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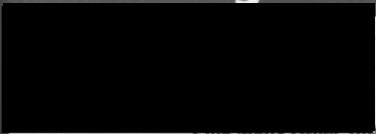
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THE FASTEST GROWING CHURCH IN THE WORLD

by Brother Keith E. L'Hormedieu, D.D.

It's quite safe to say that of all the organized religious sects on the current scene, one church in particular stands above all in its unique approach to religion. The Universal Life Church is the only organized church in the world with no traditional religious doctrine. In the words of Kirby J. Hensley, founder, "The ULC only believes in what is right, and that all people have the right to determine what beliefs are right for them, as long as they do not interfere with the rights of others."

Reverend Hensley is the leader of the worldwide Universal Life Church with a membership now exceeding 7 million ordained ministers of all religious beliefs. Reverend Hensley started the church in his garage by ordaining ministers by mail. During the 1960's, he traveled all across the country appearing at college rallies held in his honor where he would perform mass ordinations of thousands of people at a time. These new ministers were then exempt from being inducted into the armed forces during the undeclared Vietnam war.

In 1966 Reverend Hensley was fighting the establishment on another front. The IRS tried to claim the ULC wasn't a legal church and proceeded to impound the ten thousand dollars in the church bank account. The feisty Hensley filed suit against the IRS in federal district court for return of the funds and to permanently establish the ULC as a legal tax exempt entity. On March 1, 1974 Judge James F. Battin ruled against the IRS in his decision which stated, "Neither this court or any branch of this government will consider the merits or fallacies of a religion. Nor will the court praise or condemn a religion. Were the court to do so, it would impinge upon the guarantees of the First Amendment." The judge then ordered the IRS to return the impounded money and to grant the Universal Life Church its tax exempt status.

Reverend Hensley has stated that he believes a church is people and not just a fancy building. He also believes in total freedom and equality for all people. The ULC will ordain anyone without regard to religious beliefs, race, nationality, sex or age.

The ULC's success formula is both effective and unquestionably legal. After a person has become an ordained minister, he or she can join with two other people and form their own Universal Life Church. These three people then make up the Board of Directors consisting of a Pastor, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The ULC will then grant the group the use of its legal church charter complete with both federal and state tax exempt numbers. The newly formed church may then open a bank account in the church's name. Any member of the church can legally donate up to 50% of his or her outside income to the church and take a corresponding tax deduction. The church in turn can pay the complete housing cost of its minister including rent or mortgage payment, insurance, taxes, furnishings and repairs. The church can also provide the minister with full use of an automo-



Brother L. Hormedieu is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Universal Order of the Universal Life Church, Inc. and serves on the Board of Directors of the International Universal Life Church, Inc.

bile as well as pay for travel and educational expenses. None of these expenses are reported as income to the IRS. Recently a whole town in Hardenburg, New York became Universal Life ministers and turned their homes into religious retreats and monasteries thereby relieving themselves of property taxes, at least until the state tries to figure out what to do.

Churches enjoy certain other tax benefits over the common man on the street. For instance, a church can legally buy and sell real estate or stocks and bonds completely tax free. It can receive tax free income from bank deposits or mortgages. Many churches own large publishing, recording, or other related businesses like hospitals, clinics and schools without paying any income tax.

A church can sponsor any kind of fund raising event such as a concert, play or even bingo. Churches are also exempt from paying inheritance taxes. When the pastor of the church dies, the Board of Directors simply appoints a new pastor and the church goes on.

Reverend Hensley has stated that he personally doesn't believe in the tax exempt status of churches. However, if the government is going to give a free ride to Billy Graham and the Pope, then why not let everybody participate in these blessings. Furthermore, he backs his words up by offering to defend in court the tax exempt status of his congregations.

Since the church was founded in 1962, it has attracted members who are movie and TV personalities, businessmen, government officials, lawyers, and doctors as well as all types of regular working people. During the last 15 years the Universal Life church has blossomed into a full blown grass roots populace movement. Reverend Hensley is ordaining ten thousand new ministers a week and predicts that the church will have over 20,000,000 members by the early 1980's. In addition, requests for interviews and TV appearances continue to pour in.

Anyone who is a member of the ULC will tell you that the ULC is destined to change the world. By unifying mankind into a brotherhood of freedom orientated individuals, each respecting the other's right to live life as they see fit, the Universal Life Church hopes to put an end to all wars. Reverend Hensley admits that this is a pretty monumental task to accomplish, but he also points out that he is already well on the way to reaching his goal.

Rev. Hensley invites all those interested in becoming an ordained minister and receiving complete information and Minister's Credentials, to send a \$10⁰⁰ tax deductible donation to the Universal Life Church, 1335 Seabright Ave., Dept. 272, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

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I SEE BY THE PAPERS

by Curtis Fuller



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The understanding of psi will contribute to our liberation from present illusions of economic, social and political control. We will come to know more truly who we are, rather than who our institutions want us to think we are.

— Jean Tremblay, President,
Professional Corporation
of Psychologists of Quebec,
in *Brain/Mind Bulletin*

AFTER 347 years Galileo Galilei will be given a new trial, according to an announcement by papal authorities. Galileo, as most school kids know, was condemned by the Roman Catholic Inquisition for teaching as fact the hypothesis originally advanced by Copernicus that the sun is the center of the planetary system.

This leads me to wonder just how far we have progressed in welcoming new ideas since the days of Galileo. The recent attacks upon evolution by some religious fundamentalists and the attacks upon any serious claims for the paranormal by debunking extremists both dramatize a similar resistance to unorthodox ideas. We have to look upon the anti-evolutionists and the members of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the

Paranormal (CSICOP) as soul mates.

The retrial of Galileo will occur because of two special circumstances. The first is the 20-year-long effort of a Dominican priest, Dominique Dubarle, who as an atomic scientist and vice-president of the Pugwash Conference has carried his pleas directly to several popes. The second happenstance is the availability of the records of Galileo's trial. Inquisition records usually are sealed but in this case the Galileo trial records were seized by Napoleon and returned to the Vatican only on the express condition that French scholars be allowed access to them.

It is possible the retrial will end in a blizzard of legalisms since the Roman Church accepted the idea that the earth revolves around the sun centuries ago and in truth Galileo was condemned not for teaching it as a concept but for teaching it as a fact. The Inquisitors were caught in a conflict between changing scientific and theological models and wanted the scientific models to be taught only as speculation.

Perhaps as sad as any part of the continuing struggle for scientific freedom is that Mediterranean peoples 1500 years before Galileo knew that the sun is the center of the system and even constructed models showing how

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five of the planets circle it. The Dark Ages, between the fall of Rome and the Renaissance, were truly dark!



QUEBEC STUDIES ESP

THE PROVINCE of Quebec is taking an open-minded view of the study of psychic phenomena and the subject now is a "respected" academic discipline in two dozen Quebec colleges and universities, according to *Brain/Mind Bulletin*. Marilyn Ferguson writes that an official committee for the study of psi has been mandated by the 2,600-member Professional Corporation of Psychologists of Quebec.

It is claimed that an important factor in the "unprecedented acceptance of psi" in Quebec is the abandonment of the word "parapsychology" in favor of the word "psilogy" — a term meaning "the study of psi" which was coined by Louis Belanger of the University of Montreal in 1974. Belanger spent six years studying with Hans Bender of the University of Freiburg, Germany, before he began to teach an introductory course in "psilogy" at the University of Montreal in 1975. Two years later the course was accepted by the Quebec provincial college system and is now offered in 20 provincial colleges and three other universities.

Why is this change in name so important? Belanger believes that the word "parapsychology" means "beside psychology" whereas "psi involves much more than the psyche and its thorough study requires more than psychology."

He told *Brain/Mind Bulletin*, "Psiology includes psychology, biology, an-

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D. SCOTT ROGO: Research Consultant for The Psychical Research Foundation; visiting researcher at the Maimonides Medical Center; Director of Research, Southern California for Psychical Research; author of *An Experience of Phantoms* and *In Search of the Unknown*.



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thropology, physics and other disciplines." Referring to the old term "parapsychology," he said, "It's no wonder that psychologists have considered psi to be beside the point of their concern."



FRIENDLY ACCEPTANCE

APPARENTLY the seeds of Psiology fall upon fertile ground. A Gallup poll in 1979 reported that 51 percent of Canadian adults believe in ESP and 44 percent believe in precognition. Degree of belief correlates with education. Only 26 percent of those with a primary school education accept ESP while 64 percent of those persons who have attended college accept ESP. The figures are 27 percent and 55 percent for precognition.

Meanwhile, the Canadian psychology association is taking its responsibilities seriously. Late in 1978 President Jean Tremblay of the Professional Corporation of Psychologists of Quebec charged his committee with the task of serving the need of the public to understand and cope with psychic experiences. He predicted that in 10 to 15 years "much that is discovered in psiology will also be accepted as part of what we now know as psychology."

The Psiology Committee has 60 members including psychologists, psychiatrists, other physicians, anthropologists, biologists and a physicist. Members will conduct research, investigate claims for spontaneous phenomena and educate the public. "They will also prepare guidelines for mental health professionals who have to help those who may be in difficulties due to possible psi," reports the *Bulletin*.

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Coordinator of the Committee Francois Leduc states: "We do not take a position on the existence of these phenomena. We feel that we must serve the needs of many people who wish to understand what they believe to be psychic experiences — their own or those of others. We feel it is our duty to provide understanding."



UNDERSTANDING OBES

CONTINUING evidence for the existence of out-of-body experience (they call it "translocation of consciousness") is reported in October 1980 *ASPR Newsletter* by Karlis Osis, Ph.D., and Donna McCormick. The ASPR's main research goal is defined as "gaining understanding of the processes involved and, if possible, to find irrefutable evidence" of the phenomenon. The researchers, who have devel-

oped instruments and methods of detecting possible OB effects, ask three basic questions:

(1) *What happens in the brain when consciousness appears to be projected elsewhere?* Brain wave amplitudes seem to become modified, indicating electrical quiescence in the occipital region of the brain — in the back of the head.

(2) *What does the person see when out of the body?* "Vision appears to be sharply localized at the spot to which the experient says his consciousness has projected." And the lack of eye movement suggests it is not merely a waking dream.

(3) *What happens at the spot where consciousness has projected?* Sensor plates within a shielded chamber were more active when the subject was scoring a hit on the visual target than when he missed. This suggests to the re-

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searchers not only that there is a physical effect at the locations where the subject projects his consciousness when out of body but that the experience may be a "fluctuating" process. In other words, the person may be "more out of body" when making hits than when making misses.



OSIS' 18-INCH CUBE

THE SUBJECT of these experiments was the well-known Maine psychic Alex Tanous who was in a soundproof room five doors away from the laboratory containing the "black box" into which he was to project his consciousness. This is a shielded cubical chamber approximately 18 inches to a side. Inside the chamber are two "sensor plates" consisting of nine-by-eight-inch sheets of metal hanging from thin metal strips attached to insulators. Strain gauges attached to the thin strips detect any movement of the sensor plates. In an adjoining room a polygraph picks up the strain gauge signals, amplifies them and prints out a graphic record of any movement of the sensor plates.

The shielded chamber is hung in front of the viewing window of a piece of equipment that displays randomized target pictures which Tanous is asked to perceive and describe. Alex is supposed to project his out-of-body self into the shielded cubical chamber and from there to observe the pictures randomly displayed before the viewing window. Then he is asked to describe what he observes.

The *Newsletter* summary does not deal with the findings of what Tanous may have observed while apparently

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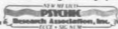
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in the OB state other than to state that he made both hits and misses. The experimenters do conclude, however, that there were effects within the shielded chamber.

Next step in this phase of the research is to attempt to photograph or otherwise register evidence of the "OB presence." Osis and McCormick are planning to use an extremely light-sensitive video camera and are tooling up for other custom-built electronic equipment.



SPIRIT VOICES

WHILE positive results seem to have been achieved by the OB researchers, Dr. William Braud, research associate at the Mind Science Foundation, San Antonio, Tex., has been shooting down claims some researchers make for strange sounds reported on audiotape playbacks. Strong claims were made in 1958 and '59 by Russian-born Friedrich Jurgensen who lives in Sweden and later by the Latvian psychologist Konstantin Raudive that they had recorded "spirit voices."

Sometimes other persons listening to these so-called spirit voices confirm the claims; at other times listeners admit to confusion and an inability to understand the jumbled collections of words on the tapes. Sometimes the voices appear to be speaking in foreign languages; at other times words seem to stand out; or again the sounds seem meaningless.

Confusion reigns! In the foreign language departments of local colleges the strange languages defy identification. Many explanations are offered.



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Dr. Braud's explanation is straightforward and simple. He says, in a brief article in the November-December issue of *Parapsychology Review*, that it "accounts for all of the puzzling recordings which have been brought to my attention during the past few years.

"They are simply ordinary recorded materials which are being replayed backward."

The backward sounds originate in several ways, Braud says. One cause is an uncrased error on the tape due to misalignment of the recording heads. Another is playing back on one system a tape recorded on a machine having a different head arrangement — this creates another type of misalignment. Cassette players may produce backward sounds if the tape has been folded over (crimped) at a certain spot. Part of the pro-

gram may be reversed; the other may remain normal.

According to Braud, the material "Has a very alien quality because its patterns are completely reversed and are therefore unfamiliar to the experienced ear Backward speech generally rises slowly in intensity to some maximal value, then very quickly fades away. The opposite is true of normal speech. In addition, backward syllables sound peculiarly clipped.

Braud is cautious, however. "Please note," he says, "that this explanation accounts for only a certain class of anomalous tape-recorded sounds. Other unusual audiotape effects may have other explanations, some normal, some possibly paranormal. What is actually the case may be determined by empirical investigation."

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PSYCHICS AND POLICE

IT APPEARS, at least as this is written, that New Jersey psychic Dorothy Allison has been unsuccessful in naming the murderer of Atlanta's children.

Partenia Jefferson, speaking for the Atlanta police last November 14, said that Allison had not been of any essential help in the investigation. "There are no suspects and no one has been taken into custody" since Allison's visit in October, Jefferson said. The statement was timed for November 14 because Dorothy Allison predicted that a major break in the case would occur — one way or the other — within 24 hours of November 12.

"The general feeling of the detectives," according to Jefferson, "is that they were not impressed with her information."

Why do police departments consult psychics if they are generally skeptical of their abilities?

Gary Hayes, director of the Police Executive Research Forum, believes they do so out of frustration. He says there are cases where one has to do something and calling in psychics may seem better than doing nothing. Hayes is careful not to criticize the practice. "I don't want to debunk it because I don't have the evidence," he told Eliot Marshall of *Science*.

Marshall asked the question of other police departments and came up with a mixed bag of explanations. James Stewart, commander of the criminal investigation division of the Oakland, Calif., police department, thinks psychics can be useful when all leads fail and new ideas are needed. He reminds us that hypnotism once

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was considered suspect but is now used as a productive technique in investigation. Roger Depue, chief of the behavioral science unit at the FBI Academy, Quantico, Va., "says he knows of no evidence supporting psychic claims but the FBI has not debunked them either," according to Marshall.

The only responsible study on the use of psychics to solve crimes was conducted by the Los Angeles Police Department in 1978.* Twelve psychics participated in a controlled test. They looked at evidence from four crimes, two of which had been solved

and two of which remained unsolved. Only half of the answers given by the psychics could be verified and the remainder were not much better than chance.

"Little, if any, information was elicited from the 12 psychic participants that would provide material helpful in the investigation of the major crimes in question," concluded Martin Reiser, author of the paper describing the study, which was published in the *Journal of Police Science and Administration* last year. A follow-up study done in 1980 found that psychics, homicide detectives and night school students were all equally competent at divining facts after observing a few

* For a complete report on this study see "Psychics and Police Mix It Up in L.A." in October 1979 FATE.



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isolated bits of evidence connected with a crime, Marshall reports.



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obliterated the civilizations of the islands to the south and southeast, particularly the civilization on Crete.

The vast explosion, of course, did engulf the Minoan city of Akrotiri, on Thera itself, which is only now being rediscovered and excavated. There is strong evidence that the Minoans on Thera abandoned their city a year or two before the violent eruption. When the eruption came and the city was covered with a deep layer of ash most

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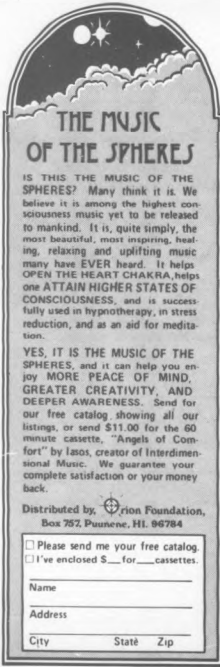
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of the inhabitants must long since have fled. This is deduced from the lack of human remains such as were found at Pompeii, for instance. The inhabitants apparently even had time to remove their personal belongings.

Recently the idea that the Thera eruption was the main cause of the decline of the Minoan civilization was dealt another setback by excavations at the late Minoan site at Trianda in northeast Rhodes. Here a 10-centimeter layer of volcanic ash and debris that correlates with the explosion on Thera has been uncovered. Mineralogical analyses confirm the origin of the ash. Nevertheless, life in the Rhodian settlement seems to have continued without much noticeable disruption.

On Crete, which was the center of the Minoan civilization, the ash fall from Thera was five centimeters or less, an amount too small to have disrupted life or even to have ruined crops.

There is a time gap of about 50 years between the eruption on Thera and the collapse of the Minoan civilization on Crete. The eruption took place around 1500 B. C. and the Cretan palaces were destroyed about 50 years later. Thereafter the Minoan culture and religion were replaced by those of the Mycenaean people from mainland Greece. Perhaps an earthquake threw down the buildings. Perhaps the combination of earthquake and eruption so weakened the Cretans that they were open to invasion by the barbarians of the north. At this point we still know only that one of the world's great cultures was mysteriously lost forever.

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WE CONFESS to leaning toward a catastrophist view of history — at least of some history. But since writing has existed for less than 10,000 years and man's concept of how to describe natural disasters so they can be interpreted in modern terms has existed for only about 3000 years, it becomes difficult to understand what their effect may have been. Nevertheless, since catastrophes occur today and have occurred within historic times, it is reasonable to conclude that they must have occurred in the past — just as they undoubtedly will occur in the future.

It becomes increasingly evident that one of the great world catastrophes was the event which caused the extinction of the dinosaurs about 65 million years ago. Last year Walter Alvarez of the University of California and his colleagues reported finding excess elements of iridium that typified extraterrestrial materials in sediment samples coinciding with the time period of the great dinosaur extinction. Alvarez and his group concluded that the iridium deposits could have been caused by a huge meteorite striking the earth. Dust from such a catastrophe would shut off sunlight for several years and inhibit the photosynthesis of plants sufficiently to cause these mass extinctions.

R. Ganapathy of the J. T. Baker Chemical Company of Phillipsburg, N. J., has examined samples from the Cretaceous-Tertiary Boundary period in Denmark and adds support to the Alvarez thesis. Ganapathy found the pattern of abundances of iridium, osmium, gold, platinum, nickel, cobalt,

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palladium, rhenium and ruthenium in his samples generally matched extra-terrestrial samples. The layer Ganapathy measured was about two centimeters thick. If its dust was evenly distributed around the world by winds at the same rate, Ganapathy estimates the asteroid was 11 kilometers in diameter and weighed 2.5 trillion tons.

Some impact!



BIG BIRD

FROM A fossil site about 100 miles west of Buenos Aires, Argentina,

scientists have excavated bones of a flying bird with a wingspan three times that of a bald eagle and a weight 10 to 15 times greater.

The giant bird was a member of the teratorn family — a group of fierce hunting birds — which became extinct only about 10,000 years ago. The previous largest flying bird known had a wingspan of 16 feet but these newly discovered bones indicate a bird weighing 160 to 170 pounds with a 25-foot wingspan. Parts of several wing bones, two leg bones and parts of a skull have been found so far.



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Dr. Kenneth E. Campbell, curator of vertebrate paleontology at the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles, called the teratorn "a most spectacular creature. . . . People are going to say that any bird that large simply couldn't fly but we are sure that it did." (Aeronautical engineers once calculated that the ratio between the weight of the bumblebee and its wingspan is such that the bumblebee cannot fly!)

The largest known flying creatures were reptiles called pterosaurs which had wingspans up to 50 feet. But they were not birds.



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Since all obvious environmental clues had been eliminated the two researchers, Eberhard Gwinner and Wolfgang Wiltschko, concluded that unknown internal factors were at work. Now they are trying to find out what these might be.



DAANGEROUS DZHUNA

THE SOVIET Union finally has issued an official word on Dzhuna, the healer whom we discussed in this column recently. The press publicity surrounding Dzhuna is "dangerous," according to a statement by the Ministry of Public Health.

Dzhuna's real name is Yevgeniya Davitashvili and she comes from Tbilisi, capital of the Republic of Georgia. Dzhuna has attracted a large and enthusiastic following who believe she can cure diseases by creating a biological field with her hands. She is reported to have treated such important Soviet officials as Leonid I. Brezhnev, Nikolai Baibakov, Russian chief of economic planning, and Boris V. Pe-

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trovsky, who is the minister of health.

Despite (or because of) this galaxy of patients, an investigatory commission of Soviet scientists met to consider her claims and those of other purported healers.

The commission stated that none of the alleged cures had taken place under the clinical conditions necessary for scientific substantiation, Anthony Austin writes in the *New York Times*. The stories, continued the report, were "the outgrowth of ignorance and contradicted the basic laws of medicine." A panel convened by the Georgian Ministry of Health "confirmed the groundless nature of the assertions that it is possible to effect cures with the help of a 'biological field.'"

The report further stated there "is no reliable basis for believing there is some kind of special 'biological field' distinct from known physical fields," but conceded that the effect of going to a healer might make persons feel better which in turn could affect the functioning of body cells.

Meanwhile, FATE readers will be interested to know that there are "basic laws of medicine." The problem with such "basic laws" is that they are repealed at the rate of about 60 percent every 10 years. They may be "laws" but they are hardly basic.

However, unless that Soviet pronouncement becomes dogma — after which no one dare contradict it — not everyone in the USSR agrees with it. The condemnatory report was published in *Literaturnaya Gazeta*. Only 10 days previously the Communist youth newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* published a report by Lev Kolodnyi that he had seen Dzhuna revive

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a bouquet of dried roses by passing her hands over it. He called for the creation of a scientific center to study such phenomena and quoted Y. Kobzaryov, a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, as saying, "These phenomena are factual and real and not mysticism. There have always, in all ages, been people who have healed with the help of the laying on of hands. There are such people today.

"To explain this by 'suggestion' or 'hypnosis' is to explain nothing," Professor Kobzaryov declared. "The explanation can only be found in a fully developed picture of what occurs in a human organism subject to this kind of suggestion."

The question remains whether the Soviet Establishment, like Establishments everywhere, will try to shut down further research on this kind of healing.



NOTE

- The *London Telegraph* reports that a Russian killer satellite shot down an ordinary orbiting satellite over Japan on October 26, 1979. Japanese newspapers stated that the affair probably was a test of the Soviet Union's capability of eliminating foreign satellites.

Many Japanese, including the pilot of a commercial jetliner, said they had seen a UFO pass over Japan at about 5:40 P.M. local time. The following day the United States Department of Defense announced it had evidence that the Soviet Union had launched "an antisatellite interceptor" the previous day and "presumably a successful intercept occurred."

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CRASHED SAUCERS AND PICKLED ALIENS

Is the United States government covering up the biggest secret
of all time — its possession of captured UFOs?

By George W. Earley



Transporting a saucer-sized object is not an easy task. NASA uses a specially-strengthened Boeing 747 jumbo jet to carry 75-ton, 122-foot space shuttle aloft.

IN THE beginning — which is to say the years immediately following the Kenneth Arnold sighting on June 24, 1947 — UFOs were called “flying saucers” and, according to humorists in the news media, probably were piloted by “little green men from Mars.” Whatever they were, no one thought in the early days that the “saucers” would remain a mystery for long. For

one thing, sooner or later one was bound to crash.

It wasn't long before some people began claiming they *had* crashed and the air force had recovered them and their dead humanoid occupants. Such yarns got their first big exposure in Frank Scully's 1950 best-seller *Behind the Flying Saucers*. But the book was so thoroughly discredited that



In 1979 movement of giant magnet across country attracted much attention. Transportation of crashed saucer of this size was physically impossible 30 years ago.

crash claims received only underground circulation for the next quarter-century. In recent years such "retrievals of the third kind," as their chief proponent Leonard Stringfield calls them, have been revived and now are the focus of considerable attention.

The usual story goes like this:

Despite its public posture of skepticism about UFOs, the American military hoped to be able to capture one. So when the first reports came in from the southwestern desert that a saucer had crashed, the military moved swiftly.

Military police quickly sealed off the site. A combination of threats and appeals to patriotism effectively silenced the civilian witnesses. One or more hoaxes were carefully contrived and then "solved" for the benefit of the news media which readily (and unthinkingly) accepted authoritative pronouncements while ignoring any still-vocal witnesses as unreliable.

Civilian and military scientists and technicians were brought to the scene and sworn to secrecy. They conducted quick on-scene examinations of the saucers and their dead crews. A large crane then loaded the UFO onto a flat-bed trailer while the alien bodies were sealed into containers of preservative fluid and shipped to medical laboratories. The truck, its cargo covered by canvas tarpaulins, was driven hundreds of miles overland from the desert country to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, where both saucers and crew were taken to Building 18 of the Foreign Technology Division.

In the years after that first crash, other UFOs — perhaps 20 in all — have crashed in the United States while the alien body count has risen to at least 50 — if we are to believe the claims made in recent years by Stringfield, Robert Spencer Carr, Raymond Fowler and other proponents of

crashed-saucer retrieval tales.

Before we proceed any further, let's return briefly to the Scully story, which is in many ways the prototypical retrieval tale.

Scully claimed he got his information from a scientific genius who in turn had the story from a "Doctor Gee" who actually examined three crashed saucers sometime in 1948. Although the craft had landed virtually intact in the southwestern desert, their occupants were dead by the time government personnel arrived on the scene. The saucers were 99, 72 and 36 feet in diameter; the crewmen were all about 40 inches tall, perfectly formed, fair-skinned (so much for reports of little *green* men!) and clad in dark blue uniforms. They appeared to be about 35 to 40 years old.

The saucers reportedly were disassembled* by the military for shipment to its laboratories for study. Unfortunately for posterity, these priceless interplanetary vehicles were so poorly guarded that souvenir-grabbing servicemen quickly reduced them to shambles of worthless junk!

A four-month investigation by freelance writer J.P. Cahn blew Scully's fanciful tale sky-high two years after it appeared in print. Cahn's article, in the September 1952 issue of *True* magazine, identified Scully's "scientific genius" as a shady oil speculator (later indicted for an unrelated swindle) while the pseudonymous "Doctor Gee" turned out to be the proprietor of a radio-TV parts supply house.

By a neat bit of sleight of hand Cahn

even managed to acquire a piece of metal that the oil speculator claimed had come from one of the crashed saucers. When tested, it proved to be common earth-grade commercial aluminum. Scully, who during the closing days of Cahn's investigation threatened to sue the reporter for "harassment," died some years later without either suing or recanting his tall tale.

Most subsequent crash stories have not been subjected to the searching examination Cahn gave Scully's. One reason is that the overwhelming majority of informants are anonymous, their identities known only to such committed partisans as Stringfield who refuses to reveal them. So I propose a different kind of examination of these stories — one that has never been tried before.

Let's consider three issues that bear on the question of whether or not our government possesses crashed saucers and dead aliens:

(1) *Transport capability.* Could crashed saucers have been transported from the Southwest to the Midwest on the road system existing in the late 1940's and the early 1950's?

(2) *Alien autopsies.* Who would have performed them — and where?

(3) *Witness credibility and the efficacy of "secrecy" oaths.* Are the informants telling the truth and what have they to fear from revealing what they claim to know?

The focus of my examination will be on the crash/retrieval accounts promulgated by Leonard Stringfield, as described by him in a speech delivered to the 1978 Mutual UFO Network Symposium in Dayton, Ohio. The speech was published in the

*Scully did imply, without saying how it was done, that the smallest saucer (36 feet in diameter) was transported intact to an unnamed laboratory before it was "disassembled and reported[ly] shipped to Dayton. . . ."

STRINGFIELD'S SUMMARY: CRASHED SAUCERS AND LITTLE MEN

Year	Location	No. of UFOs	UFO Size	No. of humanoids
1948	Mexico	1	90' diam.	1-16
1948	Aztec, N. Mex.	1	99.99' diam.	12
1952	California	1	50'+ diam.	2+
1952	S.W. United States	1	Unknown	2+
1952?	Arizona	1+	Unknown	Unknown
1953?	S.W. United States?	1	15-20' diam.	3
1953	Arizona	1	30' diam.	1
1953	Arizona?	1	25-30' diam.	Unknown
1953	New Mexico	3	13'x25' oval	4 per UFO?
1953	Unknown	2	Unknown	4
1953	Montana	1	100' diam.	2?
1955?	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	2
1956?	Arizona	1	Unknown	1
1962	New Mexico	1	68' diam.	2
1972-73	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	3
1973	Arizona?	1	Unknown	3+
Unknown	Unknown	1+	Unknown	Unknown

Note: Plus sign after a number means that the actual total is unknown but greater than the figure listed. The above data are based on Leonard H. Stringfield's paper "Retrievals of the Third Kind," delivered at the Mutual UFO Network annual symposium, Dayton, Ohio, July 1978, and reprinted in *1978 MUFON UFO Symposium Proceedings*, published by MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, Tex. 78155.

MUFON Symposium Proceedings. Two expanded versions have been released since then; you will find them listed in a bibliography at the end of Part Two of this article.

Stringfield's presentation cited 17 crash reports over a 25-year span from 1948 to 1973. Please refer to the chronological table summarizing his reports before reading further.

* * *

WE WILL begin with the proposition that we have found a crashed saucer. How do we get it from its crash site to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base?

You will note from the table that in four cases Stringfield has listed no crash site. Three other cases were at scattered sites: Mexico, California, Montana. The remaining sites were in Arizona, New Mexico and "the Amer-

ican Southwest," an area that encompasses those states and more besides.

To simplify matters, I shall use only two of the locations cited by Stringfield — Aztec, N. Mex., and Kingman, Ariz. — to establish some general distances from alleged crash sites to Wright-Patterson AFB.

From Aztec, which is in northern New Mexico, just below the Colorado border, it is 1270 *straight-line* miles to Wright-Patterson. From Kingman in northwest Arizona, near the California border, it is 1590 *straight-line* miles. In both cases it would be considerably longer by road.

Most of the alleged crashes took place in a six-year period between 1948 and 1953. Two more supposedly occurred in the late 1950's; one date is unknown and three took place after 1961.

The significance of these dates is more apparent when we take a close look at some history of the American road system. Today's smooth multi-lane and often divided superhighways, which enable us to drive coast to coast or border to border with virtually no red lights to impede our travel, are a fairly recent development.

The interstate highway system as we know it today was proposed in 1954 by President Dwight Eisenhower who felt it was needed not only for increased national economic growth but for national defense as well. The highways were to be able to handle our largest tank carriers and the atomic cannon, whose size dictated the minimum height of the overpasses that would cross the various interstate highways.

Actual construction did not begin until 1956. The system was to have been completed by 1972 but as any long-distance traveler can tell you, parts of it are still being built today in various states.

This means that 12 alleged crashes, involving 15 saucers and their presumed transportation to Wright-Patterson AFB, took place *before* the interstate highway system was even begun! Transportation therefore would have been over roads that on the whole predated World War II. Few of these were more than two lanes wide — 24 to perhaps 30 feet wide. Even fewer might have exceeded 30 feet in width. Shoulders were not paved and telephone poles stood dangerously close to the pavement.

But consider the sizes of the crashed saucers. The smallest is supposed to have been an oval 13x25 feet. Another is reported to have been 15-20 feet in

diameter. For several we have no dimensions but we're told they carried from one to four aliens. At the high end of the size scale, we find saucers reported to be 50, 90 and even 100 feet in diameter.

With a maximum 30-foot road width, it would have required at least *two lanes* to transport the smallest of these saucers — that is, if there was a truck in those days able to carry it.

Now if we assumed those little saucers weighed only a few tons, which is highly unlikely, it might have been possible to get one onto a large truck. But representatives of the trucking industry have stated that as recently as 25 years ago "it was rare that equipment . . . having diameters or widths beyond 12 feet or so" would be shop-built and transported to field locations. Why? Because we lacked the equipment to move them.

And when we talk about moving crashed saucers, we aren't talking about picking one up from the middle of someone's paved parking lot, readily accessible to trucks and cranes and other such apparatus; we're talking about a flying machine that has crashed in such a remote location that only a few persons know it is there. It's *off* the paved roads. It is back in the boondocks. It is, in fact, in the middle of a desert.

Ever tried to drive or even walk in deep dry sand? You simply aren't going to cut across country with your truck, dragging a big trailer for your cargo (a cargo, I might note, whose weight you do not know) while followed by a big crane powerful enough to pick up this crashed saucer and put it on your truck.

Okay, so we'll use a helicopter. Sorry. Even today the two most powerful helicopters this country has — the Sikorsky Sky Crane and the Boeing Vertol Chinook — couldn't lift a crashed saucer. Sky Crane's maximum lifting capacity is 12.5 tons; the Chinook can pick up 14 tons. During those early days, when saucers were allegedly dropping out of the sky, we had no helicopters capable of lifting anything near the loads that would have been involved. Forget the helicopters.

But for the sake of argument, let's say that somehow we did get that crashed saucer out of its desert sandpile, onto a truck and onto the highway. Something that spans the road from one side to the other — or nearly so — isn't exactly inconspicuous. Can we assume such a load was driven over 1300 miles without people, newsmen included, asking questions and taking pictures? After all, transporting an oversized load requires special permission. Let me cite an example.

A 107-ton superconducting magnet, declared surplus by the Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago, was acquired by the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center in Palo Alto, Calif. The magnet, a doughnut-shaped device 18½ feet in diameter and 13½ feet high, was moved by truck because it was too large for rail transportation.

The special trailer had 110 wheels to spread the 107-ton load sufficiently to prevent damage to the highways. The trip, which ended on Thanksgiving Day 1979, took 21 days with the truck traveling at 25 miles an hour. But the truck did not travel alone. It was preceded by a radio-equipped vehicle assigned to report on road condi-

tions one quarter-mile ahead, plus two escort cars and a backup trailer with spare parts and tools. Each state through which the convoy passed supplied state police cars as additional escorts. This was a pretty noticeable convoy.

According to the director of the Argonne National Laboratory, the trip would not have been possible "without the complete cooperation of officials from the states through which the magnet passed. Each state evaluated road surfaces, bridges, routing and countless other factors to assure the load would not be detrimental to bridges and highways or cause major inconvenience to motorists." Advance planning for the trip took nearly a year.

Yet this load was barely larger than the smallest of the saucers alleged to have crashed 25 years earlier — and Stringfield claims we have recovered at least four saucers 50 feet or more in diameter! Such saucers, assuming they were truck-mounted, would have required the removal of every roadside tree and telephone pole, plus many houses, stores and other buildings. After all, it wasn't until we built the interstate highways that our major traffic arteries stopped going directly through the heart of every city, town and hamlet. And don't forget those many one-lane country bridges.

But if road transportation is out, what about *rail* transportation?

The problems are much the same. While trains and their bridges can handle very heavy loads, the dimensional problem is still with us. Coming east from the southwestern desert country, the width limit on cargo is 12

feet. Height limit as far as Kansas City is 16'3", which drops to 14'3" from Kansas City farther east. But remember that about three or four feet of that height already has been taken up by the train car itself. There isn't enough clearance on the top of a rail car for a man to stand upright when the train goes into a tunnel.

Airplanes? Forget it. The planes during the 1948-53 era couldn't carry much more than a few trucks. Even today, our largest military transport, the C-5A, while capable of lifting 44 tons, can't take cargo wider than 17 feet or higher than 12'6".

So let's put the saucer on top of the airplane, as NASA does with the space shuttle. It takes a specially strengthened Boeing 747 jumbo jet, our largest passenger plane, to carry the shuttle which weighs 75 tons empty, is 122 feet long and has a 78-foot wingspan. Again, we had nothing during the prime time of crashed saucers

capable of transporting one by air.

If we had a crashed saucer, the *only* way we could move it from the southwestern desert country to Ohio's Wright-Patterson AFB would be to completely disassemble it. Even if we leave aside the fact that this would be a difficult and time-consuming task (it's hard enough to disassemble something that is familiar), we still would wind up with a pile of anonymous parts. Not only would a sentry fail to recognize the significance of this jumble of metal, but you'd need a fleet of trucks to carry it all, and nowhere in these accounts of crashed saucers are we told about multitruck convoys. No — our stalwart sentry has seen but one truck, its tarpaulin-shrouded cargo instantly identifiable to his eagle eye as a flying saucer.

Pfui! I don't believe it.

(This is Part One of a two-part article.)



MAIL FAILS EXCELLENT STUDENT

ATENDING Brown University in Providence, R. I., Edmund Baldwin was an excellent student; his father had plenty of reason to be proud of his son's grades — if he had heard about them. Unfortunately, the report card arrived 135 years too late.

Edmund's grandniece, Ruth Baldwin Murray of Bow, N. H., received the card which reported that her uncle was "excellent" in Latin, Greek, history and geometry, never missed a class and deported himself well.

Also enclosed was the bill for her ancestor's tuition (\$12), room rent (\$3) and meals (\$24.50) for the first semester of 1845. Brown University mailed the letter to Baldwin's family in Stratford, N. H., in December 1845

but according to a handwritten note on the document, it was "missent to Stratford, Md."

It finally turned up in early June 1980 when a clerk set aside the odd-looking missive because it was unstamped. It was sent to the office of Postmaster Roger Brassard whose secretary, Katherine Bogart, set about trying to locate the addressee's nearest descendant. Finally Mrs. Murray was found and the letter was delivered to her address.

Postmaster Brassard has no idea where the letter has been for the last century plus, but he said occasionally someone will hold onto an antique document for years and then just decide to drop it in the mail.

TRANSATLANTIC CROSSING . . .

GHOST TRAVELS FREE

How can a spirit cross an ocean? Wouldn't a ghost need a host — a live body — for the trip?

By Mathew J. Bowyer

THE BEAUTIFUL Belgian countryside lay in the golden glow of a summer sunset. Looking out the windows of our fast-rolling tour bus, the passengers oohed and aahed over the bright-red poppies blooming alongside the roadway — but I was tired. As a tour host I had been on a "freebie" fling through Europe for three months and it was now August 6, 1973. We had visited most of the major cities in Europe, seeing the shrines to the historic dead, and now the local guide was saying that we would stop at Flanders Field where rest the bodies of many Americans who died in the First World War.

I wasn't particularly interested. I felt as if the morbidity of mausoleums had seeped into my psyche. Even so, I thought, I should pay homage to my countrymen who had fallen on foreign soil. So I walked through the rows of crosses finally stopping at one which bore the name "Schaeffer." It stirred a strange unease in my mind — as if it were a name I should know. Schaeffer is a seldom-seen name of German origin but hardly unique. What caused

its disturbing effect on me?

Suddenly I felt that the spirits of ages past had caught hold of me, pulling my mind into their sphere. Instantaneously, as if a magic wand had touched my heart, I felt empathy for the dead.

Somehow nothing was the same after that moment. The places and things I had seen — Westminster Abbey, St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican, St. Mark's Square, Michelangelo's Pieta, the Via Doloroso — took on another dimension. The historic sites I was yet scheduled to see seemed more important — as if I now possessed, or was possessed by, a new spirit, one which said, "See, there is great beauty, a soul-salving peace, in the loneliness of death."

Aboard the airplane winging back across the Atlantic I felt an eerie presence within me. Strange questions crept into my mind, all focused on the spirits of the dead. Would transatlantic flight present a problem for apparitions? Wouldn't a ghost need a host — a live body — for the trip? I was plagued with such macabre thoughts

— and powerless to banish them.

Finally I was back in America and this new spirit which had taken command of me told me I must return to Natural Bridge, Va., where some of my kinfolk live.

Arriving there on August 12 I felt a peculiar prodding, an urge, to visit the cemetery where my brother Raymond is buried. Walking a bit too fast toward his grave I stumbled and fell. Prostrate on the ground I found I had fallen on an overturned tombstone bearing the surname which I had seen on a grave marker in Flanders fields

more than 3000 miles away!

Later that day, when I explained my muddy knee to Lloyd Tolley, the aged proprietor of the general store, he said, "Ah, yes, you were passing through the Schaeffer family's burial plot. The whole clan is buried there except the boy who got killed in World War I in Flanders."

Then it all came back. My journey had come full circle. I knew that a ghost — with supernatural knowledge of my eventual destination — had hitched a ride with me. Now he could rest at home with his family.



HAIR GROWS ON BALD HEAD

JAMES NASO, a 54-year-old New Jersey man, is getting hair on the top of his head for the first time in 30 years. He's not recommending his "treatment" for others, however. The new growth appears to be the result of severe scalp burns he suffered in a boat explosion in July 1979. Naso was severely burned over 50 percent of his body, including his scalp.

While recuperating at the St. Francis Medical Center Burn Facility in

Trenton, Naso noticed that his head, which had been "smooth as a cue ball on top" for about 30 years, felt like peach fuzz. The new hair was black, the same as the rest of his hair.

Naso was proud, his wife was amused, and friends teased him about growing hair in his old age.

His physician, Dr. John Flood, had no medical explanation for the new hair and said he couldn't remember a case like it.



FIREBALL FUROR FRIGHTENS FERRARA

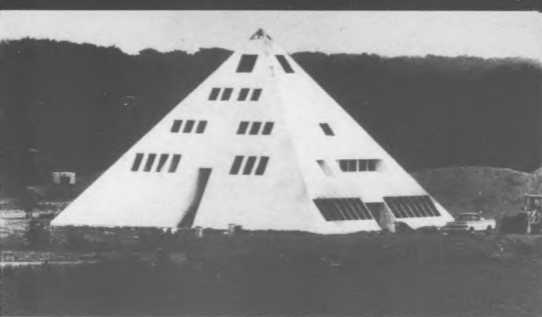
By W. Ritchie Benedict

ANOTHER "end of the world" scare came to naught in Ferrara, Italy, although no one will admit to being frightened now that the appointed date for doom has passed uneventfully. Nevertheless, it is known that many residents made plans to visit the country after hearing the prophecy that "a huge ball of fire" would destroy Ferrara on October 28, 1978.

One Ferrara resident, Leda Torregiani, explained her departure by say-

ing, "Not because we trust the prophecy but because the skies are sunny and the country inns cook excellent mushrooms at this time of year."

No one knows how the rumor got started. A local photographer said he didn't buy the likelihood of an impending catastrophe, "yet one can never know." He added, "I guess everyone will be laughing when the scare is over."



Jim Onan began work on his pyramid-shaped house in 1978. When completed in late 1981, the 56-foot-high structure will have cost close to two million dollars. Onan hopes to conduct experiments there to see if pyramid power is effective in healing

THE GREAT PYRAMID OF ONAN

A multimillionaire construction company owner has a dream — and Egypt's Great Pyramid is reborn in the American Midwest.

By Jerome Clark

JIM ONAN of Zion, Ill., became a believer in the effectiveness of pyramid power after he built five small pyramids in his house. Having heard that food stays unspoiled and razor blades stay sharp when placed under a pyramid, he conducted his own experiments which convinced him that such things *sometimes* happen. But that was good enough for him since they *never* happen under anything else. In due course he constructed a

13-foot pyramid and put it in his backyard.

That was just the beginning. Over a decade later, in 1980, Onan was half-finished with the construction of a 56-foot-high pyramid house, with an 85-foot-square base and 17,000 square feet of living area. He, his wife and five children hope to move into it in late 1981. The structure, located off U.S. Highway 41 near Gurnee, Ill., will have cost Onan, 42, close to two

million dollars. The pyramid will be covered with 23-carat gold leaf, just as Onan believes the Great Pyramid of Cheops was. Onan's pyramid is one-ninth the size of the Cheops pyramid.

Onan is a quiet, modest man, more intuitive than articulate. A successful businessman, he heads a construction company in Gurnee and has a number of real estate investments. Onan himself won't say how much he's worth but a relative who prefers to be identified only as Cousin Nick claims Onan is a millionaire 10 times over.

Onan is also a dreamer. He "knows" things, such as that the Great Pyramid was built 40,000 years ago (Egyptologists say 4500) and the people responsible for it were "different than us." They built the pyramid to protect themselves from something, perhaps to divert dangerous energies. These ancient Egyptians knew all the pyramid secrets and any modern pyramid, if it is to work properly, must be built to the same scale as that of the Great Pyramid.

Asked how he gets such information, Onan shrugs. It just comes to him. He doesn't read much but he thinks a lot. And he has the money with which to realize his dreams.

One of his dreams is to help people. A devout Catholic, he already gives a good-sized chunk of his annual income to St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Waukegan, where he was once an altar boy. The church runs a school, most of whose students now are poor and members of minority groups.

But with the pyramid house Onan can do a lot more. He can store hundreds of gallons of water in the structure, "energize" the liquid and give it

to persons with health problems. With luck perhaps he can supply enough water for 10,000 persons a day. He intends to leave a part of the building open to guests who might be able to benefit from a stay inside.

If all this seems exotic, it isn't because there's anything particularly exotic about Jim Onan's life. He grew up in Waukegan, the youngest of four brothers, two of whom, John and Jerry, work with him in his construction business. His father worked at the American Steel & Wire factory in Waukegan and the Onans lived a quiet, comfortable, middle-class existence across the street from St. Joseph's, whose grade school the boys attended. In 1958 Jim started his business with little more than a wheelbarrow and a shovel. Through sheer hard work he became, in due course, a multimillionaire.

Having lived his American success story, Onan may well end up a minor occult legend, although he has no interest in the occult as such. But the great pyramid of Onan, already the focus of national attention, is going to bring a lot of people — health-seekers, the curious, the skeptical, the crazy — to his doorstep. Already Onan has put up an electric fence around the property and stocked it with guard dogs and security personnel. A man-made lake will surround the house. When the gold leaf is put on, Onan will move into the building to provide it with the additional security of his presence.

The pyramid has six floors. The first will serve as a four-car garage and also as a sort of laboratory in which Onan will keep plants and animals to test the effects of pyramid power on living

things. The second floor will be a living area, the third a sleeping area.

Onan is reluctant to discuss what he plans to do with the fourth and fifth floors. All he will say is that they will be reserved for "experimentation" of various kinds.

The sixth floor, at the apex of the pyramid, is a "dangerous" spot where the energy is so intense, Onan believes, that it is unsafe to spend any but the shortest time possible there. Still, he sees possibilities for further experimental work. He is especially interested in comparing the effects of pyramid energy from floor to floor.

Onan hopes he can get scientists and physicians interested in pyramid power, although right now he's too busy building his house to make any concerted effort in this direction. But when the time comes, he says he is willing to cooperate with any serious investigators who might want to do research inside the structure. He wants to talk with skeptics, too, to get their ideas and suggestions. One day he'll

write a book about it all.

No, he doesn't think he's anybody special and he certainly doesn't want anyone to see him as a guru. "I've got my problems, too," he says. "How can I help anyone else with theirs?" If anybody gets helped, it won't be because of Onan's powers; it will be because of the pyramid's powers.

Nonetheless, says Cousin Nick, Jim Onan's most energetic booster, "He's being guided. By what we don't know. But something is guiding him."

That sort of talk makes Jim uncomfortable.

"Jim just gets ideas and he acts on them," Jerry Onan says. "I've seen it happen any number of times. When he starts looking at something, things start to happen. Things are set in motion when he gets intense.

"It isn't psychic. At least Jim doesn't think it is. It's just natural to him, instinct, intuition — call it anything you want. I suppose some people would call it psychic. But it's Jim. That's just the way he is."



MORE KANGAROOS?

By Loren Coleman

DURING the summer of 1979 Canada was the target of some more mystery kangaroo visitations. (See "Kangaroos from Nowhere" by David Fideler and Loren Coleman, April 1978 Fate.)

Early in the morning of May 31 a police officer radioed his station to say he had sighted a kangaroo in Scarborough, a section of Toronto, Ontario. A Metro Zoo official, when asked for his opinion, said, "We're not missing any wallabies or any other kind of creature. It's likely just a rabbit with long ears."

A few days later and several hun-

dred miles northeast, another kangaroo popped up. Roy Hanley, a guard at the Acadia Forest Products, Ltd., mill in Nelson-Miramichi, New Brunswick, saw a kangaroo at 3:00 A. M. on June 5, 1979.

"I was standing no more than 10 feet from him," Hanley said. "As far as I'm concerned it was a baby kangaroo. It had a long tail, big droopy ears and a grey-brown coat."

A taxi driver and her passenger also had seen a kangaroo near the mill and other encounters were reported from Millton and Douglasville, New Brunswick.

IN DEFENSE OF MRS. PIPER

Well-known skeptic has distorted the facts concerning a great medium's impressive evidence for survival after death.

By Stewart Robb



Leonore Piper, who has been called "the most outstanding trance medium in the history of psychical research," was subject of intense study by pioneering investigators. (Photo from the book *Spirits and Spirit Worlds* by Roy Stemman, courtesy Aldus Books Limited, London, England.)

IN HIS CAUSTIC *ESP: A Scientific Evaluation* (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1966) C.E.M. Hansel, Professor of Psychology at the University of Wales, suggests that laboratory tests which seem to substantiate the reality of psi are probably the result of experimenter or subject fraud. He devotes a scant 28 pages of his 263-page book to Spiritualism, barely deigning to cast contemptuous glances at the Fox sisters, Margery Crandon, Eusapia Palladino and Leonore Piper. Each is given a shamelessly careless thumbnail sketch.

Let us focus on Hansel's account of Leonore Piper, the famous trance and automatic writing medium, who for 25 years worked almost exclusively with the American Society for Psychical Research and whose every word uttered or penned under control has been preserved for posterity.

Hansel's account of Mrs. Piper takes up 2½ pages of his book, less space than it will take to correct his errors.

He writes that Mrs. Piper "first came to the notice of the distinguished American psychologist William James in 1886, and he introduced her to Richard Hodgson, the secretary of the American Society for Psychical Research." A minor error: the year was 1885. But let us proceed.

"Phinuit was largely replaced as a 'control' by the spirit of 'G.P.," he goes on to say. "The initials 'G.P.' were thought to be those of George Pellham, this being a pseudonym for George Pellew, a young English friend of Hodgson's whose sudden death had occurred a few weeks previously."

But the pseudonym of Pellew was not Pellham, as obstinately misspelled



Dr. Richard Hodgson was known for his exposure of psychic fraud but became convinced of the reality of life after death while he was studying Mrs. Piper.

throughout Hansel's account and even in the index, but *Pelham*. While in itself a minor matter, it is one of several indications, as we shall see, that Hansel skimmed but did not read the reports. The name "Pelham" peppers the papers and could not have been missed by anyone paying serious attention to what was on the printed page.

Pellew, although born in England, was not English. As an American he lived for many years in the Boston area and spent the last three years of his life in New York. The reports Hansel "consulted" showed clearly that his friends were fellow Americans

and that his communications through the medium dealt with American, not British, matters. Pellew was written up in the *Herringshaw Encyclopaedia of American Biography* and in other books dealing with American notables. One wonders how Hansel could have read the Piper material without knowing Pellew's true nationality.

"It was never thought necessary to check G.P.'s statements about his earthly life," Hansel observes. Preposterous. Mrs. Piper was above all a test medium and everything she spoke or wrote in trance was carefully checked. Prof. Theodore Flournoy, not a Spiritualist, says, "In the Piper case it has sometimes taken months and months of constant investigation and hundreds of letters to verify the statements made through this medium."

Over a period of time 30 friends of deceased lawyer Pellew were brought to the entranced medium and intermingled with persons whom Pellew had not known. Thirty times Pellew picked out his friends from among the unknown sitters, with the ease of Joan of Arc detecting the Dauphin among his courtiers. And that was only the beginning. He not only knew these sitters but recalled names, places and events with attendant intimate details, some of them known only to him and the friend with whom he was conversing. And the closer the friends, the more convinced they were that the communicator was just who he claimed to be.

Pellew welcomed and even solicited questions that would help him prove his continued existence after death. On earth he had not believed in a hereafter but he had promised Frederic

Myers that if he should die before his friend and found himself "still existing" he would "make things lively" in the effort to prove his survival.

He kept his promise. Extraordinarily cooperative, he produced enough proof of his continued existence to impress his closest friends and the skeptical Dr. Richard Hodgson.

Dr. Hodgson stated that at the first sitting of Pellew's most intimate friends, on April 11, 1892, some six weeks after his death, the control displayed a truly remarkable degree of knowledge about small, private experiences the living Pellew had shared with them. The communications "exhibited the marks of a continuous living and persistent personality, manifesting itself through a course of years and showing the same characteristics of an independent intelligence whether friends of G.P. were present at the sittings or not."

Some of the specific statements were trivial but correct. And trivial facts are those least likely to be so well remembered and repeated that they come to the ears of a medium. At any rate George Pellew continued to pour forth a Niagara of evidential material stamped with his character.

Actually no evidential facts are trivial if they point to the reality of a hereafter. At one of the earliest sittings a Mr. Vance, picked out by Pellew from among a group of unknown sitters, was asked, "How is your son? I want to see him sometime."

"Where did you know my son?" asked Vance.

"In studies, in college."

This was correct. The son had in fact been a classmate of Pellew.

"Where did George stay with us?"

Pellew's correct answer included a description of Vance's country house.

Had Professor Hansel really read the records, which are loaded with incidents like this one, he would have been more careful in his report. Professors fully as skeptical as he found Mrs. Piper's evidence stunningly convincing. One such individual wrote William James:

"Just before coming away I had a wonderful sitting with Mrs. Piper. As you know, I have been a Laodicean [skeptical] toward her heretofore. But that she is no fraud, and that she is the greatest marvel I have ever met I am now wholly convinced. Think my interview more wonderful than any I have ever heard reported of her before. . . .

"Mamma and I one Christmas exchanged rings. Each had engraved in his gift the *first* word of his favorite proverb. The ring given me I lost many years ago. When Mamma died a year ago, the ring I had given her was, at her request, taken from her finger and sent to me. Now I asked Mrs. Piper, 'What was written in Mamma's ring?' and as I asked the question I held the ring in my hand and had in mind *only that* ring. But I had hardly got the words from my mouth till she slapped down on the paper the word in the *other* ring."

Another skeptic, a friend of Prof. William Newbold, was no less impressed. The professor reports that this friend, "who was opposed to every form of supernaturalism . . . had a sitting with Mrs. Piper, at which very remarkable disclosures were made, and shortly afterwards said to me, in effect,

'Scientific men cannot say much longer that there is no evidence for a future life. I have said it, but I shall say it no longer; I know now that there is evidence, for I have seen it. I do not believe in a future life. I regard it as one of the most improbable of theories. The evidence is scanty and ambiguous and insufficient, but it is evidence and it must be reckoned with. . . .'

Hansel does acknowledge that Mrs. Piper "was able to describe the location of a tin box containing some of Pellew's private papers, which had been missing since his death." Correct. Hodgson gives details:

"He [Pellew] referred to a tin box of German manufacture which he said was either in New York or Z — (giving the name, a very peculiar one, of the locality of his father's country residence). He said that it contained letters from three persons whom he specified. He wished the Howards to have this box. They replied that the letters were all burned."

Pellew thought otherwise. "I think not," he said. "I want you to have them. I want you to tell my father about this."

The sitters said, "Can't you give us something that will convince him? Something we don't know and he does?"

He obliged, understanding it was a test: "You can tell him about this tin box that I left in my room. I know they have taken the chest but this tin box they have not."

According to Hodgson the box was found at the specified place, but there were no letters in it. G.P.'s mother told him as much at a sitting on May 14, 1892. Pellew said he had put some let-

ters in before going across the water but that he didn't remember taking them out.

Hansel quotes the hostile testimony of C.E. Pellew, George's brother, who said the tin box was empty and a friend had long had its papers.

The subject is mildly debatable and not too evidential even if judged favorably. At any rate the postmortem Pellew knew of a tin box, its location and the fact that it had contained his letters. Close friends that the Howards were of G.P., they may have been right in saying the letters had been burned, as likely to have been right as C.E. Pellew, whose letter Hansel quotes from J.F. Rinn's unreliable *Searchlight on Psychical Research* (published in America as *Sixty Years of Psychical Research*). The psychology professor also draws from the same letter evidence that Mrs. Pellew was antagonistic to the purported communications from her late son. Yet in the early days of the communications the mother apparently believed and any later change in attitude may have been in response to outside pressures, perhaps of a religious nature.

Which brings us to another error of Professor Hansel's. He writes, "The Pellew family . . . flatly denied that any material reported from Mrs. Piper's seances had any connection with George Pellew." Untrue, for shortly after the tin box episode (April 24, 1892) his father wrote to Mrs. Howard, "The letters which you have written to my wife giving such extraordinary evidence of the intelligence exercised by George in some incomprehensible manner over the actions of his friends on earth have given food

for constant reflection and wonder. Preconceived notions about the future state have received a severe shock."

In other words Mr. Pellew found the Piper evidence so convincing that he accepted his son's description of the hereafter although it ran counter to what the father had believed up until then!

* * *

ANOTHER incident the Pellew communicator recalled is similar to the tin box episode. During an early seance he mentioned an intimate friend, saying, "Lent a book to Meredith. Tell him to keep it for me. Go to my room where my desk is." In reply to inquiries Meredith "stated that the last time he saw Pellew was in Pellew's own room several months before the latter's death. They had spent the greater part of the day together, and Pellew had urged Meredith to take away some of his manuscripts and books. Thus far the reference to Meredith seems to have been correct. But Meredith was unable to remember definitely that he took any manuscript or book away."

Still another evidential account with some parallel features is related in *Can Telepathy Explain?* published in 1903. The Rev. Walter Minot Savage writes:

"I was having a sitting with Mrs. Piper. My boy claimed to be present. . . . At the time of his death, he was occupying a room with a medical student, and an old personal friend, on Jay Street in Boston. He had moved there from a room he occupied on Beacon Street since I had visited him, so that I never had been in the Jay Street room. I knew nothing about it

whatever, could not even have guessed as to anything concerning it which he might say. He said, 'Papa, I want you to go at once to my room. Look in my drawer, and you will find there a lot of loose papers. Among them are some which I wish you to take and destroy at once.' He would not be satisfied until I had promised to do this. Mrs. Piper, remember, was in a dead trance and her hand was writing. She had no personal acquaintance with my son, and so far as I know had never seen him.

"Though my boy and I had been intimate heart friends all his life, this request was utterly inexplicable to me. It did not even enter my mind to give a wild guess as to what he meant, or why he wanted this thing done. I went, however, to his room, searched his drawer, gathered up all the loose papers, looked through them, and at once saw the meaning and importance of what he had asked me to do. There were things there which he had jotted down and trusted to the privacy of his drawer which he would not have made public for the world. I will not, of course, violate his privacy by detailing what they were. I will simply say that his anxiety in regard to them was entirely justified."

Hansel would have us believe that the researchers who assessed material like this "were blind to any rational explanation." On the contrary, they were more careful and painstaking by far than their critic.

Hansel errs twice in one sentence when he writes, "After his death in 1906, he [Hodgson] became Mrs. Piper's control, only to be eventually ousted by the spirits of such celebrities as George Eliot and Julius Caesar."

The George Eliot and Julius Caesar controls came into being for a brief while years *before* Hodgson's death, which took place in 1905, not in 1906. They did not "oust" Hodgson who was very much alive in 1897.

Julius Caesar appeared very shortly and met with universal skepticism. On the other hand, the George Eliot control impressed some sitters, among them the publisher Henry Holt. But "Eliot" could not persuade Hodgson and Myers of her reality. The two psychological researchers used her in some transatlantic tests, telling her to go to England and Scotland where Myers was supervising some seances; she was then to report, to Hodgson through Mrs. Piper, what had happened there. She got everything wrong. Eleanor Sidgwick of the Society for Psychical Research would conclude that "Eliot" was a product of the medium's unconscious mind and "rather a poor impersonation" of the real George Eliot.

By placing the Eliot communications in the post-Hodgson period, Hansel shows an extraordinary ignorance of what really went on. Apparently he noticed the name George Eliot somewhere in the reports relating to Hodgson and Mrs. Piper and spun up the rest out of his head.

Hansel proceeds to make the sweeping assertion that in her later post-Hodgson career Mrs. Piper "produced results that can only be regarded as farcical." Not so; in fact, some of the most magnificently evidential communications belong to this period, among them the celebrated cross-correspondences in which one part of the message is brought through one medium, a second part through a sec-

ond medium, and a third through a third. Mrs. Piper achieved results so powerfully convincing that the greatest skeptics in this field from that day to this have been forced to concede that the most likely and logical explanation is genuine communication from the hereafter.

The most persuasive communication appears to have been from Frederick W. H. Myers who in life had written the classic *Human Personality and Its Survival of Bodily Death* and been known as a superb Greek and Latin scholar. It could have been only he who spoke or (more frequently) wrote through Mrs. Piper, who was equally remarkable at trance and automatic writing. He complained he could not get her hand to frame the Greek letters; yet through her he was able to communicate even the most recondite knowledge of Greek and Latin lore. Sometimes the source he drew from was literature that had no English version.

Even in his earliest transmissions through the American medium he was impressive. Myers came through not only in character but in full possession of the knowledge he had when a scholar on earth.

With Hodgson gone, the principal investigator was George B. Dorr. At a sitting on April 22, 1908, Dorr put Myers to a most difficult test. He carefully selected 10 lines from Shelley's translation of Euripides' tragedy *The Cyclops*, purposely "so chosen that they neither contained names nor any other thing that might serve as a clue." Then he read them aloud to the entranced medium while Myers was ostensibly listening through her ears:

*One with eyes the fairest
Cometh from his dwelling,
Some one loves thee, rarest,
Bright beyond my telling.
In thy grace thou shinest
Like some nymph divinest
In her caverns dewy: —
All delights pursue thee,
Soon pied flowers, sweet-breathing
Shall thy head be wreathing.*

At the conclusion of the verses Myers commented, "You read well."

"Now see if you can tell me whose verses these are," Dorr said. "It's a translation from the Greek."

"Did he write *Ode to a Skylark*?"

Dorr was pleased. "Yes, that is splendid, quite wonderful, I think," he affirmed.

"Thank you. If I am not Myers, who am I?"

Professor Hansel quotes with approval Prof C.E. Pellow's opinion that Mrs. Piper was "an ill-educated, commonplace woman." If so, all the better for the evidence. One scholar writes, "Mrs. Piper knows neither Latin nor Greek, nevertheless she makes quotations and allusions that are so numerous, so skilful, so complex that no trickery so perverse can be supposed."

Mrs. Piper's knowledge that Shelley translated Greek classics is something other than "farcical." The majority of those who love the poet well enough to quote him are unaware that Shelley made translations from Hellenistic literature. Many university students of English do not know this fact. Just ask them!

Yet here is Myers, using the pen and the voice of Mrs. Piper, transmitting freely Greek and Latin subject matter,

some from books never translated into English, and doing so on the spot! This lore, inwoven into those marvelous, learned cross-correspondences, should

cause any reasonable person to consider seriously the reality of survival.

Take some time off, Professor Hansel, and study the evidence.



THE AMAZING RANDI LIVES UP TO HIS NAME

By Paul Steiner

IN A unique ceremony in New York's Biltmore Hotel on April Fool's Day 1980 magician James (The Amazing) Randi announced his first annual Uri awards. Randi, a founding member of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, designed the awards to be given for "outstanding performance in the pseudoscience of parapsychology." He describes his Uri Award as "a tastefully bent stainless steel spoon with a very transparent, very flimsy base."

Among the winners were:

- **Funding Category:** James S. McDonnell whose McDonnell Foundation gave \$500,000 to Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., to establish the McDonnell Laboratory for Psychic Research. Peter F. Phillips, a university parapsychologist, told the press that research would concentrate on children's use of mental force to

bend spoons. Randi's comment: "Observers believe that simple trickery is responsible for the effect."

- **Academic Category:** Prof. William Tiller, a prominent Stanford University parapsychologist, who declared that the sheer volume of reports on the paranormal indicate there is something there, regardless of the poor quality of the data. Randi's comment: "In effect, Professor Tiller is saying that a great deal of bad research has produced a great deal of bad evidence."

- **Performance Category:** Philip Jordan, a conjuror, who was appointed an officer of the court in Binghamton, N. Y., to assist Defense Attorney Robert L. Miller in selecting jurors by advising him as to the color of their "auras." Randi's comment: "Jordan performs simple magic tricks to convince authorities that he has supernatural powers."



THE SQUARES HAVE IT

FARMERS trying to economize on packaging have grown square tomatoes and square watermelons. Now an agricultural geneticist in Waltham, Mass., has come up with a square ear of corn.

Dr. Wallace Galinat said he got the idea from an airline stewardess who

told him airlines don't serve corn on the cob because it rolls off the plate.

Galinat's product is a small ear about the size of a carrot with only four rows of kernels. "The butter stays in there and spreads over the kernels," says Galinat. And the cob stays on the plate — four-square.

Update . . .

By Jerome Clark

SHROUD TEAM REBUTS SKEPTIC.

In September 1980 scientist Walter McCrone said his investigation of the fabled Shroud of Turin had uncovered traces of an artist's pigment called red ochre, suggesting the figure was painted by a medieval forger ("Update," January 1981). Scientists associated with the Shroud of Turin Research Project say McCrone is wrong. Sophisticated equipment reveals the figure is three-dimensional. After a series of tests chemist Alan Adler says, "We find absolutely no evidence for any dyes, stains, pigments or anything of that sort." Asked to comment, McCrone states he has "nothing further to say on the subject."

"PETER JUST DIED. . . ."

"I was in my apartment in Malibu on July 24 [1980] talking to a couple of friends," actress Shirley MacLaine told a New York Times reporter. "Suddenly I stood up and said, 'Something's happened to Peter Sellers.' I had the strongest feeling he was right there in the room with us. A couple of minutes later the telephone rang. It was a newspaperman. He told me Peter had just died in London. . . ." A week and a half later the late comic actor supposedly communicated with his widow through British medium Doris Collins ("Update," January 1981).

OFFICIAL ASKS FOR RELEASE OF UFO REPORT.

On November 11, 1979, a Spanish Caravelle airliner on its way to the Canary Islands from Austria was forced to make an emergency landing in Valencia after being pursued by an enormous UFO. A Spanish air force Mirage jet attempted to intercept the object. The incident, which received international publicity, was the subject of a secret investigation by Spain's transport ministry. Now Socialist deputy Enrique Mugica, vice-president of Parliament's defense committee, has asked the ministry to release the results of its probe. There has been no response.

MUTILATIONS RESUME IN TEXAS.

After a brief period of inactivity cattle mutilations are occurring again, this time in Cameron County, Texas, near the Mexican border. Late in October Laguna Vista rancher Bill Heath found an 1100-pound bull dead, a "clean" six-inch hole cut through its side and the heart removed. The tissue looked as if it had been "seared" rather than sliced, according to Heath, who dissected cattle while working for his degree in animal science from Texas A&M University. Weirdest of all, buzzards wouldn't touch the carcass and Heath's dogs would get no closer than 10 feet before they would "turn tail and run back to the truck."

UFO "SPEAKS UP" IN RUSSIA.

UFO stories take awhile to cross the Iron Curtain but an eerie incident said to have occurred in 1977 has recently been published in the West. Three scientists on a camping trip near Serpokhov, 57 miles south of Moscow, were awakened by voices speaking loudly and simultaneously in a strange language. After half an hour the voices ceased and an 80-foot-high "light bulb"-shaped object rose slowly into the sky, then shot upward into a cloud. The next morning the scientists found a 15-foot circular depression in the grass near where they had seen the UFO. By the end of 1979 eight sightings of a similar object had been reported in the area. A 14-man team is now studying the reports.

DOCTORS BEGIN NEAR-DEATH RESEARCH PROJECT.

Eight medical specialists in Peoria, Ill., have embarked on an ambitious study of "survivors of life-threatening situations," concentrating on persons over 18 who have suffered near-fatal loss of consciousness as a result of heart failure, disease, accident, violence or attempted suicide. The researchers have secured the full cooperation of the management and staff of the Methodist Medical Center and St. Francis Hospital, both in Peoria. The study seeks to confirm or disconfirm earlier investigations which indicate persons facing death sometimes have visionary experiences suggestive of "life after life."

MY PSYCHIC VISION —LESS THAN 20-20

When I heard the bloodcurdling nonstop scream of a dying animal, I was sure the worst had happened and my horrifying nightmare had come true.

By Allan S. McArthur

JOPLIN belonged to my cousin Albert Malatesta but the surly medium-sized beast of dubious pedigree was convinced I was her master.

Albert and Joplin (both man and dog are dead now) got along well enough but from the time he acquired her as a puppy he treated her in a rough-and-ready fashion in the hope that she would develop a junkyard dog's mentality. Albert was a general contractor and he wanted an aggressive animal who would discourage unauthorized borrowing of tools and equipment. Joplin handled her duties after a fashion, although she was not above threatening the parish priest, the postman or anyone else who innocently happened by. Since her attacks were all noise her performance was judged satisfactory.

Albert's teenaged sons Christopher and Steven were responsible for the care and feeding of the animal but often as not they forgot her needs or couldn't agree on whose turn it was. Within a week or two they had maneuvered me into assuming their duties.

The bond between Joplin and me

became a strong one. She once took a nip out of Christopher when he attempted to pick up one of the many puppies she brought into the world but she always allowed me to act as midwife and would yawn contentedly when I pretended to mistreat one of her newborn pups.

Shortly after the arrival of her last litter I had a psychic experience in which Joplin played a prominent part.

On a Saturday in 1977 I foolishly agreed to help Albert on a rush paving job. Manual labor is not my forte and my heart sank when it became clear that the job called for the removal of several tons of soil before we got to the equally demanding business of shoveling stone and spreading the hot asphalt. When it was over I was utterly exhausted. Declining dinner I staggered to my flat (which I rented from Albert), uncertain as to my chances of survival. I collapsed in a heap on my sofa, quite unable to make it to the shower until I had rested. I was bone-tired and possibly physical exhaustion was a factor in what happened next.

I fell asleep for a few moments but it was not like "real" sleep. Rather it was a brief excursion into that grey

area between sleep and consciousness. Suddenly I "saw" a dead puppy sprawled on the floor in front of my TV set. The puppy's throat had been torn out. I awoke with a start, shuddering at the horrid vision and wondering from what dark corner of my mind it had sprung.

A shower restored my will to live and caused my animosity toward Albert to dwindle sufficiently so that I told him of the strange vision. After that I tried to push it from my mind but I couldn't forget it entirely. Before turning in, I went out in the yard to check on Joplin and her litter of seven beautiful puppies and I found them nursing happily. Satisfied that they were all right, I returned to the house and retired. Before my head hit the pillow I was dead to the world.

At the time we were living in a large rented house on Sheppard Avenue West in North York, a borough of metropolitan Toronto. It is a densely populated urban area but our house was only a few hundred yards from the pristine parkland that surrounds the Humber River. After dark any number of wild creatures trekked up from the Humber in search of easy pickings and over the years Joplin had had her share of run-ins with such intruders. As often as not such encounters ended in a draw but on one occasion some animal had given her a going-over that left her ribs exposed.

About 2:00 A.M. I was rudely awakened by a dreadful cacophony in the backyard. Joplin's frenzied barking was only a small part of the bedlam. The nightmarish part was the bloodcurdling nonstop scream of a dying animal.

My God! I thought as I struggled into my pants. *An animal has grabbed one of her pups.*

The inhuman sound had roused the entire household and Albert and I went out the patio door, armed with a flashlight.

"Looks like your dream came true," he remarked as we stepped into the yard.

Joplin was in a towering rage. She was charging back and forth under a cherry tree at the far end of the yard and it was clear that the ungodly wailing came from that tree.

The flashlight proved useless; its beam was too weak and diffused to penetrate the foliage. We stumbled over a fallen branch and took turns throwing it into the tree but it found no target. And the unnerving keening cry continued unabated.

"Kill it, damn you," I shouted. "Kill it and be done with it!"

It was so much wasted breath. The sound continued to rub our nerves raw for another half hour — but finally silence fell.

It took a long time to calm Joplin but she eventually retreated to her doghouse. I resisted the impulse to check on her puppies; I couldn't face up to it. Somehow this all seemed to be my fault and I wasn't keen to view a tableau that might be more horrific than my dream.

Before we went back to bed Albert and I again discussed my vision. It had been of no practical value. Certainly I had foreseen the violent end of one of the pups but I had not been able to prevent it. In fact, I had not made the connection between my vision and the possible harm that a roaming animal

could cause. I had been simply too tired to think straight and had not recognized the strange dream as a warning.

At the breakfast table the family eyed me meaningfully. Albert's wife Gloria responded to my unspoken plea by saying, "I can't do it, Allan. I simply can't!"

With great reluctance I went out to the yard to verify the extent of the damage, hoping desperately that I would find the six remaining pups unharmed. Joplin's doghouse rested on a large sheet of plywood but it was not attached at the base. Mouthing a silent prayer, I eased the structure onto its side.

The pups were having breakfast, all pulling brutally at their mother's swollen dugs. My astonishment was total when a tail count revealed seven little bodies. Ignoring their squirming resentment, I picked them up one by one and examined them carefully.

They were unmarked and seemed as healthy as the piglets they so closely resembled.

The family couldn't believe it when I told them the litter was intact. Only when they verified the fact with their own eyes did their incredulity give way to relief.

There were bloodstains on the grass beneath the tree but no other trace of the night visitor could be found. Whether the intruder had actually made an assault on the litter or had simply been in the wrong place at the wrong time is a moot point. But in the tussle that ensued, Joplin had emerged a clear winner.

My "vision" turned out to be something less than twenty-twenty and to that extent my psychic experience was something of a bust. But I am certain that it was psychic and that the ugly scene I witnessed in my room presaged an event that *might* be rather than one that *must* be.



WITCH WINS AT POLLS

OF NEARLY 38,000 candidates in Colombia's nationwide state and municipal elections in March 1980, only one claimed the power to levitate. She is Regina Betancur Liska — known to her followers as "Regina-11" — and her appeal as a mentalist and faith healer won her more than 7000 votes and a place on Bogota's city council.

"I've been able to levitate since I was a little girl," she told an interviewer. "I used to float up to the ceiling and change light bulbs. My mother was horrified and thought I had been possessed by evil spirits."

An attractive woman in her mid-40's, Liska has built up a follow-

ing among the humble people who flock to her faith-healing center in Bogota and reverently call her "Mother." Her opponents call her a witch.

"When they started to call me that I adopted the broom as my campaign symbol. The broom is a symbol of cleanliness and power."

The name "Regina-11" came from "mental contacts" she had as a four-year-old child with an Italian priest named Angelo Roncalli. He told her, "The world will know you by the number 11 and me by the number 23." She had mental contact with him for seven years, she said. Roncalli, whom she never met, later became Pope John XXIII.

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.

DREAM MURDER IS TRUE

By Jodi Ticchio

DREAMS can be pleasant but they also can be truly nightmarish. The one my father Joseph Ticchio experienced when he was 12 years old and living in Brooklyn, N. Y., was upsetting and fearful. He says, "It was an experience I hope no one has ever to go through. Even today I can't understand why I should have felt so 'involved' or guilty about something I had no connection with at all."

Dad dreamed of going to a local movie theater. It was quiet and mostly empty up in the front rows where he usually sat. It also was dark and as he sat down his foot touched a heavy package on the floor. He leaned over and picked up an object wrapped loosely in newspaper. Inside the package he discovered a human arm which apparently had been severed at the shoulder.

Although he told himself it was only a dream it was so realistic that it bothered my father all during the next day

at school. He told no one and tried to put it out of his mind.

About a week passed uneventfully before he had reason to believe he had in some strange way been "involved."

On January 7, 1946, his father brought home the *New York Times* newspaper and he read this large headline: "Find Head, Parts of Torso of Kidnapped Chicago Girl." It was the story of Susan Degnan who was kidnaped from her bed in the middle of the night and whose dismembered body was found in various catch basins



Jodi Ticchio

in the city of Chicago. Her murderer is still in prison for the crime.

Father says, "I can still remember the event vividly. I seemed to know when and where each horrible discovery would be made. I was afraid to mention my fears to anyone, including my parents. You can imagine how relieved I was to learn that it happened in Chicago, many miles away."

Chicago police did locate parts of the body of the dismembered girl wrapped in newspapers in various locations in the city of Chicago. Whether one of her arms actually was left in a theater I do not know. — *Mahwah, N. J.*

OUR STRANGE WORLD

By Harriette Hull

THE FIRST sunny Sunday after the long 1968 winter we drove to Bear Lake, Mich., to see our friends Elise and Jesse Stuck. They had moved away from Frankfort in 1930 but we visited back and forth.

"Tell me," Elise said, apropos of nothing at all, "did there used to be a girl in Frankfort named Delia Haines?"

"Whatever made you think of her?" I asked.

"You mean there really is someone by that name? Tell me about her. What does she look like? Where does she live?"

"Well, she was a pretty girl, dark haired and thin. They lived out next to the Marine Ballroom, in that area, when she was growing up."

"Doesn't ring a bell. Did she have any sisters or brothers I might remember?"

"Delia was behind you in school.

But do you remember J. R. Haines? He's her brother."

"I think I remember him, vaguely."

"Why are you asking me all these questions?" I demanded.

"I had the darndest dream Thursday night. I dreamed I was just going out to get into the car to go to Manistee when this car drove up in front and a woman got out and came up the drive. She had been crying and I was sure I'd never seen her before.

"'Oh, Elise,' she said. 'You don't remember me, do you? I'm Delia Haines. I feel so bad I just had to talk to somebody. I just lost my husband; he had a heart attack.'"

Elise went on to say that her dream had been so real she couldn't get back to sleep. She had looked at the clock and it read midnight.

The following Friday afternoon I was waiting on a customer in our dress shop in Frankfort. We were in the midst of another blizzard and there hadn't been many people in the store that day.

A man came in and walked back to the cleaning department. When my customer left I walked back to see if I could help him. I thought he had come to pick up his cleaning.

"You don't remember me, do you?" he asked.

"Sure I do. You're J. R. Haines; but whatever are you doing up here in this blizzard?"

"Well, it's sad," he replied. "I brought Delia up to stay with Margaret for a while. Delia lost her husband last Thursday night with a heart attack and she feels very alone. She wanted to come up to see her sister Margaret."

I could feel my hair standing on end.

How did Elise know the husband of a girl she didn't remember had died after a heart attack? It's a world we don't understand. — *Jupiter, Fla.*

KNOCK IN THE NIGHT

By Eleanor Kennell

ON THE morning of February 20, 1980, I was aroused from a deep sleep shortly after 2:00 A. M. by my husband Alfred saying, "Eleanor, get up. Laura's here."

I followed my husband as he went to open the front door and I was surprised to see the startled look on his face when he discovered that our oldest daughter Laura was not waiting on the step.

My husband told me he had been waked when our daughter knocked on our bedroom window and called, "Mommy, Daddy, let me in. It's Laura."

He felt very confused at not finding her at the door. I suggested he had been dreaming but he insisted that it really had happened and he wanted to telephone Laura to see if she was all right. Because of the hour I persuaded him that it would be best to call her later in the day. I still felt he must have been dreaming.

Around 8:30 that morning I called our daughter Laura myself. The first thing I asked her was if she'd had any unusual dreams the night before.

"Funny you should ask, Mom," she said. "While I was dressing for work this morning I turned to Tom [her husband] and said I had the strangest dream last night. I vaguely remember going to my parents' house but I can't recall anything else, I said."

After telling her of her father's ex-

perience we agreed that something strange had happened. Is it possible Laura left her body while she was sleeping and came to see us, but then something happened to interrupt her travels?

We'll never know the answer to our question but we all believe that somehow she was here. — *Norfolk, Va.*

NIGHT VISITOR

By Pat Kosharek

IT COULDN'T be, I thought. That floating form could not be the body of my youngest son! Yet I was sure it was.

November 21, 1975, was one of the strangest days of my life. I had attended classes at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee in the morning and worked the swing shift at my job in a factory. I was extremely tired and not feeling very well. My husband told me that both of our children had been running high temperatures during my absence. Annoyed because I was exhausted, yet concerned, I peeked into their room to check on them. Both were breathing heavily from congested chests while the vaporizer spewed a cool mist above their



Pat Kosharek

heads. They were still quite warm but aspirin had begun to cool them down. I wandered back into the kitchen to chat with my husband but he had fallen asleep on the couch. Wearily I poured myself a cup of coffee.

Suddenly I heard a low groan followed by the sound of a crash as something fell to the floor. It was the children's windup clock and it now began to play "Old MacDonald." Again I peeked into the children's room.

There, immediately above my son Jimmy's bed, frolicked a white figure that resembled him exactly. It jumped and bounced like an excited child at play. I rushed forward in panic. The form jumped over the boy but was still attached to him through the top of his head. It swayed for a moment and then was pulled back through the skull like a genie into a lamp. I was so stunned I started to cry. Carefully I lay down next to my boy. His breathing was even and his cheeks were cool. Hardly daring to breathe myself, I remained there and fell asleep.

Bright light suddenly invaded the room, waking me. As hung directly above me. As soon as my eyes adjusted, I again saw the detached figure of Jimmy. This time I did not move but lay frozen by terror. Fascinated, I watched the figure jump off Jimmy's bed and onto my son Alex's bed where it began to tug at his body as if to wake him. In childish glee it pulled off the covers and proceeded to nudge Alex; then it noticed I was awake. Quickly, in one move, it returned to Jimmy's body and I never saw it again.

I lay wondering if I had seen a ghost or if I was merely overtired and having a strange dream? My question was

answered when I saw my husband in the doorway with eyes as big as saucers. We've talked about what we saw but we have no explanation for it. —
Portland, Oreg.

MY ASTRAL VISIT

By Goldie E. Huff

MY YOUNG granddaughter Diana developed cancer and suffered through surgery, chemotherapy and radiology treatments. After all this the cancer was in remission and this gave the family new hope.

A February 1978 checkup showed Diana to be still clear of cancer but a month later, on March 13, when I called her father David to wish him a happy birthday he told me she had developed new symptoms. I asked him if I should come and he told me to wait since it would be such a long trip. They live in Indiana and I live in Florida.

I was very worried and thinking strongly of Diana about nine in the evening of April 9, 1979, when I suddenly found myself standing in Diana's bedroom. Her bed was mussed but she wasn't in it. I looked in the kitchen; David was sitting at the table sorting through a stack of bills. I looked in the room where the television was and saw Luella, Diana's mother, sitting in a rocker with her hands folded in her lap. Diana was on the couch with her eyes closed. She was very thin and pale but she was no longer bald; her hair had come back in. It was no longer blond but was dark and looked a little shaggy.

I looked around but did not see Davey, their only other child. Then I saw a small orange car parked behind



Goldie E. Huff

their car in the driveway. And I had the thought that I had seen what I came to see and instantly I was back in my own bedroom. I felt my body had received some sort of shock and I began to perspire.

Four days after this incident I received a call to come quick. I caught the first flight available and arrived early the next morning. I went in to see Diana and to let her know I was there. Her hair was dark and shaggy; they told me she was so glad to have it come back in that she didn't want even an inch cut off.

I then verified each point of my earlier "visit" with David. He had carried Diana in to the couch because she had been so restless. Luella had stayed by her side ever since she became so seriously ill. David had received a number of hospital bills that day and had been deciding which must be paid first. Davey had gone to the service station to help someone with his car. The orange car belonged to Luella's brother Sam.

Diana, who was barely 20 years old, died at two o'clock on the afternoon I arrived — April 14, 1979.

Up to the time I made this unscheduled trip nothing could have convinced me that astral travel was possible. Now I'm convinced. — *Fern Park, Fla.*

NIGHT JOURNEY

By John A. Balkun

IN AUGUST 1976 my friend Jeff D'Elia and I spent two weeks' vacation at the home of his brother in Ann Arbor, Mich. When it was time for us to return home to New Jersey, we waited until 3:00 A. M. to leave, hoping to avoid rush-hour traffic. We neglected to get any sleep that day, trying to cram as much activity as we could into our last day of vacation.

It was a chilly midwestern morning and it took about a half hour to get the car loaded. Then it took almost that long for me to convince Jeff to let me drive. He didn't want to be a passenger in his own beat-up old grey Chevy. But I've always liked driving at night and he let me have my way.

Less than 20 miles out of town we began to feel the effects of our lack of sleep. With a 600-mile journey ahead we both grew tired. Jeff succumbed, cuddled up against the passenger door and fell asleep.

At first I enjoyed the quiet solitude of the night ride but then it began to rain. As we entered Ohio the rain was falling steadily but we cruised along easily. At the Pennsylvania border we ran into real trouble. The rain and gusting wind pummeled the car from all directions. Trucks whizzing past splashed even more water in our path.

Jeff, now in a deep sleep, knew nothing of my predicament. More frightening than the rain, my eyelids

were heavy; I too was in dire need of rest. The rains were so heavy now that I feared pulling off the road to catch a nap. I thought the car might not start again or a flash flood would sweep us away.

I turned on the radio full blast, hoping loud fast music would keep me alert. Still I worried. My fears had a numbing effect on both mind and body. I slipped into a semicomatose state but somehow continued to steer



John A. Balkun

the car. I drove for many hours in that condition — till long after sunrise — but had no memory of it.

That morning my mother Ruth was washing dishes in our New Jersey home when she saw a car pull into the driveway. It was an old grey monster

of an automobile, dented and rusting, and I was at the wheel.

"John's home!" she shouted to my sister in a nearby room, then watched me get out of the car and head for the door. She opened the door and waited for me. After a minute or two, when I didn't appear, she walked back to the window to see what was going on. The car and its two passengers had disappeared.

Some five or six hours later I drove Jeff's hulking car into his driveway. In his home I learned that my mother had called, trying to find out where we were. She was upset and angry — and I was bewildered.

I'm not sure whether my early arrival at my home was to assure a worried mother that her son was safe or if it was my astral self reaching out in a moment of danger. Whatever, my mother swears it happened and relates the incident to whoever will listen. Some are skeptical and others believe it was her imagination. What boggles my mind is that she saw *me* at the wheel, not Jeff. If it was a simple case of a runaway imagination, how could she have known that I had convinced Jeff to let me drive?

And why couldn't I remember driving many hours through a torrential rain? Maybe I was safe at home. — *Union, N. J.*

LAND OF THE GIANTS

WHEN Amerigo Vespucci first landed in 1499 on the island of Curacao in the southern Caribbean, he reported that he found Indians who were well over seven feet tall. He named the place "Island of the Giants."

Europeans at the time rarely stood more than five feet tall, so no one believed his story. In recent years, however, archaeologists have dug up two large human skulls which have convinced scientists that their original owners were indeed more than six feet in height. The skulls can be seen today in the Curacao Museum in Willemstad.

A young woman remembers details of a life lived over a century ago. Follow-up investigation substantiates her story of the day . . .

I WENT DOWN WITH THE *FORFARSHIRE*

By R. C. Young

A TERRIBLE 19-Century shipwreck off the Scottish coast . . . the traumatic memories of a young woman who drowned in the wreck. . . .

I unexpectedly encountered these and more when the spirit of "Suzanne" made its presence known during past-life regression research begun in February 1979 with a Vancouver, Wash., woman. Under hypnosis Mrs. J., a woman in her late 30's with two small children, recalled a life in the mid-19th Century as a young Scottish girl named "Catherine."

During one taping session my subject began to talk of a lost ship named the *Forfarshire*. She had no idea why she should recall anything of the sort because, she said, the ship was wrecked long (11 years) before Catherine's birth. Yet she was sure she had been standing on the deck of the ship and holding on to keep from slipping into the water which was coming over the side.

Having never heard of such a shipwreck, I went the following day to the Vancouver Public Library where I was able to verify the catastrophe. The *Forfarshire* had gone down off the Scottish coast with a heavy loss of lives, 43 drowned, only 18 saved, on September 7, 1838. Mrs. J. was right.

It had happened before "Catherine's" time.

Once I had obtained this evidence, I decided to pursue the matter further. I asked Mrs. J. to return under hypnosis to the same scene. It was then that we met Suzanne.

Mrs. J. was recalling the details of a lighthouse keeper who took his small boat to the wreck to try to rescue the survivors when she suddenly burst into a mournful cry: "Bring the boat here! I'm over here! Bring the boat here!"

Indeed it was Suzanne who had been standing on the deck of the *Forfarshire*, holding on to keep from being washed away. My hypnotized subject was recalling the trauma Suzanne had experienced.

Suzanne told me she and her husband were drowned in the wreck of the *Forfarshire*, bound from Hull, England, to Dundee, Scotland. She said her husband, a minister, was on his way to Dundee to take care of some church business and the two of them planned to return to Hull within three weeks.

Suzanne recalled their cabin, number 2-B, with its light woodwork

walls. Although it was small, she remarked on how clean it was. When a slight smile crossed her face, I asked what she was thinking. She replied she was wondering if her husband's mother could have gotten it any cleaner.

The room where they ate their meals had three long tables. The ship's captain and his wife sat at the same table as Suzanne and her husband, and only one person sat between her and the captain's wife. She spoke of other persons who were on board: "The lady with the red dress and the red parasol — she was Captain Humble's wife. Captain Humble was the ship's captain. . . . There was a Reverend Robb and Arnett and Alexanders. . . . There was a John . . . a Paston or a Preston, something like that . . . Mrs. Brown and her son."

Fascinated, I could not ignore the challenge this new information presented. I knew the *Forfarshire* had been lost in 1838. Had it in fact been en route from Hull to Dundee? Were there listings of passengers or casualties against which we could check the names she mentioned?

The biggest question remained: Who was Suzanne and could I verify that she and her husband had been on that fateful voyage?

Suzanne provided us with additional background information that could be useful in my search for her identity. Born and raised in Hull, she went to school for several years and learned to read and write. Her mother and father were Lisa and Robert Fletcher. She met her husband through the church their respective families attended, although she could not remember which church that was. Her husband, re-

ferred to as "Reverend," was either a minister or some other church official.

One address stood out clearly in Suzanne's mind: 414 Castle Street, Hull, England. She wrote the address on paper for us. "New Castle" is clearly two words. Suzanne was not sure whether she lived there before or after her marriage, which took place in 1828 when she was about 20 years old. She was certain that her husband had a brother named Paul.

The final piece of information, potentially the most important, was given in an extremely hesitant manner. She thought her married name was Allison, Ellison or Ellertson, most probably the last. Suzanne's hesitant, uncertain manner might be explained by some of the details of her life. These details explain why I originally thought of Suzanne as shy, quiet and almost mouse-like.

Question: Suzanne, the other day you mentioned that you felt you were constantly waiting to be reprimanded, that a love you had for your husband had slowly turned to hate. Do you remember that?

Suzanne: Yes.

Question: We just started to talk about it when we had to stop. Would you feel like talking about it?

Suzanne: Well, he was older than I was. It didn't seem to show up when we were going together, but after we were married it seemed like he was — it seemed like I couldn't do anything right.

Question: How long after you were married?

Suzanne: Oh, a year or so. It didn't seem to take very long. He was unhappy with whatever I did. . . . cooking . . .

I didn't say the right things to friends. He was a minister and the people were always — well, they were always observing our lives. We were supposed to set an example for everybody else and he said I couldn't do anything right. If it wasn't done the way his mother had done it, it didn't seem to be right somehow. I got very tired of that. It was just that everything I did, I waited to be criticized, and we weren't getting along, not all that well, because of it. It didn't make any difference what I did. I think he had a lot of pressure on him and he seemed to take it out on me. But I didn't feel like he should have done that to me.

Question: Did you continue to love him for the rest of your life or did your love disappear?

Suzanne: No, I couldn't. It got worse and worse. It seemed like after a while I felt very sorry for him because I no longer loved him. He'd taken all that away from me and all I had left for him was pity. I felt that he only had so long of a lifetime with me and he was wasting it for both of us. He was just wasting it being too critical. [Here Suzanne was crying.]

* * *

MY search began. I sent letters of inquiry to Dundee and Hull. None of the original inquiries were directly productive but in all cases one of two things happened. Either the recipients forwarded my inquiry to other potential sources or they answered my correspondence and listed sources I could contact directly. Several weeks passed before I received my first answer containing definitive information on the *Forfarshire*. The letter came from the Director of Libraries for the

Humberside County Council, Hull.

It confirmed the loss of the *Forfarshire* on "7.9.1838" while on a trip from Hull to Dundee. It then listed 22 passengers, 15 by specific name, as reported in the *Hull Advertiser*.

Bingo! The first two names on the list were Capt. John Humble and wife. The ninth name listed was Mr. Paston and the 14th, Mr. Arnett.

The letter continued with additional names reported in the *Times*. Eight more individuals were mentioned, seven by name. Among them were Mr. James Preston, Reverend Robb and the son of a Mr. Brown. Of the 10 names mentioned by Suzanne, seven were listed on this one letter, which left only the Alexanders and Mrs. Brown unknown.

The second reply of consequence was on Royal National Lifeboat Institution stationery from the Grace Darling Museum, Bamburgh, Northumberland. "There is no list of the *Forfarshire's* passengers and crew," curator J. F. Bird wrote. "In fact, they had no passenger list as we know it. Passengers merely went aboard and the captain went round selling tickets during the voyage. However, it is believed there were between 61 and 63 altogether, and, from what we have been able to piece together, we know about half of them."

The letter identifies 31 passengers and crew. Comparing the lists, I note several discrepancies. Significantly the Hull letter mentions a "Mr. Brown of Glasgow" whereas the Bamburgh letter specifies a "Brown of Perth." If the latter were Mrs. Brown, she would be the mother of the boy who was drowned; Hull identified his father as

"a shipbuilder of Perth." This would leave only the Alexanders and Suzanne and her husband unidentified.

My research continues. I am still seeking an answer to my primary questions: Who was Suzanne? Is it possible

to verify that she and her husband were on the *Forfarshire* and perished in the wreck? If their existence can be proved, we may have taken another important step toward proving the reality of past lives and reincarnation.

ENGRAVED IN MEMORY

By E. Wiley Bruner

IN JUNE 1946 World War II had ended and gasoline was plentiful again. Two-way traffic was heavy on U. S. 70 which linked Little Rock and Hot Springs, Ark. My parents, four sisters and I were traveling east toward Little Rock in our 1939 Ford four-door sedan. It had front-closing back doors and was one of the newer cars on the road, for automobile production had been suspended during the war and the postwar cars were just beginning to appear.

My oldest sister Norma and I were wrestling over a comic book. I didn't want it but I knew she did. Somehow my clothing tangled in the door handle and once unlatched, the door was whipped open by the wind. I went out backwards, falling under the door and landing on my right shoulder. I took at least one more somersault before a butt landing in the westbound lane faced me in the direction of oncoming traffic. The first car missed me as I rolled and bounced into the eastbound lane. The screech and smell of burned rubber mingled with the afternoon heat as cars skidded to avoid me and

each other. The car directly behind ours nose-dived to a halt inches from my face. My dad stopped our car on the shoulder and I limped after him. Miraculously my injuries were not serious.

The details of the incident are etched so firmly in my mind that even today, three and a half decades later, the smell or sound of a skidding tire evokes images of bouncing along the pavement like a puppet managed by a puppeteer gone mad. The memory will live with me always.

In the summer of 1980 my family gathered for a reunion. As invariably happens, people talked of past family incidents and I told of falling out of the car on the trip back from Hot Springs.

Everyone listened and when the story was ended, they sat in silence as if stunned. They exchanged incredulous looks and a lot of time passed.

Finally, as others nodded in agreement, Mother said, "Son, it was not you who fell out of the car. It was Norma."

IN A PIGS' NURSERY

A TEAM of English and Italian archaeologists has discovered a 2000-year-old "delivery room" for pigs with separate accommodations for 27 sows and their 220 piglets.

The "delivery room," part of a vast ancient Roman villa and farm complex, was found in late summer of 1980 in the Valle dell'Oro at Monte Argentario on the Tuscan coast by a

team of archaeologists headed by James Brown of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust and Andrea Carandini of the University of Siena.

Salvatore Sennis, head of a team of curators cataloguing the finds, said the villa was built in the First Century B.C. and may have belonged to Lucius Sestio Quirinalis, a friend of Cicero.

Bird of Paradise Bird of Prey

Most people love to hear a robin sing. So did we until we learned what the bird's incessant chirping meant.

By Grace M. Milburn

EVERY FAMILY has its traditions, its legends, stories that are told and retold through the generations. One of ours concerns the singing bird that heralds death.

In the early spring of 1961, at the rear of my parents' property in Memphis, Tenn., a robin began to sing incessantly. The bird did not leave its post day or night or cease its singing for one single moment. My sisters Hazel, Katherine and I wondered at the stamina of so small a creature.

The sound became grating and we made many attempts to persuade this persistent serenader to go elsewhere. After numerous failures, we started to read an ominous meaning into the birdsong.

Our mother Florida Washington had been ill for several months. When her health failed to improve under the care of her regular doctor, we were thinking of getting new medical advice. On April 21, 1961, the evening we were going to take her to a different physician, she died. Shocked and emotionally drained, we gathered around trying to make plans for the funeral.

Suddenly Katherine commented that she no longer heard the bird singing in the backyard. We went out to be sure and found the yard strangely quiet. We felt this was odd — but we didn't care to dwell on it.

* * *

THREE YEARS later, during the summer of 1964, I was visiting my father Walter L. Washington, Sr., in the family home. The weather was beautiful with long balmy days and mosquito-free nights. One evening I heard a gush of birdsong — which continued and continued and continued. The bird sang ceaselessly for days. During the fourth week after it started my sister Katherine called me to meet her at the City of Memphis Hospital. Our oldest sister Hattie had become ill suddenly and was on her way there. As I entered the emergency unit Katherine came toward me and her grief-stricken face told me the news: Hattie was dead.

At this point in time anyone in our family was likely to become extremely agitated hearing the occasional twitter of a bird.

IN MAY 1966, just as we had settled into the joys of spring flowers and the carefree leisure of warm days, a bird sentry took up its post once more. After it had sung for two weeks our great-aunt Mary Tyler died.

The bird did not stop and two weeks later one of the boys in our family, Walter, Jr., died.

We were overwhelmed by the swiftness and finality of death but somewhat sustained by our mother's teachings. She had always had a deep faith in a divine order and the guidance of a kind God.

Yet in August 1966 when a bird began its liturgy a deep oppression settled over us. We had come to accept the inevitability of the death the bird-song portended. Within two weeks another brother Booker T. Washington had died. We lost three members of our family within four months.

* * *

EVERY FAMILY has its traditions, its legends, stories that are told and retold through the generations. In the divine order, death in our family is heralded by a bird. Is it a bird of prey? Or a bird of paradise?



IN OLD NEW YORK...

WHO KNOWS how much knowledge of the past has been bulldozed into nothingness as the foundations are laid for soaring buildings in the heart of major cities? In one instance the march of progress has been temporarily halted by a team of archaeologists who managed to persuade the owner of a choice piece of real estate in New York City's financial district to let them set up an archaeological dig and plumb its depths for eight months.

The dig has stirred great interest because it is on the site of Nieuw Amsterdam, the town built by the Dutch when they bought Manhattan from the Indians, and it is part of the island's original waterfront, since obliterated by landfill.

History can be gleaned from other people's garbage, says Nan Rothschild, an assistant professor of anthropology at Hunter College and one of the directors of the dig. She and a team of students from a half dozen universities started in the early spring of

1980 and have sifted through more than 15 feet of damp rock-strewn soil seeking little treasures that ultimately will provide a picture of early settlers' lives.

"We're finding lots of bones," Rothschild says. "Most accounts of early Colonial life say wild deer was the primary source of meat but we're finding pig bones, bird bones and fish-bones." They also are finding rats' teeth and oyster shells from beds destroyed long ago by the pollution in New York's harbor.

Shards of bowls, plates, jars and household items are being assembled into whole pieces. They have found pieces of creamware, delftware and pearl ware and one intact ceramic wine container.

The historic site contains the remains of the Dutch Stadt Huys (city hall) built in 1641, the second English government's town hall, the foundations of a tavern operated by the second British governor of New York and an 18th-Century well.



 by Harold Helfer

STRANGE TO SAY

Bruce Peterson, aged 16, of Dodge Center, Minn., was playing his first game of golf. He stepped to the tee and drove the ball directly to the green 135 yards away where it rolled into the cup for a hole in one.

Leone Christiansen, a Mason City, Iowa, housewife, read somewhere that everyone ought to learn how to save others from choking to death. She learned the technique and then taught her husband. A few days later a piece of turkey lodged in her throat. Gasping for breath she stumbled into the bedroom where her husband was sleeping and managed to wake him so that he could save her life.

Bror Olsson, who owns two restaurants in Calais, Maine, was looking out the window of his Wickachee Inn and saw two men get into his new car and drive off. Olsson gave chase. Hastening to get away the driver of the stolen car hit another car, then crashed through the plate-glass window of the Angelholm, the other restaurant owned by Olsson.

While sailing near St. Tropez, France, Monique Lavelle plucked a corked bottle out of the sea and found

it contained a note dated May 17, 1944. It was written by a lonely World War II French soldier who offered to marry the girl who found it. Mused 22-year-old Monique, "I suppose he's a grandfather by now." Incidentally, the lovesick soldier had given his Paris address in the note. Monique lives in the same block now as he did then.

Fifteen years ago Jeanne Michael of Canton, Ohio, accepted her boyfriend's high school ring as a token that they were "going steady." Shortly thereafter her two-year-old sister flushed the ring down the toilet. Bob Michael, her boyfriend then and her husband now, works for the Canton Sewer Department. Recently he was cleaning a branch pipe and came across a small glittering object. Yes, it was the long-lost ring.

Mrs. James Reese of Hellam, Pa., is a librarian for a small church. She visited a larger church she had once attended to get some hints from the librarian there. Demonstrating how to fill out a card, the librarian reached for a book to show Mrs. Reese. The book she picked was one that Mrs. Reese had donated to the church more than two decades earlier.

THE CURSE

A fiendish evil has been handed down through the generations—
even into modern times. What makes a curse live on?

By Katherine Hummel Loomis

Part II

ON A trip to Europe in January 1954 my skepticism about clairvoyance, prophecy and long-standing curses changed to a wholesome respect for the unknown. On my arrival in London an inner prompting forced me to visit Sister Mary, an old nun in a Carmelite convent in Reading, Berkshire. Although an audience with Pope Pius XII had been arranged for my

daughter Joan Vahlkamp and me, Sister Mary prophesied that this would not come about but that we would see treasures in the Vatican that few persons are privileged to see. Time proved her right. She also warned that during our stay in Europe both my daughter and I would be in grave physical danger.

We arrived about February 1 in



Schloss Kleinerdingen is a low-lying horseshoe-shaped building flanked by wide wings, its red-tiled roof cornered with semionion towers. Its courtyard, where in former times jousting matches were held, resembles a modern military parade ground.

ON THE CASTLE



Although Frau Brehmer said Schloss Kleinërdlingen had no cellars, this great mound of earth with its heavily bolted door of wood and iron says otherwise. Undoubtedly this entrance led directly into the sealed-off foundation cellars and under moat.

Nordlingen, Germany, where I planned to visit Schloss Kleinërdlingen, my family's ancestral home. Before that was arranged, however, my host and hostess, the Schendas, entertained me for hours with tales about the curse on the Schloss. When Napoleon confiscated it and drove out the knight-monks, the Johanniters, all left peacefully except one who cursed the castle, saying, "No future owner will live long or prosper here and all will die violent deaths."

I was anxious to see my grandfather's home and I refused to let superstitious tales upset me.

ON SUNDAY morning I was up early, eager to go to Schloss Kleinërdlingen. But no. Herr Rudi Schenda, a strong-minded man, had decided that first we must see the famous Neresheim Monastery, a gem of rococo art. I was annoyed at this delay but beautiful Neresheim far exceeded my expectations.

As at the cloister in England, again we were plagued by cold. It was sub-zero outside and seemed far colder within the stone walls which had absorbed the cold and dampness of centuries. When my misery was greatest, I felt again the magnetic pull in my so-



Joan and husband Lt. Eugene Vahlkamp were finally reunited in March 1954 in Capri. She is wearing her mother's fur coat; her own was burned in Schloss.

lar plexus, the sensation that had forced me to leave our flight in London and visit the cloister.

When the monastery service was over, the Schendas, their son Rudi, Joan and the chauffeur Hans Kloppfer dashed for the warm auto. Despite their calls to hurry I raced in the opposite direction toward the monastery door.

I pounded the big iron knocker and after a long delay a tall gaunt monk opened the door. His head was tonsured and his deep-set black eyes were almost hidden under bristling eyebrows.

In German he asked me what I wanted. I was taken aback because I didn't know what I wanted or why I was there — other than that I was run-

ning away from the magnetic pull. To cover my embarrassment I fairly shouted, "Prayers! Yes, please pray!"

He peered at me strangely and said, "For whom? *Leb'n oder Gestorben?*" (The living or the dead.) I said quickly, "*Gestorben.*" (The dead.)

Looking almost angry, he pointed a long bony finger at my forehead. "Yes, I will do as you request. I will pray for the dead — but today, *I will pray for you!*"

His tone gave me the creeps. I didn't understand what he meant — but why had I been such an idiot as to knock on this door and demand prayers? Why should he pray for me?

On the way back we needed the monk's protective prayers, I thought, to negotiate the perilous icy mountain roads. We were following the old Roman road the Caesars had used 1000 years ago, the route Gen. George Patton had used so cleverly to move his tanks across Europe during World War II.

Hans Kloppfer, our roly-poly Bavarian chauffeur, yodeled while he drove and took the bumps in high gear. Finally, with a hearty laugh, he slammed on the brakes outside the gates of Schloss Kleinerdingen and directed us to cross the vast courtyard on foot. I don't know why he didn't drive us to the entrance.

My first sight of the castle was a shock. It made me think of a large medieval beast with paws outstretched to grasp any prey within reach. I realized that my vision must be distorted by the freezing alpine winds and the blurring powdery snow which misted like ocean spume a foot off the ground. In the intense cold, Joan's eyes teared

and the tears formed stinging drops of ice on her cheeks. We had had no experience with such weather. We couldn't cope.

At first the Schendas were amused but they soon realized that we were not acclimated to the thin air and sub-zero temperature. To keep up our circulation, they kept us at a dogtrot. The temperature was so numbing that once when we paused, our hands were useless. Frau Schenda had to help us wrap our wool scarves over our faces.

This respite gave me the opportunity to take a good look at the castle, a low-lying, square, horseshoe-shaped building flanked by wide wings, its red-tiled roof cornered with semionion towers. The courtyard resembled a modern military parade ground. In former times it had been large enough to accommodate the jousting matches.

Through the centuries weird trees had grown up, their needles growing upward instead of down. From the 60 rooms, perhaps 100 windows looked down at us in an unfriendly fashion, I thought. I tried not to look at them or to think about the early history the Schendas had so freely discussed the night before.

We had reached the middle of the courtyard when the trembling and magnetic pull in my solar plexus started up in full force. It spun me around — I had no will to control it — and then with a mighty push it sent me running across the courtyard and through the open door of Schloss Kleinerdingen.

Inside the open door Frau Brehmer, a gentle kindly widow with two teenaged sons, held out her arms and embraced me cordially.



On visit in January 1954 to famous Neresheim Monastery, a gem of rococo art, author felt second magnetic pull and wondered at its implications. As at the cloister in England, she and her daughter Joan were plagued by cold and dampness of centuries.

"My house is your house," she said. "This was your grandfather's home and I want you to be happy and comfortable here."

She led us down a long stone passageway and into a tower room where a sumptuous meal was laid. Copper pots of live coals had been placed beneath the tables to keep our feet warm and fires roared in the beautiful *Ofens* — tile stoves with open doors.

Perhaps a dozen or more guests were there to greet us. One gentleman rushed forward with cognac to warm us but our hands were so numb that we could not hold the glasses. We just stood mutely with our backs to the fires trying to thaw out.

I gazed around the room and slowly became aware of the *Gemutlichkeit*, the true Bavarian hospitality, these people were offering us. But the peace did not last long. Frail Frau Brehmer suddenly hurled herself across the room and began to beat my daughter Joan viciously on the back. I was stunned but in a moment I heard Frau Brehmer's piercing scream: "*Feuer! Feuer!*"

All the men rushed to Joan's side. Sparks had flared from the open fire and Joan's fur coat was ablaze from collar to hem. They tore off the coat and stamped out the blaze on the stone floor, leaving only a pile of cinders and ashes. I stood frozen; I thought my child was burning to death.

Yet the unbelievable fact was that Joan suffered no burn or injury at all. She stood with her eyes closed as if in a trance, never aware that she was a human torch. When Frau Brehmer called her by name and brought her to, Joan could not believe there had been

a fire until she saw the charred remains of her fur coat.

Sister Mary's second prophecy had come true. She had said, "If you visit a castle, guard Joan. She will be in danger, most horrible danger."

I heard Herr Schenda's doleful mumble behind me. "*Ach so*, the curse strikes again. It is still alive. 'No owner shall live or prosper here and all will die a violent death.' "

These words made me angry. It is true that we are direct descendants of the former owner, but we were not coming to occupy the castle; we were merely guests. Could such evil be handed down through the generations? And what made it live on?

A few hours after dinner Frau Brehmer smilingly handed me a large ring of keys. "You have gone through so much unpleasantness today I thought it might be relaxing for you to see all the castle rooms. My boys will take you and unlock the doors for you. Where would you like to go first?"

Without hesitation I said, "Please, may I see the cellars first?"

Frau Brehmer shook her head. "But there are no cellars."

"Oh, yes, there are," I persisted. "They are very long and make three turns."

The look of consternation on her face told me I had said the wrong thing. Yet without any forethought my mind had seen a detailed flash picture of these cavernous cellars.

Frau Schenda hurried to my side ready to translate in case I did not fully understand. "You are mistaken, my dear," she said. "Frau Brehmer lives here and knows the castle well. So be assured there are no cellars."

Embarrassed, I apologized, wishing I had never spoken.

The trek through the castle was endless. Its more than 60 rooms of all sizes were mostly bare of furniture and dull and depressing in the winter light. On the first floor we paced the long corridor where the knight-monks strolled and gossiped, finding at the end of it an unattractive room at a lower level with rock floors and walls. It was now used as a laundry.

Curious, I walked down the five steps and almost at once I knew I was in the knights' chapel. It had small slits of Gothic windows and indentations in the walls that may have held statues of saints. Spots on the rough floor were worn slick as if by spurs. Finally my excitement soared when I reached a spot near a window where an altar may have stood. I was sure of this because nearby a small hole had been bored in the rock. In the Middle Ages it was known as the "Priest's Hole," a necessity wherever a mass was celebrated. At the altar the priest washes his hands with water and this water must be returned to the earth whether through rock or soil.

Although I was timid about braving the cold again, the boys were eager to take me for a walk around the castle grounds. They pointed out huge carved snails on the roof top but did not know what they symbolized.

Tight against the east side of the castle was the knights' burying ground with tombstones of many centuries still in excellent condition. Elaborately carved skulls and the graves of illustrious commanders of the Johanniters made an eerie scene in the fading light. I was glad to leave.

About 50 yards from the castle we approached a great mound of earth which had a heavily bolted door of wood and iron.

"What is this?" I asked.

The boys shrugged. "Oh, it's only an old underground passageway. It was never shored up properly and Grandfather thought it would be dangerous. So in 1938, before the war, he had it boarded up."

"Where does it go?" I asked.

The boys pointed back toward the castle. I said no more. This answered my question about the cellars. Possibly today they are sealed off but undoubtedly the tunnel led directly into the foundation of the castle and under the moat in former times. All castles had escape hatches and the tunnel must have been an escape from Schloss Kleinerdingen. I still believe the castle has cellars and perhaps something even deeper beneath them.

This opinion was bolstered in 1965 by a letter from Dr. Herman Kessler, *Oberbürgermeister* (mayor) of Nordlingen. He mentioned that during excavations of a small structure near the knights' burying ground, the workmen chanced upon parts of Roman ruins which dated to the Second and Third Centuries. Nordlingen was one of the earliest Roman camps and ancient maps show that the commandant never lived on the level with his men but chose to have a small castle built on an incline about a kilometer away where he could look down on them. Was this the first foundation of Kleinerdingen?

* * *

I WAS glad to return to Rome. I could not believe in curses and I minutely questioned Monsignor Bren-

nen (the cleric who had arranged for our tour of the Vatican) on the subject. While we were talking, word came that dear kind Frau Brehmer had hanged herself! What drove this gentle soul to her death? She was found in the *Dach*, the uppermost reaches of the attic near the castle tower.

We had scarcely recovered from the shock of this news when the American Embassy notified us that my son-in-law's ship would soon dock in Genoa. We had come all this distance so that Joan and Lieutenant Vahlkamp could be together and Joan would leave at once to meet her husband.

It was now March 1954. It was hard to believe that my short journey had extended into three months. The record-breaking winter was gone and the Mardi Gras and Lenten seasons were here. As Joan flew north to Genoa to be with her husband I boarded a TWA plane back to the States. On the way home I pondered the wild prophecies and curses and hoped I would never hear of such things again. I was going home at last where I would be comfortable and safe and nothing untoward could happen.

At the airport in Philadelphia all the passengers seemed equally happy to be on American soil.

I am not sure whether I heard bells or voices announcing another plane but suddenly a huge throng arrived on the floor, intermingling and pushing in all directions. Like heavy surf it pushed me where I did not want to go. Suddenly I realized that this horde of people was rushing toward a stairway, a long stairway down to a lower level where outgoing planes took off.

I was crying out, pleading and push-

ing, trying to hold my own, when I was spun around and felt a heavy fist striking a paralyzing blow in the small of my back. So violent was the blow that I flew off the top step and sailed head-first down 40 stone steps. Just before reaching the bottom my head struck a young woman under her knees and tossed her backwards over my head. My fall had been broken and I rolled on, striking my legs and body on the sharp edge of each stone step, until at last I stopped at the bottom entangled in the wrought-iron work.

Now there came a great hush. The horde of passengers had disappeared. A circle of blurry white faces surrounded me. I heard someone say, "Get an ambulance! A doctor!" And hands reached out to seize me but I shook them off. I crawled to my feet hurting so bad I wasn't sure where or who I was. But I heard myself saying, "Get me a car. I'm going home."

Would I ever see home again? Someone had tried to push me to my death but Sister Mary had said they would be praying day and night until I was safely home. I must make the effort to get there.

The journey home was a nightmare but finally loving hands carried me into the house and to bed where I remained three months in a bruised and battered condition. With Ma-Ma's tender ministrations I recovered. No mention was ever made of my reckless spending of "Peter's pence" so I knew I was back in Ma-Ma's good graces. As for her opinion of Schloss Kleinerdingen, she thought less of it than ever before.

During my recuperation I had plenty of time to think about castles and

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curses, cloisters and clairvoyance. I could no longer jest and sneer. In a few short months I had been given the full psychic treatment.

* * *

PERHAPS I am tempting fate but I have returned many times to Schloss Kleinerdingen in the last 25 years. With great sadness I see the main door where dear, gentle Frau Brehmer held out her arms to me in welcome. Then I gaze at the lofty Byzantine tower where two weeks later

she hanged herself. I know she couldn't have done such a thing unless driven by some fiendish evil within the castle — as were so many owners before her.

Yet, as one aged villager remarked, "Why would the Knights of St. John and Malta, the Hospitalers of the Crusades, who established Schloss Kleinerdingen with such high ideals, permit one evil monk to turn their castle into a house of horror?"

I ask myself.



FREEZING FAILS TO HALT SNEEZING

AN ENGLISH girl, Tricia Reay, aged 12, sneezed her way into the record books in early 1980. She caught a cold in October 1979 and sneezed non-stop for 156 days at the rate of about one every 15 seconds, surpassing the Guinness record of 155 days. In an effort to relieve Tricia, doctors tried freezing her nose with anesthetic — unsuccessfully.



ANYTHING NEW IN SUNGLASSES?

WEARING sunglasses is commonplace today but hardly new. According to the American Optometric Association, the Chinese wore tinted lenses 14 centuries ago to protect their eyes from the sun.



GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

THE GOOD news is that researchers of the Forest Product Research and Industries Development Commission in the Philippines have discovered that termites are nutritious, even delectable if served in hamburgers and omelets.

The bad news: salamanders are not so good for you. Some years ago, James D. Sikole of Langlois, Oreg., swallowed a salamander and fell unconscious a short time later.



BURIED MAMMOTHS IN THE USSR

THE SOVIET news agency Tass reported in February 1980 that a herd of mammoths that lived 17 centuries ago has been found buried deep beneath a riverbank in Byelorussia. The prehistoric animals were found in a crevice under a 64-foot layer of dolomite on the banks of the Dvina River near Vitebsk.

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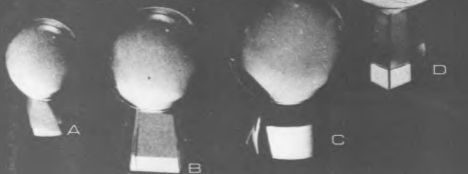
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ENCOUNTERS OF A KIND

By Mark Yohn

ONE AFTERNOON in June of 1970, when I was seven years old, I rounded up the gang and we started playing hide-and-seek in my house. Our house was about 60 years old, white with two stories and a basement. But we did not use the second floor while we rented the house and lived there.

When it was my turn to hide I thought I knew a perfect hiding place — on the second floor in the closet of one of the unused rooms. The closet was very big, almost like a small room. As I ran into the closet I left a small crack open so I could see any approaching seeker.

While I was peeking through the crack something caught the corner of my right eye. I turned sharply and this brought me face-to-face with an old man I never had seen before in my life. He was very old, with a wrinkled face, and he was sitting in a chair of some kind. I noticed that he had no hair on the top of his head and he was smoking a pipe. He stared right into my eyes as if he was trying to say something to me with this physical action. I was very startled but I was not totally afraid. I started to say something to the old man but before I could blurt out the first syllable he seemed to vanish.

The split second after he vanished a friend opened the door and yelled with a

blasting scream. "You're it!" I smiled and said nothing about the old man for fear they might think I was crazy.

I said nothing about my encounter until my brother Ron told me of his experience. He said that one night when we were both sleeping he suddenly felt a cold touch on his shoulder. He described it as the touch of an icy-cold hand. He awoke abruptly and turned to find an old man standing above him. He said he started to scream, but before he could make a sound the man vanished. Ron thought he had been dreaming.

I was amazed by his story, especially



Mark Yohn



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when he described the old man. The description he gave was identical to my encounter in every way.

We moved out of the house eight years ago. My brother said he went by recently and it had been torn down and only a vacant lot remains. But my brother's and my memory of the old house and the old man in it will always stay within us. — *Indianapolis, Ind.*

FAY

By Rose Kay

OCCASIONALLY I "read" my own tea leaves. I am not expert at it and usually "see" only indistinct forms of people, animals, trees, etc. But one night in August 1969 the name **FAY** appeared plainly in capital letters at the bottom of my teacup. The only person I ever knew by that name was Fay B.; we had worked in the same office at Honeywell, Inc. Fay had been pleasant, hardworking, reserved, about 40, married but childless and I had been saddened to learn of her death just three weeks before.

The next day when I went into the public library I was surprised to have Fay's husband approach me. This was the first time I ever had seen him in the library.

"Do you know who I am?" he asked.

"Yes," I replied, "you are Fay's husband."

Although we never had met I had often seen him with Fay. He poured out his heart to me.

"I miss her so terribly," he lamented, almost breaking into tears. He told me she had been at a card party where she suddenly took desperately ill. She was rushed to the hospital where she died of a cerebral

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 - All my debts and bills are paid off. I don't owe a dime to anyone!
 - My health is fabulous. In fact, I jog over twenty miles a week!
 - And best of all, I am rich and successful!
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- 2) I drive around in a luxurious car loaded to the hilt with all those costly "options" -- all fully paid for!
- 3) I even went out and spent thousands of dollars for a magnificent fur coat. Was that a thrill!

To tell you the truth, I can't really believe this is happening to me. Everyday unfolds another fantastic surprise! Does LUCK-KEY work? You'd better not ask Me! You know my answer!



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- I've WON with LUCK-KEY. I'm after the million dollar ticket now! --N.S., Can.
- Your LUCK-KEY did work for me. I went to bingo and WON \$155.00. It never happened to me before. I really believe in it! --L.R., P.E.I.
- My boss called me back to work with a 100% increase in salary. I still can't believe it! --J.R., La.
- Because you reached out to me I received \$211.40 in the mail! --P.M., Mass.
- I went to bingo and WON \$565.00 JACKPOT. I never won so much! --B.V., Pa.
- I felt better the minute I put LUCK-KEY around my neck. Even caught the flowers at a wedding! --R.S., Tenn.
- I was quiet and shy and never went out much. When your LUCK-KEY arrived, things started to turn around! --C.C., Can.
- I WON \$25.00 at bingo! --E.G., Can.
- I suffered from arthritis. After receiving my LUCK-KEY it disappeared! --L.L., Ill.
- WON a trip to Florida! --J.M., Ill.
- Your LUCK-KEY came just in time. A nose diving airplane was headed right toward me. I could have been killed if the pilot hadn't gained control. I believe LUCK-KEY had a hand in that rash of good luck! --C.F., Calif.

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I feel certain that LUCK-KEY can work for you! That's why I've taken the time to write this for your announcement. How else could I tell you about my thrilling discovery!

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hemorrhage. They had just moved into a new deluxe apartment; their marriage had been happy and problem free; and now he had nobody. He had no relatives and felt lost.

I saw Robert B. at the library several times after that and had the impression that he wanted to develop a close friendship with me. He suggested dinner, a movie, etc., which I always declined. He was a lonely widower and I was single; but I had no interest in him other than to serve as a sympathetic listener. Yet I wondered; had his devoted wife Fay tried to play matchmaker?
— *Minneapolis, Minn.*

TEARS FROM HEAVEN

By Sherrie Mattson

MY SON David, a leukemia victim at the age of 5½ years, died on January 14, 1964. Although relieved that his suffering was over, I was grief-stricken.

He was gone — but I worried about him constantly. I wanted to know that wherever he was, he was as loved and cared for as he had been here on earth.

One night about two weeks after his death, feeling bereft and heartbroken, I stepped out the back door of our Salt Lake City home. It was raining and my tears mingled with the rain. I looked up to the sky and it suddenly became very clear. The clouds formed a picture of Christ standing with my son. With his arms wrapped around Christ's waist, David was crying. In



Sherrie Mattson

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Vogue of Las Vegas, Nevada won \$3,000.00 playing blackjack by "relying on my Life-Luck Horoscope with respect to colors, best hours and best days." Margaret Ann Tomlinson of Camarillo, California, won \$3,860.00 on slot machines. There were many more winners too numerous to mention in such areas as horse racing, bingo, numbers and poker. One subject made \$1,000,000 in a real estate investment using his Life-Luck Horoscope.

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a flash I realized he was sad because of my grief. David was with Christ, he was all right and I need not worry any longer.

I walked back into the house, my face wet with tears from heaven. — *Ogden, Utah.*

STEPS ON THE STAIRS

By Donna J. Holland

IN THE last months of pregnancy and during the weeks after my son Brian was born on February 5, 1970, I learned about loving care from "the other side."

In late December 1969 my husband Herb was working the second shift and my brother Bill Slade was staying with us so that he could attend the local technical school where he had enrolled before we took over the house from my parents in September. The house in Cincinnati, Ohio, had belonged to our family for generations. In July 1966 my grandmother Doris Slade had passed away in the very living room where Bill and I sat watching television. She had sat down in her favorite chair, a platform rocker, and had gone to sleep. She always had hoped to go that way. The cause of her death was heart failure.

Bill and I were watching a movie when suddenly we both noticed that Grandma's platform rocker, now unoccupied, was rocking. Its springs were tight and there was absolutely no chance that a draft of air could move it.

About a week later Herb came home from work shortly after 2:00 A.M. The house was dark except for a light over the kitchen sink. He made a cup of coffee to drink before retiring and sat down. A few minutes later he heard uneven footsteps slowly coming down the stairs which led from the second floor into the dining room. He assumed that it was I coming down to sit with him.

When I did not appear, he went looking for me. Finding no one downstairs he went to Bill's bedroom. My brother was sound asleep and quite grumpy when Herb woke him to ask if he had walked down the stairs a few minutes earlier. In our bedroom I was sound asleep and just as grumpy when Herb awoke me to ask a lot of silly questions.

The next morning Herb told me about the strange footsteps. It gave me an idea. I sent him and Bill downstairs and then I fol-

lowed, imitating the familiar pattern of my grandmother's steps. She had been a heavy woman and suffered arthritis which forced her to take the stairs slowly, one at a time. The pattern was distinct and unmistakable. When I rounded the bend of the old wooden stairs Herb was standing open-mouthed. I had imitated the pattern precisely! He had not known my grandmother but recognized her footsteps from my imitation.

The phenomena continued for a few weeks after that. We heard halting footsteps overhead from time to time and unseen hands gently closing doors. I now believed that Grandma was still with us and often spoke to her.

Brian was born February 5, 1970, and brought home to the same house that my seven brothers and sisters and I were brought home to. Only this time Grandma was not there to look after the new mother and child. Or was she?

For about six weeks after Brian's birth we heard Grandma around the house. Then suddenly the sounds stopped and we heard her no more. I think she came back to look after me during the insecure time of my first pregnancy and stayed until she was sure we would be all right. — *Loveland, Ohio.*

A DAY LIKE NO OTHER

By Dale Johnson

IT SEEMED like any other day when my son Wayne and I launched our little boat, an eight-foot Livingston, from Seattle's small public boat ramp on Puget Sound. But less than a half mile off shore we heard the cries of two young men whose boat had capsized. We headed for them immediately and they hung onto our craft until a larger boat came along.

Then we went out into the Sound about a mile, perhaps too far in such a small boat.

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We were fishing for the elusive salmon and I was first to hook one. As it thrashed on the surface I heard my father's voice saying, "Well, Dale! You've got a salmon."

My father had been dead for three years but I would know that voice anywhere.

The salmon kept me busy for a while but soon Wayne got a net under it. My first-ever salmon was in the boat. Now I turned sharply around to see where my father's voice was coming from — and I saw him! He looked in the prime of life and the aura around his whole body was like arcing electricity, a brilliant blue. I was awestruck.

What on earth had happened? I could accept the unusual: we had rescued two men and I had caught a fine salmon. But what was I to think of this third event?

When we got home, after telling my wife Georgia what had happened, I sought help from Yogananda's *Autobiography of a Yogi*. I hadn't read the book for 10 years but I immediately found the section concerning the resurrection of his master. Yogananda wrote that after death we go to an astral world where colors are much brighter. A living man may occasionally glimpse that astral world or an astral being if his sixth sense is somewhat developed. I had been searching for truths of man's existence for 20 years. Perhaps the sight of my father was my reward.

That late summer day in 1978 was a day like no other. — *Seattle, Wash.*



Dale Johnson and son Wayne

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NEWS & REVIEWS

by Martin Ebon



PSYCHOTRONIC ARMAGEDDON
SEVERAL YEARS ago Orson Welles, the many-faceted actor-director, put on a Broadway show so overloaded with themes, images and stage techniques that one critic complained it contained "everything but the kitchen sink." After the performance I happened to attend, Welles brought the cast to the front of the stage and began to chat with the audience. The critics were not to be trusted, he said; the show *did* contain a kitchen sink — and a stagehand promptly produced a big, battered old sink!

There's no kitchen sink in Thomas E. Bearden's *Excalibur Briefing* (Strawberry Hill Press, San Francisco, Calif., 1980, 266 pages, \$8.95, paperback) but there is just about everything else — everything, that is to say, that has to do with paranormal phenomena. True, Bearden has at least subdivided the mass of subjects he covers. The first part of the book provides "A Sampling of Specific Paranormal Phenomena"; the second offers "A Theoretical Background for Understanding PT [Psychotronics], UFOs, and Psi Phenomena"; and the final section, "New Military Applications of Psi Research," warns of a "psychotronic Armageddon planned by the Soviets."

The introductory material with which the reader is peppered ranges from such well-documented topics as dowsing to purely anecdotal Sasquatch reports. In style the book seesaws between brief case reports and technical presentations which to the nonphysicist read like so much algebraic macaroni.

The central question is the book's assertion that the Soviet Union has long ago overtaken the United States in paranormal

research and is now experimenting with sophisticated "psychotronic" techniques to scramble both our military technology and our brains.

But who is Tom Bearden and why does he say these frightening things? The claim that the Soviets are 10, 20 or 50 years ahead of us is not new; nor are the estimates that they are spending the equivalent of 50 or even 500 million dollars on such research every year. Is Bearden qualified to act as a guide through this jungle of speculations?

John White tells us in his foreword that "the author is former U.S. Army officer Lt. Col. Thomas E. Bearden, now retired." He says that Bearden spent 20 years specializing in artillery, nuclear weapons and military intelligence, with "access to the full range of both military and NASA documents." White writes that the book is revealing "what may become highly classified data in the future" because of Bearden's concern about "Operation Fer-de-Lance," a "presumed Soviet plan for domination of the planet through nuclear psychotronic aggression and warfare."

I must admit I don't understand how something that's being published as a paperback in San Francisco today can be tomorrow's "highly classified data." Nevertheless the assertion that "weapons that are psychotronic or parapsychical in nature" may be used in the future against ICBM sites, communications centers and other targets is challenging enough to raise one's hackles.

White assumes that Bearden "will be dismissed as a paranoid crackpot." He adds, "Such tactics have been employed before

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against brilliant, courageous people who challenge the fundamental dogma of the establishment as Tom does here. Nevertheless, I want to reassure you that Tom is sane, sober and serious."

The *Newsletter* of the American Association of Meta-Science, of which Bearden is a board member, tells us that in the course of his army career Bearden worked in air defense systems, nuclear weapons deployment and computerized war games. Currently he works for the Alabama division of a large aerospace company, where he "is involved" in developing and analyzing countermeasures to antiradiation missiles for the Patriot, Improved Hawk and Roland U.S. army missile systems, as well as in "determining battlefield mission requirements for high energy lasers, and performing computerized air defense war games and countermeasures studies."

The listing of these credentials should tempt the reader to take *Excalibur Briefing* a good deal more seriously than its contents, at first glance, suggest. As a writer Bearden seems to believe that more is better and much much more is absolutely wonderful. As a parapsychologist he belongs to that prominent species, the enthusiastic convert who gives equal credence to psychokinesis and the Loch Ness monster.

The book starts out with Bearden's account of how he saw himself in a sort of out-of-body experience while engaging in the martial art of Yoseikan aikido. He then runs the gamut of briefly-told tales of mysterious lights in New Jersey and unexplained generation of electricity, paying tribute to T. Henry Moray of Salt Lake City, whom he credits with pioneering a form of "radiant energy" as far back as the first decade of the century.

Then, quite suddenly, Bearden links the mysterious Crystal Skull with these findings. The Skull, unearthed in Honduras in 1927, is presented here as a priestly tool, either a "collector of bio-energy," a "form resonance inductor" or a "psychotronic device capable of producing psychotronic effects such as the augmentation of healing energy, psychic attack, telepathy, clairvoyance, precognition and psychokinesis, where these initiative abilities are possessed by the user or practitioner." Bearden notes that "quartz has magic qualities from

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a psychotronic point of view."

How does all this link up with Soviet psychotronic warfare?

Well, one link that Lieutenant Colonel Bearden establishes is the Russian experiment, well known among parapsychologists in the United States, in which the condition of one group of cells was transmitted to another, right through a quartz window. A glass window, Bearden says, would not have permitted such intercellular "information transfer." He regards these experiments, undertaken by V.P. Kaznacheyev and others, as "confirmation of Soviet experimentation with PT [psychotronic] induction of death and disease."

Bearden's use of a special vocabulary, including such terms as ZARG (which stands for his concept of the "collective unconscious as a living entity"), makes the book hard going for the general reader. At times, as in his chapter on "Virtual States and Hyperspaces," he not only uses algebraic signs but presents the reader with his conclusions in this manner:

"Spatial modeling requires an infinite dimensional space and an infinite number of orthogonal angles. The time axis that can be drawn in such a hyperspatial model has no meaning except with respect to a relationship existing between two or more hyperspace frames or objects. Specifically, the time axis represents the totality of all hyperspaces and their objects, hence all the relationships that can be separated from the hyperspace."

Elsewhere Bearden refers to "tulpooid manifestations," inexplicable intermittent realities such as UFOs or "monsters." I'm still not sure how he arrived at the word tulpooid (the book needs a glossary as well as an index) but I assume it derives from the term "tulpa." Alexandra David-Neel, who explored Tibet early in the century, wrote that she had created a monk-companion "tulpa" through her own will but had to undo him when he became aggressive. A tulpooid manifestation, according to Bearden, is kindled through a mechanism of unconscious levels of tuning and "determined by the type of pressure and the content, biases, or tuning of all the levels between it and the conscious minds of the individuals who observe the phenomena."

That is a fairly sophisticated hypothesis

and it would have been fascinating to see the author develop it in a systematic if cautious manner. As it stands, it is one of the many challenging observations buried in a welter of other material. But Bearden wants us to get it all, read it all, comprehend it all — not just a few major concepts but the "direct relationship between UFOs, psychonics, the collective unconscious, the Cold War, and Fer-de-Lance that cannot be escaped."

Yet, in his burning eagerness to pile it all into one book, Bearden tries to force-feed his readers. He teeters between scientific and apocalyptic prose, fascinating insights and naive assumptions, pedantry and a soaring imagination.

He winds up with a neo-Apocalypse in which a "new great superbeing will have emerged, nonphysical, almost infinitely dimensional and godlike." And: "The present state of the human species is not its final development, and indeed a great change in that state is imminent. . . . The UFO and the tulipoidal phenomena have merely been signs telling us what is to come, precognitive indicators from ZARG. Had we developed a metapsychology of the entire species, we would already have clearly understood the messages."

This is a book to which each reader will bring a highly personal response. I read it with fascination and bewilderment. Bearden's periodical *Specula*, citing delays and hurdles which held up publication of *Excalibur Briefing* for several years, has hinted that all this happened because of a mysterious conspiracy designed to stop the author's message from reaching the public. I sincerely hope that when he reads some of the criticisms in this review, Bearden will not regard me as a member of any sort of conspiracy — except of course the Great Conspiracy in favor of coherent, carefully documented and sprightly written books. Let's hope that some day Tom Bearden writes one.

OTHER REVIEWS

SEARCHING FOR HIDDEN ANIMALS by Roy P. Mackal, Doubleday & Co., New York, N.Y., 1980, 294 pages, \$12.95.

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lake monsters and the abominable snowman and his North American kin, you are in for a surprise.

As FATE readers may recall from Jerome Clark's two-part interview with him (July and August 1977 issues), Roy Mackal, a biochemist and zoologist at the University of Chicago, is no stranger to the search for unknown animals. An earlier work, *The Monsters of Loch Ness* (reviewed in December 1976 FATE), detail'd his many years' involvement in that so-far largely fruitless search. Now, in *Searching for Hidden Animals*, he moves from a single lake and takes us on a global trek which turns up an incredible array of reports of animals that as yet are not recognized in scientific texts.

"The northern Pacific and Arctic Oceans harbor, exclusive of the supposedly extinct northern sea cow, at least one and perhaps as many as three types of unknown aquatic creatures," Mackal writes. "The depths of the Atlantic Ocean in the vicinity of the Bahama Islands probably are the lair . . . of gigantic octopuses up to 60 meters [200 feet] long, tentacle tip to tentacle tip."

And there's more. "We shall explore reports of unidentified giant lizardlike reptiles in northeastern India . . . We shall describe investigations in a remote part of South Africa made by M. Courtenay-Latimer, the discoverer of the coelacanth, which might involve such creatures" as *living dinosaurs*.

Now that last, the idea of 20th-Century African dinosaurs, will unquestionably raise the hackles of the chair-bound skeptic. Indeed, even as I was reading Mackal's book, the October 1980 issue of *Smithsonian* magazine arrived with editor John P. Wiley, Jr.'s, solemn assurance that "we have explored the globe well enough to be sure there are no lost valleys where dinosaurs roam."

Wiley would do well not only to read Mackal's book but to remember that several of the large animals now inhabiting the zoos of the world were unknown to science less than 100 years ago: the giant panda, the mountain gorilla and the okapi are but three. From the ocean we have recovered the coelacanth (believed extinct millions of years ago), giant squid, a huge and previously unknown species of shark, and the

fragmented bodies of other sea creatures that do not, it seems, fit into existing scientific niches.

There is much more to Mackal's book than the areas I've touched on, but you deserve the pleasure of discovering the rest yourselves. Well-written, fascinatingly informative, the text richly supplemented with both illustrations and an incredible bibliography (I hadn't realized how many books I don't own!), it is the perfect gift for both budding cryptozoologists and long-time believers in unknown animals. This book is not to be missed. — *George W. Earley.*

ESP AND PSYCHOKINESIS by Stephen E. Braude, Temple University Press, Philadelphia, Pa., 1979, 283 pages, \$19.50.

ESP and Psychokinesis is a good book but it is not an easy one to read. It also seems incomplete. Stephen Braude is highly skilled at finding flaws in the arguments of others but he never tells us what *he* believes.

Braude teaches philosophy at the Uni-

versity of Maryland and his book has been issued as part of a series of philosophical monographs. But even though he is writing primarily for fellow philosophers, he has a gift for expressing his arguments in understandable English. Only when he attacks anomalous monism does he get bogged down in some recondite language. It will be a shame if only philosophers read this book since it has much of value to offer every practicing parapsychologist.

Braude examines the terminology of modern parapsychology and finds it wanting. Most terms and their definitions are imprecise and even misleading, he says. (Extrasensory perception, for instance, is not really *perception* at all.) Other writers (Rex Stanford comes to mind) have raised these objections before but I think Braude, as a sympathetic outsider looking objectively at parapsychology, strengthens the argument.

He discusses some experiments, ostensibly to show his fellow philosophers how strong the evidence is for ESP and PK. Happily he focuses on the very recent research of Helmut Schmidt, Charles Tart

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and others rather than rehashing the traditional experiments of the 1930's and '40's. While his account is sufficiently detailed for the layman to follow his arguments, only the reader who is familiar with a large body of modern research will appreciate how sophisticated Braude's comments and criticisms are. Here is a critic who understands both the strengths and the weaknesses of modern parapsychology and I'm afraid most of his readers will not appreciate how appropriate are his observations.

His section on "Psi and the Philosophy of Mind" gets into the heavier stuff. He doesn't attempt an overall presentation of the philosophical implications of psi phenomena but concentrates on certain theories he does not care for. The major thrust of his argument is against mind-brain parallelism, i.e., that every idea or emotion in the mind is matched by a corresponding configuration in the brain. Since this view is widely held among psychologists, Braude's comments extend far beyond parapsychology.

While I agree with him that the mind must exist independently of the brain, I don't think he has proven his case. Research by Wilder Penfield and others has revealed an extraordinary amount of complex information stored in the brain, and the mind might well be causing corresponding configurations to appear in the brain.

The book concludes with a brief attack on synchronicity and a discussion of the meaning of "paranormal." In my opinion Jung hit upon something very important when he came up with his theory of synchronicity but like Braude I find Jung's exposition of it muddled and unclear.

Braude never gets around to saying what he proposes in place of the theories he discards but perhaps that will be the subject of his next book. I hope he will write some further books on parapsychology. The field would benefit from his careful consideration and constructive criticism. — *David Techter.*

THE GEMINI SYNDROME by Roger B. Culver and Philip A. Ianna, Pachart Publishing, 1130 San Lucas Circle, Tucson, Ariz. 85704, 1979, 216 pages, \$11.95.

The "Star Wars" debate continues: does

astrology constitute genuine science or is it pseudoscience? Unlike so many critics of the subject, astronomers Roger Culver and Philip Ianna have done their homework. *The Gemini Syndrome* is a formidable attack upon the claims of the astrologers.

The attack is strongest when it concerns known defects in the theory and practice of astrology. On a theoretical level, for example, no one has yet been able to devise an altogether satisfactory house system. On a practical level some astrologers persist in bad practices when they should know better. Nobody can base reliable advice on the basis of sun signs only; yet such advice, given in numerous newspapers and magazines, is taken seriously by millions of readers. It is certainly wrong to use a pseudo version of what purports to be a science.

Not all of the attacks are so well taken. For example, we are told that "for the tropical astrologer using a tropical zodiac, there can never be a dawning of the Age of Aquarius." The assumption is that one must accept either tropical or sidereal astrology but not both. But many astrologers believe that the immediate solar system most directly influences our immediate lives. If we are talking about "the ages," however, then the sidereal astrology of the constellations becomes the relevant thing to use.

Curiously enough, Culver and Ianna have little to say about the popular Jungian noncausal theory of "synchronicity." They remark that the notion was around long before Jung. True, but that does not constitute a refutation. Apparently the authors intend their empirical evidence to disqualify the Jungian approach. That seems fair enough. After all, neither causal nor noncausal theories have any importance unless they can demonstrate some correlations.

The book's main contribution is in its fairly complete recitation of the empirical evidence against astrology. The authors cite Michel Gauquelin's researches which purport to show that astrological signs, aspects and houses are meaningless. If Gauquelin is correct, the "Star Wars" battle is over. If he is not — and he has his critics — then the astrology controversy remains unresolved. In the meantime *Gemini Syndrome* is a book both sides should read. — *Stanley Esterly.*

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.

ACID COMMENTS

Re D. Scott Rogo's article "Is There a Hell?" (December 1980 FATE):
When I was a child they told me true
That heaven was high in the far up blue
And hell was down in the far deep ground
But as I grew older scientists tell
There is no such thing as heaven or hell
And no such thing as up or down
But something like nothing spinning
around. — *Mary Roe, Winchester, Ind.*

* * *

Is there a hell? If consciousness survives the death of the body (and this is still a big IF) it would be possible for a dying person to be trapped in a nightmare — because without a body how would he wake up?

Pearly gates above and hell's fires below are the inventions of a primitive church. — *John L. Wilkins, Los Angeles, Calif.*

OUR MAN IN THE MOON

On September 12, 1980, I took full possession of the entire lunar surface. I deeded the moon to me through a quitclaim procedure and on September 22 I had the deed witnessed, signed and sealed by a notary public at Sealevel, N.C.

Let me explain why I did this. All the countries in the world are talking about trying to make an agreement to mine the minerals from the moon's surface. Once they do this, someone will get awful rich from not having to pay taxes, fees or claims. According to United States law a man can quitclaim property if he takes care of it and

watches over it. I watch my property every clear night and I care very much for it.

I have a legal deed and anyone who tries to mine or trespass on my land will be fought in court. Any country that wants to land a rocket or man on the moon must first have my permission. I will allow them to trespass if they pay my price for damage and litter and a small fee for the right to be on my property. If any mining is done my fee is 50 percent of the take.

I estimate there is \$1,000,000,000,000 in gold, silver, etc., on the moon and with half of this I could help the starving and homeless people of this earth — plus me and my small family. — *Jerry Faircloth, Atlantic, N. C.*

NATURE'S MUSIC

When I moved to Alaska as a young man in 1939 the country was still wild and unpopulated. One day when I was hiking along a little-used trail I stopped to rest on the bank of a small stream. I was listening to the soothing sounds of the water when suddenly it turned into orchestral music. I particularly remember the sound of the violins.

The music was beautiful — like nothing I had ever heard before — but it frightened me. It lasted only a few seconds and I thought the loneliness of the wilderness might be affecting my mind.

Has anyone else had a similar experience? — *B. E. Uminski, Homer, Alaska.*

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**IN THE INTERIM . . .**

James Crenshaw's article "Life Between Lives" (November-December 1980 FATE) discusses new research on an old Eastern concept and prompts questions that seem unanswerable.

Despite the idea that people return to the earth sphere to improve, the human species does not reflect much improvement. All the evils let out of Pandora's box exist in most if not all world cultures today. Man is nearer to destroying his planet now than he has ever been and human rights are in jeopardy. Insane power for a few remains the order of the day as it has since ancient cultures overthrew each other and Alexander tried for world domination.

If there is an incubation interim period, it seems that some instruction for betterment in the next round would be in order. — *Mary Jane Knisely, Orlando, Fla.*

Dr. Fiore says, "The experience of each individual in the Interim does vary." But no one actually tells us if or how each progressive Interim for *one* individual personality varies. Only the excerpt from the nun's experience shows variation. She seems to have "learned from" a different level of people in different Interims. Is this a pattern?

Does each person see each Interim the same (mist and light, earthlike reality, other persons)? Do clearer Interims follow "better" lives?

Are the advisers one meets always renowned persons from his previous life?

Could a life from the 16th Century have Abraham Lincoln as an adviser? Or in each Interim do we see only those who have gone before us?

Would one meet Buddha if one never had heard or read of him in the previous life?

These are only a few of the questions that come to mind now that Dr. Fiore seems to have shown that the Interim exists. — *K. N. Baker, LaPorte, Ind.*

The common belief about reincarnation seems to be that after death we return to earth and live again, that this can be repeated innumerable times and that one may even live again as an animal.

I say that a person does not live at different times on the earth. One does not return in the flesh of a person or an animal. I believe that what is taken for reincarnation is a rebel spirit who overpowers the legitimate spirit. — *Glen Hatfield, Kankakee, Ill.*

Mr. Crenshaw fails to ask some relevant questions about reincarnation.

(1) Why does the "planning" not achieve a state of grace for everyone at once?

(2) As evil must be planned, are our spiritual guides now planning World War III?

(3) Why can't the hypnotized subject recall the language he spoke in a past life? — *B. Fox, Cleveland, Ohio.*

In the so-called Interim between lives, why doesn't somebody ask the "teachers" or "planners" if there is life on other planets? They should know whether incarnates all go back to earth or some other place. They ought to be able to tell us what parts of the universe are populated. Why not ask? — *J. B. Smith, Calhoun, Ga.*

In Part One of "Life Between Lives" (November 1980 FATE) I cannot figure out how the Nazi woman could have died in the 1940's, been born again, grown up and had teenaged children killed in an auto crash by 1980. Beyond that, why were her children punished? To punish her? Were they the reincarnated Germans who shot her in the original life or the Jews who starved to death in the German concentration camp where she was matron?

Given this fine psychological method of "working off karma" it seems the soul in question is guilty of gullibility and has not learned her lesson at all. — *E. Bessette, Springfield, Mass.*

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THE GUARDIAN

Within three hours after my arrival in St. Petersburg, Fla., on November 30, 1979, I was the victim of a purse snatcher as I was on my way to a grocery store four blocks from my apartment. I was knocked unconscious and perhaps left for dead, for the man scurried away without my purse.

When I revived I continued on my way to the grocery store, then returned to my apartment in a sort of daze. I put my groceries in the refrigerator and looked at my little clock. It read 2:00 P. M. After that I faded away until eight o'clock the next morning when I awoke, conscious of the many bruises from head to toe, my swollen temple, a black eye and bloodied hand. Although I am 80 years old, I suffered no broken bones. Surely I must have a wonderful guardian angel.

I often tried to tell myself that I had just had a bad dream but the bruises, soiled suit and shoes and three weeks of convalescence told otherwise. By the 24th of December I was able to return home to Buffalo, thankful to be alive. — *Myrtle I. Krog, Buffalo, N. Y.*

ALLIGATOR DELIVERY

"Kansas' Errant Alligators" (November 1980 FATE) can be explained — at least in part.

In the 1960's I worked for Lawrence W. King who had the Wichita, Kans., franchise for the Aquarium Supply Pet Company. My job was to deliver to department, dime and pet stores tropical fish, goldfish, small animals and reptiles (including baby alligators or caimans). Our territory covered parts of Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

Usually our 'gators were only about six to eight inches long but occasionally we received larger ones. In fact, in February 1969 I was banned from the Ramada Inn in Junction City, Kans., when I unknowingly left a three-footer in a motel room. When the maid went in, she was chased by the critter. She and four other maids quit.

Many of these reptiles were kept as pets, then turned loose when they grew larger. They have been known to survive in the sewer systems of many cities and are still being found time to time. — *Irvin E. Rosen, Monroe, N. C.*

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DOUBLE COINCIDENCE

In "True Mystic Experiences" (July 1980 FATE) Ben H. Knott reports that he found a barlow knife right after his late father mentioned that it was curious not to find one with a metal detector.

I thought this story was more coincidental than mystical and as an antique buff I was more interested in what a barlow knife was. Soon after I read the story my daughter found one at the ball park and brought it to me saying, "Look, Mom, a barlow knife." She knew nothing of the story in FATE. — Susan Stafford, Blackwell, Okla.

NEW FACTS

Curtis Fuller deals flippantly with nine-year-old Jody Mosier in "I See by the Papers" (July 1980 FATE).

I know Jody and his family and they have discussed with me the details of Jody's experiences from the age of three years on. Young Jody proclaimed at that tender age that he was "sent here to find the lost continent." Never has he given the name of it but since he revealed that it lay submerged in the Atlantic, others have assumed it to be Atlantis.

Jody may be a child but he is no one's fool. He has no intention of freely mapping a course for a mystical land so sought after. Such a momentous revelation would be a prize plum indeed for the vainglorious among us. It is doubtful that an unknown boy would be allowed his due if he pinpointed the location of an "X" in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean; instead he would be trampled underfoot in the rush.

Jody is not seeking fame and fortune but he has a burning desire to touch the golden shore for himself, unimpeded by lusting adults. As to when he will eventually go on an expedition to seek his lost continent, it will happen when the funds become available. Jody is ready to begin his quest tomorrow. — Christine Hayes, Cortez, Colo.

THIS DANGEROUS PLANET

I have heard that there are 20 areas in the world similar to the so-called Bermuda Triangle. Yet most people mention only two others: the Great Lakes region and the southern coast of Japan. Where are the other danger areas? Why don't we hear about them?

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What happens to persons who travel in these areas? — *William E. Carter, East Orange, N. J.*

BALL LIGHTNING IS REAL

Curtis Fuller's mention of ball lightning in "I See by the Papers" (August 1980 FATE) reminds me of a rainy spring morning nearly 50 years ago when a ball of lightning passed through our house. I was sitting in front of my vanity dresser getting ready to go to work. My husband was in the living room and my mother in the kitchen. Nothing was open in the house except the front door and the bedroom window beside me.

A ball of lightning passed between me and the vanity mirror and out the window. My husband and my mother both saw it as it passed through the living room, turned away from the kitchen and entered the bedroom. It was the size of a football, as physicist Roger Jennison noted in 1963.

I suppose it was traveling fast since all three of us saw it at about the same time but it moved so smoothly that it did not seem to be moving fast. I was not aware of any heat from it as I should have been if it had a temperature "rising from 4000 degrees Centigrade. . . ." — *Mrs. M. L. Othrow, Hastings, Nebr.*

I witnessed ball lightning when I was a child in the late 1920's. In our home in Oak Park, Ill., my mother and I were watching a storm from an upstairs bedroom window and saw two large balls of lightning sailing toward us through the trees. They resembled airy balloons of light and floated unsteadily through the air. They seemed to be pure light, not spongelike. Just as one reached almost to our window it exploded with a loud crack and then it was completely gone.

The next morning we learned that a ball had penetrated the roof of the house next door and the power there was cut off. The lightning burned a hole through the roof but left no other trace. — *Lillian McNeill, Oak Park, Ill.*

When I was a child we lived in a flat on the south side of St. Louis, Mo. During a midnight storm a ball of lightning came through the window in a door and traveled

down the door. A cot stood near the door but the ball did not hit the cot. It made a right turn into the middle of the room, then turned left and went past my bed. I could have touched it. I did not feel any heat from it. It passed through the next room past my parents' bed, up the door and out the window as if something or someone was telling it what to do. — *Robert A. O'Malley, Niclaus, Calif.*

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This healer is Dr. Wesley Wallace, 2018 Newton St., Denver, Colo. 80211. I feel more people should know about him. — *Rita Able, Denver, Colo.*

CREATIONISTS DEFENDED

Curtis Fuller, in his comments on the creationists (October 1979 FATE), may have been a little too hard on Senator Jensen and the people at Iowa State University. It is not really a bad idea to challenge methods and dates that are more than 10,000 years old.

I am not a fundamentalist Christian but I am a Christian of sorts and I believe the Bible is the word of God. I also believe that creation required only "six days," but I see no conflict between that and modern ideas of the manner in which the universe was created or the ever-expanding view of how the universe operates.

Our notion of time is based on the rotation of the earth and for the first three "days" at least, the earth as we know it did not exist. The sun wasn't put in place until the fourth day. These first few days probably consisted of millions or billions of years of time as we understand it. My Bible mentions evening and morning of the first six days but does not mention the close of the seventh day. The Bible used by the fundamentalists can't differ much from mine.

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The fundamentalist students and scholars may be a bit fanatical but they are not ignorant. It is hard to believe that they want to limit God to 144 hours for the creation of the universe. It seems more likely that they object to students being taught a materialistic bias: evolution, for example, expanded and taught as scientific dogma rather than as a theory. I think the theory of evolution as presented by Darwin does not contradict the biblical story of creation. Neither does the information gathered by astronomers and astronauts.

As I understand Senator Jensen's bill, it seems that he is simply trying to get across a Christian approach to knowledge. Why not point out that scientific disciplines agree with the sequence of creation as recorded in the Bible? — *Paul Oberreuter, Shawinigan, Que., Canada.*

THE POWER TO CHANGE

Many predictions by psychics and laymen may come true by lucky chance but I believe many occurrences are brought about by negative thinking, the mind power of people who firmly believe the predicted disastrous events will occur.

I am certain that if enough people were to will that the predicted events do not happen, the prophecy would be reversed — including the earth's axis shift which is claimed to be inevitable at the end of this century.

The power of the human mind is incredible. I believe we should all use positive thinking to forestall the many predicted disasters. Let us believe that mankind will change and live in peace and love. We have the God-given mind power to will this to happen and all we need is the faith that we can do it. — *Stan Farnsworth, Lakeside, N. S., Canada.*

AN ECCENTRIC FAMILY

I wonder if any FATE readers know about an eccentric, possibly mutant family named Lincoln who allegedly terrorized a small midwestern town at the turn of the century. A friend of mine told me about the case in 1966 but I have been unable to find any further information in psychic or Fortean literature.

The Lincolns, according to the story,
(Continued on page 127)

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REPORT FROM THE READERS

(Continued from page 118)

were aloof, inbred, standoffish, unfriendly and peculiar-looking people who moved about 1900 from somewhere in the east to a small town in the midwest. The father, mother, daughter and two sons had "ugly" faces characterized by bulging eyes and high broad foreheads. Their personalities supposedly brought quick dislike in the community and their popularity was not increased by their habit of prowling around the back streets of the town in the dead of night and scaring the wits out of townfolk who encountered them. Some of the local "close encounter" witnesses supposedly suffered severe nervous breakdowns after their run-ins with the Lincolns.

After a few years of this, things reached a major crisis when one of the Lincoln boys was accused of raping and murdering a local girl. He was forthwith lynched and at his funeral, the father was heard to say that the town would live to regret the deed.

The Lincolns left the town after the funeral but for the next several years the area suffered a succession of severe droughts, floods and tornadoes and the townspeople began to report nighttime sightings of the supposedly dead Lincoln boy. One day a posse went to open the boy's grave to see if his body were still there. They found a single set of footprints *leaving* the grave and when they opened the coffin the corpse was gone.

I would like to track down the original source and facts of this case, if there are any. — *T. Peter Park, 201 Kensington Road South, Garden City South, L.I., N.Y. 11530.*

RESEARCHING DREAMS

Many persons are having the same dreams or visions which seem to predict world events. One type concerns a war on the Mexican-United States border. I am curious to know if this type of duplication of dreamed information is happening all over the country.

FATE readers who have had one or more revelations of any sort are invited to send me the details of the experience — how and when it was received. — *Arlene Holley, 2205 Hardy Rd., Grand Prairie, Tex. 75051.*

I am attempting to establish a registry of precognitive dreams or psychic experiences which may predict some future event. I would like to hear from FATE readers who have experienced vivid dreams of the future. I am most interested in dreams which have a political, national or international implication such as those concerning social or cultural movements, geological upheavals, economic disasters, wars, famines and encounters with UFOs. — *G. W. Pertula, P. O. Box 932, Van Nuys, Calif. 91408.*

GUESSING THE WEATHER

In "I See by the Papers" in the March 1980 issue of FATE Curtis Fuller comments on meteorologists' inability to predict earthquakes, indeed even the weather. I would be one of the first to admit that "scientific predictions" of volcanic eruptions, weather or women's moods are often not much more than guesswork.

There is a man (whose name I have forgotten) who never publishes his weather predictions; he sells them for substantial fees. Many big industries have learned to buy his predictions and they continue to do so. A few years ago a ski lodge wanted to open but didn't want to open without snow. They bought his prediction as to when the first snowfall would occur. He said it would snow on a certain afternoon at one o'clock. They opened the ski lodge accordingly and found his prediction was off by only 30 minutes.

This man does not use the weather bureau's methods but claims that weather patterns repeat themselves. He compiled weather records for many years back and when he finds the weather following a certain pattern he reasons it will continue as it has in the past, at least for a reasonable distance into the future. — *C. D. Prewitt, Mount Sterling, Ky.*

LOOK TO THE BIBLE

In "I See by the Papers" (October 1980 FATE) Curtis Fuller quotes Dr. Luis Alvarez of the University of California concerning the extinction of animals some 65 million years ago. I tell you it was only 2500 years ago when that happened.

Let's just stick to the Bible. There you can find the timetable. According to the re-

ports Moses moved out of Egypt about 2500 years ago leading his people across the desert. He met the Amelikiens moving to Egypt to take over what was left after a terrible holocaust caused by the Comet Phytton (today called Kohoutek). This comet killed 90 percent of the people in Egypt and wrought havoc all over the world. The Atlantic sank; Lemuria sank; mountains dissolved and others were created. All these things can be proven by records still available. — *Max Vogt, Basel, Switzerland.*

THEORY OF SHC

I have a theory about spontaneous human combustion (SHC), cases of persons who burn up without damaging nearby furniture, etc.

This must be an internal combustion which destroys all organs and fluids, then hits the exterior body. In the last stages not much power is left to destroy surroundings. — *E. M. Higgins, Fond du Lac, Wis.*

MISDIAGNOSIS

Having read Paul B. Thompson's "Refutation of Lycanthropy" ("Report from the Readers," December 1980 FATE) I am flattered. Apparently my article on Albano de Jesus, the wolfman of Aveloso, was good enough to enable Mr. Thompson to reach a diagnosis with surprising certainty — without examining the patient!

It is true that there is no comparison between the state of medical science in rural Portugal at the turn of the century and in the United States of the 1980's. On the other hand, there was much less syphilis in Portugal at the time than there is now in the United States. In any case, parietic dementia was known and studied in depth as early as 1913. In de Jesus' case the possibility of endemic (nonvenereal) syphilis was investigated and rejected. Albano de Jesus was not congenitally syphilitic and his parents were neither endemically or venereally syphilitic nor alcoholic.

Acute mental disease also can be rejected; life in Aveloso even now has none of the modern world's everyday stress. Albano suffered no significant familial or extrafamilial conflicts and no cranial injury or brain tumors.

The death of Albano's daughters must be seen in the light of the mortality rate among

young people in Portugal at the time. Their demise cannot be related to his condition.

Although some of Albano's reactions suggest the symptoms of parietic dementia, the disease was not present. Parietic dementia results from chronic syphilitic meningoencephalitis which destroys the cerebral cortex and produces a gradual deterioration of the personality. It occurs most frequently between the ages of 35 and 50 and if left untreated will cause death within three to 10 years. Temporary remissions do occur but these only halt the deterioration; they do not reverse it.

Between fits Albano de Jesus was as normal as any peasant of the same cultural environment. His mental faculties were practically intact until his death without the progressive senility one might expect to find at his age. His case remains unexplained. — *J. M. Andrade, Bewdley, Worcs., England.*

BACKWARD BIORHYTHM

"Confessions of a Biorhythm Salesman" (September 1980 FATE) leads me to tell you that in my own case it works backwards. Whenever I have an extremely good day I check the biorhythm chart and find that I am on or near a so-called critical day, even a double-critical day.

The same holds true for horoscopes. I always experience the opposite. This year was to be free of health problems for me. I've been hospitalized three times and had surgical complications the last time. The stars certainly weren't with me. — *A. R. E. Silva, Hudson, Mass.*

A NONESTABLISHMENT SCIENTIST

You owe it to your readers to make clear that the scientific community, the Establishment, does not embrace all scientists — just as all medical doctors do not subscribe to the dictates of the AMA.

The thinking scientist, the non-Establishment scientist, will be the one who defines paranormal phenomena. — *Jay H. Halloran, Huntsville, Ala.*

FRIENDS IN NEED . . .

The Parapsychology Institute of America is researching new cases of haunted houses, ghosts and other parapsychological phenomena. Anyone who believes his house is

haunted or has been invaded by poltergeists may contact us. (Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.) — *Stephen Kaplan, Parapsychology Institute of America, Box 252, Elmhurst, Queens, N.Y. 11373.*

I am seeking information on haunted houses, castles, offices or other buildings, past or present, in North America and in Europe. I also wish to become involved in phenomena research and would like to get information on an organization I might join to get started. — *William Lee, NWC Code 2121 Comm, China Lake, Calif. 93555.*

Not a single library in the entire United States has these books: *Return to Youth* by Baron Andrew von Salza and *The Elixir of Life* by Jill Cossley-Batt and Irvin Baird. I would pay a fee to borrow one or both of these books. — *A. J. Geiger, 252 E. 18th Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43201.*

In a previous letter I asked FATE readers the question: "Where does the soul leave the body?" A woman volunteered that she and her daughter saw a smoky substance leave the head of a youth killed in a motorcycle accident *four days after clinical death!*

Now I have three more questions: (1) Is the Atlanta Confederate Cemetery still haunted by its dead as in 1933? (2) Does anyone know of a southern cemetery haunted by its caretaker who was murdered around the turn of the century? (3) Has anyone narrowly escaped being killed at a railroad crossing after looking both ways and seeing no train approaching? — *J. P. Bessor, Route 4, Butler, Pa. 16001.*

In his fascinating book *Thirty Years Among the Dead* published in 1924, Dr. Carl Wickland described a machine he used in his work with spirit possession. I assume the machine he used was the Wims-hurst electrostatic machine.

I am trying to find out if the Wims-hurst is the machine he used and also how he used it. Did he attach any additional devices to it for any reason? Did the patient touch the machine?

Perhaps one of Dr. Wickland's descendants or someone else involved in this work would have this information. — *Kim Pettit, P. O. Box 2114, Santa Rosa, Calif. 95405.*

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∞ Under hypnosis many persons describe previous lives, often in great detail. Psychologist Helen Wambach tells what she's learned from her six-year investigation of this strange phenomenon.

∞ Every visitor to Paris knows Sacré Coeur, the great white basilica of the Sacred Heart. It stands on Montmartre, a promontory with a religious history which dates back to Roman times.

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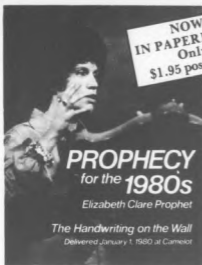
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