg

He added his voice to the other chanting singers. The chant contained no words but was a steady rhythmic hum which seemed to beckon me. Suddenly a piercing shriek filled the air and continued, increasing in volume. It seemed to be coming from the ball of light. By squinting into the brightness I could distinguish the outline of my grandfather's elderly figure.

Then the light began to lessen and I could hear Grandpa calling to me. He kept asking for his "baby girl" to be brought to him while the loud scream continued, almost drowning out Grandpa's voice. It stopped only when I choked out the word, "Grandpa!" But he gave no hint he heard me.

Slowly his image began to fade. I felt the touch of wet lips against my cheek and heard Grandpa say, "Take care, little one. I love you." Then he and the light faded into nothingness.

I shouted, "No, you can't leave me!" But everything was dark. He had said good-bye. — *Dubuque, Iowa.*

MOTHER CAME BACK

By Terri Price

MY MOTHER Evelyn June Aro died in a car crash when I was

11 years old. I had a very hard time accepting her death. I was filled with grief and sorrow.

Then on a night in September 1962, not long after Mother's death, my grandmother Roberta Rushing, my sister Ione and I had all gone to bed. They were already asleep but at 12:30 A.M. I still lay awake.

My Grandpa Rushing, who worked afternoons and nights, hadn't come home yet. The house was very quiet. The living room lamp had been left burning for Grandpa, as it was every night.

Suddenly I heard the front door open. I lay there listening, thinking it was Grandpa. But then I knew it wasn't. I heard footsteps softly walking from room to room. Someone opened and closed the doors to the basement and attic.

Strangely enough I wasn't scared. I had an unusual feeling of warmth and peace. Then I heard the front door close and it was as if the door had closed on my sorrow; it was gone.

I believe with all my heart that my mom came to say good-bye and to ease my heartache.

A short time later, just a matter of days, another strange thing happened. My mom was an only child and was only 32 when she died. My Grandma Rushing took her death very hard. She cried every night and even called out my mom's name in her grief.

One night after we were all in bed and before Grandpa got home, there was a knock on the front door. Grandma got up, went to the door and switched on the porch light. There on the porch stood my mom.

According to Grandma she said,

"It's me, Mom, don't be afraid. Please don't be sad. I'm at peace now."

Then she was gone and so was my grandma's sorrow. She finally accepted my mom's death. — *Rockwood, Mich.*

A SYMPATHY CALL?

By Jeanne Gladstone

IN THE 1918 influenza epidemic my father George Amyx died. I was ill too the night he died but I recovered.

He was laid out in the parlor of our house in Chanute, Kans., and the nurse carried me downstairs to see him and say my last good-bye. Although I was only six years old I have always remembered what he was wearing and especially the blue and white polka-dot bow tie; it was his favorite.

I saw my father again 28 years later and 75 miles from his burial place. I had married James Gladstone and we were living in Ottawa, Kans. One afternoon I was making apple pie for

supper and my year-old baby boy Jim was sleeping in his playpen. The house was quiet until, suddenly, I heard an unfamiliar creaking sound in the next room. I walked to the connecting door and watched my father materialize before me — first his feet in a smoky cloud, followed by his body, then his head. He was wearing the outdated suit he had been buried in — and the polka-dot bow tie. His curly blond hair and big blue eyes were so familiar that I stepped toward him with outstretched hand.

A look of surprise and alarm crossed his face before he quickly disappeared — first his head, then his body and last his feet. I stood gaping at nothing.

Although the encounter was brief, after 42 years it is still vivid in my mind. That very day I had learned that my baby son would be handicapped for life — he suffered from mongolism. Had my baby's long-dead grandfather hoped to comfort me? Was his visit a sympathy call? — *Ottawa, Kans.*



CHINESE YELLERS MAKE RAIN

WHENEVER residents in part of China's southern Yunnan Province need rain they simply yell for it. The louder they yell, the more rain falls, and the longer they yell, the longer the rain lasts.

Shanghai's *Liberation Daily* reported in early 1981 that at the foot of a mountain there are a number of pools nicknamed "the mysterious lakes." According to the newspaper, whenever anyone speaks in a loud

voice in the vicinity of the lakes, heavy rain immediately falls.

The *Liberation Daily* reported that the local Communist Party boss pooh-poohed these reports but when he visited the lakes and shouted in a high-pitched voice a downpour followed in less than a minute.

Local experts theorize the air around the lakes is so wet that the slightest vibration can precipitate showers.

Georgia's 5000-Year-Old Eagle Effigies

Who were the native Americans who built monumental eagles of milky-white quartz before the Egyptians built their first pyramid?

By Jim Miles

THREE OF the oldest, most magnificent aboriginal ruins to be found in the United States lie in central Georgia. Here, within a radius of 50 miles, are three giant eagle effigies laid out in brilliant white stone. Even more startling is the fact that they were built more than 5000 years ago,* at a time when the first Egyptian pyramids were only figments of a Pharaoh's imagination.

The best known of these effigy mounds, called Rock Eagle, is startlingly realistic. Matthew Stirling, former president of the Bureau of Ethnology, described it as the most perfect effigy mound in America. It is located on the grounds of the 4-H Club Center 12 miles north of Eatonton on U.S. Highway 129-441.

The eagle is lying on its back with wings spread as if in flight. From wingtip to wingtip it measures 120 feet. Its body from head to tail is 102 feet long and its tail is 38 feet wide. The massive breast alone is 60 feet long and 35 feet

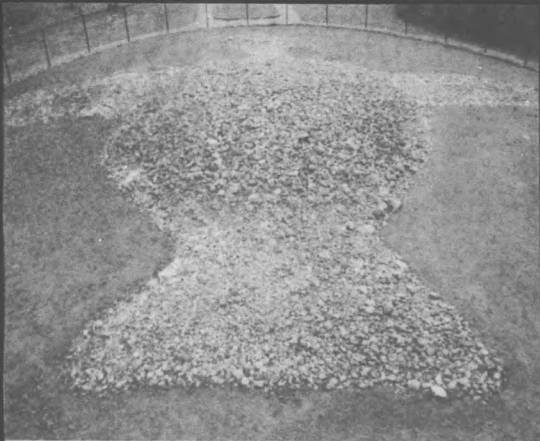
wide. With beak realistically curved, the head is turned toward the east to greet the morning sun. A circle of stones rings the bird and today a high chain link fence has been raised inside the stone circle.

The near-perfect proportions of every part of the eagle's body have been attained by the use of different-sized rocks in each part of the effigy. The breast, which is the largest part of the bird, was constructed with huge boulders; each would have required three strong men to transport. Spaces between these large stones were filled in with small rock fragments. The breast reaches a height of 10 feet, the highest part of the mound.

The size of the stones and the height to which they were piled decrease in the head, wings and tail, which average about two feet high. The smallest fragments, meant to represent tiny feathers, were used in the wings and tail.

All of the stone used in the effigy is beautiful milky-white quartz, transported by some unknown means from a three-mile-distant surface quarry, a natural outcropping of quartz across a valley west of the Rock Eagle.

*The University of Georgia Archaeological Laboratory in Athens determined the age of the mound by carbon 14 tests.

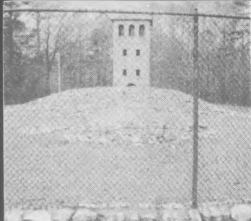


Various-sized pieces of quartz were used to build eagle effigy, America's oldest Indian mound. It lies 12 miles north of Eatonton, Ga., on 4-H Club grounds.

The mound is so large that a four-story tower was built to enable visitors to appreciate the eagle's true dimensions. The land now belongs to the 4-H organization, which maintains a campground here and which also used quartz from the quarry to build its main convention hall in the camp. Thousands of youngsters visit the mound every year.

Who built this fantastic effigy—and why? These questions have troubled antiquarians since the site was discovered in the 1830's when this part of Georgia was first settled. The answers are hard to find.

The late Dr. A. R. Kelly, formerly professor emeritus of archaeology at the University of Georgia, is one of the few scholars who have studied this mound-building culture. He believes it existed 5000 years ago, about 3000 B.C. It seems astonishing that Indians were erecting great heaps of stone 2000 years before they domesticated animals, discovered the uses of pottery, or even formed an agricultural society. Although these native Americans are still a mystery, they built a chain of stone mounds which extended from Georgia to Iowa. The culture is so obscure that it has no name.



Visitors view effigy's true dimensions from four-story tower and can see its graduated proportions at ground level.

During the summer of 1954 Dr. Kelly and a group of archaeology students, under the auspices of the University of Georgia, scientifically dismantled, then reconstructed the entire mound, also restoring the breast which had been destroyed in the early 1800's by treasure hunters seeking gold.

In the course of the excavation, the team dug test trenches next to the effigy, then removed the stones in the mound and excavated underneath the eagle. All they discovered was that the surface of the hilltop had been scraped clean before construction of the effigy began. Trees had been chopped down, their stumps dug up and native rock removed. A six-inch-thick layer of hard yellow clay had been imported and smoothed and the eagle was built atop it. They found not a shred of man-made material, not even a chip of flint, in this search for evidence of the eagle's builders. Various deposits of charcoal from ancient fires were found and used in the carbon dating, but no artifacts or clues to the culture that built the mound appeared.

Historically, the land belonged to

FATE

the Hitchitis, part of the Creek Confederacy, and the first white owner was one I. H. Scott. It remained in his family for 100 years, until the 1930's, when it was sold to the state of Georgia with the provision that the eagle never be harmed.

* * *

A SECOND almost identical eagle mound was found only 10 miles from Rock Eagle near Lawrence's Ferry on the Oconee River. It lies in a field a quarter-mile off State Highway 16 between Eatonton and Sparta. It too was built on a stony ridge but by the time archaeologists discovered this eagle it had been almost obliterated by treasure seekers.

This eagle is 102 feet long from head to tail with a wingtip-to-wingtip span of 132 feet. Its round breast is 76 feet in diameter, its split tail 78 feet wide, and the greatest height of its breast is five feet. The short curved wings are barely two feet high. This was obviously meant to be a twin to Rock Eagle and differs in no substantial manner. Its wings are spread and the head faces east, as if soaring to greet the rising sun. Built with the same quartz as Rock Eagle (although the stone came from the ridge where the eagle lies) this mound is owned and protected by the Georgia Power Company.

In 1974 the utility exercised its authority of eminent domain to buy 12,000 acres of land near Juliette in Monroe County. This site, between Macon and Atlanta, is only 40 miles from the two stone eagle effigies in Putnam County. On this land is a third eagle, a mammoth stone mound that dwarfs the first two. On its denuded



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hilltop it stands out like a white beacon on aerial photographs.

The mound, located on land that once belonged to Mrs. E. C. Williams, was found on the crest of a hill overlooking a wooded valley. The mound is made up of quartz rocks piled to a present height of 20 feet. Green Chambers, a 65-year-old resident who was raised on a farm near the mound, recalls that when he played there as a child, the mound was 40 feet high. Like the other eagle mounds, this one is built of quartz rocks which range in size from small pebbles to huge

boulders. The builders ingeniously used a natural stone outcrop as a building site and this now pokes up near the center of the mound. It was formerly covered by small stones.

An oval depression in the top of this great mound may have been made by trespassers hunting artifacts and treasure, but Dr. Kelly has hypothesized that the five-foot-deep hole, in the exact center of the eagle's body, may have reflected some cultural meaning for the builders.

Georgia Power Company and some state historians claim that the mound

Plaque stands at entrance to 4-H Club Convention Center. Protected by a chain link fence, eagle effigy is always on display and attracts thousands of visitors yearly.



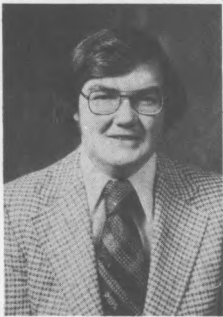
was created by farmers clearing fields and stacking the rocks on the crest. However, Mrs. Williams insists the land has never been under cultivation. Until 50 years ago it was covered by primeval forest which has since been cut; a second stand has grown up. A University of Georgia archaeologist believes this is another eagle mound, the largest of the three, and Dr. Kelly believes it is definitely prehistoric. But because the authorities could not agree, Georgia Power Company was allowed to build here one of four giant coal-powered generating plants. In a few years, when all four are completed, the giant stone mound will be removed to make way for an ash pond.

A number of small stone circles surrounding the base of this mound add to the mystery. Nevertheless, this stone cairn has been extensively damaged in the past few decades by local people who drove into the site and removed large quantities of stone. Many house foundations and walls nearby were built of material from this mound. Mrs. Williams once contracted for a load of stone to be used to build a fence and unbeknownst to her it came from her own mound.

ANTHROPOLOGISTS theorize that the eagle was a sacred symbol denoting a particular tribe or clan. James Mooney, a renowned Smithsonian ethnologist, first made this point in *Myths of the Cherokee* published in 1900. It is now a commonly held view among archaeologists, especially in the South. The historic Cherokee had an "Eagle Man," a high priest who donned a bird costume for ceremonial days.

Other experts would ruin this romantic picture, claiming these mounds represent not the noble eagles, but buzzards, who are well-known for their unappetizing scavenging practices.

The culture that constructed these beautiful mounds left us with no information—no artifacts or clues as to how they lived. We know only that they



JIM MILES, a native of Mobile, Ala., received his B. S. degree in history and a master's degree in education from Georgia Southwestern College in Americus, Ga. Since 1977 he has taught social studies at Peach County High School in Fort Valley, Ga., where he lives with his wife Earline.

His hobbies include investigating American archaeological mysteries, UFOs, Fortean phenomena and southern folklore and history. His first article was published in FATE in 1975 and since then his writing has appeared regularly in UFO, occult and treasure magazines.

built mounds, presumably for ceremonial purposes, even before the Egyptians began erecting pyramids. In contrast to later mound builders, the eagle builders did not use their mounds as tombs and they elected to use stone instead of earth. About 1200 A.D., 4000 years later, another Indian culture in Wisconsin and Iowa built animal effigy mounds of dirt, but their efforts pale in comparison with the far more durable stone mounds erected by their ancestors.

The most important aspect of this

culture is that it is the *only* truly native American one. All subsequent mound civilizations—the Adena, Hopewell and Temple Mound Builders—were directly influenced by contact with Central and South American cultures. The stone mound builders developed independently. Americans' pride in them is summarized in a plaque dedicated at Rock Eagle in 1940 by the Georgia Society of Colonial Dames: "Tread softly here, white man, for long ere you came, strange races lived, fought and loved."



THE DAY MY LUCK CHANGED

By Nancy Holmes

ON MY father-in-law's days off he and his wife often visited Arlington Park Racetrack near Chicago. They entered into the spirit of things by placing small bets on every race. My husband and I often accompanied them and although I bet along with them in the beginning, I always seemed to lose. I couldn't understand such bad luck, for if I picked horses without betting, my choices were inevitably correct. But when I put money on a horse, it was sure to lose. Resigned to this quirk of fate I continued to go to the races and found enjoyment in merely confirming my hunches without hope of monetary return.

Somehow I knew my luck had changed in 1980 when I saw that my birthday would fall on Memorial Day.

"Let's go to the races," I said to my husband. "I'm going to be lucky because my 26th birthday falls on the 26th of the month. I repeated this assertion to friends as well as family who greeted my confidence with amuse-

ment. They knew about my bad luck.

As we prepared to go to the races that day, Mom handed me a birthday card with \$26.00 enclosed. This is an old family custom, she explained, to give "golden money" on a "golden birthday." Something told me this was "lucky" money and I knew I had to bet exactly this amount to win.

When we reached the track my family bought tip sheets to follow the picks of their favorite tipsters but I picked all my horses using combinations of the numbers two and six. Some of my choices were ridiculed, for one of them carried odds of 50 to one and many of the others seemed equally ill-favored.

The amusement turned to amazement, however, when the second race ended. A combination of the numbers two and six came in to pay me more than \$250. By the time my lucky birthday had ended, I was the one who was laughing. I collected almost \$400.00 on that original \$26.00 of "golden money."

This Poltergeist Threw Stones

In a reign of paranormal terror an invisible invader turns on a terrified girl and a helpless family.

By Michael T. Shoemaker

CHARLES FORT records dozens of cases of stones falling from the sky. This phenomenon has been distinguished from falls of meteorites by scientific analysis of the debris and by the circumstances of the falls. A particularly interesting case has been overlooked by Fort and other compilers of unexplained phenomena. The case is notable because of its richness of detail and credibility.

The Steeles were one of the earliest prominent families of Virginia's upper Shenandoah Valley. They settled in the vicinity of Midway, a village on the border between Augusta County and Rockbridge County. Midway, now known as Steeles Tavern, is remembered today as the home of Cyrus McCormick who invented the reaper.

In 1889 William Steele was interviewed by Joseph Addison Waddell, an Augusta County historian. Sixty-four years earlier, at the age of six, Steele had witnessed most of the following events. Waddell says that Steele "distinctly remembers what he saw and heard; and, we may add, his veracity is unquestionable."

John McChesney, a physician, lived

with his wife and four children on a farm about one mile north of Newport, Va., and one mile west of the road known today as State Route 252. Among their servants was a black girl named Maria. She was about eight years old. Mrs. McChesney was the sister of Thomas Steele, William's father, who lived a mile away on Route 252.

As the McChesney family ate supper one evening in January or February 1825, Maria entered the dining room from the kitchen which was located in a separate building 20 or 30 feet from the main house. The frightened girl said an old woman had chased her. The McChesneys ignored her at first but after several days they finally became concerned about her persistent fear.

Soon showers of stones fell at intervals on the main house. These stone showers occurred both in daytime and at night. Most of the stones were about the size of a man's fist but some were so large that a man of normal strength could not possibly have thrown them. A few stones were hot and burned the dry grass where they fell.

Hundreds of persons came to see the spectacle and to try to solve the mystery. At times the grounds surrounding the house were crowded with curiosity-seekers who poked about but never found where the stones were coming from. Not all the visitors got to see the phenomenon and those who missed the action went away incredulous and scoffing.

Dr. McChesney had observed that Maria seemed to be the focus of the phenomenon, so as an experiment he sent her to his brother-in-law Thomas Steele. A poltergeist disturbance heralded Maria's arrival at the Steele residence.

Steele himself was not at home but the rest of the household and a woman visitor were gathered under a tree in the yard. When a startling noise issued from the house, they rushed to investigate. They found that all the movable furniture had been haphazardly stacked in the center of the room. As they stared in bewilderment, stones rained down on the house. Moments later Maria arrived in a state of terror. She said an old woman had pursued her.

Apparently Maria was returned home almost immediately but nonetheless the stones kept falling on the Steele residence. The stones fell even inside the house although no one could discover how this happened. Dishes were broken and much of the furniture was damaged. Some of the damaged objects were still extant in 1889.

The phenomena at Dr. McChesney's continued for many weeks. At a family gathering in early spring the McChesneys and the Steeles were sitting in front of the fireplace when an unusual

incident occurred. A stone struck Mrs. Thomas Steele on the head. The rock seemed to have fallen from the ceiling near a corner of the room. The door and windows were closed at the time. The blow severed a lock of hair and cut Mrs. Steele's scalp to the bone, causing her to bleed profusely.

Enraged, Steele denounced the invisible force for "taking its spite on a woman" rather than on him. He sat down defiantly in his chair and was bombarded by clods of sod and earth. Mary Steele, widowed mother of Thomas, screamed that he would be killed by "the thing." Yielding to his mother's pleas, Steele left his chair and the ordeal ended. This was the only incident in which anyone was struck by the falling stones.

For safety's sake the McChesney and Steele children were taken to the home of their grandmother Mary Steele who lived two miles west of Midway. Inexplicably the families sent Maria with them. Manifestations soon commenced at Mrs. Steele's house. Once a kitchen bench hopped across the room. John M. Steele, one of the children, tried to ride it like a horse but then fainted from fright. Mrs. Steele's farm servants sometimes claimed that food and tools which they took to the fields disappeared and were later found to have returned to the house.

A new kind of manifestation began while Maria was at Mrs. Steele's. Maria often said an invisible force beat her and pricked her with pins. Some of these attacks were witnessed. With a stick Mrs. Steele flailed the air around Maria in a futile attempt to subdue the invisible enemy. William

Steele remembers that he clearly heard mysterious "slaps." These attacks usually ended with Maria's collapsing from exhaustion.

The phenomena ended when Dr. McChesney sold Maria, who was then taken south. William Steele recalled that an old black woman, reputed to be a witch, lived in the area. The popular explanation was that this "witch" had carried out a threat to punish Maria for some impudence.

We should not automatically assume that these countryfolk were victims of their own credulity. As George Bernard Shaw has observed, the people of past ages were actually less credulous than modern man because technology had not conditioned them to believe what they did not understand. It is unlikely that this case is an elaborate hoax or embellished legend. The phenomena involved follow a pattern found in many other poltergeist cases. An imaginative mind might be able to invent one or two of these phenomena but in a time when access to information on such matters was relatively limited, it is doubtful that anyone could imagine *all* of them.

Most of Fort's cases concern the fall of a single stone. Nevertheless he also mentions many cases of showers of stones. Cases that feature recurring showers and the fall of hot stones are less numerous. Rarest of all are cases in which stones fall in closed rooms. Since clods of earth are mentioned in Steele's narrative, it is interesting to note that Fort records one case (in *Wild Talents*) of "clods of earth." In

the same book he discusses the occasional association of falling stones with poltergeist disturbances, invisible attackers and witchcraft.

Three cases (the first two from *Wild Talents*, the third from *Lo!*) are especially interesting in relationship to the Steele story. In Hazelwood, Ohio, in 1892, a girl was assailed by falling stones and *moving furniture*. Many neighbors witnessed the event. Fort suggested that the girl's aunt might be associated with the occurrence.

A 1905 case from Port of Spain, Trinidad, features a shower of stones, falls occurring within a closed room, moving furniture and a malicious neighbor.

Recurrent showers of stones, extending over a period of many months, occurred in Roodeport, South Africa, in 1922. The attracting agent in this case was said to be a Hottentot maid.

In *New Lands* Fort noted that children are the most common attracting agents for falling stones. Later, in *Lo!*, he added that the majority of these children seem to be girls. Other investigators, of course, have noted that poltergeist disturbances are most often associated with children or adolescents. In order to advance his own tongue-in-cheek "theories," Fort scoffed at the customary association of falling stones with psychic phenomena. Nonetheless, the most reasonable explanation for these phenomena seems to be a psychokinetic force released by someone in an hysterical state.



ARE RUSSIANS WINNING THE PSYCHIC WAR?

The Soviet Union may have developed the most dangerous weapon yet: psychic espionage.

By Ingo Swann

AMONG lay people, scientists and even parapsychologists, extra-sensory perception suffers from many misconceptions, misunderstandings and false expectations. It is retarded and deformed by resistances and antagonistic propaganda. As a result its strategic and tactical implications are misunderstood.

All this leads me to fear the initiative in the field is in the hands of powers other than the United States. If we continue to talk about it in the usual terms we cannot help perpetuating the already existing confusion that surrounds the topic. And articles about it fall short of delivering useful and creative information.

I and my co-workers at SRI International at Menlo Park, Calif., face the problem of defining exactly what constitutes a growth-oriented concept of ESP and the psychic. Our major effort is toward redefining and reorganizing the topic.

The abilities we call clairvoyance, telepathy, psychokinesis and precognition are of course implicit in everything I have to say. But these terms be-

long to a past age of psychic endeavor; they are too limited. Current hypotheses and current research trends cannot be confined within them and their further use should not be encouraged.

What we need is a future-oriented synthesis that includes 100 years of psychic research and mistakes, our seven years of work at SRI International and the independent replications of our discoveries there, and certain other relevant and innovative current research. Last, and certainly not least, we need a synthesis that includes an assessment of Soviet efforts in this field.

This synthesis should redefine the scope of fractured parapsychological efforts into a practical psychic research paradigm that could be very useful. It is not difficult to produce evidence for the existence of psychic abilities and I am suggesting that any technology which can develop sufficient control of them will use them in diverse and meaningful ways.

Based on all that we know about the psychic, a fundamental description of this new paradigm will read something like this: It is possible that people re-

late to the universe, to things in the universe and to each other by communication and information channels that are not wholly conscious or, indeed, may be mostly unconscious. Since this is so, we have to deal with the probability that access to these channels can be acquired and made usefully conscious through research and through the enhancement of gifted or trained individuals.

I can simplify this lengthy statement a little. Certain individuals can bring into active awareness things, activities or events that are beyond the range of our physical senses and in many instances this type of information can be made consciously useful and definite action can be based upon it.

First, in all known communication channels, information is translated into waves or frequencies, encoded in abstract symbols, relayed, suspended, printed, drawn, picturized; but it *can only be made useful* by proper reception and comprehension.

If we view human psychic abilities in this manner, we can establish a hypothesis that is far more promising than if we fret about simplistic theoretical or statistical existence of clairvoyance, telepathy and so forth. The problem becomes not whether man is clairvoyant or telepathic, but whether he can get, by *any* psychic means at all, *any* information that is useful to some given purpose.

The second major aspect, the one that horrifies all of material science and threatens to overturn its allegedly rational concepts of the universe, is the medium through which psychic information flows and the sources of that information.

I admit that the question of *where* and *how* the psychic comes by his information is one of vast proportions. It is so vast that if we ponder the problem too long we lose sight of the fact that the information, once received and decoded, can be useful.

It is at this point that the field of parapsychology breaks into two parts: (1) *Theoretical* parapsychology, whose emphasis is mostly on statistical evidence of the existence or nonexistence of psychic abilities and thence the why and how of it all. (2) The other direction, the one that has had scant attention, is interested mostly in the usefulness of psychically obtained data; this can be called *practical* psychic research.

The theoretical approach to parapsychology is characteristic of almost all research efforts in the United States, while it is increasingly obvious that the outstanding characteristic of research in the Soviet Union is the endeavor to discover practical uses for psi abilities.

And it is the potential *usefulness* of something that leads to breakthroughs in any line of inquiry. The search for practical applications, in the last analysis, always takes precedence over extensive theoretical or philosophical speculations.

This brings us to the third major aspect of our basic formulation. Assuming that certain people can obtain and relay information received through other than physical perceptual channels, what is the state of the current capability in this field?

Let me make a comparison with electromagnetic communications. At the time it became believable that

information could be dispatched through electromagnetic potentials — that is, through wires or through the atmosphere via radio broadcast — the dependability of those methodologies wasn't very good (and sometimes still isn't). Further technical discoveries were made which enhanced the channels. These technical improvements didn't tell us where electromagnetism originates, but they led us into its usefulness nonetheless.

An assessment of all psychic communication channels, which includes Soviet work in the field, indicates that we are in this preliminary leg. That is, the possibility of psychic communication and information channels has been confirmed and the proper study and research lines no longer need to dwell exclusively upon where and how but can be directed to discovering what degrades or enhances practical applications.

A summary of this basic formulation therefore consists of: first, humans can perceive information that is extraneous to normal methods of perception; second, the origin or source of such information might remain obscure for quite some time; and third, the study of practical applications seems to be a most promising line of exploration.

* * *

I WANT to give you some examples of practical psychic information that was used for some objective end.

During the first decade of this century Frederick Bligh Bond, an ecclesiastical architect of Bristol, England, was placed in charge of excavating the long-gone Glastonbury Ab-

bey. Glastonbury had been the site of the oldest church in England with a Christian history dating back to A.D. 47. By the time of Henry VIII it had become Christianity's second Vatican, an immense pilgrims' shrine with gold, jewels, libraries, workshops, vineyards, fields and even a university. Glastonbury was destroyed by Henry VIII after he refused to recognize the pope's authority. It was pulled down, its stones taken away to build roads, barns and farmhouses. By the reign of Elizabeth I nothing but the Abbot's kitchen remained and of course its legend.

When Mr. Bond accepted the commission to excavate and restore Glastonbury he was granted very limited funds for the project. He realized that if he did not make quick discoveries he would get no more. After digging for some time and failing to uncover anything of merit he and his friend Captain John Allen Bartlett, in desperation, decided to try psychic means to locate important foundations. They undertook this psychic effort themselves and began producing drawings of the ancient edifice.

During their first session a scribbled drawing of the abbey major was produced; at one end of it there was a sort of smaller building. They "enquired" what this building was, since it was at variance with everything Bond knew about Glastonbury. Another drawing was produced; it showed, their psychic source informed them in Latin, the Chapel of St. Edgar. Bond checked every known reference to the shape and ground plans of the Abbey but could find no reference to St. Edgar's Chapel. Thus, if it were truly there, he

would have a discovery that would justify his continued activities. He dug and discovered St. Edgar's Chapel just where the psychic information indicated it was!

Bond and his friend continued to consult their psychic avenues throughout the long nine-year reconstruction of the Abbey and discovered, by psychic means, five other unknown chapels, the Abbey clock and bell tower, and the Monks' kitchen. Bond also was able to discover through psychic means a large number of artifacts, medallions, potsherds, stained-glass window fragments, gilded wood and so forth.

During the nine years of work Bond never confessed that his source was psychic. When he did reveal that fact 10 years later he was removed from his position and excluded from major positions anywhere else in England.

* * *

In the early 1920's in Poland the famous psychic Stefan Ossowiecki underwent formal testing by Prof. Gustave Geley, Nobel prize laureate Dr. Charles R. Richet, Baron von Schrenck-Notzing and Dr. M. Gravier, among others. The results of this extensive testing were phenomenal and I regret that I can give only one example.

Prior to 1935, although there were several portraits said to depict Nicolaus Copernicus, no one knew which of them really showed the most famous Pole of all. All these portraits were brought to Mr. Ossowiecki in 1920 and he undertook to identify the correct one. He selected one as the real Copernicus and in 1935, some 15 years later, his selection was finally

confirmed. Mr. Ossowiecki, at the time of his original selection, had also stated that not only was his selection the correct one, but it was the only portrait of the famous scientist that had been done from life, that Copernicus himself had painted the self-portrait. Ossowiecki also said that Copernicus had a sister. These observations were totally unknown and unexpected in 1922 but were confirmed in 1935. Mr. Ossowiecki, therefore, had correctly described an entire scenario that had taken place some 300 years earlier.

* * *

Early in 1973 C. S. Reid, an aspiring archaeologist, was doing graduate work in Toronto and attempting, under the auspices of the Ontario Archaeological Society and McMaster University, to excavate an old Iroquois Indian site. Using carbon dating he had located the site of an old village but had been unable to locate the boundaries of any ancient longhouses. These buildings were built entirely of logs and wood which of course had vanished over 600 years ago. After several expensive and fruitless digs he realized he would never be able to excavate the acreage involved. He contacted J. Norman Emerson, Senior Professor of Anthropology at the University of Toronto and founding vice-president of the Canadian Archaeological Association. Emerson was a daring academic man who had worked successfully with the Canadian psychic George McMullen on other troublesome archaeological sites.

It was arranged that Professor Emerson and Mr. McMullen would visit Reid's site on May 19, 1973. The

site was a nondescript flat field covered with long grass, weeds, brush, a small stand of poplar and alder and a big pile of gravel the government had dumped there back in the 1950's.

Nevertheless, after a few moments' psychic orientation, Mr. McMullen marched out into the field with Professor Emerson and his tape recorder and Mr. Reid with excavation stakes and notebook scrambling behind him. Mr. McMullen indicated that one ancient longhouse lay beneath the gravel pile but its southern end was 50 feet distant from the gravel deposit. He proceeded to walk along the western wall of this old long-gone edifice, marking out its walls.

When Mr. Reid excavated along this line he immediately discovered the old postholes that had once supported the superstructure of the longhouse. In only a matter of moments the exact location of a 600-year-old building, long gone, was accurately indicated by psychic penetration.

* * *

In May 1973 Dr. H. E. Puthoff and I, at SRI International, received, from a third person in Washington, a geographic coordinate. We were asked to indicate what was at that location. No maps were to be used and even so, the only items to be considered as part of the test would be man-made structures not to be found on maps in the first place.

I said that at the coordinates a mountain stuck up out of the water, surrounded by fog and haze. I then "moved" psychically along the coastline, drawing as I went, until a general outline of an island became clear. I gave ecological specifics of the island,

talked about its plants and rocky nature and commented on the smell of the bird droppings that seemed to stain many of the rocks. I then turned my attention to the northeast part of the island, where I said some buildings were rather mathematically laid out. One of them was orange and possibly inflated. There was something like a radar antenna, a round disk, and two large white cylindrical tanks near the buildings. There were two or three trucks in front and I wondered if a small structure behind might be an outhouse. I drew a small airstrip northwest of these buildings.

Verification came several months later. Kerguelen Island, in the southern Indian Ocean, serves primarily as a base for joint French-Soviet upper atmosphere meteorological studies. All the man-made objects I had described were located and confirmed. There were several other structures there I had not seen but only one psychic probe of the location was made. The long airstrip turned out to be a very long cement platform, the purpose of which we never learned.

* * *

THESE examples surely make evident the possible practical uses of psychic abilities.

But despite this old and new evidence, the dominance of materialism and its limited hypotheses has led science to take a restricted view of everything, especially of man himself and his overall aptitudes. We have seen many former scientific limits crumble during the last 100 years under penetrating and shocking discovery, bringing about severe stress on many erroneous scientific hypotheses and their

champions. The release of nuclear energy, space flight and emerging alternative forms of medicine are but three of these categories.

Parapsychological science has been particularly denounced by scientific scholars who are adherents of materialistic tradition, as if they feel the implications of man's psychic nature are unusually threatening. Because of this intense resistance most parapsychologists in the United States have tried to play the scientific game hoping thereby to gain the thing the scientists cannot do without — respectability. Thus the approaches to the psychic have been limited and the "discoveries" equally limited.

On the other hand, in the popular mind the sci-fi expectations of the extraordinary have distorted the psychic man as well as expectations of the psychic potential in humans in general. When I say "popular mind" I include most *scientists*, since most scientists have no scientific experience with or knowledge of extrasensory perception, having refused to consider it. The appalling thing is that when respectable science criticizes the psychic, it is criticizing a popular myth and neither the popular myth nor science's critical pose is based on any science at all!

It is because of this bias that we have failed to note that in order to do practical psychic research we must make many accommodations; we must realize that we are working with human biosensor and biocomputer aptitudes that can probe and act as information conduits with a sensitivity, sophistication and a potential that are quite literally beyond our comprehension. We normally do not expect per-

fection with other human faculties and certainly not with any other information or communications potential that we use. In all other things in life, performance is useful when it is perfect and when it is not we readjust, repair, rebuild, compensate, reorganize, practice, research and redevelop, go back to drawing boards, make new hypotheses and so forth. When our marvelous computers break down we accept this possible nonperformance. When the sun blasts the ionosphere with radiation we change radio frequencies to accommodate the conditions. Otherwise we accept radio blackouts as a fact and switch to cables.

Just so, we cannot insist on comprehending before we carry out practical research and make the discoveries we need to make in our pursuit of the practical uses of psychic abilities in man. In fact, comprehension might be a long time coming. We do not truly "comprehend" electricity but we have learned to harness it, to utilize it and to create with it.

Psychic research and modern bio-communications are a threat to the Establishment habits of today. But some researchers, both civilian and military, *will* accept the challenge of the situation and set about finding out what it is capable of and what they can do with it. These men and women will sidestep the diatribes of whether it exists or does not exist and how to comprehend it. They will discover practical uses for it! And after discovering what it can be used for, they will continue by developing technical improvements to enhance its usefulness.

The earliest use of a psychic information channel in warfare that I can

find is in the Bible. You may remember that the prophet Elisha was successor to the prophet Elijah. Apparently he had considerable psychic prowess, including remote viewing and remote hearing. When the King of Syria found that his secret plans were being disclosed to the Israelites, he was enraged and tried to find out who in his own camp was the spy. A servant assured him that there was no spy, that indeed Elisha the prophet in Israel was keeping track psychically, telling the King of Israel everything, even down to "the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber."

We have here a biblical description of the basic formulation I presented earlier. Elisha was capable of tuning into psychic information channels by means that I am quite sure were not understood any better then than we understand them now but whose information seems to have been interpretable and useful to the King of Israel, his advisers and commanders. If the psychic information was used it probably was for two simple reasons — Elisha had a good track record, and perhaps the usual lines of information-gathering were played out.

The problem with putting psychic information channels to good use, however, is complicated by our lack of knowledge about them. Not the least of the complications is that the best of information is *useless* unless it is given to people or specialists who are prepared, equipped and knowledgeable enough to make good use of it. Because of this, proper use of this type of information will have to await a significant reorientation among potential users.

Both of these developments seem to have proceeded apace on a larger scale in the Soviet Union. Analysis of the overall scope of Soviet inquiry in this field, covering some 40 years of their research, indicates they take an interdisciplinary approach to the topic, called by the Soviets biocommunications. It is believed that this effort is funded by upwards of several million dollars annually — actually this may be a conservative estimate.

Literature coming out of the Soviet Union indicates a long and enduring interest in such matters as mental radio, biological radio systems, long-distance telepathy, hypnosis and suggestion via telepathic commands to unsuspecting individuals. And we have to assume that this long and sustained effort in the Soviet Union is because of *breakthroughs* that have been made there.

It is an arduous job sorting through the available Soviet information and perhaps even more arduous trying to draw conclusions from it. But I want to give one example that is revealing.

A few years ago Aleksandr Ivanovich Pluzhnikov, a Soviet scientist studying biocommunications, received a request from the Scientific-Methodological Council for the Preservation of Cultural Monuments of the USSR Ministry of Culture, the All-Russian Society for the Preservation of Historical and Cultural Monuments, and the Shusev Central Scientific Research Museum of Architecture. They asked him to search for and describe the contours of subterranean architectural and historical objects, no traces of which showed above the surface of the ground. He was to use the biophysical

method; that is, he was to apply to psychic information channels to do this archaeological task. He was to probe the Moscow Oblast, the small territory where Russian history had witnessed so many turning points.

Pluzhnikov used a team of dowzers whom he had previously trained and worked with, and within hours of arriving at the site, he had worked out the outlines of former trenches, palisades and parts of a fortification belt of the foxhole type, details of major old fortifications and a number of lost mass graves, as well as a damaged and lost part of the nearby Kolotsk Monastery.

After the indicated sites had been excavated and confirmed, Pluzhnikov then was asked to locate and rebuild a long list of Russian Orthodox monasteries situated throughout the Moscow Oblast.

This is an example of psychic information channels being put to remarkable practical use in the vicinity of Moscow, with the project sponsored by scientific organizations that equate with our Smithsonian Institution, the American Museum of Natural History and the Rockefeller philanthropies.

Although in this case the targets are archaeological structures, the practical military usefulness of developing these psychic communication channels is certainly not lost on the scientific councils of the Soviet Union and we can safely assume that similar research is taking place using other types of psychic information for other lines of inquiry.

I have tried to illustrate by actual examples that psychic information channels can be used in practical

ways, with the psychic performing only one function in the communication line. I have pointed out the necessary presence of special analysts who can decode, reorganize and examine the psychically obtained information in a way that leads to specific usefulness. This is a far cry from expecting the psychic to perform wonders in a sterile and unsympathetic laboratory with fictitious and unimportant targets that cannot really be organized into anything practical and useful. Parapsychologists have spent laboratory years trying to satisfy themselves as to whether these abilities exist or do not exist and have got no further.

To drive home my point I wish to explore a hypothetical use of psychic information channels. Just suppose — a Soviet information analyst in Moscow knows from revealing photographs that the Americans are building something underground in South Dakota. Because of certain surface structures he thinks this might be an air defense computer system, but on the other hand, it doesn't quite look like others, so it could be something else, even a ruse to confuse Soviet analysts.

He sends his available information and the problem to a biocommunications research group in Novosibirsk where it is submitted to a man named Leon, of whom no one has ever heard. Leon takes on the problem and, after a few days, sends back a drawing with his comments.

I see, he says, a rather larger excavation than the surface structures indicate. There are tunnels and rooms with beds and several larger rooms with large tables in them. I sense there is a

rather large kitchen and it is strange that the corridors seem to be carpeted and decorated. There seem to be three layers and on one of these I do see a computer, a rather large one. It all looks like this, he says, producing a quick drawing.

The material is received back in Moscow. The analyst meditates upon Leon's information and frowns. He produces a formal analysis: It is possi-

ble, based upon various sources, that the Americans are constructing a disguised presidential command center under ground in South Dakota. We request additional penetration to verify this possibility.

If we in the United States continue our negative attitude toward biocommunications, we will discover that the Russians have developed capabilities far beyond our own.



ESP IN BIG BUSINESS

By Judy Jennings

I WORK as an audiovisual producer for one of the nation's largest insurance companies. I also have a keen interest in all matters of the paranormal. I never thought these two fields had much in common until one day in June 1981.

I was working on a slide show to explain how insurance works; it was to be shown to company employees. As we started to take pictures of all the detailed steps I realized we didn't have a blank insurance policy to fill out. Someone scurried around and found one and I quickly filled in the blanks. I used the name of the character in the slide show and for an address I wrote 402, paused for a second or two, then added Plum Street.

The client who had requested that we produce the show was looking over my shoulder. She asked, "Do you know whose address that is?"

"It isn't anybody's address, I just made it up," I replied.

She looked at me as if I were playing a trick, then said, "It's my fiancé's business address in Pontiac, Ill." (We were in Bloomington, 30 miles away.) I had never been in Pontiac and certainly didn't know her fiancé's address. We looked at each other for a moment, each hoping the other would have a logical explanation. Neither of us did but we knew the incident was certainly more than coincidence — although a bustling corporation seemed an unlikely place for a psychic experience.



Don't Doubt My Dreams

It seemed God spoke
to me, saying that I had thrown
away "three things."
Would I get them back?

By Mary E. Smith Skinner

DO DREAMS come true? Can they foretell the future? Mine do! This is my story:

At Christmastime in 1976 my world looked bleak. I was divorced and broke and had a child to raise; I didn't know where to turn for help. I was renting a small bedroom with kitchen privileges in Manassas, Va., and fervently praying for a way out of my difficulties. Sometime during the holidays I had a dream which foretold my future.

In the dream I saw the numbers 3-117 written on a blackboard and it seemed God spoke to me. He said I had thrown away "three things." I was to get them back again and this time I would not throw them away. I took this to mean that my luck was going to change. When I awoke the dream was fresh in my mind. I knew I had thrown away marriage, a home, money and good jobs and I wondered which I



After numerous psychic experiences, Mary E. Smith Skinner especially listens to the messages in her dreams.

would get back. It never occurred to me to doubt the message in the dream. I knew God had spoken to me and my faith would be rewarded — and He did not make me wait long for an answer.

My luck started to change on January 3, 1977. Southland Corporation's personnel department called me to work full time in a Seven-Eleven convenience store and I was able to rent a house of my own for my son David and me. On the 11th of February, Giant Food Stores offered me a part-time job

as a cashier. I accepted because the hours and pay were better. However, the employment was only the beginning of my good fortune.

While I was still working in the Seven-Eleven store a private detective called on me. He said he had been hired to find me and to let me know I was a winner in *Ladies' Home Journal's* All-America '76 Sweepstakes. The detective said he did not know what I had won but it had to be important if the magazine had hired him to find me.

In March I received a letter from Downe Publishing, Inc., the publisher of *Ladies' Home Journal*, telling me that I was the Grand Prize Winner! I had won a \$76,000 home to be built wherever I chose or I could have that amount in cash. Because of my financial condition, I chose the money.

That letter was a turning point in my life. I felt my worries were over and my prayers had been answered. I paid off my bills, gave money to the church and bought a new car and a new mobile home. The home was placed on a lot in a mobile home park in Fairfax, Va. I enrolled David in a private school and settled down to enjoy the first security I had known for a long time.

The summer holidays came and David and I took a trip to Mexico — and I found myself growing restless. I felt my dream had not been entirely fulfilled. All my life I had felt a strong pull toward Florida, as if someone were waiting for me there. I decided to investigate the prices of homes and job opportunities there. Then during the Christmas holidays David and I vacationed in Florida.

We drove down the east coast to Miami, stopping in various places along the way. When we stopped in Vero Beach I loved the place immediately. Even people I talked to in the stores made me feel as if I had found long-lost friends, as if I had come home. This is where I wanted to live. Before the end of December 1977 we had bought a house and David and I moved in, in February 1978. Through a neighbor I got a job at Piper Aircraft and the third part of my prophetic dream had come true. I had "three things," a new home, a beautiful car and a good job — but I still felt this was not all there was to my dream.

As time went by I realized that while I loved the Vero Beach house, it was too big for my son and me. Also I had made some bad judgments in handling my money; it was slipping away. It seemed advisable to sell the house. I also disposed of my mobile home in Virginia and acquired a new one which was already established on a lot in a beautiful park in Vero Beach and there David and I settled down.

A few months later David joined a soccer team sponsored by the Vero Beach Recreational Department. At one of the games I met Lorraine Skinner whose son also was on the team. Through Lorraine I met her father Charles Skinner who came to every game. He and I often sat together and talked but he did not ask me for a date. Then, two nights in a row, I dreamed that my mother was with Charles and me. She was smiling and seemed to approve of us. Any dream in which my mother appears has always been a sign of good things to come. The next week Charles asked me for a date.

The things I had prayed for had been given to me but only so that I would discover they weren't so important after all. They were simply a means to an end. If I had not been

given the "three things" I might never have moved to Florida where I met the wonderful man of my future.

Who will say that prayers are futile or that dreams don't come true?



PSI AND THE STAR

By Lina Accurso

SUSAN Strasberg's autobiography *Bittersweet* primarily concerns her many years in show business, her troubles with her famous parents and her husband, and her struggle to find her own identity. However, psychic incidents have occurred and reoccurred in her life.

When Susan was quite young she knew that her mother Paula, a famous acting coach, had clairvoyant powers which she seldom used. One night at a party Paula read cards for a young singer who was flying overseas to entertain the armed forces. She foresaw disaster and begged the young woman to cancel or delay the trip. The young woman ignored the warning and embarked on the trip. On the plane she had a seat next to another singer, Jane Froman. The plane crashed, crippling Froman and killing the young singer.

Many years later Susan was living with actor Christopher Jones. The pair visited a psychic who stared at her and said, "There's a female soul awaiting entry over your head. You're going to have a daughter." Susan laughed and said it was impossible; she was "very careful." The psychic told her that if it was "meant to be, it's meant to be. Anyway she's up there waiting for you." A few months later Strasberg discovered that she was pregnant. She and Jones married and named their daughter Jennifer.

Jennifer was born with a cleft palate but doctors reassured her worried parents that the child was perfect otherwise. Susan gave Jennifer's birth information to California astrologer Franka Moore but told her nothing about the child. Moore saw afflictions

not only in the throat but also in the chest area which would cause breathing difficulties. Nevertheless, she said, the condition would clear up when the child reached the age of six. When Susan took her baby for a checkup, she was told that Jennifer had a severe heart murmur.

The next five years were filled with the breakup of Susan's marriage, her attempts to put her career back together and to deal with her emotional problems, but most of all with Jennifer's bad heart.

One day in early summertime Susan's friend Patti read the Tarot cards and told Susan, "You will get your wish by early next year." She also predicted a job, a short trip and a meeting with a blue-eyed man who would be important in the fulfillment of her wish. Moreover, she saw Jennifer dancing on the beach, 100 percent improved, early in the coming year. Susan's paramount wish, of course, concerned her daughter's health.

Several months later Susan did take a trip to appear in a film. On her plane she met a blue-eyed young man who was a good friend of the renowned heart specialist Dr. Denton Cooley. Through this meeting, Susan reached Dr. Cooley who performed a successful operation on Jennifer.

At midnight on New Year's Eve, Susan was sitting on the beach with Patti and some other friends. Jennifer, rejoicing in her good health, was dancing around in the sand.

Suddenly Susan realized that everything Patti had predicted had come true — early in the New Year.

BLOBS

FROM SPACE?

Were the weird objects garbage from a factory or life-forms from the distant reaches of interstellar space?

By Ted Schultz

DURING THE NIGHT of August 10, 1979, in the midst of the annual Perseid meteor shower, Mrs. Amber Rolater of Frisco, Tex., saw from the back terrace of her house on Main Street an unusually bright, pretty-colored star falling through the dark sky toward the home of her neighbors Martin and Sybil Christian.

The next morning Mrs. Christian stepped out onto her front lawn to discover what national headlines would soon describe as three "purple blobs from space." As she later told reporters, the blobs "looked like smooth whipped cream, purple," and each was about the size of an old box telephone.

"I stuck this stick into the object," she said. "It went in easily, very easily. I punctured it. On the inside it was the same thing — just like real whipped cream — and it looked like it was melting, but it was a deep rose."

Frightened, Mrs. Christian called the police as one of the blobs "just faded away." Officer Jaime Davila, who responded to the call, tried to pick up one of the two remaining blobs and noticed that it was "pretty warm." The police rushed the blobs to the Heard Natural Science Museum in nearby McKinney, where the baffled curator, Ken Steigman, requested aid from NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. Steigman transferred one of the blobs to NASA's Dr. Everett Gibson, declaring that the blobs attracted water, emitted an acidic liquid and contained both uranium and a weird pattern of lead specks "like nothing on Earth."

Meanwhile NASA's blob was placed in the laboratory deep freeze and resident geochemist Dr. Douglas Blanchard noted, "It's kind of like plum pudding. It has round solid chunks

that remain after the goo goes away. We don't know what it is." He promised an exhaustive analysis. As we shall see, however, NASA conducted only one short, inconclusive scientific test and never released an official public explanation.

Although the NASA scientists did not know it, the Frisco blobs were really nothing new. In fact, if they had known that, the scientists might have treated the matter less casually. As students of unusual phenomena are aware, strange things that fall from the sky are not exactly uncommon. In addition to rain, snow, sleet and hail, we denizens of Earth's surface somewhat less frequently host inexplicable aerial bombardments of fish, frogs, lizards, insects, worms, snails, jellyfish, crabs, blood, bits of flesh, grain, seeds, ice chunks, brick, foil, nails, coins, web-like "angel hair" and so on. There are also, of course, meteorites, which the scientific establishment has accepted as real only since the mid-1800's. But purple blobs?

Consider this 1641 poem by Sir John Suckling:

As he whose quicker eye doth trace
A false star shot to a mark't place
Do's run apace,
And, thinking it to catch,
A jelly you do snatch.

This is only one of numerous literary references to star jelly, also known as *Pwdre Ser* ("Rot of the Stars"). The idea that some fallen shooting stars or meteorites leave behind an odorous jellylike substance was once widely accepted. "The shooting stars end all in purple jellies," Dryden and Lee wrote in 1678.

In the annual scientific journal *Re-*

port of the British Association for 1855, correspondent Baden Powell describes a mass of *Pwdre Ser* that fell on October 8, 1844, near Coblenz. That evening two men observed a falling luminous body and in the darkness marked the spot where it hit. The next day they found there a grayish gelatinous blob "so viscid as 'to tremble all over' when poked with a stick."

In R. P. Gregg's famous catalog of historical meteorites and fireballs, published in the *Report of the British Association* for 1860, we read of a number of reports of *Pwdre Ser*. A representative example is the shooting star that fell to earth on January 21, 1803, between Barsdorf and Freiberg in Silesia (in what is now East Germany). The next day at the point of impact a jellylike mass was found on the snow.

Even more interesting are the modern reports of this curious phenomenon. On the night of September 26, 1950, two Philadelphia police officers, John Collins and Joe Keenan, observed a "shimmering" object drifting across the street and coming to earth at the corner of 26th and Vare Boulevard. They found a glowing purple gelatinous mass six feet across and one foot thick at the middle. Fellow officers Joe Cook and James Cooper joined them and watched the blob disintegrate into a watery liquid as Collins tried to pick it up. Half an hour later the purple blob had completely evaporated.

In his *Mysterious Fires and Lights* (1967) Vincent Gaddis describes a transparent blob that fell from a clear sky on February 28, 1958, in Miami, Fla. It landed in the backyard of police

detective Faustin Gallegos who described it as having the size and shape of a medicine ball. Its surface glittered and it "seemed to be made up of thousands of minute cells resembling those of a honeycomb and it was pulsating over its entire body." Gallegos scooped some into a pickle jar but every trace of the Pwdre Ser disappeared within 30 minutes.

The incident with which this article is primarily concerned, that of the Frisco blobs, occurred in a Dallas suburb. So, oddly enough, did two others. On May 15, 1973, Marie Harris of Garland found a black jellylike blob in her backyard. It looked like blackish-red glop and had thick bubbles all through it. When punctured, it changed color. The *Dallas Morning Herald* called it "a mysterious membrane that pulsates. It has multiplied itself 16 times in over two weeks." Around the same time Edna Smith of East Dallas saw one of the blobs climbing a utility pole! "It was red and pulsating, like the one I read about," she said. "For heaven's sake, what is it?"

With these background events in mind, let's review the evolution of the "official explanation" for the Frisco blobs. Although NASA (in the person of Everett Gibson) initially expressed openness to the possibility that the blobs were of meteoric origin, NASA soon recanted. Dr. Blanchard declared, "I don't think it's from space. I think it's man-made. It's probably a product of some industrial process. It's a strange concoction of stuff that could easily be put together in a lab or industrial situation. But it wouldn't come together easily in nature. How it got

there [on the Christians' lawn] is the real mystery."

Meanwhile a similar opinion was being expressed by one who would ultimately provide the official explanation, Ron Dilulio, then assistant director at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History. Dilulio said, "No one saw it fall. No one heard a shock wave. It could be something that fell off someone's truck."

When I spoke with Dilulio about his investigation he told me that, based on his long experience studying meteorites, he felt sure from the start that the blobs were definitely something else. He briefly considered the possibilities of satellite residue and airplane waste but a simple test for pH convinced him that an "industrial origin" was the only explanation.

Acting on this conclusion, he set out with *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* reporter Jim Marrs on a tour of the Frisco area. On observing the Christians' lawn where the blobs had been discovered, he found evidence that the blobs had bounced after they hit and that they had burned a hole in the ground. These observations only strengthened his confidence in the supposition that the blobs were the product of some local industry.

After eight hours of fruitless search for an appropriate nearby blob-producing factory, the two investigators were about to give up when they came upon Frisco's Gould, Inc., battery-reprocessing plant. A brief talk with plant personnel, a short tour, and there they were: "tons of blobs" in a pile "10 feet high and 50 feet long."

The battery plant blobs are scrap, the residue of a caustic soda bath in

which unwanted metals are refined out of the reusable lead from old batteries. Dilulio and plant manager Wilbur Butler speculated that one of the many scrap metal trucks leaving the plant on a nearly daily basis might have accidentally picked up some of the caustic soda residue on an axle, then spilled the blobs during its customary trip down Main Street.

Dilulio, who was carrying a piece of a Frisco blob with him at the time, admitted to me that the Frisco blobs and the caustic soda blobs were different in appearance and texture. This he attributed to the fact that he had been carrying his blob around in a plastic bag in the backseat of his car for two days.

Nonetheless the Gould plant blobs are all hard as rocks in texture whereas Mrs. Christian had spoken of easily-punctured "smooth whipped cream." Further, the useless scrap pile of caustic soda blobs lies outdoors exposed to the elements yet does not "melt" as the Frisco blobs did. In fact, the first blob evaporated completely and two had to be frozen before they too vanished. Dilulio contends that the Frisco blobs were really hard, not gelatinous, but only seemed bloblike because they, like the battery-plant blobs, absorbed moisture and sweated. Of course Dilulio's first encounter was with a *frozen* blob from McKinney's Heard Museum, nearly a week after its appearance on the Christians' lawn.

NASA learned of Dilulio's conclusions on Saturday, September 8. Already fairly sure of an industrial explanation, geochemist Blanchard was satisfied and promised that NASA would conduct a "simple three-minute

test" to determine if the blobs were sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide, the caustic soda of the battery plant; if that was what they proved to be, "we'll drop the whole thing."

Oddly enough, this test was never conducted. Blanchard informed me that only two tests ever were carried out on the blobs and one of these, an elementary test for pH, established their "extraordinary basicity." The other test, carried out on September 13 by the Toxicology Laboratory of NASA's Biomedical Laboratories Branch, was a complex analysis for volatile organic gases produced at 100 degrees Centigrade.

The compounds detected were a curious array of organic substances which are not what one would expect to emerge from a caustic soda bath. These included large amounts of water, large amounts of various alcohols and traces of saturated hydrocarbons. Blanchard speculated that the alcohols might be part of the caustic soda bath. He emphasized that the hydrocarbons were found in trace amounts, only about 20-millionths of a gram in the small sample analyzed, its exact weight "unknown due to extreme deliquescence," to quote the lab report. He thought this might be the residue of plastic battery casings or motor oil. Of one organic trace compound, the tongue twister N-butylmonohydrogen phthalate, he admitted, "I don't know where that might have come from nor why that might be there."

To determine whether these puzzling organic compounds might indeed turn up in the caustic soda or if perhaps they might indicate some other origin for the blobs, I next spoke with

Wilbur Butler, manager of the Gould reprocessing plant. Butler, who explained the reprocessing procedure to me, denied that alcohol is used in any step of the battery reprocessing. He also pointed out that before reaching the caustic soda bath the old batteries are first put through a furnace that burns away all nonmetals. Thus all plastic, motor oil and other such elements are removed completely.

For these reasons Butler was certain that the large amounts of alcohol and the trace amounts of hydrocarbons revealed by the NASA analysis *would not be found* in the caustic soda blobs at the Gould plant. Yet Butler agrees with the official explanation!

The day the blobs were discovered, Frisco Police Chief C. R. Burton checked with the Gould plant to see if the objects could have originated there. Plant officials told him they hadn't. Press reports assert that Butler "said at first he did not suspect the substance found in the Christians' yard could have come from his factory." Butler insisted to me, however, that he had immediately identified the blobs as one and the same with the caustic soda and considered the whole thing a "dead issue" from the start.

Another mystery is found in early blob news reports quoting McKinney Museum curator Ken Steigman's description of an *acidic* liquid — in contrast to subsequent reports of extreme alkalinity — and uranium content. In an interview Steigman explained that "acidic" was a loose cursory description of what was actually a "burning" liquid. His own later test indicated a high basicity of 13.5 on the pH scale of 14. He didn't consider the trace of

uranium reported to him by NASA's Dr. Gibson particularly unusual, remarking that many trace metals might be present in the battery residue.

He had never believed the blobs were of extraterrestrial origin, sensational press accounts to the contrary. Steigman accepts Dilulio's explanation of the phenomena.

It should be noted that only Ron Dilulio has both seen a blob *and* visited the Gould plant. There is, however, one "nonexpert" who has seen both: Mrs. Sybil Christian. To this day she insists that the scientists are wrong. She too paid a visit to the Gould plant and she states emphatically, "They didn't have the purple jelly." Mrs. Christian may be only a layperson but she *is* an expert on her own neighborhood. The trucks from the battery plant, about a mile from her home, "have been passing for 10 or 12 years. Never did anyone in town see anything [like the purple blobs] before or since."

Her neighbor, Mrs. Amber Rolater, agrees. She's lived on Main Street for two years and has never seen a blob. But she did see an unusual meteor fall in the direction of the Christian home. Because her own house blocked her line of vision, she could not tell where it landed, so Dilulio's presumption that "no one saw it fall" is essentially correct. But his accompanying claim that "no one heard a shock wave" is untrue.

Says Mrs. Christian, "The noise, the bright light — our house seemed to crack and it is a good brick home about five or six years old. The noise was a crash — not lightning — I won't ever forget." She is likewise critical of

Dilulio's *modus operandi*. "He didn't make any tests," she says, "only looked at it at the McKinney Museum and then went to the plant and looked at the material there."

We have seen that, press reports to the contrary, Dilulio and NASA failed to prove conclusively that the blobs and the caustic soda are identical. This could easily have been done but it wasn't. The need for such testing is suggested by the existence of other Pwdre Ser reports which show that the Frisco event was not an isolated incident. Because they didn't know about the earlier cases, the scientists jumped to an attractive but premature conclusion.

Yet Ron Dilulio, upon whose explanation all else depends, concluded our conversation with this scientifically cautious proviso: "That [caustic soda] is what I *think* it is, but I'd never be the one to say 'definitely.'" His reporter friend Jim Marrs' account quotes him, "I'm 99.99 percent convinced that this is the same stuff found in the Christians' yard." Obviously simple testing by NASA could have expanded or contracted this margin of doubt.

In the absence of decisive testing, we are left with speculation. Is there anything that might explain all of the Pwdre Ser cases?

Scientific journals up to the turn of the century explained such phenomena as nostoc, a particularly gelatinous form of primitive blue-green algae. Most forms of algae grow in water, nostoc among them, although a few do occur on very wet soil and sometimes grow rapidly. It is certainly possible that our forebears could have

assumed that a rapidly-appearing organism had fallen from the sky rather than grown overnight. After all, some people used to believe that mushrooms sprouted from places struck by lightning.

But in three out of the five modern Pwdre Ser reports, the perplexing stuff swiftly evaporated, which is not something an alga or fungus would do. At least for some of our cases, we shall have to rule out the nostoc identification. The suburban Dallas reports of Marie Harris and Edna Smith might be attributed to algae, since the blobs were not seen to fall. Smith, who said she saw a blob climbing a phone pole, doesn't say whether she actually saw it *moving* or if it was simply perched on or growing from the pole. The little-known organisms called slime molds do have the power of locomotion although this remains a dubious explanation for so fantastic a description.

Just because blobs have been seen to fall from the sky, must we infer extraterrestrial origin? Couldn't clumps of nostoc — or even caustic soda — be transported on rare occasions by freak whirlwinds and deposited on lawns and telephone poles? Perhaps, but to accept this explanation we must reject 19th-Century references to fiery meteors that end in star jelly and modern reports that specify clear skies.

In the Frisco case it's easy to understand why the scientists balked at the notion that delicate gelatin could have survived the high friction meteoric plunge through our atmosphere without totally disintegrating. So many meteors are vaporized by atmospheric friction that only a very few reach the ground and of these only a small por-

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tion of the original body survives. Perhaps a mass of space gelatin large enough and cold enough might buffer the heat of friction sufficiently to allow for the survival of the central core. This at least seems to be true of another delicate substance suspected of surviving the trip from outer space to the earth's surface: frozen water, i.e., ice. Single pieces of ice weighing up to half a ton have been known to fall to the ground.

Dr. James McDonald, a noted atmospheric physicist, wrote in the June 1960 issue of the meteorological journal *Weatherwise* that only two out of 30 typical ice-fall cases he investigated could be attributed to material falling from passing airplanes. Referring to an 11-pound piece of ice that fell on Domodedovo, U.S.S.R., in 1963, the Soviet news agency Tass remarked, "There are grounds to believe this ice is of space origin. Theoretically a meteor body of ice can exist in space."

Modern spectrographic astronomy shows water to be common in space, most notably in the rings of Saturn and in the form of comets which are now thought to be solid ice spiked with rocky debris.

If, in our admittedly speculative extraterrestrial scenario, Pwdre Ser, like ice, reaches our planet's surface from outer space, then what is it? Astronomers Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe of University College, Cardiff, Wales, have recently advanced the highly controversial theory that advanced cellular organic matter exists in space, especially in prestellar molecular clouds, and rains down from time to time, causing things like flu epidemics. They even speculate that a few billion years ago this matter seeded our lifeless planet with its first organisms. They don't know what this matter might have looked like. Perhaps the first life on Earth had the unlikely appearance of purple blobs.



GLISTENING IN THE RAIN

By Ron Dobbins

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BOOKS

NEWS & REVIEWS

by J. Gordon Melton



IT WASN'T COLUMBUS

HAVE YOU ever heard of Bjarni Herjolfsson? I hadn't until I read G. J. Marcus' *The Conquest of the North Atlantic* (Oxford University Press, New York, N.Y., 1981, 224 pages, no price listed), but if Marcus is correct, we should be reading about Herjolfsson instead of Christopher Columbus in our history books. According to a 12th-Century document, some 15 years before even Leif Ericson set foot on Vinland, Herjolfsson got blown off course in a storm and sighted North America (i.e., Vinland) as he was making his way to Greenland. Thus Bjarni Herjolfsson discovered America.

Conquest goes far beyond the Herjolfsson saga and traces the whole story of the westward movement, first by the Irish and the Scandinavians and finally by the British, across the Atlantic to Iceland, Greenland and North America. Marcus' work is the latest in a series of books and scholarly papers which, over the last two decades, have rewritten the history of pre-Columbian exploration of America.

Marcus brings the skills of a first-rate maritime historian to his task. He is both angry and amused at the blunders landlocked scholars have made in their efforts to unravel the mysteries of seamanship. For example, he decries the naivete with which the Yale University scholars approached the so-called Vinland Map. If only they had known a little about the seamanship of the Vikings, Marcus observes, it would not have taken them so long to recognize that the map was a fraud.

FATE readers will of course be familiar with such "Norse" relics as the Kensington

stone, the Newport tower and the Beardmore finds. While proponents cite these as evidence of exhaustive Viking exploration of North America, Marcus rightly discounts such claims.

He concludes his book by making a case — speculative but persuasive — that possibly even English ships landed in North America as much as 30 years before Columbus. Such explorations, he argues, could have been financed by Bristol-based entrepreneurs eager to trade for fish caught in the waters off Newfoundland. Such trade was illegal, however, because it violated laws prohibiting foreign traders in Iceland and Greenland. Consequently very few written records were kept and business was conducted in secret.

Marcus' book is an impressive treatment of the always fascinating subject of who got here first.

INTO THE ASTRAL

IN A RECENT survey of psychically-attuned groups, I was surprised to find what a popular topic astral projection is. If that survey accurately reflects the views of most New Age people, then Richard A. Greene's *The Handbook of Astral Projection* (Next Step Publications, Box 571, Cambridge, Mass. 02139, 1981, 155 pages, \$9.95, paperback) should become a best-seller.

Only a few books on astral projection purport to tell readers how to separate one's consciousness from one's body. Most simply relate a series of boring anecdotes concerning other people's spontaneous out-of-body experiences. But after several years of working with his "Astral Travel Team"

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even to outline here, rises above the simple
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roe advocated some years ago. Avoiding the
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rigorous meditative, hypnotic or yogic
disciplines some astral guides demand.
Greene reduces the work to three essen-
tials: producing a high energy level in the
body, training the imagination and learning
to concentrate the will. If that sounds like
magic, it's because Greene is describing
what amounts to basic training in high
magic.

Effective techniques in training people in
astral travel have been an integral part of
occult and magical work for centuries but
only recently have become generally
known. The real question is this: Now that
you have learned astral travel, just what
have you accomplished? Greene believes
that you have mastered the ability to
traverse the various planes of consciousness
and even to venture out into the solar sys-
tem. And he provides a guidebook so that
the new travelers will have some prepara-
tion for what they encounter there.

Unfortunately, while the techniques pro-
duce the "experiences" described, Greene
fails to produce any evidence that the in-
dividual travelers are exploring anything be-
yond their own inner head space. If "astral
projection" is to be considered anything
other than a vivid hallucination, the infor-
mation brought back by the supposedly
projected consciousness must be indepen-
dently verifiable.

PEAK EXPERIENCE

IN 1951, just after the founding of Astara,
the occult school headed by Robert and
Earlyne Chaney, a Master Teacher named
Rama materialized before the Chaney's and
some of their students. Rama told the
Chaney's to plan a trip to Mount Shasta, the
beautiful volcano in northern California
that is much celebrated in the literature of
occultism. There they experienced a mysti-
cal initiation. Earlyne has recorded the sto-
ry in *Secrets from Mount Shasta* (Astara,
Upland, Calif. 91786, 1981, 80 pages,
\$6.95, paperback).

Journeying to Mount Shasta in August
1952, the Chaney's climbed the mountain-

side where they encountered Idosa, an unearthly being who led them into a cave. Once there, the three sat around a triangular blue stone. When they began to repeat a mantram Earlyne floated out of her body to find herself amid new surroundings. Together with Bob, who soon joined her on the astral plane, she arrived at the temple that so many claim exists in, near or on top of the mountain.

The story of her sojourn in the temple and her meeting with the various Astarian masters provides the bulk of the story, which follows the classic pattern of adventures on the inner planes reported by other mystical writers. You will recognize Koot Hoomi who has figured prominently in occult lore ever since Madame Blavatsky introduced him to the world. Rama, the other principal occult figure in the story, continues to oversee Robert's work.

An outsider reading this account can only conclude that it must have been an awe-inspiring experience. Such events are still little understood (I think most psychologists have difficulty relating to them) and even such terms as "peak experience" do them

little justice. After reading the Chaney's story you might want to look at similar initiations recounted by Alice Bailey, Rudolf Steiner or even Guy Ballard whose experience also took place inside Mount Shasta.

Earlyne Chaney's *The Book of Beginning Again* (Astara, Upland, Calif., 1981, 240 pages, no price listed, paperback) is a continuation of her story. Earlyne describes a period of ill health that almost put her in her grave. She credits her recovery and con-

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tinued good health to a Dr. Som Ku (a pseudonym) who gave her a health regimen that she practices daily. The regimen, consisting of vegetarian diet emphasizing the role of complete protein, is detailed in *The Book*.

Earlyne also recommends an exercise program drawn from a turn-of-the-century system developed by Sanford Bennett, who believed it could help reverse the aging process. Earlyne integrates this with a total program of alternative body treatments including yoga and acupuncture.

I am not prepared to endorse Earlyne's program since in my experience the only health programs that enable practitioners to live longer and suffer fewer diseases are those that emphasize the obvious: keep a clean kitchen; don't load your body with poisons (salt, sugar, alcohol, caffeine, nicotine and the like) and maintain a positive but realistic outlook on the world. Earlyne's regimen is appealing and sensible, however, when compared to the unnecessarily ascetic regimens being thrust upon us by world-denying gurus from the East.

OTHER REVIEWS

THE UFO ENCYCLOPEDIA by Margaret Sachs, Perigee Books/G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, N.Y., 1980, 408 pages, \$16.95.

Despite the similarity in titles there are substantive differences between Margaret Sachs' *The UFO Encyclopedia* and Ronald Story's larger and more expensive *The Encyclopedia of UFOs* (reviewed in September 1980 FATE).

Where Story limited himself to approximately 100 entries in each of three general categories (Cases, People and General Features), Sachs has attempted to create a "comprehensive A-to-Z guide to the UFO phenomenon." She offers the reader "over 500 entries on worldwide sightings, photographs, abductions ... ufologists, contactees ..." but with more entries and a smaller book than Story's, she is forced to deal with her material in far less depth than he did.

Included is considerable lore having little if anything to do with the UFO mystery. We read of purported sightings by Moses, Cleopatra and Pharaoh Thutmose III, get a

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brief reprise of the Kaspar Hauser legend and find references to Atlantis, Mu, Lemuria, Springheel Jack, Sodom and Gomorrah, and a wealth of other trivia.

In a few instances — the Hill case, for example — Sachs' entries indicate she has done some research on controversial issues, but for the most part I get the distinct impression she has merely accepted without checking what others have supplied. A case in point is her acceptance of the famous Alexander Hamilton calfrapping caper as a genuine UFO/cattle-mutilation event. Story, well aware it was a hoax in the best American tall-tale tradition, ran a piece by Jerome Clark (who first exposed the story in February 1977 FATE) detailing the genesis of the yarn. Had Sachs included Clark as one of the "researchers and investigators" invited to assist in compiling her book, that particular error, at least, would not have occurred.

She also seems to lack a sense of what is and isn't important. "Quetzalcoatl, a major deity of ancient Mexico," is given a 15-line entry while onetime Blue Book chief Maj. Hector Quintanilla is brushed off with three lines and Robert Low, project coordinator of the Condon Committee, gets even less attention. A number of other personalities get similarly sketchy treatment while some — Drs. Richard Haines and Peter Sturrock, for example — are not listed at all.

Her short article on Scandinavia's "ghost rockets" totally neglects the fine study made by Loren Gross whose excellent monographs are not even listed in her bibliography.

But there are some major pluses, particularly for those who may wish to become more deeply involved in various aspects of ufology. Her appendices include address listings of UFO groups, contactee organizations, periodicals, clipping services and bookstores; entries for UFO researchers frequently include full addresses, a feature that may not endear Sachs to those who find their mailboxes stuffed with inane letters from hordes of rank-and-file UFO buffs. And there are also four pages of fascinating drawings from the U.S. Patent Office showing a wide variety of discoidal aircraft and even a pair of saucer-shaped buildings.

If you have only a casual interest in UFOs, I'd suggest you save your money.

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Serious researchers, however, will find Sachs' book, despite its flaws, to be a useful and reasonably priced adjunct to other reference works. — *George W. Earley.*

DOOMSDAY 1999 A.D. by Charles Berlitz, Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y., 1981, 226 pages, \$11.95.

Charles Berlitz, who brought us *The Bermuda Triangle*, now presents the ultimate disaster: the end of the world at the coming turn of the century. *Doomsday 1999's* jacket asks, "Is the human race poised on the brink of Apocalypse? Will cosmic collisions, nuclear catastrophes, or volcanic eruptions reduce the earth to a burned-out cinder?" and then assures us, "Charles Berlitz has the answer."

Well, yes and no. Berlitz has crowded an awful lot of gloom and doom into this book, but he doesn't personally go out on any prophetic limb. The sheer mass of doomsday talk might well persuade a reader that the end of the world is just around the corner, but Berlitz himself doesn't join this gloomy choir. There's still time, he says, "to restore Earth to a fairly close approximation of paradise."

But before he permits us this glimmer of hope we are bombarded with every conceivable kind of apocalyptic prophecy — whether from astronomy, astrology, Edgar Cayce, geology, the Bible, Nostradamus, pollution, overpopulation, the Great Flood, pyramid prophecy, nuclear power, Jeane Dixon, terrorists or the Hooker Chemical and Plastics Corporation.

Berlitz has written something close to the definitive doomsday book. The only trouble is that he has dumped every kind of predictive vision and speculation into the pot, seemingly without discriminating between reasonably valid and absurdly wild pronouncements. His depiction of the doomsday-crazed Europe of December 31, 999, doesn't jibe with sober historical fact. He devotes a whole chapter to the possibility that Noah's Ark may still be found atop Mount Ararat, at the Turkish-Soviet border, but fails to mention that this mountain was named centuries after the biblical Flood and that its original name, Urartu, was simply the Babylonian equivalent of "highlands" and thus could have been used

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Yet, if one reads this book with caution, its value as a grab bag of information is substantial. The bibliography, although composed largely of secondary sources, is useful; the index has been conscientiously compiled. All in all, a substantial number of research data are presented in a well-organized and readable manner.

And there are nuggets of information and insight here. Berlitz cites the serene common sense of St. Francis of Assisi, who was asked, "If you knew the world was to end in half an hour, what would you do?" St. Francis is said to have replied, "I would keep right on hoeing this field."

Berlitz himself recommends that we develop a sort of spiritual Ark, "the collective spirit of mankind," through knowledge, reason, cooperation and compassion. He suggests that we unfold these qualities within ourselves, "while there may still be time to ensure the survival of Earth and all its inhabitants."

That, of course, is most reassuring. But will it keep us from being sucked into the Bermuda Triangle? — *Martin Ebon.*

ARTHUR C. CLARKE'S MYSTERIOUS WORLD by Simon Welfare and John Fairley, A & W Publishers, New York, N.Y., 1980, 224 pages, \$17.95.

Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World is an outgrowth of a British television series for which Simon Welfare and John Fairley, together with camera crews, did the legwork. They trotted about the world researching and filming the several dozen mysteries that Clarke admits have long intrigued him. Clarke, who lives in Sri Lanka and doesn't travel much because of poor health, has provided an introduction plus comments at the end of each chapter. The result is an informative, readable, superbly illustrated and quite evenhanded survey. If Fortean research needed an imprimatur of respectability, it has it in this book.

Acknowledging that he is "borrowing shamelessly," Clarke posits "Mysteries of the First, Second and Third Kind" with the First being "something that was once utterly baffling, but is now completely understood." Most natural phenomena — rainbows, for example — fall into the M1K cat-

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egory. The Third encompasses "phenomena — or events — for which there appears to be *no* rational explanation; in cases where there are theories to account for them, these are even more fantastic than the 'facts.'" He cites Spontaneous Human Combustion as the "quintessential M3K" and who would argue?

It is the M2Ks that form the core of this book and these Clarke defines as "mysteries which are *still* mysteries, though in some cases we may have a fairly good idea of the answers. Often the trouble is that there are too many answers; we would be quite satisfied with any one of them, but others appear equally valid."

In his M2K category are such familiar topics as "The Missing Ape Man" (Bigfoot, et al), "Ancient Fires" (vitrified forts and crystal skulls), "Monsters of the Deep" (sea serpents and others), "UFOs," "Strange Skies" (astronomical mysteries) and "Of Beast and Snake" (various "mythic" animals). "Figures in a Landscape" includes not only the well-known Nazca lines of ancient astronomical mythology but the more obscure "White Horse of Cherwell," "The Rude Man of Cerne" and the strange figures of Blythe, Calif.

Some of Clarke's chapter commentaries are almost worth the price of the book itself: "Only one thing can be stated with certainty about such structures as Stonehenge: the people who built them were much more intelligent than many who have written books about them." Regarding UFOs, he calls for a "decade or so of benign neglect" during which time we should concentrate on close encounters of the third kind since "either they occur, or they do not, and there's a lot of high-powered lying and hys-



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terical self-delusion going on."

Clarke writes off the spaceship explanation for "The Great Siberian Explosion." He believes the earth was hit by a meteor from the Beta-Taurids, a daylight swarm unknown until the advent of radio astronomy. The swarm "meets our earth as it sweeps along its orbit at the same time each year... on 30 June — the very date that the Tunguska object hit Siberia in 1908!" To this he appends the grim warning that "what happened once *will* (not *may*) happen again." And finally, "If Bigfoot *does* exist, I would like to propose an open season for shooting those people who want to shoot him — even in the name of science."

Clarke's attitude — "mysteries are *fun!*" — is certainly a more responsible one than the dour rejection usually given by scientific establishmentarians when confronted with reports of events outside their ken. It is, I think, the enjoyment of the chase, the pursuit of mysteries, that sets Fortean apart from their dully prosaic fellows. *Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World* nicely evokes the Fortean spirit. — George W. Earley.

RESEARCH IN PARAPSYCHOLOGY 1979 edited by W. G. Roll, Scarecrow Press, Metuchen, N.J., 1980, 232 pages, \$12.00.

Research in Parapsychology 1979 is the newest in the ongoing series of abstracts of all the papers and presentations made at the annual conventions of the Parapsychological Association (PA). The 1979 convention was held at St. Mary's College in Moraga, Calif.

The current volume, a state-of-the-art look at recent parapsychological work, is the most interesting in several years, due in part to the large number of symposia held during the convention. A debate on synchronicity (C. G. Jung's concept of meaningful but acausal coincidence) reflects parapsychologists' growing concern with the subject.

Also noteworthy are two round table discussions. One, on the clinical handling of psychic experiences, addresses such issues as how to help people disturbed by paranormal experiences. The second deals with "ethical and social issues in parapsy-

chology," focusing on such thorny questions as whether government support of parapsychology should be encouraged, whether parapsychologists should recommend psychic healers and other topics of considerable interest.

Perhaps the high point is the complete text of John Palmer's presidential address to the PA. This address was one of the boldest and most unconventional ever delivered at these annual meetings. Palmer argues that our old concept of ESP — that it is an information-carrying force which operates between an agent and a receiver — is out of date and should be discarded. ESP seems to work, Dr. Palmer says, much more like synchronicity. It most resembles an "ordered" coincidence. In the second part of his presentation Palmer asserts that we should extend our definition of parapsychology so that in the future perhaps research workers will investigate claims made by astrology and other borderline studies.

The rest of *Research in Parapsychology 1979* is devoted to a series of briefs on PK tests, psi and personality, statistical issues and other technical matters. Relatively few field studies were reported at the 1979 convention, certainly fewer than usual. Only one reincarnation investigation and one poltergeist case found their way onto the program and into these pages. — *D. Scott Rogo.*

EXPLORING PSI IN THE GANZFELD by Carl Sargent, Parapsychology Foundation, New York, N.Y., 1980, 124 pages, \$6.00, paperback.

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recent years. Ganzfield tests are easy to run. A subject is placed in a sound-attenuated room or booth; he stares into a diffuse red light through halved Ping-Pong balls which are placed over his eyes, listens to nothing but random "white noise" and simply describes all the thoughts and images that pass through his mind. In the meantime an agent in another room attempts to "send" a mental picture to the subject. People subjected to about 30 minutes of ganzfield stimulation report entering into a mild altered state of consciousness where mental imagery becomes rather intense. They may enter a "psi-conductive" state.

Why does the ganzfield work so well? This is the subject of Carl Sargent's *Exploring Psi in the Ganzfield*. Dr. Sargent, a young British parapsychologist at Cambridge University, has been studying the uses of ESP-ganzfield testing since 1978. In his monograph he describes several experiments he conducted to explore this question in depth. He wanted to determine what kinds of people do best in the ganzfield, what role the duration of exposure to the setting plays in ESP success, whether "learning" takes place if one has many exposures to the ganzfield, and so on. Sargent's work typifies the "process-oriented research" that is becoming popular in parapsychology today.

Sargent has learned much of significance about the nature of the ganzfield. Because the monograph is technically written, it probably will not appeal to many FATE readers. The research probably will be best appreciated by those readers with either a serious interest in experimental parapsychology or some background in psychology and statistics.

Exploring Psi in the Ganzfield has its faults. It would have helped his readers had Sargent opened his monograph with a background chapter on the history of ESP-ganzfield research carried out between 1974 and 1977, mostly in the United States. Instead this material is scattered throughout the monograph. Evidently Sargent prepared his report while still engaged in ESP-ganzfield tests which were intended to pursue leads his initial research had uncovered. It might have been wiser if he had waited to complete his ganzfield research before writing the monograph. — D. Scott Rogo.

REPORT FROM THE READERS

These columns of FATE are set aside each month for your comments. Send your opinion of articles and stories of unusual occurrences to FATE Magazine, 500 Hyacinth Pl., Highland Park, Ill. 60035.

NONMALEVOLENT MISQUOTE

Randy Fitzgerald's article, "Pentagon's Secret Psychic Task Force" (July 1981 FATE), seemed more concerned about the vulnerability of reporters to malevolent leaks than psychic research per se.

My concern, however, is that your author misquoted me. I never said that psychics in general were "a bunch of cheap magicians who don't have any more paranormal powers than my dog." I said "dogs," plural.

Barney and Amy, my two basset hounds, look very worried that I had forgotten one or the other and might soon show favoritism. — Ron McRae, Fairfax, Va.

QUALIFIED DEFENSE

Jerome Clark's review of *Photographs of the Unknown* (July 1981 FATE), written by Richard Kelly and me, suggests that I have become "perilously close to an uncritical believer." May I say a few words in qualification, if not defense?

Our purpose in putting the book together was severalfold. First, we thought the material, which is widely scattered and of varying quality and authenticity, deserved some sort of collation into a visual reference work. Not until we began to collect material did we become aware of the problems. Where possible we tried to locate copyrights but in psychic and UFO photography so many copies, and copies of copies, are in circulation, the owners of each claiming copyright, that sorting out the true legal position was either difficult or impossible.

Many sources, especially picture libraries, can offer no information about or authentication of the print they hope you will buy. To make matters worse, every field, from ghosts to UFOs, has become so complicated by the profusion of journals and books and mutually-contradicting experts that even those who are as devoted to the investigation of the paranormal as I am simply cannot keep up with the seasaw of claims, refutations, exposures and apologetics. On this point, let the errors in this book (I cannot fault Clark's specific criticisms) be a lesson to other authors. Most of the errors he mentions came to my attention only after the book had gone to print.

Second, we put the book together in a spirit of honest interest; it is intended for the entertainment and edification of the reader. Both Richard Kelly and I are essentially benign skeptics; we went to some lengths to check the authenticity of most of the photos. Because this was time-consuming, we were not able to certify *all* of them, as we would have liked. Consequently a few were included on grounds of interest only. Since most areas of the paranormal are in vigorous contention, proof — especially photographic proof — of paranormal events is in short supply. A book restricted to conclusive evidence would be thin indeed. On the other hand we didn't want a book full of dubious photos; there were enough genuine mysteries without deliberately compounding ignorance. Our compromise — the presentation of a collection of

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photos as part of the evidence for claims of paranormality — was acceptable to our publisher as the basis of a salable book.

We scoured many archives for these photos which others, not we, claimed are evidence of the paranormal. We merely collected them for the record. We do not, despite our cover-blurb-writer, claim they are proof. Evidence is not always proof! We acknowledge the collection is incomplete. As evidence we expect it to be subject to scrutiny and in our introduction we exhort the readers, with suitable caveats, to be critical, to make up their own minds. To have done less would have been to engage in intellectual dishonesty. — *Robert Rickard, London, England.*

NOT TRUE . . .

Jerome Clark's statement that Melvin Harris "shows how some pictures of Enfield phenomena could have been faked" is not true ("Update," July 1981 FATE).

What Harris has done (at my request, incidentally) is to suggest a possible normal explanation for what is shown in some of the photographs. In his letter in the December 1980 issue of *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* he plainly states, "I agree that these photos are not faked. . . ." He is referring to some of the photographs taken by Graham Morris, a respected professional photographer, which were included in my book *This House Is Haunted*.

Clark's statement is inaccurate and defamatory. — *Guy Lyon Playfair, London, England.*

WHO TAUGHT HER?

In "The Psychic Who Came in from the Cold" (September 1981 FATE), Deborah Caulfield does not say who taught Beverlee Dean to "read" handwriting.

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THE POWER OF THE WORD

How many readers have written to tell Curtis Fuller (September 1981 FATE) that he has added another generation to the Joseph Smith family tree? Joseph Smith (not Joseph Smith, Jr.) was killed in jail at Carthage, Ill. — Cecil D. Clayton, *Slaughters*, Ky.

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Any FATE reader who has had a similar dream contact with a UFO is invited to write me to obtain a research questionnaire. All responses will be held in strict confidence. — *F. Michael Mola, 229 Cross St., Bristol, Conn. 06010.*

A WORD FROM DR. HEBARD

I have no personal stake in parapsychology. I am writing only in the hope of clearing up some misconceptions promulgated by Russell Targ and Harold Puthoff about the Ingo Swann magnetometer "experiment" ("James Randi, the 'Flim-Flam' Man," by D. Scott Rogo, June 1981 FATE). I am qualified to make these remarks because I am the builder of the device and was an observer in the room at the time Swann was trying to affect its output.

Let me say at the outset that Randi's account of this experiment in his book *Flim-Flam!* is reasonably accurate. My personal views concerning this experiment were not misrepresented in any significant way. The dispute between Randi and Rogo about whether I used the words "lies," "misrepresentations" or "exaggerations" does not address the central issue — which is the validity of the Targ-Puthoff claims. Accordingly, I would like to clear the air by addressing specific points raised by Rogo in his review of Randi's book.

(1) Randi is correct in his assertion that Puthoff never bothered to ask me if a normal explanation could account for the Swann effect; I independently volunteered this information. Furthermore, my suggestion was not that "equipment failure could explain Swann's initial demonstration." To the contrary, the equipment was working very well — so well, in fact, that it was sensitive to common perturbations such as pressure fluctuations in a helium gas recovery line attached to the magnetometer chamber. I was able subsequently to reproduce the "Swann effect" by simulating such a pressure change. Puthoff conveniently ignored this explanation.

(2) Of the many suggestions made to Swann during the approximately 15-minute

duration of Swann's effort, one of them may have been "Can you stop the field charge?" In this context it is unreasonable, illogical and inexcusable to associate this particular command with the end "effect" which was observed and, incidentally, never repeated.

(3) Finally, Rogo claims that I "was more than willing to discuss the Swann magnetometer demonstration because" I am "interested in parapsychology." On the contrary, my willingness to discuss the experiment was solely to clear up the misinformation and false claims about it. Interested readers should refer to Randi's account in *Flim-Flam!* for further details. — *Arthur F. Hebard, Bernardsville, N. J.*

THE AUTHOR REPLIES:

I have never argued that the Swann/SRI magnetometer demonstration constitutes strong evidence for psychokinesis. My only concern, which Dr. Hebard does not seem to appreciate, involves Randi's version of the experiment and the false quote he placed in the physicist's mouth.

I am surprised, however, to see Dr. Hebard supporting the basic accuracy of Randi's version of the magnetometer test when (1) he openly disputes Randi's adamant claim that *at no time* was Swann asked to stop the magnetometer's output and (2) he does not recall calling Puthoff and Targ "liars." — *D. Scott Rogo, Northridge, Calif.*

"STAR PERSONS" STRIKE BACK

The view from here is that Michael T. Shoemaker's caustic, finger-pointing scorn leveled at people who think differently from himself is as old as mankind. His review of Brad Steiger's *The Star People* (August 1981 FATE) just proves that the effort of the present humanistic system to make us into a nation of sheep has been successful.

If Mr. Shoemaker is content to believe he evolved from a pair of apes that is his affair. However, there are many thousands of us out here who do not believe we did. Also we have an unshakable belief in the Bible — including Revelations.

Living in underground self-sufficient communities is not a first either. History records that Christians lived in the catacombs of Rome. Loving our fellow man and being aware of what he is capable of, according to Mr. Shoemaker, makes us in-

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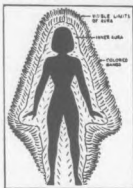


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sane. Is he so wrapped up in himself that he is like the grasshopper, while others are doing what they can to survive the coming Armageddon? If this attempt at survival is insane, then what, in his opinion, are the self-seeking economic and political leaders who are preparing their underground escape (paid for by our tax money) when what they have brought about takes place?

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(Continued on page 128)

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REPORT FROM THE READERS

(Continued from page 118)

named Mrs. Alison but she wasn't a 30-year-old traveling with her husband. She was a grandmother traveling with her son and grandson. And "Suzanne" could not have clung to the ship's railings (or any other part) while she cried out, "Bring the boat here!" Indeed, she could have known nothing of the lighthouse keeper and his rescue boat.

The fact is that the ship broke its back on the Harker rock at about 4:00 A.M. The rear end, together with captain and cabin passengers, was swept away and sank. On the forward half of the ship, jammed on the rock, were seven passengers and some of the crew. These survivors moved from the wreck onto the rock where they were spotted at 7:00 A.M. Only then did the lighthouse keeper launch his boat. So *no one* saw the lifeboat from the deck of the pitching *Forfarshire* — and Mrs. Alison was dead three hours before the boat first hit the sea. — *Melvin Harris, Benfleet, Essex, England.*

FIVE CENTS' WORTH

I would like to add my five cents' worth to the information in Pauline M. Jefferis' letter in the April 1981 issue of FATE in which she defends Scientology.

I became involved with Dianetics in 1950. I then went to Israel where I audited Dianetics procedures for about 4000 hours

with some 20 people. One of these, a 24-year-old girl, recalled a death 40 years earlier; in fact, she brought it to life right in front of me. She got up from the couch she had been lying on and began to look at her hands and body. Then she went over to a mirror to look at herself more closely, after which she said to me, "I used to have a beautiful body; this one is ugly."

She went on to say that she wanted to find out what had happened to her family in Budapest and added, referring to her mother in the next room, "That woman has nothing to do with me. It is just a biological accident that this body came from her. I can't stay here."

I suggested that she talk to "that woman." Her mother was fascinated by her daughter's words and said her family had lived in Berlin but they had relatives, especially an Uncle Julius, in Budapest. The daughter, speaking as an old woman, said this could well be "Cousin Julius" and since she and "that woman" were related she could "stay here."

I was relieved that she was not going to leave the house, roam the streets and get picked up and put into a looney bin for claiming to be a woman who had died 40 years earlier in Hungary. I visited her the next day and she agreed to rerun the death scene. During this session the personality of the old woman dropped out. Thereafter the girl experienced a dramatic personality change, becoming much more independent and forsaking the role of submissive daughter.

After her experience became known, many of the rest of the group came up with past life and death experiences. The opening up of past lives is actually the foundation stone upon which the Church of Scientology was based. — *B. Robert Ross, Washington, D.C.*

FAKE PRINTS?

I have never seen hands like those burned "hand prints" on page 45 of the June 1981 issue of FATE.

In both the Hackenburg prayer book and the old German prayer book the prints are alike and not like human hands. The thumbs come out like another finger, not where a thumb would be. The little finger and the first finger are almost the same size.

REPORT FROM THE READERS

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The second finger, which is usually longer than the first, is shorter. These look like phony hands made from the same mold. — *Irene Hamlin Stephenson, Chatsworth, Calif.*

A thumbprint is pictured on page 42 in the story "Mystery of the Burning Handprints." If you turn this picture upside down and look closely, you can find the image of a face. — *Shirley Boldin, Alliance, Ohio.*

VENUS — UP TO HER OLD TRICKS

R. R. Fowler expresses incredulity that President Carter — or anyone else — could possibly see the planet Venus alternating in size from a "planet" to a "moon" ("Report from the Readers," June 1981 FATE). I reported this effect in my *UFO Handbook* because Venus witnesses who contacted the Center for UFO Studies told me they saw it happen. The following excerpt is from a letter sent to me after *Handbook* was published:

"I saw Venus, newly emerged from a low cloud bank, ballooning to nearly the size of the full moon. To me, it was instantly apparent that I was seeing Venus, but it certainly was a noteworthy sight."

The author of the letter? A professional astronomer at Yale University.

Yes, R. R., Venus *can* perform these tricks and, no, R. R., you can't assume that it doesn't happen merely because you and I have never seen it happening.

I wrote *UFO Handbook* to inform UFO-philas of these unexpected distortions which occur only under unusual viewing conditions. Valid discernment of *truly* unidentifiable objects can't occur unless these distortions are recognized and taken into account. — *Allan Hendry, Stone Mountain, Ga.*

A TINGE OF SADNESS

Your publication of my story "The Dream Lives On..." (August 1981 FATE) is a highlight in my life but as often happens, my happiness is tinged with sorrow. My dear father Joseph Kozar died March 6, 1981. — *Lilyan Kozar McKelvey, Aliquippa, Pa.*



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∞ The press called them "purple blobs from space." Scientists said they were "like nothing on earth." Then they were "explained" and forgotten. Now new evidence reveals the blobs may indeed be from outer space.

∞ Wilhelm Reich has been dead a quarter of a century but his once-heretical ideas — which landed him in prison — are now being reevaluated by scientists and physicians.



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